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UC SANTA BARBARA

Library

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**Title:** Robert Sollen collection  
**Identifier/Call Number:** SBHC Mss 33  
**Contributing Institution:** UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Collections  
**Language of Material:** English  
**Physical Description:** 25.0 linear feet (20 boxes)  
**Date (inclusive):** circa 1954-1996  
**Shelf location:** Del Sur stacks, Oversize, and Telescoping boxes.  
**Creator:** Sollen, Robert  
**Provenance**  
Donated by Robert Sollen, 1996.  
**Restrictions**  
None.  
**Publication Rights**  
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**Preferred Citation**  
[Identification of item], Robert Sollen Collection, SBHC Mss 33, Department of Special Collections, University Libraries, University of California, Santa Barbara.  
**Biography**  
The following biographical sketch is drawn from material provided by Robert Sollen and from a January 24, 1997 article in the *Santa Barbara News-Press*.  
Robert Sollen was born September 29, 1921, in Menominee, Michigan. He served with the U.S. Coast Guard, 1942-1946, and received his BA in political science and journalism from the University of Wisconsin in 1948. He was a reporter and editor with several newspapers, and was a free-lance writer, before joining the *Santa Barbara News-Press* in 1963. Sollen was a copy editor and reporter with the *News-Press*, specializing in environmental writing, until his retirement in 1985.  
As a reporter, Sollen covered the January 28, 1969 Santa Barbara Channel oil well blowout that spewed several million gallons of crude oil. That disaster helped to mobilize environmental activism nationwide. In 1968 he had won second place in the national Scripps-Howard conservation writing contest for a series of *News-Press* articles anticipating oil pollution problems in the Santa Barbara channel.  
Sollen has been active in a number of local organizations, including Get Oil Out (GOO). He also was a Santa Barbara Planning Commissioner, 1989-1991, and has taught Environmental Journalism at UCSB since 1986.  
**Scope and Content**  
This collection was assembled over a number of years by Robert Sollen, largely as background research for his reporting duties with the *News-Press* and his ongoing interest in oil and other environmental issues.  
The collection contains the following series:  
- **An Ocean of Oil** (binders, with manuscript drafts, chapter notes, and photographs relating to Sollen's monograph, published by Denali Press, 1998).  
- **Chron Files**, 1968-1986 (chronologically arranged clippings, notes, reports, and other materials generally relating to Santa Barbara and California oil issues)  
- **Clippings**, ca. 1968-1996 (includes many of Sollen's *News-Press* articles)  
- **Companies/Projects** (reports, articles, clippings, memos, and notes)  
- **Leasing**, 1980-1990 (includes reports studies, clippings, and articles, many by Sollen)  
- **Subject Files** (includes Santa Barbara County Planning Commission documents, and other reports, memos, articles, and clippings)  
- **Oversize** (newspaper articles, scrapbooks, and maps).  
Also included with the collection are a number of monographs and government reports, which have been cataloged separately. These may be searched on Pegasus, the UCSB Library's online catalog.
Related Material
UCSB Special Collections holds a number of other collections relating to the history of the oil industry in the Santa Barbara area and the Santa Barbara Oil Spill of 1969. They include:
Easton (Robert O.) Collection (SBHC Mss 6).
Get Oil Out Collection (SBHC Mss 10).
Oil Spill Information Center Collection (SBHC Mss 11).
League of Women Voters Collection (SBHC Mss 2).
Saadi (Ruth) Collection (SBHC Mss 14).
Sharp (Richard C.) Collection (SBHC Mss 7)
Von Breton (Harriet) Collection (SBHC Mss 8).
In addition, the UCSB Davidson Library has a number of Environmental Impact Reports and related studies that also document the history of the area's oil industry. These are cataloged individually and may be searched on Pegasus, the UCSB Library's online catalog. Many are located in Special Collections.

An Ocean of Oil
Box 1
An Ocean of Oil (binders, with manuscript drafts, chapter notes, and photographs)
Chron Files
General note
circa 1968-1986 (chronologically arranged clippings, notes, reports, and other materials generally relating to Santa Barbara and California oil issues)

Box 2
1968-1974
Box 3
1975-1986
Clippings
General note
circa 1968-1996 (includes many of Sollen's News-Press articles)

Box 4
Abandonments
Box 4
Accidents
Box 4
Adair, Red
Box 4
Advertising
Box 4
Advisory Committee
Box 4
Air Quality
Box 4
Alaska
Box 4
Alternative Fuels
Box 4
Anniversaries (1969 Oil Spill)
Box 4
Antarctica
Box 4
Archives
Box 4
ARCO
Box 4
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)
Box 4
Asia (SE)
Box 4
Atlantic Coast
Box 4
Awards
Box 4
Babbitt
Box 4
Beaches
Box 4
Bickmore, David (County Petroleum Engineer)
Box 4
Blowout (Jan. 28, 1969)
Box 4
Blowouts (other)
Box 4
Books
Box 4
Brazil
Box 4
Bureaucracy
Box 4  Burford, Ann Gorsuch
Box 4  Burman Oil
Box 4  California Coastal Operators Group (C/COG)
Box 4  California Independent Producers Association
Box 4  Canada
Box 4  Channel Islands
Box 4  Channel Islands Alliance
Box 4  Chevron
Box 4  Cities Service
Box 4  City Council
Box 4  Coalition against Oil Pollution
Box 4  Coast Guard
Box 4  Coastal Impact
Box 4  Colorado River
Box 4  Conferences on Santa Barbara Oil
Box 4  Conflict of Interest
Box 4  Congress
Box 4  CONOCO
Box 4  Consolidation Policies
Box 4  Consumption/Conservation
Box 5  Containment
Box 5  Cooger Report
Box 5  Council on Environmental Quality
Box 5  County Board of Supervisors
Box 5  County Control Ordinance
Box 5  County Government
Box 5  County Oil Ordinance
Box 5  County Petroleum Administrator
Box 5  County Petroleum Engineer
Box 5  County Petroleum Office
Box 5  CREF
Box 5  Curran, John
Box 5  Cuyama
Box 5  CZMA (Coastal Zone Management Act)
Box 5  Damage Settlement Funds
Box 5  Damages
Box 5  Deepwater Port Act
Box 5  Deepwater Technology
Box 5  Demand
Box 5  Denial
Box 5  Deukmejian
Box 5  Development (Onshore)
Box 5  Development Plans
Box 5  Development Projects
Box 5  Developments - Cities Service
Box 5  Developments - Shell
Box 5  Developments - Texaco
Box 5  Discharges
Box 5  Discoveries
Box 5  Dispersants, Oil
Box 5  Dredge
Box 5  Drilling
Box 5  Drilling Bits
Box 5  Drilling, Channel
Box 5  Drilling, Federal
Box 5  Drilling, Geophysical
Box 5  Drilling (OCS)
Box 5  Drilling, Onshore
Clippings

Box 5
- Drilling, Tidelands
- Dumping, Illegal
- Earthquake Damage
- East Coast
- Economic Impact
- Economics of Oil
- Editorials
- Elk Hills
- Elwood
- Energy - Alternatives
- Energy - Conservation/Efficiency
- Energy - Consumption
- Energy Division
- Energy Forecasts
- Energy (oil)
- Energy Policy
- Enforcement
- Environmental Impact Reports
- Environmental Protection
- Environmental Recovery
- Environmental Research
- Erosion (Beach)
- Exports
- Exxon
- Exxon
- Films (Santa Barbara Oil Spill)
- Fires
- Fishing
- Florida
- Flow, Rate of
- Foreign Oil
- Gaviota Pier
- Geological Hazards
- Geological Survey, U.S.
- Geology
- Geophysical
- Geophysical Surveys
- Gesner, Bill
- Get Oil Out (GOO)
- Greenpeace
- Gulf of Mexico
- Gulf States
- Harbor, San Luis Obispo County
- Harbor, Santa Barbara
- Hardin, Garrett
- Hartley, Fred
- Hickel, Walter J.
- History
- Hodel, Donald
- Humble Oil
- Husky Oil Co.
- Imports
- Industry Response
- Information (Oil Spill Information Center)
- Interior Committee - Senate
- Interior, Department of
- Iraq-Kuwait Crisis
- Islands, Drilling
Box 6
- Junk, Subsea
- Kallman, Robert
- Labor (Oil)
- Lagomarsino
- Land Use (Oil), California
- Lands Commission, State
- Lease Sale
- Leases
- Leases Cancelled
- Leases, Santa Barbara Channel
- Leasing - General
- Leasing - CZMA
- Leasing - OCS
- Leasing, Offshore
- Leasing, Onshore
- Leasing, Policy and Regs.
- Leasing, State
- Leasing, Tidelands
- Legislation
- Legislature
- Liability
- Litigation
- Lujan, Manuel
- McKelvey, Vincent
- Measure A
- MEMS (Marine Emergency Management Studies)
- Mergers
- Mesa, Santa Barbara
- Middle East
- Military Consumption
- MMS (Minerals Management Service)
- Mobil/Clearview
- Mohr, John L.
- Molino
- Moratorium
- Morton, Rogers
- National Forest
- Natural Gas
- Navigation
- Nixon
- NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Spill Study

Box 7
- North County
- North Slope
- OCS Exploration, Development
- OCS Studies
- OCS Task Force
- Offshore Technology Conference
- Ogle Oil
- Oil and Gas, State Division of
- Onshore
- Onshore (City)
- Onshore (County)
- Onshore Drilling
- Onshore Impact
- Onshore Installations
- Onshore Operations
- OPEC
- Organizations, Conservation (Environmental Information Council)
Box 8  Other Publications
Box 8  Pauley Oil/Petroleum
Box 8  Pecora, William T.
Box 8  Perta Oil Co.
Box 8  Phillips Petroleum
Box 8  Pipeline, Alaska
Box 8  Pipeline (Mobil)
Box 8  Pipeline, Onshore
Box 8  Pipeline Project
Box 8  Pipelines
Box 8  Placer Claims
Box 8  Platform Gail
Box 8  Platform Gilda
Box 8  Platform Grace
Box 8  Platform Harmony
Box 8  Platform Holly
Box 8  Platforms
Box 8  Platforms, Exxon
Box 8  Platforms, Gulf
Box 8  Plat
Box 8  Point Arguello Geology
Box 8  Point Pedernales
Box 8  Political Campaigns
Box 8  Political Contributions
Box 8  Politics
Box 8  Pollution
Box 8  Press
Box 8  Prices (of oil)
Box 8  Pricing
Box 8  Processing
Box 8  Production/Potential
Box 8  Prop 20
Box 8  Protest
Box 8  Public Opinion
Box 8  Puget Sound
Box 8  Quality
Box 8  Quota, Oil Import
Box 8  Radioactivity
Box 8  Reagan
Box 8  Refineries
Box 8  Refining
Box 8  Reorganization
Box 8  Remnants
Box 8  [Resources] Ocean Resources Study
Box 8  Revenue
Box 8  Revenue, Public
Box 8  Revenue/Royalty
Box 8  Revenue Sharing
Box 8  Rincon
Box 8  Rintoul, Bill
Box 8  RMD (Resource Management Department)
Box 8  Safety, Offshore
Box 8  Safety (Oil)
Box 8  San Miguel Field
Box 8  San Luis Obispo County Coast
Box 8  Sanctuaries
Box 8  Sanctuary Drilling
Box 8  Sanctuary, Ocean
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<td>Sidenberg, Ellen</td>
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<td>Spill Fund</td>
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<td>Spills, Misc. Local</td>
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<td>Straughan, Dale</td>
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<td>Box 9</td>
<td>Summaries</td>
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<td>Summerland</td>
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<td>Box 9</td>
<td>Trade, Balance of Payments</td>
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<td>Box 9</td>
<td>Training</td>
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<td>Box 9</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>Transportation (Propane, Butane, etc.)</td>
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<td>Box 9</td>
<td>UCSB/Oil</td>
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<td>Valdez</td>
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SBHC Mss 33
SBHC Mss 33
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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<td>Marine Emergency Management Study (MEMS)</td>
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<td>Minerals Management Service</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>OCS Lands Act</td>
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<td>OCS Technical Working Group</td>
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<td>Offshore Oil</td>
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<td>Offshore Oil Drilling at Santa Barbara</td>
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<td>Offshore Oil Fields - Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties</td>
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<td>Oil Data -- General and Misc.</td>
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<td>Oil Glossary and Conversion Tables</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Platform ‘A’: The Oil Spill That Spread Around the World (Laurence Brundall)</td>
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<td>Reagan's Environmental Team</td>
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<td>Seismic Testing</td>
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<td>Stearns Wharf</td>
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<td>Tanker Accidents</td>
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<td>Oversize Materials</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Newspaper Articles (mainly full page and multi-page items, including the Santa Barbara News Press 1954 coverage regarding the future of offshore oil drilling, and 20th anniversary coverage of the Santa Barbara Channel 1969 Oil Spill)</td>
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<td>50 Years of Historic Front Pages”, as collected by Robert Sollen, and manuscript of &quot;Distortion on Earth&quot; undated</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Smith, Dick -- 1969 Oil Spill (articles and photographs from that time)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Sollen, Robert -- &quot;The Big Picture: The Future of the Offshore Oil Industry in Santa Barbara County as It Was Seen in 1982, 1983, and 1984&quot; (major articles of the period)</td>
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<td>California Offshore Oil Maps</td>
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<td>Los Angeles and Orange Counties</td>
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<td>State Maps</td>
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<td>Maps -- Rolled</td>
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<td>General note</td>
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<td>(arranged geographically, from north to south)</td>
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<td>Point Conception to Arroyo Quemado</td>
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<td>Arroyo Quemado to Goleta Point</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Goleta Point to Rincon Point</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Rincon to West Montalvo</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Port Hueneme to San Pedro</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Point Fermjan to Newport Beach</td>
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