

Penland, C. William T.
Professor of Botany and Biology
Colorado College, 1922-1968
Tape R-10

- I. How did his interest in Botany develop?
 - A. All his life he had been an outdoors person.
 - B. At the University of Wyoming he wanted to study Forestry; however, no courses offered. Botany was the subject closest to his interests.
- II. Why did he come to CC?
 - A. When Penland attended Harvard, President Duniway came east to interview candidates for position in Biology department. Duniway interviewed Penland.
 - B. Penland had an old high school friend who attended CC. Friend had described the setting. (Pikes Peak and Colorado Springs)
- III. First impressions of CC.
 - A. While at Harvard he heard about incident at CC. Students took animals from museum and put them in trees.
 - B. He thought location of college was beautiful. Especially liked Palmer Hall and view of Pikes Peak.
 - C. At a reception for new faculty, Duniway apologized for low salaries. He said the mountains were part of salary. Penland received \$1800 a year. Increased to \$1900 after he received Ph.D.
 - D. Dust hung over town of Colorado Springs. Streets were not paved.
 - E. The campus was not totally sodded.
 - F. Bayless' watering system.
 1. Ditch water from north end of town used to "flood" certain sections of campus.
 2. Penland thought the flooded areas resembled rice paddies seen in Far East.
 - G. A large variety of trees planted around campus.
 1. Mostly linden trees.
 2. Drought killed tree branches. Bayless borrowed wagons to haul water for the trees.
- IV. Impressions of colleagues.
 - A. Dr. Duniway
 1. appearance of a scholar
 2. aplumb in Faculty meetings
 3. favorable impression
 - B. Dr. Gilmore
 1. He introduced Penland to campus. At lunch with Gilmore's family everyone passed dishes and sang opera songs.
 2. After war Penland had doubts about teaching at CC. Gilmore encourages him to stay.
 3. Gilmore always said Penland would some day get his own botany department.
 4. Used chalk to draw arteries on lab coat.
 5. Demanded careful note-taking from his students.
 6. Member of "water-dog" club. Had to swallow water-dog to be initiated. Biology students collected water-dogs from ponds and sold them. Revenues helped them pay for their tuition. Tank in Biology department contained water-dogs.
- V. Biology Department
 - A. During early years of Penland's career at CC, Biology covered botany and zoology.
 - B. Penland taught bacteriology and mammalian anatomy for several years.
 - C. Department had strong pre-med directions. The men before Gilmore set this precedent.

- D. Botany side of department
1. Penland's office, botany lab and classroom occupied 2nd floor of Palmer Hall.
 2. Penland's office was filled with herbarium material.
 3. The lab contained one large table for 8 students. Shortage of microscopes necessitated several lab sections.
 4. "Clock Room" on first floor used for lectures. Had been Slocum's office.
- E. College did not have green house. Got plants from city greenhouse when needed.
- F. In 1930's Botany became popular. Biggest classes right after World War II. (45 students)
- G. Separation of Zoology and Botany came after Robert Stabler's arrival.
1. Some people objected to split of department.
 2. Penland noted that five faculty members listed as botanists over the years.
 - a. Leroy Schanz - became head of U. of Illinois
 - b. William Court - went to John Hopkins
 3. Gilmore advised students who planned to attend graduate school to take introductory course in botany.

IV. Alpine Laboratories of Carnegie Institution

- A. For six summers Penland assisted.
- B. Dr. Frederick E. Clements built the labs to study the relationship of plants to the environment. He was there for 30 years. Previously at Nebraska Univer. later in Minnesota.
- C. Located three miles up on Cog Railway. Pikes Peak at Minehaha on the Ruxton.
- D. Nice lab. 2-3 houses for personnel.
- E. They transplanted various plants to gardens at Windy Point and lab.
- F. 6-10 students usually involved.
- G. As a result of Penland's participation, tundra vegetation became one of the professor's specialties.

V. Other Activities

- A. Mountaineering
 1. Penland collected specimens for Colorado Mountain Club
 2. He climbed 42 of 54 Peaks over 14,000 feet.
- B. Hiking Club
 1. On Saturdays went with Albright's group
 2. Known as Saturday Knights.
- C. Round Table Club
 1. 20 members. Monthly meetings to discuss scholar papers.
 2. In beginning held over dessert. Then group decided to have dinner meetings
 3. In 1925 Penland joined
 4. President and Dean usually members
 5. Present members: Bradley, Worner, Wright, Boyce, Mertz, Krutzke.
 6. Past members: Gordon Parker - head of Forestry, one of founders. Charlie Sisam. Albert Daehler, Drucher, head of Business Administration and Banking, Justice William Jackson.
- D. Close associates on Faculty
 1. Albright - taught astronomy. Penland audited his course
 2. Archer Hulbert - member of bridge club known as "Dirty Deuces" Penland remembers sharing blanket with Hulbert at football game.
 3. Mr. Rose - English Department. Old Massachusetts gentleman. Befriended many students.
- E. Flower hunting expeditions
 1. with Dr. John Hartwell.
 2. They discovered new plant on Hoosier Pass. Plant was remnant of ice age ; "waifs"
 3. They extended ranges of plants which had not been recorded before.

VIII. Forestry School

- A. Held 30,000 acres near Woodland Park.
- B. Students lived there during summer.
- C. Discontinued in early 1930's.

IX. Personal Interests

- A. Plants. Gardens during his retirement years
- B. Avid reader.
- C. Philosophy of teaching: role of plants in ecology, need to preserve environment, natural sciences study vital in coming years.
- D. "Deserts on the March" - book that impressed him.

X. Comments on 46 years at CC

- A. Liked work so well he almost felt ashamed to take salary for it
- B. Took students on many field trips
 - 1. Mushroom farm - north of Denver, to study fungi
 - 2. Coors brewery - to study yeast plant
 - 3. Mt. Culter
 - 4. summer school : trip to Jones Park. Had to transport sick girl home on their backs.
 - 5. In 1935 took trip as far as Texas and Arizona.
- C. Financial difficulties in 1930's
 - 1. During depression entire faculty took cut in salary
- D. Penland was drafted in 1942. At time he was a bachelor.

Other Recollections Not on the Tape

- 1. Mr. Bayless plowed snow with "tiger Horse", who pulled plow throughout campus.
- 2. Parades and bonfires before athletic events.
- 3. All college picnics to the Garden of Gods, Bruin Inn.