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Western History Collections

Thomas W. Wheatley Collection

Wheatley, Thomas W. Papers, 1905–1939. .50 foot.

Coal mine operator. Correspondence (1928–1937); labor contracts (1933–1939); wage notices (1917–1936); machine contracts (1921–1939); advertising brochures (1926–1936); and orders (1937–1939) issued by the National Bituminous Coal Commission of the U.S. Department of the Interior, all in regard to the coal mining industry in southeastern Oklahoma. Included is information regarding wages, mine safety and accidents, organized labor, industry standards, coal production, mine railroads, and a 1930 mine explosion in Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, in which thirty miners were killed. This collection also contains survey reports (1905–1906) submitted to the Samples Coal Mining Company regarding the potential coal wealth of the Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, which the Samples Company later mined.

Box W-4

Folder 1 Advertising Material

- One sheet-list of lumberyards and managers of T.H. Rogers Lumber Co.
- One telegram, March 18, 1937.
- Ad to several companies, Samples Coal Mining Company.
- One pamphlet, "The Need for Increased R.R. Revenues", 1937.
- One newspaper clipping, no publication or date, Samples Coal Co.
- One yellow sheet, Jackson, Hunter and Gould Coal Co., 1936.
- One letter of advertising, United McAlester Coal Sales Co., 1926.
- One sheet of paper, hand drawn, blueprint?, sketches?, no date.
- Sample Coal Company, Ad brochures: 1929, 1930, 1931, 1933, 1936

Folder 2 Executive Orders

- National Bituminous Coal Commission Orders #2, 8, 9, 12, 25, 27, 38, 42, 43, 44, 87, 111, 112, 124, 140, 156, 170, 182, 204, 206, 209, 213, 230, 231, 232, 233, 243, 249, 250, 268.
- Orders of commission dealing with variety of topics on the commercial aspects of coal mining, 1937-39.

Folder 3 Docket File

- 1938, U.S. Department of Interior, National Bituminous Coal Commission. Docket numbers: 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, 14 4-C, 74-FD, 85-FB, 187-283, 284, 290, 291, 292, 15 (5 copies), 300. Concerns the minimum prices, maximum prices, discounts, interstate commerce, city petitions, marketing rules and regulations, resulting from Bituminous Coal Act of 1937.
- Applications for three farm cooperative under the direction of NBCC (1938) all denied by Decision of three judge statutory court concerning Bituminous Coal Act, 1937 (one sheet).

Folder 4 Contracts 1921-1939

I. Machine Contracts

- Two machines contracts of North McAlester Coal Company, 1923, with attached hand written notes on machine scale of Samples Coal Co. Mine #4.
- Three copies of machine contacts of Samples Coal Co., Nov. 5, 1924, contains wage scales for various classes of laborers.
- Seven copies of machine contracts of Samples Coal Co., Jan. 1, 1925.

II. Wage Notices, 1917-1936

- One copy, Samples Coal Co. machine wage scale for employees, 1917, includes Osage Coal and Mining Company.
- One copy, Wilburton-McAlester District Coal Operators' wage scale.
- One copy, company costs for mining, July 1924.
- Two notices on reduction in wages to company employees, 1931.
- Two copies, lists of employees of Samples Coal Co. and wages.
- One copy of a report on labor costs from Jan. 1, 1936 to Dec. 21, 1936, attached are recommendations for better working conditions from the UMW, and a handwritten account of operation costs.
- One wage notice of Craig Valley Coal Co., no date.

III. Labor Contracts and Agreements

- One copy of liability suit, filed against Samples Coal Co. for back wages due, attached is receipt of the payment to these two workers and letter from Coal Operators' Association Commissioner.
- One copy of wage agreement between miners and operators May 1937, letter from David Fowler attached.
- One copy, contract between UMW and Samples Coal Company.
- One letter from G.E. Mikel (UMW Secretary), 1939.
- Two copies of supplemental contract between UMWI, Samples Coal Co., October 13, 1933.
- One contract UMW and Samples Coal Co., October 2, 1935.
- One contract UMW and Samples Coal Co., March 2, 1939.
- One contract UMW and Samples Coal Co., April 26, 1939.

Folder 5 Letters

Copy	From	To	Concerns	Date
1	Pittsburg-McAlester Coal Company	Wheatley	Wage Scales	9-1-1932
1	Pittsburg, etc.	Wheatley	Wage Scales	9-17-1932
1	William Murray, Gov.	Puterbaugh	Strike by Workers	8-9-1932
1	Comm. of Labor	Coal Mine Owners	McAles. District Strike	8-10-1932

1	Comm. of Labor		Mgrs. of 4 Coal camps	Industrial peace in coal industry	11-12-1932
1	Comm. of Ark-Ok Coal Op. Assn.		Members	9% wage increase	7-11-1934
1	Comm. of Ark-Ok Coal Op. Assn.		Wheatley	Resolution on coal dumping	4-8-1937
1	UMW		Mem. of AOCOA	Maximum time, working time	4-6-1937
1	Series of Letters			coal prices	Oct. 1932
1	NRA Labor Board, Sinclair Coal		Wheatley	series of letters, Texas increase of coal selling price & wage reduction	
1	David Fowler		James Sullivan	Telegram, 7 hr. day	4-28-1934
1	Wheatley		George Craig	Telegram, mine conditions	9-2-1932
1	Wheatley		Employees	Notice of Wage cut	2-9-1932
1	Samples Coal Co.		Gallamore et al	Contract & McAlester brochure	8-16-1932
1	Mattie Huff		Treasurer of Quilter's League	Receipt letter of charity payment	6-15-1932
1	Wheatley, AOCOA et al		series of letters	Sunday opening of mines problem	Oct. 1937
1	AC Reese	Puterbaugh	Open Shop & UMW		9-21-1935
1	Wheatley	G. E. Mikal, et al	UMW dues (series of letters)		June 1937
1	Puterbaugh	Robt. E. Lee	General conditions of economy and coal		June 1934
1	Wheatley	Fowler	General Labor Contract of UMW		5-22-1937
1	UMW Members	Fowler	Disagreement on hour cut		4-15-1937

Folder 6 Mine Superintendent and Mine Boss Papers

- Five letters, Sept. 1931- March 1932, to C.H. Davidson. Deals with low production, bad economic situation, and steps taken by Wheatley to reduce costs.
- Five certificates from State Mining Board

Folder 7 Mine Trackage, Mine #4, 1928

- Sixteen letters from Jan. 7, 1928 to July 18, 1929, between Wheatley and J.M. Johnston, fuel agent from MKT Railroad. Deals with purchasing and constructing a railroad track for mine #4. Additional materials: cost sheet, MKT regulations on R.R. ties, voucher checks for materials.
- Second series of letters between Wheatley and Johnston concerning relaying of track for mine #2.

Folder 8 1928 Folder, Tipple #4 Fire & Cost of Replacement

- June 11, 1928, one copy, typewritten summary of Fire and total costs of repair by T. Wheatley.
- One, three pages handwritten notes on replacement of bents in mine, Wheatley?
- One copy, 10 pp. report on itemized costs of rebuilding tipple and repairing slop. (Large number of letters in relation to depreciation of fire loss, insurance, and parts orders to United Iron Works. First series of correspondence is with insurance company and Marshall Dana. Third series [bound in string] weekly payroll records of Samples Coal Company, June 23, 1928 to September 1, 1928.)

Folder 9 1930 Folder, Coal Mine Explosion, Letters

- Title of Folder: "This file covers mine explosion at Sample #4 on October 27, 1930." Large number of letters, telegrams, cards many are sympathy letters from friends and fellow businessmen. Some are requests for identification of location of possible mine explosion victims. The most notable thing of this collection is its size, indicating Wheatley's stature in the industry and his humanitarian attitude toward his employees and their families.
- Two copies, 1936, Total Expenditure to wash house destroyed by fire March 24, 1936.

Box W-5

Folder 1 National Bituminous Coal Collection Commission

- One copy of classification schedule, December 9, 1937. Deals with mine classes in District 15.
- One copy of Consolidated List of Applications for Registration as a Registered Farmer's Cooperative Organization.
- Five letters between Wheatley and John Carson of Consumers' Council of NBCC.
- One letter from American Wholesale Coal Association.
- One letter to Dickinson Fuel Co. and one reply to each letter from Wheatley.

- All this correspondence deals with subject of minimum coal prices set by the NBCC. From February 8, 1938 to March 28, 1938

Folder 2 NBCC Classification, Registration, Prices 1937-39

- One copy of BitCoal Producer's Board Dist. 15, Supplemental list showing price classification by size, quality, and kind, March 27, 1939.
- One copy, description of market areas.
- One copy, schedule of minimum prices in District 15.
- One letter from Committee for Amendment of the Coal Act, June 14, 1939.
- One letter from Truax-Traer Coal Co. to Dist. Boards Conference Committee, June 15, 1939.
- One letter from District Boards Conference Committee to Truax-Traer Coal Company.

Folder 3 Prices-Price Lists, etc. 1931-1937

- One card of prices of Pacchontas Coal Company, 1937
- One card of prices of Sinclair Coal Co., 1937.
- One newsletter of prices of McAlester Edwards Coal Co., 1931.
- Two copies of prices of Southern Coal Co., 1932.
- Two letters of prices of Edwards Coal Co., 1936 (Sept. & June)
- One list of prices of Henryetta Fuel Company, 1937.
- One list of prices of Dickinson Fuel Company, 1937.

Folder 4 Photostats of Mining Prospects

- Two Photostats of prospects made with Diamond Drill for Samples Coal Company, 1905-06. (lists two drill sites and gives strata descrip.)

Folder 5 Royalty-Blue Prints Receipts from State & U.S. Government

- File includes blue print receipts from State Mine Inspector, total 12 from 1927-1939.
- Two letters in reference to Moose's analysis of coal mines in Oklahoma, 1928.
- One letter and reply concerning high mine accident rate in Oklahoma, 1931.
- One letter and reply concerning mine laborer certificates for five employees.
- One copy of form for coal mine accidents, 1930 from U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Wheatley filled out form, shows 30 killed in mine explosion of 1930.
- Miscellaneous: Torn sheet from payroll with note concerning the measuring of Mine #4 in 1938, signed by five impartial observers and an explanatory note by K.K. Koch, December 12, 1949.

Folder 6 New System and Data on Coal Mining

- One reprint from *The Mining Congress Journal*, "Mechanization Report #89", December 1928.
- One report from *The Mining Congress Journal*, "An Analysis of the Possibilities of Mechanization Mining", January 1929.
- Three sketches on brown paper of mine improvements? no date or title.
- One handwritten account of labor costs on day shift.