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## **Guide to the Yuba Manufacturing Company, 1898-1957**

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## Guide to the Yuba Manufacturing Company, 1898-1957

### Collection number: MS 157

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Yuba Manufacturing Company,

**Date (inclusive):** 1898-1957

**Collection number:** MS 157

**Extent:** 18 boxes

**Repository:** Meriam Library  
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**Language:** English.

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#### Historical Note

Gold dredging in California began in 1850 when a small river boat was fitted out as a dredge and gravel mining was attempted above Marysville, California on the Yuba River. The first successful gold dredge in California was built in 1898 by Biggs, Butte County resident Wendell P. Hammon, the "Dredger King," and his partner, Thomas Couch, a Montana mining businessman. This first model and those that followed consisted of a floating hull, a digging ladder, an endless chain of buckets, screening apparatus, gold-saving devices, pumps, and a stacker. The California dredge was developed from models used earlier in New Zealand and in Montana, proving to be much more efficient than earlier one-bucket attempts. Hammon was instrumental in founding the Yuba Construction Company in 1906, by purchasing the Western Engineering Company and merging it with his own steel from a casting foundry in Marysville. Four large machine shops were built near Oroville to maintain and build the dredgers. Hammon also founded the Yuba Consolidated Gold Fields on the Yuba River in

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1904. This company became a large, profitable placer operation, a proving ground for new dredge designs and a training ground for dredge operators and others in this global industry. As many as 50 dredgers work in the Feather River/Yuba River drainage at one time. The Yuba Construction Company changed its name to the Yuba Manufacturing Company and later became a subsidiary of the Yuba Consolidated Gold Fields. In 1957 these companies merged into Yuba Consolidated Industries. Yuba dredges have been built and shipped from California to worldwide markets during the first half of the 20th century. These "gold boats" were shipped in pieces and assembled where the mining would take place. Locations included the countries of Malaya, the Philippines, Bolivia, Columbia, China, and Russia.

#### **Scope and Content**

The Yuba collection contains business files and documents pertaining to the activities of Wendall P. Hammon and the founding the Yuba Construction Company and Yuba Consolidated Gold Fields, including annual reports of both companies and reports of other mining companies. Also included in the collection are specifications and estimates for dredge building, orders for new dredges, blueprints of dredges, photographs, maps and Hammon's scrapbooks on dredge and other mining.

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Folder 9	<p><b>Yuba Dredge #112 (Montana) - 1936</b>  <b>Yuba Dredge #136 (Oregon)</b>  <b>Yuba Dredge #150 (Alaska)</b>  <b>Yuba Dredge #136 (Oregon)</b>  <b>Perry Schroeder Dredge (Canyon Ferry Dam)</b></p>
Folder 10	<p><b>Panob Dredge - Photographs and letter re Panob Dredging Company, Lincoln, Ca. - 1947</b></p>
Folder 11	<p><b>Yuba-made Movalls in Utah and Wyoming</b></p>
Folder 12	<p><b>Operations in Tampa, Florida - Tug "Susan Moran"</b></p>
Box Box 17,	<p><b>Album - Photographs numbered 1228-1232, 1236-1241</b></p>
Folder 1	<p><b>Dredges, Hammonton, ships</b>  <b>Miscellaneous photographs</b>  <b>Postcards of Grass Valley</b>  <b>Callahan Construction Co, Sutter Basin</b></p>
Folder 2	<p><b>Album - Labeled "Pumps" and "Book #27"</b></p>
Box Box 18	<p><b>Photographs of work in the field.</b>  <b>MAPS AND BLUEPRINTS</b></p>
map-drawer Map Drawer	<p><b>Yuba Construction Company</b></p> <p><b>Certificate of Articles of Incorporation - July 13, 1906</b>  <b>Map of the Wilcox, Leggett and Faul Tracts</b>  <b>B &amp; C Dredging Company (Boston and California)</b>  <b>Showing progress of dredge, n.d.</b>  <b>(Internal evidence - after January 1904)</b></p> <p><b>Yuba Consolidated Gold Fields</b>  <b>Proposed regulation of Yuba River and extension of dredging limits</b>  <b>Hammon Engineering Company</b>  <b>Accompanying letter to California Debris Commission - December 28, 1914</b></p> <p><b>Bucyrus-Erie Company</b>  <b>General arrangement of 8 Cu.Ft. placer dredge, June 17, 1940</b></p>