

**Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections**

Guide to Collection

**Merrell, Theodore R.**

**Theodore R. Merrell Photograph Collection,  
1969 DDT Arctic Survey**

**PCA 490**

1 Box  
Report  
Map  
2 8x10 color portraits  
42 contact prints  
42 8x10 b&w photographic prints  
150 color slides, binder

Processed by: Anastasia Tarmann, Sept. 2008  
Revised by: Anastasia Tarmann, July 2015  
Revised by: Jacki Swearingen, Apr. 2016

**ACQUISITION:** Donated by Theodore (Ted) R. Merrell to the Alaska State Library Historical Collections and accessioned August, 2008. Accession number: 2008-022.

**ACCESS:** Unrestricted

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to publish material from the collection must be discussed with the Librarian. Photocopying does not constitute permission to publish.

**PROCESSING:** Original chronological order maintained. Contact prints and photo negatives arrived in Mylar back to front with typed labels on verso of contact prints and loose labels enclosed for each of the negatives. Negatives placed in Mylar and housed in sleeves with Ted Merrell's typed labels, and numbered in chronological order separate from the original identification numbers (Film pack numbers?) given to each item by Ted. Photographic prints arrived with labels in a different order than the contacts and negatives; they were re-ordered to match to make cross-referencing easier. The prints

and negatives were numbered chronologically in accordance with label sequence and the chronology provided by Theodore Merrell in his Report of Travel. Photographic prints were scanned, then placed in mylar with their labels and matching contact prints, and placed in an archival folder. Inventory and scope notes are based on descriptions provided by Ted Merrell. He also provided supplemental travel notes for further explanation. The inventories have two numbering systems: the first numeral is the chronological order of the images by date, and the second is the original film identifier number. The color slides and black and white photographs complement one another, although the slides were added to the collection November 14, 2008. Theodore Merrell explained that he alternately used two different cameras to document the trip (he shot from whichever camera had film). The slides were shot with a 4x5 graphic speed camera and the b&w photos were shot with a 35mm camera. The slides and photos complement each other. They were kept in the original binder in archival sleeves. All notes supplied by Theodore Merrell.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

Theodore (Ted) R. Merrell, a Biologist for Fish and Wildlife, photographed the images in this collection on a trip to Northern Alaska August 1-14, 1969. Ted and Biologist Howard Sears collected fish for DDT analysis as part of a nation-wide survey. They traveled by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grumman Goose, piloted by chief pilot Theron Smith. At Peters Lake, in the northeastern Brooks Range area, the biologists were assisted by Charlie Hopson and Bill Oyakgak, who worked for ARL, at the USGS Peters Lake camp.

The Grumman Goose N789 belonged to Fish and Wildlife Service, Lake Hood Aircraft Headquarters, Anchorage. The aircraft now resides at Alaska Aviation Museum in Anchorage.

Ted Merrell contributed a previous research and photo collection on the subject of the effects of nuclear testing on Amchitka and surrounding islands (See PCA 450).

### **SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE**

Travel from Anchorage to North Slope Alaska, August 1-13, 1969. Subjects of the images include: Yukon River, Peters Lake, Arctic Game Range, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) North Slope oil drilling rigs, oil exploration tundra scars, Brooks Range, National Petroleum Reserve (NPR), Sagwon, Umiat, Fort Yukon, Bettles, and environmental impacts of the "Hickel Highway" ice road, such as irrevocable damage caused by tundra tracks. A "Travel Report" describing day-to-day events is included in the collection. According to Ted, DDT contamination of fish in Alaska was limited to

population centers and military bases, where the pesticide had been used for mosquito control. Merrell and Sears did not find DDT in North Slope fish at the time. Also included are images of fish traps, unrelated to pesticide sampling work.

## SUBJECTS

Subjects include: 1969 Pesticide sampling in the Arctic, Arctic, Sagwon, Umiat, Pesticides, DDT, Fish Traps, Point Barrow, Whaling; Yukon River; Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) North Slope oil drilling rigs; oil exploration, tundra scars; Prudhoe Bay, Brooks Range; National Petroleum Reserve (NPR); Sagwon; Umiat; Fort Yukon; Bettles; environmental impacts of the "Hickel Highway" ice road.

## INVENTORY

### Box 1 Travel Report, Portraits

#### Folder 1

#### Report of Travel

1. Report of Travel - July 27 - August 14, 1969; pages 1-7
2. Flight Map
3. Original Chronological List of Photos; corresponds to Flight Map
4. Color portrait of Ted Merrell with the Grumman Goose N778, by Jim Simard
5. Color portrait of Ted Merrell with the Grumman Goose N778, by Jim Simard
6. Theron Smith, Grumman Goose pilot, Obituary (died August 9, 2010)

Chronological list of travel locations (corresponds to flight map)

July 28-30	Anchorage
July 30	Anchorage to George Lake
July 31	George Lake to Salcha River to Fairbanks to Yukon River
August 1	Yukon River to Fort Yukon to Sheenjak River to ANWR to Grayling Lake
August 2	Grayling Lake (weathered in)
August 3	Grayling Lake to Peters Lake, ANWR
August 4-6	Peters Lake (weathered in)
August 7	Peters Lake (blizzard, weathered in)
August 9	Sagwon, Sagavanirktok River (blizzard)
August 10	Sagwon (weathered in)
August 11	Sagwon (weathered in)
August 12	Sagwon to Umiat, NPR
August 13	Umiat to Anaktuvuk to Hickel Highway to Bettles to Anchorage

**Folder 2****North Slope. Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1-13, 1969.**

(Black and White Photo Negatives and Contact Prints)

**Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1, 1969. Fort Yukon and Yukon River.**

1. (2-12.) August 1, 1969. Howard Sears setting gillnet in overflow of channel of Yukon River, 20 miles upstream from Fort Yukon.
2. (3-13.) August 1, 1969. Overflow channel where fish were sampled, Yukon River, 20 miles upstream from Fort Yukon.
3. (4-14.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1, 1969. Camp on Yukon Island, 20 miles upstream from Fort Yukon. Howard Sears pitching tent. (No corresponding negative)
4. (5-15.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1, 1969. Howard Sears pitching a tent on island in Yukon River, 20 miles upstream from Fort Yukon. (No corresponding negative)
5. (6-16.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1, 1969. Native fish wheel in Yukon River at Fort Yukon.
6. (8-3.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1, 1969. Native fish wheel in Yukon River at Fort Yukon.
7. (9-4.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1, 1969. Native fish wheel in Yukon River at Fort Yukon.
8. (11-6.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1, 1969. Native fish wheel in Yukon River at Fort Yukon.
9. (12-7.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1, 1969. Native fish wheel in Yukon River at Fort Yukon.
10. (13-8.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1, 1969. Native fish wheel in Yukon River at Fort Yukon.
11. (14-9.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 1, 1969. Northern Commercial Company store, Fort Yukon.

**Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 3, 1969. Grayling Lake.**

12. (15-10.) Howard Sears setting gillnet from wing of Goose at Grayling Lake near Sheenjek River on south edge of Arctic Game Range. (No corresponding negative)

**Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 8, 1969. Lake Peters Research Station, Arctic Game Range.**

13. (16-11.) Arctic Game Range, Lake Peters Research Station.

14. (17-12.) Lake Peters Research Station, Arctic Game Range.

15. (18-13.) Fuel drums and case gas containers, Lake Peters Research Station, Arctic Game Range.

16. (19-14.) Lake Peters Research Station, Arctic Game Range; Howard Sears, two USGS geologists, and Eskimo helper.

**Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 8, 1969. Seismic trail, Kavik Gas Well.**

17. (20-15.) Phillips Petroleum oil exploration camp on isthmus between Peters and Schrader Lakes, Arctic Game range.

18. (21-16.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 8, 1969. Eagle Creek Pass between Peters Lake and Canning River, Arctic Game Range.

19. (22-1.) Canning River, at confluence with Eagle Creek showing seismic trail which parallels the Canning River on the west bank.

20. (23-2.) Oil exploration seismic trail, Canning River in background.

21. (24-3.) Oil exploration seismic trail, Canning River in background.

22. (25-4.) Oil exploration seismic trail, Canning River in background.

23. (26-5.) Seismic Trail west of Canning River. View north toward Arctic coastal plain and Beaufort Sea.

24. (27-6.) Seismic Trails on tundra between Canning River and Kavik Gas Well No. 1.

25. (28-7.) Kavik Gas Well No. 1 between Canning River and Sagwan [Sagwon].

**Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 8, 1969. Shaviovik Gas Well.**

26. (29-8.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 8, 1969. Shaviovik Gas/Oil drilling site.
27. (30-9.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 8, 1969. Shaviovik Gas/Oil drilling site.
28. (31-10.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 8, 1969. Shaviovik Gas/Oil drilling site.
29. (32-11.) Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 8, 1969. Shaviovik air strip near Shaviovik well.

**Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 8, 1969. Approaching Sagwon.**

30. (34-2.) Lake with grayling, 10 miles south of Sagwan [Sagwon] and 2-3 miles west of the Sagavanirktok River. August 8, 1969.
31. (35-3.) Lake with grayling, 10 miles south of Sagwan [Sagwon] and 2-3 miles west of the Sagavanirktok River. August 8, 1969. [Second shot]

**Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 12, 1969. Sagwon, Umiat, Anaktuvuk.**

32. (36-4.) Sagwan [Sagwon].
33. (37-5.) Anaktuvuk River about 30 miles south of Umiat.
34. (38-6.) Umiat.
35. (39-7.) Hickel Highway on Anaktuvuk River south of Umiat.

**Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling, August 13, 1969.**

36. (40-9.) Cat road near Umiat, where drilling rig was recently moved into Umiat for shipment elsewhere.
37. (41-10.) Hickel Highway south of Umiat.
38. (42-11.) Cat roads on tundra south of Umiat.

39. (43-12.) Cat roads on tundra south of Umiat.
40. (44-13.) Tributary of Anaktuvuk River south of Umiat. North Slope of Brooks Range in background.
41. (45-14.) Anaktuvuk River Valley looking south toward Anaktuvuk Pass.
42. (46-15.) Anaktuvuk Pass.
43. (47-1.) Hickel Winterroad, Big John River, north of Bettles.
44. (49-3.) Yukon River upstream from Rampart damsite.
45. (48-2.) Hickel Winterroad, Big John River, south of Bettles.

**Folder 3 [Binder]****Color Slides, Arctic Pesticide Fish Sampling. [August 1969, unless indicated]**

1. September, 1973. Salcha R. Grumman Goose N778. Separate trip.
2. 150 Color Slides. Arctic pesticides fish-sampling trip, July 30-August 13, 1969. Howard Sears, Theron (Smitty) Smith, Ted Merrell, and Grumman Goose N789.

**Folder 4 (Move to 450)**

80 color photographs, ANWR

**Folder 5 (Move to 450)**

25 enlargements of color photographs, ANWR

**INVENTORY OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVES**

Negatives stored in freezer in Vault

**1 Box:** 42 - 4x5 safety negatives

PCA 490-2-1 to 490-2-45; No negatives for #3, 4, 12