

Board of Regents
May 17, 1948

In Memoriam
Orville Deville Cochran

The passing of O.D. Cochran on the 30th of January, 1948 at his home in Nome, Alaska, is the occasion of the following data concerning him and his residence in Alaska. "O.D." as he was commonly known was born at Virgil City, Missouri, on the 10th day of March, 1871. The initials O.D. stand for Orville Deville.

After completing his academic education at Parsons, Kansas, and taking his law work in Portland, Oregon, he came to Nome in July, 1900, pioneer days, and engaging in the practice of law continued his profession until his death.

He was the last of the long list of lawyers who swept into Nome with the gold rush in course of time departed on the outgoing tide of prosperity leaving as guardian of justice profession of the Seward Peninsula.

Of service to the people of the Northland other than in his capacity as a lawyer, O.D. had served as City Attorney and Mayor of Nome he was a member of the House Territorial Legislature, 5th regular session, 1921, and a member of the Senate at the 13th to 18th inclusive, regular sessions and special session of 1946.

Also, he served as a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska from March 9, 1939, until the date of his death having been reappointed for an eight-year term beginning in February, 1947.

He was a Past Grand resident of the Pioneers of Alaska and was always an active member in this organization.

The span of life, over forty-seven years in Alaska, allotted to his pioneer Alaskan, is not to be measured in terms of years alone. Accomplishments and events made his years worth living. A champion of what he believed to be a correction interpretation of events he was always on the firing line for the people as well as for those he represented in courts of justice. His policy was a job well done.

To those of his family who survive him the Board of Regents express its deepest sympathy.