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This Is Your University: The Week of July 23rd – Summer Happenings; 1966-1967 KUAC Plans and Programs; Archaeological Excavation on Campus; International Symposium on Circumpolar Health Related Problems, 8/28; Science Conference and Activities

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Series: This is Your University series tapes

FIRST EPISODE: The Week of July 23rd – Summer Happenings

ANNOUNCER: Paul Quist

More than 100 scientists will attend a symposium on circumpolar medical and health related problems sponsored by the university and the Arctic Institute of North America and held on the University of Alaska campus. The scientists will represent most of the northern countries: the U.S., Canada, the Soviet Union, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland. There will be two public evening programs will be held during the symposium covering subjects including clothing and nutrition in the Arctic.

On Monday, July 24th, a group of 20 distinguished educators and representatives from different foundations will arrive on campus for a three day visit to participate in a tour sponsored by the Arctic Institute of North America of the "middle north." The tour includes visits to several Alaska cities and villages and to areas of Northern Canada. The group will also meet with members of the universities research institutes, local community leaders, and tour the campus.

On July 25th, delegates from seven western states will gather on campus for the annual meeting of the Pacific area of the National Association of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. One hundred and seventy five delegates are expected to attend. The meeting is sponsored by the Alaska Association of Soil Conservation Subdistricts which was formed last fall.

On July 26th, the new Arctic Health and Research Center on the West Ridge will be formally dedicated. The building is located adjacent to the Alaska Water Laboratory and the new biosciences building. The construction of a fourth building, a new geophysical institute, will start next summer.

Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco will tour the campus as part of a three day visit to the Fairbanks area. During their visit, the couple will be hosted by university president Wood and his wife.

More than 1,300 people are expected to be on campus during this week.

SECOND EPISODE: 1966-1967 KUAC Plans and Programs

ANNOUNCER: Paul Quist

Joel Fleming, acting manager for KUAC is today's guest.

Mr. Fleming explains that KUAC is a 3,000 watt FM radio station serving the Fairbanks area. KUAC started off four years ago strictly as student training to provide practical experience for students who were interested in broadcasting. As the number of interested students grew, KUAC took on a secondary job of serving the people in the Fairbanks area. In this way, KUAC became a sort of extension of the University off the campus, providing informational and cultural programming and general news and information.

The university radio station is funded by the university itself. It is budgeted within the university's regular budget as a part of the Department of Speech, Drama and Radio's regular budget. However, in the last couple of years, federal aid from the U.S. Office Education has been obtained to improve the programming and provide more adult education programming. This increase in funds has allowed KUAC to serve not only the Fairbanks area, but to distribute tapes throughout the state of Alaska to commercial radio stations.

During the school year, 30-40 students work at the station. This work includes training as announcers, technicians, engineers, in production, editing and preparing of news, the preparation of documentary programs, etc.

KUAC is looking forward to, thanks to a continuation of last year's federal grant, a shipment of new and badly needed equipment.

THIRD EPISODE: Archaeological Excavation on Campus

ANNOUNCER: Paul Quist

People have reported finding artifacts, mostly projectile points, on the campus since the school first opened in 1922. The archaeological site was found in 1932 when workmen were digging post holes in the vicinity of the Bunnell Building parking lot. The site was first excavated in the summer of 1934 by university students John Dorsh and Albert Dickey working under the direction of Childs Frick of the American Museum of Natural History. Further work was conducted during the summer of 1935 and 1936, in part under the supervision of Froelich Rainey, also associated with the museum and, at that time, professor of anthropology at the university.

By 1936, approximately half of the site had been excavated. Many artifacts had been unearthed; among them, the first artifacts to show a positive relationship with artifacts from Asia. This discovery gave considerable support to the theory that man crossed into America from Asia via the land bridge over the Bering Strait.

In 1966, the university decided to expand the parking lot below the Bunnell building and prepare a permanent site for the university's 49 foot totem pole. Before the work started, the department of anthropology decided to complete the excavation of the campus site to see if any material remained. The excavations began last summer and have continued this year. The students now working on the site are Mike Amet(?), Bill Howe(?), Ken Humphries(?). Dr. Edward Housley(?), assistant professor of anthropology, is in charge of the excavations. Much material has been found during the current excavations including projectile points, burins, stone blades and flakes. Dr. Housley(?) attributes this to greater use of techniques such as screening compared with previous excavations. Dr. Housley(?) feels the site was likely a combination game lookout and flint knapping station. During the time the site was occupied, the Chena River probably ran closer to the bluff. The campus site material resembles that found on the lower levels Onion Portage site on the Kobuk River and on the Anangula Island. All three of these sites are dated from 8,000 to 8,500 years old.

In addition to the campus site, university students are also working at Healy Lake, Kachemak Bay. Next month, Dr. Housley(?) and his crew will travel to Point Hope to conduct archaeological surveys on erosion threatened sites.

FOURTH EPISODE: International Symposium on Circumpolar Health Related Problems, 8/28

ANNOUNCER: Paul Quist

The International Symposium on Circumpolar Health Related Problems met on campus from July 23rd to 28th. The symposium was sponsored by the university and the Arctic Institute of North America and held on the University of Alaska campus. Medical experts from most of the northern countries attended, amounting to more than 100 scientists representing 7 countries. Topics included pulmonary diseases, viruses, zoonosis, environmental stresses on human behavior, physiology, nutrition, and contamination of the environment. Short summaries of some of the papers are presented:

The chairman was Dr. C. Earl Albrecht, formerly an Alaskan Territorial Commissioner of Health and now a professor of preventative medicine at the Jefferson College in Philadelphia. Dr. Albrecht presented a paper calling for a campaign to eliminate five infectious diseases from the Arctic: smallpox, polio, measles, tuberculosis, and syphilis. The arctic is ideal for such a campaign due to the small and relatively isolated communities. Tuberculosis would be the most difficult disease to eradicate.

Three University of Alaska professors presented papers at the symposium dealing with the effects of cold on man and animals:

Dr. Laurence Irving, Advisory Scientific Director of the University of Alaska's Institute of Arctic Biology, discussed his studies on the adaptation of man and animals to the arctic cold. The insulating fur of arctic-mammals and the fur clothing of man conserve body heat well, making it simple to keep the major portions of the body warm. The extremities, eyes and nose are much more difficult to keep warm, however. Both the Arctic adapted man and animals conserve body heat by somehow allowing these extremities to cool much below body temperature.

Dr. Peter Morrison, Director of the Institute of Arctic Biology, discussed studies on the climbing party that made the first successful winter assault on Mt. McKinley last winter. The stresses of mountaineering, such as cold and altitude, have marked effects on man's mental abilities and balance. The studies covered a series of experiments which proved difficult or impossible for the climbers at the 18,000 foot level on the mountain but which were easily accomplished at lower elevation.

Dr. Jack Pentajon(?), professor of physiology, described his studies of urban cold injuries. City dwellers are prone to cold injuries, as they do not dress properly for cold weather. He discussed four type of injuries found in the Fairbanks area: cold sensitivity, loss of feeling in the hands, palsy and frostbite. Most of these were caused by only moderate cold exposure.

FIFTH EPISODE: Science Conference and Activities

ANNOUNCER: Paul Quist

On August 28th, more than 500 people will converge on the University of Alaska campus to attend the 1967 Science Conference, sponsored by the university and the Alaskan division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Dr. Peter Morrison, Director of the Institute of Arctic Biology, and President of the Alaskan division of AAAS is today's guest.

Dr. Morrison explains that the AAAS allows cross disciplinary contact among specialists. For many Alaskan scientists, this is their only opportunity to participate in a scientific meeting. Most of the conference will be Alaskan scientists with some speakers coming from the lower 48 and some scientists who have come to Alaska for field studies during the current summer.

The heart of the conference is the formal scientific sessions which are organized according to the divisions of AAAS: biology, geology, anthropology, chemistry, physics, social science, medicine, public health, natural resources. Some 200 papers or field reports are scheduled under these topics.

Every third year, the conference is held in Alaska. In past years, it has alternated between Juneau and Anchorage. Next year, they hope to hold the meeting in Whitehorse and to associate interested Canadian scientists.

There are three important meetings that will be held. One in geology on Alaskan tectonics, organized by Professor Forbes, a second is the National Academy of Sciences National Research Council Polar Committee's panel on biological and medical sciences which is meeting in Alaska for a special look on problems in arctic science, and the third is on organic matter and water organized by Professor Donald Hood of the Institute of Marine Sciences.

There will be two public events: a concert by the Army Field Band which will be touring Alaska at the time of the conference, and a lecture by Professor Alfred S. Romer, a distinguished paleontologist, former director of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology and retiring president of the AAAS, nationally. Professor Romer will speak on vertebrate paleontology and continental drift.