

Report from the alumni president:

When it was charter night in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, Feb. 23—Alaska, 49th territory to attain U.S. statehood, was first to attain University of Missouri National Alumni Association charterhood. It was my pleasure to present Charter No. 1 to the Alaska chapter here last Wednesday. Actually, I am here also to report on "Exercise Timber Line," a simulated war exercise jointly produced by U.S. and Canadian armies and air forces. I hitch-hiked a ride up on an Air Force C119, one of the famed "flying boxcars."

A series of "charter nights" are now under way in Missouri and other "South 48" states, but it was Alaska which drew the first charter, the presentation timed with "Exercise Timber Line."

I told the Alaskans that there are 67,000 known Missouri alumni, over 100 chapters—but, so far as I know, none actually "chartered" in this way before—and about 10,000 "card-carrying" dues-paying members, which our administration is trying to add to substantially this year. I reported to them my recent flying visits to chapters in New York, Chicago, Min-



U. S. Air Force photo by Robert Clubb

The alum prexy presenting charter to Maj. Ray Crane, B. S. in Ag. '48, chairman of the Mizou group rounded up in Anchorage.

neapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Houston, San Francisco, Oklahoma City, Los Angeles and several smaller Missouri towns—each city producing enthusiastic chapters helping us achieve our goals.

The Alaska charter was presented to Maj. Ray Crane, Ft. Richardson, chairman; Miss Yvonne Barnett, Anchorage, secretary; Russell Brown, Anchorage, vice-chairman; and members of the executive committee, Sgt. Charles Clutts and wife, Joan Russell Clutts, Ft. Richardson, and Professor Capps, Anchorage junior high school teacher. This committee will expand chapter membership from a list of 38 known Mizou alumni now resident in Alaska.

The presentation was made in Arctic weather, on the ramp of Lt. General George Mundy's C118 airplane, with General Mundy's honor guard as impromptu stagehands. General Mundy, commander-in-chief, Alaska-U.S. Armed Forces, then flew your president and several other newsmen up to Ft. Greely to cover the exercises, designed to test men, clothing and weapons in mountain terrain and temperatures as low as 76 degrees below zero.

From Fort Greely, I teamed up with Fred Kiewit, feature by-liner for the Kansas City Star (and a Kansas alum) and we "penetrated" the Arctic wasteland 50 miles beyond Ft. Greely (coldest U.S. Army post), interviewed Eskimo scouts and ski-troopers, slept overnight with the troops, ate cold C-rations and drank pine flavored melted snow, then returned to Greely via a glacier-river in an M-59 amphibious-track troop carrier. I confess my Tiger spirit—and Kiewit's Jayhawk spirit—got pretty low when our vehicle bogged down on the glacier-river, the heater went out, the wind whistled with a "chill factor" of 35 below zero, and it appeared we would spend the night on the glacier. But the driver of our vehicle (a graduate of Pitt, no less) proved his mettle and we got back to Greely before this writer caught anything more than a sore throat. The incident proved, if anything, that when sheer survival is at stake, a Tiger can count on help from a Jayhawk and a Panther.

I am also convinced, after my experiences during the past eight months, that our Alumni Association is "on the move" and that "Operation Higher Education," like "Exercise Timber Line," is likely to be successful.

ED SOWERS
President

Eight students from East Africa recently completed a special four-month training program in community development at the University, under sponsorship of the Agency for International Development. They are the first students to complete the work in a new category of enrollment, the Resident Short Course, which was established by the University last October, primarily for foreign students sent here for special training. University President Elmer Ellis formally presented Certificates of Completion to the eight at a ceremony in the Student Union.