

UA's 50th Anniversary -

Six Students Attend Classes in '22

FAIRBANKS — Fifty years ago this week the University of Alaska — then called the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines — opened its doors for the first time.

On opening day, Sept. 18, 1922, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner declared in its banner headline on page 1: "The World's Farthest North College Now Open."

There were just six students the first day. The News-Miner listed them as Roden Stewart Davis, Earl Hagen Foster, Donald Allen Morgan, Ethel Gertrude Bailey, Arthur William Loftus, and John Hosler.

The weather was ideal "the atmosphere so clear that the tops of the mountains, snow-covered and beautiful, from the distance were able to lend their august presence to the opening . . ." reported the News-Miner.

Charles E. Bunnell, first president, "spoke briefly and to the point" to the students and faculty at opening ceremonies,

according to the newspaper.

The six faculty members were "all enthusiastic concerning the work they are undertaking with the opening of the college today." Among their number was Ernest N. Patty, a mining engineer who was to teach geology and mineralogy and who would become the university's third president in 1953.

The other original faculty members were Clinton H. Morgan, professor of agriculture and instructor in military science; Elizabeth E. Kirkpatrick, professor of home economics and English; Herbert D. Bruce, professor of chemistry and physics; Archie M. Truesdell, professor of mathematics and civil engineering; and Earl R. Pilgrim, professor of mining engineering and metallurgy.

Former President Woodrow Wilson sent along to the new college for its library a set of his monumental work, History of the American People, with Vol. I inscribed: "To the Alaska

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Agricultural College and School of Mines, with the best wishes of Woodrow Wilson, 1922."

Registration continued at the new college for some three weeks after classes began and the enrollment doubled before the books were closed. The last student to register — John Sexton Shanly — was a senior and became the institution's

first graduate the following year.

In that first academic year at the new Fairbanks college, tuition was free to residents and nonresidents. Students were required to purchase their books and pay laboratory fees sufficient only to cover cost of materials utilized.