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Six Alaskan Banks Consolidate; O. A. Torgerson Chairman Of Board

The consolidation of six pioneer banking institutions resulting in the largest bank operating in Alaska was announced today. The participating banks are the Miners and Merchants Bank of Ketchikan, Bank of Wrangell, First Bank of Sitka, Bank of Homer, Bank of Kodiak, and the National Bank of Alaska, under the latter's name.

Total resources of the consolidated banks are approximately \$60,000,000 and offices are in sixteen locations. The amount of capital stock is \$2,168,120 with surplus, undivided profits and reserves in excess of \$2,500,000.

In session at Anchorage for the organization meeting of the Board of Directors on April 1st are the following with their previous affiliation: W. A. Bates, President, Miners and Merchants Bank of Ketchikan; G. W. Bishop, President, Bank of Homer; A. W. Brindle, Director, Miners and Merchants Bank of Ketchikan; J. J. Conway, President, First Bank of Sitka; L. O. Gore, Vice President and Director, Miners and Merchants Bank of Ketchikan; Al Hochberger, Vice President, Bank of Kodiak; J. A. Holmberg, Vice President and Cashier, National Bank of Alaska; R. L. Johnston, Vice President, National Bank of Alaska; G. F. Mumford, Vice President, National Bank of Alaska; James Nolan, Director, Bank of Wrangell; E. E. Rasmuson, President, National Bank of Alaska; O. A. Torgerson, President, Bank of Kodiak.

Senior officers of the consolidated bank are O. A. Torgerson, Chairman of the Board; W. A. Bates, Chairman of the Executive Committee; J. J. Conway, Chairman of the Advisory Committee; and E. E. Rasmuson, President.

Speaking in behalf of the official family, Mr. Torgerson ex-

plained that the consolidation was prompted by the rapidly changing economy in Alaska, accelerated by the advent of statehood. "By this consolidation," announced Mr. Torgerson, "Alaskan bank management has joined together to meet the needs of the expanding development of our great state, yet remains locally managed and responsive throughout the entire area served by the enlarged bank."

Adjournment of Legislature Leaves 100 Bills For Governor To Sign

JUNEAU (AP)—Legislative interest switched to the governor's office this week with adjournment of the first State Legislature on Tuesday.

The lawmakers left behind about 100 bills to be acted on by the governor. Gov. William A. Egan had signed 17 acts by Thursday night. That brought to 75 the number of bills passed by the 1960 legislature which has been written onto the books.

Among the bills approved are measures to increase the motor and marine fuel taxes and the controversial employment security act.

Fuel tax increases—two cents on highway vehicle fuel and one cent on marine gas and diesel—went into effect Friday.

The Employment Security tax increases are effective for the first quarter of this year and are due April 30. The higher payments caused by the imposition of \$7,200 tax base is retroactive to January 1. The new experience rating system included in the Act does not go into effect until October 1.

Gov. Egan is slated to follow legislators to Anchorage Friday to take part in the resumed Democratic convention there. He also is to attend the National Guard en-

Poland Replies To Chamber Letter

The Kodiak Chamber of Commerce protest of the method set up by the City for appearing before the Board of Equalization, as reported in the Kodiak Mirror last week, brought forth an explanation by City Manager Bill M. Poland.

Poland brought out in a letter to the Mirror that the requirements for appearing before the Board are not set up by the City. He stated: "The requirements of a written request for a hearing before the Board is not an arbitrary whim of the city government, but is required by State Law, Chapter 11, Session Laws of Alaska, 1957, Reference of which is made in a notice published March 19 and 26, in the Kodiak Mirror."

The City Manager went on to say that this notice, which is quite lengthy, was published as a public information service, although it is not required by law to be published. In the same issue a notice was published, which is required by law, stating that the assessment rolls had been completed and the Board of Equalization would meet from April 20 through April 27, excluding Sunday. "Both of these notices were apparently overlooked," he stated, "which leaves us in somewhat of a quandary as to how to convey information to the people of Kodiak."

Poland concluded by stating: "The appeal form itself, which is in general use in other Alaskan cities, has been modified by the City Council to remove any objectionable requirements, including verification by notary public. The revised forms are available at the City Hall."

campment.

Interest at the convention is to be focused on a battle between an alliance of Gov. Egan and State Chairman John S. Hellenthal of Anchorage and organized labor. Both Egan and Hellenthal have come under criticism from labor lobbyist Henry Hedberg for their role in the Employment Security battle during the Legislature.

Also expected is a fight over reapportioning representation in the convention. The Third Division is seeking a heavier representation at the expense of the Alaska panhandle.

Flight Changes Announced By PNA

Effective April 12, all PNA planes will leave Anchorage and Kodiak twenty minutes earlier than now, it was announced by Ray Martin, agent here.

Flight 4 will leave Anchorage at 1:40 p.m., and flight 12 at 1:20. Flight 11 will leave Kodiak at 4:40 p.m. and flight 17 will leave here at 10:40 a.m. Daily except Tuesday and Friday. Flight 17A, he said, will leave here on Tuesday and Friday at 10:55 a.m., which is 5 minutes earlier than now.



RADM Caldwell Becomes Commandant In Ceremonies at the NS Saturday

Rear Admiral Henry H. Caldwell, USN, will assume duties as Commander Alaskan Sea Frontier and Commandant 17th Naval District in special ceremonies at the U.S. Naval Station here on Saturday, April 2.

He replaces Rear Admiral Arnold W. McKechnie, USN, who has been reassigned as Chief, Naval Air Reserve Training at Glenview, Ill. He has commanded Alaskan naval activities since January 1958. RADM Caldwell reports to his Alaskan assignment from the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga from which his flag as Commander, Carrier Division One was flown.

Born in Rocklin, Calif., in 1905, he began his naval career upon graduation from the Naval Academy in 1927. RADM McKechnie is also a graduate of the class of 1927.

A Naval aviator, RADM Caldwell holds the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Navy Cross for action against Japanese forces in the Pacific while serving as a flying commander of Carrier Air Group 12 on the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga.

Other duties have placed him in command of the seaplane tender USS Pine Island during the 1946-47 Antarctic expedition; Chief of Staff to Commander, Carrier Division Six; in command of the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea; Chief

of Naval Air Reserve Training at Glenview, Ill., and on the staff of various other commands ashore. He is married to the former Dorothea Matz of Reading, Pa., and has two children—Dorothea Joyce and Henry Howard, Jr. They list their official home address as Loomis, Calif.

RADM and Mrs. McKechnie, who have been in Alaska for more than two years, will leave for their new assignment at Glenview, Ill., following the change of command ceremony Saturday.

The McKechnies have been the subjects of several farewell banquets and ceremonies held in their honor by service and civic groups on Kodiak.

1st Class Mail Scheduled For Direct Flights

In connection with the new post office policy of airlifting first class mail to the States from Alaska, such mail will go out twice weekly from Kodiak, Acting Postmaster William Lamme announced today.

All first class will be dispatched on the direct flights on Tuesday and Friday, none being sent on other days to Anchorage. Such first class will not go beyond Seattle by air and will be handled on a space available basis. Airmail will have priority in handling over any airlifted first class.

Deadline Given For Purchase Of Commercial Fishing Licenses

All salmon fishing nets and the vessels to be used with such nets must be licensed not later than April 15, by persons desiring to take fish for commercial purposes in Alaska during 1960, C. L. Anderson, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game has announced.

The applications for licenses may be obtained from any local vendor of state fishing licenses, state commercial fishery personnel or by writing to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, License Division, Burford Building, Juneau, Alaska.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game license number as called for on vessel and gear applications

will be the same in 1960 as the former U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries number previously issued to each vessel. This number should be entered in the proper place on the application. The federal plate is not to be removed from the boat until the state plate is received, which will carry this same number.

Unnumbered boats will be assigned a new state license number.

Two kinds of licenses are issued; resident and non-resident.

A resident is defined as a person who for the immediately preceding year has maintained a permanent place of abode within the State of Alaska and who has con-

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