

Information Sheet

R Missouri Pacific Women's Club of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.
433 Scrapbooks, ca. 1946-1990.
Four folders, photocopies and photographs.

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 are scrapbooks of the Missouri Pacific Women's Club of Poplar Bluff in Butler County, Missouri. The club was composed of the relatives of Missouri Pacific Railroad employees. The scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings, photographs, minutes of meetings, and miscellaneous material concerning the club's activities.

The Missouri Pacific Women's Club of Poplar Bluff was organized in 1937. The first meetings were held at the Y.M.C.A. building in Poplar Bluff, which was a popular meeting spot for railroadmen off the job or between trains. Membership in the club was open to all female family members of Missouri Pacific employees as well as women employed by the railroad company. The objectives of the club were to promote loyalty and good will toward the railroad, and to look after the welfare of retirees and others in the Missouri Pacific community. The railroad cooperated with the club in various ways such as printing annual yearbooks and providing transportation for visits between clubs at various Missouri Pacific locations. The relationship with the railroad ended when the Missouri Pacific was purchased by the Union Pacific in 1987. The club continues to meet at Poplar Bluff to the present (1991).

The monthly meetings of the Poplar Bluff club were primarily social in nature, but usually featured presentations or talks on civic matters, current events and travel. The club also sponsored annual dinners for retired railroaders, and beauty contests in conjunction with the Missouri Pacific Booster Club. The Women's Club also was involved in charitable work at Poplar Bluff, supporting through donations the United Fund, the Child Concern Center, the Cancer Fund and the United Gospel Rescue Mission.

The scrapbook "histories" of the club largely consist of newspaper clippings and photographs. The volumes are arranged more or less chronologically, but there is some overlapping in dates. The earliest items are photographs of beauty contests and of the tenth anniversary of the club, 1946-1947. There are also early views featuring African-American employees of the railroad. Twenty-five selected photographs from the scrapbooks have been copied on 35mm black and white film. The negatives are filed in Folder 1. The scrapbook in Folder 2 covers the period 1957-1990, and includes minutes of meetings from June 1984 through December 1990. The scrapbooks in Folders 3-4 are oversized and are filed separately. They include materials for 1959-1968 and 1974-1989.

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11 January 1991

Mildred Stepp

Loaned for photocopying

Shelf List

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Folder 1: Photographs (negatives only), ca. 1946-1985 (25 views).

Folder 2: Scrapbook, 1957-1990 (82 pages).

Folder 3: Scrapbook, 1959-1968 (16 pages) [OVERSIZE].

Folder 4: Scrapbook, 1974-1989 (26 pages) [OVERSIZE].

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Index Cards

Butler County (Mo.).

Clubs—Missouri—Butler County.

Missouri Pacific Railroad Company.

Missouri Pacific Women's Club of Poplar Bluff, Missouri.

Poplar Bluff (Mo.).

Railroads—Societies, etc.

Women—Societies and clubs.