Register of the Haskin-Tonopah Gold Mine Collection, 1929

Processed by Don Walker; machine-readable finding aid created by Don Walker
Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
University Library, University of the Pacific
Stockton, CA 95211
Phone: (209) 946-2404
Fax: (209) 946-2810
URL: http://www.pacific.edu/Library/Find/Holt-Atherton-Special-Collections.html
© 1998
University of the Pacific. All rights reserved.
Register of the Haskin-Tonopah Gold Mine Collection, 1929

Collection number: Mss91

Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
University Library
University of the Pacific

Contact Information
Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
University Library, University of the Pacific
Stockton, CA 95211
Phone: (209) 946-2404
Fax: (209) 946-2810
URL: http://www.pacific.edu/Library/Find/Holt-Atherton-Special-Collections.html

Processed by:
Don Walker
Date Completed:
March 21, 1994
Encoded by:
Don Walker

© 1998 University of the Pacific. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Haskin-Tonopah Gold Mine Collection,
Date (inclusive): 1929
Collection number: Mss91
Creator:
Extent: 0.5 linear ft.
Repository: University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
Stockton, CA 95211
Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Language: English.
Access
Collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Haskin-Tonopah Gold Mine Collection, Mss91, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

Biography
To virtually "every living Nevadan more than forty years of age, observes the WPA Nevada guide book, "Tonopah stands for modern Nevada, for youth, excitement, hope and the great adventure of a lifetime." A major gold rush began there in 1902, following the accidental discovery of a rich vein of silver. By 1913, production had reached its zenith at $9.5 million, and, by 1921, it had fallen to half that figure. Gradually, one mine after another was turned over to lessors. By 1930 the population of the town had fallen to 2000, but Tonopah survived as a gasoline, machinery and food distribution center. As late as 1940, notes the WPA guide, "residents are strong in the belief that explorations will soon find new wealth."

It was apparently with that hope in view that Western Pacific Railroad locomotive engineer, Joseph J. Haskin and his wife, Veda, of Oakland, Calif., acquired shares in the Electric Gold Mining Co. of Tonopah. When the president of that entity, F.E. Horton, created a new holding company, Weepah-Horton Gold Mining Co., many small investors like the Haskins were unable to pay the two cents per share exchange fee Horton required to convert their holdings from Electric Gold to...
Weepah-Horton stock.

Joseph Haskin may have been a friend of Horton's. His correspondence suggests that he and his wife had helped Horton to sell Electric Gold stock in the San Francisco Bay Area. His customers expressed concerns about the new arrangements, while Haskin repeatedly reassured them. In June, Haskin paid his assessment after complaining to Horton about being short of cash.

Joseph Haskin also invested in various Bay Area companies through his union—the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers—which held a controlling interest in the Pacific Brotherhood Investment Corp. In June 1929 this group was investigated for financial malpractice.

Scope and Content

The Haskin/Tonopah Gold Mine Papers consist chiefly of correspondence and clippings pertaining to stock acquisition and ownership change at a particular gold mine near Tonopah, Nevada. The Papers also contain a small file of materials relating to the malpractice investigation of the Pacific Brotherhood Investment Corp.