

Zeldin Collection of Journal-Post Glass Negatives

This collection captures scenes pertaining to Kansas City in the 1920s-1930s, the views made for use by a local newspaper. Celebrity shots are numerous and were taken when these people visited the city.

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Unknown

Title: Zeldin collection of *Journal-Post* glass negatives (Title of collection denotes donor's name)

Dates: circa 1920-1942, bulk 1928-1939

Size: 19 boxes, 389 glass negatives, 349 photographs

Location: P29

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: Unrestricted access.

Terms governing use and reproduction: Due to preservation concerns, the glass negatives are unavailable for use.

Additional physical form available: All the prints made from selected negatives have been digitized.

Location of originals: Boxes #16-18 of glass negatives were returned to the donor at his request. Prints were made and retained.

Acquisition information: Gift, 1998, Richard Zeldin, Accession #1998-33.

Citation note: Zeldin collection of *Journal-Post* glass negatives (P29), Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri.

Collection Description

Biographical/Historical note

The *Kansas City Journal-Post* came into existence on October 4, 1928, when the *Kansas City Journal* and the *Kansas City Post* merged. The name became just the *Kansas City Journal* again in 1938 and ceased publication entirely on March 31, 1942. The newspaper can trace its initial existence to 1854 with the emergence of *The Kansas City Enterprise*. Robert T. Van Horn purchased that paper and the name became the *Western Journal of Commerce*. After Van Horn sold the newspaper to Charles Gleed and Hal Gaylord the name became *The Kansas City Journal*.

The *Kansas City Post* was founded in 1916 by A. Fuller Brooker. It was Walter Dickey who merged the two papers in an attempt to try and save money and recover monetary losses. The *Kansas City Star* was the dominant local newspaper and this newspaper couldn't successfully compete with it.

(Information found at this site: <http://www.umkc.edu/lib/spec-col/JournalPost/jp-intro.htm>)

Scope and content note

This collection as it was donated consisted of 4 x 5 inch primarily glass negatives. According to the donor, Richard Zeldin, his grandmother purchased these negatives in the 1940s after the *Kansas City Journal-Post* had ceased

publication. It appears that the former newspaper sold off various items at this time. The negatives have been in Mr. Zeldin's family since the time of purchase. This collection reflects people, events, and situations primarily from the circa 1928-1942 time period, with the bulk from the 1930s. There are a few negatives that can be dated previous to this time period. An example being aerial views of the Union Station area with no evidence of the Liberty Memorial.

The images reflect the life and times in Kansas City for the time period covered. This was the era of the Great Depression, the Pendergast political reign, and the emergence of commercial air travel. The scenes reflect the newspaper's interest and coverage for its stories and news items. The images primarily fit into the following categories:

Celebrities

These include movie stars as Jean Harlow, Estelle Taylor, Charlie Chaplin, Cecil B. DeMille, as well as musicians and other show business personalities. Many of these were taken just outside Union Station probably upon their arrival in town. Sports figures, government officials and political figures of the day, famous flyers as Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart, adventurers and explorers of the day, and others are also included.

Sports

Those directly involved in sports activities are pictured as well as areas where sports events were held. These include baseball, football, track, horse polo, horse and car racing, golf, basketball, etc. Muehlebach Field is the setting for most of the baseball related images.

Criminal Activities

There are scenes of gangland type criminal activity, an illegal still, courtroom scenes, and numerous poses of men and women unidentified at present but probably well known at the time.

Aerials

The collection contains some aerial views of the Kansas City area. Most are identifiable, but not all.

Aviation

Numerous images contain views of airplanes, dirigibles, and pilots with many obviously taken at the new Municipal Airport. The fascination of air travel and the newspaper's coverage is evident.

Street Scenes

These include streets and events happening on or along the sides of streets. This includes along the river with images of bridge construction.

People Photos

People make news and there are numerous scenes of groups of men/women as well as children and animals. Some of these are human interest in nature.

The majority of the negatives came to Special Collections in fairly good condition. However, several were in a state of almost complete deterioration. Others were damaged to some degree, many having lost the image around the edges of the negative, but many still have discernible content and merit.

At the time of donation, a handwritten inventory was made of each negative. The collection was placed in an acid-free environment and stabilized. Mr. Zeldin requested that boxes 16, 17, and 18 of the glass negatives be returned to him after the department had obtained new negatives and prints for them. These 52 negatives and 22 others pulled from throughout the collection gave a total of 74

negatives that were selected for immediate processing. This processing included an 8"x10" print and a new negative for each and was paid for out of 1997-98 Friends of the Library funding available for Special Collections. The Friends of the Library provided funding in the 1999-2000 budget year to process all the rest of the negatives in the collection that could be processed and 8"x10" prints and new negatives were made for them at that time. There were a combined total of 349 prints processed. All of the images have been digitized and are available online.

The *Kansas City Journal-Post* newspaper and its earlier predecessor newspapers are available in the Kansas City Public Library in the Central Reference microfilm holdings. The Jason Rogers Papers (SC89) is a related collection in Missouri Valley Special Collections.

An inventory of each negative donated is available with the finding aid in the department. All developed negatives have been scanned.

Processed by Special Collections Librarian Sara Nyman, 1998-2000.

Updated by Special Collections Librarian Kate Hill, October 2013.