

Volume of Series: 'The Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964'

The final volume of a series titled: "The Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964," has just been published by the National Academy of Sciences, constituting perhaps the most comprehensive and detailed account of an earthquake yet compiled.

This eighth volume summarizes the findings and recommendations of the Committee on the Alaska Earthquake of the Division of Earth Sciences, National Research Council, formed soon after the Good Friday disaster.

The 12-man committee of specialists was headed by Konrad B. Krauskopf of Stanford University.

Rep. Genie Chance, a reporter for KENI radio at the time of the March 27 earthquake, was given a grant through the University of Alaska to provide a manuscript of eyewitness accounts, the genesis for the committee's scientific studies.

Chance, recalling events surrounding the disaster, said she was on the air continuously for 59 hours, relaying messages, conducting interviews and sometimes providing a channel between official governmental

agencies.

In addition to her own interviews, she had established contacts with two local ham radio operators, one who had a contact in Silverton, Ore.

She was able to get tapes of all the ham radio traffic, tapes that others had made during the disaster and interviews she conducted with people being evacuated into Anchorage.

In all, Chance estimates she has 700 hours of tapes regarding the earthquake, plus letters that people wrote to friends and relatives recounting their personal ordeal, and newspapers, some in foreign languages, recounting the disaster.

She worked on the manuscript for a year, traveling to the towns and villages hit by the earthquake or suffering its effects.

She said the "specialists needed to have the responses of the people, about what they had seen and experienced, before they had reports of it."

All the materials she gathered along with her own taped reports and interviews comprise an earthquake file which Chance has now turned over to the An-

chorage Higher Education Consortium Library.

Jack O'Bar, director of the library which serves the University of Alaska, Anchorage and Alaska Methodist University, said "the gift comes at a timely moment."

The library is just beginning to establish a media retrieval system and audio-visual services.

"This collection is especially welcome now," he said.

O'Bar said that the tapes will be handled first, so that the materials can be made available to researchers who want to do further work on earthquake events.

Chance said now that the National Academy of Sciences has completed its work and she no longer needs the files, she wants them stored where they will be accessible to others.

In addition to the earthquake related materials, Chance said she was also turning over her legislative resource files includ-

ing background materials and research done on various health and education bills passed by the legislature.

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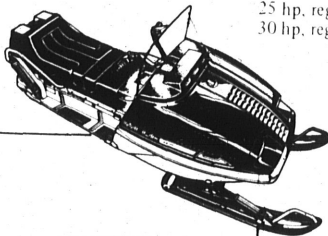
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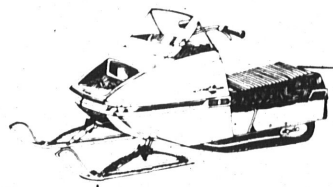
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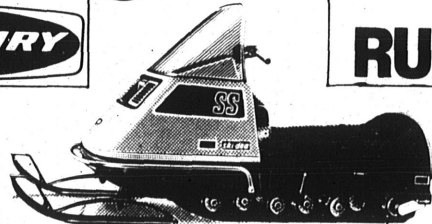
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