

Information Sheet

R Beemer, Mary Alice.
496 Photograph collection, ca. 1885-1955.
Thirty-seven views.

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 photographs of the town of Newburg and vicinity in Phelps County, Missouri. Included are views of employees, equipment, and facilities of the "Frisco" railroad, businesses, buildings, and street scenes, and miscellaneous photographs of locations near Newburg including the Dana Lead Mine and Stonydell Swimming Pool.

Mary Alice Beemer was born in Quincy, Illinois, and grew up in Creston, Iowa. In 1963, she and her husband, Gene, moved to Kansas City, where they lived until 1972. In that year, the Beemers moved to Newburg and bought the Johnson Funeral Home, which they operated until its sale in 1994.

Mrs. Beemer was an author whose credits include two books of poetry, three historical works, and two historical novels. She began writing in the 1940s, and was a founding member of the Iowa Poetry Association in 1941. In 1963 she authored a history of the Farmers Cooperative of Creston, Iowa, and continued her historical writing with a history of Newburg, *Hello From Newburg* (1976), written and published during the Bicentennial of the United States. Later she expanded this work for publication as *Newburg's First Hundred Years* (1984). The Newburg area was also the setting for her historical novels, *The Branch of My Planting* (1981), and *The Iron Sounds of Summer* (1988).

The Beemer photograph collection was gathered over a period of twenty years, and was displayed at the Johnson Funeral Home in Newburg, where it was the subject of much discussion and reminiscence. Included are original photographs, copy prints, postcards, and photocopies. Most of the collection concerns the town of Newburg proper. The subject matter is heavily-weighted toward the Frisco railroad, which reflects the town's origin in 1883 as a division point and engine-servicing facility. The remainder of the views are of businesses and buildings in Newburg, including the Houston House, Spradling Store, Grayson blacksmith shop, Williams hardware store, the public school buildings, and the Methodist Episcopal Church. Two significant views are of the Dana Lead Mine near Newburg, 1908, and the factory and employees of Barrett & Hilp, manufacturers of prefabricated housing for Fort Leonard Wood, 1941.

r577 14 September 1993 Mary Alice Beemer Gift

Shelf List

These are photographs of the town of Newburg and vicinity in Phelps County, Missouri. Included are views of employees, equipment, and facilities of the "Frisco" railroad, businesses, buildings, and street scenes, and miscellaneous photographs of locations near Newburg including the Dana Lead Mine and Stonydell Swimming Pool.

1. Frisco engine 1324 and crowd at Newburg, n. d.
2. Frisco engine 1332 and crowd on turntable in front of roundhouse at Newburg, n. d.
3. Second roundhouse at Newburg, built 1916.
4. Interior of roundhouse at Newburg, showing shop crew in front of Frisco engine

1261, n. d.

5. Workmen eating lunch inside roundhouse at Newburg, n. d.
6. Newburg depot, n. d.
7. "Harvey House," n. d. Photographic copy of postcard view.
8. Last steam switch engine in Newburg yards, n. d.
9. Coaling tower at Newburg, n. d.
10. Frisco passenger train with diesel locomotive 2005 at Newburg, ca. 1955. OVERSIZE
11. Bird's eye view of Newburg. Postcard, n. d.
12. Front Street, Newburg. Postcard, n. d.
13. Crowd on Front Street, 1911.
14. Looking west on Front Street, Newburg. Postcard, August 1911.
15. S. J. Williams hardware store, Front Street, 1922.
16. Main Street, 1924.
17. First store at Newburg, corner of 2nd and Main streets. Built by John Weckerly in 1884, razed after fire in 1973.
18. Blacksmith shop of William A. Grayson, n. d.
19. Frank Spradling building, 1911.
20. Interior of Spradling store, 1911.
21. Interior of Houston House, n. d. Photocopy.
22. Interior of Houston House, n. d. Photocopy.
23. Houston House, 1900.
24. Swimming pool and bath house on Little Piney at Newburg, ca. 1918. Copy print of postcard view.
25. Nativity scene at Newburg, n. d. Clipping from *Rolla Daily News*.
26. Sunday crowd at Newburg depot, 1919.
27. Group portrait of employees and factory of Barrett & Hilp, 1941. OVERSIZE
28. Crowd with cattle in front of W. H. Powell Lumber Co., ca. 1930s.
29. Methodist Episcopal Church. Postcard view of church built in 1885.
30. Public school building, n. d. Postcard view of church built in 1886 by public subscription.

31. Newburg grade school., 1924.
32. Newburg High School, freshman and sophomore classes, 1917.
33. Newburg school class photo, ca. 1914.
34. Dana Lead Mine near Newburg, ca, 1908.
35. Mr. & Mrs. Lee Johnson at Johnson Funeral Home, n. d.
36. Ward Minkler portrait, n. d.
37. Stonydell Swimming Pool on Route 66 Arlington, Mo., ca. 1930s. OVERSIZE

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Gift

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St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company
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