



Deering (Mo.) Photograph Collection (CG0079)

Collection Number: CG0079

Collection Title: Deering (Mo.) Photograph Collection

Dates: 1934-1935

Creator: Koval, Andrew C. 1909-1966

Abstract: The collection contains one postcard and 34 original photographs taken by Andrew C. Koval (1909-1966) during his employment by International Harvester. He was sent to Deering, Mo. in the 1930s as a clerical worker. Photos include the shuttered Wisconsin Lumber Company logging business, plantation operation, schools, buildings, housing and people of Deering. Photographs were taken to share with his family in Chicago.

Collection Size: 0.1 cubic feet
(6 folders, one postcard, 34 photographs)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau](https://www.shsmo.org/research-center-cape-girardeau). If you would like more information, please contact us at capegirardeau@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Deering (Mo.) Photograph Collection* (CG0079); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Cape Girardeau].

Donor Information: The photographs were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Jeanne Hokens on June 17, 2025 (Accession No. CGA0074).

Processed by: Processed by Bill Eddleman and Morgan Lake, July 2025

Historical Note:

Logging began in Pemiscot County on 60,000 acres owned and leased by William Deering, founder of the Deering Harvester Company. The Wisconsin Lumber Company formed in 1899 to conduct timber cutting to provide lumber for machinery built in Chicago for Deering's company. The company built a sawmill and town to process and move the timber. Several companies, including Deering's, later merged to form International Harvester in 1902. A new post office came in 1903, when the official name of the settlement became just "Deering." Employees rented houses from the company, received payment in scrip, and worked 6 a.m.-6 p.m. By 1911 200 men processed 50,000 board feet per day and 15 million board feet per year.

By the late 1920s, lumbering exhausted the timber. The company endeavored to create a model farm to entice settlers to the area of Deering. The 2,000-acre plantation was being managed by the Wisconsin Lumber Company when Andrew C. Koval was sent to Deering as a clerk in 1934-1935. His photographs capture the community at the end of the Wisconsin Lumber Company era. In 1935 International Harvester sold the town, mill, and 2600 acres of cleared ground for \$110,000 to Charles Baker. He established a McCormick Deering dealership in Deering in 1938. Today Deering is unincorporated and has few buildings. The town remains as a reminder of the time when Southeast Missouri provided lumber for much of the Midwest.

Andrew C. Koval (1909-1966) was the eldest of eight children born to Austro-Hungarian immigrants in Chicago, Ill. He was a tall, athletic young man, playing semi-professional baseball, and known for his bowling and golfing talents.

Koval had a high aptitude for numbers and worked as a clerical worker with Wisconsin Steel (International Harvester) until 1957. In the 1930s, he traveled to Deering, Missouri for company business. During his time in Deering, he photographed the town and the people to share with his family in Chicago.

In 1944, Koval was diagnosed with relapsing Multiple Sclerosis, and eventually became wheelchair bound. He retired from Wisconsin Steel in 1957 and passed away in 1966.

(The historical note was partially adapted from a radio spot written by Dr. Bill Eddleman for KRCU, and published by them on Oct 11, 2023).

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into a single series.

Scope and Content Note:

The Deering (Mo.) Photograph Collection houses one postcard and 34 photographs belonging to Andrew C. Koval (1909-1966) during his employment by International Harvester. This collection, which dates from 1934-1935, documents the era when the Wisconsin Lumber Company, subsidiary of International Harvester, was managing a largescale agricultural plantation operation in Deering. During this period of transition, the school system saw growth and several school personnel are featured in the photographs. Other photographs capture the buildings, homes and people of Deering.

Container List:

- f. 1 Wisconsin Lumber Company Logging Business
- f. 2 Wisconsin Lumber Company Plantation Operation
- f. 3 Schools
- f. 4 Homes and Buildings
- f. 5 Flooded Road
- f. 6 Mississippi River

Index:

Index Terms	Folder	Image
Agriculture -- Missouri	2	Yes
Carter, Earlie (1901-1972)	5	Yes
Company Towns -- Missouri	1-4	Yes
Deering (Mo.)	1-6	Yes
Goodman, Granville William (1891-1936)	2	Yes
Holzworth, Ralph Ward (1904-1940)	3	Yes
Hudson, W.A.	3	Yes
International Harvester	1-4	
Koval, Andrew C. (1909-1966)	3	Yes
Marshall, Ruth	3	Yes
McCulloch, William H. (1871-1935)	4	Yes
Perkins, Mildred	3	Yes
Presson, Juanita	3	Yes
Shy, Lois	3	Yes
Stokes, Richard Elgin (1905-1954)	3	Yes
Wicker, W. Grover (1892-1970)	2, 4	
Wisconsin Lumber Company	1-4	Yes