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This Is Your University: Dr. Arthur Buswell on Department of Statewide Services; Basketball with Al Svenningson; Institute of Arctic Biology- High Altitude and Working and Capacity; About Dr. Forbes and Volcanism or Watching Volcanoes; Japanese Interest and Trade in Alaska

Summary created by: Summer Dougherty

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Series: This is Your University series tapes

FIRST EPISODE: Dr. Arthur Buswell on Department of Statewide Services, Ron Senungetuk on the Extension Center of Arts and Crafts

Interviewer: Paul Quist

Arthur Buswell explains that the public services that the Department of Statewide Services provides are related to education and sometimes is direct education in itself. The Department directs University credit programs that are held off campus around the state or on campus in the evening, correspondence study courses, and the entire summer session program. Some of the most interesting fields come outside of the bounds of the baccalaureate and graduate degree programs such as the Upward Bound program for high school students, the Cooperative Extension Service (which works, among other things, on the canning or walrus meat), and the film library which is available to people all over the state.

Assistant Professor Ron Senungetuk, who heads the Extension Center of Arts and Crafts, explains that extension students are generally Eskimos from villages. They are often ivory carvers and know something of Eskimo culture. The group is given the opportunity to experiment with different materials, and different design styles including older Native styles.

SECOND EPISODE: Basketball with Al Svenningson

Interviewer: Unidentified (George?)

Surprisingly, the most popular winter sport in Alaska seems not to be skiing or dog mushing, but basketball!

Al Svenningson , head basketball coach at the university is the today's guest. Coach Svenningson remarks on how many road games and how many home games the Nanooks have played this year. It has been an off year as far as winning games, yet some players have been scoring high enough to make some of the better players in the western United States basketball circle. Coach Svenningson thinks it is likely that next year will be better as far as winning games is concerned. He says players like Milo Griffin, Gary Schaefer and [inaudible] as mainstays for next year's team. Some recruiting will be done as well.

Expensive road trips justify themselves by providing quality competition for the players as well as promoting the University.

Al Svenningson thinks that any successful sports program helps other athletic programs become more successful. He feels that sports provide an important outlet for the students.

THIRD EPISODE: Institute of Arctic Biology- High Altitude and Working and Capacity

Announcer: Paul Quist

The year 1967 was a tragic year in Alaska mountaineering. After years of no death and few injuries on Mt. McKinley, almost 10 climbers lost their lives. One death occurred early last year and the others occurred when an entire party was almost wiped out by high winds and storms late in the year during the summer climbing season. In order to make climbing safer and to probe basic questions of man's physiology in the arctic environment, scientists at the University of Alaska's Institute of Arctic Biology are tackling an expanded program of what happens when men work at high altitudes and are exposed to high winds, sub-zero temperatures and physical fatigue for long periods of time

A three year grant of over \$400,000 from the Department of Defense sponsors the program. While the Department of Defense is interested in what would happen if American troops if called upon to fight at high mountain areas, the scientists are hoping this research will make McKinley safer to climb.

Oxygen starvation at high altitudes can be deadly. On the side of a mountain, physical and mental alertness is a critical necessity where a false step can lead to a slip, fall, injury or death. Scientists have long thought that at high latitudes man can lose up to half of his mental ability. And now a program of research is underway at the University's West Ridge at the Institute of Arctic Biology. Man's physical organs work just as well at 18,000 feet as they do at sea level. However the difference comes in the human brain. Lacking oxygen, the brain is simply unable to coordinate actions of the physical organs. Scientists hope to establish an Alaska Mountaineering Center at the West Ridge, adjacent to the biology building where climbing parties would be able to train for a McKinley assault and adjust themselves to the thin air in altitude chambers. Lecture sections and a mountaineering library would be available.

The program of testing has been going on since a pilot program was conducted last year. Climbers are tested for physical and mental response, including balance, perception, physical and mental calculating, before they go on the mountain and after they return.

A new research dimension including things such things as moral and what can happen to personalities was added when two Institute workers were landed on the big mountain to conduct tests during the climb itself. Even close friends can become irritable and insecure at high altitude. Lassitude and lack of motivation to do even the simplest camp chores can set in and have an effect on the ultimate success and safety of the climb.

FOURTH EPISODE: About Dr. Forbes and Volcanism or Watching Volcanoes

Announcer: Charles Sandburg

In his spare time, Dr. Robert Forbes, Head of the University Geology Department, watches and studies volcanoes. Since 1964, Dr. Forbes and two geology graduate students have manned a summer laboratory on 200 feet below the summit of Mount Wrangell. For several weeks out of the summer, Dr. Forbes and his assistants take measurements and perform experiments on the volcano. The University's volcano research program began in 1964 as a cooperative scientific venture between scientists from Alaska and Japan, titled the Geochemistry and Petrology of Volcanic rocks. Since the program began, a new dimension has been added to the volcano study: A seismic earthquake monitoring system, established in Alaska since the Good Friday earthquake of 1964, has been extended to the volcano project. Under the direction of Dr. Eduard Berg, of the University's Geophysical Institute, seismic monitoring devices have been established around Mt. Wrangell to measure intensities of pre-eruption earth tremors that could warn of a possible eruption. Ultra-sensitive seismic monitors, built to record quakes too weak to pick up at the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Observatory were set up around volcanoes in the Katmai National Park in 1965 and since then have been moved to other parts of the state to record quake activity.

Dr. Forbes' research project on the geochemistry of volcanic lavas is primarily a study to determine the origin of thick, blocky, andesitic lava that characterizes Alaska volcanoes as well as other land volcanoes in the world. By contrast underwater volcanoes that build themselves into islands in the ocean are characterized by a thin lava. Understanding types of lava helps scientists understand the origins of the lava which may help answer the basic question of how the volcanoes themselves form. Volcanoes erupting with thick, slow moving lava are the ones that can erupt violently. The University's program in volcanic study could lead to methods of predicting violent eruptions, saving lives and property.

FIFTH EPISODE: Japanese Interest and Trade in Alaska

Announcer: Charles Northrop(?)

The growth of Japan in recent years into a modern, highly industrialized nation is creating a growing need to import basic raw materials. Isolated by China to the west, the USSR to the north and the Pacific to the east and south, Japanese industrialists are looking to Alaska as a source of raw materials.

Alaskans are already seeing the effects of Japanese capital pouring into the state's economy and creating jobs. Japanese owned timber companies in southeast Alaska are setting up pulp mills and exporting timber products by the shipload to manufacturing plants in Japan. The University of Alaska's Institute of Social, Economic and Government research has undertaken a study, is at the printer now, of Japanese trade potential with Alaska.

Today's guest today is Professor Arlon Tussing with the Institute of Business, Economic and Governmental Research at the University of Alaska.

The study was supported economically by the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The study found that Alaska's products with the most export potential to Japan are logs, lumber, wood chips, wood pulp, crude oil, natural gas, petrochemicals, iron, copper and other metallic ores, coal, fish, fish products, beef, mutton, wool, reindeer and tourism. Not all of these markets are developed in Japan and not all of the products are being produced in Alaska for Japan.

Alaskans' attitudes toward trade with Japan seem to be positive as Alaskans are interested in bringing jobs and income into the state. In some of the fishing communities, however, there is considerable hostility toward the Japanese fishing industry and, in some cases, in Japanese entry into the state in general.