

# Executive Director—

## Vaudrin to Head Rights Commission

The Board of Commissioners, Alaska Commission for Human Rights announced that Governor William A. Egan has appointed Bill Vaudrin as Executive Director of the Commission, effective the end of this month.

Mr. Vaudrin is a 1961 graduate of Anchorage High School, and received a cum laude baccalaureate degree from Alaska Methodist University in 1966, with a double major in History and English. He went on to earn a Master's degree at the University of Oregon in 1968.

Bill has fished commercially at Bristol Bay for fourteen years, and has worked as a longshoreman, school bus driver, cook, backhoe operator, trapper, marine freighter, and on beach gangs at canneries at Naknek. He makes his home at Pedro Bay on Lake Iliamna.

Bill was Instructor of English at Anchorage Community College for two years. In December of 1971 he went to work for the Alaska State-Operated School System as Coordinator of Community Liaison.

He was subsequently promoted to Liaison Director, and finally the Director of the Division of Community Advocacy.

Bill's work has carried him to every part of the State, and he feels there is much to be done to make the Human Rights Commission known, and its services available, to all Alaskans.

"Contrary to the impressions of many newcomers," Bill says, "Alaska harbors its share of discrimination for reason of ethnic or national origin or sex. In addition, difficulties of travel and communication, and lack of knowledge about where to turn for help, often compound the problems of people in outlying villages."

One of the great challenges of the Commission, Bill feels, is simply to make itself known.

Bill's father is "mostly Chipewewa, part Cree" from White Earth Reservation, Minnesota, but left there to get away from the kinds of discrimination and inequities people experience who don't have much say about what happens to them.

"He kept going back and forth," Bill recounts, "from

White Earth to the city. I think he finally concluded it was about the same either way.



**BILL VAUDRIN**

the setting may be different, but the story is the same."

Bill's half a lifetime in Alaska lead him to believe that the same holds true for urban and rural Alaska—that while all of us may be equal under the law, some are more equal than others.

"Alaska is a land of great wealth," he says. "But I don't believe you could say we are a rich people until we're all eating from the same table of plenty."

Bill has published articles, stories, poems, and reviews in Alaskan magazines and journals for more than ten years.

In 1969, the University of Oklahoma Press released a volume of Athabaskan legends he collected entitled "Tanaina Tales from Alaska," and this year the Alaska State-Operated School System printed one of his studies, "Native/Non-Native Communications: Creating a Two-Way Flow."

Another book, "Sled Dog: Breaking Trail and Breaking Records," is in the process of being set into type, and should be out this summer.

Bill is listed in the current editions of "Who's Who in the West," the "Dictionary of International Biography," and "Contemporary Authors."