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ORAL HISTORY
GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

W^o, Henry N. & Patricia L. Gettlinger, of
name
1170 Chevalier Springs Road, Fairbanks, Alaska,
mailing address city state
99712, transfer to the University of Alaska Rasmuson Library
zip

^{our} my title, interest, and copyright to the interviews recorded with

me on May 21, 1991, to be used for
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scholarly purposes.

Patricia L. Gettlinger

Henry N. Gettlinger
signature

May 21, 1991
date

Henry and Pat Gettinger

Henry Gettinger is quick to point out that he hasn't seen anyone homestead or farm successfully in Fairbanks without a willing wife. A farm couple faces hardships along the way and must work through them together.

"You don't farm for the money, You farm because you like it," Pat is quick to add.

Attending the the University of Alaska on a GI Bill just after the second World War, Henry studied agriculture with the intention of teaching college later. Pat worked in the comptroller's office next to Dr. Bunnell's office in the Eielson Building.

Friends encouraged the Gettingers to homestead. They had met the farming community through Henry's associations as a student and later as manager of the Farm Co-op, people such as Joe Lawlor, the Creamers, the Stimples, and Paul Elbert. As a veteran, Henry could use two years of service to substitute for two of the three years required to gain title to their land on the Chena Hot Springs Road.

Later, the Gettingers bought neighbors John and Edith Holm's homestead as additional acreage for their potato farm. Much of the early operation was labor intensive. Henry estimates that over 2000 people have worked on the farm.

In 1969, the Gettingers switched to a mechanical harvester. When the trucks parked at night with the harvested load of potatoes, the day was over.

Both Henry and Pat agree that farming has given them a good life. Their son and four daughters all live in the Fairbanks area and the 13 grandchildren come to visit their grandparents at home on the farm.

ORAL HISTORY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: Henry Patricia N L Gettinger
(first) (middle) (last)

(NICKNAME:) Pat (MAIDEN NAME:) Douglass

MAILING ADDRESS: 1170 Chenahot Springs Rd, Fairbanks AK 99712
10-23-23 (city/state/zip)

DATE OF BIRTH: 5-4-27 BIRTHPLACE: Sullivan County, TN
Los Angeles, CA (city/state)

SPOUSE: Henry N. Gettinger

MARRIAGE DATE: 9-1-49 PLACE: Fairbanks AK

CHILDREN: Dennis, Kathy, Sandu, Shari, Tami

ALASKAN RESIDENCY: 44 yrs.
49 1/2 yrs.

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: Farmer

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT IN RELATION TO ORAL HISTORY:

INTERVIEWER: M Van Cleve

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 5/21/91 TAPE NUMBER: # 330