

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company

Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company Records, 1897-1946

MS 70

5 boxes
4.1 linear ft.

Processed By: Staff

ACQUISITION: The records in Box 3-5 were transferred from the Alaska State Museum to the library in November 1985. They were donated by Maxine Selmer.

Other Alaska-Juneau Mining Company records in this collection have been received at various times through other donations.

INTRODUCTION

The Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company was incorporated in early 1897 under the laws of the State of West Virginia. The company purchased 23, patented claims located in Silver Bow Basin between Perseverance and Ebner mines for lode mining low grade gold ore.

Fred Worthen Bradley, mining engineer and president of the Bunkerhill and Sullivan silver/lead mine in Idaho, purchased a large interest in A.J. holdings in 1900. Later that year he became president of A.J. and president and consulting engineer of the Treadwell group. Robert A. Kinzie was resident engineer for both mines until Philip R. Bradley became resident manager from 1914-1920 and later consulting engineer. The

Juneau and Treadwell mines were considered together for many years because their friendly stockholding interests were represented by interlocking managements.

The problems of putting A.J. on a paying basis, particularly after the ball mill constructed in 1917 failed to meet milling projections are documented in the correspondence along with various personnel difficulties. Bonds were sold to produce more capital to make needed changes in the mill, but times were difficult from 1917-1927 as described in the correspondence. By 1930 all bonds were retired and debts of A.J. were paid. The mine had a profit of \$155,000 for the month of Dec. 1930. (Richard, T.A. A HISTORY OF AMERICAN MINING)

The limited file of correspondence (Box 3) covers a period of major development hurdles for the Alaska-Juneau, its management and board members. Some basic operation costs are documented in the CASH JOURNAL for A.J., 1897-1913 and the OPERATING COST LEDGER (crushing costs) for the three mines at Treadwell for the period 1912-1918. A CASH JOURNAL for the Treadwell-Yukon Company 1926-1938 is also with the records.

INVENTORY

BOX 1.

1. Contracts, no. 58 - no. 307, for years 1919-1940 between the company and individuals to perform work.
2. Monthly and annual letter to the President, Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Co., 1923.
3. Assay Records, Oct. 1937 - April 1938.

BOX 2.

Daily report (labor; tons loaded) Jan.-Oct. 1935 shift, record (employee no., on, off, rate). 1935.

BOX 3.

Alaska-Juneau Gold Mining Company. CORRESPONDENCE. 1915-1940.

Includes letters to and from A.J. Co. headquarters in San Francisco by various company officials. In addition to A.J. and Treadwell mining operations, mining claims/ventures in Canada and other locations are also noted. Correspondence with mining associates and board members also comprise this file.

Folder 1. BRADLEY, PHILIP R. TO FRED W. BRADLEY (brother). 1927-1929. (P. R. Bradley, General Manager and Consulting Engineer, A.J. Gold Mining Co. and Consulting Engineer for Treadwell Yukon Co. in Mayo, Y.T.)

Folder 2. BRADLEY, PHILIP R. FROM FRED W. BRADLEY. 1927-1929. (Fred W. Bradley, President and major stockholder of A.J.)

Letters contain policy/procedural details, personnel matters. Sept. 24, 1928-" four miners to the ton is altogether too much for a stoping crew"; Sept. 11, 1928 - specifics on working a specified ore body, efforts to stop mining and stoping work on unprofitable grades of ore.

Folder 3. MACKENZIE, JOHN H. 1911-1918. (A.J. director who served as consulting engineer, 1915-1917.)

File includes correspondence with Fred W. Bradley. They discuss milling practices, possible improvements, concentrate values, design of the A.J. administration building, personnel matters, A.J. stock sale planning, contacts with financier, Bernard M. Baruch, N.Y. A Sept. 4, 1912 letter to B.M. Baruch about Alaska-Juneau notes if Mr. Baruch acquired the Ebner property, possible consolidation of mines might be considered and end Hayden-Jackling scheme. Some letters are written in cipher with translation on verso. On Nov. 29, 1918, J.H. Mackenzie resigns from A.J. Board of Directors as he lacks confidence in President Bradley's "ore sorting program" to make AJ profitable.

Folder 4. MUDD, SEELEY W. 1916-1926. (Director, Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Co.) Correspondence with Fred W. Bradley

Topics of letters include (partial) - balls for ball mills; Fred Bradley's general ideas on Alaska-Juneau outlook/development dated May 3, 1918; Fred Bradley letter of June 27, 1918 describing labor and mill problems and plan to use pilot mill stamps to replace balls; A.J. annual meeting April 6, 1920 notice letter sent March 11 requesting proxies and noting operation profits; letter dated April 10, 1922 from Fred Bradley on A.J. annual meeting and Mudd's re-election as a director and possible help he can offer later in negotiations with Ebner and Gastineau companies; letter of Aug. 22, 1922 from F. Bradley saying Messrs B.M. Baruch and Eugene Meyer, Jr. have taken \$50,000.00 of A.J. stock to speed up work on the mill; letter of F. Bradley on Cour d'Alene Syndicate zinc plans and asking

assistance from S. Mudd; letter of F. Bradley dated Oct. 23, 1923 on A.J. progress and that people of Juneau now feel mine is a firmly established enterprise with reconstructed mill; Feb. 1924 letters regarding William-Brown property, Hawk Inlet, Admiralty Island, Alaska; letter of Mar. 17, 1926 with statistics on "Cents per ton trammed" and various problems at A. J. are noted by F. Bradley; telegram of May 4, 1926 stating Col. S. Mudd died in St. Louis and burial will be in Los Angeles.

Folder 5. RAYMOND, R. 1915-1928. (mining man appointed chairman of the Mining School, Columbia University)

Letters requesting photographs, surveys of underground working in Alaska and Idaho mines for classroom teaching; April 29, 1916 writes that Mr. Bayless is injured in Germany and has arm amputated, Aug. 13, 1917. F. Bradley sends information on to Raymond as an A.J. stockholder and offers to send A.J. monthly letter sent to five largest stockholders; letter from Raymond dated Oct. 23, 1917 telling Bradley of Forbestown Consolidated Gold Mines (Calif.) and possible options on the property; Dec. 1918 letters on A.J. progress; Nov. 1919 letters on British Columbia-Kootenai Lake lead and silver prospects; Feb. 7, 1920 letter asking F. Bradley for material on the Bunker Hill and Sullivan Mine (Idaho) for a mining class and response with mention of freight rates at smelter being a problem; Sept. 3, 1920 letter asking F. Bradley for cost data on Idaho zinc-lead mine as R. Raymond is examining a zinc-lead mine in New Mexico which is of interest to London friends; F. Bradley's reply of Sept. 7, 1920 provides data and mentions Douglas Island Companies have found a profitable gold-copper-silver property on the Kuskokwim River; Dec. 6, 1921 letter of F. Bradley explains A.J. concerns with mill capacity below goal of 8,000 tons/day; need to handle creditors to save property for the stockholders and get down interest payments; letter of Jan. 16, 1925 noting A.J. mill should be coordinated to do 4000,000 tons per month by Oct. with a profit then of about \$1000,000/mo.; letter from F. Bradley dated March 10, 1926 on A.J. progress, sending reports, Idaho Mining discovery/developments, and Mr. Bayless in delicate health.

Folder 6. SEARLS, FRED, JR. 1932-1940. (Associated with Newmont Mining Corporation/Empire Star Mines Co., Limited at 14 Wall St. New York.)

April 28, 1932 letter with a 35 page report by F. Searls to the Newmont Mining Corporation. Mr. Searls summarizes Livingston

Werneckes' analysis of the formation of the gold belt, location of ore bodies, fault lines, etc. for A.J., Ebner, and Gastineau mines. The report includes cumulative averages of samples from 53 winze (started 40 ft. horizontally in the hanging wall of Nugget Gulch Fault-center of 4th level north orebody) ranging from \$3.17 gold value per ton to \$4.45 from levels ranging from 4-below 9. He also describes the 91 winze samples ranging from 1.08/ton to .99; values on the 6th and 9th levels and comparative value of car sample average assays for by month in 1931 and for years 1929 and 1930. The report discusses ore reserves, operation, production program, A.J. and Treadwell Yukon Co. engaged jointly in extending an adit. Mr. Searl feels the mine will probably continue at its present earning capacity and notes A.J. shares are a fair speculation at eight and a good sale at sixteen. Letter dated June 27, 1933 to P.R. Bradley with a copy of a brief (20p) on the gold question that was sent to the President and to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Copies of various letters by Mr. Searls on the gold question, unions, appointed an alternate on the Committee of Gold Producers (May 29, 1934).

Letters regarding minimum wage above and below ground with a comparison of wage scale changes for A.J. in 1934 (Feb. 25, 1935).

Letter dated May 1, 1936 from P.R. Bradley to Fred Searls regarding his interest in a Nevada Gold Mining proposition (Round Mountain)

Letters regarding Nevada mine, interest of Bernard Baruch, and the acquisition of the mine by the A.O. Smith Corporation with ensuing problems.

Letters seeking monetary contributions for a Mining exhibit at the San Francisco Exposition and donation sent (Feb. 17, 1938).

Letters regarding the death of Lou Metzgar (June 1940).

Folder 7. SEARLS, ROBERT M. 1946.

Primarily letters of Mr. Searls, and C.A. Norris regarding gold export; also with P.R. Bradley and others for legislation for the relief of owners and operators of gold mines closed or curtailed by the War Production Board Limitation Order L-208. Includes

comparative data on losses suffered by various mines including A.J.

Folder 8. UTKE, FRANK. 1928.

Letter of Mr. Utke, Ironwood, Michigan, seeking information on A.J. dividends, shares outstanding, and earnings to be expected as he is interested in becoming a stockholder. The reply of Fred Bradley dated Nov. 7, 1928 gives ten month operation record noting indebtedness of \$2,505,460 to be paid off before payment of dividends can begin.

BOX 4. CASH JOURNALS.

Alaska Juneau Gold Mining Company, May 31, 1897 through March 31, 1913. Includes general expenses-type and amount; sundries; mining account; milling account; boarding house; freight. Pages 74-191 titled Douglas Island-Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Co. accounts.

Treadwell-Yukon Company, Limited (Tybo, Nevada) April 1926-Dec. 1938. Includes cash receipts and cash payments for the company operation: This ledger was sent to the San Francisco office. The company was affiliated with Alaska-Juneau Gold Mining Co. and the Bradley family.

BOX 5. Operating Cost Ledger (crushing costs): Alaska Treadwell and Alaska United Gold Mining Cos; 1912-1918; Alaska Mexican, 1912-1917.

Includes monthly cost of mining labor and supplies for development, stoping, training, hoisting and pumping; comparative mining cost for current month (tons milled), previous month, year to date, and same period last year; recapitulation, estimated receipts and disbursements, some ledger sheets cover crushing, training, stamping and concentrating for specified mills.