

## **Guide to the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company Records**

---

This finding aid was created by Joyce Moore and Melise Leech on February 28, 2019.  
Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1g01t>

© 2019 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections  
and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

[special.collections@unlv.edu](mailto:special.collections@unlv.edu)

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Historical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents Note .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Related Materials .....	5
Names and Subjects .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series I. Los Angeles office files of H. I. (Horace Ingersoll) Bettis .....	6
Series II. Arden Station records .....	10

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
<b>Creator:</b>	San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company
<b>Contributor:</b>	Williams, Robert Gene
<b>Contributor:</b>	Union Pacific Railroad Company
<b>Contributor:</b>	Bettis, H. I. (Horace Ingersoll), 1863-1913
<b>Title:</b>	San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company Records
<b>ID:</b>	MS-00007
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1901-1976
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1907-1917 (bulk)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	15.67 Cubic Feet (24 boxes and 8 oversized boxes)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	20.63 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection is comprised of records of the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company (1901-1976). The construction of this railroad led to the founding of Las Vegas, Nevada and the creation of the Empire Construction Company and Las Vegas Land and Water Company. The records document the company's operations and include correspondence and contracts relating to lots in the Las Vegas townsite, payments and accounts, invoices and other audit materials from 1905 to 1923. The collection also includes the records of the railroad agent at Arden Station, located ten miles south of the Las Vegas Station, which contain correspondence, ledgers, freight and way bills, shipping orders, and telegrams.

### Preferred Citation

San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company Records, 1901-1976. MS-00007. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Historical Note

---

At the turn of the century, Montana copper-king and senator, William A. Clark, incorporated the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad, intending to connect the Los Angeles port of San Pedro, California with

Salt Lake City, Utah. The Oregon Short Line, a subsidiary of E. H. Harriman's Union Pacific Railroad, also intended to develop a Salt Lake-Los Angeles route. After a frantic track-building race, Clark and Harriman resolved their differences and in 1903 signed an agreement on joint ownership of the Salt Lake route. The tracks reached the site of Las Vegas, Nevada from Utah in October 1904 and from California in January 1905. The town of Las Vegas, Nevada was founded at the division point on the railroad; it was surveyed and land plots were auctioned on May 15, 1905. The railroad established a subsidiary company, the Las Vegas Land and Water Company, to administer the townsite and other property, as well as its water. The railroad operated as the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad until 1921, when Clark sold his interest to the Union Pacific Railroad and retired.

Source:

Burbank, Jeff, "San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad, ONE Nevada Online Encyclopedia," accessed 2019 February 01, <http://www.onlinenevada.org/articles/san-pedro-los-angeles-and-salt-lake-railroad>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents Note

---

The San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company Records (1901-1976) are comprised of two series. The first series consists of the Los Angeles office files of H. I. (Horace Ingersoll) Bettis, Vice President and General Auditor of the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad and its subsidiary, the Las Vegas Land and Water Company. These records contain correspondence, contracts, title deeds and records of payment for town lots in Las Vegas as well as other financial and audit records from 1905 to 1923. The second series are the files of the railroad agent at Arden Station, located ten miles south of the Las Vegas Station, and contain station correspondence, accounting and car ledgers, freight and waybills, shipping orders, and telegrams. Also included in this series are materials related to the Union Pacific Railroad.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

These records are organized into two series:

Series I. Los Angeles office files of H. I. (Horace Ingersoll) Bettis, 1901-1941;

Series II. Arden Station records, 1904-1976.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Administrative Information

---

### Access Note

The collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

### Acquisition Note

This collection is composed of two separate accessions: the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad and Subsidiaries Collection; accession numbers T-118, 77-222, donated by Robert G. Williams; and the Arden Station Collection; accession number T-183.

### Processing Note

Material was processed in the 1980s by staff. In 2016, Joyce Moore revised and enhanced the finding aid to bring it up to current professional standards. In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Melise Leech rehoused and arranged the materials, and revised the finding aid to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Union Pacific Railroad Collection, 1828-1986. MS-00397. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Union Pacific Railroad Photographs, 1904-1973. PH-00043. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Las Vegas Land and Water Company Records, 1927-1940. MS-00055. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

J. Ross Clark Collection, 1900-1963. MS-00637. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Names and Subjects

- Railroads – Nevada -- History
- Railroads – California -- History
- Railroads – Utah -- History
- Las Vegas (Nev.) -- History
- San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company --Records and correspondence

## Collection Inventory

### Series I. Los Angeles office files of H. I. (Horace Ingersoll) Bettis, 1901-1941

Physical Description: 5.52 Cubic Feet (12 boxes)

Physical Description: 5.0 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Los Angeles office files of H. I. (Horace Ingersoll) Bettis series (1901-1941) contains material relating to the establishment of Las Vegas, Nevada and the Las Vegas Land and Water Company; materials related to the Empire Construction Company that built the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad line; and financial information and accountancy materials created by the railroad's general auditor, H. I. (Horace Ingersoll) Bettis.

Arrangement: Materials arranged by topic or subject.

Title/Description	Containers
Las Vegas Townsite records	
Nellie Caplin, sale of lots 6 and 7, Block 8, 1905-1906	box 01
W. J. Millen, sale of lots 21-22, Block 4; 4-5, 10-11, Block 28; 30-32, Block 30, 1905-1908	box 01
M. J. Dixon, sale of lots 28 and 29, Block 30, 1906	box 01
Louis Busch and Anna Oleson, deed on lots 10 and 11, Block 21, 1906-1907	box 01
W. J. Stewart, assignment of contract to Ed Von Tobel, lot 11, Block 13, 1906-1907	box 01
Thomas Block, water rent for lot 20, Block 2, 1906-1908	box 01
Joseph S. Smith, lots 17, 18 and 19, Block 7, 1906-1909	box 01
Le Compe Davis, Lots 22 and 23, Block 1, 1907	box 01
Benjamin Saunders, lot 15, Block 19, 1907	box 01
A. F. Wortman, lots 3-8, Block 10, 1907	box 01
C. J. Thomas: lot sale upon Thomas's death, 1907	

	box 01
James Brown, contract, lots 7, Block 5; 20-21, Block 6; 8-10, Block 11, 1907-1908	box 01
Will Lawbenheimer, lots 28-30, Block 10; 21-22, Block 29; 19-20, Block 11, 1907-1908	box 01
Leases on Stewart and Keil Ranches/Las Vegas Ranch, 1907-1909	box 01
Collection of bills; bills on Texas, outstanding, 1907-1910	box 01
P. J. Sullivan, lot 5, Block 19; lots 31-32, Block 31; lots 17-20, Block 12, 1907-1910	box 01
Consolidated Power and Telephone Company: additional meter, 1910	box 01
Water service to Electric Light Plant, 1907-1908	box 01
Railroad Park: trees donated by M. S. Beal, 1908	box 01
Spears and Doney, lots 9-10, Block 31, 1908	box 01
William B. Mundy, lot 26, 1908	box 01
Mr. Jacobson, lot 10, Block 5, 1908	box 01
Helen J. Stewart, lot 29, Block 14, 1908-1909	box 01
John P. Harris, lot 31-32, Block 8, 1908-1909	box 01
H. B. Wilson, lots 17-21, Block 10, 1908-1909	box 01
Eddie C. Hicks, lots 24-25, Block 10, 1908-1909	box 01
James Kiernan, lots 25, 29, Block 4, 1908-1909	box 01
J. A. Robson, lots 24-25, Block 36, 1908-1909	box 01
Mrs. Cecilia Casey, lots 17-18, Block 28, 1908-1909	box 01
John L. Russell, lots 17-18, Block 36, 1908-1910	box 01
E. A. Dodson, lots 4-5, Block 9, 1908-1910	box 01
Peter Maurer, lot 2, Block 31, 1908-1912	box 01
Jason H. Johnsey, lots 26-27, Block 32, 1909	box 01
State of Nevada, Bill for 1909 Statutes, 1909	box 01
July 1910 statement, uncollected accounts, Las Vegas Land and Water Company, 1910 July	box 01
Delinquent water accounts, Las Vegas Land and Water Company, 1910	box 01
Rent for Las Vegas Land and Water Company, 1911 May	box 01
Bills collectible from the Railroad, 1911	box 01
Company repair expenses, 1911	box 01
Consolidated Power and Telephone Company, land contract, 1911-1912	box 01

J. W. Bain, lots 11-13, Block 29, 1911-1912	box 01
Cesspool dumped into Las Vegas Creek, letter from J. T. McWilliams, 1912	box 01
Waste oil in Las Vegas Creek, 1912	box 01
Paving streets in Las Vegas, 1913	box 01
"Nevada Industrial Insurance Act": rejection by Las Vegas Land and Water Company, 1913	box 01
Gas piping for Las Vegas Land and Water Company houses, 1914	box 01
Handling of contracts and sales in Las Vegas, 1914	box 01
Las Vegas Board of Education: sale of land to, 1914-1916	box 01
Water rent, correspondence, 1906-1910	box 02
Lot prices and correspondence discussing black segregation, 1907-1911	box 02
Fraternal Order of Eagles, lot 8, Block 14, 1908-1909	box 02
Pacific Fruit Express Company contract, 1911	box 02
Union Portland Cement Company contract, 1911	box 02
Establishment of Post Office, 1911	box 02
Room rent for company employees, 1911-1912	box 02
Company cottages: earnings and expenses, 1910 June-1913 September	box 02
Sewer connections for company houses, 1912-1913	box 02
Company cottage construction, 1912-1914	box 02
Statements and receipts for rent and repairs of company cottages, 1912-1917	box 02
South Nevada Land and Development Company land sale, 1913	box 02
John Hinge, lots 26-28, Block 32, 1913	box 02
Letter on conditions at Las Vegas, 1914	box 02
General correspondence, 1911-1913	box 02
Empire Construction Company, general accounting	
Empire Construction Company statements, 1903	box 03
Empire Construction Company accounts, 1903-1904	box 03
Railroad cars construction service statement and figures, 1904	box 03
General accounting expenditures and vouchers, 1904 April-1905 August	box 03
Physical Description: 5 Files	
Accounting Department, journal vouchers, 1903 September-1904 July	box 03
Physical Description: 3 Files	
Accounting Department, journal vouchers, 1903 September-1905 October	box 04



Physical Description: 5 Files	
Accounting Department, journal vouchers, 1904 September-1905 August	box 05
Physical Description: 4 Files	
Accounting Department, journal vouchers, 1906 June	box 06
General accounting statement and expense figures, 1903 August-October	box 06
General accounting condensing sheets (expense accounts), 1904 May	box 06
General accounting company expenses, 1905	box 06
General accounting freight bill remittances, 1904 October-November	box 06
Physical Description: 2 Files	
General accounting advance charges on Company freight report, 1904 September-1905 April	box 06
Physical Description: 2 Files	
Freight bills and delivery receipts, 1903-1904	box 06
Freight Department audit office, shipment figures and freight bills, 1904 June	box 06
Freight Department audit office shipment figures and freight bills, 1904 July-October	box 07
Physical Description: 5 Files	
Freight Department audit office shipment figures and freight bills, 1904 October	box 08
General accounting Wells Fargo and Company express receipts, 1901 July	box 08
General accounting per diem paid on foreign cars in construction use, 1903 September	box 08
General accounting construction statement on commercial way bills, 1905 August	box 08
Tickets redemption, 1903-1906	box 08
Physical Description: 2 Files	
Ticket redemption memos, 1905	box 08
Employee's payroll and labor distribution, 1903	box 08
Employee's payroll distribution, 1904 April	box 08
Kuhn, Loeb and Company, loan agreement and correspondence, 1904	box 09
Medical Department, cost for board of medical employees to commissary, 1904 May	box 09
Employee's medical releases, 1904	box 09
Employee's injuries medical payment release and injury reports, 1904-1906	box 09
Physical Description: 2 Files	
Employee injuries medical correspondence, 1904	box 09

Materials and supplies vouchers and checks, 1912	box 09
Litigation, Riverside Lemon Association, packing house constructed for Monte Vista Citrus Association, 1922-1924	box 10
Accounting Department, 1924 February-July	box 10
Freight disbursements, 1904 February-1904 July	box 10
<b>General Auditor</b>	
Procedure rulings and correspondence, 1921 August-1924 August	box 10
Case rulings on money distributions, 1924	box 10
Payments for Los Angeles office from New York office, 1921 August-1925 January	box 10
Closing of monthly accounts, 1921-1922, 1924 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 10
Equipment changes, 1921-1922	box 10
Intercompany bills, 1922 November-1924 March Physical Description: 5 Files	box 11
Accounting/Cashier remittance slip, 1918	box 12
United States Railroad Administration (USRA) Liberty Loan correspondence, 1918	box 12
Insurance information about messenger robbery, interior hold-up, and safe burglary, 1921-1925	box 12
Accident and liability reports and correspondence, 1925-1930	box 12
Fire and insurance inspection reports and correspondence, 1928-1932	box 12
Inspection report, special agent's inspection of fire equipment, 1940-1941	box 12
Accounting and Treasury Department: employees accepting dismissal allowance, 1935 June	box 12
Oregon short line employee time table, 1923 June 29	box 12

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series II. Arden Station records, 1904-1976

Physical Description: 10.16 Cubic Feet (12 boxes and 8 oversized boxes)

Physical Description: 15.63 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Arden Station series (1904-1976) consists of materials that detail the operations of the Arden, Nevada train depot between 1907 and 1917, the Union Pacific Railroad, and operations ledgers for the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad.

Arrangement: Material arranged by topic or subject.

**Title/Description**

**Containers**

Arden Station	
Agents record, prepayment on freight charges, 1912-1913, 1917	box 13
American Express Company receipts, 1911-1912, 1915, 1917	box 13
Las Vegas and Tonopah Railroad, changes in way bill, 1914	box 13
Slip bill, 1911	box 13
Company freight waybill, 1907	box 13
Trackwalker reports, 1915, 1917	box 13
Conductors, 1917	box 13
Bills of Lading report, 1913	box 13
Memo of passenger traffic, undated	box 13
Notice of arrival of freight, 1916-1917	box 13
Notice of change in heading of waybills, undated	box 13
Prepaid freight bills, 1910, 1912	box 13
Station record, supplies and baggage forwarded, 1909, 1911 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 13
Wells Fargo and Company, express receipt, 1909, 1914	box 13
Agents stub	
To Los Angeles, 1912	box 13
Local baggage strap check, undated	box 13
Drewry ticket, 1910	box 13
First class ticket, 1910	box 13
Local baggage check, 1909	box 13
Lomax tickets, 1910-1911 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 13
Clearance card, 1911, 1915-1917 Physical Description: 4 Files	box 13
Total collected, 1910	box 13
Receipts from J. M. Ullom Hardware Company, 1917	box 13
Trackwalker notes regarding water tank at Sloan, 1914-1917 Physical Description: 4 Files	box 13
Receipt, Boggs Bros. Grocers, 1917	box 13
Western Union Telegraph envelope, unopened, undated	box 13
Baggage received, delivered and on hand, 1910	box 14

Company material and supply waybills, 1917	box 14
Conductors waybill, 1914	box 14
Agent correspondence, 1913-1914, 1916 Physical Description: 3 Files	box 14
Local transfer baggage waybill, 1914	box 14
Correspondence, memos, undated	box 14
Straight bill of lading, 1911	box 14
Various forms and memos related to shipping, 1911, 1917 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 14
Second Liberty Loan, 1917	box 14
Shipping notice, 1911, 1917	box 14
Switch list, undated	box 14
Train baggage waybill and station agent's record, 1910-1914 Physical Description: 5 Files	box 14
Train orders, 1911, 1915-1917 Physical Description: 4 Files	box 14
Los Angeles and Goldfield train schedule, 1910	box 14
Waybill, 1917	box 14
Freight bill with list of articles, 1910, 1912-1914, 1916 Physical Description: 6 Files	box 15
Freight delivery receipt with list of articles, 1909-1910 Physical Description: 4 Files	box 15
Freight delivery receipt with list of articles, 1912-1913	box 15
Freight delivery receipt with list of articles, 1913-1917 Physical Description: 7 Files	box 16
Bills of lading, shipping orders, 1911-1914, 1916-1917 Physical Description: 8 Files	box 16
Straight bill of lading, 1913, 1917 Physical Description: 2 Files	box 16
Money order stubs, 1910-1913 Physical Description: 4 Files	box 17
Salt Lake route shipping orders, 1911-1914 Physical Description: 14 Files	box 18
Salt Lake route shipping orders, 1914, 1916-1917	box 19

Physical Description: 6 Files	
Station record, charges on articles waybilled, 1909-1911	box 19
Physical Description: 8 Files	
Station record, charges on articles waybilled, 1912-1916	box 20
Physical Description: 3 Files	
Station record, charges on articles waybilled, 1917	box 21
Physical Description: 3 Files	
Telegrams on railroad business, 1909-1917, undated	box 21
Physical Description: 11 Files	
Annual car check book, 1911-1913, 1915-1916	box 22
Physical Description: 4 Files	
Car seal records, 1913	box 22
Union Pacific Railroad	
Blueprints, Los Angeles Union Passenger Terminal, 1935 December 14	box 23
Los Angeles Division time tables, 1946	box 23
Fire brigades, reports and correspondence, 1941	box 23
Personnel application examples, undated	box 23
Publications of the Shop Employees Association Bulletin, 1923-1924	box 23
Publications, INF Magazine of the Union Pacific Railroad System, 1973, 1976	box 23
Publication list of agencies, stations, equipment, etc., 1951 January 01	box 23
Union Pacific seniority list, undated	box 23
Salt Lake Railway freight bills, with station records, 1904 October	box 23
Ledgers	
Ledger, report on status of cars, 1908-1909, 1911-1912, 1915-1916	oversized box 24
Physical Description: 4 Items	
Ledger, daily balance sheet and abstracts, 1909, 1912-1913	oversized box 24
Physical Description: 2 Items	
Ledger, daily balance sheet and abstracts, 1913-1915	oversized box 25
Physical Description: 6 Items	
Ledger, waybill sheets, 1909	oversized box 26
Ledger, monthly balance sheet and abstracts, 1911-1912	oversized box 27
Ledger, daily balance sheet and abstracts, 1911	oversized box 27
Ledger, daily balance sheet and abstracts, 1911-1912	

Physical Description: 2 Files	oversized box 28
Ledger, local way book, 1914-1915	oversized box 29
Ledger, demurrage, 1911-1912	oversized box 29
Ledger, daily reports, 1909-1910 Physical Description: 2 Items	oversized box 30
Ledger, car report, 1912-1913	oversized box 31
Ledger, ticket report, 1913	oversized box 31
Ledger, daily abstract and balance sheets, 1915-1916	oversized box 32
Ledger, car report, 1914	oversized box 32
Ledger, cashier's record of collect freight bill, 1914-1916	oversized box 32

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)