

Erkine new bank president

"This is where the future is," says Eugene B. Erskine, United Bank Alaska's new president and chief executive officer. "Banking in Alaska is in its developmental stages and UBA's goals in particular are farsighted enough to capitalize on all the potential there is here."

Erskine's appointment to the bank's top positions was announced recently by Willie Hensley, chairman of the board for the corporation. "It's the best statement I've released for the bank since its opening," says Hensley, who feels that Erskine's expertise and reputation will contribute much to the bank's effective operation.

Erskine brings to UBA his 18 years of practical banking experience. He was vice president of Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco for 12 years before joining the East Bank of Colorado Springs as executive vice president in 1972. Erskine has spent the last four years with banking institutions in the state, having made the move from Colorado because he "always wanted to live in Alaska."

His desire stemmed from earlier visits to the state and information gathered from family members with Alaskan experiences. The Erskine name is a well known one in Kodiak, where the family settled as pioneers in the late 1800's.

Erskine considers his position at United Bank Alaska "one with great challenges." His immediate goal is to provide the bank and its clients with a strong management team that understands the unique circumstances of UBA's position in

Alaska's economy.

Contributing to UBA's unique position is the fact that it is owned by six Native regional corporations: Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Calista Corporation, Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Doyon, Inc., NANA Regional Corporation and Ahtna, Inc. Says Hensley, "As a Native owned bank, we have the potential to make our owners as much a factor in Alaskan banking as they are now in the economic community."

Both Hensley and Erskine view the bank's potential as limitless. They see UBA offering financial services and assistance to develop capital pre-

viously untapped, particularly in the outlying areas of the state. Erskine emphasizes the idea of utilizing Native monies to assist in developing Native investments.

Ultimately, Erskine and Hensley would like to see United Bank Alaska owned by all the regional corporations and possibly some village corporations. "If that happens," says Hensley, "the bank's possibilities for growth would be phenomenal. Each corporation invests in other companies as well, and would naturally have some influence on where those companies did their banking. Potential customers from these sources would make a long list."



Eugene B. Erskine, new UBA president