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### Italian Mutual Aid Society of West Mineral Collection

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## **MS 436 Italian Mutual Aid Society of West Mineral Collection**

### ***Introduction***

This collection contains materials concerning the Italian Mutual Aid Society of West Mineral, Kansas.

### ***Descriptive Summary***

Creator: Ralph Burdette

Title: Italian Mutual Aid Society of West Mineral Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1906-2009

Size: .3 Linear Feet

Collection Number: 436

### ***Donor Information***

This collection was loaned to the university by Ralph Burdette in 1990 on an indefinite loan.

### ***Citation Note***

Italian Mutual Aid Society of West Mineral Collection (MS 436), Special Collections and University Archives, Pittsburg State University Axe Library, Pittsburg, Kansas.

### ***Administrative Information***

**Restrictions:** None

### ***Historical Sketch***

The Italian Mutual Aid Society, Carl Marx Chapter was created by Italian miners in West Mineral to serve as a social and mutual aid society starting in 1906 according to the society's ledger. This society helped hurt miners, their families, as well as the families of miners killed while working in Southeast Kansas mines. Groups like these would go on to become unions, the members being important in negotiations with mine owners for better working conditions and benefits such as pay or money that went to the injured or the families of those killed in the mines. Examples from this specific society include giving funds to the widow of a worker who died in a mining accident due to the fault of the mine owners.

### ***Scope and Content Note***

This collection contains materials created by the Italian Mutual Aid Society of West Mineral, Car Marx Chapter, as well as documents associated with the collection and its donation to the university archives. The Society's ledger book has been pulled from circulation and placed in this collection due to its relevance and a means of helping to keep the book's condition from deteriorating.

### **Series 1: Italian Mutual Aid Society of West Mineral Materials 1906**

Series 1 contains materials from the Italian Mutual Aid Society of West Mineral, Car Marx Chapter. This includes the Society's ledger book, which is in Italian and not translated completely, no translation exists in this collection. Along with this are copies of the organization's Statues and Regulations c. 1906. These four small books include what appears to be the organization's constitution and a list of founding members. Two of the books seem to be in great condition, one has minor wear and the last has large portions missing. Also in this series are two ribbons for the society, depicting the name of the society, the Italian Flag, as well as a tag depicting the Italian and American Flags, and a pin showing shaking hands. Lastly, there is a photo from the period of a street in Pittsburg, Kansas, more information on this photo can be found in the Correspondence Series of this collection.

### **Series 2: Correspondence 1990-2009**

Series 2 contains correspondence concerning the materials from the Italian Mutual Aid Society of West Mineral, Car Marx Chapter. The correspondence is about the donating of the materials, requests for scans of the Society ledger, as well as a letter concerning progress made on the translation of the ledger. Lastly, there is a complete copy of scans of the Society ledger.

### ***Collection Inventory***

#### **Series 1: Italian Mutual Aid Society of West Mineral Materials, 1906**

- f.1     Organizatoin Constitutions
- f.2     Ribbons, Pin, Photo
- f.3     Society Ledger

#### **Series 2: Correspondence, 1990-2009**

- f.4     Correspondence
- f.5     Copy of Society Ledger

Processed by Brent McDowell 4/17/2024