

SEP 16 1977

SEChronicle

Policeman's

Widow Wins

Full Pay

A police sergeant's widow will receive her husband's full monthly salary of \$1164 because his death from lung cancer was related to his work—transporting skid row bums to city jail—the Retirement System Board ruled yesterday.

The judgment was unanimous in favor of Mary F. Finnigan, the mother of seven school-age children, whose husband, Dennis, died last March 27 at the age of 48. He had been on the force 22 years.

The board heard testimony from Dr. Antonio Constantini that Sergeant Finnigan's lung cancer may have come as a result of a bout with tuberculosis eight years earlier. NEVER SMOKED?

Sergeant Finnigan worked at Central police station from 1956 to 1970, where he frequently was detailed to transport skid row derelicts, many of whom had tuberculosis, to the city drunk tank.

He contracted tuberculosis himself in 1962 and was cured a few years later, but lingering scar tissue remained to irritate the lung.

Under the ruling, Mrs. Finnigan will receive her late husband's full salary until he would have reached his normal retirement age, two years from now. At that time, she will receive 55 percent of the \$1164 until she dies or remarries.