

Call number: ORAL HISTORY 02-00-64-09 CD 2

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

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

Series: William Cashen Collection

The tape starts with a woman's voice talking with Bill Cashen about McCombe brothers: They played hockey and basketball. Their names were Robert and Jean McCombe and they had a wolf called Susi [coincidentally, Susi means wolf in Finnish]. It was a part wolf. They lived at the flats, in a cabin separate from the Loftus brothers, in which the Gassers eventually lived in. [Unclear, talking about pictures and identifying people in them.]

[Discussing the picture a little bit more. Unclear.]

[Unclear] sultan's harem for the shrine. A woman's voice tells how they "rushed out there in our costumes and he was going to give us chicken for dinner." He hadn't even gone to the experimental farm to kill a chicken when they got there for dinner, so he went there, killed a chicken, brought it in, and plucked it. Silverware that came from Sears and Robuck had not been unwrapped and neither had the china so Margaret Murie and the speaker [unclear]. Margaret Murie made soup but it curdled and they made biscuits that weren't very good and they "got hysterics." "That was Jack's dinner. He hadn't even killed the chicken and the guests were there." Cashen asks if there was an occasion, but the speaker says it was just a celebration.

[Talking about pictures, identifying people in them.]

7:00 Leslie [A. Marshan] was quite an interesting man and Cashen saw him not a long ago. A woman's voice tells that Marshan [?] was so boring that she didn't even bother listening to him even though he thought she did. [Unclear talking.]

Cashen says it was 12 years ago, and he has been teaching at Rockford these many years and that he's an emeritus. Austrander was the other math teacher. Cashen says it doesn't sound right; it was Overshiner [William H.]. Cashen continues that in 1935-1936 Leslie came back while Southwood took a leave of absence to go to Europe. Then Cashen lost a track of him though Cashen took French from him for one year. It was rough, but Leslie let Cashen through the class.

In 1958 Cashen went to study "all the new math" at the University of Washington to "get a brush up". Cashen's wife is Ellen Barr, a Seattle girl whose father was the director of the summer sessions. Dr. Eric

Barr. As it turned out, he had hired Leslie to be a summer professor. While in Seattle, Bill Cashen and Ellen stayed at the Barrs and went to the summer sessions. Marshan had just got married to a very attractive girl, around 1956, and they had taken one of the professor's homes on Lake Washington over the summer where Cashens visited them.

Marshan looked exactly like he did and was on his way to teach in Greece on his leave of absence, or some Mediterranean University. A woman's voice says he had written a book on Byron, which was one of the most scholarly works done on Byron. Marion Marshan was institutionalized and the woman speaker lost touch with her that time. She was emotionally disturbed. A man's voice tells that they met the Marshans in New York.

Talking about Marshan's book and when it was published: It was his life's work.

Marshan was a bachelor for a long time and it wasn't for lack of trying. A woman's voice tells that his love letters were really beautiful and girls couldn't wait to meet him because they were so beautiful, but then they found out that he was very dull in real life. [Unclear] A man's voice says she [Mrs. Marhsan] was very pleasingly [unclear.] A woman's voice says she hasn't heard from Leslie since Mrs. Marhan had what he called a nervous breakdown. She went to sanatorium. Marshan should be retired now; he's around 70 years old.

Mrs. Marshan was a student and he was the professor. People are discussing his education, and Cashen believes his book was his thesis, or at least the beginning of it.

A man's voice tells that Marshan made trips to Greece and to United Kingdom to gather source material for his work on Byron. He learned to speak Greek and he spent considerable time in Europe. Cashen comments that he was a devoted scholar.

Elisabeth [not sure if that's her voice] says that Leslie's brother was completely different from him, like salt and sugar. His brother was fair where Leslie was dark, and his brother was vivacious and completely extroverted. He was just as much of a scholar and had as fine of an education. He was in Stanford on a sabbatical and had his wife and two children with him when Elisabeth met him. They lived in State of Washington. Because of his name Leslie Marshan, Cashen thought in the beginning that he was a native Frenchman.

[Indistinct cross talking conversation about Marhsan's language skills.] Talking about a picture of Leslie Marshan's grandfather where he stands at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, on one side. He was maybe from Brittany or Normandy. He was posing for a picture.

[Talking about Dennies in Seattle of which one posed as Chief Seattle for pictures. Complementing coffee.]

Cashen tells that he asked if Marshan would back up one of Cashen's favorite stories to which he replied that the story is Cashen's but he will back him up. Cashen was taking French from Marshan and across the hall was Ivar Skarland, and Ivar talked with a terrific Norwegian accent. Skarland was a scholar, and had learned French and German when he was a boy in Norway, so he knew the grammar perfectly. All

these French sentences [?] across the hall and Ivar would write them down for Cashen, who would then translate them into English with his handwriting. He was doing really well on written work, but Ivar would read the sentences to him and Cashen was a terrible mimic so he made it sound like Ivar's speech. When Cashen would then recite in class, Marshan told him that he is the first American he has heard who speaks French with a Norwegian accent. Cashen says it's a true story and Marshan backs it up although he doesn't remember the occurrence.

[Break in the recording.] Unnamed woman reminisces how Charlie Wheeler was also taking it [unclear what]. She was competing with him.

Elizabeth remembers [unclear] class where they were sitting together [unclear who] and they were doing one of those equations that go across the board. It was late in the afternoon and they were getting bogged down and wanted to get to the trolley in time so they were rushing a little bit. Gibber [?] gave their answer to Elizabeth and told her that she can copy that and she did. Next day Bruce [?] said it "would have been better if Iceberg had copied yours". They were both wrong.

21:27 Another woman remembers when Albina Miller classes [unclear]. She was sitting between two boys in economics class. The two boys were trading answers over her and she did better than the two of them, picking the right answers from both sides. Albina is in Washington DC. [Indistinct conversations, serving brandy.]

Bill Cashen tells that Tiff Bergman is a millionaire. [Cross talking.] Apparently he took good notes on the geology and the structures of the North Slope. Some lady says that he got all the land before the oil companies would. A man's voice tells that [somebody, unclear] was terminated from government jobs, wouldn't let him be [unclear] anymore and they wouldn't drill where he wanted them to. That's how the government missed finding oil in the Arctic. [Indistinct talking about oil wells and people becoming millionaires on oil.]

[Cross talking.]

27:34 Cashen is talking about someone who is a very [unclear] person [a woman's voice says something unclear] Cashen doesn't know her husband too well either, but he is a nice guy and in geology [department]. She [the geology person's wife] works at the museum, sorting through Otto Geist's collection. Cashen tells that Otto was one of his favorite people.

Discussion about Otto Geist's biography: [Indistinct talking.] Cashen will reserve his judgment since he hasn't written a biography yet. A woman's voice says that there was a biography done about his father and "I could have done better with my left hand." It was terrible. Cashen says he glanced through it and feels that way too.

A man's voice says that Otto was a very earthy person and would be embarrassed to read the book. A woman's voice says it's a shame to glorify somebody who doesn't want to be glorified. [Cashen turns the recorder off.]

About fishing on the coast. [Indistinct cross-talking. End of the recording.]