

Records of the U. S. Geological Survey

Record Group 57

**National Archives and Records Administration
Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)**

Records of the U. S. Geological Survey

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U.S. Geological Survey

Records of the Hydrographic Division

Hydrographic Survey Sheets	1891-1906
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Records of the Branch of Astrogeology, Flagstaff, Arizona

Mission Files of the Chief Scientist, Harold Masursky	1947-1990
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Mission Files of the Chief Scientist, Dr. Eugene Shoemaker	1950-1972
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U.S. Geological Survey

The Geological Survey was established in the Department of the Interior by an act of March 3, 1879, providing for the "classification of the public lands and the examination of the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of the public domain." An act of September 5, 1962, expanded this authorization to examinations outside the public domain, while topographical mapping and chemical and physical research were authorized by an act of October 2, 1888. The Survey's chief functions are to survey, investigate, and conduct research on the Nation's topography, geology, and mineral and water resources; classify land according to mineral composition and water power resources; furnish engineering supervision for power permits and Federal Power Commission licenses; supervise naval petroleum reserves and mineral leasing operations on public and Indian lands; and disseminate data relating to these activities.

Records of the Hydrographic Division

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Series: **Hydrographic Survey Sheets, 1891-1906**

Linear Measure: 10 in.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by California county (Alpine through Yuba), thereunder unarranged.

Scope Content: Primarily survey sheets of surveys conducted by the United States Geological Survey, but also includes some related correspondence, blueprints, and newspaper clippings. The survey sheets were sent to California landowners to obtain information concerning artesian wells located on their lands. The information supplied by the individuals varied from very brief responses to detailed descriptions of wells, water quality, and water use. Some of the landowners that responded to the surveys were prominent Californians of the 19th century such as J. W. Bixby, A. B. Chapman, and William McFadden.

Access Restrictions: None

Other Restrictions: None

Boxes: 2 (1-2)

Location: A012069-A012070

Records of the Branch of Astrogeology, Flagstaff, Arizona

The discovery of coesite at Meteor Crater, Arizona, led to the creation of the Branch of Astrogeology by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1960. The Branch of Astrogeology was created to support NASA programs for manned and unmanned space flight programs, train astronauts in pertinent types of field geology and test instruments to be used in lunar explorations.

Records of the Branch of Astrogeology, Flagstaff, Arizona

Series: **Mission Files of the Chief Scientist, Harold Masursky, 1947-1990**

Linear Measure: 40 ft. 10 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically according to the classification scheme of the U.S. Geological Survey filing manual.

Scope Content: Records provide information on the participation of the Geological Survey in the U.S. space program. Records document a number of activities performed by the agency in general and by Harold Masursky specifically. As Chief of the Astrogeology Branch and later as Chief Scientist, Dr. Masursky participated in such projects as: Pioneer; Mariner; Apollo; Lunar Orbiter; Galileo, Surveyor; Ranger; SEASAT; Ulysses; and Viking. Included are records of Dr. Masursky's correspondence with NASA, other geologists, and geological organizations.

Access Restrictions: Access to some records may be denied for reasons of personal privacy, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(6)).

Other Restrictions: None

Boxes: 98 (1-98)

Location: A350740-A350784

Records of the Branch of Astrogeology, Flagstaff, Arizona

Series: **Mission Files of the Chief Scientist, Dr. Eugene Shoemaker, 1950-1972**

Linear Measure: 23 ft. 4 in.

Arrangement: Arranged numerically according to the classification scheme of the U.S. Geological Survey filing manual.

Scope Content: Records provide information on the participation of the Geological Survey in the U.S. space program. Records document a number of activities performed by the agency in general and by Eugene Shoemaker specifically. As Chief of the Astrogeology Branch and later as Chief Scientist, Dr. Shoemaker participated in such projects as: Apollo; Surveyor; Ranger; and the training of astronauts in basic field geology. Included are records of Dr. Shoemaker's time at the Mineral Deposits Branch in Colorado; correspondence with NASA, other geologists, and geological organizations.

Access Restrictions: Access to some records may be denied for reasons of personal privacy, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(6)).

Other Restrictions: None

Boxes: 56 (1-56)

Location: A350472-A350494