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**Narrator: William Cashen in San Diego**

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**Series: William Cashen Collection**

Elmer Turner tells an anecdote about how someone wanted to quit University and wanted to talk about it with Bunnell early on, in order to be fair to him. Boys who knew Bunnell suggested that he should wait until Friday, although it was Tuesday and he was planning on leaving on Friday. In the morning [the next morning?] he went to present his case to Dr. Bunnell and within 5 minutes he had his bags and was going down the road.

The first summer Elmer Turner worked on the campus, there were times when there was not much to do. There were a couple of days "when things were kinda slacking." The area that later became the laundry had been "concreted in" but hadn't been finished off and there wasn't much to do. Elmer was concerned because he needed the money and wanted to keep the job. Elmer and one other student went "down there" [to the work site] and they estimated that it could be done in an hour. They completed cleaning it up, after which they had 3-4 days to kill. They didn't know what to do but wanted to remain working. The other kid went and sat at the corner while Elmer was worried that Dr. Bunnell sees them and fires them for not doing anything. "Forget about it," said the other kid and sat there for a while until he said that it was time to work again and got up on his feet. They started raking and there was Dr. Bunnell. He stopped and walked to them and said they are doing fine. "Yeah, we are getting it all done," said the other kid. [When Bunnell was gone, he] sat down. Elmer wondered how he knew when Bunnell was coming, but dared sat down himself. It wasn't long before he heard this [Elmer is whistling]. And there comes Dr. Bunnell and they moved the pile a little bit more [pretending to be working].

Sometime later Dr. Bunnell wondered aloud to Elmer, that he never caught anybody loping [loafing?] as long as he had been to his job. And wherever he went, went this: [whistling].

Cashen says it saved many of them many a time.

Talking about the time when Dr. Bunnell gave up on running the University: The speaker was teaching there from 1950 to 1953 and Terrice[Terris] Moore was the president. Administration didn't come easy for Moore. Dr. Bunnell's office was right across the room from Terrice Moore's and it didn't make it any easier since Dr. Bunnell was still trying to exert his influence running the University. Bunnell was a lot

better [healthwise] in 1953 than he had been 2 or 3 years ago and he was going [unclear]. He hated to give up power.

Cashen tells that Dr. Bunnell was glad to get rid of it [his position at the University] in 1949 because he was very ill, but shortly after that he began to regain his health. For a few years he made a comeback. He was diabetic and it wasn't discovered until he had an actual shock and they decided they need to do something. He had never gone to a doctor, but fought it through somehow.

George Dickey tells how prior to building the Eielson memorial building, which was designed by an architect from Juneau, Lester Troust, all the concrete started coming in by box cars. George was working there [at the construction] and he had a crew of 5 or 6 people. He can't remember who was there. Glen Franklin was there and George Cawell [unclear, Cowell?].

They had a little blue Chevy-truck [that they used in unloading the box-cars?] so he [unclear who] told them to unload the box-cars. He said that last time it took 5 hours to unload a box-car full of cement. They started unloading and they did the car, 60 tons, in 2.5 hours. The Judge [as Bunnell was called] happened to be down at his house so they went to talk with him and told him that they had unloaded and the Judge looked at him in a kind of a shock [?] and [unclear?]. [Unclear, but somebody said someone couldn't take a joke.] And the guy [Bunnell] said that Dickey's crew had probably worked enough and they better come in and have a beer. One is not supposed to drink on campus but he gave them beers anyway and said they had done a day's work. [Talking about the event.]

Another speaker remembers how a couple of years after he left the University, Sigrid Seppala ordered a bottle from town and a taxi was supposed to bring it there [to the dorms at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, later UAF]. She didn't tell the guy where her dorm was, must have presumed all the taxi drivers knew. The guy gets there and goes to the first lights at the campus, arriving at Judge's house [Bunnell house]. The taxi-driver has the bottle in his hands and explains [to Bunnell] that he has something to deliver to Sigrid Seppala and asks where he can find her. The Judge [As Bunnell was called] says that he will see Sigrid in a little while and can take the bottle up. Half an hour later he goes into the hall and calls Sigrid out saying that the bottle was left for her and gives it to her [unclear, laughter].

Cashen says that someone told him that Bunnell was always thinking about a week ahead of everybody. [In ORAL HISTORY 02-00-64-04] He was always a little bit ahead of the game.

Al and somebody lived in the main building in a room and they worked for George Keys who was against booze. Bob Harold was involved in this, but the speaker doesn't remember who else. Christmas came along and they [Al and his roommate] had some wine, or some cordials. They had a few bottles, and so guys would come in and ask for a drink.

George Keys was anti-booze and he had sponsored Al. The speaker worked at the power plant so also he was sponsored [Seems like giving students work while they finished their degrees was a common way to sponsor them through school]. Something happened with the electrical system [in their room] and George Keys got over there. He pulled the board up and there was a half a dozen bottles. George Keys

reported to the President that they had booze in their room, and Al went to the speaker to ask for advice. Speaker advised him to talk to Prexie [The University President was called Prex] and explained the situation. Prexie said: "Well, you know how it is: Some people like beer, some people like wine, and some people like water."

[Marion Hall and Virginia Rothecker join the party. Socializing and talking about Marion and Virginia's trip.]

Marion tells a story concerning Dr. Bunnell: She and her brother left Chicago and drove their car out to Seattle for a dealer and they had a few \$20-dollar money orders in their possession. They had also sold their canoe and their living room drapes to make that trip [to Alaska]. They were poor.

They got to Juneau and worked for the summer: Marion's brother worked for the newspaper and Marion worked at a boarding house for college students who worked at the mines all summer. They met a woman whose husband was a Marshal up in Fairbanks area and she told them that she wouldn't hesitate to go to the college without a dime to her name because they needed students. Marion and her brother thought it was fine since they needed an education and that [going to college] would be a good way to spend the winter up where the dog-sleds are. Marion went up on the North-Western [Boat] and that's where she met Bill Cashen.

Marion's brother had to work for two weeks to finish paying off the bills before he could join her, and Marion spent a week in Anchorage with a friend she had made. Marion's brother came on the highway while Marion took the railroad and Marion recalls he came to Fairbanks the night before she did. They walked to the College with Bill Green. Cashen mentions that there are Bill Green student and Bill Green professor of Agriculture. Bill Green had come up on track with Marion's brother, and they all walked to meet Dr. Bunnell to see if they could be taken into school.

When they talked to Bunnell's secretary, she gave them papers to fill out and took the filled papers to Bunnell, but she came back saying that they hadn't filled out the part where one writes how much money one has. Marion explains that one wrote down how much money there is on one's bank account, how much money people at home are contributing and so forth. Marion had \$9 and her brother, Bob, had \$11 and that was their total since they were orphans. They had a brother who was working in Chicago but he wanted to get married and didn't want to send them any money. Marion and Bob put down how much money they had and the secretary took that to Bunnell. Bunnell asked the secretary to bring Marion and Bob to his office, and asked what they meant coming up to college with that little money. They explained that they had heard he needs students, that they like to work, and that they want to come to school. Bunnell called the [Fairbanks Daily] Newsminer and Bob got a job there. Marion got a \$30 a month library job. She couldn't type worth a dime, "poor Mrs. Ryans." She did acquisition cards and every week half of them had to be redone.

Bob lasted a year in Fairbanks since he had a girl "back home." Marion stayed for four years but she only stayed in school for another year and then worked to earn enough money to get back home.

Cashen says that that must have been the minimum arrival fund, \$20 for two.

Marion thinks they did pretty well. Bob helped her since he was making more money at the newspaper. Once they found out that he could run a line [?]. He worked full 8 hours a day and went to school in the morning.

When Marion's money ran out and she needed money for registration and chemistry fees, she went to Bunnell's office and said she needed \$18, 50. Bunnell didn't say a word; he just retrieved his check book and wrote her a check. Someone told Marion it was pretty unusual.

Of course Marion paid Bunnell back. One had to pay for room and board in advance, and Bunnell just wrote her a check without any questions. Cashen says that Marion wasn't the only one, and that every registration time Bunnell had a several stacks of check books. Kitchen needed the money in advance to keep the accounts straight.

Someone has a story and he wants Cashen to stop recording. Something about Kyle Franklin's screw-ups.

Of all the thousands of dollars Bunnell lend out to help people, Cashen thinks he got paid back every single one, and says that Bunnell was very proud of it. Last holdout was Brooks Graten [sp?]. There's correspondence on file right up until 1950, and finally Brooks paid him. Someone says that that's why he dropped out of Alumni Association. The correspondence between Bunnell and Brooks Graten fills out quite a folder.

Cashen says there was hardly a student who didn't need some kind of help at one point or another.

Marion tells that Saxon, Indian background person from Arkansas, might have survived without. He got government funding from Indian Rights Act and "got more money than a student in college." Carey Saxon. He attended one of the [Alumni Association] meetings in Los Angeles and was a teacher at the time. [Unclear talking about people who had met him recently.]

Gordon Picket tells a story about how someone told him that if he wants a job, he needs to go talk with Dr. Bunnell and say that he wants to go to school. Bunnell had placed many students on Alaska Railroad. He seemed rather pleased when Gordon told he wants to go to school and didn't seem surprised when Gordon told him that he was broke and needed a job. Bunnell pondered about it for a few seconds and said it could be arranged. Then he asked Gordon which high school he had graduated from, and was very surprised when Gordon replied that he had never gone to high school.

He recommended Gordon that he should go to see Hampton Ballaine and tell him that he is sent by Bunnell. Gordon found out later that Hampton Ballaine owed Bunnell a great deal of money. Ballaine seemed pleased to give Gordon a job in weeding and harvesting his crop garden. Gordon took pride on his work since so many farmers "down the loop," like 22:49 Lily Yankovich, Huckman brothers [?] and [?] Johnson [unclear?] Gordon's services.

Oftentimes Dr. Bunnell would walk to Ballaine's ranch that was about a mile away and give Gordon a little pep-talk about going to school. Once he gave Gordon a box of .22 bullets and told him that he himself had no need for them but Gordon should use them well. The rabbit cycle was starting in 1932

and flourished in 1938 and 1940 [refers to yearly fluctuation in hare populations due to overpopulation and predation].

After the harvest was done, Ballaine changed his mind about Gordon becoming a partner at his gold mine at the head of Reddy William [unclear?] on Ester Dome. The plan had been that he would work on the mine on partnership basis. George suspects that Dr. Bunnell had something to do with the situation. It didn't take long until the winter started and George started walking to the College, which was a mile away and rode 4 miles to Fairbanks on Paul Ryman's [sp? Greimann's] bus. Then he walked from the garage to the high school that was at 7<sup>th</sup> and Cushman and returned to the ranch at night. This routine continued for 3 years in wintertime, until Hampton passed away in the spring of 1935. 24:20 That fall Gordon enrolled at the University as a [?] student. Frank York [sp?] also enrolled as a [?] student.

While completing his enrollment with Dean Patty, and Gordon was interested in mining, he saw a fellow he hadn't seen since he was 5-years-old. They had used to play city hockey between street-car tracks, and the fellow's name was Arnie Hoehner. They hadn't seen each other since they were 5-years-old till the fall of 1935.

Gordon was rather surprised when Dean Patty told him after their completion [of enrollment] that Dr. Bunnell wanted to see him at his office. Gordon went to see Dr. Bunnell who congratulated him for perseverance. Gordon is grateful for three men who made it possible: Hampton Ballaine who provided a ranch [unclear?] they had a saddle-horse and everything, Cap Osborne and later Jack Boswell of the FE-Company for giving Gordon a job and permitting him to live on campus, and especially Gordon is grateful for Dr. Bunnell for encouragement.

The year of 1935 was very exciting year, and they had a very exciting freshman-class. A woman's voice mentions that she was in it. Someone else says that it's no wonder the class was so exciting.

Gordon tells that he has a picture of her [unclear] when she played the Lady Known as Lou [unclear]. Gordon was the bartender. They had some characters on that class. Gordon remembers a person who claimed to be the valedictorian on his class. It was shocking to them after the first 6 weeks of tests that they found that he not only missed all the questions but got a -2 grade for misspelling words. Later they found out that there was only one on his graduating class. Gordon doesn't want to tell his name since he is probably still living.

They put up a show Shooting of Dan McGrew in Eagle's Hall. Gordon happened to be the [unclear] manager. Don Adler [?] owned the Chena Bar. Dwayne Hall was Dan McGrew. Gordon said to the owner, "Look, these guys are putting on a show and you are making money, at least with these drinks you put on, they should have some beer there." He OK'd it, and called up the big broad shouldered bartender at the Chena Bar and told him to give the theatre group beer. They got as much beer as they could carry.

A guy named Dewy Smith was the "number one sponger of the university". There was a crowd out at the auditorium and the show was going on. Dewy wasn't connected with the show but he found out that there was beer and he met them [the other actors] in the back while the show was getting very dramatic at the stage. Dewy walked to the stage and asked "Where the hell is that beer."

Carl Tyser [sp?] visited Dewy Smith last winter in Florida.

27:20 Someone is asking the name of the kid who played the piano. Someone else says he is the only one [unclear] red light district. [Laughter.] Talking more about him and how he was from Louisiana. [Unclear conversation about a piano player.]

Virginia is asked how many miles she rode on the post-office elevator. A woman's voice starts telling how on summer of 1937 when the Russians were flying over the North Pole, she worked for the Weather Bureau. She rode up to the top floor of the Weather Bureau [with Virginia?]. They in the Weather Bureau had pulled the trick on her to let her breath hydrogen [probably helium] and talk, so one's vocal are in this [demonstrating with high voice]. They did that to the two Russians who were there that summer. They let Virginia take hydrogen in the elevator and she just kept coughing [?] it and she was so sick they thought she was going to die.

A man's voice tells that he got a picture of the Russians and their plane. They brought back a little polar bear cub and he has movies of that. Woman's voice tells that the pilot brought back three cubs. 31:40 He did a lot of carrying of supplies up there. There were four Russians in town. One newspaper man whose name was Leo Huat [sp? Sounds like: hwat] and first time he was introduced to someone, nobody understood his name. Then the two engineers came for the winter while they [other Russians] were doing searching over the Pole. Theoretically they were trying to find their plane that was down, but in 1937 it was obvious that they were simply doing polar area research for war purposes.

Man's voice tells that he read from a newspaper that General St. Claire-Streett died recently. He was the leader of the first army airplane group that ever came up to Alaska. They flew from New York to Nome and back. Someone tells that he is collecting National Geographics and one has the news [about the flight to Nome] in it. The speaker tells that the National Geographic wrote a story about all their troubles [and describes some of them]. Last paragraph said that perhaps one day that trip can be made in one day.

A man's voice asks if anybody has more stories about Dr. Bunnell.

Marion [not sure if this is her voice] says that the thing she remembers about Bunnell was that his office was right in the main hall. She – and she thinks other people felt the same – always had a feeling that she was the favorite child when she went to Dr. Bunnell's office to talk to him. "He seemed to welcome you and treat you like one of his own kids, not just as some student and he was the president of the University." It set the tone of the school, small and cozy. A man's voice says that he never got the same impression when he was going out with Bunnell's daughter. [Laughter.] Somebody says there could have been a reason. The speaker says Bunnell was perhaps judging others by himself. Another man's voice says that he might have forgotten to turn off the lights one night [referring to a story told in ORAL HISTORY 02-00-64-07].

Yet another man's voice says that that must have been some time ago because Dorothy and Warren had their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was last April. [Joking.]

[Talking about some people and their addresses. Changing addresses. Talking about people on last night's alumni dinner in Palo Alto, California ORAL HISTORY 02-00-64-05.] Phil Burne was at the last night's dinner. Bob had died, and he was the youngest. Talking about Frank's health, and about other people's going-ons. Raffle.]