REFERENCE CODE: AkAMH

REPOSITORY NAME:
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Guide prepared by: Heather McClain, Archivist

TITLE: Gordon Romriell Collection

COLLECTION NUMBER: B2021.005

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Dates: 1929- circa 1965

Extent: 1 box

Language and Scripts: The collection is in English.

Name of creator(s): Shell Oil Company and Empress Grocery

Administrative/Biographical History:
Gordon Romriell was gifted the black-and-white photos from Shell Oil Company after working on the rigs for offshore exploration in Cook Inlet. Shell drilled the first offshore oil field in Alaska, the Middle Ground Shoal No. 1 discovery well in 1963. In 1964, Shell installed a permanent offshore drilling and production structure in Middle Shoal Ground in Cook Inlet, the first of sixteen offshore platforms, and began drilling in 1965.

The two receipt books were found in a downtown Anchorage building during renovations according to the donor. The Empress Grocery was in Anchorage and operated approximately from 1924 to 1949 at 803 4th Avenue.

Scope and Content Description:
The collection consists of 5 black-and-white photographs and two receipt books collected by Gordon Romriell. The prints are undated but stamped as property of Shell Oil Company. The receipt books are carbon copies of receipts issued to customers of Empress Grocery in Anchorage, from five days in September of 1929. Several of the names also have towns
associated with them; presumably, those without these addresses are Anchorage residents. See Detailed Description of Collection below for a listing of dates and customers’ names. Most names are written legibly; alternate spellings are included when the writing is not clear.

Arrangement: Arranged by format and dates when known.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS AND USE

Restrictions on Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Original items in good condition.

Technical Access: No special equipment is needed to access the materials.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:
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Preferred Citation:
Gordon Romriell Collection, Anchorage Museum, B2021.005

ADMINISTRATIIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition and Appraisal Information
Donated by Gordon Romriell in September 2021.

RELATED MATERIALS
B1990.014
B2015.030

SUBJECTS
Empress Grocery (Anchorage, Alaska)
Business – Alaska – Anchorage
Grocery trade – Alaska – Anchorage
Oil fields – Alaska – Cook Inlet
Petroleum industry and trade – Alaska – Cook Inlet
Anchorage (Alaska) – Economic conditions

(Updated as of October 8, 2021)
Detailed Description of the Collection

B1/F1
Black-and-white photographs
.1 - HMM122-4 [rig laying pipeline in Cook Inlet. Name on side reads, “Foss,” likely Foss Maritime which transported high-risk cargoes and rigs for Shell in Alaska. One ship at left next to the rig. Oil rig and mountains in the background. Circa 1965]
.4 – HMM122-50 [aerial of rig laying pipeline in Cook Inlet. Circa 1965]
.5 - HMM122-61 [aerial of oil rig in Cook Inlet. Possibly Kenai Peninsula in the background with mountain. Circa 1965]

B1/F2
Ephemera

September 3, 1929
Mrs. Diamond
Mrs. W.H. Cannon
Cash
Mrs. O. Donnel
Charles W. Smith
Mrs. W.W. Wilson
Mrs. A.J. Hewitt
Vic Johnson
Mrs. McGibney
Mrs. Sherwood
Union Laundry
Mrs. Rady
Mrs. Dr. Prince
Mrs. Fitzpatrick
Ecklund
Mrs. Landstrom
A Nelson
Mrs. G. Oberg
H.L. Doub
Frank Lawson
Mrs. Mulcahy

(Updated as of October 8, 2021)
Casey McDannel
William Lawrence
Ed. Hayes
Mrs. Elms
Mrs. J.C. Price
Mrs. Metzdorf
Mrs. R.R. Brown
W. J. Bondream?
Mrs. Deckscot
B.E. Irwin
Mrs. Lickwold
Mrs. Maurice
A Collins
A.C. O’Neal
Mrs. A.J. Hewitt
Ed. Hayes
Mrs. Gaikama
J.H. Conway / F.H. Conway
Mrs. Schultz

**September 4, 1929**
Miss Palirm?
Cavanaugh
Evan Jones
R.G. Simmon
Ed Olsen
Jenny Seigman
J.S. Simonson

**B1/F3**

**September 28, 1929**
Lebhertz?
R.V. Crocker
Mrs. Conway
Jack Wikler
Mrs. Hartley
Allensbough /Allenbaugh
Ghotwell and Balf?
Bilteir?
Fred Carlquish?
September 29, 1929
A Collins
Evan Jones
Mrs. Cannon
Elliott
Ed. Hays / Hayes
Frank Lawson
Parson Holt
Frisco Café
Cavanaugh
Al Jones
Mrs. Sohwitz?
A.J. Windler / Wendler
Worchester?
Mrs. Hortiz
Marge’s Café?
East Side Dairy
P.J. Keeley
? Johnston
Mrs. LeCoump
? O’Neal
O.J. Gill
Mrs. Makle
Dr. Prince
Mrs. M. Watson
Casey McDaniel
J.C. Knapp
Parson’s Hotel
A Bowman
Parson’s Hotel
Mrs. Merrill

September 30, 1929
Nevada Hotel
Borges
H. Libby
Mrs. Amundsen
John Ouskola, Eklutna

Guide written: October 8, 2021