

Call number: 02-00-64-06 CD2

Narrator: Bill Cashen in San Diego, California

Date: [10/17/1970 written on the cassette case]

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Summary created by: Varpu M Lotvonen

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Notes: Originals on cassette tapes. Master copies on CD.

Series: William Cashen Collection

Recording starts with Bill Cashen's phone conversation with somebody, after which there is a little bit socializing among about 3 people.

2:13 Cashen starts talking about Gordon's scrap-book, which is about Polar Bear Hockey Team's tour in the US and Canada during the winter of 1936-1937. The 1936 University of Alaska Championship Hockey Team was the nucleus of this first athletic group to leave Alaska. Scrap-book and an autographed hockey puck are now donated to the UAF Museum, signed, Gordon Picotte, captain of the team.

Gordon explains that he thought the items would be safer in a vault or at the museum. [Cashen shakes his hand, and there are pictures taken.]

The puck was autographed in 1936. [Talking about the puck, meeting some other guests at the party, socializing, taking pictures.]

Cashen is talking about somebody who left Fairbanks in 1959 [taking more pictures.] and ended up in Loyola, California [?]. Talking about Mr. Parker who taught math and is now living in St. Lawrence. He took a leave of absence in 1963 or so, and decided to not come back. The person Cashen is speaking with is an assistant professor at Loyola University, Los Angeles. He works at the Geophysical Institute.

Elmer Turns is teaching in a San Dadida [Diego?] high school in [unclear], teaching anthropology. They are teaching in the department of sociology, anthropology, psychology. It's a new subject at high schools. He taught U.S. History for many years.

Cashen has been teaching at the University for 28 [years] and taught in Anchorage for 5 years which makes 33 years. He is a professor in mathematics. Cashen asks if Elmer is "still a kid."

Elmer says he's been teaching for 17 years, but that he has been in and out of it.

Cashen: Wayd Petersen [possibly Wade Peterson?] teaches “up here” in the University at the math department and he graduated M.A. in 1959. He was one of Cashen’s understudies, teaching his class sometimes.

John Northrup attended the University in 1937-1938. Cashen says he just arrived when John was leaving. He went to Washington State College, graduating from bacteriology and public health. Then [unclear] and now he is a practicing dentist. He got divorced 5 years ago and doesn’t have any family.

Cashen graduated in 1937 and went to Anchorage. [Snippets of discussion, socializing and serving drinks. The recording is halted at some point.]

14:59 recording resumes with a woman’s voice telling that her father used to be a gold clean-up man on a dredge. Every Friday he’d carry \$200,000 worth of gold from the dredge. He was the captain of the fleet.

Fairbanks Gold Mining Company was an English-owned company that operated in Fairbanks Creek. Erins [sp? Possibly Aarons?], an Australian-born Jew, worked operations for the company. A story about speaker’s mother got to visit their home [in England?]. They had a view to the Parade Ground of the Buckingham Palace from their breakfast room and wouldn’t let some barracks to be built that would block their view since they had a ‘right of light’. [Talking about a view in speaker’s house.]

Talking with Betty Clark and Dorothy Andrews: The other lady’s husband introduced her to her husband. They lived right next to each other in Alaska. [Break in the recording.]

18:20 Mr. Clark’s [first name unclear] father and brother are called John Clark. He was an attorney who came up [to Alaska] in 1906 and died in the early 1930s. About a half of Sourdough Sagas was his writing. Elder brother John D. Clark retired last January after a number of years from being the head of a laboratory. He is soon publishing a book about the history of rocket propellers. He is living in Upper New-Jersey and he is also publishing a stock-market report called Graphic Stocks. His wife died recently and, as a hobby, he raises Alaska huskies.

Mr. Clark tells about his career as an engineer in the Apollo-program. He is retiring soon, however.

He attended the University of Alaska in 1926-1927 and 1928-1929. Then he transferred into Stanford where he got his credits accepted. There were no questions whatsoever. He was in aeronautical engineering [break in the recording].

Talking about Cashen’s travels to the Alumni Association meeting in Palo Alto.

22:47 Cashen asks if there are more Mr. Clark’s father’s papers, but the speaker thinks that that [what?] was the sum total [unclear recording.] He had a copy of the Outlaws [?] and Lynn Smith had a copy. Her niece or nephew got the copy after Lynn died, and met with the speaker a year or so later, and decided it should be published. Cashen had read what he [the speaker’s father] wrote about the 1906 big Fairbanks fire, and in Cashen’s opinion it was the best one [account of the fire] he had read. [The story is in Sourdough Sagas].

23:50 He was a good storyteller, mentored by NC-Company's Volney Richmond. Richmond could tell stories like nobody could and Mr. Clark's father tried to do the same.

[This is very unclear] Mr. Clark says that what interested him the most about that story was that his typewriter disintegrated, somebody put it back together. They were walking down the stairs, and "the typewriter beat them all".

His father also related the story about how the NC-Company burned ham and bacon in their boiler to keep the boilers going [Cashen told it also in ORAL HISTORY 02-00-64-03]. They had to get the boilers started in order to build up water pressure, because the NC-Company supplied the town. [This happened during the Fairbanks fire of 1906.]

Mr. Clark mentions that has a great love towards the NC-Company since his mother and father were married up the stairs of the NC-Company building in Fairbanks. When Volney Richmond was the manager. Mr. Clark's mother and father were engaged in Central California before moving up to Alaska. John. A. Clark was an attorney in Fairbanks for about 30 years. Everybody knew everybody then. The cases didn't come to court but the court came to cases: They climbed aboard the old riverboats that the NC-Company owned those days and went to Ruby or Ft. Yukon or to any place along the river. The judge was there with 2-3 attorneys. Mr. Clark went up there [Alaska?] when he was 3 years old and left when he was about 20-years-old.

That was called a floating court and "it was a ball." All the attorneys made big plans and those days they had bootleg-type drinks. Those days Mr. Clark was too young to drink. He was born in 1909 and didn't leave Alaska permanently until he left for Stanford in 1929. "You must have helped chase the Indians out of Chitna." There weren't many Indians, says Clark. The Guggenheims had the area "pretty well in shape." Mr. Clark rode the Tanana Valley Railroad that went to Fox and Chatanika. Back in the old times when the narrow-gauge railroad ran, they used to stop [a woman's voice interrupts by telling this was when she was a kid. Discussing her age according to Mayan Calendar.]

Dick [who?] went to High School for four years and two years to UAF. Clark remembers how the first time Dick showed up at their baseball [basketball?] game at the streets, "he damn near killed us." He liked to keep the basketball close.

[Chatting. Discussing about Joe Flakne who lives in Washington D.C.].

A man's voice tells about how they went to Circle City and saw Indian fish-wheels. When they got full, the husband doesn't do anything, but leaves emptying the baskets for women. It's women's work.

Cashen talks about a picture that was on "your brother Pat's" dormitory room. The picture was taken in 1927 or 1928 when they lived in Cordova. His father's name was Harry O'Neill. Harry O'Neill was in mercantile business but the speaker can't remember its name. It was a general store.

His mother and father were married in Seattle, and they came to Alaska. Father came first and mother followed later. Harry, Edward and Alice are all born in Seattle. [Identifying siblings in the pictures.] Bill succeeded Elmer Rasmuson as the UAF Board of Regents president. Bill was the second oldest in the

family, and Alice was in Palmer for a while, working for a rehabilitation co-operation. She passed away in 1948. Cashen knew her. Cashen says he didn't know their eldest brother, but knew Bill through the years. Harry passed away in Juneau before the family moved from Cordova. He had moved to Juneau and married, and he passed away there. Next brother Philip is still alive and lives in Sutton with his wife Jean. He doesn't run a roadhouse anymore, but works for their brother Mike and the rest of the family in Anchorage. Edward [?] is the next brother and he passed away about 3 months after Edmund [?] in 1936. Then there is Mike who lives in Anchorage. Cashen tells about running into Mike sometimes, and that he is still in business, running Richmond's [store?]. O'Neill says they had liquor stores and another [what?]. It's under the name of O'Neill & Sons. Next is Pat who lives in Connecticut.

Cashen tells a story about how he was asked to write the history of the University of Alaska, and how Pat was an intermediary in a project in which Cashen is working on: According to a letter Cashen got from Joe Flakne [Joseph Theofield?], Joe got a letter from Pat to call Pat on a telephone. Joe told Pat that it's about the time when Cashen needs to start writing a history of the University and Pat thought it was a good idea. Pat came up [to Alaska] last commencement time and [unclear] crossed paths with Bill and mentioned about the idea. Bill thought it was a wonderful idea and posted it to the Board of Regents. It was passed with a unanimous vote in less than 10 minutes.

He graduated from the University a little after Cashen. [Talking about the picture of O'Neill –family] Pat had the picture on his wall at the main dormitory. He would tell the names of all the kids in it.

Next one in picture is Florence who was called Rusty because of her naturally red hair. She has 15 children. Some of them are living in the States, and some are in Anchorage.

Talking about one of Florence's daughters who lives in National City [?] and who has a small boy.

Rusty didn't go to college at all but married. Next one in the picture is the speaker. He was called Franchie [Frenchie?]. Their mother never used short names, but called Mike Michael and Pat Patrick.

Next one is Margaret who is Franchie's sister lives in Seattle with her husband and her married name is Altaiser. Rusty's married name is Imlock [?] and her husband is Bill Imlock. They live in Anchorage.

Teresa, Terrie [?] is married to Norm Hartong [possibly Hartung?]. She came to the college for a several years and she lives in Palmer. Rosemary lives in Ontario, Oregon, and her married name is Clark. There is an even dozen in O'Neill family. Cashen's family had 8 but they never got together for having their picture taken.

Each of the O'Neill kids had a copy of that picture and they all had scrap-books that their mother kept for them. Mother passed away in January 30th in 1959 and father passed away in August 4th, 1964.

Cashen tells Frances how he remembers the picture of O'Neill family on Pat's wall back in 1933. [Unclear talking.] He displayed the picture above his desk and Cashen remembers the picture ever since, and now Franchie has given him all the names.

[Music playing. Then talking resumes and the phone is ringing. More music, someone asks if people can recognize the tunes and sings a little.]

Someone is saying that the business meeting will be started by playing songs from nostalgic yesteryears. [Music is playing and someone is reading the lyrics to UAF Alma Mater. Indistinct talking.]

Record was an autographed record from Margi Reef [?], the wife of Ken Johnson who took a job the Standard Oil Company and used to be a roommate of Bill Cashen's. A man's voice says he will never forget visiting Bill and Ken after an expedition to the Kuskokwim [River?] after the Cinnabar –expedition. He reported on Herb Brazil who had eaten some poison fish, and pronounced it 'potaim' instead of ptomaine. This was in 1937 or 1938. Somebody says they thought he had invented a new disease.

Speaker says [jokingly] that now that they have a level of reverence [from listening to UAF songs], he wants to start the business meeting.

A Speaker [Mr. O'Neill?] welcomes everyone in his home. [Bell rings, somebody shouts that it signifies that silence is desired and that he will keep it handy.] The speaker got a call from the highway patrol. Marion Hall and Virginia Fredric [Frederick?] were on their way over but their car broke. She hiked up somewhere and called AAA and the speaker. The highway patrol called him to let him know that they are on their way and will be here soon. The speaker enjoys their meeting especially so because they have people who have never been there before, like John Northrup. It's been 33 years since they have seen each other. They also have Betty Clark and Mrs. Sanders, who is [?]'s mother-in-law. Dorothea [Warren Clark] has been around before and doesn't need introducing, according to the speaker.

Bill is introduced and asked to talk a little bit about his research and book. Bill says he can't tell about the book because then nobody would buy it and he needs to have 5000 copies sold before he will get royalties, so everybody needs to buy a book. Thank you very much.

Report on the minutes of the last meeting, some people are joking that nobody knows who they are since they weren't introduced. Last meeting was held on May 23 [no year given] at the home of George and Louise Dickey in Glendale. It was published in a newsletter dated May 26th 1970. Only important thing that was carried out was to donate \$50 to the Winifred McDonald memorial scholarship fund at the University of Alaska in the name of their chapter.

Since nobody complained about the things written into the newsletter, the speaker assumes it was all right. Someone says there were a couple of errors but he won't point them out. They have a treasurer's report: All of the details concerning the finances of their chapter is reported on this official paper [assumedly he is showing it to the people at the meeting.] There has been no dispersion of funds since October 15th 1970, and the balance is \$103.96. [Indistinct jesting about what to do with the money.]

Correspondence report: A letter from Stan LaQuan [LeQuinn?] stated that they have moved to Connecticut and has changed jobs. [More about his news.]

A letter from Jean Bunnell Kennedy said that she got a surprise telephone call from Jamie Cameron from Hawaii and she has to pick her up from the airport. She was at the Northern California Chapter meeting

last night. She received the meeting notice from the secretary Marion Martin Hall, who is supposed to be here [at this meeting] and said that they are meeting on Friday because Southern California had set their meeting for Saturday. They will have to negotiate with them in 1971 [so that their meetings wouldn't all be at the same time?].

Ulla Rasmusson-Morrison whom many of the ones who went to the UA in the 1940s knew. She is living in Sedona, Arizona and invites anybody to come there.

Miss Pauline Thomas is the secretary Middle Atlantic Chapter of the UA Alumni Association in Washington D.C. She thanks for aid they received in establishing their constitution and from the idea that if they hear new chapters being formed, they'll send over the constitution. She thanks San Diegoans for sharing their constitution. She's Ruth Thomas's daughter.

Barnie Bear from Tacoma, Washington regrets he can't attend their meeting. He says he is one of their biggest boosters in this part of the country.

In addition to these, they received a letter from the Boyles, Barbara and Jim. They were sorry they couldn't attend tonight but they have two sons playing football this afternoon and a high school carnival. They are looking forward to seeing everybody in the spring.

Letter from Sigrid Seppala says that she is back to College and is too busy with school, which she finds a little rough after 30 years, and in addition she works for 3 days.

Their host and hostess have celebrated their silver anniversary on 13th of this month [October]. [Applause.]

They give a card for a new bride, Betty Clark.

Someone has read a book written by Dean Patty, called North Country Challenge. [Reading the front cover information about Patty's accomplishments.]

Another announcements: Their chapter will start having two meetings a year.

Introducing the Chairman of the Los Angeles Committee, Louise Dickey. [Louise says something in inaudible voice.]

Introducing a volunteer for the Chairman of San Diego Committee, Carol. Man's voice continues that they held their first charter meeting on October 21st in 1956. Many of the members who attended that meeting are at this present meeting: All of the officers are present: Harold and Geroqe Dickey were vice president, speaker himself and Elmer [?] Turner and Warren Clark who was the secretary, treasurer and [?]. In addition there was Louise Dickey, Clarice Turner and Arnie Hoehner. There are 11 of them who were at the charter meeting that night.

That was all the business. [Someone is starting a speech, but the tape ends abruptly.]

