

Uganik Bay man wins pardon

The Associated Press

Juneau — On a cold, snowy evening in 1940, just a few days before Christmas, a prisoner named Daniel Boone Reed started a small fire that burned down the federal courthouse and jail in Valdez.

Reed served eight years in prison for the arson.

Now, more than four decades later, the 72-year-old Kodiak Island resident has won a full pardon by Gov. Jay Hammond, who says Reed has "had a spotless record during the last 30 years."

Reed applied for a pardon earlier this year after he was denied permission to serve on a grand jury because of his prior felony conviction.

In granting the pardon and restoring Reed's civil rights, Hammond said Reed has "worked hard in Alaska as a fisherman and homesteader. He repaid society for the crime he committed. He deserves to have the slate clean."

The state's Executive Clemency Advisory Committee, which includes Attorney General Wilson Condon, Lt. Gov. Terry Miller, and Charles Adams, director of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, recommended a pardon and said Reed probably was unjustly excluded from jury service.

Reed had strong support in

his bid for a pardon, Hammond said. The state House passed a resolution in Reed's behalf, and native leaders, private citizens and friends wrote letters urging a pardon.

Reed has worked in the fishing industry in Uganik Bay and has been the Uganik Village representative to the Koniag Native Corporation and the Kodiak Area Native Association since 1978.

In January, Reed sent a letter to Rep. Eric Sutcliffe, R-Unalaska, asking for help in getting his civil rights restored. "I am under constant house arrest — a Benedict Arnold, so to speak," Reed told Sutcliffe.

The pardon caps a complicated case. Although he was convicted for burning down a federal facility, Reed apparently was charged under a territorial law. Subsequently his full civil rights should have been restored at the time of Alaska statehood, the clemency board said, because he had served his full prison sentence by then.

After some research, Hammond said state officials determined that a state and not a presidential pardon was sufficient for the territorial offense.