

Bio: Tell Ertl

Tell Ertl (1914-1975) was involved with oil shale developments as an educator, mining engineer, and entrepreneur. His interest in oil shale spanned nearly three decades during which he worked for the government as a mining engineer for the U. S. Bureau of Mines at Anvil Points; for domestic developers as consultant to Union Oil; in foreign shale with Petrobras in Brazil for Cameron and Jones, Inc. and, when none of the aforementioned projects were progressing quickly enough, as an independent entrepreneur for ERTL, Inc., a company he founded using his name as an acronym for "Earth Resources Technology and Land."

This Bio written by Robert N. Heistand

Edited by Julie Carmen

More detailed bio by the Ertl Family: [Tell Ertl](#)

The Tell Ertl Collection

The Tell Ertl Collection mirrors Tell's active, impulsive lifestyle and his genuine interest in people. This is the largest independent collection in the Repository, containing more than 14,500 documents. '

Notes and correspondence represent the largest segment of this collection; six archive boxes are filled with folders of correspondence. There were few maps, drawings, or reports that did not escape having Tell's handwritten notes in the margins.

Another large and interesting segment is publications and personal writings ranging from publications in various technical journals and government documents to travelogues that appeared in The Grand Junction Sentinel as well as submittals to such prestigious magazines as The Saturday Evening Post, The New Yorker, and The Reader's Digest.

Getting his oil shale claims patented consumed much of Tell's energies and interests -- reflected in the Tell Ertl Collection as maps, drawings, motion picture film (used to record the required property improvements) and boxes of litigation papers dealing with accounts of various claimants vs. the U. S. Department of Interior.