

Six to Receive Honorary Degrees From U of A

FAIRBANKS — The university will confer honorary degrees on six persons in May, including four longtime Alaskans, and emeritus status on a former president of the university and an eminent scientist long associated with it.

At the Anchorage commencement, the university will confer a Doctor of Public Service degree on former Territorial Governor George A. Parks; a Doctor of Journalism degree on Robert A. Henning, president of Alaska Northwest Publishing Co., which publishes Alaska magazine; and a Doctor of Science degree on Dixy Lee Ray, former Atomic Energy Commission chairman now assistant secretary of state for oceans and international environmental and scientific affairs.

At Fairbanks, U.S. Senator Ted Stevens will receive a Doctor of Law degree; Frank Degnan, one of the first Natives to serve in the Alaska legislature, a Doctor of Public Service degree; and Walter Orr Roberts, director of the Aspen (Colorado) Institute for Humanistic Studies' Program in Science, Technology and Humanism, a Doctor of Science degree.

Also at Fairbanks, Dr. William Wood, president of the university from 1960-73, will become president emeritus, and Dr. Laurence Irving, who is advisory scientific director at the university's Institute of Arctic Biology, will become professor of zoophysiology, emeritus. Irving was first director of the Arctic Research Laboratory at Barrow and first director of the Institute of Arctic Biology.

Ray will be the commencement speaker at Anchorage, Roberts at Fairbanks. Both are scientists.

Ray was a member of the committee which recommended establishment of the university's Institute of Arctic Biology.

Roberts, former president of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, was instrumental in bringing about the University of Alaska's association with the corporation, which operates the National Center for Atmospheric Research, located in Colorado.

Parks, a mining engineer, was the appointed governor of Alaska from 1925-33, a period during which commercial aviation came to the Territory. He was the first governor to travel widely in Alaska by airplane.

The capitol at Juneau was also

built during that period and Parks was the first of nine governors who have occupied the corner offices on the third floor.

He first came to Alaska in 1907 as a member of an engineering party interested in mineral development. From 1908-17 he worked as a mineral examiner in Alaska for the Department of Interior's General Land Office. His first work was examining the Bering River and Matanuska Valley coal areas.

Following wartime service as an officer in the U.S. Army, Parks returned to Alaska and until 1923 was chief of the General Land Office's Alaska field division. From 1923 until his appointment as governor, he was assistant supervisor of surveys and public lands.

On leaving the governorship he returned to the land office and ended his federal career as district cadastral engineer. Upon his retirement in 1948 he joined the First National Bank in Juneau as a vice president and also became an associate in the R.J. Sommers Construction Co.

Henning has been an Alaskan reporter and editor for most of his life.

He attended the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, later to become the University of Alaska, for a year, then transferred to the University of Washington where he earned a degree in journalism and geography. Following graduation, he worked for the old Alaska Weekly in Seattle for a time, then returned to Juneau, where he had grown up, to work as a reporter for the Daily Alaska Empire, covering legislative as well as community activities.

Henning has also been a fur buyer, surveyor, commercial fisherman, fish buyer and owner-operator of aircraft and boats. He delivered arms to the Alaska Scouts during World War II and assisted civilian and military intelligence agencies.

In 1945, Henning was appointed first director of the Alaska Development Board created by the legislature to promote general development of the Territory. He has published Alaska magazine, formerly known as Alaska Sportsman, since 1958. In addition to this magazine, his company publishes the Milepost, Alaska Geographic, magazine of the Alaska Geographic Society which Henning founded in 1968, and the Alaska Journal, a magazine of history and the arts.



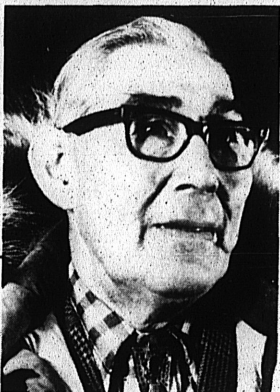
DIXY LEE RAY
Science



GEORGE A. PARKS
Public Service



ROBERT A. HENNING
Journalism



FRANK A. DEGNAN
Public Service



U.S. SEN. TED STEVENS
Law



WALTER ORR ROBERTS
Science

It has published 2 dozen books on northern subjects.

Stevens, an Air Force transport pilot in China during World War II, graduated from UCLA in 1947 and from Harvard Law School in 1950. After two years with a Washington, D.C. law firm, he came to Alaska to join the Fairbanks law firm of Collins and Clabby. Shortly after his arrival in Fairbanks, he accepted appointment as U.S. attorney for the Fourth Judicial Division. Stevens returned to Washington in 1956 to take a position as legislative counsel with the Department of Interior. Two years later he became assistant to Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton and in 1960 was appointed chief counsel for the department by President Eisenhower.

Returning to Alaska in 1961, Stevens opened a law office in Anchorage and entered politics. He was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1964 and reelected in 1966 and chosen majority leader in the Republican-controlled House.

Following the death of U.S. senator E.L. (Bob) Bartlett late in 1968, Stevens who had twice sought election to the U.S. Senate, was appointed to the

vacancy by Gov. Walter J. Hickel. The voters overwhelmingly elected him to the seat in 1970, for the last two years of Bartlett's term, and then for a full six-year term in 1972.

Degnan, of Unalakleet, was born in St. Michael and attended school in Nome, Koyuk and Holy Cross. When a teenager, he worked as dishwasher, steward and deckhand on Yukon riverboats running between Nenana and St. Michael. He was a construction worker in California for a time, then an actor in silent movies filmed at Mt. Rainier in Washington. Returning to Nome, he served as an interpreter for the territorial courts and for Danish explorer Knud Rasmussen and later worked on gold dredges in the Nome area.

One of the first two Eskimos elected to the territorial legislature, Degnan served in the House in 1951-52. For many years he was president of the Unalakleet Village Council and provided early, inspirational leadership for the Alaska Native movement.

He is a co-founder and officer of the Alaska Federation of Natives and in 1974 was honored as Citizen of the Year by the AFN.

He had long urged settlement of Native land claims.

Degnan is a member of the State Rural Affairs Commission, former member of the Alaska Board of Fish and Game, and director of the Alaska Native Industries Co-op Association, which serves Native stores throughout Alaska.

He and his wife Ada raised their family of two sons and four daughters largely through subsistence living. In the 1960's he was Wien Air Alaska station manager at Unalakleet and currently is owner and operator of a taxicab company there.

PUBLIC NOTICE DEPT. OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

The Governor's Advisory Board on Alcoholism will meet at the Captain Cook Hotel in Anchorage on

May 15, 1-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.
May 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.
May 17, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
May 18, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Meetings are open to the public and interested parties are encouraged to participate.

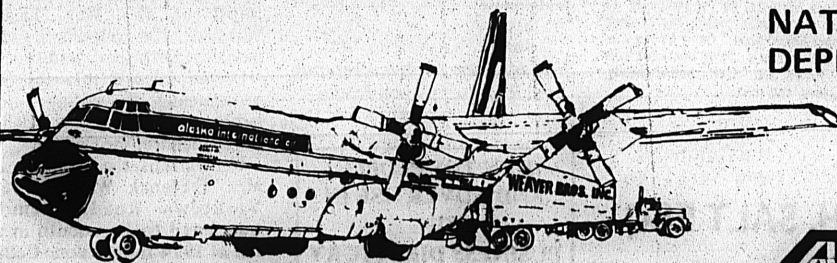
Francis Williamson
Commissioner
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