



Guide to the Franklin M. Murphy Geological Papers

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on March 28, 2022. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1cg9r>

© 2022 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	6
General geological papers	6
Projects by state	7

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Murphy, Franklin M., 1898-1957
Title:	Franklin M. Murphy Geological Papers
ID:	MS-00202
Date [inclusive]:	1919 to 1956
Physical Description:	6.30 Cubic Feet (11 boxes and 1 flat file)
Physical Description:	7.63 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Franklin M. Murphy Geological Papers (1919-1956) contain surveys, lectures, reports, correspondence, newspaper clippings, bulletins, maps, and dam site investigations from six different states in the American west. Also included are mining projects, photographs, scrapbooks, albums, school papers, and Murphy's thesis.

Preferred Citation

Franklin M. Murphy Geological Papers, 1919-1956. MS-00202. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Consulting geologist and surveyor Franklin Mac Murphy was born on December 27, 1898 in Wheaton, Minnesota. He studied at Columbia University, the University of Arizona, and the University of California, Los Angeles, completing his graduate studies in 1930 at the California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena, California.

After his graduation, Murphy worked for the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). From 1930 to 1933 he provided surveys and geological mapping of the Eldorado Range in southern Nevada for the Hoover Dam site and vicinity. From 1933 to 1937, he worked as a geologist on irrigation and flood control projects, including the Colorado River Indian Irrigation Project. After

1940, Murphy acted as an independent geologist on many other dam sites and mining projects until his sudden death in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 10, 1957.

Sources:

Genealogical research on "Franklin Mac Murphy." Accessed December 12, 2019 on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org

Alumni death notice, "Franklin Mac Murphy." California Institute of Technology Alumni Association Engineering and Science newsletter, 1957. Accessed November 26, 2019, <http://calteches.library.caltech.edu/1849/1/personals.pdf>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Franklin M. Murphy Geological Papers (1919-1956) contain surveys, lectures, reports, correspondence, bulletins, newspaper clippings, maps, and dam site investigations. The material covers the states of California, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. Also included are mining projects, photographs, scrapbooks, albums, school papers, and Murphy's thesis.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

These records are organized into two series:

Series I. General geological papers;

Series II. Projects by State.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

The material was donated in 1979 by the Las Vegas Public Library; accession number T-130.

Processing Note

Papers were processed in 2018 by Joyce Moore. In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Melise Leech revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resource may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Franklin M. Murphy Photograph Collection, approximately 1929-1933. MS-00232. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Geology -- Nevada
- Surveyors -- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- Biography
- Surveying
- photographs
- Dam construction -- Nevada -- Boulder City -- 1930-1940
- Colorado River (Colo.-Mexico)
- Maps
- Mines and mineral resources
- Water resources development -- Nevada

Collection Inventory

General geological papers, approximately 1919 to 1951

Physical Description: 2.17 Cubic Feet (4 boxes and one flat file)

Physical Description: 4.17 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Franklin M. Murphy General Geological Papers (1919-1951) contain university grades, thesis, and other papers written by Murphy. Also included are proposals, correspondence, newspaper clippings, maps, notes, and geological findings relating to mining and water.

Arrangement: Papers are arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Containers	
Correspondence, approximately 1938 to 1944	box 01	folder 01-02
Chemistry laboratory notebook, 1925	box 01	folder 03
Crystallography research notes, approximately 1919 to 1951	box 01	folder 04
Jeppesen handheld navigation slide-rule, "Dalton Dead Reckoning Computer", approximately 1940 to 1950	box 01	folder 05
<i>Eliminating Waste in Blasting</i> , booklet, 1922	box 01	folder 06
Geological maps drawn by Murphy, approximately 1919 to 1951	box 01	folder 07
Index maps, western United States, approximately 1942 to 1943	box 01	folder 08
Kirkland Lake, Ontario Canada, central ore zone, Canadian maps, approximately 1919 to 1951	box 01	folder 09
School papers and graded assignments, 1921-1937	box 01	folder 10
"Ore Deposits of the Southwest," lecture notes by Dr. Ransome, written by D. Brown of University of Arizona, 1925	box 02	folder 01
Ore deposits in the western United States, approximately 1919 to 1951	box 02	folder 02
<i>The Petrographic Laboratory</i> , workbook, approximately 1919 to 1951	box 02	folder 03
"Petroleum Geology," lecture by A. A. Stoyanow of University of Arizona, 1925	box 02	folder 04
Physical geology of North America, research notes, approximately 1919 to 1951	box 02	folder 05
<i>Pocket Companion for Engineers, Architects, and Builders</i> , 1920		

	box 02	folder 06
Scrapbooks, notes, newspaper clippings, articles, approximately 1936 to 1943	box 03	folder 01, 02
Scrapbook, engineering geology, approximately 1929 to 1941	box 03	folder 03, 04
Transcripts and resumes, approximately 1919 to 1937	box 03	folder 05
U. S. Bureau of Mines, information circulars and reports of investigation, approximately 1931 to 1951	box 03	folder 06
Union Pacific Railroad, notes and personal correspondence, 1946	box 03	folder 07
Union Pacific Railroad, reports, 1945	box 03	folder 08
Union Pacific Railroad, mineral resources in areas served by the railroad, 1925	box 04	folder 01
United States Civil Service Commission, Indian irrigation photographs, approximately 1919 to 1951	box 04	folder 02
"Volume Analysis," ore, approximately 1919 to 1951	box 04	folder 03

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Projects by state, 1926-1956

Physical Description: 4.12 Cubic Feet (7 boxes)

Physical Description: 3.46 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Projects by state series (1926-1956) is divided by projects, surveys, and investigations made by Franklin M. Murphy in six western states. Included are maps, correspondence, reports, presentations, personal notes, booklets, and newspaper clippings.

Arrangement: Materials are arranged alphabetically by state.

Title/Description	Containers	
Arizona		
Black Diamond Magnesium, Mojave County, notes, newspaper clippings, photographic negatives, 1952	box 05	folder 01
Boulder Creek Ilmenite prospect, Eureka mining district, Yavapai County, maps, notes, photographic prints, approximately 1951 to 1952	box 05	folder 02
Correspondence on Lucore lease, Tombstone City, 1941	box 05	folder 03
"Geology of Arizona," seminar paper, 1926	box 05	folder 04
Lode claim, Tombstone City, 1941		

	box 05	folder 05
"Mining the Great Basin", 1930	box 05	folder 06
Mines in the Tombstone area, maps, 1941	box 05	folder 07
Reconnaissance geologic report on the Bridge Canyon aqueduct routes, 1930	box 05	folder 08
"Report on the Geology of the Black Diamond Magnesium Property, Mojave County", 1952	box 05	folder 09
"Report on the Geology of Certain Dam sites on the Colorado River Indian Reservation", 1937 June 29	box 05	folder 10
"Report on the Geology of the Gold Nugget, Gold Queen mining claims, Dripping Spring District, Gila County", 1942	box 05	folder 11
California		
Bureau of Friant, correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, maps, 1936	box 06	folder 01, 02
Caldwell Mine and the Gale Prospect, request for payment, 1952	box 06	folder 03
<i>California Journal of Mines and Geology</i> , approximately 1928 to 1951	box 06	folder 04
Fenner Valley, ground water conditions, approximately 1919 to 1956	box 06	folder 05
Friant Damsite, Central Valley Project, geological reports and logs of Diamond drill holes and Calyx drill holes, 1936 to 1937	box 06	folder 06
"Report on the Geology of the Plumbago Mine," report and maps, 1938	box 06	folder 07
Geological reports on the Columbia River Indian reservation irrigation dams, correspondence, notes, photographs, 1937	box 06	folder 08, 09
Geological reports on other various mines, 1933	box 06	folder 10
<i>Geology and Ore Deposits of the Panamint Range, Inyo County</i> , Master thesis, approximately 1919 to 1930	box 07	folder 01
Guano and fertilizer analysis, correspondence and reports, 1948	box 07	folder 02
Hornitos District, Mariposa, correspondence and notes, 1950	box 07	folder 03
Kennett Dam, notes, map, 1936	box 07	folder 04
<i>Mineral Information Service</i> , newsletters, 1951 to 1953		

	box 07	folder 05
Mining Los Angeles and the Metropolitan Aqueduct, notes, approximately 1919 to 1956	box 07	folder 06
"Panamint Mining District, ore deposits, part IV", approximately 1919 to 1956	box 07	folder 07
Plumbago Mine, Alleghany County, correspondence, notes, maps, 1938	box 07	folder 08
Preliminary notes on the occurrence of Pumacite in the vicinity of the Friant Damsite, 1936	box 07	folder 09
"Reconnaissance Report on the Geology of a Portion of Quadrangle No. 58, with Particular Reference to Proposed Aqueduct Routes", 1930 November 24	box 07	folder 10
Reliance Placer Claim, Sierra County, O'Brien Mines, Inc., notes, 1938	box 07	folder 11
<i>Southern California Business Magazine</i> , "Colorado River and the Great Southwest", 1929 September	box 07	folder 12
Upper Salinas River Dam Foundation exploration, San Luis Obispo County, maps, reports, 1942	box 07	folder 13
Idaho		
Buffalo Creek Damsite, Upper Snake River Development, 1934	box 08	folder 01
Grassy Lake Dam and Reservoir Site, Upper Snake River Storage Investigations, 1936 January	box 08	folder 02
Henry's Fork Damsite, investigations and geological development, 1934	box 08	folder 03
Henry's Fork and Island Park Dam Sites, maps and charts, 1934	box 08	folder 04
Island Park Damsite Investigations, 1934	box 08	folder 05
Island Park Damsite, Upper Snake River, storage investigations, 1934	box 08	folder 06
Island Park Reservoir, notes, 1934	box 08	folder 07
Island Park, new data on holes 22, 23, and shaft 12, 1934	box 08	folder 08
North Fork Damsite, Upper Snake River Storage, geological survey, 1933	box 09	folder 01
Photographs, Idaho Falls, 1935	box 09	folder 02
Snake River Damsite Investigations, 1935		

	box 09	folder 03
Upper Snake River, storage investigations, 1935	box 09	folder 04
Missouri		
Missouri River Dam and Diversion Project, 1933	box 10	folder 01
Montana		
"Lower Basin Damsite, Gallatin Valley Investigations", 1935	box 10	folder 10
"Spanish Creek Damsite, Gallatin Valley Investigation", 1935	box 10	folder 03
Nevada		
Boulder Canyon Project, "The Colorado Conquered," original script, approximately 1930 to 1940	box 10	folder 04
Boulder Canyon Project, report, approximately 1930 to 1940	box 10	folder 05
Boulder Dam, album of photographs, approximately 1929 to 1933 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 10	folder 06, 07
Boulder Dam, notes, maps, booklet, 1929	box 10	folder 08
Clark County Ridge Group, correspondence, 1956 May 09	box 10	folder 09
Geology of the Gold Butte area, Clark County, notes, 1956 February 22	box 10	folder 10
"Geology of the Wallboard, Sheathing, and White Snowboard Gypsum Claims, St. Thomas District, Clark County," Nevada, report, notes, maps, 1954	box 10	folder 11
Industrial gypsum, Clark County, correspondence, legal papers, and mine claims, approximately 1942 to 1955	box 10	folder 12
"Mining Gizmo, Gizmo No. 1 and Oversight, Nye County (near Beatty)," correspondence, 1954	box 11	folder 01
Mining oil and gas near Glendale, inquiries, 1952 June 21	box 11	folder 02
Mining Vegas Valley Wash, correspondence, 1954 July 06	box 11	folder 03
"Progress Report on the Groundwater Resources of the Las Vegas Artesian Basin", 1945 March	box 11	folder 04
"Reconnaissance Report of the Geology of Portions of Quadrangles 56, 57, 58, 66, 67, and 68 with Particular Reference to Proposed Aqueduct	box 11	folder 05

Routes from Black Canyon, Bulls Head and Bridge Canyon Dam Sites,"
Nevada, 1930 June

"Report on the Reconnaissance of the Arden-Sloan Area, Clark County", 1944 December	box 11	folder 06
Topographical maps of Southern Nevada, approximately 1926 to 1956	flat file 12	
University of Nevada Bulletins, incomplete run, approximately 1928 to 1951	box 11	folder 07
Utah		
Department of Commerce, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Las Vegas, Nevada to Salt Lake City, Utah, geographic positions and reports, 1946	box 11	folder 08
Richardson Basin District, Grand Canyon, geological report, approximately 1926 to 1956	box 11	folder 09
Temple Mountain area, Green River, uranium exploration, Union Mines Development Company, reports, correspondence, maps, 1943 to 1944	box 11	folder 10, 11

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)