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ORAL HISTORY

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I, William J. Loyens, of
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transfer to the University of Alaska Rasmuson Library my
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William J. Loyens
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want to see the text
prior to printing.
W.J.L.*

ORAL HISTORY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: William John LOYENS
(first) (middle) (last)

(NICKNAME:) LOM (MAIDEN NAME:) _____

MAILING ADDRESS: 2890 M. KOBOK AVE. FBKS AK 99709
(city/state/zip)

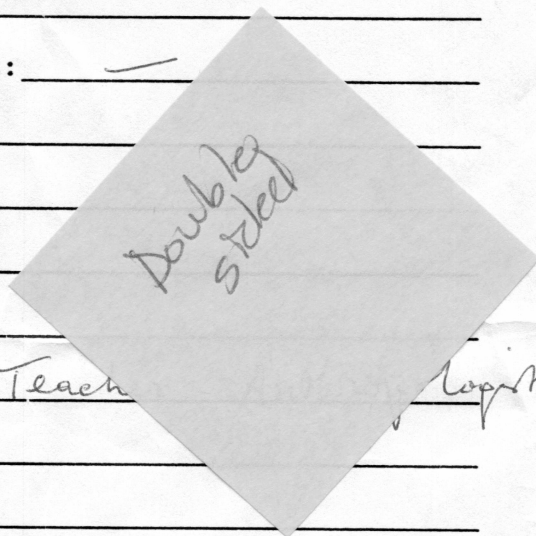
DATE OF BIRTH: 12-22-26 BIRTHPLACE VLIJTINGEN, LIMBURG
(city/state)

SPOUSE: _____

MARRIAGE DATE: _____ PLACE: _____

CHILDREN: _____

ALASKAN RESIDENCY: 1953 on



OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: Priest - Teacher Logist

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT IN RELATION TO ORAL HISTORY:

Talked about teaching in Holy Cross, how cultures
have changed. Training teachers, health professionals, etc
to work with native people in their own communities

INTERVIEWER: Margaret Van Cleve

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 3/14/91 TAPE NUMBER: 309

(over)

Father William J. Loyens, S. J.

Like his predecessors in the Jesuit order of the Roman Catholic Church, Father William Loyens began his work in Alaska in the lower Yukon River region. In 1953 he was asked by the Jesuits to start a high school in Holy Cross, the first high school in history to be located along the banks of the Yukon River. With an enrollment of ten students that first year, Father Loyens taught five different subjects.

Because of rapid cultural change among native people, the Jesuit Superior recognized the need for a priest to study native cultures. Father Loyens was asked to obtain his doctorate in anthropology. He received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1966. He taught anthropology at the University of Alaska, gave seminars to professionals as well as volunteers, and served as a consultant for agencies working directly with or for the native people.

"If each one of us avoids one cultural mistake, one faux pas this year, I consider that worth my time," said Father Loyens to a class of Jesuit volunteers.

Although he served the church as Jesuit Superior of the Oregon Province and currently as pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Fairbanks, Father Loyens has spent most of his time teaching. As an anthropologist he "readily and peacefully accepts evolution as a fact of life," a concept compatible with the teachings from the Bible.