
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PC 216
Peterson, Bruce
Mine construction photographs, ca. 1900-1912

DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of photos of the construction of mine buildings in Douglas, Clifton, Morenci, and Bisbee, Arizona and Cananea, Mexico. Most of these photos show the construction of smelters and concentrators, but there are a few pictures of the towns. There are also photographs of the camp and the soldiers at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona.

1 Box, 0.5 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

The collection was donated by Bruce and Mary Peterson in 1975. In 1996, the collection was loaned out to the donors for further identification; it was returned in 1996. The photos came from a coworker of Bruce Peterson around 1975. The coworker, whose identity is no longer known, was concerned for the safety of the images.

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.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Erika Abad, under the supervision of Dena McDuffie in November 2002.

ARRANGEMENT

Arranged into three series: Southern Arizona and Mexican mining; Ft. Huachuca, Arizona; and unidentified photographs.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In the early 1900s mining was a powerhouse in Arizona. Minerals like gold and silver were found throughout the mountainous regions of the state, but copper had the most prodigious ore deposits. With the development of the railroad, which made transportation of this huge low-grade ore much easier, the copper market exploded. Copper became the "king" of Arizona's mining industry. Soon, Arizona was flooded with mining companies all vying to make a stake in the seemingly never-ending supply of ore.

Companies like Phelps Dodge's Arizona Copper Queen, Calumet & Arizona Mining Company, the Arizona Copper Company constructed huge mines that extracted and refined tons of ore deposits. They aided the production of the railroads to ease transportation problems. This allowed them to mine in one town and refine in another. The Arizona Copper Company erected a smelter and concentrator in Clifton, although the mine was in Morenci. The Calumet & Arizona Company built a 300-ton-per-day copper smelter in Douglas, though their mine was 25 miles away. They did this to be nearer to the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These pictures are dated, according to the donors, circa 1900-1912.

There are several pictures of building construction at different mines throughout Southern Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Specifically, mines in Douglas, Clifton, and Bisbee, all in Arizona, and Cananea in Mexico. There are photos of the actual mines themselves, including views of the mines at ground level, and several pictures of the machines that extract the mineral from the mines. There are pictures of the construction of concentrators and smelters, machine shops, shafts, and more. There is an image of a train on the Longfellow Incline. There are a few pictures of the towns and of the railroad cars that transported the minerals.

The Ft. Huachuca photographs are of the camp and its soldiers. There are some pictures of the housing buildings, military encampments and landscape of the grounds. There are a few of tent rows being set up near the Apache Flats. The rest are candid photographs depicting soldiers' lives.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1

Series 1: Southern Arizona and Mexican Mining

- F. 1-3 Douglas, Arizona
- F. 4 Clifton, Arizona
- F. 5 Morenci, Arizona
- F. 6 Bisbee, Arizona
- F. 7 Cananea, Mexico

Series 2: Ft. Huachuca, Arizona

- F. 8 Ft. Huachuca, Arizona

Series 3: Miscellaneous Photographs

- F. 9 Miscellaneous Photographs (unidentified scenery and a picnic)