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ORAL HISTORY

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I, Mable R. Rasmussen, of
name

1322 Conrad,
street or P.O. box number

Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701,
city state zip

transfer to the University of Alaska Rasmuson Library my
title, interest, and copyright to the interviews recorded
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to be used for scholarly purposes.

Mable R Rasmussen
signature

3/11/91
date

ORAL HISTORY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: Mable R. Rasmussen
(first) (middle) (last)

(NICKNAME:) _____ (MAIDEN NAME:) _____

MAILING ADDRESS: 1322 Conrad Fairbanks, AK 99701
(city/state/zip)

DATE OF BIRTH: Aug 1908 BIRTHPLACE Michigan
(city/state)

SPOUSE: Harry ^{both} from Superior, Wisconsin

MARRIAGE DATE: _____ PLACE: _____

CHILDREN: _____

has a great-great grandchild

ALASKAN RESIDENCY: 1951

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: prison minister - founder of
husband - Hospitality House

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT IN RELATION TO ORAL HISTORY:

INTERVIEWER: Margaret Van Cleve

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 3/11/91 TAPE NUMBER: 306

Mable Rasmussen

Upon moving to Fairbanks in 1951, Mable Rasmussen and her husband Harry fell in love with both the land and its people. They recognized a need for a facility here to care for young native girls from the villages. The Rasmussens' church, First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks, supported missionary work in the Arctic. They convinced the church that such work could be carried out closer to home. Thus, Hospitality House came into being by 1957.

Financial help from the national synod of the Presbyterian Church as well as from the local community and the state has allowed Hospitality House to expand its facility to accommodate growing numbers and programs. Volunteer agencies as well as individuals have also played an important role. Mrs. Rasmussen also reminisced about the 1967 flood - of hardships sprinkled with some humor as well.

The Rasmussens retired from Hospitality House in 1974 about a year prior to Harry's death. The House is now known as "R" House.

Quite by accident, Mrs. Rasmussen became involved in the prison ministry. Because visiting with the prisoners required that one possess a "card," she eventually became a minister in order to make regular visitations. She became assistant chaplain and then chaplain when Major Bowen of the Salvation Army left. Some of the children of her girls have been among those of her prison ministry. Knowing their mothers gives Rev. Rasmussen a special "In" for developing a trusting relationship.