Guide to the Trona Argonaut Newspaper Collection AR.2015.001

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First Edition
Mojave Desert Archives

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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Mojave Desert Archives
Title: Trona Argonaut Newspaper Collection
source: American Trona Corporation
source: Searles Valley Historical Society
source: Casebier, Dennis G.
Identifier/Call Number: AR.2015.001
Physical Description: 5.0 Linear Feet
Date (inclusive): 1936-1999
Abstract: The Trona Argonaut Newspaper Collection contains nearly sixty-three years of news related to the company mining town of Trona, California. The weekly paper was published from 1923 to 1999. During the war years the newspaper won several national awards for excellence. Although the collection has no issues for the first 13 years of the paper’s existence, it does provide examples of each publication year from 1936 until its last issue in 1999.

Content Description
The Trona Argonaut Newspaper Collection contains nearly sixty-three years of Trona newspapers starting in 1936 and continuing until its final issue in 1999. The set is incomplete, although it contains examples from each publication year from 1936 to 1999. The collection contains no issues for the first 13 years of the paper’s existence.

Biographical / Historical
Trona is a former American Trona Corporation company mining town on the western edge of Searles Dry Lake in the Mojave Desert region of San Bernardino County, California.
A weekly newspaper covering news for the town of Trona was published from 1923 to 1999. The first incarnation of the paper was called the *Trona Pot-Ash*. It was a mimeograph sheet containing news and comments on local events.
American Trona Corporation, seeing the interest and need for a weekly newspaper, took over publication in 1924. The sheet evolved into a professional six-page newspaper printed in Los Angeles. It lasted for 17 years and had 10 editors. During World War II, the company town of Trona became a defense plant. The newspaper staff increased, the paper expanded to 10 pages, and the name changed to the *Trona Argonaut*. During this period, the newspaper won several national awards for excellence.
In the 1950s, the mining company divested itself of homes and services and Trona transitioned away from being a company town. Publication of the newspaper was suspended in March of 1953 for three years.
From 1957 to 1964, a new weekly newspaper called the *Searles Review* was published in Trona. In 1964, the name changed back to the *Trona Argonaut*. The final issue of the *Argonaut* is dated February 4, 1999.

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Conditions Governing Access
The collection is open for research. For access, please contact the Archivist at the Mojave Desert Archives at archivist@mdhca.org.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged in chronological order in 14 series by publication name.
2. *Trona Argonaut*, 1942-1949
12. Trona Argonaut, 1990-1992

Preferred Citation

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Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gifted by Dennis G. Casebier to the Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association, 11 July 2015.

Processing Information
Processed by Chris S. Ervin

Other Finding Aids
Details on the number of issues per year contained in the collection are enumerated in the Trona Argonaut Newspapers Collection Inventory spreadsheet compiled by Chris S. Ervin. The issue dates included or excluded in each series are listed on cover sheets in each box by year.

Bibliography
Brush, Margaret. 2014. "From the Curator." Searles Valley Slate.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Trona Argonaut
Searles Review
Trona Pot-Ash
Searles Valley (Calif.)--Newspapers
San Bernardino County (Calif.)--History, Local--Periodicals
American Trona Corporation
Searles Valley Historical Society
Casebier, Dennis G.

Box 1 of 13  Trona Pot-Ash 1936-1941
Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 16W x 20L x 3.5D
Subjects and Indexing Terms
American Potash & Chemical Corporation
Pipkin, George Cook

Box 2 of 13  Trona Argonaut 1942-1949
Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 16.5W x 20.5L x 4D
Subjects and Indexing Terms
American Potash & Chemical Corporation

Box 3 of 13  Trona Argonaut 1950-1953
Physical Description: .2 Linear Feet 16W x 20L x 3.5D
Subjects and Indexing Terms
American Potash & Chemical Corporation
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**Searles Review 1957-1959**

- Physical Description: .2 Linear Feet 16W x 20L x 3.5D
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Westphall, Marguerite

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**Searles Review 1960-1963**

- Physical Description: .2 Linear Feet 16.5W x 20.5L x 4D
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Westphall, Marguerite

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**Trona Argonaut 1964-1971**

- Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 16.5W x 20.5L x 4D
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Bray, Doris

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**Trona Argonaut 1972-1975**

- Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 16.5W x 20.5L x 4D
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Bray, Doris

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**Trona Argonaut 1976-1979**

- Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 16.5W x 20.5L x 4D
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Bray, Doris

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**Trona Argonaut 1980-1983**

- Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 16.5W x 20.5L x 4D
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Bray, Doris

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**Trona Argonaut 1984-1986**

- Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 12.5W x 16.5L x 4D
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Bray, Doris

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**Trona Argonaut 1987-1989**

- Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 12.5W x 16.5L x 4D
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Bray, Doris
  - Roberts, Chuck

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**Trona Argonaut 1990-1992**

- Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 12.5W x 16.5L x 4D
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Roberts, Chuck

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**Trona Argonaut 1993-1995**

- Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 12.5W x 16.5L x 4D
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Sonia, Joe
Box 13 of 13

**Trona Argonaut 1996-1999**

Physical Description: .4 Linear Feet 12.5W x 16.5L x 4D

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Sonia, Joe