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William Wood is interviewed by Dean Warner on May 11, 1970 in Fairbanks, Alaska

Series title: This is Your University series tapes

Dean Warner talked about the graduating ceremonies. Paul H. Mauer will be delivering the baccalaureate address. Elmer E. Rasmuson will be the commencement speaker. He was recently honored by having the new library on campus named after him. Dean asked Dr. Wood about the most significant thing about this year's graduation. William Wood said this is the beginning of a new decade and it ushers in a new era of growth and prosperity for the university. He looked back at summaries of the commencements in the past and the first graduate was in 1923. He talked about the growth of graduates through the years. In 1960 just over 100 graduates were receiving degrees. Today there are 503 graduates. That is a five-fold increase in a ten year period. He hopes that the seventies have similar growth. Dean asked him how the graduates compare to others across the country. Dr. Wood said he thought they measure up very well. In certain specialized fields pertaining to the far north they have few equals anywhere in the world. In other disciplines they would fit in above the average. Dean asked about the future of the college degree. Dr. Wood said it is a very cloudy picture. He feels that the college degree for some is overrated. For others it is an absolute necessity. It is an entrance to the professional world. There isn't any reason that the total population should have a bachelor's degree. He thinks that the community college is going to be a major consequence for the population. He thinks it is a healthy development in America.