

Call number: ORAL HISTORY 02-00-64-09 CD 1

Narrator: William Cashen in Bill and Jean Kennedy's party

Date: 10/19/1970

Place: San Rafael, California

Summary created by: Varpu M Lotvonen

Date of summary created: 7/31/13

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

Series: William Cashen Collection

[Indistinct conversations, eating dessert.]

A woman's voice starts talking about a story. She doesn't remember who was involved. Another woman's voice [Possibly Elizabeth Romig Daily, Daly?] says it was published in a book, but it was Jack Hiller who told her. Her recollection was that a marshal was involved, a very fine man called Nicholas. He went to Sitka to pick up a witness who was a full blooded Indian and brought her over with a little boat that went between Juneau and Sitka. [Not clear what the point of the story is. Possibly the marshal was accused of witness tampering, unclear because of cross talking, laughter.]

Nicholas was such a fine and exemplary man that it made the story so sad. "You and I know people who gyrate out of course" [unclear].

Another story of Elizabeth's father was stitching someone up [the story is quite unclear]. That must have been on a floating court.

Judge Cushman who later became very famous, came to Alaska and [unclear] and they went west on a floating court, all through Aleutian Islands [unclear]. Cashen suggests that it must have been one of the first floating courts.

Cushman became known for his hard sentences. He believed in strong and harsh justice. Talking about streets [in Fairbanks] being named after judges: Cushman and Cowles.

Cashen tells that the only other Cushman around is Francis W. Cushman "who is a representative to Congress from the State of Alaska who introduced the bill in Congress to allow Alaska to have a delegate in 1905 or 1906. He was always a friend of Alaska and he was the representative from King County or Seattle area."

Discussing among the group which Cushman Cushman Street is named after: A woman's voice says the streets are named after judges. Another asks if Lacey was a judge, to which Cashen says he wasn't. A

woman's voice tells that Cushman had the first floating court to which Cashen says that he never made it up that far north. He was in Valdez.

[Unclear.] Something about a story that Cashen doesn't think he can include in his book since it deals with the southern Alaska.

A woman's voice tells about her plans on writing a book. [Unclear discussion.]

Some woman's voice tells that his father was with the floating court that went up to Iditarod. Another woman's voice tells about Cushman's floating court that operated in 1911 or 1912. The first woman's father started in 1912. Cashen tells that he was a judge on a land lease "up here." The lady says he "took the Valdez group," Lincoln who was an attorney, J. Linley Green "who didn't know beans when the bag was open." The speaker's father spent most of his time jabbing him and making him uncomfortable. She has pictures of this floating court and they went west. S.S. Manning. [Unclear discussion.]

Judge Brown. [Unclear.] Judge Fuller was before the lady's father. [Unclear cross-talking.]

Mentioning the Black Bear Case that happened in Iditarod country. [In 1923 mine-owner Thomas Aitkens entire payroll was stolen from the U.S. Mail dog team by a mining claim owner/advisor/prostitute who was known as the Black Bear. Real name was Nellie Bates]

Coch [sp? Koch?] was the commissioner down river and came up to be an assistant district attorney. [Unclear discussions. Cashen is encouraging someone [possibly Elizabeth] to write a book or tape-record her stories. More unclear stories.]

17:17 A woman speaker [Elizabeth Romig Daly] tells that her father died in 1951 on Thanksgiving Day, and the day before she cooked a turkey because she thought he wouldn't last much longer. He said he smelled the turkey, and the next morning he was gone so the speaker was happy she had cooked turkey. He died in Colorado Springs. The speaker's mother died on New Year's Day in 1937. She always gave the impression that she was more straight-laced than she really was. She was much warmer person than she let anybody know.

[Unclear.]

Elizabeth's mother was born in Kingston which is suburb of [?, unclear] and dad was born in Illinois, raised in Kansas, and educated in Philadelphia.

19:20 Cashen asks when he first came to Alaska, and the woman's voice replies that he came in in [18]96. Cashen notes that the speaker's father came to Alaska the same year Cashen's father did. Cashen's father was a young man who came from Michigan to work at the mines in Treadwell.

Elizabeth says that he had the first chichiko [chichigo? Sp? Possibly Chichagof]. Jenny Cleveland controlled the first chichiko and she kept selling stocks so she could live. It's now been flooded for years and has not been operating. She had quite a lot of stocks left and she made a deal with the speaker's father that he gets it all if he takes care of her if she has a stroke and lingers. If she dies, give her a

decent funeral, and a good headstone. And then it was to go to Elizabeth. It took Elizabeth until Robert [her older brother] died to get her hands on the stock and there is something like 15,000 or 20,000 shares. At one time she [Mrs. Cleveland] controlled the first chichiko.

He [Robert?] kept selling her stocks to the Chinese Consul in Seattle, and his son [unclear due to other people at the dinner table] without [?]"talking to any of us had the stock transferred to his name." When he died, [unclear] "I want you to locate the stock and make a list of the assets because it morally is mine." [unclear]. Mrs. Cleveland didn't know who the other children were. She knew Howard and liked him but [unclear] beautiful wooden [unclear]she gave to Elizabeth. She had a daughter [unclear] husband separated. Elizabeth knew the son and he was no good. She thought of Elizabeth as a daughter. That's why she wanted Elisabeth to have the stock. [Unclear talking about why Elizabeth didn't get the stock right away but it went to Robert.] The stock wasn't even worth the paper it was written on, but it was just for the principle of things [that Elizabeth wanted it]. [Unclear talking about it.]

They had a wonderful life in Alaska, says Elizabeth. It breaks her heart that a lot of us left and are scattered and it is a dying [unclear]. The people are special. Half of them didn't have anything else in common than the word Alaska. Some of them were married to it and some of them had been around the University of Alaska, maybe living there.

Cashen says they were centralized and all over the University but also maybe [affiliated] by marriage.

[Unclear talking about some people.]

On 26:23 the people are trying to remember who College's home economics teachers were: Elizabeth Kirkpatrick was the first one, then she was replaced by Martha Park, then they had Lydia Fohn-Hansen, then Aleen [Alen? Sewal? Elaine? Eileen? Sewell] and Lola Cremeans [Tilly].

Trying to remember some math teacher's name: Sheimer? Allsheimer? A woman's voice is listing their teachers: Lettie Morgan was their botany teacher [, Herbert Bruce was their [unclear] teacher, Archie Truesdell was their math teacher, Ernest Patty was the mines as well as Pilgrim who also taught minerology.

Cashen tells that the next bulletin had Charles Bunnell, Robert Q. Brown, LaDessa Hall, Ruth Catherine Trails, Leslie A. Marshan, Clinton W. Morgan, Ernest N. Patty, Earl Pilgrim, Archie Truesdell, G. Leyman Hood.

[Crosstalking.]Talking about some object [probably the catalog or bulletin] that was put out in July of 1922, before the College opened. Dorothy [Loftus nee Roth], the speaker's sister went to College when it first opened, and the speaker herself [Florence A. Thompson nee Roth?] enrolled the second year. [Unclear.] Cashen says this was in April 1924, and that if she looks in the back [of the paper? book? catalogue?], she might find her name.

29:05 Cashen says: "Here is your roster," Elizabeth mentions Margaret Murie who thanked her for helping her with chemistry and saying she wouldn't have passed otherwise. [Elizabeth finds herself from the paper.]

[Unclear.]Cashen will list the graduates during Bunnell's years, and also the 100 first matriculas. [Talking about if the ladies would make it into the cut. Indistinct conversation.]

Cashen tells about his interview with Edby Davis. They of course talked about Roden who was the no. 1 on the roster. A woman speaker remembers how Roden was in engineering class, sitting in high stools, and fell off. He was not college material. [Cross talking.] Discussing a copy of the [Farthest North] Collegium that Cashen promises he could Xerox and send to her. [Unclear.]

Cashen asks Elisabeth what article she is talking about, but she can't recall. [Unclear.] Elisabeth wants to write down and send to Cashen the "actings of our class."

In 33:05 Elizabeth tells how they built the first bonfire, and they put up the [unclear?] and they got "that goat". Blanche Caskey [sp? Cascaden? unclear?] made a special trip to town to get that goat. They went to visit Mr. [unclear?] Miller's father who had a whole bunch of goats for goat milk. He had one white mother goat who was nursing her young. They promised to take very good care of the goat and Mr. Miller allowed them to take her. Jack Martin and Elizabeth took the goat on a back of a Ford – Elisabeth thinks it was her father's Ford – and drove it up to the University. They painted a great big 27 on its side and a little 26 on the other and turned it loose on the dance hall floor. [Unclear?] made the sophomores sore and they rounded up the goat and threw it out from the upstairs window. "By a miracle of God, the poor thing didn't break a leg." Jack and Elizabeth went down, picked up the goat and took it back to Mr. Miller. Cashen clarifies by asking if they threw the goat out of the 3rd floor window, but Elizabeth says it was 2nd floor. [Unclear.] About taking the goat back to Mr. Miller with Jack.

Cashen says he understands that they [who?] were classmates in fall of 1923.

A woman's voice is telling about someone [Margaret Murie?] who could not graduate unless she had credits in chemistry and she was not good in chemistry. Elizabeth [?] helped her to pass chemistry. Clarence Iceberg [unclear, sp? Isberg? Eisberg?] mentioned. Ladies agree that he [who?] was good, and Elizabeth never forgets a day when they were working "on a tough one" and he asked if they would like to try chewing tobacco [?]. Elisabeth did but spit it out very fast. Margaret was not natural in chemistry and she had to have chemistry to graduate although she was already a senior, which Elizabeth helped her to pass.

Chemistry was effortless to them. Cashen says math is the same way, and talks about his students who need to pass the math to graduate. [Unclear discussions about Analytical Mathematics and some teacher who didn't know his mathematics very well.]

Elizabeth [?] tells around 38:45 that Herbert Bruce, the chemistry professor, was wonderful in chemistry and math. She tells how one time he gave them a test, perhaps a semester final, and it was absolutely terrible. Elizabeth was literally sick and went to home to bed despite of how chemistry came easily for her. The next morning she saw Herbert Bruce – whom they all called Herb behind his back – and asked how their papers were. He said they were pretty bad and wondered why, so the speaker told him that he was so smart that it all looked simple to him, but that it all went over their [the students'] heads.

Talking about Cliff [?]who died in some kind of cancer. He was a very bright boy, says one of the ladies. [Unclear] died young too, and he was such a gentleman. He was from Juneau. His father was in deputy 33rd Masons. He died in 1930s or early 1940s. [Talking about something that dropped on the floor.]

Jack [Hofster?] died in Swedish Hospital in Seattle of tuberculosis. Amy died too, Jack Hoffberg [Hoster?] [Unclear, Siberia.] Amy came down to Anchorage and lived there for 3 years. She was in a hospital and the speaker [Elizabeth?] visited her all the time because she was working in a lab there. They were going to take her to the sanitarium, but she was afraid of sleeping in the dark. Elizabeth [?] had a little light that she loved and which she had got from her father [unclear description]. Elizabeth took the lamp to Amy's table and the day she left, Elizabeth went to say goodbye to her and she of course never came back. [Unclear.] Elizabeth felt like she owed it to her to go to see her, despite of not liking funerals, and Amy was the most beautiful corpse she ever saw. She died before Jack.

Jack was an interesting boy. Elizabeth has a letter from him, and says that he had one quality that perhaps she didn't agree with: he had a tendency to gossip. It makes interesting [unclear] "it gives you a slant on things that nobody else could even think of." [Cross talk.] Someone else is saying they grew up in the Hot Springs Country and never went to anything but a tiny little school. Jack was the oldest. Cashen tells that he knew Dell [Delbert] and of course Francis. A woman's voice says that Francis was the youngest. Cashen tells that she [Francine] is married to Ray Cowler [Koehler?] and has two daughters who are both married and have children. Cashen wonders what became of Dell [Delbert] and wonders if he is dead too. TB seems to run in their family. Jack was a strong boy [they are looking at some pictures of him.] He died in TB too. [Unclear.]

Someone was good in English and wrote very well. [Unclear.] He didn't approve of the play they were putting up the second year and Leslie Marshan or Professor Nordale [Unclear. Pure gossip, says Elizabeth. Unclear.]

Elizabeth is taking about some letters. Cashen asks if there are more pictures.

[Discussing pictures, naming people.]

[Tape ends.]