

## Western Museum of Mining & Industry Gene Mourning Collection

Winton Eugene Mourning (1921-1991) was a Kansas native whose family moved to Colorado Springs in 1933. He was a WWII Army Air Corps veteran who earned three bronze stars and the Air Medal. Mourning was a minor league baseball player; his employment career was spent as a construction engineer several companies along the Front Range.

This collection consists of Mourning's numerous drawings and a book manuscript. The material was given to WMMI in 1999 by a friend, Joan Cantrell, in two separate donations (1999.8, 1999.28). The collection consists of the following:

1. Manuscript and artwork for his unpublished *The Golden Years: Mines of the Cripple Creek District*. His obituary indicates that Mourning worked on this manuscript for eight years prior to his death. His manuscript covers the major mines in the district, organized by vein zones. The manuscript includes maps and his numerous pen and ink sketches of surviving mining structures during the period 1960s-1980s. While his sketches are excellent renditions of structures, most of his manuscript is plagiarized from United States Geological Survey publications about Cripple Creek and are thus useless to an independent researcher. However, interspersed throughout the manuscript are his personal observations about the district as he wandered around and took photographs which he used as the bases for his sketches. There are four copies of this manuscript.
2. One complete set of original pen and ink drawings for the book, as well as a set of copies.
3. Over one hundred pen and ink drawings, some colored, of various mining scenes, including Aspen, Central City, Argo Mill and Tunnel, Lamartine Mill, and many more of Cripple Creek. There are also untitled farm scenes, mine remains, and a few photographs (both color and black & white) of nature. Finally, there are three watercolor paintings of Cripple Creek scenes.
4. A photograph album filled with color photographs of Cripple Creek mining structures that were used as the bases for his sketches. The original album was emptied and the photographs placed in acid-free pages inside an acid-free slipcased binder.