After fixing them for 47 years, Cashman gets break

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

Cashman didn't get to wrap up his practice until 1988, 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 P.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 1932 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 notCashman'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 in 1942. Cashman stayed. He calls the move to medical school "practically a conditioning 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. Cashing, Cashman participated in a battle near Santa Cruz Island and the Battle of Guadalcanal on Nov. 13, 1942; he 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 his body 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 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 1925-54, and returned to Carbon County.

While the processes were still new, Cashman used the first prostheses 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 originalists of his 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.

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

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

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

"We strposed them all over the doggone field," Cashman recalls, but Wyoming lost to the northerners, Cashman did his part — he blocked a punt during the final seconds. But the "sweatman on the team" picked up the ball and fumbled 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 "30 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 1970-74). 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 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 an eminence in a senior), a member of the Associated Students of UW (AUSW) Student Senate as a junior and a cheerleader as a sopho-