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Series: William Cashen Collection

William Cashen introduces the recording that is done at the [UAF] Alumni Association's San Francisco branch meeting. People are talking lively in the background.

Cashen tells to the recorder that the meeting is starting and Hector [Harrison] who is the president of this branch of the Alumni Association will open the meeting.

The President [Hector Harrison] starts by fixing the microphone, and opens his speech with a remark about how wonderful it is to see everybody present. He tells that a few years ago things were looking miserable [due to lack of participants?] but now they are looking great. Then he introduces guests: Marion Hall, "a very efficient secretary" who is now Marion Martin, Mr. Martin, Helen Harrison, who is speaker's wife, Betty Clark, Mr. Kennedy, Bill Cashen, Jean Kennedy, Lou-Ann Boswell, and John Boswell.

Harrison tells about last meeting they had, which was at the Turtle Rock Ranch. They had lots of fun and a goodly crowd showed up, but they also were able to raise \$34.63 to the Alumni Fund in memorial for Helen McDonald Gregor scholarship fund. The speaker hopes they can do something of that nature each year.

They haven't had a proper meeting in a while so Harrison won't ask Marion for the minutes of their last meeting, but would like to know if she has any remarks.

Marion received some post cards that she is going to read: John [and Betty, mentioned later] Winn [Wynn? Wynne?] was the second president of the group [Alumni] many years ago, and his wife writes that they will be sorry for missing the University of Alaska meeting but they are going hunting in Colorado the very next day. John is leaving for Iran next December and Betty will go there too. John will be engaging with an agricultural development program for the next five years but hopes to see everybody in the next meeting after they come back. John was a secretary for Dr. Bunnell.

A note from Bill Atkinson says he will be in New York City on the date of the meeting and asks his personal regards to be given to Betty.

Mrs. John Shuster [Schuster?] just returned from three months of work and play in Tonsina, Alaska, and John is still up in Alaska. He visited the University which has gorgeous new buildings. Movies, too. Hector Harrison asks if he [John] is still playing [having fun], and Marion answers that his wife is home so he probably is still playing.

[Inaudible, laughter in the background] Eunice Collins says she regrets her physical inability to join them, but that there are many of them she would like to visit, and wishes everybody fun time in true Alaska style. Marion tells people they have her address if anybody would like to send her a card.

Eunice Collins, the director of the kitchens and dining room. Talking about where Bill Burns lives.

Ruth Grim [possibly Frimm?] informed Marion that Betty married John Clark and is now Betty Clark. [Lots of laughter.]

The president [Harrison] thanks Marion for the report and asks if the treasurer has a report.

The treasurer shouts out that they are not out of money yet.]

Hector Harrison talks about Betty's letter that acknowledges the check that they sent for the scholarship fund and sends a receipt. The speaker suggests these be kept in the treasurer's records.

They are planning on voting for new slate of offices. Mary-Ann Sandvik McCall is the chair of the nominations committee and has suggestions: Mary-Ann suggests that the president could be Jean Kennedy, Marion [possibly Marian] Martin the vice president, Lou-Ann Boswell the Secretary, and the treasurer could be John Smathers.

Hector Harrison is asking for comments, and a woman's voice [probably Jean Kennedy] says she can't do it this year, and that Dr. Smathers would be a lovely president. A man's voice comments that they would like him [Smathers] to handle their money first. [Laughter.]

Lou-Ann Boswell says she would like to be the secretary, but that she graduated from the University of Washington. She tells that she became the treasurer when the last time she was asked how she handles the family budget and she didn't want to say anything else so she claimed she was doing great. In a few minutes, she found out she was a treasurer. She suggests that the secretary should be someone who knows more people from Alaska so they would know who they are corresponding with. She suggests [possibly Lillian Allen]. [Clapping and inaudible conversation.]

Hector suggests putting official business off until after they've eaten which meets with general approval and thanks Marion for what she did.

Hector says [with a jesting tone] that Betty has deserted them, and that they are very sorry that Joan Clark can't be with her and with us. The speaker says they are happy to have Bill Cashen with them. Then he says the business-end of the meeting is concluded and that it's time for refreshments.

[Sounds like a table conversation, very hard to make out what is being talked about.]

[Glass is clinking as a sign that someone has a speech.] Hector announces that Betty Clark would like to say a few words. [Betty's voice on the microphone is testing the microphone and chatting with the audience whose comments are not heard on the tape.] She says that she is a typical woman and likes to talk a lot, and that she is going to cut the cake [that must be in front of her, sounds like a present from the group, from the comments it appears to be a wedding cake with the state of Alaska on it, possibly an acknowledgement of Betty's recent marriage to John Clark] although she wouldn't want to, but she has to because she can't take it with her either. Bill Cashen has agreed to be a stand-in for Betty's husband. How long, asks somebody, and Bill's voice says it's only going to be "only this week." "That's better than I expected," says Betty's voice. "I thought just for cutting this cake." Betty says she is sorry John can't be with her and says she acquired an 11-year-old daughter along with the husband and five more kids that are grown and that the 11-years-old is [still at] home so he [John] needed to babysit. He had to stay home take care of the kids. Betty says that being a typical woman, she wanted some renovations done at their house and they are re-doing the bathroom and the bedroom. He complains about it all the time, but is nevertheless overseeing the project and taking care of their daughter. Bill is going to help her [with cutting the cake] and share it with her; it [the cake] is beautiful.

Bill says he is glad to assist her, and it's been a long time since he has done anything like that, and that it's been 26 years since he has cut his last wedding cake. [Unclear laughter and lively talking.]

[Speaking becomes clear again 21:38 minutes into the recording] Hector calls for a volunteer for the presidency and a treasurer of their organization and asks everybody to arise and introduce themselves. Bill Cashen will take the tape-recorder and go around the table to get everybody's names as they are spoken:

22:33 Mary-Ann McCall, Paul Lauritsen, Paula Nordby, Mark McCall, Lisa Sandvik, Kurt Sandvik, George McCall. Ruth Berglund-Grahams [Berglin-Grahams], Red Graham [?], Gene Garrison, Margery Burns, Ted Matthews, Alberta Matthews, Bill Burns from Salinas[California]. Rick Gordon.

Mary-Ann Sandvik McCall speaks: She is originally from Nenana and she graduated from the University of Alaska in 1950.

Paul Lauritsen]: Is a Native Alaskan and he was raised in Unga [Alaska, part of the Aleutians] which is a small town off the coast of the Alaska Peninsula. He was a student of John McCall, Dean Beistline [Earl Beistline], and later of Dr. McKergy [Dr. Nalin R. Mukherjee, Professor of Metallurgy] and he graduated from UAF in 1958.

Next speaker is Paula Nordby who was raised in Fairbanks and who attended the University of Alaska for two years, and finished her education in Virginia, and the University of Berkley.

Many people introduce themselves: Mark McCall, son of Mary-Ann McCall. Lisa Sandvik, Mary-Ann McCall's daughter-in-law. Kurt Sandvik, Mary-Ann McCall's son. George McCall, Mary-Ann McCall's son [?].

25:00 Ruth Berglund-Grams [Berglin-Grahams?] says she attended the University in 1946 and 1947 [quiet, unclear]. Her mom was married to Miller [unclear? one of her father's friends] and they both attended to the University. Her brother is an oil-broker from Fairbanks, but Ruth doesn't hear from him very often. Someone from the crowd suggests that he [the brother] is busy. [Due to 70's Trans-Alaska Pipeline development.]

Ruth introduces her husband, Randy Grahams from Texas as well as their two guests [Margaret and possibly Keith? Harrison?] Margaret is formerly known as Margaret Berry from Fairbanks.

Bill Burns introduces himself and tells that he finished at the University in 1932, and that he was born and raised in Fairbanks. He left [Alaska] in 1940 and will return this fall in September the first time in 30 years. He introduces his wife Margery [Marjorie?].

Ted Matthews graduated in 1938 and he has been in Alaska for about 35 years. He is temporarily on the Californian Peninsula. Then he introduces Alberta [Matthews, presumably his wife?], saying that they [the other participants of the meeting] probably know her better than he does.

[unclear] Valdez Alaska [unclear, bad recording quality.] ...[speaking about Mrs. Huddleston] her husband was a superintendent of the Road Commission when they were growing up in Alaska. Mrs. [Anne Huddleston, I think?] is 89 years old and she came to the dinner tonight. [She is encouraged to stand up. Appalauding and cheering.]

Anne Huddleston speaks. She says she would like to say something about her husband. A little girl [unclear, gave him the nickname "Fox" Huddleston?] he was known all over as a superintendent of the Alaska Road Commission. The road doesn't exist anymore.

[A man's voice says something that is hard to make out, sounds like: Husband of Betty and a guest.] He's been to Alcan Highway so he is a little bit familiar with the North Country.

[Unclear name, Ed Abadon? Abbatoir? Avadon?] from Fairbanks, "that's home". And he was raised there about [unclear, rattle on the tape] years and he tells that he has a wife from California. He came down and she [?]lassoed me, kept him in California, but his heart is always in Alaska. He calls his friends from Alaska his "old malamute friends." He's a part of Alaska. [Some howling from his "malamute" friends]

Burney Reek lived in Alaska from 1937 to 1945 and he graduated from the University in 1941 with a B.S. in Mining Engineering. He lives in California but is planning on going back to Alaska that May. They will be there for the 30th reunion. They don't go to meetings very often but they enjoy them very much. They owned a home for a while in Fairbanks and their daughter was born there. They thoroughly enjoy Alaska. He introduces his wife Winifred [Reek].

Lillian Allen he was born in Valdez and she grew up there. She didn't go to the UAF but her brother is the mayor of Anchorage [she says Fairbanks by mistake, then corrects herself [. [Break in the recording.] He [her brother] was married to a girl from Fairbanks. The Egan girls were Mary and Patty. He was just re-elected last week.

A man's voice tells that his wife is the speaker in the family, and Jo Smith Olsen introduces herself: She was born and raised in Cordova. She went to the University of Alaska. She wants to mention that she was [served on the UAF alumni association the alumni a few years ago and she has some suggestions for the president. She also wants to introduce her daughter Carol and Veronica Smith who are potential university students. Her husband is [Ormen? Norman?].

Man's voice [Ormen? Norman? Olsen] says that he doesn't have much to say and that the reason he is with her [unclear who he is talking about] is because Beistline was his roommate during the war and Beistline had two horses out at Fort Richardson. The speaker had three girlfriends in Anchorage and Beistline had four, and she was one of them. They rode to Anchorage although the speaker hadn't been on a horse for ten years. They got into a big argument about which girls they were going to visit and he went out. He gave some horseback lessons for her and rode back to Fort Richardson after which he was so sore that he couldn't walk for two weeks.

32:00 Barbara [Napstead?]-Hancock from Cordova, fishing village in Prince William Sound. She didn't attend to the University of Alaska but went [unclear] toured it with Woody Johanssen when she was up there four years ago. She lives in Campbell, CA. She introduces her friend and escort Ed Ashby. Ed is not an Alaskan. [?]. [Muffled talking.]

Mark Bailey [?][muffled talking] member of class 2 of the University of Alaska. They now have a daughter who is one of the curators of the UAF Museum. They have been back great many times, and hope to visit this year too.

Mark Miller graduated in 1960 with B.S. EE [possibly a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering?] They live now in Los Altos, CA and moved out of Alaska 8 years ago. Mark introduces his wife, Susan.

John Chinowsky was in Alaska in 1961 and 1962 in the Armed Forces. He graduated in 1962 through what was then known as the Operation Bootstrap [an educational leave for military personnel who seek for College education.] Later he came to San Francisco and has been living there ever since. "My feeling about Fairbanks is that once you've unfrozen one car door, you've unfrozen them all".

Next speaker is Kathryn [Katherine, Catherine?] Leonard whose husband Bob is a 1961 graduate but he is on a business trip and Kathryn decided to come anyway. They have kept some ties in Alaska: Kathryn's brother lives in Anchorage. Some day they would like to go visit, perhaps next year.

Katrina Moore Smathers went to University in 1952-1953 and she hasn't been back since 1954 but she would like to go some day. A male voice says she is the daughter of the second president of the University, Terris Moore.

John Smathers moved to Fairbanks in early 1950 and met his wife there. They both are nostalgic of Alaska and hope to make an extended trip there some summer.

Someone encourages May to tell what she did on her trip to Europe. Woman's voice asks if people remember Otto Geist who gave [?] a gold nugget years ago? They went to Europe last summer, in 1969,

visiting a little town in Bavaria outside Munich that was his home town. He returned to his town and died there, and the speaker saw his grave stone there with University of Alaska written in German.

36:00 Next speaker tells how he met Rita in Alaska where speaker was from 1960 to 1966 at the Geophysical Institute where they were working on their graduate degrees. [Rita] was as much of a student as he was and [Ron Senungetuk's] silver classes mentioned. She says she graduated from the University of Washington.

Mike Stepovich introduces himself. He says he has a brother named Mike Stepovich who lives in Fairbanks. He was born in Fairbanks but never went to University. In 1935 they took a ride with the family around the Farmer's Loop. Mike, along with his brothers and sisters, wanted to drive up to the University buildings because there were good gooseberries, blueberries and cranberries up there, but says that it's nice to live in Saratoga now.

Mike introduces his wife who was born in Florida and raised in Hawaiian Islands and couldn't move to move to Alaska so they stayed "down here" [in California]. She has been to Juneau [unclear and has cleaned all seven bathrooms] in the Governor's mansion, so she has a distinction there.

Mrs. Stepovich from Fairbanks and Saratoga [California]. She lived 15-years in Alaska and 28 years in Saratoga during which she made trips to Alaska. She says that if she couldn't have afforded those trips, she wouldn't have stayed in California.

Colin Mick from Palmer introduces himself. He was at the University from 1958-1963 and then he was working at the university from 1963 to 1967 and his wife Ula is from Germany and she was at the University for one semester in 1966.

Dennis Rogers studied at the University from 1962 to 1966 and has been in California ever since. All those years have made him into a native Californian. He introduces his wife [Serena? Frida? Rina unclear] from Whitehorse. She went there [school in Whitehorse?] for three years but graduated "down here" [in California].

Marion Hall-Martin introduces herself. She went to Fairbanks in 1935 with her brother Bob. They had Dwayne Hall and Gladys Hall, in that freshman class. Bill Burns' younger brother Bob was at that class as well. She knows many of the people who are present at the meeting from her school years. They weren't any relation to the [John B.] "Dixie" Hall gang in town. They went up [to Alaska] after meeting Slim Williams at the World Fair in Chicago. He had such interesting stories to tell about his seven wives in Alaska and how he got rid of some of them: some of them passed on and the rest he tied to a fish wheel. Old Indian [custom?]. Then Marion was interviewed on a Grand Central Station radio show in New York one time and she told everybody she was a gold-digger from Alaska.

A lady's voice tells that she only has a connection [to the UAF] through Hector.

Philip Kennedy states his name.

Jean Kennedy is afraid everybody knows her since she has been around too long.

Hector Harrison states his name.

John Boswell, married to the treasurer Lou-Ann Boswell, states his name.

New office holders are called out: President Paul Lauritsen, Vice President Mary-Ann Martin, Secretary Lillian Allen, and Treasurer Mike Miller. Nominations are accepted by the crowd.

42:20 Now Hector is talking about raising money to pay for postage and such, so they are going to pass the hat. The man asks secretary if it's the night to "collect dues", and woman's very quiet and muffled voice talks about annual dollars that make a big part of their budget. Man's voice states he has a list of members so the treasurer can check who has paid and who hasn't. [Quiet recording.]

The man is calls the meeting's business side off and introducing Betty Clark.

Betty Clark thanks the officers for the work they have done in past years. She says they have a slide projector and a movie projector but she doesn't have any of either and that's why she brought Bill Cashen with her. He is going to be their program. She thanks everybody who came there [blank in the recording, bad sound quality].

News from the Campus: They have a new campus activity center that Betty thinks is tremendous [probably Wood Center]. She thinks it will be the most outstanding campus community center in the United States. There is also a new 8-floor classroom and office –building [probably Gruening Building] that is being built right in front of the Constitution Hall. It's a little bit behind schedule. Campus Activity Center should be ready in September or October. It is right behind the Constitution Hall. They are surrounded by mud and noise. They have also a new [bond issue?] coming up in November, \$29.7 million, the biggest one yet. Hopefully it will go across and some of the things included in it are new paving on streets, as well as more parking lots. The plan is to build a high-rise parking building below the hill where there used to be trailer parking. Betty talks about problems with parking in cold weather: plug-ins that do not work, stolen fuses, cars that freeze when they are not plugged in. It gets -60F sometimes.

[Muffled talking about buses.] They have a good bus there, and no longer a railroad trolley.

Betty concludes by telling how Bill Cashen keeps insisting that when they are together, Betty doesn't talk, and hands over the turn to speak.

The president thanks Betty for her update, and gives a gift for Betty and her husband.

Bill explains what he is doing at the meeting: The Board of Regents met and decided that Bill should write a book about the history of the University of Alaska. He was happy and surprised about the assignment.

Bill shares a story on how he got news on the assignment: The president called Bill, telling that the Regents have been talking about him. Bill got worried that he is going to be let go [fired], but instead the president asked Bill to start writing the history of the University from Dr. Bunnell to the first

administration. To do so, they gave Bill leave from his classes, 12-month basis contract, a secretary and a little travel budget. Bill couldn't refuse. Trip to California is part of the travel budget.

Bill asks people to submit little reminiscences for him to be used in an addendum of "Cashen's Corner" in the Alumni newspaper. He might even quote them on his book.

Story about how he met Marion Hall: He had been to College for two years, "helping Dr. Bunnell run the place". Bill drove his car and edited his newspaper. He got a little home sick and Bunnell suggested a trip to home in August by a boat from Valdez, since Bill hadn't been home in a while. Bill got to Valdez and the boat was pretty full of cannery workers so the only available accommodations were to sleep at the steerage or at the bridal suite. Since the price difference was huge, Bill decided for steerage and it was miserable. After two weeks in Juneau, he had to return in steerage again, although he wasn't happy about it and the food was so bad he couldn't eat it. He sneaked up on the deck through a small galley and thought that if he is dressed up nicely, he can't be distinguished from other passengers. "And sure enough it was the school teacher's special," and there were all the college professors and some students coming up to college. There were Tommy Campbell () and Dean Duckering and a bunch of others. Bill was hungry since he hadn't been able to eat that steerage food but Tommy had invited him into Tommy's room and Bill grabbed an apple or a banana every once in a while. But he was really hungry. Up on the deck he got introduced to Marion Hall who was a new student. Bill was trying to make a good impression on her and told her all about the North, but he was awfully hungry. When the little bell rang first call to lunch, Marion suggested they take a brisk walk on the deck to build up an appetite. [Laughter.]

58:00 Betty talks again, thanking for the present and saying that there are other benefits of being married: She has for years tried to decide which ear she puts her flower in. "One ear you say you're available and another ear you're taken. Now I don't have to worry about that."

[Hector] Someone is talking about the school song and how they need to acquire it to play it at their meetings.

Treasurer gives a report [\$68.50 from passing the hat].

Conclusion to the formalities. [End of the recording.]