



UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

The Elmer E. Rasmuson Library
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-1005

ORAL HISTORY

GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, HELEN L. ATKINSON, of
name

P.O. 80805,
street or P.O. box number

FAIRBANKS, AK, 99708,
city state zip

transfer to the University of Alaska Rasmuson Library my
title, interest, and copyright to the interviews recorded
with me on MARCH 14th, 1991,
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to be used for scholarly purposes.

Helen L. Atkinson
signature

3/14/91
date

H91-14

ORAL HISTORY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: Helen Ruth Atkinson
(first) (middle) (last)

(NICKNAME:) _____ (MAIDEN NAME:) Linck

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 80805 , Fairbanks AK 99708
(city/state/zip)

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ BIRTHPLACE _____
(city/state)

SPOUSE: Conrad Frank

MARRIAGE DATE: _____ /75 PLACE: _____

CHILDREN: Phyllis Tate; Gayle McDonald; Averiel Rideau; Ben J. Atkinson.
(Stepchildren: Randall Frank, Andrea Gelvin, Mary Ehrlander, Steve Frank)

ALASKAN RESIDENCY: The L.E. Linck family came to Fairbanks in 1928.
Helen's father worked for the FE Company.

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: Helen was the first woman to graduate from the
University of Alaska's civil engineering program, 1936. She worked as an engineer,
an airplane pre-flight inspector, right-of-way engineer, city engineer and writer.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT IN RELATION TO ORAL HISTORY:
Helen shares her recollections of student life, the campus, faculty
and course work at the University of Alaska, 1931-36; working for Boeing
in Washington state during World War II; raising her young family in
Sitka and at Lake Minchumina; working as Fairbanks city engineer in the
early 1950s; serving on the UA Board of Regents, 1954-63; and
general observations about early times in Fairbanks and Alaska.

INTERVIEWER: Susan Fisher

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 3/14/91 TAPE NUMBER: 308

Helen Atkinson tape

University of Alaska:

1931-36

Dr. Charles Bunnell
Dr. Patty
Otto Geist
Ivar Skarland
Earl Beistline
Woody Johansen
Joe Walsh
Dick Date
Raina Hoodlah
Lola Tilly
Jimmy Johnson
Larry Palmer
Bill Cashen

Main Building
Girls' Dormitory
Campus dining facility

Student life
Course work --- engineering
Student assemblies
Social activities --- dances
Yaks
Musk oxen
Experimental farm
Ice rink
Rifle Range
Gymnasium

1955-mid '60s

Board of Regents
Elmer Rasmuson
Les Nerland
Mike Walsh
Lucy Cuddy
Bill O'Neill
Ben Atkinson

Bunnell Building
Duckering Building
Palmer fur farm
old and new Powerplants

Sitka - Biorka Island, 1946-51

Sheldon Jackson College
Coast Guard

H91-14

Civil Aeronautics Authority
High tides
Alaska Native hospital
Pioneers Home

Lake Minchumina, 1951

Collins family
Civil Aeronautics Authority

World War II

Boeing Aircraft Co., Seattle and Renton
Women workers
Working conditions
B-29s
B-17s
XC-97 experimental planes
WASPS

City of Fairbanks, early 1950s

Sewer and water lines
Frozen pipes
"Flushing" lines

Fairbanks, general topics:

U.S. Mining and Smelting Co. (FE Company)
FE Company housing
Railroad
Paul Greimman's bus service
Billy Root, musician
Dances --- social events