

Local Contests

By CHUCK MALLEY

Democrats won a near sweep of State House seats in the 20th District Tuesday, leaving only one out of six to the Republicans.

Mike Bradner received 7,372 votes to lead his Democratic colleagues in the vote tally, while Glenn Hackney, the only surviving Republican, was second in votes with 6,145.

Other victorious Democrats were Steve Cowper, 6,085, Ed Orbeck, 5,496, Charlie Parr, 5,442, and Fred Brown, 4,947.

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In a field of 13 candidates, the losers were Tim Wallis (D); 4,344; Sam Barnes (R), 4226; Tom Jensen (R), 4112; Don Bennett (R), 3258; Dave Wood 3,359; James Joiner (R), 2476, and Rudolph Voigt (I), 2,185.

The outcome followed closely the views of many political observers in Fairbanks except for the loss of Wallis who was expected to defeat Brown for the sixth spot.

Brown, running for public office the first time, conducted a successful media campaign as well as last minute door-to-door visiting.

Bradner, a veteran legislator, is shooting for House Speaker and is expected to be bolstered in that effort by the other four Democrats who will be representing the 20th.

A heavily weighted Democratic House should aid Bradner in reaching that goal.

Also the top vote-getter in primary this year, Bradner has apparently mended fences with Fairbanks bankers who seriously challenged his re-election back in 1972.

He has already served eight years in the House.

Hackney was first elected in 1972. His familiar voice on a

daily 6:25 a.m. local radio station may have gone a long way toward electing him.

Hackney delivered a folksy five-minute news notes show which he used to push his candidacy.

Cowper, a lawyer, apparently attracted voters with a low-key campaign exemplified by a shy manner and soft southern drawl.

Orbeck previously served in the Legislature and is returning after a couple years absence. Parr was elected to the North Star Borough Assembly a year ago, serving as its president.

Brown was the surprise of the group. He ran ninth in the primary but enjoyed high visibility as a lifelong Fairbanksan, member of the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra and local attorney.