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William Wood, Bill Cashen and Earl Beistline speak at the memorial service for Ben Atkinson held in Fairbanks, Alaska on October 30, 1966

Recording begins with the choir singing Ad summum.

Dr. Wood talked about Ben Atkinson. Ben Atkinson was a 1947 graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks and for the previous nine years the engineer and director of campus facilities and campus planning. Ben's thoughts and plans were valued. He was an intimate part of the work of the university. He met with the administrative council and was always able to bring up the realistic view.

Earl Beistline talked about Ben Atkinson and his contributions to the University of Alaska. He handled problems with a practical hand. He was director of facilities since April 1957. Many facilities were planned and completed during Ben's watch. He had vision, foresight and creative thinking. He had other plans on the drawing board. Ben had projections for additional higher education facilities throughout Alaska. He was a hard worker and a hard player. He was also a sympathetic man. He worked hard to fulfill his work responsibilities.

Bill Cashen talked about Ben's life. Ben was born in 1917 in Indiana. Ben helped to support his family during the Depression by trapping muskrats. He became an expert mechanic. Ben moved to Fairbanks in 1939. His first job was painting the Main School. He then worked for the Alaska Railroad. He was advised to enroll at the university. He was offered a cabin by Bunnell two miles north of the campus and was given a part-time job. He worked on the construction of Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. As an ROTC student he served during WWII. He returned to UAF and received his degree in civil engineering. He worked on the DEW line and was an independent consultant. In 1957 he became director of campus facilities.