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Dedication of Elmer E. Rasmuson Library at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska on May 3, 1970 with William O'Neill, Ted Ryberg, Terence Armstrong and William Wood

Bill Cashen welcomes everyone to the dedication of the Elmer E. Rasmuson Library. Dennis Doubtam who is president elect of the student body will speak instead of William Howe. A short prayer is said by Rev. David W. Croft. The president of the board of regents, Mr. O'Neal speaks. He said this is the fourth time that there has been a different location for the library. It had been at Old Main from 1922-1935, it was located above the gymnasium from 1935-1960 and then it was moved to one wing of the Bunnell building from 1960 until the present day. The library has increased from 2300 to 220,000 volumes. There has never been enough space and the library has always been inadequate for the size of the university until now. An addition to the library has already been planned. He hopes the students and faculty make good use of the library. [Difficult to hear new speaker] Ted Ryberg [?] said he is sure that the students will make fine use of the new library. He said it is an honor for him to accept the building on behalf of the faculty, researchers and library staff. He talked about the library having non book resources, too. The library is the heart of the university. He talked about an article by John Mailer who wrote about the history of the library and the move to the Bunnell Building. At one point Mrs. Patty was the cataloger for the library and in general supervised the library. The speaker talks about the new library. It is about seven to eight times larger in floor area than the old library in the Bunnell Building. It has a design capacity for more than 400,000 volumes. There are 3,000 periodical subscriptions, a large record collection, rare books, government documents, and a manuscript collection of primary resources. He described the physical building and its capacity. He talked about the three responsibilities: providing the building, making optimum use of the facility, and making a dynamic library including a dynamic collection and a dynamic level service. He talked about the good use of a library and intellectual freedom. He talked about the appropriateness of naming the library after Elmer Rasmuson. Elmer Rasmuson has been a support for the library. He thanked the faculty and staff for making the dream of the library come true.

Unidentified person introduces the main speaker, Terrence Edward Armstrong. Terrence Armstrong will talk about the library for the north. He said a library is a repository of human knowledge. A library must be at the center of any institution of higher learning. When he was on the campus in 1954 he used the library. It was already a serviceable collection. The progress in the last sixteen years is striking. He talked about having an open stack policy and compared it with other well-known libraries. He talked about micrographic form and how inevitable it is. Growth rate in libraries has been a concern. He talks about automated retrieval systems and the user in the future. He talked about this library being the American library for the north. There will always be a special interest of the arctic and subarctic at this university and sees the need for relevant literature. He talked about the idea of a northern studies course being proposed at the

university. He comments on the Skinner collection and the archives collection and the collection of material from other regions. There is a small collection of northern libraries and he is certain that they will be happy to coordinate. He added his congratulations on the new library. He said the library is poised to become one of the major northern collections in the world and that is the direction he hopes will be taken.

William Wood greets the audience. He is honored to be dedicating the new library to Elmer E. Rasmuson. He talked briefly about Elmer's upbringing in the territory of Alaska. Elmer Rasmuson has served on the University of Alaska Board of Regents for two decades including in the office of president. William Wood said the idea of an adequate library has been brought up for many years and supported by the Board of Regents including Elmer Rasmuson. It has been a well-planned library. Members of the planning groups included George Adams, Howard Cutler, and Earl Beistline. Kenneth Ray was instrumental for raising money for the library. Ted Ryberg put together the first concept for matching grants. A committee of the board of regents worked with architects and consultants: Mr. William O'Neal and Robert McFarlin. The planning started in 1961 after the discussion started in 1960. The board determined it was an absolute necessity for the future. In 1964 they had the first statement. In 1964 it was placed before the legislature just ten days before the earthquake. The project was delayed. In 1966 it was presented again and succeeded in the bond election. They began clearing the site including removing the old power plant. In 1967 during the flood it almost wiped them out. There have been some major events before this project was concluded. He hopes people reflect on the history of this project that took a decade to complete. He is proud of the opportunity to place the name of Elmer E. Rasmuson on the building. He said without his effort there wouldn't be a building today. May 3rd is a historic day in Alaska. It is the day that the Territorial legislature approved that founded the University of Alaska. He read a telegram of congratulations from Dr. Moore.

Mrs. Rasmuson unveiled the official plaque which will be placed at the entrance of the library. Mary Kay Hughes will assist her. Bill Cashen reads the plaque.

Unidentified person said since he has been associated with the university he has been at the dedication of every building on the campus. He feels that libraries have the same inspirational qualities to them that churches have. He is grateful to the first library he used in Seward. He talked about the excellent libraries in the state. He talked about the library when it was located above the gym. He is honored to have his name associated with the library. He believes it must be a catalyst for other libraries and support community and community college libraries throughout the state.