

Oscar A. Baarson papers, 1916-1958

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Baarson, Oscar A., 1889-1971
Title	Oscar A. Baarson papers
Dates	1916-1958 (inclusive) 1916 1958
Quantity	1.5 linear feet of shelf space
Collection Number	MC 238 (collection)
Summary	Oscar Baarson was assistant superintendent of the Anaconda Company's East Helena, Montana, plant; Helena City Engineer; district manager for the U.S. War Production Board during World War II, engineer for the State Examiners Office and Lewis and Clark County surveyor. This collection consists of Oscar Baarson's files (1925-1950) concerning his work with the Anaconda Company, the City of Helena, and the State Examiners Office; and a small group of personal papers relating to Baarson's family, private engineering business, and Masonic activities.
Repository	Montana Historical Society, Research Center Archives Montana Historical Society Research Center Archives 225 North Roberts PO Box 201201 Helena MT 59620-1201 Telephone: 406-444-2681 Fax: 406-444-5297 mhslibrary@mt.gov
Access Restrictions	Collection open for research.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Oscar A. Baarson was born in Madison, South Dakota, on November 16, 1889, the son of Bars Christian Baarson. He served for a time as assistant to the North Dakota State Geologist doing field surveys, and worked for the Homestake Gold Mining Company in Lead, South Dakota. In 1917 he graduated from the University of North Dakota School of Mines, and then went to work for the Cerro de Pasco Mining Company in Peru, and the following year for the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's Chuquicamata Mine in Chile. In 1922 Baarson began teaching high school science in Idaho. He then took graduate work at the University of Washington. After completing his graduate work he returned to Idaho as a teacher at Burley and then as superintendent of schools in Roberts. In 1928 Baarson moved to Great Falls, Montana, to work for the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, first at their Great Falls Refinery and then as assistant superintendent of the East Helena Slag Treatment Plant. From 1931 to 1933 he worked as a private mining engineer, and then in 1933 as a bridge inspector for the State Highway Commission. In 1935 he was hired as Helena City Engineer. One of his first tasks

as city engineer was surveying earthquake damage from the 1935 Helena earthquakes. He worked for the city until the start of World War II, when he was hired as district manager for the U.S. War Production Board. After the war he resumed his private mine engineering business, until 1953 when he became Assistant State Engineer for the State Board of Examiners. In this position he evaluated the engineering plans for state buildings. During the 1960s Baarson served as deputy appraiser in the Lewis and Clark County Assessor's Office, and then as County Surveyor. Oscar Baarson was married to Camilla Walton and had five children: Robert, William, Barbara, Mary, and Beverly. He was active in the Episcopal Church, the Eagles Lodge, and the Morning Star Lodge of the Masons. Oscar Baarson died November 29, 1971 in Helena.

Content Description

This collection consists primarily of papers reflecting Oscar Baarson's work as a mining and civil engineer. Included are records (1928-1929) from his work for the Anaconda Copper Mining Company's East Helena Slag Treatment Plant; records (1933) from his work on the Sun River Bridge for the State Highway Commission; records (1935-1941) on his work as Helena City Engineer, including files on the Helena earthquakes of 1935, water system improvements, and street resurfacing; records (1949-1954) of his work checking construction plans for Montana state government buildings, including a renovation of the Montana State Capitol Building; and records (1955-1958) of his mine surveying work on the Valley View Group of mines near Townsend for Geominerals Corporation. There is also a small amount of family correspondence, and files concerning his teaching career in Idaho; the Masonic order; his work at Chuquicamata, Chile; and private surveying work. [Records of his work for the U.S. War Production Board are included in Manuscript Collection 239. Printed materials, photographs, and maps have been transferred to the Library, Photograph Archives, and Library Map Collection respectively.]

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Researchers must use collection in accordance with the policies of the Montana Historical Society. The Society does not necessarily hold copyright to all materials in the collection. In some cases permission for use may require additional authorization from the copyright owners. For more information contact an archivist.

Preferred Citation

Item description and date. Collection Title. Collection Number. Box and Folder numbers. Montana Historical Society Research Center, Archives, Helena, Montana.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Arrangement by subgroup and series. Some material housed in Archvies Map Case. See inventory below for more information.

Location of Collection

Acquisition Information

Acquisition information available upon request

Related Materials

Baarson's War Production Board materials are contained in Manuscript Collection 239.

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection

Oscar A. Baarson

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Biographical Material		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1 / 1	"Brief outline of qualifications and experience of Oscar A. Baarson as mining and metallurgical engineer"	circa 1955
General Correspondence		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
1 / 2	Barbara Baarson, Don Baarson [nephew], and Mary Baarson	1940, 1945
1 / 3	Robert E. Baarson	1940-1953
1 / 4	William E. Baarson	1942-1953
1 / 5	J.J. La Buff (re Ralph G. Cushman mining properties)	1958
1 / 6	Mclver and Associates, Architects (re employment)	1948-1951
1 / 7	William H. Thompson (re proposed sale of Montana mining property by Oscar Baarson and William M. Manning)	1936
1 / 8	Miscellaneous	1917-1952
Financial Records		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1 / 9	Bills and house pattern (re construction and furnishing of Baarson home at 600 Hauser Boulevard, Helena)	1934-1940
1 / 10	Bills (re services as surveyor)	1934-1939
1 / 11	Income tax RESTRICTED	1941, 1947
1 / 12	Miscellaneous	1927-1941
Subject File		
Box/Folder		
1 / 13	Broadwater County High School bid proposal	1941
1 / 14	East Helena platting	circa 1936
1 / 15	Helena High School contract with Cushing and Terrell, Architects	1954-1955
1 / 16	Helena water system proposed improvements	1951
1 / 17	High school chemistry essays by Baarson's students at Burley, Idaho	circa 1924
1 / 18	Idaho school teaching and superintendency	1922-1927
1 / 19	Masonic order; Knights Templar	1917-1954
1 / 20	Missouri-Souris Project	1948-1950
1 / 21	Proposed Hauser Paving District	1952
1 / 22	Townsend sewer system and pump house bid proposal	1940-1941
1 / 23	Work at Chuquicamata Plant in Chile	1918
Miscellany		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1 / 24	J.A. Brown will	1940
1 / 25	Greeting cards	undated
1 / 26	Humor	undated
1 / 27	Math notes	undated
1 / 28	Organizational diagram of boy scout troop	undated
1 / 29	Ration books	1945
1 / 30	Suggestive guide for self-appraisal in art	undated
1 / 31	Miscellaneous (includes membership cards, programs, postcards, certificates, etc.)	1916-1956

Montana State Highway Commission Bridge Inspector

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Outgoing Correspondence		
Box/Folder		
1 / 32	Miscellaneous	1933 September- November
Subject File		
Box/Folder		
1 / 33	Sun River Bridge construction	1933
Miscellany		
Box/Folder		
1 / 34	Drafting room procedures	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Oversize Folder		
1	Notary Public certificate	1948

Anaconda Copper Mining Company. East Helena Slag Treatment Plant

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Interoffice Correspondence		
Box/Folder		
2 / 1	Miscellaneous	1927-1931
General Correspondence		
Box/Folder		
2 / 2	Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada, Ltd.	1928-1929
2 / 3	Miscellaneous	1928-1930
Financial Records		
Box/Folder		
2 / 4	Construction costs	1928
2 / 5	Cost data [daily]	1928
2 / 6	Cost data [weekly]	1928
Production Records		
Box/Folder		
2 / 7-8	Analyses	1928-1929
2 / 9	Chemical analysis of slag	1927-1928

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2 / 10	Coal comparisons for Utah and Montana coal	1928-1929
2 / 11	Foreman's report	1929
2 / 12-13	Furnace operation	1928-1929
2 / 14	Furnace tests	1928-1929
2 / 15	Scaleman's report	1929
2 / 16	Shipments of product [scattered]	1928
2 / 17	Slag treatment reports	1928-1929
2 / 18	Superintendent's weekly reports [scattered]	1927-1929
2 / 19	Miscellaneous	1927-1929

Reports

Box/Folder

2 / 20	"Fuming Treatment of Lead Blast Furnace Slags for Recovery of Zinc", by E.M. Baldwin (includes history and description of East Helena Slag Treatment Plant)	circa 1944
2 / 21	"The Recovery of Zinc from Lead Blast-Furnace Slags", by Guy Courtney	1920

Miscellany

Box/Folder

2 / 22	List of operating employees	1929 December
2 / 23	Technical notes on mining, chemistry, etc.	undated

Helena City Engineer

Container(s)	Description	Dates
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Interoffice Correspondence

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3 / 1	Directives from Helena City Council	1931-1939
General Correspondence		
Box/Folder		
3 / 2	Miscellaneous	1935-1940
Financial Records		
Box/Folder		
3 / 3	Report of the financial condition of the City of Helena	1936
Subject File		
Box/Folder		
3 / 4	Helena earthquake (includes report by Board of Fire Underwriters of the Pacific; list of properties for which waivers had been signed; lawsuit involving Trerise house)	1935-1939
3 / 5	Helena Housing Authority project (re construction of Stuart Homes)	1939
3 / 6	Helena street resurfacing	1936-1940
3 / 7	Helena surveying	1934-1939
Oversize Folder		
1	Minnehaha Watershed Hazard Reduction mineral survey [Oversize: see Archvies Map Case]	1939
Box/Folder		
3 / 8	Helena tennis court paving	1935-1936

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3 / 9	Helena water quality (includes "Report of mineral analyses of the various Helena City water supplies" by W.F. Cogswell, 1930)	1930-1939
3 / 10	Helena water system improvements and rate study	1935-1939
3 / 11	Helena Waterworks Company (includes brochures; briefs of Oscar Carlson vs. City of Helena; reports on water sources, and notes)	1910-1911

Miscellany

Box/Folder

3 / 12	Engineers' License Law [proposed]	circa 1937
3 / 13	List of City of Helena maps by C.W. Helmick	undated
3 / 14	Montana State College (Bozeman) School for Water Works Operators lecture outlines, etc.	circa 1936
3 / 15	Property assessments on C & D Placer Claim lots (Front Street)	1936
3 / 16	"Working rules for gas installations"	undated

Montana State Board of Examiners

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Subject File		
Box/Folder		
3 / 17	Oscar Baarson personal	1950-1953
3 / 18	School and institution building construction allotment of architectural contracts	1948-1954
3 / 19	State Capitol Building renovation	1954

Oversize Folder

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1	State Capitol Complex underground pipes blueprint; State Capitol Building Door Schedule blueprint [Oversize: see Archives Map Case]	1955
Box/Folder		
3 / 20	State Capitol Building renovation bid and specifications	1954
3 / 21	Statewide construction projects	1949-1954
3 / 22	Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building construction (re Montana Historical Society's building)	1951

Geominerals Corporation

Container(s)	Description	Dates
General Correspondence		
Box/Folder		
4 / 1	Tschirn Exploration Company; Geominerals Corporation (re Valley View Mines, Townsend)	1955-1957
Assay Reports		
Box/Folder		
4 / 2	Valley View Mining Claims, Townsend (Tschirn Exploration Company)	1956-1957
Court Papers		
Box/Folder		
4 / 3	Oscar Baarson vs. Geominerals Corporation and Warren Schreiner	1957-1958
Legal Documents		
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4 / 4	Mining claims: Park and Hassell mining districts, Broadwater County	1955-1956
Subject File		
Box/Folder		
4 / 5	Valley View Group tunnel proposal (Tschirn Exploration Company)	1955-1956

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Bridges--Design and construction
 Bridges--Montana
 Capitols--Montana
 Earthquakes--Montana--Helena
 Freemasons. Grand Lodge Of Montana
 Municipal water supply--Montana--Helena
 School buildings--Design and construction--Montana
 Smelters--Montana--East Helena
 Surveyors--Montana
 Teachers--Montana
 Water quality--Montana

Personal Names :

Baarson, Oscar A., 1889-1971
 (creator)

Geographical Names :

Broadwater County (Mont.)
 Chuquicamata Mine (Chile)
 East Helena (Mont.)
 Helena (Mont.). City Engineer
 Helena (Mont.)--Earthquake, 1935
 Valley View Mines (Broadwater County, Mont.)
 Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building (Helena, Mont.)

Finding aid prepared by MHS staff
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