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HAMMOND ALASKA'S NEW GOVERNOR

In what will probably be known as "the narrowest of margins" far into the future of Alaska Jay Hammond, Naknek, Alaska, got into the seat of Alaska's governor last Monday beating the incumbent Gov. William A. Egan by only 287 votes. Hammond was sworn in by

Chief Justice Jay Rabinowitz of the Alaska Supreme Court in a simple ceremony.

The freshman governor is from a town of Scotia, New York and his home town gave a particular notice of the former high school star who liked the outdoors and went camping fre-

quently.

Albany Times Union said of the new governor while the battle for Alaska's head man was still seesawing:

"Today, Jay Hammond, the all-American boy, is on the verge of becoming governor of Alaska."

One of Hammond's former

teachers said, "You always hope wonderful things for your students but I can't imagine a student becoming a governor," said Mrs. Thomas Shaw of Westmere who was Hammond's German teacher at Scotia. "He was one of my favorites and it's just

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Jay Hammond...

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great."

Herbert Baker, Jay's close childhood friend recalled, "He was the kind of guy that thought about something once and then went out and did it."

"Hunting, fishing and camping — those were his specialties," said Albert Polsinelle, another of Hammond's classmates.

Being an outdoorsman, the new governor became a game guide as well as a fisherman in Alaska.

Hammond became a state legislator in 1952 and worked his way up to state Senate president.

This year, he entered the primary election and won out over formidable opposition

against such people as former governor Walter J. Hickel and Keith Miller.

That was the way the whole election went for the new governor — close. After about a month's seesaw race with Gov. Egan and which went into a recounting of votes, Jay Hammond finally came out a winner by a plurality vote of 287, along with his running mate now Lieutenant Gov. Lowell Thomas, Jr.

Upon becoming governor, one of the first things he did was to order aid for the Eskimo village of Selawik in northwestern Alaska.

Hammond is married to Bella, an Eskimo woman, and the couple has two daughters.