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

These papers provide information about the Pilot Knob Pellet Company’s iron-ore mining and processing facilities at Pilot Knob in Iron County, Missouri. The operation opened there in May 1968, reviving an iron industry that had been dormant since 1919.

This collection consists of a folder that includes four items: a brief “History of Pilot Knob, Missouri,” “Facts about Pilot Knob Pellet Company,” a cross-sectional diagram of the “Pilot Knob Mine, Section 29,” and a “Flow Sheet” illustrating the processing of iron ore into pellets. The folder is entitled “Information on: Pilot Knob Pellet Company. The Hanna Mining Company, Agents.”

Iron mining and pig iron production began at Pilot Knob in the 1850s, but by the 1910s the small operation could no longer compete with larger mines and smelters, and production ceased in 1919. In the 1960s the Hanna Mining Company and Granite City Steel Company determined that if the local iron ore could be concentrated and “pelletized,” it could then be shipped to modern smelters and steel mills. They organized the Pilot Knob Pellet Company to operate the new enterprise. Mine development resumed in August 1964, with start-up of the concentrator and pellet plant in May 1968. The plant had a capacity of one million tons of pellets per year. These papers provide historical, background, and technical information about the new operation.

Granite City Steel Company.
Hanna Mining Company.
Iron County (Mo.).
Iron industry and trade—Missouri—Iron County.
Iron industry and trade—Missouri—Pilot Knob.
Iron mines and mining—Missouri—Iron County.
Iron mines and mining—Missouri—Pilot Knob.
Iron ores—Missouri—Pilot Knob.
Pilot Knob (Mo.).
Pilot Knob Pellet Company.