

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**Bell, Roscoe E.**

**Papers of Roscoe E. Bell, 1959-1990 (bulk 1959-1968)**

**MS 180**

1 box  
0.2 linear ft.

Processed By: Gladi Kulp  
April 2001

- Acquisition:** The collection was transferred to the Alaska State Library by Willamette University College of Law in April 2001, (Accession no. 01-29).
- Access:** The collection is 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:** Any existing original order and file names were maintained. Other materials were arranged by format. The collection is described at the folder level; it is housed in acid-free materials.

### **Biographical Note**

In May 1959 Roscoe E. Bell was named Alaska's first Director of the Division of Lands of the Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources. He and his wife Gladys moved to Alaska in 1959 to accept this new position. He was 54 years old at the time. Previously he was a Federal Bureau of Land Management official in Salt Lake City. From 1948-1951 he was assistant director of the BLM in Washington. He served with the federal agency in Alaska as business economist in Anchorage from 1953-1954. Bell wrote a book about his experiences in Alaska government titled *Long Shadows Cast by the Alaska Division of Lands, 1959-1967*.

## Scope and Contents Note

The collection includes files set up by Bell regarding his work with the State of Alaska as well as a file of oil discoveries and leasing information. The State of Alaska vs. Amerada Hess file includes his deposition in that court case. The rest of the collection includes notes from an oral interview, personal letters to Bell and his wife Gladys as well as clippings collected by Bell. The bulk of the collection is from 1959-1968 when Bell was Director of Lands but includes material up until 1990.

### Inventory

Folders 1-11 were set up and named by Roscoe Bell.

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <i>Folder 1:</i>  | 1962 more fully developed concession idea                   |
| <i>Folder 2:</i>  | Decision to go with fed'l [federal] non-competitive program |
| <i>Folder 3:</i>  | 1963 state selection  |
| <i>Folder 4:</i>  | Decision to hold no July 1964 sale                          |
| <i>Folder 5:</i>  | December 1964 sale  |
| <i>Folder 6:</i>  | July 1965 sale  |
| <i>Folder 7:</i>  | Decision not to go with 1965-1966 BP request                |
| <i>Folder 8:</i>  | 1967 lease sale   |
| <i>Folder 9:</i>  | Oral history interview                                      |
| <i>Folder 10:</i> | Swanson River   |
| <i>Folder 11:</i> | First royalty payment                                       |
| <i>Folder 12:</i> | State of Alaska vs. Amerada Hess et al.                     |
| <i>Folder 13:</i> | Oil discoveries and lease sales                             |
| <i>Folder 14:</i> | Correspondence, personal                                    |
| <i>Folder 15:</i> | Building a New State: Alaska, 1959-1968                     |
| <i>Folder 16:</i> | Clippings   |