

Call number: 81-33 PT. 1

Name and place: Speech about Tanana Valley Fair Association, Fairbanks, Alaska

Date: 8/14/1974

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Series: Pioneer Tapes

Notes: Original on 7 inch reel, recording seems to be a speech given at Tanana Valley Fair

The recording starts with an unclear woman's voice talking about the history of Tanana Valley Fair. Tanana Valley Fair Association was first incorporated as a profit corporation but it later changed its statement of purpose and became a non-profit corporation. [Unclear] Alaska State Department of Congress [Unclear talking.]

The woman asks to have the lights on.

1:37 It was passed that the Tanana Valley Fair Association would become a non-profit corporation. The association also decided to revise the bylaws in order to eliminate portions that are applicable only for profit corporations and they changed the name of the corporation to Tanana Valley State Fair Association.

In 1960s, the local population grew, as well as the attendance to the fair. The 40th annual fair was held on August 11th-15th, 1971. In 1972 the association also hosted the state fair with the theme Alaskans [unclear] and Mike Begich entered a statement concerning Alaska State Fair into the Congressional Record on August 15th in 1972. It said that that the Fair will communicate the diversity of Alaska's resources, culture, history and attractions [a direct quote is read by a boy's voice].

3:28 It's 1974 now, and [George William] Gasser, [Paul John] Rickert and [Charles L.] Thompson incorporated the Tanana Valley Fair Association in 1904, their article 6 stated that the period of the Association should be 50 years. Since that, some changes have occurred. Association has expanded and the fair has

become a community event for the Tanana Valley Residents. They asked in 1974 the fair manager Janet [Unclear] and board of directors president John Cabin [sp?] if they could explain the principles and possibilities that existed in 1924 that have kept the Tanana Valley Fair growing and progressing through the 50 years, and if they would have been there in 1904, what would they have told George Gasser, P. J. Rickert and Charles Thompson.

4:28 The boy's voice reads article 1 that states that the name of the organization shall be Tanana Valley Fair Association. In 1961, the name changed to Tanana Valley State Fair Association and they assumed the responsibility for holding the official Alaska State Fair.

Another boy's voice reads article no. 2 that says that the corporation is formed to: [Another voice is reading these] advance and encourage agricultural, livestock and industrial interests of the Interior of Alaska, and especially the Tanana Valley.

Another voice says that in 1974 it's been 50 years since the first fair was held and the fair association [unclear]. The fair has been held on fairgrounds on College Road. [Unclear talking due to loud noises in the recording.]

6:02 This year, in 1974 [unclear talking]. [Following statements are said by different voices:] To encourage the formation and activities for Boys and Girls Club and arranging the exhibition for products raised and produced by it. In 1973, the four [unclear]. To establish in Fairbanks, Alaska, a community exhibit showing of agricultural, mineral, and industrial resources of the Interior of Alaska. [Unclear talking.]

9:13 In 1965, [Unclear] wrote a history of Tanana Valley State Fair in honor of founders, board members, exhibitors and [unclear]. In his history, he included Effie Davis, George Gasser, Henry Badger, Mr. Ballaine, Charles Closure [sp?], Frank Miller, Paul J. Rickert, [Milton] M.D. Snodgrass, J.C. Bradd [sp?], Mrs. Eva McGowan, Paul Greimann, [Unclear], Mrs. Angie Bradway, John Cooktoff [sp?], Burt Stample [sp?], Joe Lallen [sp?], [Unclear], Mary Kipkin [sp?], Mitchell Howard, and [unclear] the list of those who have kept the fair an ongoing event since 1965. [Unclear talking.]

[Unclear talking.]

11:00 The woman's voice thanks the audience and hopes that they have learned something about the Tanana Valley Fair. [Applause.]

11:17 The lady would like to introduce [Unclear talking. Applause.] Someone welcomes John Kevin, president of the board of directors. John says he's ready for ice cream so he's going to keep his speech "short but sweet." He's going to dedicate the 50th anniversary of the fair to those who have donated their time to the fair. When they built the Totem Community Center, they made provisions for future [unclear] that hopefully will be as modern and convenient as anywhere in the city. As a gesture towards those people who have worked for them, they are, first of all, dedicating a a 55-cup coffee maker so they can have coffee and, in addition, a brand new refrigerator. The lady thanks John and encourages people to get their ice cream and enjoy music by the stage band while eating it.

[End of the recording.]