

Information Sheet

R **Washington County (Mo.).**
392 **Motion picture, ca. 1936-1940.**
 One videocassette.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This is a film by Harry F. Blount of Potosi, concerning the barite industry in Washington County, Missouri. Included are views of manual and mechanized mining methods, the refining process, and the standard of living of the miners and their families. The film has been duplicated on ½" videotape (VHS).

The film illustrates the mining of barite or "tiff" in Washington County. As described in its introduction, the film consists of segments concerning hand mining methods, the social and economic levels of the miners, the effects of mechanized mining on laboring groups, and attempts toward readjustment in the late 1930s. There is also a segment on the manufacturing process of "Baroid" brand drilling compound which follows its production from the initial milling process to packaging of the finished product.

A sound track originally accompanied the film but it is no longer extant. However, the scenes are generally self-explanatory despite the lack of sound. Only the segments on social levels of the miners and attempts at socio-economic readjustment suffer from the lack of narration. Acknowledgment is made in the introduction to Harry F. Blount, owner of the Plaza Theater in Potosi, for the photography and the equipment used to produce and edit the film. Running time is approximately thirty minutes.

r457 23 October 1989 *Mine au Breton Historical Society* *Gift*

Shelf List

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Introduction and Acknowledgement

Hand Mining Methods:

- Opening pit and sinking shaft
- Bringing ore up shaft by windlass
- Rocking ore
- Hauling ore by wagon and truck
- Cleaning ore by hand
- Abandoned mining tracts
- Parade and demonstration in Potosi

Economic and Social Levels:

- Miners' cabins and families
- Distribution of free flour

Mechanized Mining:

- Power shovel and dump truck
- Washing ore at mill

Waste ponds
Abandoned mine

Manufacturing Process:

Barite mill
Loading railroad cars
Screening ore
Sludge processing and collecting tanks
Bagging the finished product -- "Baroid" brand

Attempts Toward Readjustment:

Buildings
Views of grave of Moses Austin

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Index Cards

Barite.
Blount, Harry F.
Mines and mineral resources—Missouri—Washington County.
Mining machinery.
Potosi (Mo).
Washington County (Mo.).