

TARTAGLIA THOMAS G  
 Form 5  
 February 13, 2009

**FORM 5**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 TARTAGLIA THOMAS G

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP [CATY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/31/2008

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

777 NORTH BROADWAY

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

(City) (State) (Zip)

Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |            |            | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|------------|------------|--|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Amount  | (A) or (D) | Price      |  |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/31/2008                           | Â  | J <sup>(1)</sup>               | 311   | A          | \$ 17.9242 | 11,436   | I  | By ESOP   |
| Common Stock                    | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â   | Â          | Â          | 67,994 <sup>(2)</sup>  | I  | T. Tartaglia Trust                                    |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 2270 (9-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |                            |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  |                                | (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date | Title   | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 10.625  | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 01/20/2005 <sup>(3)</sup>                                | 01/20/2010      | Common Stock  | 400                        |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 15.0475   | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 01/18/2005 <sup>(3)</sup>                                | 01/18/2011      | Common Stock  | 800                        |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 16.275  | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 02/21/2005 <sup>(3)</sup>                                | 01/21/2012      | Common Stock  | 1,200                      |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 19.925  | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 01/16/2005 <sup>(3)</sup>                                | 01/16/2013      | Common Stock  | 3,040                      |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 24.8  | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 11/20/2004 <sup>(3)</sup>                                | 11/20/2013      | Common Stock  | 11,000                     |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 37  | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 02/17/2006 <sup>(4)</sup>                                | 02/17/2015      | Common Stock  | 3,500                      |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 36.24   | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 01/25/2007 <sup>(5)</sup>                                | 01/25/2016      | Common Stock  | 3,500                      |
| Stock Option                               | \$ 23.37   | Â                                    | Â  | Â                              | Â Â   | 02/21/2009 <sup>(6)</sup>                                | 02/21/2018      | Common Stock  | 3,500                      |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                    | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| TARTAGLIA THOMAS G<br>777 NORTH BROADWAY<br>LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 | Â X           | Â         | Â       | Â     |

## Signatures

Thomas G.  
Tartaglia

02/13/2009

Date

Signature of  
Reporting Person

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

- (1) ESOP Earning Allocation.
- (2) 1,063 shares under the reporting person's individual name were transferred to his Trust account on 12/15/08.
- (3) The option is fully exercisable.
- (4) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/17/06.
- (5) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 1/25/07.
- (6) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/09.

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