



## Kansas City Southern Railway Company Collection (R1314)

**Collection Number:** R1314

**Collection Title:** Kansas City Southern Railway Company Collection

**Dates:** 1894-1968

**Creator:** Switzer, George M., 1900-1991

**Abstract:** The Kansas City Southern Railway Company Collection contains materials related to the careers of father and son, Frank M. Switzer and George M. Switzer who combined worked for the line for over 80 years. The collection includes photographs, promotional material, travel passes, timetables, company publications, equipment diagrams, and advertisements.

**Collection Size:** 0.75 cubic foot  
(13 folders, 1 oversize folder, 322 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 [The State Historical Society of Missouri 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.

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**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Kansas City Southern Railway Company Collection* (R1314); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Sallie Beard on March 6, 2014 (Accession No. RA1604).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the Kansas City Southern Railway Company Collection can be found in the following collections:

*Walter E. Meyer Papers* (C2638)

*Missouri Railroad Records* (C2358)

**Processed by:** Processed by John F. Bradbury, May 13, 2014. Revised by Kathleen Seale, July 25, 2019.

**Historical Note:**

Frank Moore Switzer, born in Chillicothe, Missouri, in 1873, was already a veteran of the Wabash Railroad when he became a brakeman for the Kansas City, Pittsburg, & Gulf Railway in 1897. Promoted to conductor in 1901, Switzer and his wife, Anna, made their home in Anderson, Missouri, for many years. He was the senior conductor on the northern division (34 years of service) at the time of his death in Pittsburg, Kansas, in 1931.

His son, George M. Switzer, born in Kansas in 1900, began railroading in 1918-1920, as a Kansas City Southern crew caller and brakeman, and was promoted to conductor in 1937. In 1939, the railroad loaned him to the Massman Construction Company, then building Grand Lake in Oklahoma. Returning to Kansas City Southern train service in 1940, Switzer rose rapidly at Pittsburg and was promoted to yardmaster, assistant trainmaster, and trainmaster, successively, between 1942 and 1945. He became superintendent of the northern division in 1955, and took the same position in 1960, on the southern division, based in Shreveport, Louisiana. Switzer retired in 1968, after nearly 50 years of service with Kansas City Southern. He died February 9, 1991.

Kansas City developer, Arthur E. Stillwell, organized what became the Kansas City Southern Railway after having completed the Kansas City Suburban Belt Railway. Stillwell proposed a north-south railroad to the Gulf of Mexico as the route for exporting Kansas City grain and meat. The direct line, cutting across the grain of established transcontinental railroads, was 800 miles, a distance shorter by 400 miles than eastward routes to Atlantic seaboard ports. Stillwell organized the Kansas City, Pittsburg, & Gulf Railway in 1893, using the Belt Railway as the northern terminus, building as far as Joplin, and buying existing lines in Arkansas and Louisiana. Rejecting Galveston, Texas, due to its vulnerability to hurricanes, Stillwell instead developed Port Arthur, Texas, named after himself, as the railroad's Gulf terminal. The costs of development of Port Arthur, along with 250 miles of new construction (built with Dutch capital) to connect extant portions in Arkansas and Louisiana, led the company into receivership and drove Stillwell from leadership. The Kansas City Southern Railway emerged from the receivership in 1900 and has operated under that name ever since. By the 1930s, Kansas City Southern Railway acquired a line to Shreveport, Louisiana and Dallas, Texas, and, by purchase of the Louisiana & Arkansas Railroad, gained direct access to New Orleans.

The smallest and last-built of Missouri's Class I lines, the Kansas City Southern Railway is the last of over 50 railroads that once bore Kansas City in their titles. The railroad has been solvent since 1900, and survived when larger regional neighbors failed by the movement of grain, oil and petrochemicals to and from the Gulf. It avoided being swallowed up during the merger mania by railroads in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century and currently operates in 10 states. Since passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994, it has become an important link in an international rail system connecting the American Midwest through Mexico to the Panama Canal.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following three series:

Records  
Photographs  
Memorabilia

### Scope and Content Note:

#### Records

This series contains materials related to the careers of Frank and George Switzer with the Kansas City Southern Railway Company. The earliest items in the collection derive from Kansas City Southern Railway Company predecessor Kansas City Pittsburg, & Gulf Railway. Among them are an Emigrant Outfit Contract, waybills, train orders and the all-important rulebook, checked out to Frank Switzer when he hired on the Kansas City Southern Railway Company in 1897. Nearly all of the other material is post-1900 and is Kansas City Southern in origin. Included are Frank Switzer's membership cards in the Order of Railway Conductors, travel passes, timetables, train orders, seniority rosters, company publications, equipment diagrams, and items advertising Kansas City Southern passenger service, notably the Southern Belle to New Orleans. This series is arranged in its original order.

#### Photographs

This series contains images collected by George M. Switzer during his various tenures with Kansas City Southern Railway. The photographs in folder 12 include views of steam and diesel locomotives in regular operations, derailments and wrecks, facilities at Pittsburg, Shreveport, and Port Arthur. Some images are the work of company and commercial photographers, but many are snapshots collected by George Switzer in his capacity as trainmaster and division superintendent. A few of the images are identified, but most are not. Folder 13 contains oversize photographs and is stored separately. This series is arranged chronologically.

#### Memorabilia

This series contains a Kansas City Southern Railway emblem, pins, and an enameled hat badge.

#### Container List:

f. 1-10		Records
Box 001	f. 1	Kansas City, Pittsburg, and Gulf Railway rulebook, 1897
	f. 2	Frank M. Switzer, Order of Railway Conductors membership cards, passes, papers, and photographs, 1902-1923
	f. 3	Railroad passes, 1903-1942
	f. 4	Waybills and miscellaneous papers, 1894-1914
	f. 5	Kansas City Southern Railway timetables, circa 1914-1968
	f. 6	George M. Switzer, trainmaster papers, 1944-1968
	f. 7	Kansas City Southern Railway and other publications, circa 1940s-1950s
Box 002	f. 8	Kansas City Southern Railway, general description of passenger equipment, 1927
	f. 9	Kansas City Southern Railway, general description of freight equipment, circa 1930

- f. 10 Kansas City Southern Railway diesel locomotives, vest pocket diagrams, 1953
- f. 11-13 Photographs
  - f. 11 Grand River Dam construction, circa 1939-1940
  - f. 12 Kansas City Southern Railway, circa 1940s-1960s
  - f. 13 Kansas City Southern locomotives and trains, 1950s
- f. 14 Memorabilia
  - f. 14 Kansas City Southern Railway memorabilia, no date

**Index:**

Index Term	Folder	Image
Anderson (Mo.)	2	
DeQueen (Ark.)	8-9, 12	Yes
Grand River Dam (Okla.)	11	Yes
Hassman, Henry	6, 11	Yes
House, Roy	2	Yes
Kansas City (Mo.)	6-7	
Kansas City Southern Railway Company	2-11, 13-14	Yes
Kansas City, Pittsburg, and Gulf Railway	1	
Neol, T.E.	2	Yes
Neosho (Mo.)	11-12	Yes
Order of Railway Conductors of America	2	
Piersol, Thomas	2	Yes
Pittsburg (Kan.)	2, 6, 8-9, 12	Yes
Port Arthur (Tex.)	12	Yes
Railroad accidents	11-12	Yes
Railroads--Arkansas	8-9, 12	
Railroads--Kansas	1-10, 12-14	Yes
Railroads--Louisiana	6, 12	
Railroads--Missouri	1-10, 12-14	Yes
Shreveport (La.)	6, 12	Yes
Singleton, George	2	Yes
Switzer, Anna, 1876-1958	2	
Switzer, Frank M., 1873-1931	2-4	Yes
Switzer, George M., 1900-1991	3, 6-7, 11-12	Yes
Wade (Ark.)	12	Yes