

Superior Anthracite Mines Fire Boss Reports

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1929-1953



Title Statement

Superior Anthracite Mines Fire Boss Reports
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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.2009.131

Unit Date

1929-1953

Language

The material in the collection is in English.

Abstract

The collection contains daily fire boss reports for mining operation in McCoy (Montgomery County), Virginia, describing mine conditions.

Creator

Superior Anthracite Mines (1919-1958) (McCoy, Va.)

Extent

0.3 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Superior Anthracite Mines Fire Boss Reports were purchased by Special Collections in 2009.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Superior Anthracite Mines Fire Boss Reports commenced and was completed in October 2009.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Superior Anthracite Mines Fire Boss Reports, Ms2009-131, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Administrative History

Superior Anthracite Coal Company, headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, began developing the Big Vein Mine near McCoy (Montgomery County), Virginia around 1919. One of the largest mine operations in Montgomery County, the Big Vein employed more than 300 miners at its peak in the 1930s. The mine continued to operate until 1954, but complete shutdown did not occur until 1958.

Scope and Content

This collection contains four bound volumes of daily fire boss reports for Superior Anthracite Mines, a coal mining company in McCoy, Virginia. Each report records the date and time of mine inspection and notes conditions found by the fire boss. The reports are signed by fire bosses C. D. McCoy (1929-1931), R. B. [Rufus Bayard] DeHart (1951-1953), W. L. Morris (1951-1952) and S. A. Whitaker (1952-1953) and countersigned by mine foremen D. E. Stanton (1929), C. A. McCoy (1929-1952), and H. H. Scott (1952-1953). Although the reports are variously headed "Big Vein Anthracite Collieries," "Big Vein Anthracite Corporation," and "Superior Anthracite Mines," it is likely that they all refer to the same operation. While most of the reports simply record the favorable condition of the mines in a single sentence, a number record the presence of gas and action taken to clear it. Beginning in late 1952, the reports also occasionally detail the exact sites at which air readings were taken.

Related Archival Materials

See the Big Vein Anthracite Collieries Records, Ms1990-014, which contains fire boss reports from 1926 to 1928, also held at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives.

Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Montgomery County (Va.)
Superior Anthracite Mines (1919-1958) (McCoy, Va.)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Big Vein Anthracite Collieries

Unit Date 1929

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Big Vein Anthracite Corporation

Unit Date 1930-1931

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Superior Anthracite Mines

Unit Date 1951-1952

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Superior Anthracite Mines

Unit Date 1952-1953

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)