

The State Historical Society of Missouri

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MISSOURI TIMES



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COVER PHOTO



A high-stepping mule cleared a fence under the tutelage of Max Harsha of Kirksville, who trained the animals for coon hunters in 1973. The photograph by John H. Sheally II appeared in the February 1989 *National Geographic* magazine article "Small-Town America: An Endangered Species?" The magazine featured photographs from previous Missouri Photo Workshops, describing it as "one of the greatest collections of photographs of the Middle West."

SHSMO Publishes Civil War Book by Late Staff Member in Rolla

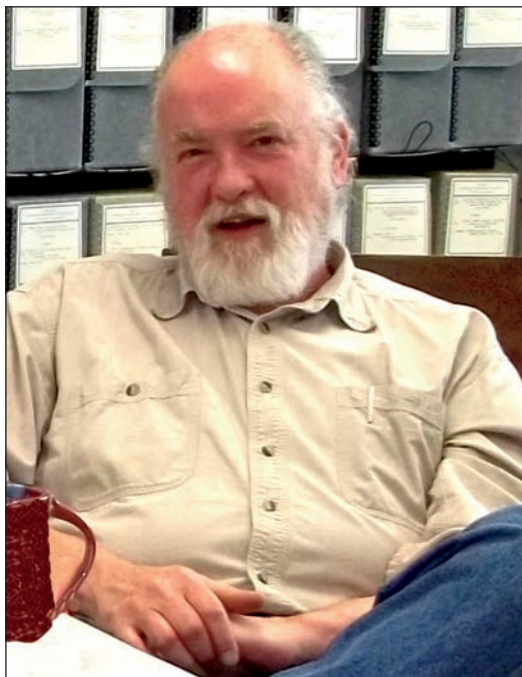
By John Brenner

THE last time I heard John Bradbury's voice was on June 2, a day after he left me an unexpected phone message. We usually communicated by email, John in Rolla, me in Columbia, back and forth with the kinds of questions and minutia and banter that an author and editor exchange on the long road to publish a book. We talked by phone sometimes too, but an email was usually met with another email, especially one as simple as the update I'd just sent him. John hadn't really responded to that; in his phone message he just said to call him back, without explaining why.

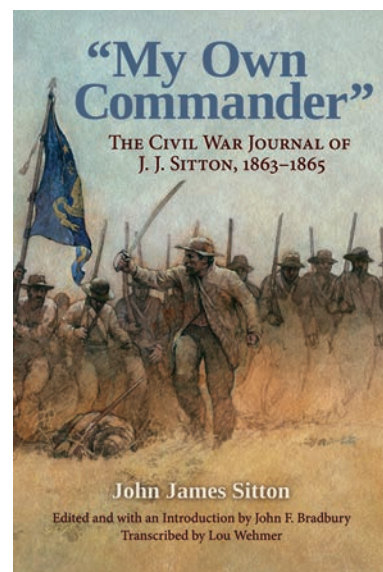
When I did, I learned that his ongoing health problems had taken a turn for the very worst: John had been diagnosed with an untreatable cancer and given six months to a year to live. He said he'd had a good run. He said he didn't know if he could do much more for it, but he sure wanted his J. J. Sitton book to get done. I told him he had gotten it far enough along for the rest of us to finish it and assured him the book would be out by this fall—in time, I thought, for him to see it. I'd be in touch to let him know how we were doing, and to check on how he was doing.

As it turned out, I was never back in touch. I had hoped against hope that six months to a year would prove to be longer, as is once in a while the case with doctors' diagnoses, but instead it was much shorter, just nine days. On June 11 I heard from Ryan Haas, John's nephew, that John was no longer with us, having passed away peacefully in the company of his family and close friends. I got a few more details the next day from Carole Goggin, John's good friend and former colleague at the Society's Rolla Research Center, where he worked for 35 years before retiring in 2015 and becoming a Center for Missouri Studies senior fellow.

The last email from John came on June 10. In the spring I had sent a draft of illustrations with captions for him to review and revise; it was the last remaining piece



John Bradbury seated at the SHSMO Rolla Research Center in 2017.



of the book's contents to complete. John was returning the draft, with a one-sentence message: "Please see revised captions in the attached document." Friends of John tell me he liked to respond to challenges with a line from *The Outlaw Josey Wales*, "Endeavor to persevere." He had lived up to the line.

"My Own Commander": The Civil War Journal of J. J. Sitton, 1863-1865 is being published this fall by the State Historical Society. It puts into print the journal kept by John James Sitton, a Confederate junior officer from the Missouri Ozarks, about his experiences fending for himself among guerrilla bands and Union patrols as a military recruiter on the lawless Missouri-Arkansas border, and then fighting as a captain in the army led by General Sterling Price on a last disastrous expedition into Missouri. A copy of the original journal was acquired by John and is now among the collections at the Rolla Research Center. The book blends his expert commentary with the immediacy of Sitton's daily entries. I'm sad John is not here after all to see his book, but honored that he entrusted us with seeing it through.

"My Own Commander" may be purchased through the Richard Bookstore (\$30, paperback). Membership discounts apply. Visit the store online at shop.shsmo.org.

New Photograph Exhibit Shows Depth of Community in Small Missouri Towns

THE SHSMO Art Gallery will be hosting an exhibit documenting 75 years of the Missouri Photo Workshop, which has captured images of life in rural Missouri towns and the changes to the people, culture, and landscape in America's heartland. "Small Towns, Big Stories" will be on display through January 2024 at the Center for Missouri Studies in Columbia. Visitors can explore more than 100 images taken in 51 towns over the last 75 years. The exhibit is being supported by the Missouri School of Journalism, Miller's Professional Imaging, and the Missouri Humanities Trust Fund.

Cliff Edom, founder of the workshop and a pioneer in photojournalism education at the Missouri School of Journalism, was inspired by the gritty documentary photography of the Farm Security Administration during the New Deal. Veterans of the FSA photo corps worked with Edom to create this rigorous weeklong workshop in 1949. Each year, a town in Missouri is chosen as the host

community. Workshop participants document a story with their cameras under the guidance of faculty who are some of the industry's most prominent photographers and editors. The body of work then becomes part of an extensive archive of life in small-town Missouri.

Brian Kratzer, current co-director of the Missouri Photo Workshop, along with former co-directors Jim Curley and David Rees, curated the exhibition from a collection of photos numbering in the thousands.

"This is Missouri's photo album," said Kratzer. "We welcome everyone to explore how small towns have changed across the state and to see some of the best documentary photography that has captured America's heartland."

Kratzer said the workshop maintains the world's longest continuous photographic archive of rural America. The Missouri Photo Workshop maintains a website with many digital images from previous years at missouriphotoworkshop.org.—BP



Town girls whisper while Missouri Military Academy cadets stand on a downtown street corner in Mexico, Missouri, in 1954. Photographer unknown, Missouri Photo Workshop 6.



Hannibal physician Cornelius Welch tends to his patient, Bessie Hale, during a house call. The Black population in Hannibal was fairly large and vibrant in 1957 when this photograph was taken at the Missouri Photo Workshop 9.



Two boys with fresh Mohawk haircuts carrying comic books hurry about their day in Rolla in 1955. Photographer unknown, Missouri Photo Workshop 7.



Left: Workers load sacks of corn onto train cars at the MFA Milling Company in Aurora, Missouri, in 1960. Photograph by Bill Eppridge at Missouri Photo Workshop 12. Within five years, Eppridge, a graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism, was working regularly for *LIFE* and *Sports Illustrated* magazines. His photograph capturing Robert Kennedy's assassination in Los Angeles in June 1968 would become one of his most important images.

Right: Photographer Dallas Kinney began his Missouri Photo Workshop experience in Louisiana, Missouri, in 1966 by arriving a day early and having coffee with residents as he searched for a story. One local diner owner said he considered Miz Fanny Miles the town's most important citizen as she kept Louisiana's businesses spotless with her cleaning service. Four years later, Kinney received the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for a series of photos documenting migrant workers in the U.S.



Left: Charles Bradley, age 94, stands on his 450-acre farm in Weston, Missouri, which has been in the family since 1883. Photographer Michelle Siu portrayed Bradley and his wife, Mary, age 93, who suffered from advanced dementia, for her photo essay in 2014 at Missouri Photo Workshop 66 in Platte City. The following year, Siu won Pictures of the Year International Award of Excellence Feature Picture Story and Photograph of the Year by the News Photographers Association of Canada.

Right: The Grundy County courthouse looms over two inmates sitting in the cement yard of the county jail in 2013. Photographer Katie Moore focused her essay on Leslie, one of the inmates seen in this photo, who was charged with possession of a controlled substance. To pass time, Leslie and her cellmates "play cards, talk, and cry," according to Moore's essay at the Missouri Photo Workshop 65 in Trenton, Missouri. Today, Moore is a freelance photojournalist and splits her time between New York and her home state of Kansas.



Missouri's Conservation History Explored in *Fragile Earth* Exhibition

By Joan Stack

SINCE the 1930s, environmental issues have played a growing role in shaping public policy in the United States. Over the decades, Missourians have become increasingly aware of conservation issues such as pollution, deforestation, extinction, and climate change. The exhibition *Fragile Earth: Fifty+ Years of Environmental Cartoons* displays original editorial cartoon drawings by Missouri artists that explore these concerns. The first installment of this show is on display through November in the SHSMO Art Gallery's Guitar Family Gallery of Editorial Cartoons and Illustration. A second installment will run from mid-December into 2024.

The earliest cartoons in the exhibition are by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* artist Daniel Fitzpatrick, a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist whose innovative use of the grease crayon led some to call him the "dean" of 20th-century cartoonists. His 1936 cartoon *Autumn Comes to St. Louis* depicts city smokestacks billowing pollution into the sky as cold weather descends on Missouri.

Fitzpatrick also covered positive developments in environmental history such as the creation of the Missouri Department of Conservation, which has served as a role model for conservation departments throughout the nation. In 1936, Missouri voters passed a constitutional amendment establishing the department as a nonpartisan state agency. Before that time, water, air, and soil pollution were regulated by legislation that was often influenced by the special interests of wealthy polluters. The new department sought to preserve outdoor recreation, fishing, and hunting in Missouri by authorizing refuges to preserve the state's natural resources and habitats. In *The Old Meat Hound Is Still Scratching*, Fitzpatrick visualized the Conservation Amendment as a fence that kept harmful political interests away from the state's natural resources. He invented the humanoid "meat hound" to represent the political interests trying to undermine the new department.

The most recent cartoons in the exhibition are by the Columbia artist John Darkow, who formerly worked for the *Columbia Daily Tribune* and now works for the Colum-



Autumn Comes to St. Louis by Daniel Fitzpatrick, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 1936.

bia Missourian. Darkow's cartoons have been published internationally and are syndicated by Cagle Cartoons. The 2008 *Canary in the Coal Mine* refers to the old practice by which canaries were brought into coal mines to warn miners of hazardous gases. The birds were more sensitive to toxins than humans, and if the canaries became sick, miners knew that unsafe gases were present in the mines. In 2008, the polar bear was placed on the Endangered Species List after its population decreased due to habitat loss. Darkow's cartoon suggests that the decline in polar bears is analogous to sick canaries in coal mines. In other words, the bear's endangered status warns humans that the earth is in peril.

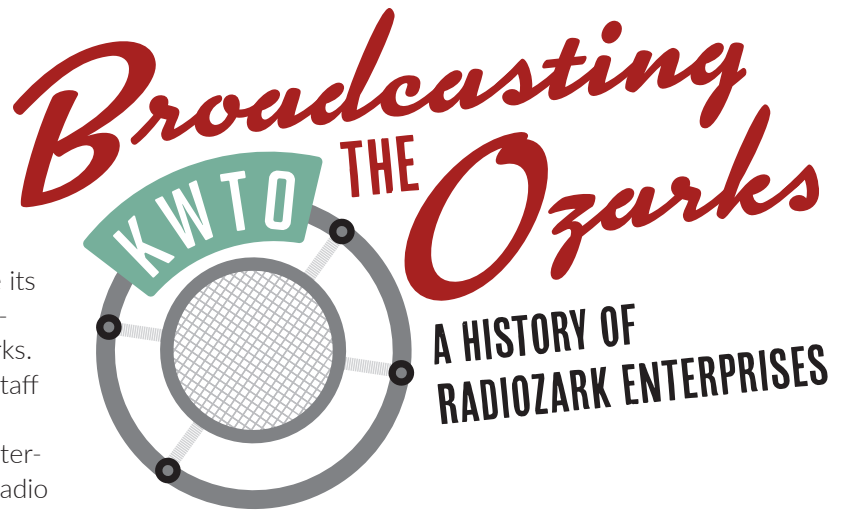
Finally, the exhibition takes its name from a 1971 cartoon by *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* artist Tom Engelhardt, who had a lifelong commitment to the environment. Among the many Engelhardt drawings on display is *Fragile, Handle with Care*, which pictures the earth as an egg inside a bird's nest. This simple yet poignant image is emblematic of all the cartoons in the exhibition, reminding us of the need to protect and preserve our vulnerable planet.

Joan Stack is the curator of art collections at the State Historical Society of Missouri.

Broadcasting the Ozarks and Beyond

THE *Broadcasting the Ozarks: A History of RadiOzark Enterprises* traveling exhibit made its debut in the summer at the Missouri Broadcasters Association convention at Lake of the Ozarks. The nearly 7-foot-tall panels, created by SHSMO staff members Haley Frizzle-Green and Stacia Schaefer, showcase the history of Springfield's RadiOzark Enterprises, the company behind nationally syndicated radio programs such as *The Tennessee Ernie Ford Show*, *The Red Foley Show*, and *Shorty Thompson's Saddle Rockin' Rhythm*. The exhibit explores Springfield's prominence in the early days of country music, as KWTO radio station expanded its programming nationally through radio broadcasts, personal appearances, syndication, publications, and eventually television. The display also features audio clips of the RadioOzark Record Collection held at the State Historical Society. The exhibition is made possible by the Melinda J. McDaniel Charitable Trust, UW, Bank of America, N. A., Trustee.

SHSMO also houses the Missouri Broadcasters Association Radio Archives Collection, which includes audio recordings of programs, radio jingles, promos, and original recordings digitized by Missouri radio stations.



The initiative is part of the Radio Preservation Task Force by the Library of Congress. MBA continues to collect recordings and asks all Missouri radio stations to consider donating some of their historical broadcasts and current local programming to the collection.—BP



Missouri Broadcasters Association members Ed Brown (left) and John Zimmer, co-owner of Zimmer Communications, (right) view the *Broadcasting the Ozarks* exhibit at the MBA convention June 2, 2023. KWTO, featured in the exhibit, is owned by Zimmer Communications.



Students from the College of the Ozarks listen to radio shows while exploring the *Broadcasting the Ozarks* exhibition at the MBA convention.

Missouri Students Honored at National History Day Contest in Maryland



By Beth Pike

AINSLEY and Liz Strickland traveled a long way from Missouri's Bootheel to visit Washington, D.C., for the first time. They were among the 59 Missouri students competing at the National History Day contest in College Park, Maryland, in June. The sixth-grade twin sisters at Richland R-1 in Stoddard County presented their exhibit on the Little River Drainage District in southeast Missouri. In 1914, a massive project was created to build levees and 1,000 miles of drainage ditches to protect communities from flooding and to divert water flow so crops could be grown. An area that was once 95 percent covered in swampland now accounts for one-third of Missouri's agricultural income.

"My sister and I chose this project because our grandfather served as a board member of the district," said Ainsley, whose family grows corn, beans, and cotton on land their family has farmed for four generations. "We've heard about it all our lives but didn't really understand it as much until we began our NHD project. A lot of work is still being done by my dad and others to maintain the roads, levees, and ditches."

The Stricklands and other classmates took full advantage of being in D.C. "This trip is amazing. We've seen the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, and the White House. We're looking forward to visiting the Smithso-



Missouri NHD students tour the U.S. Capitol before meeting with congressional members from Missouri.

nian museums before we head home to Missouri," added Ainsley.

As the national contest got underway on the University of Maryland campus, over 2,600 students were excited to trade buttons representing their state or country. Students from each of the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and U.S. territories and countries as far away as Singapore, Korea, and American Samoa found the button exchange a fun way to meet each other. "I've collected 30 buttons so far and I'm down to one more Missouri button," said Kimmi Kohrs, an eighth-grade student at East Buchanan Middle School in Easton. "It's a cool way to meet students and start a conversation."

Missouri students took home multiple awards and a bronze medal at the national contest. Emma Lewis of Central High School in Springfield received the bronze medal for her website, "The Harlem Renaissance: A Frontier for 20th Century Black Identity." The White House History special prize was awarded to Collin



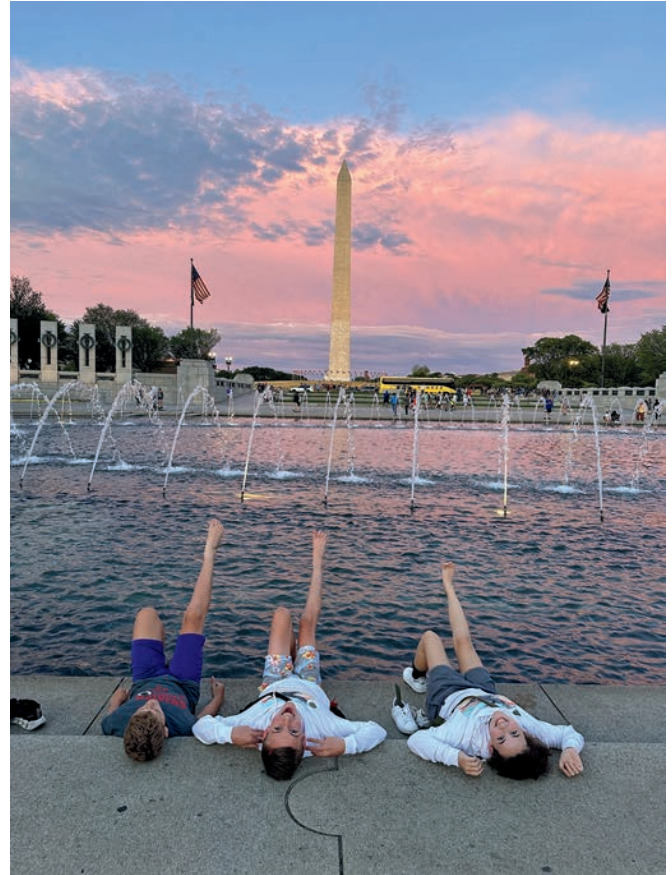
Kimmi Kohrs (left) of East Buchanan Middle School asks Zoe (right), a student from Hawaii, if she would like to trade state buttons before the opening ceremony of National History Day.



Students from Oak Grove High School show Missouri's NHD coordinator, Danielle Griego (left), their exhibit at the National Museum of American History.

Sybert of North Andrew Middle School in Rosendale for his performance, "The Atomic Age."

Liberty Middle School students Ayodeji Nilson, Jared Kassman, and Quinn Harman received an Outstanding Entry Award for their website, "Edward Jenner: Father of the Vaccine and the Frontier of Immunization." Rohan Deshpande of Marquette High School in St. Louis County also received an Outstanding Entry Award for his documentary, "Economic Redevelopment over Community Preservation: The Frontier of Urban Renewal that Transformed Our Cities." Kathleen Hudson, Alesia Dickey, and Brenna Hamilton of Oak Grove High School were selected to show their exhibit, "The Living Room War: Advancing Frontiers in Media," at the National Museum



Students from North Andrew Middle School in Rosendale enjoy cooling off at the National Mall. Photo courtesy of Brian Wiedmer.

of American History showcase. "We are first-time seniors going to the national contest and were surprised to learn we made it into the showcase," said Dickey. "I told everyone in town about our exhibit at the Smithsonian, including my vet!" added Hamilton.

NHD judges also chose Ian Morgan and Keavan Coale of Central High School in Springfield to show their documentary, "A Frontier in Litigation: Charles Houston, Thurgood Marshall, Nathan Margold, and the Fight to End Segregation in Education," at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

"We had a talented group of students represent Missouri at the national contest this year," said Danielle Griego, SHSMO educational coordinator. "Students had the opportunity to showcase their projects, actively engage in historical scholarship, and meet participants from around the world."

National History Day in Missouri is sponsored and organized by the State Historical Society of Missouri, in partnership with Missouri Humanities and additional sponsors. For more information, visit nhdmo.org.

Missouri on Mic Oral History Project Receives Regional and National Edward R. Murrow Awards

THE Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) has awarded KBIA-FM with its prestigious journalism award in the category of Excellence in Innovation for a project developed and created by the NPR-member radio station and the State Historical Society of Missouri. The project, *Missouri on Mic*, is a series of audio stories and short oral histories recorded mostly by student reporters who interviewed residents about their thoughts on the Show-Me State.

The series began airing on KBIA, a Columbia-based station affiliated with the Missouri School of Journalism, in 2021 as a project of the Missouri Bicentennial. Around 250 people from 25 counties stepped into portable audio booths at 12 festivals, events, and community halls to give their stories.

Missourians shared how difficult life could be during the COVID-19 pandemic. A young man spoke about his grief and financial struggles. After his mother died, he dug her own grave to save on funeral costs. While participants spoke of tragedy and hardship, they also reminisced about their childhood, what they enjoy in their lives, and their hopes for Missouri's future. On Statehood Day in 2021, the *Missouri on Mic* team recorded a group of new U.S. citizens following their naturalization ceremony at the State Capitol. Radio listeners heard the dreams of the state's newest citizens.

Janet Saidi, KBIA producer and assistant professor at the Missouri School of Journalism, helped lead the team of nine professional journalists, two dozen student producers, a graphic designer, and an oral historian. "The process of lifting those voices for broadcast and for oral histories has been transformative for our newsroom, as we've learned the power of listening and connecting," said Saidi. "I'm convinced there's nothing more essential or urgent our news teams can do than going out and connecting with people and inviting them to say what's on their mind during challenging times."

One of Saidi's journalism students, Grace Pankey of Minnesota, said the opportunity to be involved in the project has helped her learn more about the lives of Missourians.

"Working on *Missouri on Mic* was a great experience because I was able to practice my interviewing skills and I met wonderful people through the project. It opened



Missouri on Mic producers record oral stories at the Missouri State Fair, August 15, 2021.



The *Missouri on Mic* team poses after a recording of new U.S. citizens who emigrated from Kenya following a U.S. naturalization ceremony at the Missouri State Capitol, Aug. 10, 2021.

my eyes and ears to other places in Missouri other than Columbia," said Pankey.

KBIA aired 78 stories on *Missouri on Mic* in 2022 as well as a 30-minute special program. Listeners can hear the stories on the station's website: kbia.org/podcast/Missouri-on-mic. The published stories, including all unedited material and transcripts, will be archived at the State Historical Society of Missouri.—BP

MU Professor's Recordings Offer First-Hand Stories of German Communities in Twentieth-Century Missouri

By Aleksandra Kinlen

THE late University of Missouri German professor Adolf "Dolf" Schroeder was known for his scholarship on Missouri's German heritage, folklore, and folk music. The Adolf E. and Rebecca B. Schroeder Collection includes 178 oral history tapes with 170 interviewees, most of them from German American backgrounds, recorded in the 1970s and 1980s. His subjects, many of them from places such as Hermann and Westphalia that were settled by German immigrants, offer insights into the survival of German folk art and culture despite two wars with Germany in the first half of the twentieth century.

On the tapes, men and women who were often in their 80s or 90s discuss their experiences growing up in German households and within predominantly ethnic German communities in Missouri. Grant-funded volunteers transcribed 114 of the interviews from audio cassettes before they were donated to the Society.

Schroeder's oral history project began almost 50 years ago to commemorate the U.S. bicentennial in 1976. Public and academic interest in the project continued into the 1980s, aided by attention surrounding the 1983 tricentennial of German immigration to America. Schroeder's interviews grew to include not only German Americans, but also people with Polish, Czechoslovakian, and Ukrainian heritage.

Although research center patrons with a general interest in German American history will benefit from the content of these interviews, the tapes and their transcripts are also valuable to anyone wanting to learn more about the experiences of Schroeder's interview subjects as told in their own words. Over 20 pages of extensive indexing on the collection's finding aid provides the name of each interviewee and the location of tapes and transcriptions. The collection includes the papers of Dolf's wife,



Top: Girls performing maypole dance at the Maifest picnic, Hermann, circa 1912, Edward J. Kemper Collection.

Middle: German dance at Strassenfest, 1982, Mit Feder Und Hammer: The German Experience in St. Louis Collection.

Bottom: *Die Abend Schule* German newspaper masthead, Aug 1, 1863, Mit Feder Und Hammer: The German Experience in St. Louis Collection.



Rebecca, who worked at the Missouri State Library as a consultant and writer, served as editor for the *Missouri Heritage Readers* book series, and collaborated with her husband on projects relating to Missouri's cultural life.

Aleksandra Kinlen is a former archivist at the Columbia Research Center.

Seeing the Extraordinary in the Ordinary

BURFORD ROYSTON'S PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOUTH HOWARD COUNTY



By Kimberly Harper

MISSOURI writer George Hodgman once observed, “A lot of the most extraordinary people you’re going to meet are sitting right across the table from you.” The same applies to the places where we live; too often we take our everyday surroundings for granted. But postal carrier Burford L. Royston recognized the extraordinary in the ordinary. Beginning in the 1950s, he photographed people, places, and happenings along his rural mail route in southern Howard County. Thanks to Royston’s daughter-in-law Beth Royston and grandsons Daniel, Johnathan, and Bradley, the images are now preserved at the State Historical Society of Missouri. They provide a captivating glimpse into Missouri rural life in the mid-twentieth century.

Burford Leon Royston was born October 31, 1919, in Howard County and grew up in the Clarks Chapel community. After graduating from New Franklin High School in 1937, he joined the United States Naval Reserve in 1939 before enlisting in the U.S. Navy on November 6, 1941, in St. Louis. Royston served as a signalman first class on the super-dreadnought USS *Pennsylvania* and the minelayer USS *Terror* during World War II. On May 1, 1945, he survived a devastating kamikaze attack on the *Terror* when the ship was anchored at Kerama Retto off Okinawa.

After the war, Royston married Avis M. Watts on November 12, 1945; together the couple had one son, Richard W. Royston. The fields surrounding their home on Highway 87 were filled with rows of gladiolas, mums, zinnias, and other flowers that were sold to local florists. Royston’s main source of income came from his job as a rural mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, a career he continued for nearly four decades. According to family members, he drove two million miles as a postman without a single accident.

Even more remarkable than Royston’s driving record was his gift for photography. Mindful of his professional obligations, he delivered the mail to recipients first before taking their photograph, as evidenced by many



Rural mail carrier Burford Royston in the fall of 1953. Royston photographed many of the people and places along his route in southern Howard County, Missouri.

portraits in which the subjects appear with their mail in hand. The lush Kodachrome slides call to mind photos in *National Geographic* and *LIFE*. Society volunteer Susan Vale, whose mother-in-law was a cousin of Royston’s wife Avis, observes that “the relationships Burford had with people come through on their faces; they are smiling, pleasant.”

In addition to portraits, Royston photographed a variety of other subjects: sorghum making, floods, car wrecks, grocery stores, house fires, square dances, trail rides, funerals, weddings, churches, and long-abandoned



Left: Jim and Maude Miller; one of many images Royston took of couples along his rural mail route. His photos often feature flowers, a hallmark of his use of color. Right: Henry Gilmore stands next to Royston's 1953 Ford with his mail in hand. Royston often photographed individuals after delivering their mail to them.



Clockwise from left: Emily Lowe was raking the leaves in her yard on a windy day when Burford Royston took her photograph in 1953. Royston photographed many elderly widows as well as couples, families, local events, and structures. Leonard Massie holding soda bottles in 1953; barely visible in the background are several yellow Dr. Pepper crates. Burford Virgil Schnuck stands outside his ranch house in June 1954. Royston's photographs often reveal his eye for color and composition, and contain intriguing details about a time and place that is now a memory of the past.

structures with ties to early post-Indigenous settlement in Howard County. Fortunately, Royston captioned slides with names, dates, and place information. Dates in the captions range from 1951 to 1970; images after 1971 are not labeled. Royston retired sometime around 1984; it is unknown why he gradually ceased taking photographs late in his career. He died on November

13, 2009. Vale and fellow volunteer Patrick Atkinson are diligently digitizing his photos so that the Burford Leon Royston Collection can be accessed online in the future.

Kimberly Harper is editor at the State Historical Society of Missouri.

EYEWITNESS TO THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON OF DESTRUCTION

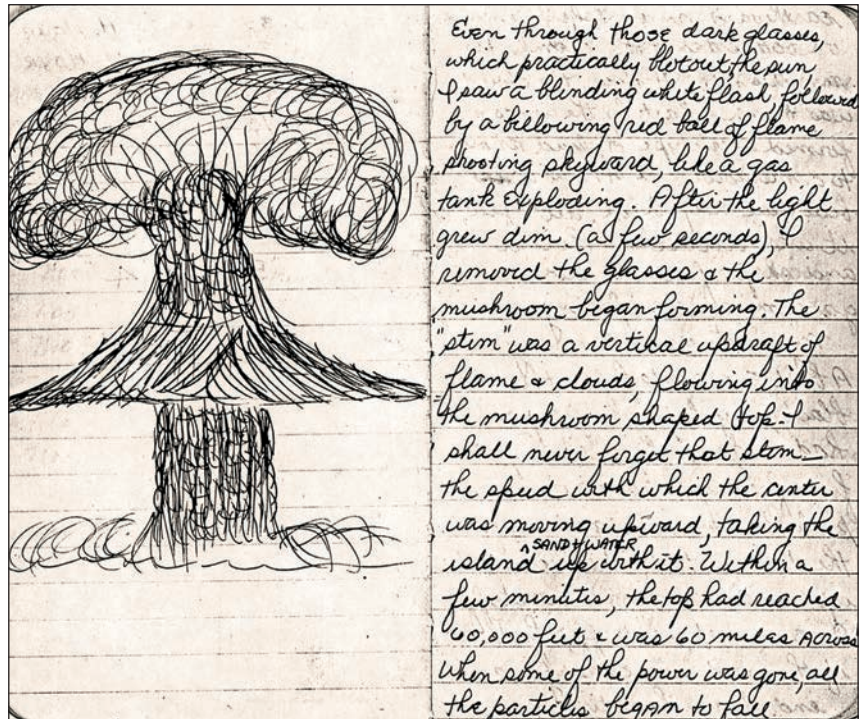
By Haley Frizzle-Green

ON January 31, 1950, President Harry S. Truman made a public announcement that would change the course of history. Following the Communist victory in mainland China and discovery that the Soviet Union had successfully tested its first atomic bomb, Truman directed the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission to work on all forms of atomic weapons, "including the so-called hydrogen or super bomb." Winning the nuclear arms race was Truman's highest priority. Because of that, a young man from Buffalo, Missouri, would soon become part of the team that tested the first hydrogen bombs.

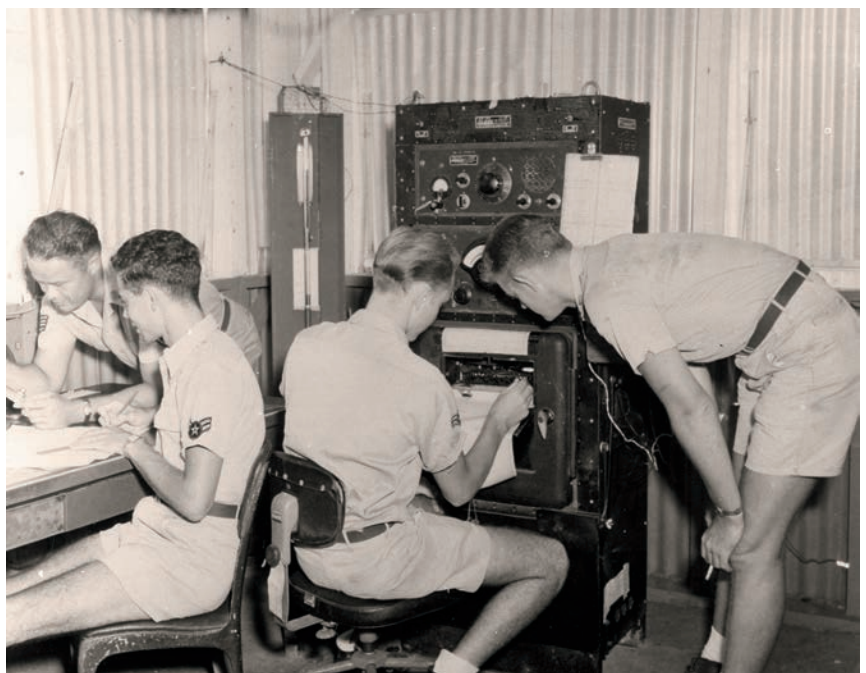
Donald Ray Whitman, son of Clarence Whitman and Lillian McGee, served in the United States Air Force from 1951 to 1953. Although he never saw combat, Whitman was a direct participant in a dramatic episode during the early Cold War.

After completing basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, Whitman was assigned to duty as a weather observer and stationed in the Marshall Islands, between Hawaii and the Philippines in the Pacific Ocean. While there, Whitman became a member of the weather reconnaissance team for Operation Ivy, the U.S. effort to test the world's first hydrogen bombs. Concerned with limiting radioactive fallout, the weather reconnaissance team observed the weather conditions during the tests.

Whitman and his team witnessed the detonation of both Ivy bombs, "Mike" and "King." Ivy Mike dropped on November 1, 1952, and Ivy King, the largest pure-fission bomb ever tested by the United States, was detonated 15 days later on November 16.



Burton Abeles' journal, 1952, Donald R. Whitman Collection.



Donald Whitman (right) and weathermen at a Marshall Islands weather station, 1952, Donald R. Whitman Collection.

The team watched Ivy Mike from a 30-mile distance on the USS *Estes*. They witnessed the Ivy King explosion from only 12 miles away on the island of Eniwetok. A firsthand account, written by fellow weatherman Burton Abeles, describes Ivy Mike as "The most magnificent sight I have ever seen, and also the most terrifying." After the bomb was dropped, Abeles likened the shock wave from the explosion to "stepping out of a house and into a hurricane." "Had I not been holding on, it would have blown me down. The difference in pressure caused my ears to stop up, and I was quite deaf for a few minutes."

After leaving the Air Force, Whitman returned to the United States. He married Polly Lou Bell and the couple had one daughter, Kathi Whitman. He studied meteorology

and earth science at the University of Washington in Seattle and the University of Missouri in Kansas City, where he received his degree in 1968. Whitman began working for the National Weather Service in Kansas City as the assistant director for meteorology and management. In 1975, he was awarded the Silver Medal Award by the U.S. Department of Commerce for his work on meteorology training programs, including a special training course for Native Alaskans.

In the early 1990s, Whitman began searching for his former weather reconnaissance colleagues from Operation Ivy. Of the roughly 30 men he tried contacting, only a few were still alive. On November 1, 2002, Whitman and his fellow Ivy weathermen reunited in Las Vegas to

commemorate the 50th anniversary of Operation Ivy and memorialize those who were no longer with them. In the spring of 2008, Whitman passed away from brain and lung cancer.

The Donald R. Whitman Collection was donated to the Springfield Research Center a year ago by Kathi Whitman. It contains her father's personal and professional papers, including the correspondence between Whitman and his fellow Air Force weathermen. The collection also includes genealogical research, photographs, and a copy of weatherman Burton Abeles' journal, which recounts the days leading up to Operation Ivy.

Haley Frizzle-Green is an archivist at the Springfield Research Center.



Donald R. Whitman, 1952, Donald R. Whitman Collection.



Weathermen on Marshall Islands holding a weather balloon, 1952, Donald R. Whitman Collection.

New Collections at the Kansas City Research Center Feature the Lives of Prominent Ballet Dancers

By Sophia Southard

TWO newly processed collections are available to patrons wanting to learn more about the Kansas City performing arts scene during the twentieth century. The collections feature professional dancers Ula Sharon Robinson Bergfeldt and Jean Coover Babcock.

Born on March 17, 1905, in Spring Hill, Kansas, Bergfeldt and her family moved to the Philippines when she was a baby. She showed an early talent for dancing, and after her family returned to the United States, Bergfeldt became a child star in Philadelphia's vaudeville scene. The young dancer toured the country—and the world—to pursue her career on the stage. After touring Australia for three months at age ten, Bergfeldt and her family moved to Kansas City, where she studied at the Norman School.

Bergfeldt began dance lessons with Dorothy Burrows Perkins, an internationally renowned dance instructor. Perkins's star pupils included Bergfeldt and Rosella Hightower, who went on to become the principal dancer of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and the Marquis

de Cuevas Ballet. At age fourteen, Bergfeldt and her mother moved to New York. A year later she found critical and popular acclaim when she starred in the vaudeville hit *Broadway Brevities*. Bergfeldt spent the next several years studying dance in London and New York and performed in numerous productions, including the *Greenwich Village Follies* and a command performance for King George V.

In 1931, Bergfeldt moved back to the Midwest and married William Harold "Perky" Bergfeldt, proprietor of Dale-Bergfeldt Tailors in Kansas City. In the following years, she remained active in the performing arts scene by teaching dance and producing original shows. Bergfeldt helped found the Kansas City Dance Theatre in 1954 and wrote many of the original scripts for their dance and theater productions. She would continue to teach dance until 1983. Bergfeldt died ten years later at age 88, leaving a permanent mark on the city's performing arts scene.

Ula Sharon Robinson publicity photograph by G. Dobkins Studio, New York.

The Ula Sharon Robinson Bergfeldt Collection spans the course of Bergfeldt's ballet and teaching career, and contains papers and photographs of the Bergfeldt, Headlee, Robinson, and Simmons families from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Bergfeldt's collection is closely related to the Jean Coover Babcock Papers available at the Kansas City Research Center. Babcock was a student and close friend of Bergfeldt. She not only took dance lessons under Bergfeldt's instruction, but also traveled to Cannes, France, to study at Rosella Hightower's Centre de Dance Classique. After dancing with various ballet companies, including the Bremen Opera Ballet, Kassel Opera Ballet, and Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Babcock began teaching dance instruction. She opened the Coover-Heidrich School of Dance, the Independence School of Dance, and the Coover-Heidrich Ballet Workshop.

Sophia Southard is an archivist at the Kansas City Research Center.



Cullimore Papers Document Active Time in Missouri's Conservation History

By Kathleen Seale

UNTIL Don G. Cullimore wrote about the history of the Irish Wilderness in the Ozarks, few Missourians realized the extent to which the region's pristine forests, clear streams, and abundant wildlife were threatened by mining and logging activity. This area of dense oaks and hickory near the Eleven Point River drew its name from a Catholic priest and Irish immigrants who settled there in the late 1850s but then fled chronic violence to their community during the Civil War. By the 1930s, misuse of the land left streams choked and hillsides bare. The Civilian Conservation Corps planted trees and the Missouri Conservation Commission reintroduced wildlife. But talk of large-scale projects to build dams and even a potential site for work on the hydrogen bomb posed ongoing environmental threats to the area.

Cullimore's articles on the Irish Wilderness in the 1950s, as well as writings by conservationists Dan Saults and Leonard Hall, drew attention to the area's natural wonders and helped preserve it from further harm. A 16,500-acre tract in Oregon County eventually was designated a National Wilderness and is now part of the Mark Twain National Forest.

Cullimore grew up in Kirksville and postponed a college education to work on the Missouri River for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the Great Depression. After eventually earning a journalism degree at the University of Missouri, he embarked on a long career as a reporter and editor for the *Jefferson*

City News Tribune, *Wichita (KS) Eagle*, and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where he became known for writing on the outdoors. He joined the Outdoor Writers Association of America (OWAA) in 1951 and served as its executive director from 1963 to 1972. Cullimore held other positions in public relations and remained active as a freelance writer and editor throughout his life.

Cullimore wrote a fictional story titled "The Parable of Hemmed-in Hollow" in *Ford Times* magazine, July 1951, where he portrayed Colonel O'Neill, an intellectual who moved his wife and six children from Pennsylvania to seek a carefree life in the Ozarks. The colonel's daughter Rose, an artist who invented the kewpie doll, brought fame and unwanted attention to the family, and he sought refuge deep in a hollow, which Cullimore described in this passage: "O'Neill lived surrounded by majesty. Great waterfalls plunged down; turreted pinnacles crested the rim-rock like watchtowers on a castle. The colonel sat on his porch and read and savored his freedom far from the world where men struggled and fretted."

Viewing outdoor writing as "a specialized field" in which the writer considers "the broad subject of outdoor recreation from a participant standpoint," Cullimore intended for his reporting to go beyond stories about fishing and hunting in informing readers about critical environmental issues. "He always sought to



Top: Deer hunter camp, Taney County, 1948. Photograph by Don Wooldridge.

Bottom: Don Cullimore and unknown man gigging for fish on the Current River, 1950s.

present the outdoor experience with the larger social and natural historical context of the subject about which he was writing," wrote his sons, Lee and Don B. Cullimore, following their father's death in 1989.

Cullimore's writings, correspondence, and photographs are a recent addition to the Cullimore Family Papers at the Rolla Research Center. Materials from the collection, which also includes papers from his sons and family genealogical research, are available for viewing upon request.

Kathleen Seale is the coordinator of the Rolla and Springfield Research Centers.

St. Louis Collection Details Purge of Communist Faction in Unions

By Zachary Palitzsch

THE late 1940s were a volatile time for organized labor in the United States. The booming postwar economy launched a new era of prosperity, but also ushered in skyrocketing inflation and falling wages. In response, labor unions in numerous industries began one of the largest strike waves in the nation's history, while anti-communist sentiment was reaching new heights in the early years of the Cold War. Unions, especially those within the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), were aggressively scrutinized for ties to communism and the left.

Anti-communists within the CIO led the opposition to their leftist counterparts, calling on the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) for help in ousting alleged and actual communists in their midst. In St. Louis, several locals of the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers (UE), a union affiliated with the CIO, were caught up in the recriminations sweeping through organized labor.

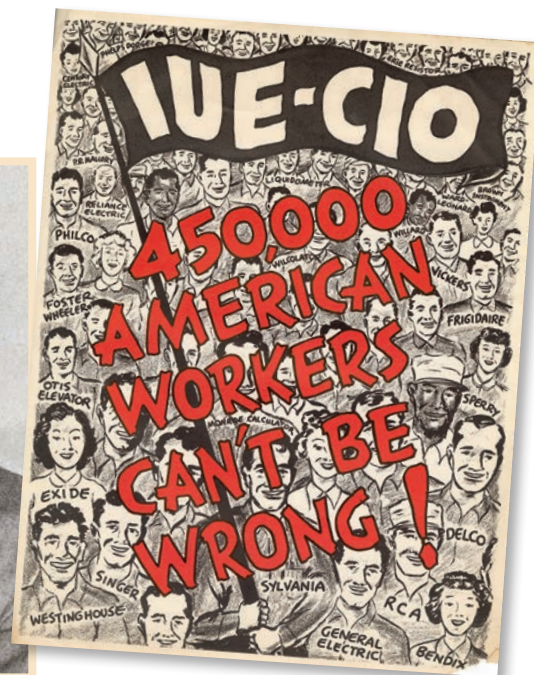
Henry W. Fiering of Local 1108 became one of the UE officials brought before HUAC as a suspected communist. The hearing transcripts, found in the James Weldon Click Papers at the St. Louis Research Center, show that Fiering never admitted to being affiliated with communism or the American Communist Party. However, in a later interview in 1987, he stated that he began participating in communist activities in 1932, which introduced him to the labor movement.



Photograph of William Sentner published in the 10th Anniversary District Journal, 1946, United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers Collection.

Fiering also mentioned that the CIO hired a known member of the Communist Party, William Sentner, to organize UE Local 1102 in St. Louis in the late 1930s. Sentner ran several successful campaigns to lead District 8 (St. Louis) and served as the vice president of the national UE in the 1940s. Despite his widely known affiliation with the Communist Party, Sentner did not receive any HUAC subpoenas.

During the postwar strike wave, however, James Weldon Click, a Local 1102 chief steward, received help from the CIO's anti-communist faction as he determinedly went after local UE communist members and leaders such as Sentner, who in 1948 chose not to run for reelection as leader of District 8. Click's efforts successfully rid the local of communist influence.



IUE-CIO Poster, James Weldon Click Papers.

Nationwide, the combined efforts of the CIO's anti-communist faction and HUAC had a drastic effect on unions. The CIO ultimately expelled 11 unions under its umbrella, including the UE, and lost 1.25 million workers from its ranks. It also supported the formation of a new union, the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), which siphoned off many former UE members. Click was later elected president of the new IUE's District 8 and international vice-president of the union. Many St. Louis local unions developed clauses that barred communists from joining.

The James Weldon Click Papers contain meeting minutes, correspondence, labor agreements, photographs, and HUAC proceedings documenting Click's efforts to rid UE of communist influence.

Zachary Palitzsch is an archivist at the St. Louis Research Center.

Old McKendree Chapel Records Offer Insight into Early Methodist Churches in Missouri

By Bill Eddleman

A RECENT donation by the McKendree Chapel Memorial Association includes significant records on the oldest standing Protestant church west of the Mississippi River. Housed at the Cape Girardeau Research Center, the records document the history, operations, and restoration of McKendree Chapel, built in Jackson, Missouri, in 1819.

The chapel is also the oldest standing Methodist church in the United States west of West Virginia, and the new collection provides much additional historical information on Methodism in Missouri. It joins dozens of other collections at the State Historical Society of Missouri documenting the state's Methodist history. The Society has worked closely with the Missouri United Methodist Archives at Central Methodist University and other institutions to preserve this history and make it accessible for researchers.

In its early days, McKendree Chapel was a place where circuit-riding ministers would exchange information and plan for the westward expansion of Methodism. A one-room log structure at the site served as a gathering place for Methodist meetings as early as 1809. The property was part of a Spanish land grant to settler William Williams, who donated land for a meetinghouse and cemetery. The congregation built and consecrated the chapel a year after an 1818 visit from William McKendree, a Methodist bishop and circuit rider who traveled throughout the Mississippi

Visitors celebrate the bicentennial of Old McKendree Chapel in September 2019. Photograph courtesy of Fred Koenig, *The Missouri Methodists* magazine.

and Missouri River valleys to help establish the denomination in the West.

Charnel Glasscock, an early builder who is credited with several historic structures, designed and constructed the chapel with the aid of the congregants. He used local trees, primarily large yellow poplars, for the logs to build the walls. Clapboard siding covered the sides by 1869 but was removed when the structure was restored in 1977. The first annual conference of the Methodist Church held west of the Mississippi River was at McKendree Chapel in 1819, the year it was constructed. The chapel served as the regional epicenter of Methodism for many years.

When the issue of slavery divided Missouri Methodists, many members left the church to form the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in 1845. McKendree Chapel stayed with the northern, anti-slavery branch. It flourished up to the time of the Civil War, but membership began to decline after the war as Methodists gravitated to other churches in Cape Girardeau and Jackson. The last organized service at the chapel was held in 1890.



McKendree Chapel hosted occasional special sessions until the 1920s. By then the structure had deteriorated badly. An effort by supporters helped to restore the structure in 1933, and an association was formed to manage the site. The historic church still holds special events and services, and continues to be a place for meditation and reflection in a beautiful park-like setting. The chapel and grounds are open daily to the public from sunrise to sunset.

In addition to the history of the chapel, the materials in the collection include photographs of the chapel and events there; complete records of the McKendree Chapel Memorial Association; information on the church cemetery; genealogical research on many prominent members; and details on the Missouri Conference. The most important item in the collection is the original church roll book and minute book for the years 1848–1883.

Bill Eddleman is the coordinator of the Cape Girardeau Research Center.

Historical Black-Owned Newspapers Go Digital

By Katelyn Ziegler

FOLLOW along as the *St. Louis Argus* promoted the “Double V” campaign during World War II. Study Lucile Bluford’s early editorials in the *Kansas City Call*. Make genealogy connections from the society columns. This is just a glimpse of what can now be discovered online at Newspapers.com in partnership with the State Historical Society of Missouri. The Society recently added digital copies of numerous African American-run newspapers that operated in Missouri from 1882 to 1964. This initiative aligns with SHSMO’s mission to enhance access, awareness, and usability of newspapers in our state.

The pages of these papers promote the politics of their editors, preserve an advertising record of Black-owned businesses, and offer a window into the day-to-day stories of Black communities that were often neglected or stigmatized by the mainstream press.

For example, the inaugural issue of Kansas City’s *Inter-State Herald*

on August 1, 1903, summarizes its mission: “to publish a clean, fearless and progressive paper that shall be a credit to the people in the West.” Written amid a climate of racial terrorism marked by lynchings, the statement continues:

“Through no other sources perhaps has the race been so cruelly villified [sic] and undermined in the public confidence as by the Associate Press Dispatches...The Negro Press then is the medium through which such assaults should be answered...we launch the Inter-State Herald into the perturbed sea of journalism, with the humble desire to advance and help in espousing the cause of the race believing that our future will be just what we make it.”

The recent batch of digitized papers spans 82 years and ranges from single issues to decades at the printing press. These papers represent towns across the state.

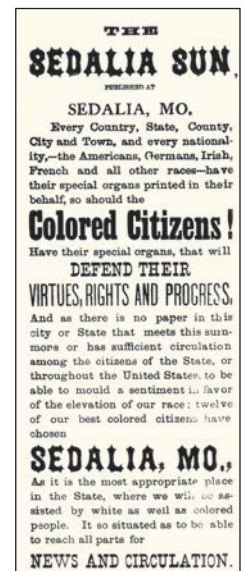
Newspapers.com subscription is free to patrons at all six SHSMO research centers. After an embargo

period, it becomes freely available on SHSMO’s Missouri Digital Newspaper Project website. Please note that additional titles and dates exist within SHSMO’s broader microfilm collection. In addition to select African American

papers, researchers now have access to millions more pages of Missouri newspapers on Newspapers.com.

Please support our mission to preserve and share Missouri newspapers by donating at shsmo.org/donate/newspapers.

Katelyn Ziegler is a newspaper librarian at the Columbia Research Center.



Publisher statement in the *Sedalia Sun*, April 22, 1882.

The Missouri Digital Newspaper Project has received the 2023 Excellence in Genealogy and Local History Award from the Missouri Library Association. The project, administered by SHSMO, offers free access to more than 9 million pages of Missouri newspapers and allows patrons to search online rather than doing more tedious research on microfilm. Missouri was one of the first states to begin digitizing historic newspapers through Chronicling America, a joint project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress. Since 2008, SHSMO has been digitizing newspapers from every Missouri county, and the Society continues to make millions of additional pages available online.



SHSMO staff working on the newspaper preservation program includes (left to right) Daniel Haase, Nora Purdy, Patsy Luebbert, Tatyana Shinn, Katelyn Ziegler, and Kevin George.

Show Me Historic “Mizzourians”

By Maggie Mayhan

SHSMO is pleased to share that eight new biographies have been added to its Historic Missourians website, a freely available resource that features notable people who influenced the Show-Me State. These new biographies are made possible through a generous donation from Carolyn P. and Robin R. Wenneker, whose financial support allows the State Historical Society to expand the “**Historic Missourians**” initiative highlighting prominent Missourians whose lives have intersected with the University of Missouri in meaningful ways.

The new biographies include Warrensburg newspaper publisher **Avis Tucker**, who also was the first woman to serve as president on the University of Missouri Board of Curators; MU alumni **Edward “Ted”**

& Hilda “Pat” Jones, known for both their financial and conservation legacies; **Paul Henning**, an early television sitcom producer best known for shows such as *The Beverly Hillbillies* and *Green Acres* who attended what would become the UMKC School of Law; and **Hazel McDaniel Teabeau**, an educator and activist who was the first Black woman to attend and earn a PhD from Mizzou.

As students headed back to school this fall, SHSMO published four new biographies of impactful Mizzourians: **Mary Jane Guthrie**, a zoologist and cytologist who graduated from MU and returned to teach at her alma mater; **Martha Griffiths**, a U.S. con-

gresswoman known for ensuring that protections for women were included in the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964; **Arvarh Strickland**, the first full-time African American professor at Mizzou; and **Mike Shannon**, the famed Cardinals baseball player and sports broadcaster who attended MU on a football scholarship.

Explore the biographies of historic Missourians by visiting historicmissourians.shsmo.org.

Maggie Mayhan is the assistant director for advancement and engagement at the State Historical Society of Missouri.



John C. Weaver, president of the UM system, Avis Tucker, and Walter Cronkite at the University of Missouri-Columbia commencement, 1970.

New Digital Content Available to the Public Includes Information on Enslaved Missourians

By Heather Richmond

THE State Historical Society continues to digitize selected portions of its manuscript and photograph collections and make them available online for free. The newest digital content includes the Missouri Slavery Documents collection, which contains items such as bills of sale, emancipation papers, wills, letters, and ledgers from more than 100 different collections. These

materials reveal previously untold stories of enslaved individuals in Missouri and provide clues for genealogists researching enslaved ancestors, including names, dates, and ages.

In the online Photograph Collection, SHSMO has added nearly 3,000 20th-century postcard images from all over Missouri, as well as the Arnot Finley Photograph Albums, which depict life at the University

of Missouri-Columbia in the early 1900s. The digitized Transportation Collection now includes the diaries of steamboat captain Edmund Gray, who piloted on the Mississippi River in the late 1800s. These and many other digital collections are keyword-searchable on the Society's website at digital.shsmo.org.

Heather Richmond is a senior archivist at the Columbia Research Center.

Volunteer Spotlight

Bill Carney

By Beth Pike

Bill Carney's eyes light up when the conversation turns to a topic in American history.

"My mission in life is to turn everyone into a history geek like me," said Carney, who volunteers at the State Historical Society. On Thursday afternoons, you'll find Carney welcoming visitors at the Center for Missouri Studies. He's also at work transcribing century-old letters for the SHSMO digital collections, including letters written to Mary Paxton Keeley, the first woman to graduate from the Missouri School of Journalism.

"I love to read documents from primary sources, which are letters from everyday people who lived and experienced life more than 100 years ago," said Carney. "It helps me understand what events happened, why did they happen, and what does it mean today."

Carney has transcribed handwritten letters from Daniel and Edith Mumpower, a young couple with a child who worked in the Belgian Congo as Methodist missionaries during World War I. The Mumpower family was among the first white missionaries to the Otetela village of Wembo-Nyama in the central region of the Belgian Congo, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Edith Mumpower wrote letters to

her family in Doniphan, Missouri, describing their trip to Africa.

Carney found it fascinating to read Edith's writings about how the family lived day-to-day among the Congolese. "She would also write about the desire to go home but knew the war would prevent safe travel over the seas."

A native of St. Louis, Carney received bachelor's and master's degrees in history at Northeast Missouri State, now Truman State University, and taught social studies classes to high school students in Fayette and St. James. He later worked for several state agencies while completing a master's degree in public administration at MU, served in the Missouri National Guard for 25 years, and then found time to complete a doctoral program through Capella University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Carney began teaching history at Columbia College and directed the college's online academic programs from 2003 to 2016. He plans to retire this year from Ashland University, where in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Corrections, he helps incarcerated people gain their college degrees.

"I've had wonderful experiences at each of my jobs," said Carney. "My latest role in helping inmates pur-



Bill Carney begins his volunteer shift at the Center for Missouri Studies, Aug. 10, 2023.

sue their education has been very rewarding. My students will have a leg up when they are released from prison and an opportunity to contribute to society."

Carney continues to serve as an adjunct history professor at Columbia College and has become more involved as a volunteer for National History Day. "I've been a longtime judge of National History Day in Missouri and definitely want to continue and give more of my time to that exceptional program," said Carney. "The students are amazing. Just this year, I read a student's thesis that challenged my own assumptions. It was an outstanding well-defined historical argument from a young person in high school."

SHSMO is always looking for judges to help with the state contest each year for National History Day. If you're interested in volunteering, visit nhdmo.org/judges.

Looking Ahead

The SHSMO Art Gallery is open to visitors Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and each Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Our Missouri Podcast Focuses on 1933 Crime Spree

shsmo.org/our-missouri

Join co-hosts Sean Rost and Katheen Seale as they examine a crime wave that gripped many parts of the United States, including Missouri, in the summer of 1933. This four-part podcast series delves into the activities by the Barrow Gang, Bonnie and Clyde, Pretty Boy Floyd, and other outlaws as they plundered communities and murdered lawmen across Missouri in shoot-outs such as the Union Station Massacre in Kansas City.



History on Elm – Second Tuesdays, 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Monthly

(September through June) Cook Hall, Center for Missouri Studies

This year marks the 50th anniversary of KOPN 89.5 FM, Columbia's volunteer-run community station. On Oct. 10, History on Elm will uncover some of the stories behind the KOPN collection archived at the State Historical Society. On Nov. 14, follow the paper trail of two Missouri politicians, Dewey Short and John C. Danforth, whose papers are part of the congressional collections at SHSMO. The 2023 series closes on Dec. 12 with a talk by SHSMO executive director Gary Kremer about how the forces of history have shaped the people of Missouri. Additional programming in 2024 will be posted on the SHSMO.org calendar later this fall.



Small Towns, Big Stories

Now through January 2024, Art Gallery, Center for Missouri Studies

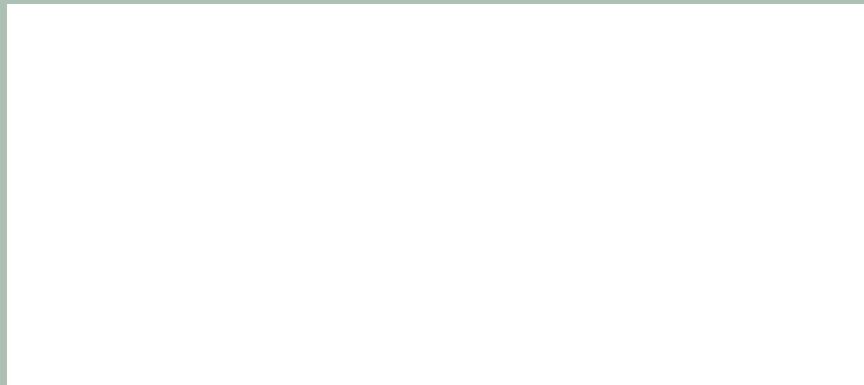
Since 1949, professional photographers from around the country, including Missouri, have captured images of life in rural Missouri towns as part of the Missouri Photo Workshop, established at the Missouri School of Journalism. SHSMO is hosting an exhibition marking the 75th anniversary of the workshops. Visitors can study more than 100 images taken in 51 towns across the state over the past 75 years.



My Missouri Lecture Series and Annual Meeting of the State Historical Society of Missouri

Saturday, October 28, Center for Missouri Studies

The public and members of SHSMO are invited to attend the annual business meeting in the morning, followed by a luncheon and the My Missouri Lecture featuring David Steward, founder and chairman of World Wide Technology headquartered in Maryland Heights, Missouri. Registration is required for the lunch and lecture. Visit SHSMO.org for the agenda, registration, and other details.



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