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Jim Wilson

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Dean Warner, interviewer

5 inch reels

The head of the English Department at the University of Alaska, Dr. Jim Wilson, is currently working on a musical melodrama, *Perils of the City*. He wrote the musical with Beaumont S. Bruestle at the University of Tulsa in 1947. Jim Wilson said after his stint in the Army he returned to the University of Tulsa. He was always interested in music. He wanted to write a student show. It was successful and only lasted only an hour. It was the first show which he had written all of the music. He talked about collaborating with Beaumont Bristol. They reworked an older show. In approximately two months they wrote the first version of the show. They had sixteen new songs. They did rewrite some of the show. Dean said the show would start at Alaskaland on May 28-30th. The musical opens the season for Alaskaland. He asked Jim why there weren't a lot of musicals in Fairbanks and he wonders why. Jim said there is interest since the Fairbanks Light Opera theatre was successful and Lee Salisbury produces a musical a year on average. They are expensive to produce. In contrast a regular show will cost less. Musicals call for more rehearsals and a larger cast.