



## Guide to the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad Records

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Collector:</b>	Coons, David, 1939-1989
<b>Title:</b>	Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad Records
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00006
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1905 to 1977
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1930 to 1940
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.15 Cubic Feet (3 boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.04 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad Records (1905-1977) contain correspondence, purchase requisitions, bills of lading, freight reports, and waybills. Also included are a ledger book, a rubber stamp, and a booklet, "Diagrams of Locomotives and Tenders." Incorporated in 1904, the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad operated for 35 years, connecting Ludlow, California with Beatty, Nevada by way of Death Valley on the Santa Fe Railroad main line. The records are concentrated on the later years of the railroad from 1930 to 1940.

### Preferred Citation

Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad Records, 1905-1977. MS-00006. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Historical Background

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Incorporated in 1904, the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad operated for 35 years, connecting Ludlow, California (on the Santa Fe Railroad main line) with Beatty, Nevada, by way of Death Valley. "Tidewater" referred to dreams of eventually completing connections with San Diego, California. Initial construction began in Las Vegas, Nevada, in May of 1905. The base of operations was shifted to Ludlow, California three months later and the tracks reached Beatty in October,

1907. The following year the company took over the Bullfrog Goldfield-Railroad which allowed service to be extended to Goldfield and Rhyolite. By 1927 declining mining fortunes and waning borax operations in Death Valley caused the slow decline of the railroad, which finally ceased operations in 1940.

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## Scope and Contents Note

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The Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad Records (1905-1977) contain correspondence, purchase requisitions, bills of lading, freight reports, and waybills. Also included are a ledger book, a rubber stamp, and a booklet, "Diagrams of Locomotives and Tenders." Incorporated in 1904, the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad operated for 35 years, connecting Ludlow, California with Beatty, Nevada by way of Death Valley on the Santa Fe Railroad main line. "Tidewater" referred to dreams of eventually completing connections with San Diego, California. The records are concentrated on the later years of the railroad from 1930 to 1940.

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## Arrangement

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Materials remain in original order.

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## Administrative Information

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### Access Note

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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## Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1977 by David Coons and in 1989 by Maxine Graham; accession numbers T-69 and 89-66.

## Processing Note

In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Joyce Moore wrote the finding aid and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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## Related Materials

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### Separated Materials

The photographs in this acquisition were removed from the collection and placed in Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad Photographs, 1905-1940. PH-00029. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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## Names and Subjects

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- Railroads – Nevada -- History
- Railroads -- California -- History
- Death Valley (Calif. and Nev.)
- Beatty (Nev.)
- Goldfield (Nev.) -- History
- Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad Company

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Containers
Rubber stamp: "Auditor and Cashier/Tonopah and Tidewater R.R. Co., Ltd"	box 1
Worksheets, correspondence, and documentation from David Coons, 1976 to 1977	box 1
Ledger book of checks dispersed by Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad, 1927 to 1932	box 1

Correspondence regarding transportation of explosives, 1910, 1917	box 1
Correspondence, general, 1930 to 1934	box 1
Correspondence regarding quality of water along the route and water source reports, 1930 to 1932 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 1
Correspondence regarding water delivery, billings, bid estimates, 1931 to 1934 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 1
Blank forms for freight delivery, waybill, receipts, switch list, approximately 1931 to 1934	box 1
Requisition and expense account forms, approximately 1930 to 1934	box 1
"Leaflets for the San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railway Diagrams of Locomotives & Tenders" (includes some Las Vegas and Tonopah locomotives) booklet, 1943 November 01	box 1
Freight bills and receipts for Argentina Mine at Goodsprings, Nevada, 1927	box 1
Prospectus: The Forward Mining Development Company (Goldfield, Nevada), 1905	box 1
Desert Power and Mill Company order, 1912 April	box 1
Freight waybill and reports of freight forwarded, 1938 to 1940 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 2
Bills of lading, 1938 to 1940 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 2
Requisitions to purchase materials, 1937 to 1939 September Physical Description: 5 Files	box 3