

00-00-150

Colin Mick reports on the summer session at the University of Alaska Fairbanks; Ted Ryberg is interviewed by Paul Quist; Keith Mather is interviewed by Paul Quist; Lee Salisbury is interviewed by Paul Quist; Paul Quist reports on the history of the community colleges in Alaska

Broadcast in 1966-1967

7 inch reels

1966-1967

Colin Mick talks about the summer session held at the University of Alaska. More than 1000 people attended the summer session program this past year. The University of Alaska offers courses throughout the year. Many of the students were secondary school teachers. One of the programs was the Rural Teacher's Institute. Fifty teachers were enrolled in the program. Workshops for Operation Head Start was also in session. Teaching training programs financed by National Defense Education grants were also held this summer. French classes were also taught. Senior and junior high school teachers attended the Science and Mathematics Institute was also held. Other classes were held for regular college courses. Upward Bound Program was also held. Music camp was attended by Alaska students.

Ted Ryberg is interviewed by Paul Quist. The University of Alaska Fairbank's library is discussed. The library is growing rapidly. Mr. Ted Ryberg, director of libraries talked about the new areas in the library. Mr. Ryberg talked about one of the newest programs, the manuscript collections. Much of this type of valuable information is being accidentally destroyed by fire or by those that do not realize their historical value. They are attempting to collect papers, diaries, letters and invoices showing prices in Alaska and preserve them so they will be available for future reference. They have also been doing more with microforms, microfilm, micro cards and microfiche. They are now a full repository for publications of the Atomic Energy Commission. They have recently received 46,000 AEC reports on micro cards. And they will receive their reports on microfiche. They are also receiving major newspapers on microfilm. They are about to organize and catalog many maps that have been received over the years. The interviewer asked how the increases in the enrollment have affected the library. Ted Ryberg said this puts increased pressure on the library facilities. Ideally one third of the enrolled students and faculty should be able to be seated in the library at any one time. They can only accommodate only one-tenth. With new teaching methods this makes it even more acute. More and more emphasis is placed on independent study and work. They can only partially meet this demand. They have about 140,000 volumes which is only half the amount that they should have to support the present academic programs. The present library was built to house 80,000 volumes so there is an acute space problem. They have decentralized the library. The archives have been moved into a classroom and the documents have been transferred to a utilidor near Skarland hall. This gives them enough space to house the books but they are bulging at the seams. The measures have not been really successful. They can only seat 200 people in the library. He said they are receiving about 25,000 new books each year.

Keith Mather is interviewed by Paul Quist. The Geophysical Institute is one of the oldest research institutes on the University of Alaska Fairbank's campus. It was founded by an act of Congress in 1949. The purpose of the Geophysical Institute is to advance knowledge of the Earth and its environment in space. It has grown rapidly since its inception. Keith Mather is the director of the Institute. The interviewer asked Professor Mather about the current research program. Professor Mather said most of their research is concerned with the upper atmosphere, the sun and the space between the Earth and the sun. Much of their work is involved with the sun since their work is dependent on the sun's activity. He talked about auroras. He said the particles create disturbances on the earth's magnetic field and the ionosphere. We use the ionosphere to reflect short wave radio unless they are disturbed. They are studying the relationship of the charged particles to the Earth's atmosphere and the magnetic field. They study the aurora itself. They use cameras and rocket born instruments. They are looking at the feasibility of establishing a rocket facility north of Fairbanks. Professor Mather was asked about practical use of this information. He said one of the practical aims was the improvement of radio propagation across the arctic. It is of vital importance for safety of human beings in space. The detection of nuclear explosions in the atmosphere and space is another aspect. They also engage in meteorological work such as ice fog, snowfall, rain, hail and solid earth physics. Seismology is also studied through a series of seismic studies. They hope to one day predict earthquakes and minimize disasters. His staff is about 200 which includes professors and graduate students. They have a budget of about three million dollars and about 90 percent of that come from government grants and contracts. Right now they are static in size because of lack of space. They have to keep their graduate program down to 30 students because of space limitations. They do not have enough room to support any more.

Lee Salisbury is interviewed by Paul Quist. The Good Friday Earthquake forced most of the state's bonding capacity be directed to aid and relieve the earthquake damaged areas. There will be a bond proposition on the November ballot. Lee Salisbury said there has been a tremendous upsurge in enrollment across the nation in the fine arts and the humanities. It has been tremendous at UAF. Programs are limited because of lack of space. He talked about the journalism major, a master's program in fine arts, creative writing, and Japanese being offered. There are 200 students enrolled in the art courses. The music major has increased 300 percent in the past few years. Drama has doubled its enrollment. He talked about the offerings of the drama department. The speech department is discussed. Many of the programs require specialized facilities such as the speech program. Many departments have outgrown their facilities. [some sections are difficult to understand]

Paul Quist talks about the six community colleges in Alaska. Community colleges are commuter colleges. Mostly lower level college courses are offered. They serve the educational needs of the entire community where they are located. They offer more vocational and interest courses. The program began in 1954 in Anchorage and Ketchikan. Juneau Douglas community college was established two years later. Palmer Community college followed. The Matanuska Susitna Community College was established in 1961. Sitka was established in 1962 and Kenai was established in 1964. Anchorage is the largest with 1,912 students. The colleges offer an associate's degree in office administration, natural and social sciences and the humanities. There are also non-credit programs. None of the community colleges have their own buildings. The university hopes to construct facilities in Anchorage, Ketchikan and

Juneau-Douglas. Five million dollars for the construction is included in the university's bond proposal. Community colleges are growing to train skilled workers for business and industry.

Paul Quist talks about the sixteen million dollar general obligation bond proposal on the ballot this year. What will the funds be used for and why are they needed. The university in the past ten years has seen a growing enrollment. To meet the needs of the soaring enrollment the university has undergone an expansion program. The community college program offers higher education courses for Alaskans who could not leave their communities. The proposed bond issue would continue this expansion. It would provide funding for a new library and fine arts complex, the community colleges, the geophysical building and infrastructure on the main campus. The library is in need of expansion. It may be forced to eliminate limited seating areas for additional shelf space. The proposed humanities and fine arts complex would provide badly needed space. Some programs are severely hampered because of a lack of specialized facilities.