

# Basin Montana Tunnel Company Records, 1933-1942

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Subject</b>	Basin Montana Tunnel Company
<b>Title</b>	Basin Montana Tunnel Company Records
<b>Dates</b>	1933-1942 (inclusive) 1933 1942
<b>Quantity</b>	15.5 linear feet, (18 legal and oversize archival boxes and 6 oversize volumes)
<b>Collection Number</b>	Mss 053
<b>Summary</b>	This collection contains correspondence, financial, operational reports, maps, and blueprints generated by the Basin Montana Tunnel Company, which operated silver, gold, lead, and zinc ore mining operations between Butte and Helena, Montana.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">University of Montana, Mansfield Library, Archives and Special Collections</a> Archives and Special Collections Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library University of Montana 32 Campus Dr. #9936 59812-9936 Missoula, MT Telephone: 406-243-2053 Fax: 406-243-4067 <a href="mailto:library.archives@umontana.edu">library.archives@umontana.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of Archives and Special Collections, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, and The University of Montana-Missoula.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for creating this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Historic Publications and Records Commission. Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## Historical Note

The Basin Montana Tunnel Company was incorporated in 1927 by William H. Hax, New York City, and Carl J. Trauerman of Butte.

The company had the Gray (Grey Eagle) and Comet patented claims and more than 100 additional patented and unpatented claims, about 21,000 acres, on the west side of High Ore Gulch in the Cataract District, extending about three miles south of the Comet Mill to the Great Northern Railroad station at Fuller, Montana, and about 6 miles northeast of Basin, Montana. The claim contained

silver, gold, lead, and zinc ore. The company had the only custom milling plant in Montana outside of Anaconda, and the company was the largest producer of base metals in Montana outside of Butte. The company employed 100 men.

The mine was considered played out by 1941, and the company was inactive by 1949.

## Content Description

This collection contains correspondence, financial, operational reports, maps, and blueprints generated by the Basin Montana Tunnel Company, operations located between Butte and Helena Montana. Collection materials are predominantly financial records and operational reports. Included are nearly complete sequences of operational time reports, mineral content assay reports, and ore shipment tonnages from the mid 1930s through 1941. This collection also contains an extensive collection of cross-section maps from the Comet mine near Basin, Montana. Materials in this collection provide insights into Depression Era mining operations in southwestern Montana.

## Use of the Collection

### Restrictions on Use

Researchers are responsible for using in accordance with 17 U.S.C. and any other applicable statutes. Copyright not transferred to The University of Montana.

### Preferred Citation

[Name of document], Basin Montana Tunnel Company Records, Archives and Special Collections, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, The University of Montana-Missoula.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

The collection is arranged in four series:

Series I: Correspondence, 1 folder, 1936-1937

Series II: Financial Records, 4.0 linear feet and 6 oversize volumes, 1933-1941

Series III: Reports, 4.5 linear feet, 1934-1942

Series IV: Maps and Blueprints, 3.0 linear feet and 2 oversize blueprint rolls, 1935-1937

### Acquisition Information

Gift of William Fenton, 1970.

### Processing Note

The actions of the original processors are unknown. In 2004, the collection was re-described.

# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Correspondence, 1936-1937

1 folder

This series contains one folder of Basin Montana Tunnel Company outgoing and internal correspondence regarding lease royalties owed to Willard B. Riley.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Willard B. Riley	1936-1937

## Series II: Financial Records, 1933-1941

4.0 linear feet and 6 oversize volumes

This series contains financial records generated by the Basin Montana Tunnel Company. Materials include monthly operating statements, supply receipts, payroll reports, operational time reports, and construction expense tracking cards. Materials in this series provide insights into the financial health of the company and reveal the downturn in operations that led to the company's closing.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/2	Operating Statements	1935
1/3	Operating Statements	1937-1941
1/4	Receipts	1936-1937 and undated
Volume		
1	Journal	1933-1938
2	Payroll Time Reports	1935-1941
3	Time Reports	1933-1935
4	Time Reports	1935
5	Time Reports	1936-1938

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box-volume</b>		
1/6	Time Reports	1939-1941
1/7	Time Reports	1939-1941
OS2/8	Operating Statements	1935-1939
OS2/9	Operating Statements	1938-1941
<b>Volume</b>		
10	Operating Statements	1933-1936
<b>Box-volume</b>		
OS16/11	Operating Statements	1935-1938
<b>Box</b>		
3	Mill Construction Expenses	1934-1935
4	Grey Eagle Mine Expenses	1935-1936
5	Grey Eagle Mine Expenses	1936
6	Grey Eagle Mine Expenses	1936
7	Comet Mine Expenses	1936-1937
8	Grey Eagle Mine/Mill Construction Expenses	1937-1938
9	Comet Mine Expenses	1939

### Series III: Reports, 1934-1942

4.5 linear feet

This series includes operational reports generated by the Basin Montana Tunnel Company. Materials include an extensive run of undated transit books, nearly complete sequences of assay reports and ore tonnage shipments between 1936 and 1941, and more limited sequences of monthly mining and plant operation reports. These materials provide insights into ore qualities during the company's operation of the Comet and Grey Eagle mines as well as the company's operational practices.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
10/1	Assay Office	1936
10/2	Assay Office	1936
10/3	Assay Office	1937
10/4	Assay Office	1937
10/5	Assay Office	1937-1938
10/6	Assay Office	1938-1939
10/7	Assay Office	1939
11/1	Assay Office	1939-1940
11/2	Assay Office	1940
11/3	Assay Office	1940
11/4	Assay Office	1941
11/5	Filter Plant	1936-1937
11/6	Filter Plant	1938
11/7	Ore Shipment, Anaconda Copper Mining Company	1935-1941
11/8	Ore Shipment, American Smelting and Refining Company	September 1936 - July 1937
11/9	Ore Shipment, American Smelting and Refining Company	November 1936 - September 1937
12/1	Ore Shipment, American Smelting and Refining Company	1937-1938
12/2	Ore Shipment, American Smelting and Refining Company	1937-1939
12/3	Ore Shipment, American Smelting and Refining Company	1940-1941

<b>Container(s)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
12/4	Ore Shipment, American Smelting and Refining Company	<b>1941-1942</b>
12/5	Ore Tonnage	<b>1937-1941</b>
12/6	Ore Tonnage	<b>1938-1941</b>
12/7	Blank Report Forms	<b>undated</b>
<b>Box-volume</b>		
OS2/12	Ore Tonnage	<b>1939</b>
OS2/13	Ore Tonnage	<b>1940-1941</b>
13/14	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
13/15	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
13/16	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
13/17	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
13/18	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
13/19	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
13/20	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
14/21	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
14/22	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
14/23	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
14/24	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
14/25	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
14/26	Transit Book	<b>undated</b>
<b>Box</b>		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
OS16	Distribution of Mine Employees	1940-1941
OS16	Comet and Grey Eagle Mines, Monthly Mining Record	1934
OS16	Comet Mine, Monthly Mining Record	1936
OS16	Comet Mine, Monthly Mining Record	1938
OS16	Comet Mine, Monthly Mining Record	1939
OS16	Comet Mine, Monthly Mining Record	1940

## Series IV: Maps and Blueprints, 1935-1937

3.0 linear feet and 2 oversize blueprint rolls

This series contains maps and blueprints generated by the Basin Montana Tunnel Company, primarily during operation of the Comet and Grey Eagle mines. Most of the maps in this series are cross-sectional depictions developed for operation updates; however, materials also include informal ore vein sketches and draft pencil drawings for construction projects. This series also includes a few blueprints for machinery and the processing mill layout.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
15/1	Comet Mine Transects	undated
15/2	Grey Eagle Transects, 600 feet	1935-1937
15/3	Grey Eagle Transects, 700 feet	1936-1937
15/4	Unidentified Mine Transects	undated
<b>Box</b>		
OS16	Company Mining Claims	undated
OS16	Comet Mine, Road System	undated
OS16	Comet Mine, Geological Cross-section	undated
OS17	Comet Mine Longitudinal Sections, 100-200 feet	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
OS16	Comet Mine Longitudinal Sections, 200-600 feet	undated
OS16	Comet Mine, Stope, 200 feet	undated
OS16	Comet Mine, Stope, 300 feet (1)	undated
OS16	Comet Mine, Stope, 300 feet (2)	undated
OS16	Comet Mine, Stope, 400 feet	undated
OS16	Comet Mine, Stope, 500 feet (1)	undated
OS16	Comet Mine, Stope, 500 feet (2)	undated
OS16	Comet Mine, Stope, 600 feet	undated
OS16	Comet Mine, Stope, 700 feet	undated
OS16	Romerio Unpatented Claims, Tracing and Print	undated
OS16	Geochemical Prospecting	undated
OS16	Geochemical Prospecting	undated
OS16	Blueprints, Double Friction Drum Electric Hoist	undated
OS17	Blueprints, Marcy Ball Mill	undated
OS18	Pencil Drawings: Foundation and Construction of Marcy Ball Mill and Geology of Basin Wickes District	undated
OS18	Comet Mill, Machinery Blueprints	undated

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Mines and mineral resources --Montana--Jefferson County  
Mining corporations -- Montana--Basin

### Geographical Names :

Comet Mine (Jefferson County, Mont.)

### Form or Genre Terms :

Blueprints



Business records -- Montana--Basin  
Maps

Finding aid prepared by Jodi Allison-Bunnell and Jack Rowan  
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