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This Is Your University: Christmas at the University of Alaska; The Year in Review; Development of the Community College; Automation and What It Means; The Students of the University of Alaska; The Performing Arts

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FIRST EPISODE: Christmas at the University of Alaska

ANNOUNCER: Ken Burton

It is Christmas 1965 at the University of Alaska. The holiday signals to students the end of one semester and the start of another. Many students spend their two-week Christmas vacation with their family. Some stay on a quieter and less active campus. There is a Christmas Ball sponsored by the students and a Holiday Ball for the faculty. There are Christmas decorating competitions between the dormitories and other organizations. The University Fairbanks Community Symphony and the University Community Chorus held their first joint concert of the season recently. The chorus, directed by Professor Charles Davis, the head of the music department, sang carols to a standing room only audience. The program was also broadcast on the University's FM radio station.

Members of the faculty may invite a student to share their Christmas meal by calling the student activities office.

Many students use the time for writing term papers, catching up on reading and studying. Others just rest.

During this time, the University's collegiate sized swimming pool is open daily, regularly scheduled motion pictures are shown on campus, the snack bar in the student union is still open, an ice skating rink, located behind Wickersham Hall, is available for students, faculty, staff and families, and the University's ski slope, located near the Patty Building, is operating at near capacity.

President Dr. Wood and the entire faculty and staff wish everyone a most joyous holiday season.

SECOND EPISODE: The Year in Review

ANNOUNCER: Ken Burton

For the University of Alaska, 1965 has been a good and eventful year. The campus has expanded and enrollment has increased. There are more buildings, more new classes and more new classrooms than ever before. The ice island ARLIS II was deactivated, construction was completed on two of eleven buildings in the Arctic Research Center Complex on the University's West Ridge Campus, and a strong effort has been made to collect papers and documents, important to Alaska.

In 1965, ARLIS II, a floating ice island manned by some 70 scientists, was abandoned in May as it began to break up off the coast of Iceland. Research conducted on ARLIS II was channeled back to the Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow, operated by the University of Alaska for the Office of Naval Research. ARLIS II melting was the end of a four-year, 4,000 mile journey that carried the island around the tip of Greenland, starting from off the northern coast of Alaska.

More than 35,000 people from all corners of the nation and some from foreign countries visited the University Campus. The biggest draw was the University's museum, which has on display numerous Russian, Indian and pioneer artifacts. One thousand, six hundred and thirteen full-time students enrolled for the 1965-1966 academic year. With a freshman class of 558, the University's student body this year represents 44 other states and 14 foreign nations "and female students enjoy a 3 to 2 ratio of men to women." Eight thousand students are expected on the main campus by 1980. Two new residence halls have been erected.

During 1965, federal and private funds continued to support research projects for the University. One result from university research was development of an entirely new offshore oil drilling rig. Such devices are now being built in the Cook Inlet area and come as a direct result of U.S. Navy research funds. The new rig's structural design enables it to withstand the pressures of sea ice floes.

In 1965, under the direction of a full-time archivist, the University library began its first full time effort to collect, categorize and identify thousands of papers, documents, publications and artifacts important to Alaskan history.

The University of Alaska is helping to maintain Alaska's rating as the state whose citizens rank second in the amount of formal education. And, judging by the progress made in 1965, that rating can become number one in 1966.

THIRD EPISODE: Development of the Community College

ANNOUNCER: Ken Burton

The University of Alaska is responsible, under Alaska's constitution, for extending educational opportunities to all who qualify and are capable. It is responsible for training technicians and professional practitioners and for providing a general education beyond high school.

More than ten years ago, the University's Board of Regents adopted a concept of expanding University activities into the areas of the state with the greatest need while, at the same time, expanding the main campus as the state's higher educational center. From this concept the evening and correspondence programs have evolved, including military on-base classes in six locations, research stations in communities throughout the state, the cooperative extension service which serves many remote area, the mining extension and the fishing extension. Augmenting this service, community colleges have been established in six Alaska communities. To serve local community needs for lower division academic courses, occupational courses and general adult studies at low cost. The Anchorage Community College, established in 1953, is the oldest and largest in the state. In its eleven years it has enrolled more than 20,000 people and it has offered more than 100 courses each year. In the recent fall term, enrollment was 1,867. The number of technical students almost doubled and non-academic credit hour more than doubled since 1963, showing a great need for technical and occupational education.

The other community colleges at Juneau-Douglas, Sitka, Ketchikan, Palmer and Kenai and the evening course program on the main campus for the Fairbanks area follow Anchorage's pattern of providing for the specific need of their communities. These needs are served in cooperation with the local school districts. Serving educational needs locally throughout the state does not decrease enrollment at the main campus. Rather, it increases attendance because students who otherwise would not be able to attend, complete their first year or two at home and then transfer to the main campus in Fairbanks.

FOURTH EPISODE: Automation and What It Means

ANNOUNCER: Ken Burton

The explosive population changes and great advances in technology and automation since WWII have had far reaching consequences including unemployment, underemployment, high school and college dropouts, displaced workers, retraining of workers with obsolete skills, threats to traditions and ways of life. Educators believe these problems must be addressed before lasting damage is done to the economy and social structure of our country.

There are four distinct problems facing higher education today:

First, technology has fashioned great changes in man's relationship to his work and his education. For the first time in history, a man's education stands directly between him and his occupational goals. Sufficient technological and occupational education is an urgent need.

Second, the population explosion has created a vast crop of college age youth along with new social pressures causing the assumption that a college education is mandatory. Around the nation, public universities are turning away thousands of students.

Third, reeducation and continuing education is a present and rapidly growing need. Things are changing so fast that much of what is being taught now will soon be obsolete and much yet undiscovered must be learned. Professional and technical people must continually upgrade their information and their skills.

Fourth, technology and automation will, in the next few years, justify the workday reduction in many occupations to four or five hours. This will demand new approaches to the use of time and new attitudes toward the concept of work and free time.

These problems and their side effects have created a revolution in philosophy and approach to higher education. Alaska, because of its size, location, and relationship to other states will soon be affected by these problems.

FIFTH EPISODE: The Students of the University of Alaska

ANNOUNCER: Ken Burton

They come from Adak, Australia, Arizona, Ketchikan, Mekoryuk, Ohio, Peru. One thousand, six hundred and thirteen students from 44 other states and 14 countries and 101 villages and towns in Alaska make up the student body.

The students are undergraduate, graduate, married, single. They eat at the University Commons and the Student Union, listen to folkrock on the jukebox and the beat of carpenter's hammers as construction work to expand the campus is completed. They go to sock hops and they study.

The president of the Associated Students of the University of Alaska (known as the ASUA) met with the national student body presidents last fall. He found that in comparison with other places, students at the University of Alaska form a vigorous student body. The University has no fraternities or sororities but there seems to be a group, club or organization for every interest. There are about 26 professional, scholastic, honorary and social groups on the campus. The University swimming team set records in 8 events at a recent swimming meet and the rifle team traveled to the Kansas State University turkey shoot. The varsity basketball team competed with state and Canadian teams and had a winning streak of 8 games by last year.

The majority of University of Alaska students earn their own money for college by working in construction, lumber fishing and mining during the summer and often part time during the year.

SIXTH EPISODE: The Performing Arts

ANNOUNCER: Ken Burton

Far removed from science and concrete answers, the performing arts are very much in evidence on the University campus and very much appreciated by students, faculty and Alaska's citizens. Attendance many times overflows for dramatic productions, vocal and musical recitals, orchestra concerts and choral presentations.

There is a demand of the Drama Workshop to take more of their productions to more Alaskan communities. There is a proposal that would provide for a theatre-to-the-bush type of program.

Last December's Fairbanks University Community Orchestra concert, held jointly with the Community Choir was very popular. People filled the hall, sat in the aisles and even stood in the lobby to hear the Christmas program.

The University welcomed Jean Paul Billaud and his wife Christiane to the faculty. They are both accomplished pianists who left their native France to become naturalized U.S. citizens in Fairbanks. Also joining the faculty is violist Reuben Decker(?).

Drama Workshop productions have travelled to cities and towns from Ketchikan to Nome, including a visit to the Whitehorse International Drama Festival.

The Choir of the North is made up of some 60 men and women students. Last year they visited much of southeastern Alaska as well as singing at a large number of events in the immediate area as well. The choir is under the direction of Charles W. Davis.