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**MS 1374
Ben Heney Family
Collection, 1880-1965****DESCRIPTION**

The Heney Family Collection contains materials concerning Ben Heney's mining claims in Santa Cruz and Cochise counties and land interests in Texas, and correspondence concerning those business investments. Also included are family memorabilia belonging to Ben and other members of the Heney family; and of the Roca, Smith and Lippincott families, related to the Heney family by marriage.

8 boxes, 4 linear ft.

ACQUISITION

The collection was donated to the Arizona Historical Society by Carlyle and Ruth Heney in 1973.

RELATED MATERIALS

PC 062, Heney photograph collection; Heney portrait and biographical files

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society-Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

Dena McDuffie processed the collection in July 2009.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged topically within two series: Personal and Business.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

George Benjamin "Ben" Heney was born in Lima, New York in 1862. He joined his 3-year-old brother Francis Joseph. In 1863, the Heney family moved to San Francisco where Ben grew up.

Around the same time the Heney family was moving West, Blanca Erminia Roca was born in Tucson, Arizona Territory. Her father was Miguel Gonzales Roca, a Tucson merchant originally from Concepcion, Chile. Her mother was Josefina Samaniego de Haro; the Samaniegos were another prosperous early Tucson family. At an unknown date, Erminia, as she was called, married Ramon Montoya y Diaz. In 1880, her first daughter, Erminia (Mina) Montoya, was born; two years later, a second daughter, Frecia Montoya, joined her.

Ben Heney's brother, Francis, an attorney, had already been in Arizona for several years when Ben joined him in 1880. Their sister, Julia, was also in Tucson, married to Judge Haynes. Francis operated the trading post at Fort Apache, ran a cattle business with Ben. In 1891, a highly respected local doctor, John Handy, vowed to shoot any lawyer who helped Handy's wife obtain a divorce. Francis Heney's consultation with Mrs. Handy ended with Heney shooting and killing Dr. Handy. The death was investigated, but Heney was found innocent, evidently with no adverse effects on his career. From 1893 to 1895, he was attorney general of the Arizona Territory, under Governor L.C. Hughes.

In Tucson, Ben set up the accounting system for Federico Jose Maria Ronstadt's store, and audited accounts for Manning businesses. From 1888 until 1901, Ben was City Treasurer and Tax Collector; between 1901 and 1909, he was Pima County Treasurer and Tax Collector. In 1909, Ben was elected mayor of Tucson. But, 10 months into his term, the City Council asked Heney to resign after a quarrel with the City Council over charges made by Heney against the City Marshall.

Heney's papers include angry letters he wrote to officials, and correspondence amended with red, heavy underlining of some phrases, accompanied by Heney's responses--also written in red--in the margins of the pages. Among his papers is a letter of introduction for Ben, dated 1911 and signed by Epes Randolph.

Although it is unknown what happened to her first marriage, Erminia Roca Montoya married George Benjamin Heney in Tucson in 1886. Ben became stepfather to Mina and Frecia. Ben and Erminia had three children: Ruth was born in 1887; Ben Jr. in 1889; and Carlyle in 1898.

In 1895, Ben went to Aransas Pass in Texas to oversee construction of the deep water channel there. At some time, he bought real estate in Rockport, Texas where he hoped to strike oil.

In 1907, Ben and his brother Francis incorporated the Swisshelm Gold and Silver Mine, roughly half-way between Willcox and Douglas, Arizona, in the Swisshelm Mountains. The original officers included Francis J. Heney, president; Ben Heney, vice-president/general manager; George H. Smalley, Secretary; and Byrd Brooks, Treasurer. Ben had become enamored of mining; he was preoccupied with it for the rest of his life. When Ben Heney died in 1956, his body was cremated and his ashes strewn over the Swisshelm.

Ben Heney's children are also represented in the Heney papers. While attending school in California, Ben Junior died of spinal meningitis in 1908. The collection contains a letter of condolence to the Heney family from journalist J. Lincoln Steffens, writing "I saw something of him and it was all full of promise. I don't believe you know how fine his feelings were and how high he aimed."

Frecia Montoya Heney married Aubrey Lippincott in 1902. Lippincott made a career of the military and was a member of Pershing's expedition against Pancho Villa in 1916. When Aubrey retired in 1941, the Lippincotts moved to Los Angeles where Aubrey became an Army recruiter. In 1951, they moved to Tucson where they lived the rest of their lives.

In 1912, Ruth Heney began work for the U.S. postal service. Ruth never married and remained with the postal service until her retirement in the 1950s.

After serving in World War I, Carlyle and Byron Cummings were representatives of then-University of Arizona president Dr. von Kleinsmid at the International Student Congress of the Centenario Celebration in Mexico City in 1921. By 1931, Carlyle had graduated from the university with a degree in civil engineering and was in charge of paving county roads in Ajo. By 1935, Carlyle was working in Los Angeles as a planning engineer. At some point, he married and divorced. In later years, Carlyle lived in Washington D.C. where he worked for the Department of Interior.

In 1934, Mina Montoya Heney married William Oury Smith, the son of Gilbert Cole Smith, who was the Quartermaster at Ft. Lowell, and Lola Oury, daughter of Tucson's first mayor William Sanders Oury. Smith had previously been military attaché to the American Legation in Bogotá, Colombia. A late marriage for both, it ended with Smith's death in 1945.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection chronicles two generations of the Heney family, and their mining activities in Arizona during the early twentieth-century.

SERIES NOTES

This collection has been arranged in two series: Personal and Business. Within the Personal Series are subseries containing the papers of Ben and Erminia Heney; Erminia and William Smith; Frecia and Aubrey Lippincott; Ruth Heney; and Carlyle Heney. Within the Business Series are subseries containing papers related to Ben Heney's mining and real estate endeavors.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

SERIES ONE : PERSONAL MATERIALS

BOX 1

George Benjamin and Erminia Roca Montoya Heney

- F. 1 Biographical, Miscellaneous (Roca letters and poem)
- F. 2 Biographical, Assistant to Grand Marshall certificate, 1905
- F. 3 Biographical, Wallet and contents
- F. 4 Correspondence, Collin, A.J., Rockport, Texas, 1950-1954
- F. 5 Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1911-1953
- F. 6 Correspondence, Ryder, Percy Mrs. [Percy Ryder was a miner and manager of the Old Pueblo Club for many years. He married Bessie and they had one child, Jane, who became director of the state lab at University of Arizona. The Ryders were neighbors of the Heneyes; they lived at 459 Granada Street.], 1944
- F. 7 Journals, Citizens Protection League of Pima County
- F. 8 News clippings
- F. 9 Photographs
- F. 10 Printed Materials
- F. 11 Receipts
- F. 12 Scrapbooks, Ben Heney

- F. 13 Scrapbooks, Unknown [Includes letter of condolence from J. Lincoln Steffens on death of Ben Heney Jr., 1908; invitations to Lippincotts to visit the White House]

BOX 2

Erminia (“Mina”) Montoya and William Oury Smith

- F. 14 Biographical [Mostly pertaining to W.O. Smith’s retirement]
F. 15 Correspondence, Mary and Gordon Smith, 1933
F. 16 Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1930-1958
F. 17 Financial, Guardianship of Mina
F. 18 Financial, Miscellaneous
F. 19 Manuscripts, “Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana” by Col. C.S. Smith
F. 20 Manuscripts, “A History of the Oury Family” by Col. C.S. Smith
F. 21 Military, Commissions and Commendations
F. 22 Military, Miscellaneous
F. 23 Military, Veterans Insurance, 1945-1958

BOX 3

Frecia Montoya and Aubrey Lippincott

- F. 24 Correspondence, Miscellaneous
F. 25 Military, Commissions and Commendations
F. 26 Military, *Who’s Who in the Regular Army*, 1925
F. 27 Miscellaneous

Ruth Heney

- F. 28 Correspondence
F. 29 Financial-bank books
F. 30 Scrapbook

BOX 4

Carlyle Heney

- F. 31 Correspondence, Ruth Heney, 1961-1965
F. 32 Correspondence, Lewis Roca Scoville Beauchamp & Linton, attorneys, 1955-1965
F. 33 Miscellaneous
F. 34 Photographs

SERIES TWO : BUSINESS RECORDS

Mining, Correspondence

- F. 35 Cox, Carroll E., Fremont, Ohio, 1923-1951
F. 36 Defense Materials Procurement Agency, 1951
F. 37 Gonzalez, N.A., Tucson, Arizona, 1951-1952
F. 38 Hemingway, Mabel and Anna, Binghamton, New York, 1919-1922
F. 39 E.J. Longyear Co., Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1951-1952
F. 40 Miscellaneous, 1919 (*Includes letter from John Greenway, Calumet Arizona Mining Company*)
F. 41 Miscellaneous, 1920s

- F. 42 Miscellaneous, 1930s and 1940s
- F. 43 Miscellaneous, 1950s
- F. 44 Peacock, J.D., Memphis, Tennessee, 1940

BOX 5

- F. 45-49 Reconstruction Finance Corporation, 1935-1952
- F. 50 Rydborn, Joe and Iola (?), Elfrida, Arizona, 1955
- F. 51 St. Anthony Mining, Tiger, Arizona, 1952
- F. 52 Taber, Arthur P., Mendota, Minnesota, 1951-1953
- F. 53 U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1952
- F. 54 Ward, William and Ruth, Elfrida, Arizona, 1953-1954

Mining, Financial Documents

- F. 55 Financial Documents, Internal Revenue Service
- F. 56 Financial Documents, Reconstruction Finance Corporation

BOX 6

Mining, Legal Documents

- F. 57 Legal Documents, Litigation
- F. 58 Legal Documents, Miscellaneous
- F. 59 Legal Documents, Reconstruction Finance Corporation

Mining, Notes and Miscellaneous

- F. 60 Mining, Notes and Miscellaneous

Mining, Operations

- F. 61 Employees
- F. 62 Scrapbook

BOX 7

Mining, Operations

- F. 63 Stock certificates
- F. 64 Maps

Mining, Photographs

- F. 65 Photographs

Mining, Reports

- F. 66 Assay Reports, 1914-1950
- F. 67 Report, San Marcial Coal Field, Mexico, by Carlos H. Johnson, 1917
- F. 68 Report, Swisshelm Gold and Silver Mine, William A. Farish Jr., El Paso, Texas, 1908
- F. 69 Report, Swisshelm Gold and Silver Mine, Frank H. Probert, 1908
- F. 70 Report, Swisshelm Gold and Silver Mine, Robert Randell, 1916
- F. 71 Report, Swisshelm Gold and Silver Mine, Robert Randell, 1919
- F. 72 Report, Swisshelm Gold and Silver Mine, H.B. Bessac, 1921

BOX 8

Real Estate, Rockport, Texas

- F. 73 Real Estate, Correspondence, Douglas, Harry L., 1952-1955
- F. 74 Real Estate, Correspondence, Ferris, W.M., 1947-1950
- F. 75 Real Estate, Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1947-1952
- F. 76 Real Estate, Miscellaneous
- F. 77 Real Estate, Taxes

Real Estate, Tucson, Arizona

- F. 78 Murphy, R&M Co., 1951-1954
- F. 79 Miscellaneous

OVERSIZE MATERIALS

Ben Heney, Mining: Mining blueprints