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Overview of the Collection

Creator: Project Chariot
Title: Project Chariot Papers
Dates: 1957-1994 (inclusive)
Quantity: 10.50 feet
Collection Number: USUAFV5-246
Summary: Project Chariot was a proposed nuclear excavation at Cape Thompson that was intended to create a harbor in an area south of Point Hope. This collection contains papers from the files of University of Alaska faculty members as well as the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation pertaining to the environmental studies performed in the area.

Repository: University of Alaska Fairbanks
Alaska Polar Regions Collections & Archives
Elmer E. Rasmuson Library
PO Box 756808
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-6808

Languages: English

Sponsor: Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant sponsored by the National Historic Publications and Records Commission.

Content Description

Project Chariot was a proposed nuclear excavation at Cape Thompson to create a harbor in an area south of Point Hope. The project was part of the Plowshare program, initiated by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to explore peaceful uses of nuclear weapons technology. From 1959-1963, scientists from the University of Alaska performed environmental studies for the AEC in order to determine the optimum time of year for the detonation as well as biological effects nuclear radiation might have on the surrounding area. Alaskans, however, protested so vigorously the Project Chariot was eventually abandoned by the AEC in 1963. This collection contains papers from the files of University of Alaska faculty members, Dr. Brina Kessel and Dr. Albert Johnson, including reports, correspondence, budgets and contracts, maps, news releases, and photographs all generated from the environmental studies performed by University scientists for the AEC. Also included are the files on the project held by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. These records contain many reports from the scientific investigations performed in the Cape Thompson area as well as correspondence documenting cleanup efforts in the area in 1993.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Access :

Access limited to Alaska Polar Regions Collections & Archives research room hours.

Restrictions on Use :

Permission for commercial use must be obtained from the Archivist.

Preferred Citation :

Project Chariot Papers. Box #, Folder #, Archives, Alaska and Polar Regions Collections, Rasmuson Library, University of Alaska Fairbanks

Administrative Information**Arrangement :**

Arranged in two subgroups:

A: University of Alaska Papers 1958-1966

B: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Papers 1959-1994

Separated Materials :**Detailed Description of the Collection**

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Subgroup A: University of Alaska Papers, 1958-1966

Container(s)		Description	Dates
		Series I: Correspondence	1958-1966
		The correspondence in this series are from the files of Dr. Brina Kessel, department head of Biological Sciences at University of Alaska, and Dr. Albert Johnson, Professor of Botany. Dr. Kessel served as the General Supervisor of the scientific investigations the University performed for the Atomic Energy Commission. The correspondence largely pertains to the logistics of these investigations performed in the Cape Thompson area but also includes conversations regarding the status and findings of the project. Correspondents include other University of Alaska faculty as well as John Wolfe, chief of the Division of Biology and Medicine for the Atomic Energy Commission and Senator E.L. Bartlett.	
Box	Folder		
1	1	Atomic Energy Commission Correspondence-Div. of Bio. and Med. (Wolfe, et al) Folder A	1959-1966
1	2	Atomic Energy Commission Correspondence-Div. of Bio. and Med. (Wolfe, et al) Folder B	1960-1961
1	3	Atomic Energy Commission Correspondence--San (Campell, et al) Folder A	1960-1965
1	4	Atomic Energy Commission--San (Campell, et al) Folder B	1959-1961
1	5	Atomic Energy Commission--Misc. Active	1959-1966
1	6	Atomic Energy Commission Correspondence	1960-1963
1	7	Atomic Energy Commission	1959-1961
1	8	Cape Thompson Project Correspondence	1959-1960
1	9	Telegrams	1962
1	10	Correspondence-Albert Johnson	1958-1960
1	11	Correspondence "Carl A. Ernest"	1960
1	12	Personal File-Woodward C. Smith-Correspondence	1959-1961
2	1	Budget Status Reports 1-2227	1960-1961
2	2	Budget Status Reports 1-2227	1961-1962

2	3	Budget Status Reports--1-2227 Folder A	1962-1966
2	4	Budget Status Reports--1-2227 Folder B	1962-1966
2	5	Budget	1961-1962
2	6	Contract	1959-1960
2	7	Contract	1962-1963
2	8	Contract Agreements-Contract No. AT (04-3)-310	
2	9	Purchase Orders	1957-1966

Series II: Administrative Papers

1957-1966

This series contains budget status reports, contracts, purchase orders as well as correspondence, brochures, inventory lists, and drawings regarding equipment used in the scientific investigations performed for the AEC. Records also include an overview of the Project Chariot environmental program, an operation plan for engineering construction support for the project, progress reports for scientific investigations, personnel rosters, and newsclippings and articles about the project.

Box	Folder		
1	1	Phase III, 1959 Plowshare Program	1959
1	2	Operation Plan; Engineering Construction Support	1960-1961
1	3	Supplies and Equipment	1959-1960
1	4	Equipment	1959-1961
1	5	Brochures on Equipment "Binoculars and Telescopes"	1966
1	6	General Specifications for Mosquito-proof Tents	1960
1	7	Equipment	1959-1962
1	8	Publicity and News Articles, etc. Folder A	1959-1963
1	9	Publicity and News Articles, etc. Folder B	1961-1963
1	10	Cape Thompson Project News Releases and Publicity	1959
2	1	Correspondence (Al Johnson Series)	

Series III: Field Work and Reports

1958-1966

The field notes, data tables, plot charts, maps, photographs, and negatives in this series represent the data collected by scientists in their investigations for the AEC. The observations document the weather, climate, geology, vegetation, and fauna present at Ogotoruk Creek near Cape Thompson as well as its oceanographical, archaeological, and anthropological elements. The series also contains many of their draft and published versions of their preliminary and final reports which communicate these findings.

Box	Folder	
1	1	Map: Point Hope
1	2	Map: Ogotoruk Creek Drainage
1	3	Topographic Map: Chukchi Sea
1	4	Topographic Map of Point Hope
1	5	Map of Alaska B West Half
1	6	Location of Plots-Cape Thompson Flora

1	7	Control Area-Data Sheets	1960
1	8	Picture Lists-By L. Viereck	
1	9	Color Slides-Key	
1	10	Soils information on frost scar project	1961
1	11	Phenological Observations-Ogotoruk Creek (Vegetation Types)	1960
1	12	Eriophorum-Carex Meadow II Vegetation Reports	1956-1959
1	13	Eriophorum Vaginatum Tussocks Types-Vegetation Reports	1956-1959
1	14	Carex bigelowii-Hard Frost Boil Type-Vegetation Reports	1959
1	15	Dryas Fellfield type: Vegetation Report	1959
2	1	Field Notes	1960
2	2	McWilliam Field Notes	1960
2	3	"Microclimatology of Ogotoruk Valley" Preliminary Report No. 1	1960-1961
2	4	Microclimatology of the Charity Site by Philip W. Allen	1960
2	5	Microclimatology of Ogotoruk Valley Interim Report No.1 and 2 By Robert O. Weedfall	
2	6	Microclimatology of Ogotoruk Valley, Alaska-Final Report by P.W. Allen and R. O. Weedfall	1962
2	7	"Psychological Investigation in the Cape Thompson Region"	1960
3	1	Set No. 1 Weather Summaries	1959-1962
3	2	Set No. 2 Weather Summaries	1960-1962
3	3	Weather Reports and Sunrise and Sunset Tables Set No. 3	1960-1962
3	4	Climate Data	1961
4	1	Carex Solifluction Slope Vegetation Types	1959
4	2	Carex bigelowii-high center polygons: Vegetation Types	1959
4	3	Ericaceous Polygonal Slope: Vegetation Type	1959
4	4	Mixed Grass-sedge brackish meadow-Vegetation Types	1959
4	5	Dryas Steps and Stripes-Vegetation Reports	1959
4	6	Snow Patch Vegetation Types	1959
4	7	Gravel Bars and Low Benches-Vegetation Types	1959
4	8	Miscellaneous Vegetation Types	1959
4	9	Flora: Cape Thompson Plant Types	1959
4	10	Photos: Ogotoruk Creek-Cape Thompson Folder A	
4	11	Photos: Ogotoruk Creek-Cape Thompson Folder B	
4	12	Photos: Ogotoruk Creek-Cape Thompson Folder C	
4	13	Photos: Ogotoruk Creek-Cape Thompson	
5	1	Aerial Photos and Correspondence	1959
5	2	Ogotoruk Creek Vegetation Seeds and Mosses Collected	1960
5	3	Order of Trapping Ogotoruk Plots	1960
5	4	An Ecological Study of the Flora and Fauna of the Cape Thompson-Ogotoruk Creek Region: Research Proposal	1961
5	5	An Ecological Study of the Flora and Fauna of the Cape Thompson-Ogotoruk Creek Region:	1961

		Research Proposal Part II	
5	6	An Ecological Study of the Flora and Fauna of the Cape Thompson-Ogotoruk Creek Region:	1961
		Research Proposal Part III	
5	7	Ogotoruk Valley Botanical Project Folder A	1959
5	8	Ogotoruk Valley Botanical Project Photographs Folder B	1959
5	9	Ogotoruk Valley 1960 Report	1960
5	10	Cape Thompson-Ogotoruk Creek Botanical Investigations	1960
5	11	Photos of Cape Thompson Ogotoruk Riotr Valley	
5	12	Reports: Botanical Investigation: Mammals, Cliffnesting Birds, Human Ecology, Archaeological; Correspondence; Kessel with Campell	1959
5	13	Cliffnesting Bird Photos	1959-1964
6	1	Freeze Up-Negatives pictures by E. Carl and K. Everett	1961
6	2	Frost Scar Study; Negatives Plot 1	1961
6	3	Frost Scar Study; Negatives Plot 4	1961
6	4	Frost Scar Study; Negatives Plot 11	1961
6	5	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 12	1961
6	6	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 13	1961
6	7	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 18	1961
6	8	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 21	1961
6	9	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 22	1961
6	10	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 23	1961
6	11	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 24	1961
6	12	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 25	1961
6	13	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 27	1961
6	14	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 31	1961
6	15	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 32	1961
6	16	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 35	1961
6	17	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 36	1961
6	18	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 38	1961
6	19	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 39	1961
6	20	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 43	1961
6	21	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 44	1961
7	1	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 45	1961
7	2	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 46	1961
7	3	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 52	1961
7	4	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 54	1961
7	5	Frost Scar Study Negatives Plot 55	1961
7	6	Negatives for Photos in Terr. Mamm. Invest. Final Report	1962 January
7	7	Black and White Negs and Color Prints of Ogotoruk Valley Feb-Apr 1960; In Chariot June 1960	1960 February-1960

		Report	April; 1960 June
7	8	Frost Scar Photos	
7	9	Black and White Prints; Frost Scar Study Folder A	
7	10	Black and White Prints; Frost Scar Study Folder B	
7	11	Black and White Prints; Frost Scar Study by K. Everett Folder C	1962
7	12	8 by 10 Black and White Prints and Negatives Frost Scar Study	
7	13	Plant Study-Cape Thompson by Richard Fleming (Journal)	1959
8	1	Plant Collection Register; Vicinity of Ogotoruk Creek, N.W. Alaska. By Melchior, Melchior R and P, Johnson, and Lent Folder A	1960
8	2	Plant Collection Register; Vicinity of Ogotoruk Creek, N.W. Alaska. By Melchior, Melchior R and P, Johnson, and Lent Folder B	1960
8	3	Plant Collection; Cape Thompson by R. Johnson and B. Neiband	
8	4	Notes on Caribou Rumen Contact Analysis by Barbara Murray	1961
8	5	Analysis of Plant Materials in the Rumen of Caribou of Northwest Alaska	1963
8	6	Caribou Investigations, Northwest Alaska (Preliminary Report) by Peter C. Lent	
8	7	Caribou Data Summary Report Peter C. Lent	1961
8	8	Caribou Investigations, Northwest Alaska (Interim Final Report) by Peter Lent	
8	9	Terrestrial Mammals Investigation, Ogotoruk Creek-Cape Thompson and Vicinity; Part. C; Caribou Investigations, Northwest Alaska; by Peter Lent and Odd Lono	1962
8	10	Caribou Photographs	1960
9	1	Geology of the Ogotoruk Creek Area, N.W. Alaska, by R. Kachadoorian, R.H. Campell, C.L. Sainsbury, and O.W. Scholl	1958
9	2	Geological Map and Sections of Ogotoruk Creek Area, Northwest Alaska Plate 1, 2, 3	
9	3	Geological Survey-Vicinity of Cape Thompson	1960
9	4	Preliminary Report Exploration, Drilling and Core Analysis	1960-1961
9	5	Geology of Proposed Test Site Map: Ogotoruk Creek Area	
9	6	Geologic Investigations in Support of Project Chariot in the Vicinity of Cape Thompson, Northwestern Alaska, Preliminary	1960
9	7	Geologic Investigations in Support of Project Chariot, Phase III, in the Vicinity of Cape Thompson, Northwestern Alaska	
10	1	Chemical Composition of Waters in N.W. Alaska Table 11	
10	2	Radiochemical Analysis of Water in N.W. Alaska Table 12	
10	3	Chariot Environmental Program	1959
10	4	A Preliminary Report on Marine Investigations on the Chukchi Sea August 1959 by Dayton L. Aluerson, Norman J. Wilimousky, and Ford Wilke 1959	1959 August
10	5	Marine Mammals Investigations Preliminary Report	1960
10	6	Project Chariot Environmental Program Preliminary Report; Avian Investigations in the Cape Thompson Region	1959
10	7	Avian Investigations in the Cape Thompson Region: Preliminary Report	1960

10	8	Avian Investigations in the Cape Thompson Region by Francis S.L. Williamson	1960
10	9	Environmental Problem Interim Final Report Arctic Health Research Center	
10	10	Chariot Project, Phase II Interim Final Report. Appendix 1, 2, 3	1960
10	11	Recorded Tape	1960
10	12	Recorded Tape	1960
11	1	Bioenvironmental Features of the Ogotoruk Creek Area, Cape Thompson, Alaska (First Summary)	1960
11	2	Bioenvironmental Features of the Ogotoruk Creek Area, Cape Thompson, Alaska (Summary)	1960
11	3	Bioenvironmental Features of the Ogotoruk Creek Area, Cape Thompson, AK (Second Summary)	1962
11	4	Bioenvironmental Features of the Ogotoruk Creek Area, Cape Thompson, Alaska "Report"	1962
11	5	Hanford Preliminary Evaluation Report of Project Chariot Studies	
11	6	Hanford Phase III Report of Project Chariot Studies	1959
11	7	Hanford Phase III Preliminary Evaluation Report of Project Chariot Studies	1960
11	8	Hanford Progress Report of Project Chariot Studies by J.J. Davis, D.G. Watson, W.C. Hanson	
11	9	Oceanographic Survey of the Eastern Chukchi Sea by Richard H. Flemming	
11	10	Second Oceanographic Survey of the Chukchi Sea by Richard H. Flemming	
11	11	Report of a Survey of Marine Mammals in the Chukchi Sea Conducted by Atomic Energy Commission	1961
11	12	1961 Salmon Survey, Project Chariot Laboratory of Radiation Ciology of University of Washington	
11	13	"The Salmon Resource in the Vicinity of the Chariot Site in 1960"	1960
11	14	Slope Movement Investigations by K.R. Everett	1960
11	15	Slope Movement Investigations in the Ogotoruk Creek Valley Preliminary Report by K.R. Everett	
11	16	Slope Movement Micro-Environmental at Cape Thompson, Alaska by K.R. Everett Final Report	1962
12	1	The Economic Base and Seasonal Activities of Some Northwest Alaska Villages by Don Charles Foote	1959
12	2	The Eskimo Hunter at Naotak, AK, Winter; Don Charles Foote Summer; Alan Cooke	1960
12	3	Project Chariot and the Eskimo People of Point Hope, Alaska by Don Charles Foote	
12	4	The Eskimo Hunter at Point Hope, Alaska by Don Charles Foote	1960
12	5	A Human Geographical Survey in Northwest Alaska by Don Charles Foote	1961
12	6	Tiger Burch's Summary Notes of Kivalina; General View, Caribou, Seals, Fish, Carnivores, Wood and Water	1959

Subgroup B: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Papers, 1959-1994

These Papers given by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation document the agency's 1992 radiation assessment of the Project Chariot site and its subsequent removal of buried radioactive tracer material. Materials include copies of correspondence, reports, outlines for presentations given at town meetings, and government documents pertaining to Project Chariot. Accompanying the documents and reports is an annotated list prepared by the department.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box		
1	Correspondence	
2-3	Documents and Reports	

Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Corporate Names :

Project Chariot

Subject Terms :

Animals--Alaska--Effects of radiation on

Archaeology--Point Hope region

Atomic Energy Commission

Ecology--Research--Alaska

Environmental studies--Alaska

Eskimos--Health and hygiene

Geology--Alaska

Nuclear excavation--Alaska

Nuclear radiation--Environmental aspects

Oceanography--Alaska

Geographical Names :

Amchitka Island (Alaska)--Climate

Cape Thompson (Alaska)