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**Notes: Original on 5-inch reel. Master copy on CD.**

Recording begins with a speaker asking that people will continue with their meal although there will be an invocation by Reverend Father William Warren from St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. Rev. Warren gives an invocation that is centered toward gratitude.

1:45 The speaker [Andrew Nerland] thanks Father Warren and says that that was the longest prayer he has heard from him. The speaker wants to introduce some people at the head table who are not in the program. He introduces Mildred Nerland and his wife, and then Leona Chapados and Sharell [sp?] Mitchell, who is a date of one of their speakers. Then there are Nancy Warren, and Kathy Parrish who did wonderfully in yesterday's election. He also introduces members of the board of regents: Edith Pollock from Anchorage and Kotzebue, and Bill O'Neil from Anchorage who is the president of the board of regents.

3:27 Nerland says that he'll start the evening by reading a letter that came from Nevada. It's written by the marshal of the university. [Reading the letter in which the marshal apologizes for not being able to attend.]

5:11 Nerland offers his apologies for not having introduced Vide Bartlett who was on the board and the secretary to the board of regents. He also introduces Hugh Fate. Nerland says he's going to read lots of letters and won't be able to use the jokes he bought from Chuck Loughrey [sp?].

Nerland talks about the need to voice feelings of love and admiration that the people of Fairbanks feel for the University, and the love, respect and admiration they feel toward William R. Wood, their president, and his wife Dorothy Jane. He continues talking about Wood's accomplishments and variability.

8:56 Nerland tells that he was in the hiring committee that was set out to replace Ernest Patty when he was about to retire. They selected William R. Wood from among other applicants. In July 1st, 1935, Alaska Agricultural College and the

School of Mines became the University of Alaska, and in July 1st, 1960, Wood was selected to take the presidency. The last 11 years have been good ones.

They have selected 4 speakers from 4 general groups with whom Bill Wood has been in contact with. First one represents the student body. He is one of the 7 children whose father was colonel in the Eielson Air Force Base. He graduated from Eielson High School in 1967, and attended the Santa Claire University for a year, but wasn't happy there and returned to Alaska in summer of 1969. He graduated with a B.A. in business administration. He is serving his second term as a treasurer of student government on campus and he works at the safety and security office and has acquired EMT training. Nerland introduces Jim Lentine. [Applause.]

11:24 Jim addresses the audience and says that all too often students raise their voices only when they are dissatisfied, but that he wants to say a few kind words about Mr. Wood who has spent his life in public service. He says that he will talk about what university presidents do, and start by explaining the hierarchy of the university. They have a board of regents, three provosts, four vice presidents and a president. The regents are there to plan policy and make sure that the University is going to proper direction. The vice presidents are concerned with public relations and one of their big jobs is to give speeches. [Laughter.] President's role is to make sure that vice presidents don't think and the regents don't make speeches. [Laughter, applause.]

13:23 Jim continues joking more about president's role.

There have been 4 presidents at the University of Alaska and each of their administration has been marked with a notable achievement. Dr. Bunnell was the founder of the university, a frontiersman and a pioneer who carved the university out of the hillside. Second president, Terrence Moore, helped with modernizing the university campus, Dr. Patty continued rebuilding the campus and the University started to expand statewide. "Dr. Wood will be known as the brick and mortar man." Campus continued to grow, and the university had quadrupled in size, and it has truly become a statewide institution.

14:32 Jim will talk about what students think of Dr. Wood. He tells that Dr. Wood built a fountain in the center of a plaza that is surrounded by flags, and students started affectionately calling the fountain Wood's Hole [laughter]. Wood Center is soon completed and it was named by the student body. There's a stairway in

middle of everything that goes up one flight of stairs and ends nowhere. That has already been coined Wood's Throne. [Laughter.]

16:11 The students who have taken the time to get to know Dr. Wood walk away with respect for the position that he has and most students genuinely respect all the work he has done for the university.

Jim started at UAF in 1967, and the campus has expanded greatly in the 4 years he has been there, and that's because of Dr. Wood's efforts. They have new dorms, commons, library, geophysical institute and so on. Dr. Wood has great concern over the students and he can be found from ballgames, cheering for the Nanooks. Almost every year, Wood has participated in Equinox marathon, walking over the slopes right alongside with students. Every year he holds a welcoming dinner for all new students and that means lot to students who have never met the president of the university.

In his personal dealings with students, Dr. Wood has been known to be very kind and generous both with his time and personal finances. He has lend money for students.

Jim has also had the opportunity to observe Dr. Wood in meetings with student government and in their personal relationship in ways that ordinary students don't get to see. Dr. Wood doesn't give a thing to the student government but makes them work for it, whether it's a radio station program, aviation program, or having students in the board of regents. He makes them work to make sure that they really want it. Students sometimes want to implement programs that they haven't thought through.

19:00 Even if they complain about delays amongst themselves, they appreciate the hard-won programs much more when they finally get them.

Jim thanks for the opportunity to talk, tanks Dr. Wood, and closes with a poem. [Reads the poem. Applause.]

20:41 Nerland thanks Jim. [Joking, lots of laughter and hand clapping.] Nerland continues that it's not often that they find a student saying nice things about the university's president or a faculty member. He reads an open, anonymous letter to Dr. Wood that thanks Wood for his contributions and for the lack of violence at their campus that can be attributed to Wood's tact in dealing with faculty and students alike. [Applause.]

23:32 Nerland reads a telegram that thanks Woods for his services and for contributions to WICHE Program [Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education]. The telegram is signed by Francis A. Barret from WICHE.

Nerland introduces the next speaker, John O'Shea who was born in Fairbanks and who graduated from UAF in 1939 with a Bachelor of Science degree, after which he was a superintendent of gold recovery for U.S. Mining and Smelting Company in Fairbanks. He also represented the area in Alaska Territorial Legislature in 1943 session. After moving to Anchorage, he served as a president and treasurer of Anchorage School board during a 5 year term and now he's in University of Alaska, Anchorage advisory committee and the president of the board of directors for University of Alaska Alumni Association. [Applause.]

25:13 John thanks for the introduction and addresses the audience. He says it's a pleasure to visit Fairbanks, and he's grateful for the Chamber of Commerce [Capitalized??] for the invitation. He complements Dr. Wood for fine students, exemplified by Jim Lentine. He continues that many people present can remember the early days of the university as the Alaska Agricultural College and the School of Mines. John remembers that people wondered if there would ever be more than a cornerstone, but there was. As a child, John didn't realize that the beautiful and functional institution would evolve from such a beginning in less than half a century. It's a tribute to the dedicated people who have worked toward it, including political and university people, and the public at large.

27:43 They have been lucky in having Charles Bunnell as their first president, the following presidents, and Dr. William Wood. The University of Alaska is an extension of the presidents' lives. President Wood started at the thrust of the space age and the impetus of statehood. His tenure was one of great challenge and his response has been outstanding. The high standards he has set to advancing the objectives of University are manifest on the great campus that stretches from Arctic ice packs all the way to Ketchikan, and that has its basis at [the town of] College. They have alumni everywhere.

He thanks Dr. Wood for his work, and "his gracious lady assistant." [Applause.]

30:01 Nerland tells that John's buddy John Butrovich remembers him as a star basketball player on the Fairbanks High School. His teammates induced him to take a postgraduate course so that he could continue playing at their team.

In addition to playing in the team, he did janitor work at the old school house at night. Sometimes he ended up having a late night with his friends and he Tom Sawyered them to come help him with his job until Fairbanksians started objecting lights burning at school house all night long. Those days 1 kW cost 25 cents.

31:22 He has another telegram to read and that is from Ted Stevens who expresses his regret for not being able to show up. He congratulates William and Dorothy Jane Wood for their accomplishments. [Applause.] There's another message for Woods from John Schindler and staff at the Arctic Research Laboratory. [Applause.]

Nerland says that when he thinks of the Arctic Research Laboratory, he thinks of the environment. He tells a joke, and continues on telling about Frank Chapados who is a life-long Alaskan who was born in Juneau and who worked as a miner in Southeast prior to coming to Fairbanks in 1939 where he also started mining. He served as the U.S. Deputy in Fairbanks. He joined the Navy and served in the South Pacific until 1946. After the war, he returned to Fairbanks and in 1951, he was appointed the U.S. Marshal for the 4th Division. He resigned in 1953 to start a public warehouse business.

Frank also represented "this area" in Alaska Legislature, he's the past president of Igloo no. 4 of the Pioneers of Alaska, he's a former member of the state board of education and currently he is in Governor's advisory council for vocational education. He and his wife have 4 children.

35:25 Frank addresses the audience. He talks about William Wood who has made significant contributions to the development of the Fairbanks community while providing inspiration for furthering higher education in Alaska. Frank lists Bill Wood's contributions: He has been a member of Boy Scouts' Midnight Sun Council executive board since 1960. He has been a proponent for scouting and an active participant to the programs of the council. He has an interest to national defense that spans from serving in the Navy during WW-2 and he has been organizing the local chapter of Navy League, serving as its first president. Bill Wood has also been an active member of Fairbanks Rotary Club and has demonstrated community service that has been of inspiration to fellow Rotarians.

37:58 Wood also worked for Greater Fairbanks Community Hospital Foundation and did fundraising to build a new community hospital. He got the community together and they reached their goal twice over. Bill Wood led the foundation

through fundraising and a modern 118 bed hospital will be dedicated to the Fairbanks Community in 1972.

Bill Wood's contribution to Fairbanks community in countless of other ways too, and he is a totally dedicated public servant whose character and sense of purpose etc. "are the attributes of a man we honor tonight." Frank thanks Bill for a job well done. [Applause.]

40:47 Nerland thanks Frank and reads a congratulatory note from another university president from Maine. [Applause.]

Nerland introduces their main speaker for the night, Elmer E. Rasmuson who was a member of the board of regents and realized the need for sound planning, working hand-in-hand with Dr. Wood as well as with previous presidents. As a result of his guidance, the campus of the university is recognized as one of the outstanding university campuses where planning has been done early enough in order to avoid atrocious buildings and poor use of space.

42:28 Elmer was born in Yakutat, AK, in 1909. He attended public schools and the University of Grenoble in France, and he received his bachelor of science with magna cum laude at Harvard in 1930. He got his master's in 1935 from Harvard as well. He was principal of Arthur Anderson & Company until 1943 when he returned to Alaska to assume the presidency of National Bank of Alaska and since 1966, he has been a chairman of the board of National Bank of Alaska. He has been associated with countless organizations in wide scope of fields.

He's married to Maria Louise Milligan who was a colonel in Women's Army Corps. Nerland continues by saying that even if Elmer is from Anchorage, he has realized that what benefits one part of Alaska, benefits all of Alaska. [Applause.]

44:41 Elmer addresses the audience and congratulates Bill and Dorothy Wood. He apologizes that his wife isn't present because she is a representative from Alaska in some army conferences. Elmer jokes about her going to Washington which was more that he could do.

He tells that he met Woods first time in 1952 when they interviewed Bill as a prospective candidate for the presidency of the University. Choosing a president for a university is hard because of non-academic criteria. President is a public character "who lives in a goldfish bowl" so his character and integrity have to be without reproach. He has to be able to shoulder blame and take care of the university. Elmer talks about Wood's good qualities, and says that he thinks that

the hardest part of being the president is to have to deal with more primadonnas than the conductor of the metropolitan opera company.

47:41 Elmer continues that university president has to be flexible in trying to please everyone, raise funds preferably outside of their own state, and play the board of regents so that they don't feel like they have to give up any of their pride or authority. William Wood represented the kind of leadership that they felt like the University needed at that time and he had the necessary background as a humanist and a scholar. That fit in with the concept that a small university should strive toward excellence. Like other universities in the 1960s, they realized their obligation to develop in fields of research while they appreciated the educational responsibilities they have throughout the state at the same time. The whole state is their campus.

Dr. Wood was a vice president of the University of Nevada at the time and that university had great deal of similarities to University of Alaska. It served a sparse population but it was active in research and involved in a state-wide system of community colleges. The regents liked Bill and Dorothy Jane who were also the faculty's favorite. What tipped the scales was when they heard that Bill had been crawling around in the utilidoors for inspecting the university, and they thought that man willing to do that had the makings of a true Alaskan. [Laughter.]

51:02 Dr. Wood became the 4th president of the University of Alaska in July 1, 1960. The achievements of his administration can be seen throughout the campus. Elmer gives out numbers that indicate growth in value of physical plant, additions in dormitories, research facilities etc., in budget and grants, and in numbers employed by the university. The research institutes have developed national and international reputation and there are new programs at the University of Alaska.

Community colleges have acquired their own buildings in many locations and enrollment percentage has increased so that University of Alaska is the highest growing in the country. They expect that it's going to have nearly 38,000 in 1980. Currently, the enrollment is over 2,900 students with 800 around the state.

54:06 Elmer says he is now going to talk about Bill Wood as a personal friend. He's a dreamer of bold ideas and an activist who gets them done. He's a kindly man and when he is upset with something, he takes a deep breath. He also has joined the joggers at Equinox Marathon the second year it started, and has been running it ever since, and he travels as a consultant throughout the Orient.

He has been influential in changing the ROTC to be a voluntary program due to changing times. They needed to share the administrative decision making and Wood embraced the concept of University Assembly. [Applause.]

Elmer continues by saying that Dr. Wood's original appointment was to be the president and the professor of English. It recognized Dr. Wood's preeminence as a scholar and his desire to teach. He has received national appreciation and has served in prestigious boards such as for the State University of New York, and he's an international expert.

[Abrupt end of the recording.]