

**S0531 Drey, Leo A. (1917-)
Papers, 1957-1991
616 Folders**

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Related collection: S0873 Drey, Leo, Addenda, 1987-2002

Leo Drey donated his papers to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, in July, 1991.

He is a lumberman, the largest private landowner in Missouri. Because of his love of the forests he has donated and sold much land for state and national wilderness recreation areas, and he has helped to establish state and national conservation and wilderness conservation policies.

Leo Drey was born in St. Louis in 1917. He graduated from Antioch College, in Yellow Springs, Ohio, in 1939. During World War II Drey served as assistant to the General Staff Officer in charge of the New York Port of Embarkation. After the war he returned to the Wohl Shoe Company where he was an assistant to the treasurer.

In 1950 Drey resigned from the Wohl Shoe Company to follow his all-consuming interest in the outdoors. He began the highly speculative, gradual acquisition of timber land in Missouri's Ozarks. He created Pioneer Forest, 150,000 acres in Shannon County, Dent County, Texas County, Reynolds County, Carter County, and Ripley County, Missouri. Drey advocates the selective harvesting of timber rather than clear cutting and has proved that by sustained forestry it is possible to have a self-supporting forest which is a place of beauty.

Drey has a great interest in conservation and environmental issues. He served as chairman of the Environmental Task Force of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council. He has helped to establish conservation policies for the State of Missouri and the Federal Government, including the creation of wild rivers legislation and the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. He founded and helped support the St. Louis Coalition for the Environment and the Open Space Council for the St. Louis Region. He funded the Natural Areas Survey for the State of Missouri and the Natural Streams Act campaign. He established the LAD Foundation to help fund such projects and to hold in trust natural areas for preservation. Drey helped to create the Ozark Trail, a 150 mile long hiking trail through Missouri and Arkansas, by donating a unique series of easements through parts of his working timber land.

Drey has served for many years on the board of the School of Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife Advisory Council of the University of Missouri. He has also served for many years on the Antioch University Board of Trustees. Over the years Drey has received many awards and honors including the Conservation Service Award from the U.S. Department of the Interior, a Citation of Merit and Honorary Membership from the Forestry Alumni Association

of the University of Missouri, the Forest Conservation Award from the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Environmental Quality Award from the Environmental Protection Agency, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Antioch University.

Drey's wife, Kay, is also an environmentalist. She is the foremost authority on the hazards of nuclear waste and works tirelessly to educate the public. The Dreys have three grown children who all graduated from Antioch University.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The Leo Drey Papers contain correspondence, meeting minutes, reports, legislation, draft legislation, newspaper clippings, published articles, booklets, maps, brochures, and legal documents such as leases, easements, and lawsuits. These materials were created or collected by Leo Drey and reflect his interests and activities in the lumber industry, the environment, conservation, and outdoor recreation. The papers chronicle the establishment and the agendas of several environmental groups: the Coalition for the Environment, the Open Space Council, the LAD Foundation, and the Governor's Wild Rivers Advisory Committee. The papers tell the history of the development of the Federal Wild Rivers Legislation, the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, and the Ozark Trail. The papers also document several environmental battles fought in the state of Missouri, including those against a power line across the Current River, the development of Earth City in the Missouri Bottoms, the Meramec River Dam, a dam on the Little Black River, and the battle in favor of the Natural Streams Act.

The Leo Drey Papers are divided into twenty five series according to the issues or organizations they document. These series reflect the general categories in which the papers were arranged when they were received from Leo Drey. Materials in the series on St. Louis include reports prepared by the Environmental Task Force of the East-West Gateway Coordinating Council.

Within each series folder topics are arranged from general to specific or chronologically. Drey saved newspaper clippings which chronicled the development of an issue or the activities of an organization from both local and out-state newspapers. Within each series newspaper clippings are arranged together by newspaper and chronologically.

Series 24:Rosters consists of mailing lists for various organizations. Series 25:Oversized Materials contains three reports too large to fit in a regular folder or box. All three reports were removed from Series 5: St. Louis.

The Leo Drey Papers are divided into the following series having the bulk date ranges indicated:

SERIES CONTENTS

1. Leo Drey and Pioneer Forest, 1957-1991
2. Missouri Forest Resources Conference, 1958
3. Forests, 1961-1970
4. Land Use - Recreation, 1962-1986
5. St. Louis, 1957-1979
6. St. Louis Audubon Society, 1963-1976

7. Missouri, 1949-1986
8. Wild Rivers, 1965-1973
9. Wild Rivers Committee, 1966-1978
10. Ozark National Scenic Riverways, 1960-1965
11. Power Line Across Current River, 1967-1969
12. Business Executives Move for Viet Nam Peace, 1969-1980
13. Attorney General's Environmental Advisory Committee, 1970
14. Coalition for the Environment, 1970-1982
15. Open Space Council, 1967-1991
16. Earth City - Missouri Bottoms, 1969-1972
17. Meramec River Dam, 1964-1979
18. LAD Foundation, 1964-1986
19. Natural Areas Survey, 1970-1984
20. Recreation Plan for Pioneer Forest, 1974-1976
21. Ozark Trail, 1975-1989
22. Dam on Little Black River, 1974-1987
23. Natural Streams Act, 1988-1990
24. Rosters
25. Oversized Materials

FOLDER LIST

SERIES 1

LEO DREY AND PIONEER FOREST

BOX 1 (045274)

FOLDERS 1-18

- Folders 1. Biographical Material, 1979-1986.
2. Correspondence and Awards, 1957-1983.
 3. Newspaper Clippings, 1950s.
 4. Newspaper Clippings, 1960s.
 5. Newspaper Clippings, 1970s.
 6. Newspaper Clippings, 1980s.
 7. Newspaper Clippings, 1990s.

SERIES 2

MISSOURI FOREST RESOURCE CONFERENCE

8. Planning Meetings, 1957-1958.
9. Planning Survey, 1958.
10. Mailings, 1958.
11. Publicity, 1958.
12. Registration, 1958.
13. Proclamation, 1958.
14. Proceedings, 1958.
15. Participants Photos, 1958.
16. Speeches, 1958.

17. Blair, Governor James T., 1958.
18. Bradford, Rolland H., 1958.

BOX 2 (045275)
FOLDERS 19-50

19. Brown, Robert A., 1958.
20. Bucher, Vincent W., 1958.
21. Cushing, Mrs. Joseph w., 1958.
22. Dalton, John M., 1958.
23. Ellis, Elmer, 1958.
24. Frank, Bernard, 1958.
25. Greeley, A.W., 1958-1959.
26. Hall, Leonard, 1958.
27. Ichord, Richard, 1958.
28. Idol, James D., 1958.
29. Symington, Stuart, 1958.
30. Towell, William E., 1958.
31. Truman, Harry S., 1958.
32. Westveld, R.H., 1958.
33. Correspondence Before, 1958.
34. Correspondence After, 1958-1959.
35. Follow Up Meeting, 1958.
36. Newspaper Clippings, 1958.
37. Articles, 1958.

SERIES 3
FORESTS

38. American Forests, 1961.
39. American Forests, 1962.
40. American Forests, 1963.
41. American Forests, 1970.
42. Articles about Forests, 1962-1963.
43. Missouri Wood Study by Ebasco, 1962.
44. Missouri Wood Study by Ebasco, 1962.

SERIES 4
LAND USE - RECREATION

45. Rural Land Use Planning.
46. Challenge of the Land, 1968.
47. Wilderness, 1962-1964.
48. Wildlife, 1962-1987.
49. Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, 1962-1964.
50. ORRRC: Public Outdoor Recreation Areas; Wilderness and Recreation, 1962.

BOX 3 (045276)

FOLDERS 51-81

51. ORRRC: Hunting; Fishing; New Sites in the Northeast, 1962.
52. ORRC: Water for Recreation; Federal Agencies; Open Space, 1962.
53. ORRC: Land Acquisition; Multiple Use of Land and Water; Demand Among American Adults, 1962.
54. ORRC: Outdoor Recreation in Metropolitan Regions, 1962.
55. ORRC: Economic Studies; Prospective Demand, 1962.
56. Organizations Providing Assistance, 1960-1962.
57. National Parks, 1961-1964.
58. Illinois Natural Areas, 1973-1978.
59. Scenic Easements, 1957-1962.
60. Water for Recreation, 1962-1970.
61. Riverwork Book, 1986.
62. Blackfoot River, Montana, 1976.
63. Upper Mississippi National Recreation Area, 1969-1982.
64. Proposed Great Rivers Recreation Area, 1980.

SERIES 5

ST. LOUIS

65. Land Use, Washington University, 1962-1963.
66. Land Use, News Clippings, 1962-1963.
67. Conservation-Good Quotes, 1965-1970.
68. Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, 1964-1965.
69. Federal Water Resources, 1965-1974.
70. Federal Outdoor Recreation Assistance Programs, 1968.
71. Federal Recreation Advisory Council, 1963-1966.
72. Federal Urban Renewal, 1961-1965.
73. Ford Foundation, 1965.
74. Newspaper Clippings, 1965-1979.
75. Outdoor Education Center, 1965.
76. Local Programs, 1960-1973.
77. Open Space Action Committee, 1965-1977.
78. Penfold, Joe (Izaak Walton League), 1965.
79. Roos, Lawrence K., 1966-1969.
80. Meramec Basin Corporation, 1958.
81. Meramec River, 1975.

BOX 4 (045278)

FOLDERS 82-120

82. Watershed Easements and Preservation, 1957-1966.
83. William H. Whyte, President's Conference on Natural Beauty, 1965.
84. East-West Gateway Coordinating Council-Area Land Use, 1972.
85. East-West Gateway Coordination Council-Land for Conservation, 1974.
86. St. Louis Metropolitan Development Guide (East-West Gateway), 1977.
87. Year 2000 Land Use Plan, 1977.

88. Community Development Agency, 1978.
89. Riverfront Development Plan, 1967.
90. East-West Gateway Coordinating Council-Port of Metropolitan St. Louis, 1977.
91. East-West Gateway Coordinating Council-Floodplains, 1974.
92. Pelican Island.
93. Air Pollution Controls for RCGA, 1979.
94. Regional Resource Recovery System (Trash to Fuel for Union Electric), 1979.
95. Historic Sites Inventory (East-West Gateway), 1976.
96. Inventory of Parks in St. Louis Region, 1972-1976.
97. Forest Park Master Plan, 1979.
98. Recreation Land Needs of St. Louis County, 1963.
99. County Regional Park Plan, 1965-1966.
100. County Parks Bond Issue, 1966-1975.

SERIES 6

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

101. Incorporation and Constitution, 1963-1976.
102. Membership, 1974-1977.
103. Finances, 1971-1972.
104. Board Meeting Minutes, 1972-1976.
105. Conservation Committee, 1970-1976.
106. Flood Plain-Earth City, 1971-1072.
107. Power Lines Across Rivers, 1971-1973.
108. Sanctuary, 1974.

SERIES 7

MISSOURI

109. Conservancy Districts Enabling Act, 1959.
110. Legislation re. Recreational Development of County Parks, 1964.
111. Conservation Federation, 1958.
112. Conservation Films, 1966.
113. Conservation Commission, 1949.
114. Democratic State Platform, 1964.
115. Governor's Outdoor Recreation Conference, 1958-1965.
116. Economic Study-Recreation in Missouri's Future, 1964.
117. Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1976.
118. Where to Play: Recreation Plan for Missouri, 1977.
119. Resource Conservation Act, 1978.
120. Scenic Overlooks, 1964.

BOX 5 (045280)

FOLDERS 121-147

121. Sportsman's Maps, 1964.
122. Natural Area Systems, 1974.
123. State Parks and Historic Sites, 1979-1980.

124. Rare and Endangered Species, 1974.
125. Missouri's Threatened Wilderness, 1981.
126. State Park Advisory Board, 1987.
127. Forest Service, 1970-1977.
128. Hawksley, Oz, 1963.
129. Speeches of Warren Hearnes, 1964.
130. LAD Float Streams Program, 1962-1963.
131. LAD Memo on Conservation, 1964.
132. Natural Resources Committee, 1965-1967.
133. Jefferson County, 1968-1979.
134. Water Legislation, Miscellaneous, 1986.
135. Water Quality, 1986.
136. Plan for Preservation and Development of Recreation Resources-Current and Eleven Point River Country, 1956.
137. Eleven Point River, 1966-1975.
138. Tourism in the Ozarks, 1961-1963.
139. Top the Ozarks Rivers Area, 1965.
140. A Place to Play, the Ozarks Regional Commission, 1973.

SERIES 8

WILD RIVERS

141. Articles, 1965.
142. National Wild Rivers, 1964-1978.
143. National Wild River System, St. Croix Waterway, Minnesota, 1965.
144. Allagash National Riverway, 1961-1965.
145. Buffalo National River, 1963-1968.
146. Boundary Waters Canoe Area, 1964.
147. Sleeping Bear Dunes, Michigan, 1962.

BOX 6 (045282)

FOLDERS 148-188

148. Legislation, Illinois, Newspaper Clippings, 1971.
149. Legislation Other States, 1962-1971.
150. National Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1973.
151. Newspaper Clippings, 1967-1977.
152. Resolution: House 180, 1965.
153. Ozark Wild Rivers Bill, 1966.
154. Missouri Legislation, 1969-1974.
155. Missouri Legislation Correspondence, 1970-1973.
156. Missouri Legislation; Dill, Anthony; 1971.
157. Missouri Legislation; Grellner, John; 1971.
158. Missouri Legislation; Meramec Basin Association, 1971.
159. Missouri Legislation, Notes and Articles, 1971-1973.
160. Missouri Legislation Newspaper Clippings, 1971-1974.

SERIES 9

WILD RIVERS COMMITTEE

161. Scenic Rivers Bill, 1968-1969.
162. Correspondence, 1967-1978.
163. Correspondence: Stegner, Ed, 1967-1969.
164. Correspondence: Noren, Carl, 1966.
165. Interested Organizations, 1965-1973.
166. Maps, 1927-1966.
167. Membership.
168. Minutes, 1966-1969.
169. Classification, 1965-1980.
170. Rivers List, ?-1981.
171. Publicity, 1965-1971.

SERIES 10

OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS

172. Drey Letter to Governor Blair, 1959.
173. Manuscript for Article, 1961.
174. Current Eleven Point Rivers Association, Comparison of Parks and Forest Service Bills, 1961.
175. Testmonies Re: Ozark National Monument Bills, 1961.
176. Leo Drey's Testimony on H.B. 6289, 1961.
177. Senate Hearings on S. 1381, 1961-1962.
178. Hearings on House Bill H.R. 1803, 1963.
179. Hearing on Senate Bill S16, 1963.
180. Leo Drey's Testimony on House and Senate Bills, 1963.
181. Notes and Correspondence re. House and Senate Bills, 1963.
182. News Clippings re. Local Peoples Opinions, 1961-1962.
183. News Clippings re. City Peoples' Opinions, 1959-1961.
184. News Clippings Promoting Development, 1960-1962.
185. News Clippings Promoting Preservation, 1962.
186. News Clippings re. Forest Service, 1962.
187. News Clippings re. Park Service, 1961-1962.
188. News Clippings by Leonard Hall, 1958-1973.

BOX 7 (045322)

FOLDERS 189-211

189. News Clippings by Other Columnists, 1961.
190. News Clippings, Positions of City Papers, 1959-1962.
191. News Clippings re. Politicians' Statements, 1959-1962.
192. News Clippings re. Leo Drey's Statements, 1960-1961.
193. Old Post Dispatch Editorials, 1959-1960.
194. News Clippings re. Reasons for Forest Service, 1961-1962.
195. News Clippings re. State Agencies, 1962.
196. News Clippings re. Other Rivers, 1962.
197. News Clippings re. Jeep Trail, 1959.

198. Ozark Mountaineer Clippings, 1961-1969.
199. Resources For the Future Study, 1961-1962.
200. Proposal: Ozark Rivers National Moument, 1960.
201. Articles, 1961-1965.
202. Correspondence A. 1960-1963.
203. Audubon Society, 1962-1963.
204. Correspondence B. 1959-1963.
205. Correspondence Buffalo River, 1964-1965.
206. Correspondence, Devereux Butcher, 1961-1964.
207. Correspondence, C, 1960-1963.
208. Conservation, Open Space, 1959-1966.
209. Correspondence Conservation Federation, 1960-1963.
210. Correspondence-Current-Eleven Point Rivers Assoc., 1959-1967.
211. Correspondence Tom Curtis, 1959-1964.

BOX 8 (045327)
FOLDERS 212-233

212. Correspondence D, 1960-1965.
213. Correspondence, Department of Agriculture, 1961.
214. Correspondence, Guy R. Dixon, 1960-1963.
215. Correspondence-Easements, 1957-1963.
216. Correspondence E, 1959-1962.
217. Correspondence F, 1958-1963.
218. Correspondence G, 1961-1965.
219. Correspondence Leonard Hall, 1949-1962.
220. Correspondence H, 1960-1965.
221. Correspondence I, 1960-1962.
222. Correspondence J. 1960-1965.
223. Correspondence, Legislature, 1959-1963.
224. Correspondence K, 1960-1964.
225. Correspondence L, 1958-1963.
226. Correspondence M, 1960-1965.
227. Missouri Conservation Commission, 1956-1965.
228. Correspondence N, 1963-1965.
229. National Park Service-National Monument, 1961-1965.
230. National Park Service-General Background, 1959-1965.
231. Nature Conservancy, 1959-1963.
232. Correspondence O, 1959-1967.
233. Ozark Rivers Association, 1958-1967.

BOX 9 (045328)
FOLDERS 234-258

234. Correspondence P, 1960-1965.
235. Correspondence R, 1960-1963.
236. Correspondence S, 1959-1965.
237. Symington, Stewart, 1959-1964.

238. Correspondence T, 1959-1963.
239. U.S. Forest Service (local), 1961-1963.
240. U.S. Forest Service (national), 1961-1965.
241. Correspondence U, V, 1960-1961.
242. Correspondence, W, 1959-1963.
243. Dam on Eleven Point River, 1962.
244. Current-Eleven Point River Association Rosters, 1959-1962.
245. Correspondence about Letters of Intent, 1963.
246. Letters of Intent from Land Owners, 1963.
247. National Park Service Purchase of Drey Land, 1965-1969.
248. National Park Service Purchase of Drey Land, 1970.
249. National Park Service Purchase of Drey Land, 1971-1972.
250. National Park Service Purchase of Drey Land, 1973.
251. National Park Service Purchase of Drey Land, 1974.
252. National Park Service Purchase of Drey Land, 1975.
253. National Park Service Purchase of Drey Land, 1976.
254. Deeds, Judgements and Offers to Sell, 1970-1976.
255. Maps, Plats and Tract Valuations 1969 and no date.
256. Correspondence re: Judge Meredith and Stewart Symington, 1971-1972.
257. Correspondence re: Purchase of Land, 1969-1974.
258. Newspaper Ads re: Purchase of Land, 1969-1974.

BOX 10 (045333)
FOLDERS 259-283

259. Correspondence re. Acquisition of MSTA Land, 1976-1978.
260. Correspondence with Arthur L. Sullivan, Superintendent, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, 1976-1990.
261. Master Plan Preliminary Draft, 1975.
262. Statement for Management, 1977.
263. Draft General Management Plan, 1981, and Addendum, 1984.
264. Draft Land Protection Plan, 1985.
265. Draft River Use Management Plan, 1985, and Comments.
266. River Use Management Plan, 1989.
267. Roads and Trails Study (draft), 1990.
268. Correspondence and Brochures, 1968-1989.
269. Act to Establish Ozark National Scenic Riverway, and Relocation Assistance, 1967-1972.
270. National Parks, 1964-1985.
271. Chimmey Cave and Grey Bat Guano, 1975.
272. Operations, Timber Cutting, Under National Park Service, 1971-1976.
273. Editorials by Leo Drey, 1963-1964.
274. St. Louis Editorials, 1957-1960.
275. Editorials, 1961-1962.
276. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1959-1960.
277. Country Papers, 1958-1960.
278. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1961.
279. Country Papers, 1961.

- 280. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1962.
- 281. Country Papers, 1962.
- 282. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1963.
- 283. Editorials, 1963.

BOX 11 (045334)
FOLDERS 284-324

- 284. Country Papers, 1963.
- 285. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1964.
- 286. Editorials, 1964.
- 287. Country Papers, 1964.
- 288. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1965.
- 289. Editorials, 1965.
- 290. Country Papers, 1965.
- 291. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1966.
- 292. Editorials, 1966.
- 293. Country Papers, 1966.
- 294. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1967.
- 295. Country Papers, 1967.
- 296. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1968.
- 297. Country Papers, 1968.
- 298. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1969.
- 299. Country Papers, 1969.
- 300. Editorials, 1967-1969.
- 301. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1970.
- 302. Country Papers, 1970.
- 303. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1971.
- 304. Country Newspaper, 1971.
- 305. St. Louis Newspaper Articles, 1972-1979.
- 306. Country Papers, 1972-1979.
- 307. St. Louis Newspapers, 1980-1989.
- 308. Country Papers, 1980-1989.
- 309. St. Louis Newspapers, 1990.
- 310. Country Papers, 1990.
- 311. National Newspaper Articles, 1962-1973.
- 312. Leonard Hall Articles, 1958-1970.

SERIES 11
POWER LINE ACROSS CURRENT RIVER

- 313. Ozark National Scenic Riverway, 1964-1968.
- 314. Sho-Me Power Corporation, 1967-1968.
- 315. U.S. Department of Interior-Udall, Stewart, 1967-1969.
- 316. Sale of Land To Department of Interior, 1967.
- 317. Transmission Line Easement, 1968-1969.
- 318. Condemnation, 1967-1969.
- 319. Land Bought by National Park Service, 1967-1968.

- 320. Internal Revenue Service, 1968.
- 321. Missouri Public Service Commission, 1968-1969.
- 322. Scientific Appraisals of Land, 1967-1969.
- 323. Egler, Frank (Ecosystem Research), 1967-1968.
- 324. Additional Costs to Customers, 1968.

BOX 12 (046079)
FOLDERS 325-388

- 325. Correspondence with Newspapers, 1967-1969.
- 326. Curtis , Congressman Thomas B., 1967-1968.
- 327. Eagleton, Senator Thomas, 1968-1969.
- 328. Ichord, Congressman Richard, 1968.
- 329. Long, Senator Edward, 1967-1968.
- 330. Symington, Senator Stuart, 1967-1968.
- 331. Senators, 1967-1968.
- 332. Woods, Ed, Chief Forester, 1967-1969.
- 333. Maps.
- 334. Speeches and Memos, 1968.
- 335. Ozark Lead Co., 1967-1968.
- 336. Audubon Society, 1967-1968.
- 337. Conservation Federation of Mo., 1967-1968.
- 338. Mid-West Outboard Racers Herald, 1968.
- 339. Missouri Department of Conservation, 1967-1969.
- 340. Ozark Rivers Association, 1968.
- 341. Ozark Society, 1967-1969.
- 342. Johnson, President Lyndon B.
- 343. Natural Area Council, 1967-1968.
- 344. Sierra Club, 1967-1968.
- 345. U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1967.
- 346. Wilderness Society, 1968.
- 347. Correspondence, 1967-1968.
- 348. Newspaper Clippings, 1964-1965.
- 349. Newspaper Clippings, 1967.
- 350. Newspaper Clippings, 1968.
- 351. Newspaper Clippings, 1969.
- 352. Newspaper Clippings, 1970.
- 353. Articles on Ozarks, 1963-1968.
- 354. Photographs, 1968.
- 355. Fire Damage, 1969-1970.
- 356. Access for Maintenance, 1987.

SERIES 12
BUSINESS EXECUTIVES MOVE FOR VIETNAM PEACE

- 357. Membership, 1970s.
- 358. Publications, 1970s and 1980s.
- 359. Meeting Minutes, 1971.

- 360. Speeches, 1969-1972.
- 361. Correspondence, 1969-1971.

SERIES 13

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- 362. Organization, 1970.
- 363. Herbicides, 1970.
- 364. Peerless Park Landfill, 1970.
- 365. Gravel Dredging, 1970.

SERIES 14

COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- 366. Purpose and By-Laws, 1970-1973.
- 367. Affiliate Organizations, 1972-1978.
- 368. Committees.
- 369. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 1975-1978.
- 370. Environmental Coordinating Council, 1977-1978.
- 371. Foundation, 1970-1975.
- 372. Reorganization, 1977.
- 373. Finances, 1975-1978.
- 374. Office Arrangements and Staff, 1976-1977.
- 375. Membership, 1974.
- 376. Public Relations, 1970-1974.
- 377. Newspaper Clippings, 1972-1976.
- 378. ALERT, 1970-1975.
- 379. Jack Schramm Election, 1972.
- 380. Trash to Energy Plan, 1978.
- 381. Ecological Approach to Planning, 1971.
- 382. Regional Ecological Study (EWGCC), 1972.
- 383. Missouri River-Earth City, 1973-1977.
- 384. Water Resources and Flood Plains, 1973-1977.
- 385. Great Rivers Recreation Area, 1973.
- 386. Meramec River Dam, 1975.
- 387. Lock and Dam 26, 1975-1976.
- 388. Brown Road Extension, 1975.

BOX 13 (046080)

Folders 389-422

- 389. Statewide Land Use Plan-Airport, ca. 1973.
- 390. Open Space System for St. Louis County, 1975.
- 391. Conservation Tax, 1976.
- 392. Noranda Aluminum Co., 1976.
- 393. Forest Park and Kingshighway, 1976-1982.
- 394. Missouri Wilderness, 1976.
- 395. Nuclear Power Plants, 1977.

- 396. Missouri Natural Resource Civil Action Law, 1977.
- 397. Weldon Springs, 1977.
- 398. Correspondence, 1975-1979.

SERIES 15

OPEN SPACE COUNCIL

- 399. Articles of Incorporation, 1967-1982.
- 400. By Laws, 1979-1982.
- 401. Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 1965-1986.
- 402. Board of Directors, 1965-1990.
- 403. Committee Assignments, 1966-1985.
- 404. Committees: Executive, 1965-1974.
- 405. Committees: Finance, 1966-1987.
- 406. Committees: Landowner Canvas, 1965-1973.
- 407. Committees: Membership, 1965-1982.
- 408. Budgets, 1966-1985.
- 409. Purpose and Program, 1965-1979.
- 410. Meeting Announcements, 1965-1991.
- 411. Meeting Agendae, 1965-1987.
- 412. Meeting Minutes, 1987-1991.
- 413. Planning Committee, 1966-1977.
- 414. Publicity-Speeches, 1966-1986.
- 415. Publicity-Publications, 1966-1986.
- 416. Publicity-News Clippings, 1965-1985.
- 417. Publicity-News Releases, 1966-1986.
- 418. Technical Advisory Board, 1967.
- 419. Field Trips, 1965-1987.
- 420. Membership, 1965-1981.
- 421. Membership, Jefferson County.
- 422. Open Space Bill, 1969-1971.

BOX 14 (046081)

FOLDERS 423-455

- 423. Open Space Bill Clippings, 1969-1971.
- 424. Pending Issues, 1967-1989.
- 425. Pending Issues Newspaper Clippings, 1970-1989.
- 426. Articles, 1971.
- 427. Foundation, 1967-1990.
- 428. Foundation, Newspaper Clippings, 1965-1990.

SERIES 16

EARTH CITY-MISSOURI BOTTOMS

- 429. St. Louis County Planning Commission, 1969-1970.
- 430. Zoning Ordinance, 1964-1966.
- 431. Coalition for the Environment Task Force, 1969-1971.

- 432. Coalition Letter to Bauer of Planning Commission, 1970.
- 433. Research Articles, 1961-1971.
- 434. Environmental Response, Wash. U., 1970.
- 435. Environmental Impact Statements, 1970-1971.
- 436. East-West Gateway Study by Ian McHarg, 1971.
- 437. Friends of the Earth, David Brower, 1971.
- 438. Lawsuits, 1971-1972.
- 439. Correspondence, Leo Drey, 1970
- 440. Supporters, 1970-1971.
- 441. Correspondence with Congressmen, 1969-1971.
- 442. Newspaper Clippings, 1969.
- 443. Newspaper Clippings, 1970.
- 444. Newspaper Clippings, 1971.
- 445. Newspaper Clippings, 1972.

SERIES 17

MERAMEC RIVER DAM

- 446. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1964-1967.
- 447. Study of Regional Park Needs by St. Louis County Planning Commission, 1965.
- 448. Proposal for National Recreation Area, by St. Louis County Planning Commission, 1967.
- 449. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, 1966-1980.
- 450. Meramec Basin Association, 1964-1976.
- 451. Open Space Council, 1967-1974.
- 452. Alpha Portland Cement, 1968-1969.
- 453. Sierra Club, 1971-1978.
- 454. Coalition for the Enviroment, 1971-1972.
- 455. Missouri State Agencies, 1966-1981.

BOX 15 (046082)

FOLDERS 456-509

- 456. Other Groups, 1965-1968.
- 457. Governor Christopher Bond Speech, 1973.
- 458. U.S. Senator Edward V. Long, 1967-1968.
- 459. U.S. Senator Stuart Symington, 1967-1976.
- 460. U.S. Congressman James Symington, 1968-1976.
- 461. Citizens Committee to Save the Meramec, 1974-1976.
- 462. Meramec Basin Regional Council, 1974.
- 463. Meramec Heritage Riverway Association, 1979-1981.
- 464. Meramec River Recreation Association, 1979-1982.
- 465. Magazine Articles, 1970-1986.
- 466. Newspaper Clippings, 1966.
- 467. Newspaper Clippings, 1967.
- 468. Newspaper Clippings, 1968.
- 469. Newspaper Clippings, 1969.
- 470. Newspaper Clippings, 1970.

- 471. Newspaper Clippings, 1971.
- 472. Newspaper Clippings, 1972.
- 473. Newspaper Clippings, 1974.
- 474. Newspaper Clippings, 1975.
- 475. Newspaper Clippings, 1976.
- 476. Newspaper Clippings, 1977.
- 477. Newspaper Clippings, 1979.

SERIES 18

LAD FOUNDATION

- 478. Organization and Finances, 1964-1984.
- 479. Lease Agreements, 1971-1986.
- 480. Missouri Department of Conservation, 1973-1979.
- 481. Correspondence, 1970-1983.
- 482. Newspaper Clippings, 1965-1978.
- 483. Articles and Brochures, 1971-1972.
- 484. The James Foundation, 1972-1978.
- 485. Cave Spring Diving, 1972-1973.
- 486. St. Louis Environmental Media Center, 1975-1980.

SERIES 19

NATURAL AREAS SURVEY

- 487. Natural Areas Committee, 1970-1981.
- 488. Missouri Department of Conservation, 1970-1978.
- 489. Missouri Department of Conservation, Natural Area Inspections, 1971-1983.
- 490. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1977-1981.
- 491. Natural Areas Publications, 1961-1976.
- 492. Contracts, 1983-1984.
- 493. Finances, 1971-1984.
- 494. Correspondence, 1971-1980.
- 495. Maps, 1960-1977.
- 496. Elder, William, 1971-1973.
- 497. Fadler, George, 1971-1973.
- 498. Glaser, Edwin, 1970.
- 499. Goforth, Reid, 1971-1975.
- 500. Prior, Roger, 1975-1981.
- 501. Vineyard, Jerry, Geography, 1977.
- 502. University of Missouri, 1976-1984.
- 503. Radiation at Dillard's Mill, 1975.
- 504. Nature Conservancy, 1971-1981.
- 505. Society of American Foresters, 1972-1983.
- 506. Natural Areas Association, 1980-1981.
- 507. Newspaper Clippings, 1971-1984.
- 508. Articles, 1971-1980.
- 509. Federal Register, 1980-1981.

BOX 16 (046085)
FOLDERS 510-547

SERIES 20
RECREATION PLAN FOR PIONEER FOREST

- 510. Preliminary Study, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, 1974-1975.
- 511. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1975.
- 512. Correspondence re: BOR Plan, 1974-1976.
- 513. Coalition for the Environment Plan, 1976.
- 514. Correspondence re. Coalition for the Environment Plan, 1976.

SERIES 21
OZARK TRAIL

- 515. Recreation Use of Private Commercial Forests, 1966-1975.
- 516. National Recreational Trails, 1968-1976.
- 517. State Trails System, 1975-1977.
- 518. Missouri State Forests, 1974.
- 519. Wildlife Management, 1964-1974.
- 520. Cave Management, 1988.
- 521. Management of Old Growth Forest, 1986.
- 522. Correspondence and Notes, 1973-1977.
- 523. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Correspondence, 1965-1976.
- 524. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Draft Plan, 1976-1977.
- 525. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1975-1982.
- 526. Ozark Trail Concept, 1977.
- 527. Brochures and Maps, 1978-1979.
- 528. Newspaper Clippings, 1975-1989.
- 529. Articles, 1975-1984.

SERIES 22
DAM ON LITTLE BLACK RIVER

- 530. Effect on Drey Land, 1965-1974.
- 531. Environmental Impact Statement, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1974.
- 532. Work Plan, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1974.
- 533. Endangered Species, Missouri Department of Conservation, 1977-1979.
- 534. Baily, Wendell, Correspondence, 1981-1982.
- 535. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1979.
- 536. Soil Conservation Service Correspondence, 1979-1984.
- 537. Trammel, Clint, Correspondence for Pioneer Forest, 1980.
- 538. Easements, 1979-1980.
- 539. Correspondence with Residents, 1980.
- 540. Public Hearings, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1987.
- 541. Newspaper Clippings, 1977-1984.

SERIES 23

NATURAL STREAMS ACT

- 542. Steering Committee, 1988-1990.
- 543. Rivers Lists, 1965-1989.
- 544. Opinion Polls, 1990.
- 545. Petition Drive, 1989-1990.
- 546. National and Schnucks, 1990.
- 547. Financial Reports, 1989-1990.

BOX 17 (046086) **FOLDERS 548-575**

- 548. Fundraising, 1989-1990.
- 549. Ashcroft, Governor John, 1990.
- 550. Karel, John, 1986-1990.
- 551. Raven, Peter, 1989-1990.
- 552. Stokes, Jerry, 1977-1989.
- 553. Speeches, 1988-1990.
- 554. Speech, Steelville, 1988.
- 555. Speech, Waynesville, 1989.
- 556. Slide Show.
- 557. Public Relations Firms, 1990.
- 558. Promotional Materials, 1989.
- 559. Center for Active Citizenship, 1988-1989
- 560. Coalition for the Environemnt, 1986-1990.
- 561. Conservation Federation of Missouri, 1988-1990.
- 562. Missouri Farm Bureau, 1989.
- 563. River Network, 1988-1990.
- 564. Sierra Club, 1986-1991.
- 565. U.S. Forest Service, 1988-1989.
- 566. Other Organizations, 1989-1990.
- 567. Legislation Drafts, 1987-1988.
- 568. Legislation Drafts, 1989.
- 569. Correspondence re. Legislation Drafts, 1987-1989.
- 570. Legislation, Initiative Petition, 1970-1990.
- 571. Opposition, 1989-1990.
- 572. Missouri Department of Conservation, 1987-1990.
- 573. Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 1987-1989.
- 574. Cude, Eber, University of Missouri, 1989-1990.
- 575. Campaign Coordinator Applicants, 1989.

BOX 18 (046087) **FOLDERS 576-613**

- 576. Advisory Commission, 1989-1990.
- 577. Volunteer Lists, 1989.
- 578. Mailings to Supporters, 1989-1990.
- 579. Supporters, 1988-1990.

- 580. River Traffic Articles, 1986.
- 581. Editorials and News Releases, 1988-1990.
- 582. Koller, Don, 1989.
- 583. Columbia Newspapers, 1989.
- 584. Columbia Papers, 1990.
- 585. Current Wave Newspapers, 1989.
- 586. Current Wave Newspapers, 1990.
- 587. Jefferson City Papers, 1989.
- 588. Jefferson City Papers, 1990.
- 589. Kansas City Papers, 1989.
- 590. Kansas City Papers, 1990.
- 591. Rolla Newspapers, 1989.
- 592. St. Louis Papers, 1989.
- 593. St. Louis Papers, 1990.
- 594. Springfield Papers, 1989.
- 595. Springfield Papers, 1990.
- 596. Waynesville Papers, 1989.
- 597. West Plains Papers, 1989.
- 598. West Plains Papers, 1990.
- 599. Other Missouri Papers, 1989.
- 600. Other Missouri Papers, 1990.
- 601. National Papers, 1989.
- 602. National Papers, 1990.
- 603. Grassroots Magazine, 1987-1990.

SERIES 24
ROSTERS

- 604. Business Organizations.
- 605. Cultural Institutions.
- 606. Educational Organizations.
- 607. Forestry Industry.
- 608. Foundations.
- 609. Hospital Auxiliaries.
- 610. Political Organizations.
- 611. Women's Organizations.
- 612. Wilderness Groups.
- 613. Committee for Nuclear Information.

SERIES 25
OVERSIZED MATERIALS
(Located on Site)

- 614. 1971-72 Existing Land Use Update and Analysis (EWGCC)
- 615. The 1995 Regional Land Use Plan for Metropolitan St. Louis (EWGCC)
- 616. Linear Park Project, St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation

INDEX

Air Pollution, f. 93
Airport, f. 389
Alpha Portland Cement, f. 452
Ashcroft, John, f. 549
Attorney General's Environmental Advisory Committee, f. 362-365
Audubon Society, f. 101-108, 203,336
Bat guano, f. 271
Blair, Governor James T., f. 17, 172
Bond, Christopher, f. 457
Brown Road Extension, f. 388
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, f. 449, 510-512, 523, 524
Business Executives Move for Vietnam Peace, f. 357-361
Caves, f. 271, 485, 520
Chimmey Cave, f. 271
Coalition for the Environment, f. 366-398, 431, 432, 454, 513, 514, 560
Conservancy Districts, f. 109
Conservation, f. 67, 68, 85, 105, 109, 111-113, 119, 124, 125, 131, 135, 208, 209, 227, 231, 264, 337, 339, 391, 396, 437, 480, 488-490, 504, 533, 536, 561, 572
Conservation Federation of Missouri, f. 337, 561
Current River, f. 136, 139, 153, 161, 172-356
Curtis, Tom f. 211, 326
Dam on Eleven Point River, f. 243
Dam on Little Black River, f. 530-541
Dams, f. 243, 386, 387, 530-541
Drey, Leo, biographical material, f. 1-7
Eagleton, Thomas, f. 327
Earth City, f. 106, 383, 429-445
Easements, f. 59, 82, 215, 317, 538
East-West Gateway Coordinating Council, f. 84-87, 90, 91, 95, 614, 615
Eleven Point River, f. 136, 137, 139, 153, 161, 174-312
Ellis, Elmer, f. 23
Endangered Species, f. 124, 533
Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, f.68
Federal Outdoor Recreation Assistance Program, f. 70
Federal Recreation Advisory Council, f. 71
Federal Urban Renewal, f. 72
Federal Water Resources, f. 69
Flood plains, f. 82, 91, 106, 134, 384
Forest Park, f. 97, 393
Forest Service, f. 127
Forests, f. 38-44, 272, 515, 518, 521, 607
Gravel dredging, f. 365
Great Rivers Recreation Area, f. 64, 385
Hall, Leonard, f. 26, 188, 219, 312
Hawksley, Oz, f. 128
Hearnes, Warren, f. 129
Herbicides, f. 363

Ichord, Richard, f. 27, 328
Internal Revenue Service, f. 320
Johnson, Lyndon, f. 342
Karel, John, f. 487, 490-492, 494, 550
LAD Foundation, f. 478-486
Land Use, f. 45-66, 84, 85, 87
Lock and Dam 26, f. 387
Long, Edward f. 329, 458
Lumber industry, f. 1-44, 47-62, 109-140, 172-356, 399-428, 487-541
Meramec Basin Association, f. 450
Meramec Basin Corporation, f. 80
Meramec River, f. 81, 158, 364, 365, 386, 446-447
Meramec River Dam, f. 386, 446-477
Missouri Conservation Commission, f. 227
Missouri Department of Conservation, f. 339, 480, 488, 489, 533, 572
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, f. 490, 525, 535, 573
Missouri Forest Resource Conference, f. 8-37
Missouri Natural Resource Civil Action Law, f. 396
Missouri Public Service Commission, f. 321
Missouri State Teachers Association, f. 259
National Park Service, f. 229, 230, 247-254, 270, 319
Natural Area Council, f. 343
Natural Area Survey, f. 122, 343, 487-509
Natural Streams Act, f. 542-603
Nature Conservancy, f. 231, 504
Nuclear Power Plants, f. 395
Open space, f. 77, 390, 399-428, 451
Open Space Action Committee, f. 77
Open Space Council, f. 399-428, 451
Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, f. 49-55
Ozark National Scenic Riverways, f. 172-356
Ozark Society, f. 341
Ozark Trail, f. 515-529
Ozarks, f. 125, 136-140, 152-356, 510-541
Parks, national, f. 142-147, 150, 153, 187, 229, 230, 247-253, 270, 272, 319, 448
Parks, St. Louis, f. 96-100, 110, 616
Parks, state, f. 123, 126, 394, 396, 518
Peerless Park, Missouri, f. 364-365
Pelican Island, f. 92
Pioneer Forest, f. 1-7, 247-255, 260-272, 318-321, 355, 356, 479-481, 485, 510-515, 522-526, 530, 537-540
Power line across Current River, f. 107, 313-356
Prior, Roger, f. 500, 513, 514, see also Coalition for the Environment.
Raven, Peter, f. 551
Recreation, f. 98, 110, 115-118, 136, 140, 448, 449, 510-512, 515, 516, 523, 524, 616
Riverfront, St. Louis, f. 89-91
Rivers, f. 51-53, 60-64, 68-70, 80-82, 89-92, 106-107, 134-356, 364, 365, 383-387, 429-477, 485, 530-603, 616

Roos, Lawrence K., f. 79
Sho-Me Power Corporation, f. 314
Sierra Club, f. 344, 453, 564
State Park Advisory Board, f. 126
Stegner, Ed, f. 163
Sullivan, Arthur, f. 260
Symington, Stewart, f. 29, 237, 256, 330, 459
Timber cutting, f. 272, 521
Trash to Energy Plan, f. 94, 380
Truman, Harry S., f. 31
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, f. 446, 540
U.S. Department of Agriculture, f. 213, 345, 531, 532
U.S. Department of Interior, f. 315, 316, 449, 510-512, 523, 524
U.S. Forest Service, f. 239, 240
Udall, Stewart, f. 315
Upper Mississippi National Recreation Area, f. 63
Water quality, f. 134, 135
Weldon Springs, f. 397
Wild Rivers, f. 141-356, 446-477, 530-603
Wild Rivers Committee, f. 161-171
Wilderness, f. 47, 50, 125, 346, 396, 612
Wilderness Society, f. 346
Wildlife, f. 48, 101-108, 124, 203, 271, 336, 519, 533

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