

Call number: ORAL HISTORY 02-00-64-12

Narrator: William Cashen

Date:

Place:

Summary created by: Varpu M Lotvonen

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

Series: William Cashen Collection

Bill Cashen is traveling in a car with someone. Cashen is talking about his newspaper article that was put into a pamphlet and the newly refurbished Airport in Fairbanks dedicated certain amount of wall space for two sections of the University history, one was to be rather permanent and the other would be a revolving exhibit of different departments and institutes of the University. Cashen gave a slide-talk about the University history at the "Centennial" on behalf of the Alumni. Alaska Centennial was made to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the college. 1917 is their official founding year, so when Alaska is 100 years, the University is 50. The cornerstone was laid in 1915 and "the legislative" was in 1917.

Cashen picked out a hundred historical pictures. He had them photographed by a student who set up a little slide. They were Kodachrome film, black and white, and he took pictures of the photograph so they came out as 2 by 2 slides. Then Cashen made little identification cards and gave a lecture on the illustrated history of the University for maybe 8 or 10 times. Cashen tells that he taped it once, and continues that when you give a speech, you think it's good and when you record and play it back, you think it's pretty good, but if you try to put that into type-written material, it's awful. It's not the polish you want for written material.

Cashen became more fascinated by the history of the University and ended up writing the news article in which he used the same pictures. It was written to be printed. The News-Miner thought it was good to be printed and "last year" [1969] Larry Carpenter thought it was good enough to be reproduced into the little booklet as a handout to new faculty and dignitaries who wanted to know something about the background of the University.

They took some pictures that Cashen had in his slide lecture and excerpts from his "little blue book" and made script that connects the pictures together. Excerpts were credited to William Marques, and it was made into a poster that will stay there [at the Airport?] for a whole year. Cashen's current job [writing a book about Charles E. Bunnell] came about from various sources: from his lectures, from writing the Cashen's Corner, and from writing the brief history –article.

A woman's voice says that it is very timely. She and Cashen discuss Cashen's project and the sights along their way. [Break in the recording.]

From 08:39 onwards there is a phone conversation with a woman and her mother [Later identified as Cashen's daughter and wife]. Then Cashen is talking with her too. [End of the recording.]