



## **Pierre St. Amand**

### **1920–2011**

Pierre St. Amand attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and obtained a degree in physics in 1948. While an undergrad, he discovered the Fairweather and Denali fault systems and was assistant director of the UAF Geophysical Laboratory from 1946 to 1949. He obtained his Master's (1951) and Doctoral (1952) degrees from Caltech, working with some of the greats of seismology, including Clarence Allen and Charles Richter. He then published works on California and Alaska earthquakes. His landmark 1957 paper on the tectonics of Alaska first defined the Denali fault and other large active faults in Alaska on a regional scale. Pierre's work was remarkably prescient to our present understanding of Alaska neotectonics, even though it predated plate tectonic theory by a decade.

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