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This Is Your University: Dr. Robert Forbes and his trip to Russian Geological Conference; Charles Davis on the University of Alaska Summer Music Camp; President Wood on Oriental University Financing; Dr. Horace Drury on Mat-Su Valley Vegetable Processing Project; Dr. Berg, Seismologist, on Alaska Mountain Range and Quakes; Dr. Rasche on the Beginning of the Geography Department

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FIRST EPISODE: Dr. Robert Forbes and his trip to Russian Geological Conference

The University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute and Geology Department had attempted to organize a conference of Russian and American to discuss mineral resources. Geological similarities between Siberia and Alaska would make such a conference mutually productive. But the U.S. State Department felt that the political climate was not favorable at the time for a cooperative program between Alaskan and Siberian scientists. Then a University of Alaska geologist received an unexpected letter from Moscow that sent him on a unique three-week adventure and set in motion new opportunities in scientific cooperation between Russia and the United States. The geologist, head of the University's Geology Department a research professor with its Geophysical Institute, Dr. Robert B. Forbes, is today's guest.

The letter was an invitation to participate in a conference, organized by the USSR Academy of Science, on high-temperature, high-pressure synthesis of rocks and minerals. The conference is held in Russia every four years and was held this year in Novosibirsk in a new scientific community called "Science City". The invitation was signed by academician Korzynskij(?), one of the top geo-chemists in Russian science.

Over the years, Dr. Forbes had met several counterpart Russian petrologists in a number of different localities, including Kamchatka and Moscow and also in the Academy with whom he had corresponded over the years and become personal as well as professional friends.

Siberia and Alaska have much in common; including the active volcanoes which Alaska has in the Aleutian archipelago. This "ring of fire" continues into the USSR into the Kurils and Kamchatka. As far as mineral resources, including gold deposits, are concerned, there are many similarities between the Seward Peninsula and the mining areas in Eastern Siberia.

Dr. Forbes' reception in the USSR was extremely hospitable. Everywhere he went, he was treated well and the Siberians were very interested in Alaskans; in the climate, how Alaskans live, Alaskan schools. The Siberians were also interested to know if Russian was still spoken in Alaska.

There are hopes for the development of an exchange of information and even scientists between Siberia and Alaska.

SECOND EPISODE: Charles Davis on the University of Alaska, Summer Music Camp

In the Schaible Auditorium, junior and senior high school musicians from throughout the state are putting the finishing touches on a musical production, "Finian's Rainbow". Elsewhere on campus, rehearsals are on for an open air concert, students are receiving private music lessons and others are enjoying the University's recreational facilities. All are members of the 5th annual summer music camp.

Today's guest is Charles Davis, coordinator of the camp and head of the University of Alaska's music department.

Mr. Davis says that summer music camps on college campuses are very common and beneficial to both young musicians and as a continuing program for prospective students for the universities. He doesn't know of any state that does not have such a program and thinks that Alaska may have been the last state not to have such a program when it started its program five years ago. He says there was pressure from both teaches and students in the state to establish such a program. In fact, Alaskans were going to out of state music camps such as Interlochen and the summer music camps at Washington State University or at the University of Bellingham.

The University of Alaska tries to fill the 4-week program with as much and as varied musical training as is feasible. The training allows students to peruse not just specialized trading, so, for instance, band students may also participate in vocal activities. Activities offered are opportunities to participate in band, orchestra, private instruction on instruments, in voice and in piano and social and recreational activities including use of the swimming pool and an overnight campout in Kenai National Park during the last week of the trip.

Typically, several of the graduates of the summer camp are drawn into the University program. Each year, the outstanding camp musicians are selected and each year the selected musicians each one has elected to become a music major at the University.

The faculty include Professor Miko(?) teaching band with Mr. Porter and Mrs. Richards assisting, Mr. Pinkerton, teaching orchestra, Professor Billaud, teaching piano, Mr. Davis himself teaching voice.

THIRD EPISODE: President Wood on Oriental University Financing:

President Wood recently returned to the campus after a 5-week trip to the Far East where he studied financing of Asian universities. His itinerary included Tokyo, Seoul, Taipei, Manila, Saigon, Bangkok and Hong Kong. He visited two or more universities in each of seven Asian countries and conferred with more than a score of representatives from other institutions of higher education. He also met with numerous high government officials including ministers of education in various countries. Dr. Wood's trip abroad was supported by the Ford Educational Foundation, among others. He is now evaluating his data and preparing a report for the sponsoring organizations. President Wood is the guest of today's show.

Dr. Wood says that there are far more resemblances between Oriental and Occidental Institutions than there are differences because as strange as it may seem, the Oriental universities are relatively new – at least those planned on modern instruction, research and public service. There were no universities in Asia that would approach the modern use of this term earlier than about 1890. The difference is that a smaller percentage of the population has an opportunity to enter the university. The numbers, however, are still large and it is not uncommon to find universities of 20, 30 and even 40 thousand students.

The admission standards are rather formal and very selective. There are limits to not only how many people may be admitted to higher education in the entire country, but also for each institution. This means that many competent people are not able to pursue higher education. In Japan, there is some progress being made by establishing junior colleges roughly comparable to the U.S.'s community colleges. In the Philippines and in Korea and Thailand, rapid strides are being made in developing technical- type programs. Sometimes these are part of established institutions and sometimes they are separate.

Most are financed by the government through direct appropriation or higher educational grants, private institutions are funded as private institutions are funded around the world – wherever they can find the money. In one or two instances, Dr. Wood discovered that the student fees were carrying almost the total cost of operating the institutions.

FOURTH EPISODE: Dr. Horace Drury on Mat-Su Valley Vegetable Processing Project

Twenty-five years ago, a few enterprising individuals in Matanuska Valley tried to establish a vegetable processing plant. Economics edged them out of business with the high cost of transportation and the lack of an export market that could be entered competitively. Today, under the aegis of the University of Alaska's Agricultural Experiment Station, another attempt is being made to operate a processing plant. The 3-year pilot program, called Pea Project is underway in Palmer and it is hoped the project will prove successful and economically feasible. However, the project is already a forward step in that it is the type of research necessary to support Alaska's economic growth. Dr. Horace Drury, Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, is today's guest.

Dr. Drury says that the Pea Project began with the realization that Alaska is not a typical agricultural state and so the University's Agricultural Experiment Station might need to be prepared to undertake developmental activities that are not just the research that is normally expected of an experimental station. The farmers that would usually do the developmental activities, are few in Alaska and have difficulty developing their markets. The Pea Processing plant cost several hundred thousand dollars and requires the production from several thousand acres to be economically feasible. This means that under normal circumstances, a processing plant would not be built because there wouldn't be a sufficient amount of vegetables being produced to justify the cost, yet the farmers would not increase vegetable production because they cannot count on enough consumer demand.

Peas were chosen because they grow well in the environment Alaska provides: long summer days, cool climate and freedom from many diseases peas are susceptible to.

The project is being funded through various avenues. The Experiment Station is contributing about \$30,000 in services of its scientists, labor and materials. The Mat Maid Co-op is furnishing the use of its old dairy plant in Palmer for the processing line as well as furnishing some equipment. The Alaska Pipeline Company made a contribution of \$5000 to rent a pea combine for a year. The Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation bought \$10,000 worth of equipment which they are renting to the project for a dollar a year. A number of farmers put up \$12,000 for expenses which will be repaid to them out of the sales of peas. But if something goes wrong, they are willing for it to stand as a contribution.

It is hoped that the project will turn into a multi-million dollar industry with several thousand acres of vegetables.

EPISODE FIVE: Dr. Berg –Seismologist - on Alaska Mountain Range and Quakes

The Alaska Range bends sharply to the east near mount McKinley and many geologists believe that the bending process might still be going on. A University of Alaska scientist has stated that this bending process may be responsible for producing earthquakes. Dr. Eduard Berg of the University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute explains that the outer edge of the bend is being stretched while the inner edge is being compressed. Dr. Berg, a seismologist, is today's guest.

Dr. Berg explains that earthquakes are caused by molten material moving far beneath the earth's crust, sending up stress patterns to the surface in the form of mountain ranges and other geological structures.

Alaska is a favorite spot for seismologists and has a large amount of earthquakes, even compared to California. Earthquakes of magnitude 8.5 have happened approximately every 10 years in Alaska as far back as human records go.

Alaska is a sort of hinge point between the Aleutian Arc structure and the Eastern part of the Pacific from the Cascade Range to interior Alaska. In this hinge are juncture there are a large number of earthquakes – between 300 and 400 a month.

Dr. Berg says that in some cases earthquakes can be predicted and in other cases they cannot, as we still have an incomplete understanding of the system. Tilt measurements and strain measurements allow scientists to know whether the crust is experiencing. In some cases the measurements indicate that stress is building up to a point that we may expect a rupture.

EPISODE SIX: Dr. Rasche on the Beginning of the Geography Department

In a state noted for its diverse and spectacular geography, it is only appropriate that the University of Alaska should offer a complete geo program to students. Formerly, taught as part of the Anthropology and Geography Department, the geography program will exist as a separate department for the first time this fall. Growing student enrollment necessitated the change. Dr. Herbert Rasche is the newly appointed department head and the guest on today's show.

Alaskan geography, Dr. Rasche says, is not a required course but there is a steady demand for it. Many summer session students from other states take the course. There many resources on the topic available at the University of Alaska make it possible to present the subject in an interesting way. The course also ties in with Anthropology and History classes that deal with Alaska specifically.

A new course on regional geography of Asia- excluding the USSR, which is covered in a separate course- is being offered this fall. The course is open to upperclassmen and specially qualified sophomores and freshmen. Next semester a new course in economic geography will be offered, which should be of special interest to those concerned with resource use and economic development.

Dr. Rasche's predecessor, Professor Morris Morgan, actively fostered interdisciplinary programs and these programs will be continued in both research and teaching. Last year the University hosted a seminar on the Pleistocene. Six departments, including geography, participated. Geography majors are also required to take a number of courses in related fields.

Dr. Rasche began as a geography instructor teaching in public school and college in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. During his active military service from 1941 until retirement in 1962, he was assigned most of the time to geographic intelligence and environmental research. In 1964, Dr. Rasche came to Alaska as a civilian geographer with the Army Arctic Test Center. Last year, the University invited him to join the faculty and to carry on the developmental program for geography.