

# Guide to the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company Records #170

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## **Descriptive Summary:**

Creator: Various

Title: Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company Records #170

Dates: 1918-1991

Quantity: 4.0 linear feet

Abstract: Newsletters, miscellaneous prints, albums, annual reports.

Accession: 88-08-170 ; 170-1988

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## **Organizational History:**

The Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company was formed on December 29, 1916, when D. R. Dunlap, then President of the Alabama Iron Works, and his cousin George H. Dunlap, who operated the Mobile Marine Ways, pooled their resources and bought the Ollinger and Bruce Dry Dock Company. Six months after the merger the Gulf City Boiler Works joined the group. As other companies went out of business during the World War I era, ADDSCO bought up their equipment and was able to keep expanding. At this time, the move to Pinto Island from the western bank of the Mobile River was undertaken and finished by 1922. With the end of the war, ADDSCO had the biggest dry dock south of Newport News, Virginia.

In the interwar years ADDSCO built barges and the Bankhead Tunnel and repaired ships. During World War II they built 102 T-2 tankers and 20 Liberty ships, and repaired 2,800 other vessels.

From the late 1940s to 1967, ADDSCO went back to repairing and converting ships and building Navy submarine rescue ships. In 1970 ADDSCO constructed the tubes for the George Wallace Tunnel. Between 1972 and 1976, four off-shore semi-submersible oil drilling rigs were built. After the mid-1970s business at ADDSCO started to slow down.

Under a plan of internal reorganization, approved by the stockholders on October 26, 1982, Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company changed its name to ADDSCO Industries, Inc. and became a holding company whose subsidiaries were: Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Corporation, a marine repair and conversion facility; Alabama Maritime Corporation, a new-construction facility for marine structures; Doran-Alabama Propeller Company, Inc., which reconditioned and cast propellers; Mobile Ferry Lines, Inc., which leased berthing facilities; Mobile Tool and Equipment Company, Inc., which sold tools and equipment; ADDSCO Services Corporation, which provided support services for the Company and other subsidiaries.

In the summer of 1989 the Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Corporation closed down permanently.

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**Scope and Contents:**

Contains 1,487 issues of company employee newsletter *Fore & Aft* (1918-1982), and miscellaneous prints and albums.

August 1992 accrual:

Annual reports (1943-1991).

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**Arrangement:**

Newsletter *Fore & Aft* arranged in chronological order.

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**Access Restrictions:**

This material is open to research.

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**Preferred Citation:**

Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company Records #170, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.