Call number: 01-80-06 PT. 2

Name and place: 1971 Alumni Banquet

Date: 5/14/71

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Notes: Original on 7-inch reel. Master copy on CD.

Recording begins with continuation of the Alumni Banquet, and a man's voice introducing Betty Clarke. [Applause.] Betty jokes that she's glad Terry got that right. [More joking.] She is going to introduce the class of 1971 and asks people to stand up when their names are being called.

Terry Covart, Terrance Covart, Keith Martin, Merrill Pine [sp?], Kennet Wansrecht, Jerry Kolp, John Lee, Stephen Peters, Sam Corban, David Cloper, Mike Salee, Albert Burnham, Paul Schweinberg, Paulene Schweinberg, Francis Wolford, Wes John Wordo, David L. Miller, Sue Millan, Linda Wireback, Bob Timmer, Barbara Jacobs, Sharon McLoyd, Kayla Jacobs, Genevieve Carboy, Gary Wolf, Bob Debour, Mary Hughes, Jim Harry, Bob Thomas, Bob Castoli, Marlene Vieli, Brenda Haskett, and Toni Maravli, Ron Anderson, Penny Rice, Gordon Berberich, Elizabeth Mitchell, Maxie Bueller, Dorothy Bueller, Eddie Lee Anders, Judy Jones, Janice Gregory, Danny Thomas, Jean Hamilton, Philip Richardson, Darryl Hagstrom, Marian Pale, John Dooling, Brenice Caven, Jim Wolverton, Linda McSwayne, Gerone Murphy, Michael Palmer, John Chang, Daniel Splane, Vivian Burton, Edie Parker, Bob Crawford, Lou-Ell Ellis, Matthew Dick, Linda Dick, Robert Bunson, Mike Skyberg, [Unclear] Uppsala.

3:48 Betty would like to welcome each individual into the Alumni Association, and she wants to stress that the individuals should notify the office at the university when they marry, move, multiply, or have any other exciting news. [Applause.]

She introduces one more alumnus of the university who has also received an honorary degree [unclear, applause].

5:20 A man's voice says that the distinguished alumni award will be presented by Dr. Wood. [Applause.] Wood says he doesn't know anything more satisfying than presenting the distinguished alumni award. This year they have a graduate whose brother is a member of the board of regents and who has been the most successful

mining engineering graduate of UAF. Wood thinks that he's going to bring credit and renown to the profession and to the university. He presents the award for Patrick H. Pat O'Neil. [Applause.]

7:21 Dr. Wood presents a scroll and a medallion for outstanding accomplishments in mining profession. [Applause.]

Pat O'Neill says that there are people who deserve the award more than he does but that he's happy and proud for receiving it. He tells that he was at the college for 9 years because he was so poor. He went to college whenever he could get some money together, and that's why he knows most of the people from a long period of time. He tells that he was bothered when he enrolled in 1941 and was studying with Gene Richie who was called the grand old man of the campus even though Pat was a junior when he started. [Laughter.]

9:00 Pat continues by saying that the previous year [unclear talking] Bill Cashen implied that he was a better janitor than two janitors at the university, but Pat found a news clipping from Fairbanks Daily News-Miner from 1950 that was written by Charles E. Bunnell, a professor emeritus at the time. He was talking about graduates and mentioned that there was no better janitor than Pat. [Laughter.]

Pat tells an anecdote about how he got a better position at U.S. Mining and Smelting Company and got told that he was just at the right place at the right time and wouldn't be counted for much until he was 40 years old. [Laughter.] He really took the wind from Pat's sails but the man was right about being at the right place at the right time. [Tells another anecdote about his work.]

11:20 Pat has been active in Pioneers of Alaska and thought that he'd never leave Alaska. He was working on his thesis and ran into Earl Beistline and noticed an ad recruiting new graduates to South America. Pat volunteered and a month later he was at the jungles of South America as a chief engineer.

Pat had great hopes and ideas but all of his reports to New York came back with the notion that some social work has to be done before they can do any improvements in mining operations, or there was no money, or the idea was poor. After a year he turned in his resignation but just as he was leaving the camp, the manager asked him to show people from New York around, which he did, telling them what he had wanted to have done. He got hired to New York and they have expanded.

14:03 They have had lots of problems in recent years because the revolutions. Pat thinks that most of the nationalization will prove to be economically a mistake and not politically as important as it should be.

[Pat tells about other instances of being in the right place at the right time, for example, in meeting his wife in Mexico City.]

15:32 His appreciation for University of Alaska has constantly increased. He feels that University of Alaska was the thing that made his life interesting and that he couldn't have had the same anywhere else because he couldn't have afforded it. There are many people at the University of Alaska who have been important to Pat, including his brother.

Anecdote about how Pat lied about his age to get to work on a mine where his brother was a foreman, and who said Pat would be fired if he wasn't working hard. Pat learned strong work ethic. He's proud of his brother [who is in the board of regents]. [Applause.] He mentions Beistline, Cashen, and Terrence Moore who have been important in University's scientific field, Betty Clarke who has kept them together, and Art [Arthur J.] Schaible who is Pat's old friend, and who served as a regent for a long time. He especially thanks Dr. Wood for giving university "such a stature." [Applause.]

Pat says he's proud for being a graduate of University of Alaska and "one of you." [Applause.]

18:32 Terry, the toastmaster, says that there will be Alumni meeting on Sunday, and a lunch at the Commons. He introduces Rosie Able who has been the chairman of the banquet. [Applause.]

Terry addresses the new graduates and says that they should remember that the university, like the world, is changing rapidly and one of the greatest strengths of the university is in the alumni. If the university will expand the alumni [monetary contributions] are needed. He thanks everybody for coming. [Applause.]

[Rest of the recording contains 49th commencement from 5/16/71, in ORAL HISTORY 01-80-06 PT.1]