

## ORAL HISTORY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

NAME: John Sterling - Holm  
 (first) (middle) (last)

(NICKNAME: ) \_\_\_\_\_ (MAIDEN NAME: ) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 71196, Fairbanks AK 99707  
 (city/state/zip)

DATE OF BIRTH: 8/13/20 BIRTHPLACE Roseau, Minnesota  
 (city/state)

SPOUSE: Edith Transtrom Holm

MARRIAGE DATE: 6/10/41 PLACE: Glendale, California

CHILDREN: Stuart Holm (1944-1982); James Holm (born 1945)

ALASKAN RESIDENCY: John and Edith Holm relocated from Los Angeles,  
driving the Alaska Highway and arriving in Fairbanks July 12, 1946.

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: Horticulturalist, opened first commercial  
nursery in Alaska, homesteader, legislator.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT IN RELATION TO ORAL HISTORY:

John Holm offers details about the opportunities, hardships and rewards  
of homesteading in the late 1940s, The Holmeses homesteaded land along  
what became Chena Hot Springs Road. He also describes working as a  
carpenter at Ladd Field in post-WWII; the severe cold weather in January 1947  
and the blizzard of 1948; politics and service in the Legislature;  
controversy over the forming of borough governments; state acquisition  
of the Creamer's Field property; and his success in breeding hardy tomatoes.

INTERVIEWER: Susan E. Fisher

DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 12, 1991 TAPE NUMBER: 342