

## **RAILROAD NEGATIVES**

The Joe G. Collias Railroad Collection contains approximately seventeen thousand negatives, the largest segment having been taken himself between 1942 and 2012. Collias also actively sought and acquired the collections of other steam and early diesel-era photographers that provide coverage of railroad operations he was less personally familiar with. Several of the larger acquired collections include those of: George C. Drake, Sr. (1920-2002) of Moberly, MO; Wayne Leeman (1915-2008), a reporter and photographer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper; and Roger S. Plummer (1922-1996) of Sulphur Springs, Texas. These men and their families passed their collections to Joe Collias because they believed he was the most appropriate person to properly preserve and make the best use of their negatives.

George C. Drake, Sr. was an employee of the Wabash and later the Norfolk & Western Railroad. Almost nine hundred black & white Drake negatives in the Joe Collias Railroad Collection provide views of steam and early diesel operations on the following railroads: Chicago, Burlington & Quincy; Baltimore & Ohio; Wabash; Union Pacific; Chesapeake & Ohio; Rock Island; Canadian National; New York Central; Nickel Plate; Norfolk & Western; and Illinois Terminal (electric and steam). Some of Drake's more interesting negatives include the Alton Railroad's steam and diesel operations prior to its merger with the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad in 1947 and images of Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe 2-10-4s in leased service on the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1956.

Wayne Leeman's collection of approximately eight hundred 4" x 5" negatives also includes nine rolls of 35 mm processed film, exposed between 1938 and 1955, that are stored in plastic film canisters. Rare views, primarily of Missouri Pacific action, were taken by Leeman from the cabs of locomotives and caboose cupolas for Post-Dispatch newspaper stories. Other railroads photographed for his stories include: the Illinois Central; St. Louis-San Francisco; Pennsylvania; Nickel Plate; and a 1942 cab ride on a Baltimore & Ohio steam locomotive.

Approximately four hundred 120 and 35 mm Roger S. Plummer negatives in the Joe Collias Railroad Collection were taken primarily in Texas of the following railroads: the Missouri-Kansas-Texas; St. Louis-Southwest; Missouri Pacific; St. Louis-San Francisco; and the Texas & Pacific. Collias attempted to carefully identify the photographer and location of every negative on its storage envelope. This information is lacking on only a small number of negatives and prints.