

McGrath gets university extension agent

For the first time the University's Cooperative Extension Service will have someone living in McGrath who can respond to the educational needs of persons interested in gardening, agriculture, natural resource use and development, and a wide range of other topics.

Francis O. Mitchell has been appointed extension agent for the upper Kuskokwim and Yukon River areas.

Mitchell brings to McGrath experience from ranchhand to independent consultant. A former resident of Montana, Mitchell has a bachelor's de-

gree from the College of Great Falls, Montana, in history and political science. He also attended the graduate school of philosophy at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and received an M.A. in Applied Behavioral Science from Whitworth College in Spokane, WA.

A resident of McGrath since 1977, Mitchell served as Programs and Personnel Development Coordinator for the Iditarod Area School District from 1977 to 1980, providing training support for teachers and parents in nine villages on

the Kuskokwim and upper Yukon Rivers. Since 1980 he has been an independent consultant, and has provided consulting services to several Alaskan villages.

Mitchell came to Alaska for the first time in 1957. He was all-around Alaska rodeo champion that same year. He also drove truck during the construction of missile sites around Fairbanks. His other pursuits have included investigation of complaints of Indian tribes regarding policies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Naval Intelligence Officer, and Assistant Chief Clerk for the Montana House of Representatives.

"Mitchell's wide range of experience particularly with Indian and Native groups should help him provide a variety of beneficial educational services to the people in that area of Alaska," Dr. James Matthews said discussing the appointment.