

00-00-53

Donald Morgan, Ethel Bailey McMurry, Art Loftus, and Dorothy Roth Loftus talk about Dr. Charles Bunnell in 1960

Donald Morgan said he was one of the original students at the University of Alaska and closely associated with him. He was taught mining law by Dr. Bunnell. During their years of association he watched him build from a single building and an idea. Courage, determination and an iron will were essential ingredients of his character. He remembers him best for his infinite acts of kindness. When a student was low on funds a job would appear. If the laboratory or engineering department needed supplies funds would appear by magic to obtain the supplies. Dr. Bunnell kept up a correspondence with him and he feels proud to have the letters in his file. He has some small part of this great man to keep as a memory of him.

Ethel Bailey McMurry said it has been nearly thirty-eight years since she enrolled in the farthest-north college of which Dr. Bunnell was its first president. She feels honored to be one its first students and to have this opportunity to take part in the dedication ceremonies for the Bunnell Memorial Building. She felt proud to have had Dr. Bunnell as an English teacher in her freshmen year. She wished she could return to see all the changes on the campus since it first opened its doors. She will never forget her northland alma mater and will be proud that her name will go down in its college history.

Art Loftus talked about being fired from his job driving a tractor for the Road Commission. He decided to try college. He said of the original six students most of them had to mix work and school. Bunnell was always handy with his checkbook to help out his students. At one time he had two loans from the job at one time. He had very fond memories of the faculty who tried to teach him what they could. He talked about hunting in the Alaska Range and field trips. The college has had phenomenal growth which has made it a well-known university.

Dorothy Roth Loftus wanted to go Outside for school but did not have the money to go. So she climbed the hill to the college and became part of the first group of six students. Judge Bunnell had been a family friend for many years. Her father was a district attorney. It had been decided that she attend school for a half day and teach music lessons. Within a few months her mother had died and her father moved Outside. The music lessons provided her with a little money. They walked to save a few cents. She couldn't afford the school lunches. Judge Bunnell would give her a handful of lunch tickets. Judge Bunnell was like a father to the students. They thought he was cross and narrow-minded, but as a parent now she can relate. He liked to join them at sing alongs and sometimes brought his trombone. He was practically secretary to his secretaries, attended all the games, and was truly father to them all. It was a privilege to be at the birth of the university and especially to have known Judge Bunnell.