



Guide to the Tonopah-Goldfield Mining Photograph Collection

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1w91n>

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**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
Historical Background	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Collector:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Libraries. Special Collections and Archives
Title:	Tonopah-Goldfield Mining Photograph Collection
ID:	PH-00023
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1901 to 1920
Physical Description:	0.89 Cubic Feet (2 boxes and 1 hanging folder)
Physical Description:	1.08 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Tonopah-Goldfield Mining Photograph Collection depicts mining activities in the mining towns of Tonopah and Goldfield in Esmeralda County, Nevada from approximately 1901 to 1920. The photographs primarily depict mines, miners, mills, construction, ore, and workers transporting ore. The photographs also depict events and people in Tonopah and Goldfield, including parades, celebrations, banquets, children, Native Americans, and prominent buildings.

Preferred Citation

Tonopah-Goldfield Mining Photograph Collection, approximately 1901-1920. PH-00023. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Background

Mining in Nevada experienced a second precious metal boom just after the turn of the twentieth century when miners discovered silver and gold in Tonopah and Goldfield, and later in the Bullfrog District, in central Nevada. This second mining boom, lasting from 1900 until 1923, differed from the first in a few important ways. Rather than the chaos of hundreds of individual mining stakes, mines, and mining companies that characterized the earlier Comstock period, mining enterprises in Goldfield and Tonopah were consolidated into nationally financed

corporate mining conglomerates such as Tonopah Mining Company and Goldfield Consolidated Mining Company, which controlled mines, mills, and railroads. The invention of the automobile connected isolated mining sites, mining technology advanced, and a better functioning system of local and state governance helped control lawlessness. However, miners of this period often suffered from silicosis, a type of lung disease triggered by the inhalation of silica or quartzite dust. Nevadans referred to the Delamar Gold Mine, located in Lincoln County, as the "widow-maker" due to the prevalence of silicosis during the mine's active years (1896 to 1902).

The most successful mining during this period was executed in central Nevada, in Nye and Esmeralda counties. Prospectors unearthed gold in Goldfield in 1902 and continued to excavate gold until approximately 1923. Violent incidents of labor unrest attributed to the Western Federation of Miners and the International Workers of the World (Wobblies), and the equally violent union busting by the mine owners, disrupted the mining activities in Goldfield to the point that President Theodore Roosevelt reluctantly sent federal troops to Goldfield at the request of Nevada Governor Denver S. Dickerson to assure public peace in 1907. Miners established smaller mining camps in Southern Nevada, in Searchlight for example, and miners discovered large deposits of copper in Northern Nevada in White Pine and Lyon counties. The second mining boom ended around 1923 when the Federal Government terminated the Pittman Act, a government subsidy that guaranteed the price of silver during the First World War.

Sources:

Driesner, Doug and Alan Coyner. *Major Mines of Nevada 2009: Mineral Industries in Nevada's Economy*. Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Special Publication P-21. 2010.

Elliott, Russell R. *History of Nevada*. Lincoln: University of Nevada, 1973.

Hulse, James W. *The Silver State: Nevada's Heritage Reinterpreted*. Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2004.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Tonopah-Goldfield Mining Photograph Collection depicts mining activities in the mining towns of Tonopah and Goldfield in Esmeralda County, Nevada from approximately 1901 to 1920. The photographs primarily depict mines, miners, mills, construction, ore, and workers transporting ore. The photographs also depict events and people in Tonopah and Goldfield, including parades, celebrations, banquets, children, Native Americans, and prominent buildings.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research. Some collection material has been digitized and is [available online](#).

Publication Rights

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Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden wrote the collection description in compliance with current professional standards. In 2022, Sarah Jones and Peter Michel added three photograph albums into the collection that were originally in MS-00011.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

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

Nevada Mining Collection, 1842-1966. MS-00011. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. Nevada Mining Photograph Collection, 1868-1933. PH-00361. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company Records, 1904-1930. MS-00744. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. Tonopah Mining Company Records, 1904-1945. MS-00752. Special Collections, University Libraries,

University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. Goldfield, Nevada Collection, 1903-1924. MS-00010. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Goldfield (Nev.)
- Tonopah (Nev.)
- Esmeralda County (Nev.)
- Mines and mineral resources

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers
Mining operations, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000001)	oversized box 01
Workers and construction in Tonopah or Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000002)	oversized box 01
Goldfield and Columbia Mountain, 1904 June (snv000003)	oversized box 01
Mining operations, Goldfield: Combination Mine, mill foundations, January Lease, and Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000004)	oversized box 01
Driving the golden spike, christening the Tonopah Railroad, 1904 July 25 (snv000005)	oversized box 01
Tonopah volunteer firefighters, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000006)	oversized box 01
Miners Drugstore float for Tonopah Railroad Carnival, Tonopah, approximately 1904 July 25 (snv000007)	oversized box 01
Tonopah Railroad Carnival float in front of the Palace, Tonopah, 1904 July 25 (snv000008)	oversized box 01
Tonopah Railroad Carnival marching band, approximately 1904 July 25 (snv000009)	oversized box 01
Advertisements on ore wagons at Tonopah Railroad Carnival, approximately 1904 July 25 (snv000010)	oversized box 01
Belle Pepper, Tonopah Railroad Carnival Queen, and her court, approximately 1904 July 25 (snv000011)	oversized box 01

Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie Float at Tonopah Railroad Carnival, approximately 1904 July 25 (snv000012)	oversized box 01
Tonopah and mountains, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000013)	oversized box 01
Belle Pepper, Tonopah Railroad Carnival Queen, and her court, approximately 1904 July 25 (snv000014)	oversized box 01
Independence Day parade, Tonopah, 1903 July 03 (snv000015)	oversized box 01
Panorama: Tonopah, Nevada, 1904 (snv000016)	oversized box 01
Upper Main Street, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000017)	oversized box 01
Cabins below rock outcropping, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000018)	oversized box 01
Group posing at the Montana Tonopah Mine, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000019)	oversized box 01
Mule teams hauling mining equipment, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000020)	oversized box 01
Pack trains and buggies crossing the desert, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000021)	oversized box 01
Midway Mill construction, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000022)	oversized box 01
Montana Tonopah Mine and outbuildings, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000023)	oversized box 01
Western Shoshone women, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000024)	oversized box 01
Western Shoshone women, children, and dog, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000025)	oversized box 01
Tonopah-Midway Mill and outbuildings, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000026)	oversized box 01
Western Shoshone women, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000027)	oversized box 01
Group posing at the Montana Tonopah Mine, 1902 (snv000028)	oversized box 01
Five people and burros, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000029)	oversized box 01
Montana Tonopah Mine and North Star Mine at Mt. Oddie, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000030)	oversized box 01
Horse team at mine, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000031)	oversized box 01
Mizpah Mine, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000032)	

	oversized box 01
Mule powered mining arrastra, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000033)	oversized box 01
January Lease mine, Goldfield, 1904 (snv000034)	oversized box 01
Workers at the January claim, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000035)	oversized box 01
Ledge at Valley View Hill, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000036)	oversized box 01
Jim Butler raises baton at celebration, Tonopah, 1903 July 01 (snv000037)	oversized box 01
Children and burros in front of an office building, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000038)	oversized box 01
Mining camp and pack train, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000039)	oversized box 01
Gothic Rock, Lone Mountains, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000040)	oversized box 01
Line of pack mules crossing a ridge, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000041)	oversized box 01
People toasting at a banquet, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000042)	oversized box 01
Tonopah, Nevada, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000043)	oversized box 01
Wedding reception, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000044)	oversized box 01
Golden Block Building, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000045)	oversized box 01
Agency State Bank and Trust Company, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000046)	oversized box 01
Stage in front of Lathrop & Davis General Merchandise, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000047)	oversized box 01
Train wreck of Narrow Gauge Baldwin No. 2 on the Tonopah Railroad near Desert Wells, Nevada, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000048)	oversized box 01
Parade on Main Street, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000049)	oversized box 01
Tonopah, Nevada, 1901 (snv000050)	oversized box 01
Workers loading ore at Sandstorm Mine, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000051)	oversized box 01
Men on horseback riding across the desert returning from races, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000052)	

	oversized box 01
Cowboys racing during the Tonopah Railroad Carnival, approximately 1904 July 25 (snv000053)	oversized box 01
Double handed drilling contest, Tonopah Railroad Carnival, 1904 July 26 (snv000054)	oversized box 01
Double handed drilling contest, Tonopah Railroad Carnival, 1904 July 26 (snv000055)	oversized box 01
Railroad carnival bandstand, Tonopah, approximately 1904 July 25 (snv000056)	oversized box 01
Crowd observes double handed drilling contest at the Tonopah Railroad Carnival, Tonopah, 1904 July 26 (snv000058)	oversized box 01
Crowd observes double handed drilling contest at the Tonopah Railroad Carnival, Tonopah, 1904 July 26 (snv000059)	oversized box 01
Loading ore sacks at Tonopah freight yard, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000060)	oversized box 01
People in formal attire at a dinner party hosted by Charles Knox, Montana Tonopah Mining Company president, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000061)	oversized box 01
People seated in stands at Tonopah Railroad Carnival, approximately 1904 July 25 (snv000062)	oversized box 01
People watching the driving of the silver spike at the Tonopah Railroad Carnival, approximately 1904 July 25 (snv000063)	oversized box 01
Fourth of July parade, Tonopah, 1903 July 04 (snv000064)	oversized box 01
Fraternal Order of Eagles marching in parade, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000065)	oversized box 01
Pack train on Main Street, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000066)	oversized box 01
Combination Mine, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000067)	folder 01
Black Butte, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000068)	oversized box 01
Crowd celebrating in Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000069)	oversized box 01
Main Street, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000070)	oversized box 01
Children posing outside of house built of beer bottles by William F. Peck, Tonopah, approximately 1902-1905 (snv000071)	oversized box 01
Crowd observes water piped into Tonopah, 1902 October 24 (snv000072)	oversized box 01
Bank teller window, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000073)	

	oversized box 01
Jumbo Mine of Goldfield Consolidated Mines, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000074)	oversized box 01
Building foundations for Combination Mill, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000075)	oversized box 01
January Mine, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000076)	oversized box 01
January Lease operation with bags of ore, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000077)	oversized box 01
People with sacks of ore at Combination Mine, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000078)	oversized box 01
January Lease headframe, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000079)	oversized box 01
Ohio Tonopah shaft, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000081)	oversized box 01
Quartzite Mine at Black Butte, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000082)	oversized box 01
Jumbo Mine, Goldfield Consolidated Mines, 1904 October (snv000084)	oversized box 01
Western Shoshone girls with puppies, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000085)	oversized box 01
Goldfield mining camp, 1903 November (snv000086)	oversized box 01
Main Street looking toward Columbia Mountain, Goldfield, 1904 October (snv000087)	oversized box 01
Workers pile sacks of ore from the Jumbo Mine, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000088)	oversized box 01
Goldfield Mining District and Columbia Mountain; Florence Mine, Jumbo Mine, Columbia Mine, tunnel of Band Goldfield Mining Company, and Goldfield Oro Mining Company, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000089)	oversized box 01
Quartzite Mine at Black Butte, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000090)	oversized box 01
Quartzite Mine at Black Butte, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000091)	oversized box 01
New York Tonopah Mine, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000092)	oversized box 01
Miners at North Star Mine, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000093)	oversized box 01
Sacked ore at Mizpah Mine, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000094)	

	oversized box 01
Excavated rock at Gold Hill shaft, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000095)	oversized box 01
Sacked ore, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000096)	oversized box 01
Workers preparing ore for transport, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000097)	oversized box 01
Sacking ore, Tonopah Club Mine, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000098)	oversized box 01
Lone Mountains rock formations, near Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000099)	oversized box 01
Miners pose at McNamara Mine, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000100)	oversized box 01
Valley View Ledge, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000101)	oversized box 01
Suede cover of Tonopah and Goldfield Views, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000102)	oversized box 01
House made of barrels, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000103)	folder 01
Carson & Colorado Railroad cars and wagons in the Tonopah Yard, Tonopah, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000104)	folder 01
Parade celebrating Goldfield extension of the Tonopah Railroad, approximately 1905 (snv000105)	folder 01
Workers standing at the entrance to the Velvet Shaft No. 1, Goldfield, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000107)	folder 01
Workers at the January Lease mine, 1904 (snv000108)	folder 01
Miners, Tonopah, 1904 (snv000109)	folder 01
Workers at the January Lease mine, approximately 1901-1905 (snv000110)	folder 01
Tonopah, Nevada photograph albums, approximately 1910 to 1920 Physical Description: 3 Items	box 02