

Former UA President Dr. Patty dies

FAIRBANKS—Dr. Ernest N. Patty, third president of the University of Alaska, died in Seattle Jan. 12 after a brief illness. He was 81.

A mining engineer by profession, he spent 50 years in the North, working in the mining industry and helping to pioneer and develop a system of higher education.

He was one of the original six faculty members when the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, forerunner of the University of Alaska, opened its doors in 1922 to six students. By the end of the initial registration period, the student body had grown to 22.

Dr. Charles Bunnell, the founding president, appointed Patty dean of the faculty and head of the School of Mines in 1925. A professor of geology and mineralogy, he remained with the fledgling frontier institution until 1935 when he resigned to become general manager of McKee Mining Co. interest in Alaska.

He returned in 1953 to succeed Dr. Terris Moore as president and remained with the university until 1960 when he retired. He took an active part in the struggle for statehood. His



DR. ERNEST N. PATTY, fourth from left, and two other former presidents of the University of Alaska and their wives pose with the current president of the state institution Dr. Robert W. Hiatt, right, and Mrs. Hiatt during Hiatt's inauguration in 1974. From left are Dr. and Mrs. Terris Moore, Dr. and Mrs. Patty, Dr. and Mrs. William R. Wood, and the Hiatts. First president of the university, Dr. Charles E. Bunnell, died in 1956. (UA PHOTO)

Said Dr. Robert W. Hiatt, current president of the University of Alaska:

"Many facets of Dr. Patty's long and productive life have strongly influenced the development of the University... As one of the first six faculty members... and later as the college dean, he had a profound influence, especially on the education of mining engineers and geologists for which the university is now nationally recognized."

"As the university's president from 1953-60 he was instrumental in emphasizing the community college movement in Alaska as well as strengthening the university's research base, particularly arranging for the university to involve itself heavily in the marine sciences."

"His death not only comes as a shock and great personal loss to his many colleagues and friends in Alaska, but it also marks a major signpost in the history of the university. Although Mrs. Hiatt and I have been privileged to know Dr. and Mrs. Patty only since my inauguration as president (in 1974), we have become close friends. His death is a great personal loss to us."

Dr. William R. Wood, who succeeded Patty as president, described his death as "a very great loss to the whole North Country" and said he "had much to do with bringing (the university) into the prominence it enjoys today." In reading his book, "one is impressed by his extraordinary love of Alaska and its people," Wood said.

Said Earl Beistline, currently dean of the university's School of Mineral Industry and a student of Patty in the 1930s: "All in all, Alaska, the mining industry, the university and his many students and friends have benefited by Ernest's decision to spend his life in the Great Land. He has earned a highly respected position in Alaska's and the university's history and will be remembered as a true friend and a leader among men."

See Rise in Birth Defects If Vaccine Programs Dropped

by Louis Z. Cooper, M.D.

Professor of Pediatrics, Columbia University and Director of March of Dimes-supported Rubella Project, Roosevelt Hospital

In the year of our Bicentennial celebration, one of the great American medical successes of recent times is in danger of being forgotten.

It is now clear that mass vaccination breaks the epidemic cycle of rubella (German measles). In 1964-65, the last epidemic year, more than 20,000 infants were born with a wide range of birth defects including blindness, deafness, damage to the heart and other organs, behavioral abnormalities, and mental retardation; many more pregnancies ended in miscarriage.

But present complacency about rubella vaccination may enable the virus to make a comeback in the next few years—a tragedy which can be prevented by timely action.

The Missing Epidemic

Before 1969, when the rubella vaccine first became available, epidemics occurred every six to nine years. Another was due between 1970 and 1973. That it never materialized is strong evidence that the nationwide vaccination program begun in 1969 was effective.

Control of rubella has centered on immunization of children between the ages of one and 12, who would otherwise spread the infection among themselves and expose expectant mothers. More than 55 million doses of rubella vaccine have been given in the United States so far, and by 1974 reported cases dropped to one-fourth the average annual number in pre-vaccine years. Birth defects due to prenatal rubella infection were down even more.

But the vaccination program has lost momentum. By 1972, more than 60 per cent of children between the ages of one and four, and about 80 per cent of those aged five to

nine were immunized. The percentages have not increased since then.

It is disturbing that recent federal budget cuts have largely eliminated funds for distributing vaccine free to state health authorities. As the financial burden shifts to the states, immunization programs are likely to suffer.

Even from a purely financial standpoint, a cutback in the rubella vaccination program is a dubious economy at

Unless and until public commitment to vaccination programs is renewed, individuals and families must take the initiative to protect future offspring they might have.

Simple Blood Test

Teen-age girls and all women of childbearing age should ask their physicians for the inexpensive blood test that determines whether they are immune, as many are from previous, often undiagnosed rubella infection. If suscepti-



SPEECH THERAPIST at March of Dimes-supported Rubella Project works with a youngster born deaf from congenital rubella. Other effects commonly include cataracts, heart defects, mental retardation, and problems in perception, learning, and behavior.

best. It would cost the government about \$10 million to vaccinate the 3 million children added to the population each year. By comparison, the projected total cost of caring for those children born with birth defects after the last epidemic is an estimated \$2 billion—in pre-inflation dollars, steadily shrinking.

Action Needed

Institutional care and special education for a child disabled by rubella costs \$12,000 to \$25,000 per year. Added to this are the unmeasurable toll of suffering and loss of future earnings—the "social costs."

ble, they should be vaccinated, provided they are not pregnant and can avoid becoming so for three months. This precaution is necessary because the vaccine may carry some risk to an unborn child.

In the words of a spokesman for the March of Dimes, the voluntary health organization dedicated to preventing birth defects, "If we permit children to suffer birth defects which we now have the means to prevent, each victim is a living contradiction of the principle expressed in our Declaration of Independence that everyone has a right to a fair start in life."

many years in the North are recounted in his biography, "North Country Challenge," published in 1969.

Patty is survived by his second wife, Virginia, of Seattle. His first, Kathryn, died in 1961. Other survivors include his two sons, Stanton, a veteran journalist employed by the Seattle Times, and Dale, a mining engineer. Both were born in Fairbanks. There are eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services were to be held in Seattle's University Presbyterian Church Jan. 15 and burial was to follow in the family plot in Washelli Cemetery.

Following Patty's death, many offered tributes to him.

Memorial fund for Lulu Fairbanks

(From AYP NEWS)

By OTTO NORDLING

Contributions for the LULU FAIRBANKS MEMORIAL FUND now total \$204.75. It is impossible to mention all donors because unrecorded donations made to the "kitty" in Hawaii and also at the Homecoming have to be listed as "unknown."

Donations from outside our organizations include Otto Nordling who started the ball rolling, Joe and Charlotte Matsen, Bellevue, WA, and Ruth Johnson, Seattle.

Other known donors are: Burt Bard; Cliff Allens; Charles Fyfes; Wm. C. (Bill) White; Ethyl Moyer; Patricia Rotter; Esther Wallace; Harold Whitehills; Allan MacLeans; Al Johnsons; Wm. P. Camerons. Anonymous or unknown donors contributed a total of \$82.00.

Their donations are just as much appreciated as those who sent in checks and we are truly sorry that we can't thank them as individuals.

So the Fund is growing. Our final goal has had to be revised because of costs not figured in the original guess... such as a suitable foundation of concrete before the memorial marker can be installed.

The cost could easily be \$500.00 or more, in order to

keep this from looking like a gravestone. We have not made an appeal to the public for contributions because we have felt that Lulu, being "one of us" deserves special attention from the Alaskans and Yukoners.

We, as individuals and groups, were uppermost in her mind and heart at all times. She worked for and with us all, never against us and at all times stressed the fact that "No Boundary Line Here" was not a misnomer. She loved us and we should respond, generously.

READY TO HELP.

Training to serve the country. And ready to use that training to help our neighbors.

THE ARMY RESERVE. OUR JOB BEGINS AT HOME.