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ORAL HISTORY
GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, REV. LEROY PARHAM & MRS MAZIE PARHAM, of
name

1850 PARHAM-McCORMICK RD., NO. POLE, AK,
mailing address city state

99705, transfer to the University of Alaska Rasmuson Library
zip

my title, interest, and copyright to the interviews recorded with

me on MAY 16, 1991, to be used for
month/day yr

scholarly purposes.

Mazie O. Parham Missionary
signature

Reverend Leroy Parham Pastor
date
of Lily of the Valley C.S.D.I.C.
May 16th 1991

ORAL HISTORY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: LeRoy Parham
(first) (middle) (last)

(NICKNAME:) _____ (MAIDEN NAME:) _____

MAILING ADDRESS: 1859 Parham-McCormick Road, North Pole AK 99705
(city/state/zip)

DATE OF BIRTH: 11/27/14 BIRTHPLACE Hollow Springs, Arkansas
(city/state)

SPOUSE: Mazie Olympia Harrison Parham

MARRIAGE DATE: 1932 PLACE: Bearden, Arkansas

CHILDREN: Shirley Ruth Parham Watson, Fairbanks;
Sandra Parham, Anchorage; Chris Parham Hayes, Fairbanks.

ALASKAN RESIDENCY: Rev. Parham came from Stockton, Calif. in 1951, engaged
in construction work; Mrs. Parham and their daughters arrived in Fairbanks a few months
later.

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: The Rev. Parham operated a grocery store in
Stockton, Calif.; worked out of Carpenters Union Local 1243 for many years;
did janitorial work, drove truck, homesteaded; pastor of the Lily of the Valley Church of
God in Christ.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT IN RELATION TO ORAL HISTORY:
The Parhams describe the hardships and joys of homesteading a 160-acre
tract near North Pole, beginning around 1957; wild game, crops, animals,
homestead lifestyle, schooling for their daughters and the 1967 flood.
The Rev. Parham describes work opportunities in construction (carpentry)
in Fairbanks, his call to preach in Kotzebue in 1955 and decision to
be a minister, and the Parhams talk about their street ministry work on
Second Avenue and the building of and growth of the Lily of the Valley Church of God in Christ.

INTERVIEWER: Susan Fisher

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 5/16/91 TAPE NUMBER: 328

Other sources: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner 2/24/91 "Homesteaders come a long way"
article & photo

ORAL HISTORY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: Mazie Olympia Parham
(first) (middle) (last)

(NICKNAME:) _____ (MAIDEN NAME:) Harrison

MAILING ADDRESS: 1859 Parham-McCormick Road, North Pole AK 99705
(city/state/zip)

DATE OF BIRTH: 3/26/18 BIRTHPLACE Pine Grove, Arkansas
(city/state)

SPOUSE: The Rev. LeRoy Parham

MARRIAGE DATE: 1932 PLACE: Bearden, Arkansas

CHILDREN: Shirley Ruth Parham Watson, Fairbanks;
Sandra Parham, Anchorage; Chris Parham Hayes, Fairbanks.

ALASKAN RESIDENCY: Rev. Parham came from Stockton, Calif. in 1951, engaged
in construction work; Mrs. Parham and their daughters arrived in Fairbanks a few months
later.

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: Assisted in work at Stockton, Calif. grocery
store; homesteaded in North Pole area since 1957; assisted in the
Rev. Parham's ministry.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT IN RELATION TO ORAL HISTORY:

The Parhams describe the hardships and joys of homesteading a 160-acre
tract near North Pole, beginning around 1957; wild game, crops, animals,
homestead lifestyle, schooling for their daughters and the 1967 flood.

The Rev. Parham describes work opportunities in construction (carpentry)
in Fairbanks, his call to preach in Kotzebue in 1955 and decision to be
a minister, and the Parhams talk about their street ministry work on

Second Avenue and the building of and growth of the Lily of the Valley Church of God in Christ

INTERVIEWER: Susan Fisher

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LEROY AND MAZIE PARHAM TAPE/ key words

** Spellings not confirmed

① Stockton, Calif., 1951

Grocery store

Lure of work and pay in Alaska

Travel to Fairbanks: description of flight

Weeks Field

② Construction work---1950s

③ Built house on 21st Avenue (Wagon Road, wooded area)

Kerosene lights

Carpenters Union Local 1243

Camping in tents

Homesteading

Smiley Ashman** (auto dealer or salesman)

Big Delta

Moose Creek area

North Pole homesteading

Parham homestead

160 acres

Bears

School bus --- Main School

Otis McCormick family (homestead)

Golden Valley power

Crops and animals

Janitorial work: Polaris Hotel, Northward Building

Homesteading (continued):

Unheated panel truck transportation to Fairbanks

Game (rabbits, spruce hens, grouse)

Badger Road store (Mr. Polk)

Game sausage

Using underground permafrost for food storage

North Pole

Cunningham general store

Millers' Santa Claus House

Plack Road

Hauled water (Fox springs)

Wrecking yard, 6 Mile Badger Road

Flood---1967

Warnings

Helicopter and boat rescue

Hunter School emergency shelter

Dwindling food supply

Kotzebue (circa 1955)

White Alice construction
Call to preach
Description of Eskimo village
Decision to become minister

Lily of the Valley Church of God in Christ
Construction, 1971, at 2316 Barnette Street

Ministry

Preaching on Second Avenue, three-four years
Borrowed electricity from pool hall for speakers
Canadian participants (musicians)
Ministry at jail and hospital

Churches

First Church of Lord and Christ
Methodist Church
Baptist Church
Assemblies of God Church

Mount McKinley Mutual Savings Bank (church loan)

Growth of Lily of Valley Church