

New borough for Yakutat

By Naats'keek

Yakutat residents from Icy Bay to Latula Bay voted to incorporate into an organized borough this fall. This was prompted by proposed boroughs from each side of the Yakutat territory which suggested that Yakutat be annexed into the Prince William Sound or the Chatham Straights borough when, and if, they incorporated. Yakutat petitioned for a borough of their own but failed to qualify because the boundaries in the unorganized borough of Yakutat did

not constitute a population of 1000 people and at two least incorporated communities.

During hearings before the Boundary Commission of the State Dept. of Community and Regional Affairs those requirements were asked to be waived. The waiver was granted, however, the original petition requested the boundaries include those points from Cape Suckling to Cape Spencer. The Boundary Commission, however, upheld boundary lines to be from this side of Icy Bay to Cape Fairweather. Now the City and

Borough of Yakutat is filing a law suit to regain what they claim is the other half of their borough.

When the voters approved the borough they also elected a mayor and assembly members and a school board. The new mayor is Daryl R. James (40), a former city council member. He defeated the previous mayor of Yakutat, Larry Powell, who had served as mayor since 1972.

Four members of the city council: Frank (Skip) Ryman, Gala Valle, Craig Swanson and Eli Hanlin were elected to the assembly and two new members are Homer Ogle and James (Icker) Ross.

School board members are Nellie Vale, Mary Ann Porter, Ramona Anderstrom, Mike Hills, and Rosalise Adams. All were former members of the School Board while under the city charter except Rosalise Adams.

Appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission are: Jack Endicott, Charles Klushkan, Sheri Jensen, Tony Glacier, and Ken Fanning. All but Endicott, who served on the city commission are new faces on the scene.

In 1990, the City of Yakutat bought Yakutat Power Company from Fred and Beth Miller, and contracted with Tlingit and Haida Regional Electrical Authority to

manage the operation. After the company's sale, a Utility Board was formed. Walter Porter, who served as Chairman previously, Harold Thompson, Larry Powell, Moe Waldren, and Kathy Jacobson are new board appointments.

Yakutat is primarily a fishing community. Logging used to be a helpful supplement to the economy, but was discontinued last year. Now the challenge for the new government and mayor will be to find ways in which the community can utilize its many resources.

(Editor's Note: Naats'keek is Bertrand J. Adams, Sr. of Yakutat.)