

# Bigjim Appointed to UA's REA

**FAIRBANKS** Fred Bigjim, former teacher at Alaska Methodist University and Alaska Federation of Natives executive, has been appointed coordinator and liaison officer in the University of Alaska's new Office of Rural Educational Affairs.

Word of the appointment came from Dr. Frank Darnell, acting vice president for rural educational affairs.

The new office and vice presidency were created this year to provide greater educational opportunity in rural Alaska.

The university is requesting approximately \$1.5 million in its next operating budget for establishment of six regional centers in the rural areas.

In his new position, Bigjim,

an Eskimo who grew up in Nome, will serve as liaison between the university and its



**FRED BIGJIM**

rural area units, local government and the policy councils to be created to give direction to the university's rural operations.

"Part of my job," said Bigjim, "is to listen to the concerns of the rural communities and make them known to the university. I'll also be involved in program development. The needs, they're going to be made known by the communities. We'll try to implement programs that will answer these needs and we'll offer advice."

His appointment was effective Oct. 13. He will be located in Anchorage, tentatively in the university's Consortium Library there.

Bigjim has a master of educa-

(Continued on Page 6)

# ***Fred Bigjim. . .***

(Continued from Page 1)

tion degree from Harvard and has begun work on a law degree. His undergraduate work was done at Sheldon Jackson College and at the University of Alaska, Anchorage where he earned a bachelor degree in secondary education.

From 1969-72 he was director of manpower programs for the AFN and for a year following that assignment was assistant professor of intercultural studies at AMU.

He currently serves as vice chairman of the Board of Regents for Haskell Institute, a postsecondary institution in Kansas operated by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs. He is also a member of the association of regents for BIA postsecondary schools.

Bigjim and his wife Mary Ellen have three sons—Frederick, 4, Michael, 2, and Stephen, 2 months.