

Texas Railroad Negatives from the DeGolyer Library



[Texas and New Orleans, Southern Pacific, Locomotive No. 651 with Tender], February 1951

From roughly the 1870s-1940s, railroads were the transportation backbone of Texas and played an indelible role in the financial and cultural growth of the state. Now available online are 1,000 negatives depicting eight major Texas railroads from the *Everett L. DeGolyer Jr. Collection of United States Railroad Photographs* (Texas Railroad Negatives), held by the DeGolyer Library at Southern Methodist University (SMU). The freely accessible files can be used for many purposes, including the study of Texas railroads, economic development, and transportation history, as well as Texas history, in general. The Texas Railroad Negatives are part of the *Railroads: Photographs, Manuscripts, and Imprints* digital collection.

Grant Funding for Texas Railroad Negatives

Digitization of 1,000 Texas Railroad Negatives was funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through a grant to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) as part of TSLAC's TexTreasures program. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas.





[Fort Worth & Denver City, Lounge Car 270, 'Silver Tray', December 27, 1958

Everett Lee DeGolyer, Jr. (1923-1977) was drawn to all forms of transportation, but railroads were his passion. As a result, he built one of the most comprehensive railroad photograph and manuscript collections in the United States. Each negative has a detailed note card written by Mr. DeGolyer that includes technical and historical information about the subject, as well as the date and location where the photograph was taken. Many of the negatives were taken personally by Mr. DeGolyer, a skilled photographer.

As in all states, railroads were critical to the development of agriculture, commerce and industry in Texas, with the creation of many cities and towns taking place along the path of their railroad lines. Because of this importance to Texas history, the Norwick Center for Digital Services, a unit of SMU's Central University Libraries, has digitized negatives showing eight major Texas railroads and their subsidiaries:

- Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway (ATSF),
- Fort Worth and Denver Railway Company (FWD),
- Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad (MKT, Katy),
- Missouri Pacific Railroad Company (MOPAC),
- St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company (SLSF),
- St. Louis Southwestern Railway Company (SSW, Cotton Belt),
- Southern Pacific Company (SP),
- Texas and New Orleans Railroad Company (TNO), and
- Texas & Pacific Railway Company (T&P).



[Missouri-Kansas-Texas, Porter at Highland Park Depot, Frank Wakefield], June 30, 1965

Popular subjects include steam, diesel, and electric locomotives; railroad passenger cars, including Art Deco streamliners and private cars; railroad freight cars and cabooses; railroad stations, freight and passenger depots, and flag stops; railroad shops, yards, and roundhouses; and railroad personnel including engineers, porters and station attendants.

For more information, contact degolyer@smu.edu or ncds@smu.edu