

00-00-60

Library and Fine Arts building groundbreaking 1967

23:00

Band music. Bill Cashen welcomes everyone to the groundbreaking for the library, humanities and fine arts center. He introduces members of the platform committee: William Wood, Governor Hickel, Elmer Rasmuson, William O'Neill, Frances Mayer, Michael Platt, Arthur Schaible, Dorothy Reedy, Edward Boldman, Edith Bullock, and Robert McFarland. Thirty-three years ago he was present at the first groundbreaking ceremony on the campus. In 1934 James Wickersham came up to present the commencement address and he turned the first shovel at the request of President Bunnell. It was for the groundbreaking of the Eielson Building. It took sixteen years of various additions to be completed. He hopes that this project will take less time. He introduces Elmer E. Rasmuson, the president of the Board of Regents. Elmer Rasmuson said one of the most creative acts that mankind performs is turning over the earth. This building will be important to the university because it will combine the fine arts, the humanities and the cornerstone of any university the library. This building will epitomize the soaring hopes of everyone than just about any other building. He talked about the value of culture. He had Governor Hickel turn over the first shovelful of earth. Governor Hickel said the building would be 200,000 square feet and cost approximately 9.6 million dollars. He said going ahead with this building shows a great faith that they have in the future of Alaska. He said UAF can be one of the greatest universities on the North American continent because of unique conditions and challenges for opening up the vast Arctic. He hopes he can break the ground for many more buildings at the university. Others also dig a ceremonial shovelful. Dr. Wood is the last speaker. He said he turns the soil on behalf of all the faculty, staff, and alumni. He gives thanks to the people that had a great deal to do with the planning of the facility both faculty and students. He talks about the members of the committee on the planning group consisted of Dean Beistline, Dean Keim, Mr. Tampke, Professors Salisbury, Van Flan, and Davis, Mr. Rydberg from the library, Professor Krauss, Professor Minnie Wells, Dean Ray, Vice-President Ray, and former vice-president Kristian Elvey and Frank Flavin. Others on the committee during the course of the four or five years of planning included the late Ben Atkinson, George Adams and Howard Cutler. They all deserve thanks for the effort that led to the design of the building. He said it was truly a statewide effort. After the proposal was approved by the board of regents, the governor, and the legislature it was put to vote across the state. He said he is pleased with the show of strong support and belief. He said it is one of the largest structures to be built in Alaska. It is the heart of the state university. It is a memorable occasion. Some of the work is already underway. It will take about two years before the total project is completed. Program concludes with the singing of the Alaska flag song.