INTRODUCTION
The Henry R. Marnett (1917-2014) Collection contains materials related to the life and interests of Henry R. Marnett. The collection consists of various materials including photographs, negatives, slides, postcards, and ephemera representing Marnett’s family and his favorite hobby, trains.

DONOR INFORMATION
The collection was donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by David Jackson on July 13, 2016 (Accession No. KA2341).

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Henry R. Marnett was born on August 31, 1917, in Kansas City, Missouri, as the only child of Henry A. and Mamie (McMahon) Marnett. Henry was a graduate of Paseo High School, class of 1936, and attended Kansas City, Kansas, Junior College. After college, Marnett served in the United States Army. Serving in World War II from 1941 to 1945, Marnett achieved the rank of staff sergeant.

After returning to civilian life, Marnett graduated from the American Institute of Banking. He later became president of the Kansas City Chapter in 1958. That same year, he married Charline (Oetting) Marnett (November 24, 1925-January 11, 2015), daughter of Henry and Hulda Klingenberg Oetting of Concordia, Missouri, on June 7, 1958. Marnett and his wife had one child, a daughter, named Mary Ellen.

In 1947, Marnett began working at Southeast State Bank in Kansas City, Missouri. He continued his education in finance, completing a degree from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin in 1969. For 37 years, Marnett remained employed at Southeast State Bank in Kansas City, Missouri, retiring as vice-president in 1984.

To fill his time after retirement, Marnett volunteered at Truman Library, Jackson County Historical Society, and the former Independence Regional Health Center. In 2010, Marnett received the Jane Fifield Flynn Lifetime Achievement in Historic Preservation Award from the Jackson County, an award recognizing those individuals or groups that have made a long-term commitment to historic preservation in Kansas City.

One of Marnett’s deepest interests was studying and photographing trains and depots. Marnett started dabbling in his study of trains by collecting images of trains and
depots around the Kansas City metropolitan area. It was not long before he expanded his collection to trains and depots across the state of Missouri and the United States.

Marnett died February 25, 2014. He is buried at Floral Hills Memorial Gardens in Kansas City, Missouri.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
The collection has been arranged into the following 7 series:

Slides
Negatives
Photographs
Postcards
Registers
Presentations
Miscellaneous

The Slides series contains 91 folders of 35mm slides. Slides cover topics including Marnett’s family, travel, and railroads from 1903 to 2007. Many slides have identification numbers developed by Marnett and are listed in the Registers series. Slides were transferred from binders, boxes, and carousels and arranged in original order.

The Negatives series contains 63 folders of 35mm filmstrip and single format negatives. Negatives cover topics including Marnett’s family, travel, and railroads from 1938 to 2008. Many filmstrips pages have ranges of identification numbers developed by Marnett and are listed in the Registers series. Negatives were transferred from binders into archival sleeves and arranged in original order.

The Photographs series contains 65 folders of black and white and color photographs of various sizes. Photographs cover topics including Marnett’s family, travel, and railroads from 1899 to 2012. Many photographs have identification numbers developed by Marnett and are listed in the Registers series. Photographs were transferred from binders, boxes, and envelopes and arranged in original order.

The Postcards series contains 4 folders of color postcards. The majority of the postcards focus on railroad scenes, including Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Registers series contains 51 folders of logbooks and indices created by Marnett as guides to his photographic materials. Registers were removed from original binding and arranged in original order. Items listed on the registers usually include a two-part number, one of which typically corresponds with the year of creation. Some registers note the specific media; others cover multiple types and are cross-listed within the registers.

The Presentations series contains 14 folders of presentation materials. The materials include calendars and notes for railroad presentations given by Marnett to various organizations from 1967 to 2007. Materials were removed from binders and arranged in original, chronological order. Presentations are numbered and are typically identified with a date, location, and presentation notes. Notes cover information on the presentation topic, as well as slides and visual aids to be used.
The Miscellaneous series contains materials concerning Fred Harvey, publications, Friends of Chicago and Alton Railroad Depot, a print of the Independence Depot, and various railroad materials. These folders are arranged in alphabetical order.

PREFERRED CITATION:
Specific item; box number; folder number; Henry R. Marnett (1917-2014) Railroad Collection (K0734); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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*Processed February 2017*