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Bunnell Memorial Building dedication with Bill Cashen, Bill Egan and Ernest Patty at the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the summer of 1960

Series title: Bunnell Building Dedication tapes

Dean Cashen (?) talks about the history of the University of Alaska and Dr. Bunnell. A recording of Donald Morgan, one of the earliest students, is played. He shares remembrances of Dr. Bunnell. Another recording by Ethel Bailey is also played. A recording by Art Loftus is played and he talked about how he financed his way through college through the help of Dr. Bunnell. Dorothy Roth Loftus talked about being one of the original six students to register at the college in 1922. She talked about funding her college education and help from Dr. Bunnell. Photographs of the entire 1922 campus, the 1922 dedication ceremonies, 1946 campus, 1952 campus, 1957 campus and 1959 campus are described. The early students had classes that might consist of one student and one teacher. Earl Pilgrim was introduced.

Dr. Patty is introduced. He said one hundred years ago the site they are on was used by early men who used it for a campground and a viewpoint. Sternwheelers could later be seen from this promontory. On March 4, 1916 through the efforts of Delegate Wickersham maneuvered congress to authorize the establishment of the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines. There was strong opposition in Congress. Two months later Judge and Mrs. Wickersham, Hope Lumpkin, Harriet Hess, Andrew Nerland and J.H. Groves selected the spot for the establishment of the cornerstone. Other sites were considered in Fairbanks. He talked about the first well on campus. In 1917 the territorial legislature appropriated 60,000 for the construction of the first building. They didn't appropriate money for the operation of the university. The building was erected in 1918 and was boarded up for four years. He remembers coming to the campus in 1922. On September 13, 1922 they opened the school. Several hundred Fairbanks pioneers came out to the opening including the editor of the News-miner, W.F. Thompson. He predicted that someday there would a paved road between Fairbanks and the university. The college had money from the federal government through land-grant college act. He talked about the education of Dr. Bunnell. He served as a federal judge in Alaska. He served as president of the college for twenty-seven years. Dr. Patty talked about financing for the Bunnell Memorial Building and predicts it will still be in use in 2010.

Dean Cashen introduces Governor Egan.

Governor Egan said some of his speech has already been covered by Dr. Patty. He likes to think of the Bunnell Building as the prize jewel in the crown of buildings which in the last ten years have grown to adorn the crest of College Hill. It is altogether fitting that it will be known as Bunnell hall. He also talked about the choice of the site for the college. A formal cornerstone was poured several days after Mrs. Hess chose the site for the future college in 1915. He reads remarks about and by Dr. Bunnell. In 1935 the college became the University of Alaska. Governor Egan talked about the efforts in legislature to create and fund the college. Through Dr. Bunnell's efforts the institution was funded. It was during the lean years that Dr. Bunnell proved his worth. Governor Egan talked about more recent funding for the university. Dr. Bunnell served as president of the university until 1949.