



Natrona Alkali Company records 2475

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Manuscripts and Archives

PO Box 3630

Wilmington, Delaware 19807

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URL: <http://www.hagley.org/library>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Manuscripts and Archives
Creator:	Natrona Alkali Company
Title:	Natrona Alkali Company records
ID:	2475
Date [inclusive]:	1876-1978
Date [bulk]:	bulk 1950-1978
Physical Description:	3 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Natrona Alkali Company was incorporated to hold title to 1,600 acres of sodium carbonate deposits in Natrona County by the descendants of chemist, Lamot du Pont (1831-1884), who developed B blasting powder, using Chilean sodium nitrate and had hoped that the sodium carbonate might become a substitute for imported sodium nitrate in the manufacture of explosives, but the deposits turned out to have no commercial application. The Natrona Alkali Company records are primarily the corporate records related to a second incorporation of the company due to a clerical oversight, the materials date from 1950 to 1980, though there are some documents from the ealier company.

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Historical Note

The Natrona Alkali Company was incorporated in Wyoming on July 10, 1899 to hold title to 1,600 acres of sodium carbonate deposits in Natrona County. The deposits were located near Independence Rock, a landmark on the old Oregon Trail. The land was acquired in 1876 by Lamot du Pont (1831-1884), a chemist working for the family business, E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Company, a chemical company which originally produced gunpowder. Du Pont developed B blasting powder, using Chilean sodium nitrate instead of the previously used potassium nitrate (saltpeter) from India. Du Pont and his descendants, who took control of the land after his death, had hoped that the sodium carbonate might become a substitute for imported sodium nitrate in the manufacture of explosives, but the deposits turned out to have no commercial application.

The property remained dormant for 98 years. Because of a bookkeeping oversight, the original charter expired on July 10, 1949, and a second company had to be incorporated on March 14, 1950. Finally, the State of Wyoming purchased the site in order to build a visitors' center for Independence Rock as part of its 1976 bicentennial celebration, and the company's charter was allowed to expire in 1980.

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Scope and Content

The Natrona Alkali Company Records are primarily the corporate records of the second (1950-1980) company. They include minutes, account books, stock certificate books, stock ledgers, tax returns, and correspondence. Most of the records deal with the negotiations for the sale of the company's property to the state and the winding up of its affairs. There is also a smaller body of legal papers from the first company, including charter, bylaws, deeds and agreements, land and water rights records, geologist's reports, and papers covering the transfer of the property from the Lamot du Pont Estate to the corporation.

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Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by file title/record type.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Laurie Sather 2020

Access Restrictions

These records are located in off-site storage. Please allow 48 hours for delivery.

Provenance

Gift of Irénée du Pont, Jr.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Irénée du Pont, Sr. Papers (Accession 0228), Manuscripts and Archives Department, Hagley Museum and Library

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Controlled Access Headings

- Natrona County (Wyo.)
- Sodium carbonate
- Independence Rock (Wyo.)
- Explosives industry
- Land companies.
- Du Pont, Lammot, 1831-1884
- Du Pont, Irénée, 1876-1963
- Du Pont, Irénée, 1920-
- May, Ernest N. (Ernest Nugent), 1900-1985
- Du Pont, Pierre S. (Pierre Samuel), 1870-1954
- Stearns, Irving A. (Irving Ariel), 1845-1920
- May, J. Eric (John Eric), 1935-2004

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Affidavits of citizenship	box 1	folder 1
Agreements - Irving A. Stearns	box 1	folder 2
Annual meeting notices, 1955-1961	box 1	folder 3
Articles of incorporation, 1899	box 1	folder 4
Bank statements, 1950-1979	box 1	folder 5
Bylaws, 1899	box 1	folder 6
Check stubs, 1950-1978	box 1	folder 7
Clark, Edward T. - Agent in Wyoming, 1903	box 1	folder 8
Deeds	box 1	folder 9
Du Pont, Lammot, Estate, 1900-1904	box 1	folder 10
Du Pont, Pierre S. - Declaration of trust, 1903	box 1	folder 11
Estate of Levi I. Shoemaker, 1909	box 1	folder 12
General business, 1947-1961	box 1	folder 13
Incorporation of new company, 1950-1953	box 1	folder 14
Independence Rock, 1973	box 1	folder 15
Invoices, 1952-1961	box 1	folder 16
John Weir claims	box 1	folder 17
Journal & ledger, 1950-1979	box 1	folder 18
Lease to W. W. Grieve, 1931	box 1	folder 19
Leases of land, 1952-1963	box 1	folder 20
Location certificates, 1894	box 1	folder 21
Map - Pathfinder Dam & reservoir	box 1	folder 22
Maps of property	box 1	folder 23
Minute book, 1950-1977	box 2	folder 1
<u>General Physical Description note: 1950-1977</u>		
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1951-1973	box 2	folder 2
<u>General Physical Description note: 1951-1973</u>		
Miscellaneous papers, 1975	box 2	folder 3

General Physical Description note: 1975

New deeds for property	box 2	folder 4
Patent to Natrona Alkali Company, 1901	box 2	folder 5
<u>General Physical Description note: 1901</u>		
Patents to Lammot du Pont, 1876-1879	box 2	folder 6
<u>General Physical Description note: 1876-1879</u>		
Property sold to Rusco, Incorporated, 1976-1977	box 2	folder 7
<u>General Physical Description note: 1976-1977</u>		
Power of attorney to Chester B. Bradley, 1895	box 2	folder 8
<u>General Physical Description note: 1895</u>		
Proxies - Form of, 1900	box 2	folder 9
<u>General Physical Description note: 1900</u>		
Report on Independence Group of soda deposits, 1903	box 2	folder 10
<u>General Physical Description note: 1903</u>		
Sale of property & dissolution, 1972-1975	box 2	folder 11
<u>General Physical Description note: 1972-1975</u>		
Site visits, 1894-1900	box 2	folder 12
<u>General Physical Description note: 1894-1900</u>		
Stock certificate book, Vol. 1	box 2	folder 13
Stock certificate book, Vol. 2	box 3	folder 1
Stock certificates - Returned	box 3	folder 2
Stock ledger, 1950-1977	box 3	folder 3
<u>General Physical Description note: 1950-1977</u>		
Stock transfers	box 3	folder 4
Stockholders meeting, 1974 December 16	box 3	folder 5
Stockholders & directors meeting, 1974 December 14	box 3	folder 6
Taxes, 1950-1975	box 3	folder 7
<u>General Physical Description note: 1950-1975</u>		
Taxes - Federal income tax returns, 1950-1977	box 3	folder 8
<u>General Physical Description note: 1950-1977</u>		
Taxes - State, 1950-1980	box 3	folder 9
<u>General Physical Description note: 1950-1980</u>		
Tracings and blueprints	box 3	folder 10
Water rights	box 3	folder 11

Wyoming Central Association, 1884

box 3

folder 12

General Physical Description note: 1884