

Incorporated Village Holds First Election

The new city of St. Mary's held its first general election November 7, 1967. Elected for a one year term to the Board were: Billy Beans, Daniel Stevens, William Tyson, Moses Paukan, and Andrew Paukan.

There were seven candidates for the Board of Trustees and there were three write-ins. Billy Beans was top vote getter with 47 votes. The total cast was 51.

Dan Stevens placed second with 46 votes, and William Tyson 45, Moses Paukan 43, and Andrew Paukan 41.

In addition to the vote for membership on the Board of Trustees, the city held its first School Board election. Five members were elected to the new city school Board out of seven candidates. There were six write-ins.

Top vote getter was Reverend Rend Astruc with 47

votes. Pia Thompson received 41, Flora Paukan 40, Esther Paukan 39, and Alfred Tyson 36.

St. Mary's became a city of the second class on August 3, 1967 upon issuance of a court order to that effect by Judge William H. Sanders, Presiding Judge of the Second District, Superior Court, in Nome.

Immediately following, on August 18th, the Federal Government announced award of two grants and loans to the city totaling \$426,000 covering construction of a cold storage, dock facility and multi-purpose community building intended primarily to house travelers.

Following this, in mid-October the Most Reverend Francis D. Gleeson, Catholic Bishop of Fairbanks, issued a deed to the new city of St. Mary's transferring title to the city of all land upon which the old village of St. Mary's was built.

The parcel contains around 132 acres and represents approximately 50 percent of the Church's original patented land in that community.

This means that St. Mary's, as far as can be determined, is the only 100 percent native community in Alaska owning its own land in fee simple title.

These accomplishments are part of an initial plan for community development initiated by the traditional village council in 1966 under the leadership of Billy Beans. Anchorage Management Consultant, Paul Dixon, has been engaged by the community to assist in their development plans.