

Know Your Leaders—

AFN Sergeant at Arms Frank Degnan Leads a Varied Life

A lifetime of active participation in public affairs marks the career of Frank A. Degnan, Sergeant-at-Arms of the Alaska Federation of Natives.

Degnan, who says he feels that "all people should have a fair and just consideration in the land claims settlement be they Eskimo, Indian, Aleut, white, black or any race," was the first Eskimo to ever file for the Legislature, was elected in 1951 as a representative to the Alaska Territorial legislature.

At present, Degnan is owner-operator of the Unalakleet Cab

Company, president of the Native Village of Unalakleet, president of the Unalakleet Valley Electric Fisheries Corporation, president of the Unalakleet Fisheries, Inc., and president of the Unalakleet Land Claims Commission.

He is also a member of the Rural Affairs Commission.

In the past, Degnan was president of the Alaska Native Industries Cooperative Association, grand vice-president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood, a member of the Alaska Fish and Game Board, and a lieutenant in the Alaska Territorial Guard.

Also in Degnan's long career, he has been a Wien Airlines station agent, movie actor, gold mining and dredge operator, court interpreter and prospector.

Degnan, who is 68, has two children, Charles and Frances, both of whom received their Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Alaska.

As a member of the AFN Speakers Bureau, Degnan will soon be speaking to groups throughout the state.



FRANK DEGNAN—A Unalakleet resident all his life, much of the time as mayor, Frank Degnan has tried to help his village. Affable and outgoing, Degnan meets the poorest of his people in the same manner as he meets senators and generals. At AFN conferences, he speaks with humor as well as with logic.