
Register of the Haskin-Tonopah Gold Mine Collection, 1929

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Collection number: Mss91

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Descriptive Summary

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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.

BOX 1: HASKIN/TONOPAH GOLD MINE PAPERS, 1929

Folder 1: JOSEPH J. HASKIN--BUSINESS CORRESP., 1929 [N.B.--All correspondence is to JJH from name provided unless otherwise indicated]

- 1)-Mary R. Bishop, Del Mar, Calif., 1-18
- 2)-S.A. Harmon, Emporia, Kan., 1-18 [incl. env.]
- 3)-Do., 1-22
- 4)-F.E. Horton, Reno, Nev., 2-1 [2 l.]
- 5)-W.B. Knight, SF, 2-5 [2 l.]
- 6)-A.G. Brodie, SF, 2-6
- 7)-F.E. Horton, Reno, Nev., 2-9 [telegram]
- 8)-Do., 2-11 [telegram]
- 9)-A.G. Brodie, SF, 2-20
- 10)-F.E. Horton, Reno, Nev., 2-27 [2 l.]
- 11)-Do., 3-18 [2 l.]
- 12)-Do., 6-9 [3 l.]
- 13)-J.J. Haskin to "Frank" [probably F.E. Horton], 6-19 [ditto copy]
- 14)-Do., 6-21 [2 l., incl. env.]
- 15)-Veda L. Haskin to Weepah Horton Gold Mines Co., 6-22 [incl. notice of assessment from Weepah Horton]

Folder 2: WEEPAH-HORTON GOLD MINES CO.--MISC. CLIPPINGS, 1929

- 1)-"Transfer property--Electric Gold to Weepah-Horton Co.," Nevada Mining Press (2-1)
- 2)-"Come back of Weepah Camp," source unident. (2-4)

Folder 3: WEEPAH-HORTON GOLD MINES CO.--MISC. PAPERS, 1929

- 1)-"To the stockholders of the Electric Gold Mines Co." from F.E. Horton, Weepah Horton Gold Mines Co., 1-25 [2]
- 2)-"To the stockholders of Weepah Horton Gold Mines Co." from F.E. Horton, President, 5-22
- 3)-"Notice of assessment no. 1, Weepah Horton Gold Mines Company" [May]
- 4)-Transfer of claim against Weepah Horton to ownership of I.H. Johnson for one dollar, 6-12
- 5)-Assessment pmt. slip, n.d. [June] [2; one has note to JJH from F.E. Horton]

Folder 4: TONOPAH BANKING CORP.--CORRESP., 1929

- 1)-Veda L. Haskin, Oakland, Calif. to TBC, 2-12 [incl. recpt. from Weepah Horton, 2-14; env.]
- 2)-TBC to VLH, 2-19
- 3)-Registered mail env. & PO Return Recpt., 2-14

Folder 5: PACIFIC BROTHERHOOD INVESTMENT CO.--MISC. PAPERS, 1929

- 1)-George Stratton, investigator to A. Johnston, Grand Chief Engineer, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, 6-1 [4 l.]
 - 2)-George Stratton to Directors of PBIC, 6-4
 - 3)-George Stratton to Preferred Stockholders, 6-14
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