Chain of Rocks Bridge Collection  
(S0283)

Collection Number: S0283

Collection Title: Chain of Rocks Bridge Collection

Dates: 1997-1999

Creator: Trailnet, Inc.

Abstract: The Chain of Rocks Bridge Collection consists of magazines, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and a scrapbook compiled by Karlene McAllister, former promotions director for Trailnet Inc.'s Old Chain of Rocks Bridge restoration project. The collection documents Trailnet Inc's early efforts to restore the bridge as a pedestrian walkway. The items in the scrapbook consist of photographs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, newsletters, and promotional flyers that chronicle several Trailnet Inc.-sponsored activities on the Chain of Rocks bridge, including Halloween events, birdwatching, and a marriage ceremony held on the bridge.

Collection Size: 0.3 cubic foot  
(7 of folders)

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 The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis. If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsno.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given and assigned to the Society 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] Chain of Rocks Bridge Collection (S0283); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Karlene McAllister on May 17, 2021 (Accession No. SA4517).

Processed by: Processed by Zack Palitzsch, May 2023
**Historical Note:**

The Old Chain of Rocks Bridge is a bridge that crosses the Mississippi River about 5 miles north of downtown St. Louis. Construction began on the bridge in 1927, but winter ice and spring flooding delayed the completion until 1929. It was the fifth bridge to cross the Mississippi River and shortened the distance between North St. Louis and Edwardsville, Illinois by 15 miles.

Half a century later, a new, wider Chain of Rocks Bridge was built 1/3 mile north of the old one to carry traffic for Bypass US 66, now Interstate 270. The old bridge sat unused for nearly 30 years. In 1989, Tailnet, Inc. began discussions on turning the bridge into a pedestrian walkway, and eight years later, in February 1997, Trailnet signed a 20-year lease agreement with Madison County, Illinois to manage and maintain the bridge. The cost to renovate and to convert it to a pedestrian and bicycle pathway exceeded four million dollars.

The bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006, and in 2014, Trailnet transferred the lease to the Great Rivers Greenway District, which now handles its maintenance. In 2021, the National Park Service awarded almost one million dollars to Great Rivers Greenway to help develop a visitor center on the Missouri side of the bridge.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into 7 folders.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Chain of Rocks Bridge Collection contains articles, magazines, newsletters, newspaper clippings, pamphlets, and photographs documenting Trailnet’s efforts at restoring the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge into a pedestrian walkway and bicycle path. Also included is a scrapbook that contains articles, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs chronicling the activities held on the bridge. The materials in this collection date from 1997-1999 and are arranged chronologically.

**Container List:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>f. 1</td>
<td>Articles, magazines, newsletters, newspaper clippings, and pamphlets, 1997-1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. 2</td>
<td>Maps and post cards, 1911-1912, 1964, 1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. 3</td>
<td>Photographs, 283.1-283.28, 1997-1998</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. 4</td>
<td>Route 66 calendar, 1999</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. 5-6</td>
<td>Scrapbook, articles, newspaper clippings, and photographs, 1997-1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. 7</td>
<td>Trailnet, Inc. banner, no date</td>
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**Index:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index Term</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Image</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missouri--Description and travel</td>
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<td>Old Chain of Rocks Bridge</td>
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<td>United States Highway 66</td>
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