

TARTAGLIA THOMAS G
 Form 5
 February 13, 2009

FORM 5

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

OMB APPROVAL
 OMB Number: 3235-0362
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 1.0

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).
 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 ⁽¹⁾	311	A	\$ 17.9242	11,436	I	By ESOP
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	67,994 ⁽²⁾	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 ⁽³⁾	01/20/2010	Common Stock	400
Stock Option	\$ 15.0475	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	01/18/2005 ⁽³⁾	01/18/2011	Common Stock	800
Stock Option	\$ 16.275	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	02/21/2005 ⁽³⁾	01/21/2012	Common Stock	1,200
Stock Option	\$ 19.925	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	01/16/2005 ⁽³⁾	01/16/2013	Common Stock	3,040
Stock Option	\$ 24.8	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	11/20/2004 ⁽³⁾	11/20/2013	Common Stock	11,000
Stock Option	\$ 37	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	02/17/2006 ⁽⁴⁾	02/17/2015	Common Stock	3,500
Stock Option	\$ 36.24	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	01/25/2007 ⁽⁵⁾	01/25/2016	Common Stock	3,500
Stock Option	\$ 23.37	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	02/21/2009 ⁽⁶⁾	02/21/2018	Common Stock	3,500

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
TARTAGLIA THOMAS G 777 NORTH BROADWAY 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.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.