

## Distinguished Alumni

### After fixing them for 47 years, Cashman gets break

Rawlins orthopedic surgeon Jim Cashman flirted briefly with retirement in the late 1970s; but the people of southwest Wyoming had other plans for him.

Cashman didn't get to wrap up his practice until 1986, following 47 years of service to the state. Most of those years were spent in Rawlins and Rock Springs, though he also had a practice at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne. Although he tried to retire shortly after his work at Warren, continuing needs in Carbon and Sweetwater counties kept his waiting room full for several years.

A 1933 UW graduate, Cashman received his medical degree from Creighton University in 1938. Following an internship at St. Joseph Hospital in Phoenix, Cashman returned to his native Rawlins in 1940 and opened a practice.

Medicine was not Cashman's intended career when he entered UW in 1929 as a zoology/physiology major.

"I thought I might coach and teach history," he says. "But I got sidetracked." When brother Harry decided to attend Creighton Medical School following graduation from Wyoming, Cashman followed. Harry left; Jim stayed. He calls the move to medical school "practically a coincidental situation."

Cashman's Wyoming medical career took a detour in 1942, when he

joined the United States Navy. He was sent immediately to Pacific Theatre, Destroyer Division of Task Force 16 and 18. Stationed aboard the U.S.S. Cushing, Cashman participated in a battle near Santa Cruz Island and the Battle of Guadalcanal on Nov. 13, 1942; she was sunk and one-third of the personnel were either killed or wounded. Though injured by shrapnel, Cashman managed to help other injured sailors, action that earned him a Silver Star and a Purple Heart. According to the citation, Cashman "did distinguish himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity, with himself being wounded by enemy fire, did continue to care and assist with wounded personnel and that his caring and fortitude was an example to all other personnel who saw him."

Following the war, Cashman returned to Rawlins, where he served as Carbon County public health officer for 25 years and Memorial Hospital of Carbon County chief of staff on two separate occasions. He took time off for a residency in orthopedic surgery at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago from 1952-54, and returned to Carbon County.

While the processes were still new, Cashman used the first prosthesis for hip fractures at Rawlins and Rock Springs, as well as the first revision hip surgeries at both hospitals. He trained for techniques of internal fixation for fractures under the originators of the



Jim Cashman

process at Davos, Switzerland.

When Rock Springs had trouble finding an orthopedic surgeon in 1960, Cashman agreed to take appointments in that community one day a week. He kept that commitment for 15 years, seeing as many as 20 patients every Wednesday and performing surgeries. Often, he would not be able to make the two-hour return trip until late into the night. Despite the rigorous schedule, Cashman enjoyed maintaining that relationship with the people of Sweetwater County.

Cashman headed east to

Laramie County in 1977, to become chief civilian orthopedic surgeon for the new hospital at Warren AFB. In that position, Cashman organized all departments related to orthopedic surgery as well as surgical and operating room techniques. He received a Certificate of Commendation for this service.

#### Becoming a Cowboy

Cashman transferred to UW in 1929, following a year at Notre Dame University. He joined the Cowboy football team, lettering in freshman football and in two of his varsity years. He played guard under such coaches as John Rhodes and Dutch Witte.

Cashman was team captain for UW's 1933 homecoming game against Montana State University.

"We pushed them all over the doggone field," Cashman recalls, but Wyoming still lost to the northerners. Cashman did his part — he blocked a punt during the final seconds. But the "slowest man on the team" picked up the ball and failed to score before time ran out.

While at UW, Cashman participated in the Wyoming "W" Club, Theta Nu honorary pre-medical society and Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

His ties to the university include membership in the "300 Club," membership in the Cowboy Joe Club and life membership in the UW Alumni Association.

### McBride's UW service, dedication run deep

Bob McBride takes exception to any negative comments about his alma mater.

"If you want to get into a quick argument with Bob McBride, say something derogatory about the University of Wyoming," the retired Buffalo banker says. "They might not be perfect, but they're almost perfect."

McBride's dedication to UW extends far beyond his 1940 graduation. Over the years, he has served as president of the UW Alumni Association Board (1963-64) and as a member of the UW trustees (1967-75, including treasurer from 1972-74). He maintains those strong ties today, as a member of the Centennial Campaign National Board of Directors, the Cowboy Joe Club, the President's Council and the UW Foundation Board of Directors.

"I love the university," McBride says. "One of the greatest experiences of my life was coming to Laramie and coming to the University of Wyoming."

Those years were active. McBride, an economics major, was a member of Sigma Nu (serving as eminent commander as a senior), a member of the Associated Students of UW (ASUW) Student Senate as a senior and a cheerleader as a sopho-



Bob McBride

more. He also was a member of Phi Epsilon Phi and Iron Skull honoraries.

McBride married Marie Kennedy, BA '39, in 1939. He proudly adds, "Our three children, Robert K. McBride, Debbie Hunkins and Scott McBride, are all graduates of the University of Wyoming, too."

McBride's banking career didn't get started until 1946, when he

took a position as a bookkeeper for First National Bank in Buffalo. He worked for Wyoming Automotive Company after graduation, taking time off for military service in World War II. He returned to Wyoming Automotive in 1945 and worked there for a year.

McBride moved up the ranks at First National. After serving as bookkeeper for eight years, he took positions as a teller; vice president and loan officer; executive vice president and chairman of the board; and, finally, president. McBride retired in 1988. He remains a director of the bank today.

One of the nominators for the award said McBride's management ability and leadership, in great part, contributed to the growth of the First National Bank of Buffalo, from a \$3 million bank in 1946 to a \$45 million bank in 1988, while maintaining safety, soundness and stability.

#### Distinguished Military Career

McBride entered military service in 1942 as a second lieutenant in the 28th infantry division. He served at Wales and participated in the beach landings in France and the Battle of the Bulge, where he was captured and held as a prisoner of war.

McBride received the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Combat Infantry Badge for gallantry in action. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve until retirement as a lieutenant colonel.

In 1988, McBride and other veterans flew to Germany to participate in the reenactment of the Battle of the Bulge. While there, McBride and his colleagues were interviewed about their experiences.

#### Community Service

McBride's community involvement has included membership in the Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge, Congregational Church, City of Buffalo Park Board, Johnson County Museum Board, Wyoming Industrial Development Commission, Fort Phil Kearney-Bozeman Trail Association and Buffalo Chamber of Commerce and Buffalo YMCA Foundation.

Among the honors he has received are: Johnson County "Friend of 4-H" award, Wyoming State 4-H Foundation award for dedicated service, Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship, UW College of Commerce and Industry "outstanding business man" award, Wyoming Bankers' Association Award for Excellence and National 4-H Congress alumni award.