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Brooks Memorial Mines Building Dedication Ceremonies Held

Describing the Brooks Memorial Mines Building as a "physical plant that can not be surpassed anywhere in the world." Ernest N. Patty, first dean of the School of Mines, gave the major address at the dedication of the building on July 22, in connection with the 50th anniversary of Alaskan geologist Alfred H. Brooks, was opened for the first time to general public after the ceremonies.

Mr. Patty praised the building as "an investment in the future of Alaska" that is certain to pay big dividends. He also praised the qualities so characteristic of Dr. Brooks, of honest, independent hard work for which the new Mines Building will stand as a symbol of a desired goal.

A large number of oldtimers were in the audience of nearly 400 people that crowded into the gymnasium for the ceremony Earl H. Beistline present dean of the School of Mines to whom much of the credit must be given for arranging the details of the dedication acted as master of ceremonies throughout the program.

Dr. Charles E. Bunnell, president emeritus of the University, read a message of appreciation from Mrs. Brooks for honoring her late husband by naming the structure after him. Dr. Bunnell also presented a brief sketch of Dr. Brooks, describing him as a man of vision who devoted his "fierce intellectual honesty" and his physical efforts to the development of the Territory to such an extent that he became the foremost authority of his time on Alaska, and, by undermining his health through his strenuous work, virtually gave his life for Alaska.

In connection with the dedication and the Fairbanks celebration marking the anniversary of the discovery of gold, the University was presented with a bust and portrait of Felix Pedro and pictures of Joe Juneau and Richard Harris.

Baron Filippo Muzi Falconi, Italian consulate general, presented the bronze bust of Pedro on behalf of the government of Italy. He praised the efforts of the oldtimers of Italian descent for their pioneer work in developing the Northwest, and concluded by saying, "May this bust serve as another link on the chain of action between our two countries."

Pedro's discovery of gold here 50 years ago led to the development of the area and, indirectly to the founding of the University in this locality.

Speaks on Mining

Dr. Terris Moore, president of the University, acknowledged the gift and expressed the thanks of the University to the government of Italy. Dr. Moore also spoke about the mining industry and the value of mining education.

John Nickles presented the oil painting of Pedro on behalf of the Student Mining Society of the University, while Mrs. Boris Ashurkoff presented the pictures of Juneau and Harris for the Women's Auxiliary of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. Nickles is vice-president of the Mining Society and Mrs. Ashurkoff is president of the later organization.

Juneau and Harris were prospectors who first discovered gold in the Juneau region around 1880.

Dr. Neil W. Hosley, dean of the University, introduced the donors.

Patrick H. O'Neill, president of Igloo No. 4 Pioneers of Alaska, who was in charge of the 50th anniversary celebration, congratulated the University on its new Mines Building and spoke briefly of the qualities of sincerity, honesty, and integrity of the old pioneers who began the development of Alaska.

Guests Introduced

Other guests on the platform who were introduced were Andrew Nerland and William O'Neill of the Board of Regents; Bob Bartlett, the Alaskan Delegate to Congress; James Lunken of the Pacific Construction Company which built the new structure; Robert Chapman, chief of the United States Geological Survey in Fairbanks and Thor C. Tollefson, congressman from the Sixth District of Washington where is located the town of Carbonado from which Pedro came to Alaska.

Many members of the University also attend the extensive anniversary activities in and around Fairbanks, such as the unveiling of the monument to Pedro on Discovery Claim; the banquet honoring octogenarian (sic) pioneers at the Country Club; and the many festivities in Fairbanks.