



## **Dan Rothwell Papers (C4375)**

**Collection Number:** C4375

**Collection Title:** Dan Rothwell Papers

**Dates:** 1935-2011

**Creator:** Dan Rothwell, 1930-2011

**Abstract:** Papers of an aerospace technical illustration supervisor, wildlife and woodland conservationist, hunter, teacher, pilot, UFO researcher, restoration hobbyist, and the manager of Rothwell Ranch Wildlife and Woodland Preserve, Piedmont, Wayne County, Missouri.

**Collection Size:** 2.0 cubic feet  
(64 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-Columbia](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at [columbia@shsmo.org](mailto:columbia@shsmo.org) Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Dan Rothwell Papers* (C4375); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Nancy Gober on July 2, 2013 (Accession No. CA6303).

**Processed by:** Processed by John Konzal, November 27, 2018

**Historical Note:**

Daniel Allen Rothwell was born on November 18, 1930, in Columbia, Missouri, but grew up on a central Missouri Ozarks farm, where he learned to hunt from his father. In the early 1940s, he moved back to Columbia, and in 1947, while still in high school, he worked part-time for the Missouri Conservation Department. Rothwell helped found the Columbia Green Valley Rifle and Pistol Club in 1948. As a Hickman High School senior in 1948, he was elected president of the first Hickman High Rifle Club to be organized. That same year, Rothwell joined the Missouri National Guard, and was soon competing in Missouri National Guard rifle matches throughout the state. After college, he moved to St. Louis in September of 1953, and began a 34 year career as a section manager-technical illustrations/graphics, and later a support data engineering supervisor for McDonnell Aircraft Company, which later became McDonnell-Douglas Corp. In the late 1950s, Rothwell began looking for rural property to purchase. He eventually purchased an area of land in Piedmont, Wayne County, Missouri, in the heart of the Missouri Ozarks. He named the property the Rothwell Ranch Wildlife and Woodland Preserve. This became the center for major conservation efforts, including visits by both members of the conservation community, and the general public. The ranch was used to promote and teach the importance of the conservation of Missouri's forests and wildlife. Rothwell managed the ranch for 33 years. He subsequently wrote a book on this experience. From the 1980s through 1990s, he worked as a real-estate associate. Rothwell died on May 23, 2011.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following five series:

Book: My Mountain: The Rothwell Ranch Story  
Conservation  
Correspondence  
Press Releases  
Rothwell Ranch

**Scope and Content Note:****Book: My Mountain: The Rothwell Ranch Story**

This series chronicles the author's 33 year stewardship of the Finley Mountain area located deep in the Missouri Ozarks. This series includes information on the Rothwell Ranch properties (Acquisitions, 1959-1967) including geological features; tabulated data on ranch operations; visitors (individuals and groups, 1960-1993); mining possibilities (1960); the building of the first and second wilderness lodge; property expansion efforts (1962-1972); ranch reports (1967, 1974, 1978, 1981), which describe hunting and fishing on the property, as well as weather conditions, and descriptions of the land. Other items in this series include wildlife management and descriptions of wildlife native to the area; the feasibility of stocking big game; the possible re-introduction of black bear, elk, mountain lion, cougar and puma; the release of upland game such as the ruffed grouse; short narratives on wildlife observation; timber management; a proposed new Wayne County Property Owners Association; special engagements/slide presentations (1968-1995); Missouri Conservationist article (1973).

**Conservation**

This series consists of notes on the Wayne County Private Landowners Improvement Association, (1968); articles and correspondence on nomination for Wildlife Conservationist of the Year, (1974); and possible state board/commission; 1974-1977); a description of wildflowers at Rothwell Ranch, (1976); articles and correspondence with landowner and conservationist Leo Drey, (1991-2001).

### **Correspondence**

This series contains numerous items of correspondence on subjects related to the ranch and conservation. Other subjects include food plots, food plot seed; pond sites; warranty deed for property; potential lake site; pond correspondence; lake project; claim regarding pond construction; real estate taxes; requests for wildlife publications; property right of way; area surveys; game in Clearwater Lake Area; Monsanto Chemical Company's Geospace Decadome (includes floor plan and door elevation, fact sheet); purchase of trees; Missouri Department of Conservation inspection of forest crop land, along with questionnaires from the Department regarding the effectiveness of their Wildlife Damage Management Program; memo regarding vandalism to Wilderness Lodge; damage claim; Century 21/Duncan Land Company regarding property improvements; delivery of fish for stocking of lake on property; land sale inquiries; conservation study groups through Missouri Department of Conservation; guest speaking and slide programs; inspections of timberland; purchases of seedling trees and shrubs; hunting trips; Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service farm cost share assistance letter; roadway deed (with dimensional drawing); requests for farm visits, fishing, hunting, etc.; thank you letters from farm visitors; landowner's seminar; food distribution programs; articles on ranch; selective marketable timber cutting; engineering geologic report of the Rothwell Lake site; buffalo information sheet; correspondence with National Weather Records Center, the USDA; soil test reports; correspondence with Missouri Department of Natural Resources regarding dams in Missouri; correspondence regarding the delivery of supplies; sale of timber; Missouri Department of Conservation, inspection of forest crop land, 1959-1993.

### **Press Releases**

This series contains an announcement of the Victory Garden Club of Farmington to attend a slide program by Dan Rothwell regarding his Rothwell Ranch; Personal data on Dan Rothwell, and copies of newspaper article, "Rothwell to Verbally Explore Woodland Preserve for Farmingtonians," *The Press*, Farmington, Missouri, March 21, 1974. Program sponsored by Victory Garden Club. 1974.

### **Rothwell Ranch**

This series consists of an abstract of title-history of ownership; area maps; research planning material (Clearwater Lake, Piedmont, Missouri), and programs, geological map; information on timber sale; management of forest cropland; tabulated records of Rothwell Ranch which include record of trips made by individuals, number of days spent on ranch, correspondence to or from Dan Rothwell concerning the ranch, teleconferences to or from Rothwell concerning ranch; news releases concerning special articles; slide programs and lectures given on Rothwell Ranch; seminars, conferences and training sessions attended; ranch operations; report sheets regarding roads and various activities, such as hunting and hiking; ranch rules and regulations, statistics, legal, applications, notes and reference material; mining; ranch expenses; ranch rules and regulations; Locals, visitors, and professionals; articles, manuscripts, and narrations on the ranch;

the stocking of game hunting preserves-elk, bison, wild boar, and ruffed grouse; ranch planning material-wood improvement photographs; Piedmont area black bear, cougar, and bobcat; lodge photographs; report sheets (listing date, time, temperature, weather conditions; activities (i.e. scouting the area or hunting); information on log cabins, woodstoves, and fireplaces; seminars, and symposiums-forest cropland-Rockwoods; forest management-Meramec; information articles; slide presentations; conservation pamphlets: McDonnell Douglas, "Spirit" newsletter article on Dan Rothwell and Rothwell Ranch; Rothwell Ranch lake construction; litigation regarding a contract agreement with the State of Missouri to pay one-half of the cost of contracting work at the Rothwell Ranch to construct the pond. Rothwell argues that the state underestimated the cost and would not make up the discrepancy; general dam legislation; material on conservation presentation sponsored by the Victory Garden Club; Rothwell Ranch Story presentation; photographs, notes and articles; organization chart of Missouri Department of Conservation, which provided logistical support for the conservation development of the Rothwell Ranch, 1859-2011.

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	f. 5 Book, Pages 36-70 "Visitors to and Expansion"
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	f. 40	Research Material: Stocking Game, Hunting Preserves, Elk, Bison, Wild Boar, Ruffed Grouse, 1965-2010
	f. 41	Rules and Regulations, 1966
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	f. 55	Report Sheets, 1974-1977
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