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INTRODUCTION

A collection of Missouri-Kansas-Texas (M-K-T or KATY) Railroad operating papers, equipment records, promotional materials, photographs and slides, publications, and newspaper clippings concerning the company. The collection also contains similar but less extensive materials of other American and foreign railroads, American railroad industry publications, and railroad enthusiast periodicals.

DONOR INFORMATION

The M. Fred Lyon Collection was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Maxine Lyon on October 5, 1990 (SHS Accession No. 2799). Additions to the collection were made on April 21, 1991 (SHS Accession No. 2832) and December 10, 1991 (SHS Accession No. 2880) by Raymond B. George, Jr.; and June 8, 1995 (SHS Accession No. 3065) by Maxine Lyon.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Fred Lyon was born into an M-K-T Railroad family and, although not employed by the railroad, remained a student and promoter of the line and American railroading his entire life. Instrumental in the founding of the KATY Historical Society, he was also a one time president of the St. Louis Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society, and active in the Mid-Missouri Railfans. As an historian his research into the M-K-T produced several works on M-K-T equipment that were published as historical bulletins by the KATY Railroad Historical Society.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection reflects the compiler's interest in American railroads in general with a focus on the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad; consequently the two predominant series of the collection are the **Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad** and **American Railroads**. The latter series contains more limited amounts of material on railroads throughout the United States. A small series, **Foreign Railroads**, contains limited materials on Canadian and European lines.

The **Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad** series consists of a topical section, operating papers, equipment papers, photographs and slides, and a KATY Historical Society section. Much of the material in the topical section, and all the records in the operating papers and equipment sections, were produced by the M-K-T Railroad while in operation.

The topical section is arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material. Much of the railroad's general history is covered here in annual reports of the company, complete for the years 1942-1978; published works on the history of the M-K-T; newspaper clippings and magazine article reprints; and the entire run of *The M-K-T Employes' Magazine*, 1913-1957, which has been microfilmed. The era of M-K-T President John Barriger, 1965-1970, is especially well represented.

The operating papers provide a sampling of the types of forms, reports, manuals, and other documents created and used by the company in everyday operations. They range from early telegraph forms to computer generated car reports, with the period 1940-1988 best represented. The section contains a good selection of employee timetables covering the 1940s through the 1980s. Employee records from the Baden Yard dating from the 1920s through the 1950s and arranged alphabetically by employee name are also included. Also of note are grade maps of a large portion of the M-K-T line, c. 1930. This section is arranged alphabetically by type of record.

The equipment section consists of correspondence and memos, reports and rosters, drawings and specifications, and photographs and slides. The 1940s through the 1980s are best covered by these records. As in the case of the operating papers, the records are representative samples rather than comprehensive.

The correspondence and memos document the production, repair, modification, and disposition of steam and diesel locomotives, and passenger and freight cars. The bulk of the material falls in the 1940s and 1950s period. Included in this section is correspondence between M-K-T scholar Sylvan R. Wood and KATY officials concerning research for Wood's book, *Locomotives of the KATY*. This correspondence contains very detailed information on the history of individual M-K-T steam locomotives; a typed copy of the book follows the correspondence. Also of note is a portion of the documentation involved with the retirement of M-K-T steam locomotives in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Equipment reports and rosters, arranged by type of record, include records produced in the assignment, movement, inspection, repair, renumbering, and retirement of locomotives, and freight and passenger cars. The 1940s are best represented.

The drawings and specifications section consists primarily of Description of Equipment booklets issued periodically by the company and describing most M-K-T equipment. Some early twentieth-century equipment is included, but equipment in use during the 1940s and 1950s is best covered. Arranged by type of equipment, locomotives and passenger and freight cars are best represented.

Photographs in the photographs section are primarily of equipment and arranged by type. Unlike the previous records, the majority of photographs and slides were produced by Fred Lyon and other railroad enthusiasts. Most steam and diesel locomotives employed by the M-K-T throughout its history are depicted. Photographs of steam locomotives are arranged by wheel arrangement, diesels by manufacturer. Passenger cars and various types of freight cars are not as well represented, but a fairly representative sample is provided. The slide portion of this section augments the coverage of M-K-T equipment.

Photographs of M-K-T stations, depots, facilities, and sections of line provide less complete coverage. They are arranged from north to south along the former M-K-T line. Of note is a 1988 series of photographs of the M-K-T line and equipment from St. Louis to Houston. These photographs present a very complete view of the system shortly before it was sold to the Union Pacific Railroad.

The photograph section also includes group pictures of M-K-T employees, working scenes, and M-K-T sponsored sporting events. A good portion of these photographs date from the 1920s and 1930s.

The slides are of M-K-T equipment in operation primarily during the 1960s through the 1980s, and facilities throughout the M-K-T system during that period. Almost all are numbered

and identified on a list at the beginning of the slide section; slides not listed are identified on the slide itself. A 30 minute, 8mm film, produced by Fred Lyon, includes shots of M-K-T equipment and views of the Boonville, Missouri, bridge over the Missouri River in operation; the station at Sedalia, Missouri; and KATY facilities at Parsons, Kansas, 1950s-1960s.

The KATY Historical Society section contains correspondence that documents activities of the organization, and publications of the society, which include the regular bulletin, *The Katy Flyer*, historical bulletins, and calendars. Research notes and correspondence for an unfinished history of the M-K-T Railroad by Fred Lyon are also included. A great deal of information concerning the history of M-K-T equipment can be found in this section.

This section also contains materials of other railroad organizations in which Mr. Lyon was active or had an interest. They include: the complete run of issues of the National Railway Historical Society, *The Bulletin*, 1963-1989; the publication of the St. Louis chapter of that organization, the *Gateway Railetter*; the Mid-Missouri Railfans bulletin, *The Waybill*; and publications of other mid-western railroad societies.

The **American Railroads** series is arranged alphabetically by name of railroad and contains promotional material, timetables and other operating papers, and photographs and slides of equipment and facilities of railroads throughout the country dating from the 1950s through the 1980s. Tourist railroads are included in this series. The amount of material varies greatly for each railroad. This series is completed by railroad industry publications, meant for use by railroad companies and shippers; and railroad periodicals aimed at the railroad enthusiast and hobbyist.

The **Foreign Railroads** series is arranged alphabetically by country. Brochures, system maps, timetables, postcards, and other promotional materials of Canadian and European lines, dating from the 1950s through the 1980s, make up the bulk of this series.

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- f. 23 Historical, "Crash at Crush", 1977
- f. 24 Historical, *The KATY*, c. 1944
- f. 25 Historical, *KATY Power: Locomotives and Trains of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, 1912-1985*, 1986

- f. 1174 Historical, *Missouri-Kansas-Texas Lines, In Color*, 1994
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