

**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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

## **ADMINISTRATIVE 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

## 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]

.2 - HMM122-5 [aerial of 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. Three ships in the foreground. Circa 1965]

.3 – HMM122-6 [aerial of 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. Three ships in the foreground. Barge and land 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**

Receipt book. Empress Grocery, dated September 3, 1929 to September 4, 1929.

#### **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

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 Palirsm?  
Cavanaugh  
Evan Jones  
R.G. Simmon  
Ed Olsen  
Jenny Seigman  
J.S. Simonson

**B1/F3**

-Receipt book. Unnamed, dated September 28, 1929 to September 30, 1929.

**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  
Worcester?  
Mrs. Hortliz  
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