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 papers of a conservationist and outdoor journalist, including material on the Outdoor Writers Association of America, wilderness areas, the “Irish Wilderness” of Oregon County, Missouri, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, and the Ozarks region. There are a typescript of Saults's unpublished novel and copies of many of his articles and speeches.

C. Daniel “Dan” Saults was born on 20 May 1911 in Knob Noster, Missouri. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1932. He became a newspaperman, buying the Knob Noster Gem in 1934 and serving as its editor and publisher until entering military service in World War II, where he served as an officer in the 339th Infantry Regiment.

After the war Saults became editor of the Missouri Conservationist magazine. In 1957 he was named Deputy Director of the Missouri Department of Conservation. In 1964 he joined the U.S. Department of the Interior as an information officer in the Bureau of Land Management before transferring to the Fish and Wildlife Service in 1966. Saults retired in 1973 and moved to Branson, Missouri, where he died on 23 September 1985.

The material in this collection comes from Saults’s retirement years, when he remained active as a conservationist and journalist. In bulk about half of the papers deal with the Outdoor Writers Association of America, of which Saults was a leader. Topics there include organizational administration, selection of sites for annual meetings, awards designations, and the publication of an anthology of American outdoor journalism, America's Great Outdoors: An Illustrated Anthology of 200 Years of Writing, for which Saults was a co-editor. A typewritten draft and softbound copy of the anthology are included in the collection.

Saults’s interests in conservation are represented in folders dealing with the American Association for Conservation Information, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, soil scientist Curtis Fletcher Marbut, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the U.S. Forest Service, and wilderness areas in Missouri, particularly the “Irish Wilderness” tract in Oregon County.

Saults had a keen interest in the Ozarks region and its history, as shown by material dealing with Henry Rowe Schoolcraft and Theodore Pease Russell. Correspondence with Don Cullimore, Elizabeth Holloman, and Lynn Morrow is especially useful in this area. An oral history interview deals largely with the region’s rivers and streams.

Several folders are devoted to Saults’s miscellaneous writings (mostly short articles) and speeches. There is also a typescript copy of his unpublished novel, “Children of Hunger.”


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