

Tell Ertl Oil Shale Repository Arthur Lakes Library Colorado School of Mines

Boomtown Blues: Colorado Oil Shale Andrew Gulliford Collection

Background Information

Andrew Gulliford

Andrew Gulliford is a social historian with an avid interest in American culture. During 1976-1983, he taught elementary school at Silt, Colorado. This period was in the middle of the western Colorado boom-bust that extended from the Arab oil embargo in 1974 until the Exxon shut-down in 1982.

He left his teaching position to attend graduate school at Bowling Green, Ohio. In 1986, he received his doctorate degree with his dissertation, "Boomtown Blues: A Community History of Oil Shale Booms in the Colorado River Valley, 1885-1985"

Upon graduation, Dr. Gulliford revised his dissertation to produce, "Boomtown Blues: Colorado Oil Shale, 1885-1985"

The Andrew Gulliford Collection

The Boomtown Blues: Colorado Oil Shale Andrew Gulliford Collection reflects the work performed by Dr. Gulliford as he developed his dissertation and book. This collection presents first-hand accounts of the impacts, both negative and positive, of booms and busts on community infrastructures, existing citizens, and new workers, as well as their families.

The Gulliford Collection is divided into four parts; the work on Gulliford's dissertation is located in Box 1; included in this box is a copy of his thesis. The publication of the book is located in Boxes 2 and 3; this information provides an insight into the task of revising a scholarly writing into a popular novel. Specific preparations are located in Boxes 4, 5, and 6. Of interest in this section are the tapes of the numerous interviews conducted by Andrew Gulliford and his colleagues of people living in western Colorado who were associated with the oil shale boom and bust. Finally, the last and largest part is the section on background data; this section (Boxes 7-10) contains 224 folders containing thousands of newspaper clippings, reprints, pamphlets, correspondence, and notes assembled by Andrew Gulliford as he developed his dissertation and book.

Written by Robert N. Heistand