

**WILLIAM JOHN “JACK” CHRISTOFFEL COLLECTION**  
Finding Aid

Compiled by  
Phyllis Kinnison

Museum of South Texas History  
Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives  
Edinburg, Texas

2015



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SUMMARY

<b>Size</b>	0.36 cubic feet
<b>Geographic Locations</b>	Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas; Pharr, Kingsville, Rusk and Palestine, Texas; New Haven, Missouri
<b>Inclusive Dates</b>	1927-1982
<b>Bulk Dates</b>	1946-1948
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Summary</b>	Artifacts and records created and/or collected by William John “Jack” Christoffel (1917-1984) when he worked for Missouri Pacific Lines in the 1940s and 1950s. The types of materials in the collection include safety and rules booklets, railroad time tables, report forms for employees to complete, correspondence from the company to Christoffel, time books, and memorabilia from a 1982 trip on the Texas State Railroad.
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<b>Citation</b>	William John “Jack” Christoffel collection. Margaret H. McAllen Memorial Archives, Museum of South Texas History, Edinburg, TX.
<b>Display Credit Line</b>	Courtesy of Museum of South Texas History, donated by Alice Margaret Cameron, Deborah C. Prukop, Joan Alelle Patterson Tomlin, and Carol Ann Kellogg.
<b>Stack Location(s)</b>	RGDOC 702-703, F:2

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE**

William John “Jack” Christoffel (1917-1984) from Pharr, Texas worked as a fireman out of the Kingsville station on the Missouri Pacific Lines in the 1940s and 1950s. He also worked for the Texas & Mexico Railway Company, Tom Aycock Transport Company, and Texas Tire and Supply in Pharr.

Christoffel married Renilda Lock before 1947, and they had three children. In 1947 they lived in the Curl Apartments in Pharr. His daughter is Alice Margaret Cameron, and his granddaughter is Debbie Prukop of Edinburg, Texas.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The collection contains artifacts and records created and/or collected by William John “Jack” Christoffel (1917-1984) when he worked for Missouri Pacific Lines in the 1940s and 1950s. The types of materials in the collection include safety and rules booklets, railroad time tables, report forms for employees to complete, correspondence from the company to Christoffel, time books, memorabilia from a 1982 trip on the Texas State Railroad, a key chain with two keys, and a small pocket knife.

## **LIST OF SUB-GROUPS, SERIES, AND SUBSERIES**

### **I. Artifacts**

### **II. Correspondence**

### **III. Operating rules**

### **IV. Railroad time tables**

### **V. Reports**

#### **A. Time Return and Delay Report**

#### **B. Accident Report**

### **VI. Time books**

### **VII. Income records**

### **VIII. Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen materials**

### **IX. Missouri Wildlife-Forestry Code**

### **X. Memorabilia**

## **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

### **I. Artifacts, undated**

The artifacts in the collection consist of a key ring with two keys and a small pocket knife. For more information about the artifacts contact Lisa Adam, Curator of Collections and Registrar, by calling 956-383-6911.

### **II. Correspondence, 1947-1948**

Two items of correspondence are found in the collection. The first dated May 7, 1947 is from A.F. Judd to All Engineers and Firemen. It provides the employees with Questions and Answers on Diesel Locomotive Air Brake Equipment. The second dated January 29, 1948 is from H.P. Gottschling to W.J. Christoffel. It contains vacation information and a Seniority List of Firemen as of January 15, 1948.

### **III. Operating rules, 1927, 1940-1941, 1943-1945**

Six books containing the Missouri Pacific Lines Uniform Code of Operating Rules, fire prevention rules, and general safety rules are found in this series. The books are dated 1940-1941 and 1943-1945. A 1927 copy of The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway System operating rules and regulations is included.

### **IV. Railroad time tables, 1946-1948**

Three railway systems are represented in the time tables: Gulf Coast Lines; Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Company; and Missouri Pacific Lines. The time tables were provided for use by employees and are dated 1946-1948.

### **V. Reports, 1948, undated**

The series includes two types of reports: Time Return and Delay Report of Engine and Train Employees and a work accident report. There are two Time Return and Delay Report tablets. One is dated 1948 and the other is undated. Only a few reports are completed in either tablet. The accident report is a typed carbon copy dated May 27, 1948 signed by Christoffel. The report describes what Christoffel knew about a work accident at the McAllen Yard involving Brakeman J.B. Moore.

### **VI. Time books, 1946-1948**

Christoffel used the time books to keep a personal record of the time, mileage, and pay received for the trips he worked. The books provide space to record date, engine number, class of service, time allowed, overtime, miles, and name of engineer, fireman, conductor, or brakeman. Totals for each half month could also be recorded. Four books are in the collection, but Christoffel only used two of them. They are dated 1946-1948.

### **VII. Income records, 1946-1948**

The income records series contains pay stubs from The St. Louis Brownsville and Mexico Railway Company dated 1948. There are also five W-2 forms for W.J. Christoffel and two for his wife Renilda Lock Christoffel. All the W-2 forms are for wages paid in

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1927-1982

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1947. The series also includes a brochure providing guidelines for preparing tax returns for 1947 and a chart of rates of pay for engineers and firemen dated May 22, 1946.

**VIII. Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen materials, 1946-1948, 1957, 1962**

A copy of the 1948 Constitution of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen is in this series. Also found here are four receipts for dues paid in 1946-1947 and three seniority lists of firemen for 1947, 1957, and 1962.

**IX. Missouri Wildlife-Forestry Code, 1948**

The Missouri Wildlife-Forestry Code is a booklet containing laws, rules and regulations of the State of Missouri pertaining to wildlife and forestry. It is dated 1948.

**X. Memorabilia, 1982, undated**

The items in this series include an adult ticket for the Texas State Railroad (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) for a round trip between Rusk and Palestine, Texas dated June 11, 1982; a map of the Rusk to Palestine track; and an undated pencil drawing. The drawing is of a house and may have been completed by a child. The letters "C C" are at the top of the drawing. The drawing was made on the back of a blank Missouri Pacific Lines Clearance form.

**INDEX TERMS**

Christoffel, Renilda Lock, -2000  
Christoffel, William John "Jack," 1917-1984  
Gottschling, H.P.  
Judd, A.F.

Kingsville (Tex.)  
McAllen (Tex.)  
New Haven (Mo.)  
Palestine (Tex.)  
Pharr (Tex.)  
Rusk (Tex.)

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway System  
Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen  
Gulf Coast Lines  
Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Company  
Missouri Pacific Lines  
The St. Louis Brownsville and Mexico Railway Company  
Texas State Railroad (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department)

CONTAINER LIST

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder(s)</u>	<u>Contents (with dates)</u>
Collection			Artifacts, undated
F:2	RGDOC 702	1-2	Correspondence, 1947-1948
		3-4	Operating rules, 1927, 1940-1941, 1943-1945
		5	Railroad time tables: Gulf Coast Lines, 1948
		6	Railroad time tables: Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway Company, 1946, 1948
		7	Railroad time tables: Missouri Pacific Lines, 1947
	RGDOC 703	1	Reports: Time Return and Delay Report of Engine and Train Employees, 1948, undated
		2	Reports: Work accident report, 1948
		3	Time books, 1946-1948
		4	Income records, 1946-1948
		5-6	Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen materials, 1946-1948, 1957, 1962
		7	Missouri Wildlife-Forestry Code, 1948
		8	Memorabilia, 1982, undated