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Golden Anniversary Convocation celebrating the 50th anniversary of the university's birthday, May 3, 1917. Recorded May 3rd 1967.

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Governor Hickel speaks on what education is and how the University of Alaska provides a valuable and quality education. He speaks about how students receive not only an education at the University of Alaska, but also help develop the North. Hickel says that although May 3, 1917 is the birthday of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, the story of the University of Alaska begins much earlier with James Wickersham. He speaks about James Wickersham's vision, determination, his role in struggle against commercial monopolies, in the development of the university, and in driving through the legislation that created the Alaska Railroad.

Despite many miners' doubts about the usefulness about a university so far north, Wickersham persevered and laid the cornerstone himself on July 4, 1915. Two years later the Territorial legislature accepted the funds and the land that were part of Wickersham's 1915 congressional legislation. In the five years between 1917 and 1922, the Territorial legislature appropriated a total of \$101,000 for all the necessary buildings and the college was opened Sept 18, 1922.

Governor Hickel speaks about the growth of the university in size, budget and number of students. In 1935 the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines was changed to the University of Alaska. He reviews the goals the Territorial legislature set out for the University of Alaska. Gov. Hickel speaks of breaking ground on that morning of May 3rd, 1967 for the library, humanities and fine arts complex. He speaks of the University of Alaska's usefulness to both Alaska and the rest of the country and his hopes that the university lead the way for the growth of private industry in Alaska. He mentions that no other state and very few nations are abutted by two oceans and three seas as is Alaska, and that those miles of coast are part of Alaska's natural resources. He speaks of his hopes that the Federal government joins in such programs as the Fisheries Research Center at Kodiak. He speaks of the special problems of the Arctic including sanitation and accessibility of electricity and the solution to those problems: knowledge.