



## **Karl L. Koelker Papers (R0011)**

**Collection Number:** R0011

**Collection Title:** Karl L. Koelker Papers

**Dates:** 1896-1948

**Creator:** *Joplin Globe*

**Abstract:** The Karl L. Koelker Papers contain the negative photocopies of the mining pages from the Sunday issues of the *Joplin Daily Globe* (later the *Joplin Globe*), dated from 1896 to 1948. They contain news and production figures for the lead and zinc mining region in southwestern Missouri.

**Collection Size:** 2 cubic feet  
(52 oversize folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research, but are stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](https://shsmo.org/research-center-rolla/). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** Materials in this collection are in the public domain.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Karl L. Koelker Papers* (R0011); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The papers were purchased by the University of Missouri from Karl L. Koelker Jr. on May 23, 1980 (Accession No. RA0011).

**Alternate Forms Available:** Microfilm copies of the *Joplin Daily Globe* and *Joplin Globe* are available, <https://shsmo.org/newspaper/>.

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Karl L. Koelker Papers can be found in the following collections:

*Joplin Globe Magazine Collection (R0621)*

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, May 23, 1980. Revised by Kathleen Seale, June 27, 2019.

**Historical Note:**

Karl Ludwig Koelker Sr. was born in 1888 to Henry and Louise Koelker in Ohio. He worked in Utah, Kansas, and Indiana before he started working as a mining engineer in the Tri-State Mining District in 1917. Karl married Frances Sparks in 1914, and together they had two children. Frances died in 1934 and Karl married again to Almeda Babb in 1938. Karl Sr. was an engineer in Joplin who had attended school at the Colorado School of Mines. He died in August 1952 and is buried at the Mount Hope Cemetery in Webb City, Missouri. Karl L. Koelker was a consulting engineer for the Tri-State Zinc and Lead Ore Producers Association.

Karl L. Koelker, Jr. was born on January 4, 1916, in Utah, to Karl and Frances Koelker. He married Forestine Goosetree. Karl served as a lieutenant in the United States during World War II. He worked as an engineer in Joplin, Missouri, owning and operating Koelker Engineering Company. Karl died on November 15, 1985, and is buried at the Mount Hope Cemetery in Webb City, Missouri.

The southwest Missouri lead-zinc mining region, which is part of the larger Tri-State Mining District, got its start in the 1850s. The Missouri mines were the first developed, and mining later spread to neighboring areas in Kansas and Oklahoma. By 1915, the focus of the mining area had shifted from Joplin, Missouri, to Miami and Picher, Oklahoma.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following two series:

*Joplin Daily Globe*  
*Joplin Globe*

**Scope and Content Note:*****Joplin Daily Globe***

This series consists of the mining pages from the *Joplin Daily Globe* dated from 1896 to 1914. The newspaper printed mining news weekly in the Sunday edition. Weekly totals of lead and zinc tonnage and values were printed after 1904, as well as annual summaries. An eleven-year summary for the years 1894 to 1904 was printed in 1904. The mining pages for the *Globe* also included information on all aspects of mining, such as price fluctuations in the metal market, new mining techniques, and stories on accidents and safety. This series is arranged chronologically with one year per folder.

***Joplin Globe***

This series contains the mining pages from the *Joplin Globe* dated from 1915 to 1948. The newspaper printed mining news weekly in the Sunday edition. The issues for 1944 to 1948 are sporadic and not complete. In 1915, the focus of mining had shifted from the Joplin, Missouri,

area to Miami and Picher, Oklahoma. Information regarding these new fields was reported in the mining pages of the *Globe*. This series is arranged chronologically with one year per folder except 1947 and 1948, which are in folder 52.

### Container List:

f. 1-19	<i>Joplin Daily Globe</i>
Box 001 f. 1-9	1896-1904
Box 002 f. 10-18	1905-1913
Box 003 f. 19	1914
f. 20-52	<i>Joplin Globe</i>
f. 20-26	1915-1921
Box 004 f. 27-35	1922-1930
Box 005 f. 36-44	1931-1939
Box 006 f. 45-51	1940-1946
f. 52	1947-1948

### Index:

Index Term	Folder
Buehler, Henry A., 1876-1944	47
Carl Junction (Mo.)	1-52
Carterville (Mo.)	1-52
Carthage (Mo.)	1-52
Cave Springs (Mo.)	1-52
Central City (Mo.)	1-52
Duenweg (Mo.)	1-52
Granby (Mo.)	1-52
Jasper County (Mo.)--History	1-52
Joplin (Mo.)	1-52
Koelker, Karl L., 1916-1985	1-52
Lawrence County (Mo.)	1-52
Lead industry and trade	1-52
Lead mines and mining	1-52
Mines and mineral resources--Kansas	1-52
Mines and mineral resources--Missouri	1-52
Mines and mineral resources--Oklahoma	1-52
Tri-State Mining District	1-52
Webb City (Mo.)	1-52
Zinc and Lead Ore Producers Association	30
Zinc industry and trade	1-52
Zinc mines and mining	1-52