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This Is Your University: University of Alaska Aid to 1967 Flood Victims; 1967-8 Equinox Marathon; University of Alaska Shooting Teams; ROTC on Campus; Drama Workshop – The Alaskan Tradition

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FIRST EPISODE: University of Alaska Aid to 1967 Flood Victims

ANNOUNCER: Paul Quist

Almost a third of the population of Fairbanks, about 7,000 people, evacuated to the high grounds of the University of Alaska campus during the flood this summer.

Flooding rivers created a 50,000 square mile lake in the interior, an area almost as big as the state of Alabama.

On the morning of August 14, L. George (?) an assistant comptroller and civil defense coordinator at the university, notified Fairbanks civil defense headquarters that 300 beds in campus dormitories were available for possible flood victims. That night, the first refugees began to trickle onto campus. University President Dr. Wood announced that all persons seeking shelter would be welcome on the campus. The trickle of refugees became a torrent. Waters soon reached the foot of university hill. First arriving in automobiles and on foot, refugees began arriving in boats. A helicopters rescue operation manned by air force and civilian pilots rescued people off rooftops and shrinking islands of high ground. A campus parking lot south of the Bunnell Building became a helipad.

Later, Army National Guard flatbed trucks, still able to drive through high water, carried refugees to the campus, many of whom were still wet from wading through the water.

Room and beds in dormitories soon ran out. Families camped in classrooms, lounges, recreation rooms, laboratories, and the Patty Gymnasium.

The University Dining Commons had only enough food to last for 24 hours. University comptroller Harold Bird(?), acting as food coordinator, began contacting military authorities

and civil defense officials. Food began arriving, including undamaged products from flooded out grocery stores, and a shipment of meat from a local wholesaler. Up to 15,000 meals a day were served. People waited in long lines for hours to get their meal.

The first floor of Wickersham became an infirmary. RNs volunteered their time. The dispensary was staffed with regular and volunteer doctors. A recreation program was organized for children. A regular schedule of movies was shown in the Duckering Building auditorium. A mimeographed newspaper, "The Highwater News" began circulating with morning and evening editions covering city conditions, water levels, meetings and reconstruction plans.

The University's heating and power plant, at the foot of college hill, was in danger, sometimes only inches from flood waters.

SECOND EPISODE: 1967-1968 Equinox Marathon

ANNOUNCER: Paul Quist

Interior Alaskans often celebrate the equinox with a day of hiking before winter brings snow and subzero temperatures. Last year, 850 Alaskans celebrated by entering the University of Alaska's annual equinox marathon. This year's participation is predicted to be just as great if not greater.

The equinox marathon's trail is 26 miles, 385 yards long. Though some compete for speed, the marathon for most is a leisurely hiking, enjoying the scenery and conversation with fellow racers. The course starts and finished at the university's Patty Building on campus. The train passes by the Experimental Farm, cuts through homesteads, forests and fields and goes almost to the top of Ester Dome. On the return leg, the trail winds through the town of Ester and back to campus through muskeg and forests of birch and pine.

The course goes through a 2,000 change in altitude. The course is marked with six-inch red disks, one marker always in view in another. The participants wear foot high numbers that can be easily spotted by marathon officials at checkpoints. Volunteers from the Arctic Amateur Radio Club help keep contact between the checkpoints and the headquarters. There are three water stops along the trail. A special high energy food concentrate is provided for participants in the running division. Hikers, who often stop to picnic, carry their own food.

A 1963 race bulletin warns competitors of black bears in the area. In 1964, Dr. Charles J. Hudson, former captain of Princeton University's Cross Country team, hiked the marathon. Allen P. Small of the U.S. Army's biathlon team at Fort Richardson ran the trail in 3 hours, 21 minutes and 11 seconds. The record of 3 hours, 7 minutes and 10 seconds was set in 1965 by biathlon runner Edward G. Williams.

All who cross the finish line receives a blue and gold patch. Dr. William Wood received a patch last year.

THIRD EPISODE: University of Alaska Shooting Teams

ANNOUNCER: Paul Quist

Together, the University of Alaska's men's and women's shooting teams have almost consistently won top honors in national collegiate shooting matches. On the roster of the University of Alaska's shooters through the years are no less than 12 All-American college rifle sharpshooters, starting in 1961 with Stu Watkins who won 4 years in a row. Neil Eklund has won three years in a row and is back competing in his fourth year.

The university's women's team has placed first in the nation every year since 1961, except 1965.

Sergeant Kenneth C. Evans of the university's Reserve Officer Training Corps program coaches the university rifle teams and teaches courses in basic rifle marksmanship to students in ROTC. In 1956 Evans scored his way onto the U.S. Army's National Rifle Team. In 1957 and 1958, he was named a distinguished Army marksman. He was included in a select President's 100 of the top 100 military shooters in the United States.

Evans says that often, habits from game hunting have to be unlearned to score in precision shooting matches. Alaskan game hunters, used to the weight and kick of heavy magnum rifles, need practice to get used to the lightweight 22 caliber rifles used in competition. Evans says he would rather teach a young person who had never fired than teach someone long experienced in hunting and shooting.

Rifle shooting is a popular sport around the interior Alaska campus. One reason may be that the well-lit indoor firing range in the Patty building is welcoming during the long, cold, and dark winter.

This year looks like a good season for the university's three teams. Sixteen shooters have returned from last year and many freshman are trying out for positions. One of the state's best shooters, 18 year old Barbara DeSpain of Fairbanks is enrolled at the university and will be shooting with the University of Alaska varsity.

FOURTH EPISODE: ROTC on Campus

ANNOUNCER: Paul Quist

Since the establishment of the University of Alaska as a land grant college, ROTC programs have been offered to students to enable them to earn commissions as officers in the armed forces. Until this year, the university operated a four year army ROTC program with the first two years for freshman and sophomores being compulsory. Having served through two years of the non-voluntary program, students could then elect to enter the voluntary junior and senior years of the program that led directly to the commission as a second lieutenant in the United States' Army. Last year, at the request of the students, the Board of Regents voted to make the entire ROTC program voluntary for an experimental 2-year program.

This year, out of 209 entering freshman men, over 120 have enrolled in ROTC. The army officers teaching ROTC courses were surprised as they had anticipated a big drop in enrollment based on other universities where enrollment had plummeted up to 90% the year following a similar change. Although, enrollment usually bounced back the following year to a good level.

The ROTC program provides a source of trained, university educated officers for the nation's armed forces. While West Point and the Army's Officer Candidate School provide professional soldiers and officers who make the military their lifetime work, ROTC provides the citizen soldier who volunteers to wear the military uniform for a length of time but who then returns to his normal civilian occupation.

At the University of Alaska, freshman students take basic courses in army and military organization, first aid instruction, and dismantling, cleaning and firing an M14 rifle. Students also learn the close order drill that every soldier learns. The purpose of the program is to find and develop leaders.

A special course during the last year of the University's ROTC program is a flight instruction program in which students learn to fly and receive private pilot licenses.

The voluntary program is working out better than the compulsory system because although the group is smaller, members are more enthusiastic and willing to learn.

FIFTH EPISODE: Drama Workshop – The Alaskan Tradition

ANNOUNCER: Paul Quist

There is a long tradition of improvised entertainment and amateur comedy skits in the old mining towns of Alaska has developed into a tradition of do it yourself culture. Continuing in this vein, the University of Alaska's drama workshop enters its 12th year of producing live drama with volunteer acting, directing and technical workers.

The university's drama workshop, like the Fairbanks Drama Association, the Juneau-Douglas Little Theatre, and other volunteer drama associations around the state, is made up largely of everyday people from the general community. Although many in the University of Alaska workshop casts are students enrolled in drama classes, it is not necessary to be affiliated with the university in any way to try out for a part in a play. Director Instructor Robin Faller(?) says most of what it takes to get a part in a play is dramatic acting ability and the ability to fit the part one tries out for.

This year, the workshop's first production will be *J.B.* written in 1958 by Archibald MacLeish as his first full length play. University students in the *J.B.* cast are Jim Bartlett(?), Paul Quist, Charles Willis(?), Anita Washburn(?), Barbara Hughes(?), Connie Miller(?), and Dorthea Taylor(?) of Fairbanks as well as Carol Dart(?) of Tok and Cathy Willman(?) of Juneau. Others include James M. Hadra, who is a university language professor, MaryLou Sparts(?) of College, Julian Rivers(?) of Fairbanks and Mike Downing(?), who is a university employee.

Ms. Dart, Rivers, Quist and Hadra have been acting in university productions for several seasons. Of five children's parts in *J.B.*, two are filled by Gina Sparts(?), age 6, and her older sister Tracey(?), age 9. Tracey(?) and Gina(?) are the daughters of MaryLou Sparts(?) who plays the part of Mrs. Murphy. Three other children in the play are Chris, Linda and Roland Warfold(?), children of Mr. and Mrs. Warfold(?) of College. Mr. and Mrs. Warfold(?) are not in this production but have been active in past plays.

In directing workshop productions this year, Faller(?) takes a place occupied in past years by Lee Salisbury who helped start the drama workshop. Salisbury has taken a year of sabbatical leave to do graduate study at the University of Hawai'i. Faller is a veteran of many earlier productions. Now a faculty member, he graduated from the University of Alaska and did graduate study at the University of Hawai'i, also.