
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

949 East Second Street
Tucson, AZ 85719

Library & Archives
(520) 617-1157

ahsref@azhs.gov

MS 0510
COMMONWEALTH MINING AND MILLING CO.
Papers, 1895-1934

DESCRIPTION

Company correspondence, newspaper clippings, profit and loan information, business receipts and bank statements of the Commonwealth Mining and Milling Co. between 1910 and 1921. A photograph of the original 1895 location notice for the mine along with a map highlight this collection. Four folders contain bank statements, cancelled checks, and expense vouchers for mine purchases during the period 1913-1921. Newspaper clippings document the mine's destruction by fire in March 1910. One outside item in the oversized storage contains mine monthly pay roll information for the period Aug.- Sep. of 1914 and Jan. – Mar. of 1915. This collection includes former MS 1345 – Commonwealth Mining and Milling Company Records.

3 Boxes, 1.5 linear foot plus two outside items located in oversized storage.

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Commonwealth Mine, also known as the Commonwealth Development Company and the Commonwealth Mining and Milling Company, was located at Pearce, AZ in the Sulphur Springs Valley in the southeastern corner of Arizona. The original mine was discovered in 1895 by James Pearce who owned a ranch in the area and had previously worked as a miner in the Tombstone area. The Pearce family started removing the rich gold and silver ore to Willcox, AZ after which it was transported to a smelter in El Paso, TX. As news of the rich mine became known, Pearce received offers by various individuals to purchase the claim. Investors in Philadelphia purchased the mine paying Pearce \$240,000 for the claim and forming the Commonwealth Mining and Milling Company. In 1903 as the grade of ore declined a reorganization placed John Brockman and A. Y. Smith as managers. In 1905 the mine was leased to Smith and D. T. Swatling. In 1909 the cyanide plant constructed at the mine by Smith and Swatling burned and mining operations halted. In 1910 the mine was sold to Montana Tonopah Mining and Milling Company which promptly hired A. Y. Smith to manage the property. In 1918 the mine was again reorganized under the new designation Commonwealth Development Company and remained in operation until 1930 when falling silver prices forced the mine to close for the final time.

ACQUISITION

Unknown. This collection also includes former MS 1345 which was donated by Janolyn Lo Vecchio in September 2008 and one journal which was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Max Millett and Don Pace in February 1975.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department. It is incumbent upon the researcher to determine copyright information for all materials in this collection.

PROCESSING

The collection was originally processed in May 1999 by William D. Tackenberg. In 2015, MS 1345 – Commonwealth Mine Collection was integrated into this collection.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box 1

f.1	Location notice of mine with map	1895
f.2	Correspondence	1913-1917
f.3	News clippings	1910, 1912
f.4	Profit and loan statements	1919, 1921
f.5	Purchase receipts	1913
f.6	Expense vouchers	1913
f.7	Bank statements	1919-1921
F.8	Bank checks	1919-1921
F. 9-11	Correspondence	1909 – 1926
f.12	Weekly Report	1911 – 1912
f.13	Dividend Announcement	1910
f.14	Ore Shipment Disclosure to Dept. of Interior	1911
f.15	Ore Shipment Receipts	1914 – 1930

Box 2

f.1	Machinery & Power Plant Reports	1916
f.2	Accident Reports	1914
f.3	Ore Assay Reports	1914
f.4	Tax Statement for Cochise County	1920
f.5	Stockholder Proxy	1927
f.6	Mining Receipts and Vouchers	1906/1909/1914-1916 1922/1924
f.7	Canceled Checks – Commonwealth Mining & Milling Co.	1905/1907/1911 1915/1918
f.8	Canceled Checks – Commonwealth Development Co.	1919/1923/1930
f.9	Canceled Checks – Commonwealth Owners	1932 – 1934
f.10	Canceled Checks – World's Fair Mine Development Co.	1914
f.11	Canceled Checks – B-S-B Egg Farm	1924 – 1926
f.12	Canceled Checks – Misc.	1921 – 1927
f.13	Financial Statements	1923
f.14	Insurance Policies	1925

f.15	Arizona Mines Listing	1907
f.16	Lease Contract	1917
f.17	MISC. Items	
f.18	Report on Las Animas Mine, New Mexico	ca. 1907
f.19	Journal	1896 - 1899

Box 3

f.1	Journal	1897 - 1899
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Oversize

	Three copies of Commonwealth Mine plan, Pearce, Arizona	1917
	Payroll Ledger	1914