

Alphonse Demientieff Passes Away

Alphonse Demientieff, 69, a widely known Native craftsman, died Easter Sunday at his home in Nenana.

Mr. Demientieff had been working in his crafts shop just prior to his death in the afternoon. He often made birch dog sleds which were sought by the

top dog mushers in Alaska.

Born in Holy Cross, Mr. Demientieff spent much of his youth there, fishing, hunting, trapping and working on steamships. He moved his family to Nenana in 1945 where he piloted boats on the Tanana and Yukon Rivers.

Most recently he captained the motor vessel "Taku Chief," a familiar sight on the Interior

river systems.

Mr. Demientieff built and raised the tripod each spring for the Nenana Ice Classic. He served during the 1960s as chief of the Village of Nenana and contributed to the historic struggle that resulted in the Native land claims settlement.

Survivors include his wife Mary, to whom he was married

47 years; one sister, Dina Jensen of Nenana; one brother, Dick Demientieff of Holy Cross, five sons, four daughters, 25 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Mitch Demientieff, a grandson, served as president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference in 1973-74.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at the George Hall, Nenana.