

# Missouri State Archives

## Finding Aid [998.410]

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### MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

#### Edward Kopplin Conservation Collection

*Abstract:* Edward Kopplin was an employee of the Conservation Department who was killed on the job. This collection includes photographs he took of a flood at his hatchery, news clippings on the Department and his life and death, photographs and articles on covered bridges in Missouri and other Conservation-related materials.

*Extent:* 1/3 cubic feet

*Physical Description:* Paper; Photographs; Cassettes; Records

*Location:* Missouri State Archives; Stacks

### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

*Alternative Formats:* None

*Access Restrictions:* Access to the Audio/Visual materials requires staff approval

*Publication Restrictions:* Standard copyright rules apply

*Preferred Citation:* [item description], [date]; *Edward Kopplin Conservation Collection*, Record Group 998.410; Missouri State Archives, Jefferson City.

*Acquisition Information:* State Agency Transfer; Accession #2012-0148

*Processing Information:* Processing completed by EW on 11/14/2017. Updated by EW on 03/25/2021.

### HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Edward Mortimer (E.M.) Kopplin (1890-1954) joined the Missouri Fish and Game Commission in 1912. Fisheries were in the family, as Kopplin's father Phillip and grandfather Thomas also worked at fish hatcheries. In June 1932, E.M. took over as superintendent of the State Fish Hatchery in Forest Park, St. Louis, succeeding his father. By the time the Conservation Commission was formed in November 1936, Kopplin had moved to the Lewis and Clark Hatchery in Rushville, MO outside of St. Joseph. He raised sunfish, crappie, bullheads, channel

catfish, bass and bluegill. Kopplin and his assistant Homer Duncan would drive up to 35,000 miles a year together delivering fish for stocking ponds and lakes throughout Missouri. On March 19, 1954, the pair were in a car accident. Kopplin, who had been driving, died of his injuries in an Atchison, Kansas hospital the next day. He was survived by his wife Johanna (Phillipson) and son E.M. Kopplin, Jr.

## ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

### Related Collections

MS289 Conservation Federation of Missouri  
RG000.103 Missouri Department of Conservation State Documents  
RG103 Missouri Department of Conservation (archival records)  
RG103.01 Conservation Video Reel Content Listing  
RG103.02 Conservation Deeds  
RG103.03 Missouri Department of Conservation Photograph Collection

### Additional External Resources

Missouri Department of Conservation: <https://research.mdc.mo.gov/>.

## SERIES

Photographs and ID Cards (1932-1953)  
Documents (1932-1979)  
Audio/Visual Materials (1950s)

## PHOTOGRAPHS AND ID CARDS, 1932-1953

*Extent:* 51 images, 33 ID cards

*Arrangement:* By subject

### Scope and Content

The bulk of these photographs are images of flooding at the Lewis and Clark Fish Hatchery and of covered bridges. The covered bridge photographs correspond to some of the documents in the next series.

### Container List

| Location | Box | Folders | Contents  | Date             |
|----------|-----|---------|---|------------------|
|          | 163 | 29-62   | Flood pictures of Sugar Lake and Lewis and Clark Fish Hatchery, Missouri Department of Conservation, Buchanan County. Photos by Edward Kopplin. B&W snapshots, mostly 3½" x 4½".  | May or July 1952 |
|          | 163 | 63      | Photo of an unidentified man standing outside a building. Older image, probably a silver gelatin print. 2¾" x 4½"   | n.d.             |
|          | 163 | 64      | Edward M. Kopplin's membership cards (21) for Rose Hill Lodge No. 550 A.F. & A.M., St. Louis, MO. Masons.   | 1933-1953        |
|          | 163 | 65      | Edward M. Kopplin's identification cards (12) for the Conservation Commission. Most have small headshots glued to the back. He kept the same picture the whole time. Rushville, Buchanan County.                                  | 1939-1952        |
|          | 180 | 1       | Mounted 4½" x 6½" silver gelatin print of Thomas Kopplin's grocery store in St. Louis. Several horses and carriages are on the street in front of the store. Thomas is Edward's grandfather.                                      | n.d.             |
|          | 180 | 2A      | Covered Bridges, CB1: Cape Girardeau County 5"x7" print. Caption reads, "Apple Creek Allenville, Mo." Photo by Missouri State Highway Commission and received by MO State Planning Board.   | n.d.             |
|          | 180 | 2B      | Covered Bridges, CB2: Jefferson County 5"x7" print. Caption reads, "Covered Bridge (Old Le May Ferry Road) Jefferson Co." Photo by Missouri State Highway Commission and received by MO State Planning Board.                     | n.d.             |
|          | 180 | 2C      | Covered Bridges, CB3: Livingston County 5"x7" print. Caption reads, "Covered Bridge Livingston County, 6 miles northeast of Chillicothe, Mo." Photo by Missouri State Highway Commission and received by MO State Planning Board. | June 1932        |
|          | 180 | 2D      | Covered Bridges, CB4: Moniteau County 8"x10" negative and matching 8"x10" print. Caption reads, "Old wooden bridge over Moreau Creek, south of  | n.d.             |

|              |                   |    |   |      |
|--------------|-------------------|----|---|------|
|              |                   |    | California, Moniteau County, Mo. Structure shown has been replaced by modern steel bridge.” Photo received by MO State Planning Board.  |      |
|              | 180               | 2E | Covered Bridges, CB5: Monroe County 8”x10” negative and matching 5”x7” print. Caption reads, “A Covered Bridge, one of five similar structures in Monroe County, all of them built in 1857 and, in spite of their years, still in use.” Photo by Missouri State Highway Commission. | n.d. |
|              | 180               | 2F | Covered Bridges, CB6: Monroe County 5”x7” print. Caption reads, “Covered Bridge Salt River, Paris, Mo.” Photo by Missouri State Highway Commission and received by MO State Planning Board.   | n.d. |
|              | 180               | 2G | Covered Bridges, CB7: Pettis County 5”x7” print. Caption reads, “Bridge over Flat Creek S. Sedalia, Mo.” Photo by Missouri State Highway Commission and received by MO State Planning Board.  | n.d. |
|              | 180               | 2H | Covered Bridges, CB8: Scotland County 5”x7” print. Caption reads, “Covered Bridge S. Rutledge, Scotland County, Mo.” Photo by Missouri State Highway Commission and received by MO State Planning Board.  | n.d. |
|              | 180               | 2I | Covered Bridges: Linn County 5”x7” print. Caption reads, “Covered Bridge West Laclede, Linn County, Missouri.” Photo by Missouri State Highway Commission and received by MO State Planning Board.  | n.d. |
|              | 180               | 2J | Covered Bridges: Unidentified bridge 8”x10” print. Photo by Gerald Massie, MO Resources Division.   | n.d. |
|              | 180               | 2K | Covered Bridges: Unidentified bridge 8”x10” print. Photo by Gerald Massie, MO Resources Division.   | n.d. |
| Digital-Only | Manuscript DVD #5 |    | Photograph of Kopplin’s badge with the Conservation Commission. It’s a silver badge with an eagle on top and a shield with the words “Special Deputy Missouri Game & Fish 97” on it. The seal of the State of Missouri is in the center of the shield.                              | n.d. |
| Digital-Only | Manuscript DVD #5 |    | Photograph of Kopplin’s badge with the Conservation Commission. It’s a bronze badge shaped like a flower with five petals (the logo of the Department) with the words “Missouri Conservation Commission 123” on it. A rudimentary State Seal is in the center of the badge.         | n.d. |

## DOCUMENTS, 1932-1979

*Extent:* 6 folders

*Arrangement:* Chronological

### Scope and Content

These paper records concern Missouri covered bridges, wild turkeys, the Lewis and Clark Fish Hatchery and Edward Kopplin.

### Container List

| Location | Box | Folders | Contents   | Date       |
|----------|-----|---------|--|------------|
|          | 180 | 3       | News clippings (3) and articles (2) about covered bridges  | 1942-1948  |
|          | 180 | 4       | <u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> newsletters:<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> bound Souvenir Edition, 1943-1946 (someone underlined the portions in pink ink that concern Missouri)<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> Vol. IV No. 1 March 1946<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> Vol. IV No. 2 June 1946<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> Vol. IV No. 3 September 1946<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> Vol. IV No. 4 November 1946<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> Vol. V No. 1 March 1947<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> Vol. V No. 2 June 1947<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> Vol. V No. 4 December 1947<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> Vol. VI No. 1 March 1948<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics</u> Vol. VI No. 3 September 1948<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics: Indiana</u> Vol. II No. 3 June 1947<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics: Indiana</u> Vol. II No. 4 September 1947<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics: Indiana</u> Vol. 3 No. 1 December 1947<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics: Indiana</u> Vol. 3 No. 2 March 1948<br><u>Covered Bridge Topics: Indiana</u> Vol. 3 No. 4 September 1948 | 1943-1948  |
|          | 180 | 5       | Correspondence regarding covered bridges in Missouri, most to or from Ken Wood who was Publicity Assistant for the Division of Resources and Development   | 1946-1947  |
|          | 180 | 6       | Letter from C.B. Norris to Mrs. E.M. Kopplin written shortly after his death   | 04/08/1954 |
|          | 180 | 7       | News clippings regarding Kopplin's death, the fish hatchery flood, Kopplin's personal life, and other conservation issues. Most are undated and are missing their source information.  | 1932-1979  |
|          | 180 | 8       | Conservation Commission Reports:<br>"Inspection of Game Possibilities of 'Clark Purchases'"  | 1935-1937  |

|  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |  | of Missouri National Forests” by H.L. Stoddard, 09/12-15/1935<br>“Excerpt from Report on Progress of Wild Turkey Investigation and Work Accomplished during October 1936” by H.L. Blakey<br>“Wildlife Research and Management Leaflet BS-77: The Wild Turkey on the Missouri Ozark Range” by United States Department of Agriculture Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington D.C., January 1937 |  |
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## AUDIO/VISUAL MATERIALS, 1950s

*Extent:* 4 Items

*Arrangement:* By format

### Scope and Content

This series consists of two audio tapes and two 78rpm records. It's possible that the audio tapes are duplicates of one another. The records are in good condition and supposedly concern the introduction of multiflora rose to Missouri as a windbreak and soil-retarding device. Access to these records requires staff approval.

### Container List

| Location | Box | Folders | Contents  | Date  |
|----------|-----|---------|---|-------|
|          |     |         | Audio cassette tape labeled "Mrs. E.M. Kopplin Interview – Donation to Dept." and "Keefe Belusz Schwartz (Herb)." | n.d.  |
|          |     |         | Audio cassette tape labeled, "Mrs. Kopplin."  | n.d.  |
|          | 1   | n/a     | 78rpm record labeled "Sears Roebuck Foundation Project," by Damon Recording Studios, Inc., Kansas City, MO        | 1950s |
|          | 1   | n/a     | 78rpm record labeled "Conservation Program" by Damon Recording Studios, Inc., Kansas City, MO                     | 1950s |