

Collection #  
P 0904

**KENNETH M. DETAMORE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION,  
1909-1973 (BULK, 1930S-1940S)**

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Processed by

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23 April 2025

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box of photographs; 1 bin of negatives
COLLECTION DATES:	1909–1973 (bulk, 1930s–1940s)
PROVENANCE:	Unknown
RESTRICTIONS:	Any materials listed as being in Cold Storage must be requested at least 4 hours in advance.
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	0000.1320
NOTES:	

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Kenneth M. Detamore was born on 5 February 1918 in Converse, Miami County, Indiana. His parents were Forrest Clyde Detamore and Rosa Elnora Walker Detamore, and his younger brothers were Raymond and Harry. It appears that Kenneth was a train enthusiast who collected photographs of trains; he may have also taken some of the photographs in this collection.

Kenneth retired from Murphy Lumber Co. in Converse, where he had worked for many years. He was a member of the Converse Church of Christ. He died on 17 March 1991 in Marion General Hospital in Marion, Grant County, Indiana, and was buried in Converse.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 23 April 2025):

Find a Grave  
Indiana, U.S., Birth Certificates, 1907–1944  
United States Federal Census, 1920–1940  
U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947

Obituary for Kenneth Detamore. *Chronicle-Tribune* (Marion, Ind.), 18 March 1991, p. A-7.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The town of Converse, Indiana, experienced the growth of lumber companies coinciding with the railroad boom of the late 1800s. Jackson and Peru townships of Miami County voted to provide \$60,000 from taxes to finance the construction of what would become the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad in 1900. By 1910, as many as twenty-four passenger trains stopped in Converse daily. Eventually, three railroad lines passed through the town.

Marion, Indiana, was one of the earliest towns to have streetcars and one of the last towns to keep them running. By 1889 its first streetcar company was created. In the beginning, the cars were pulled by horses or mules. Eventually, electric service was implemented. Competition between companies was fierce until the streetcars became unprofitable. In 1933, Marion Railways, Inc., was formed to try to keep the streetcars running. Rail fans from across the country would come to ride them and the company prospered for a while. By 1947, Marion Railways could no longer afford to maintain the rails and the streetcars were replaced by buses.

On Sunday evening, 27 March 1938, twenty cars of a forty-car westbound freight train derailed on the Pennsylvania Railroad in Bunker Hill, Miami County, spilling tons of the coal they were carrying.

Sources:

“Freight Train Derailed: Twenty Pennsylvania Cars Pile Up in Heart of Bunker Hill.”  
*The Kokomo Tribune*, 29 March 1938, p. 7.

“History.” *Town of Converse* <https://www.townofconverse.com/history.html> Accessed 23 April 2025.

“Marion Railways, Incorporated.” *Trolleys of Marion* [http://wikimarion.org/Trolleys\\_of\\_Marion#Marion\\_Railways.2C\\_Incorporated](http://wikimarion.org/Trolleys_of_Marion#Marion_Railways.2C_Incorporated) Accessed 23 April 2025.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection of photographs and negatives has been determined to have belonged to Kenneth Detamore of Converse, Miami County, Indiana. It includes photographs of people, only some of whom are identified. There are also photographs of houses in Marion and Gas City in Grant County and street scenes that are not identified. There are ten negatives of the Converse Centennial celebration in 1948, showing people in costumes, street scenes, and a parade. The bulk of the collection pertains to railroads and includes many photographs of trains from many different railroad companies. There are also eight photographs of the aftermath of a 1938 freight train wreck at Bunker Hill in Miami County.

Some of the train photographs have a print date of January 1973, but they are likely copies of photographs taken in an earlier era – for example, one has the date of 12 February 1949 written on the back.

The negatives are all black-and-white 2.5 x 4.25 acetate negatives stored in 120 film size folders. All photos are black-and-white except for one color photo.

The collection is arranged into four series:

Series 1, People and Houses

Series 2, Converse, Indiana / Nearby Locations

Series 3, Marion Railways Fan Trips, 1945 and 1946

Series 4, Trains / Railroad Photographs

## SERIES CONTENTS

### Series 1: People and Houses

#### CONTENTS

Group photo of Paul Biggs, Dale Pence, Dale Powell, Lowell Dill, Phyllis Warnock, Mrs. Riggs, Richard Maple, Dale Duncan, Mrs. Dale Duncan [Glenna Warnock Duncan], Rosemary Swan, Phyllis Summers, and Kenneth Detamore standing on steps outside a brick building. [possibly at Converse (Ind.) Church of Christ, ca. 1940s].

Two photos: portrait of unidentified boy; young man standing outdoors [possibly Kenneth Detamore].

Six photos removed from small photo booklet [ca. 1940]: car parked near water; young man and woman posing by the car; different woman and man posed by car; the two women from the previous photos; young man in light-colored suit standing outdoors; same couple as the first posing by car, standing outdoors.

Ten negatives: young man [possibly Kenneth Detamore] standing outdoors; woman; two men; man and woman; the six photos from the booklet listed above.

Ten negatives: people and houses – removed from an envelope labeled: “Mrs. Walker / Thelma & Baby / Bill Knox, by car.”

Three negatives: child; group of five people standing outside a brick building; woman standing outside with another person in the background.

Five photos removed from small photo booklet labeled “Marion & Gas City” [ca. 1940]: each photo is of a different house.

Five negatives of the houses from the booklet listed above.

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 1

Cold Storage:  
120 Film negatives,  
Bin 1, Folder 1

Cold Storage:  
120 Film negatives,  
Bin 1, Folder 2

Cold Storage:  
120 Film negatives,  
Bin 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 2

Cold Storage:  
120 Film negatives,  
Bin 1, Folder 4

## **Series 2: Converse, Indiana / Nearby Locations**

### **CONTENTS**

Photo of unidentified man standing by a car with Shell gas station banners on it, with billboards for Coca-Cola in the background [unknown location, possibly Converse, Ind., ca. 1910s?].

Photo of Service Board “on town lawn” with heading “Serving Our Country” lists the names of men and women from the area serving during World War II [large outdoor sign; location unknown, possibly Converse, Ind.; most of the people listed were found to have lived in Miami or Grant County].

Five negatives: Coca-Cola billboards and Service Board listed above; Shell gas station; McDaniel’s Sinclair gas station; tall structure with man in window.

Three photos: storage buildings; tall structure [possibly a grain elevator] by railroad track; residential street.

Eight negatives of street scenes, tall structure by railroad track [possibly a grain elevator], residential street, and a man standing by a Dietzen’s bread truck.

Ten negatives of Converse, Indiana Centennial celebration in 1948: people in costumes, street scenes, parade.

### **CONTAINER**

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 3

Cold Storage:  
120 Film negatives,  
Bin 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 3

Cold Storage:  
120 Film negatives,  
Bin 1, Folder 6

Cold Storage:  
120 Film negatives,  
Bin 1, Folder 7

## **Series 3: Marion Railways Fan Trips, 1945 and 1946**

### **CONTENTS**

Six photos of Marion Railways streetcars (stamped on the back of each is “Aug 11 1945.”

Six negatives removed from envelope labeled: “Marion Railways, Inc. Aug 11 [1945] Fan Trip / Marion, Indiana / 63 attended / Cars. No. 11, 24, & 26 on Cut off on Home Ave.” – correspond to six photos listed above.

### **CONTAINER**

Box 1, Folder 4

Cold Storage:  
120 Film negatives,  
Bin 1, Folder 8

Business card for Hoosier Railfan Club advertising Marion Railways Inc. Railfan Trip on 11 August 1946, includes a photo of a streetcar. On back is stamped: Malcolm D. McCarter / Railroad Photographs / Peru, Indiana.

Box 1, Folder 4

Group portrait of ten men with a Marion Railways streetcar behind them; back row, far right is possibly Kenneth M. Detamore (photo by Malcolm D. McCarter of Peru, Indiana, n.d.). [This photo has some damage.]

Box 1, Folder 4

## **Series 4: Trains / Railroad Photographs**

### **CONTENTS**

### **CONTAINER**

Freight train wreck at Bunker Hill, Miami County, March 1938: eight photos of the aftermath of the derailment shows Norfolk & Western cars on the Pennsylvania Railroad, men working, spilled coal, and Campbell's Grain & Seed grain elevator in the background.

Box 1, Folder 5

Eight negatives of the aftermath of the train derailment that occurred on 27 March 1938 at Bunker Hill, corresponding to the photos described above.

Cold Storage:  
120 Film negatives,  
Bin 1, Folder 9

Thirteen photos of trains removed from a photo booklet dated 15 January 1940: included are cars from Wabash; Akron, Canton & Youngstown; and Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad companies.

Box 1, Folder 6

Ten photos of trains removed from a photo booklet dated July 1958: Chesapeake & Ohio trains.

Box 1, Folder 7

**Baltimore & Ohio Railroad** trains: six photos, including one at Washington, Ind., on 12 May 1936 (photo by Max Miller of Cottage Grove, Ind.); another taken at Cumberland, Maryland, on 2 July 1939; and one with Kenneth Detamore's stamp on the back.

Box 1, Folder 8

**Chesapeake & Ohio Railway** trains: thirty-four photos -- writing on the back of one indicates that the photo was taken by Max Miller of Cottage Grove, [Union County] Ind., on 28 December 1935 in Peru, Ind. No location or date is provided for the other photos.

Box 1, Folder 9

**Chicago through Indiana Harbor** trains:

Box 1, Folder 10

One photo of Chicago, Indianapolis, & Louisville (a.k.a. Monon Railroad) train in Chicago on 1 October 1934.

Five photos of Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railway trains – the photo of one of these shows a car with “The Milwaukee Road” and Hiawatha signs on it.

One real photo postcard showing men posing by a Chicago & North Western Railway train stopped on a bridge – this postcard was mailed on 29 March 1909 from Woodman, Wisconsin to Converse, Ind.

One photo of a Chicago & Western Indiana Railroad train.

One photo of a Clinchfield Railroad train.

One photo of a Coudersport & Port Allegany Railroad train (July 1938).

One photo of a Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad train in Hoboken, NJ (May 1939).

One photo of a Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range Railway train at Devils Lake, ND (photo by Walter Thayer of Chelan, WA, 25 March 1943).

Two photos of Erie Lackawanna Railway trains (one is in color).

One photo of a Florida East Coast Railway train.

One photo of a GATX tank car.

Two photos of Great Northern Railway trains – one is dated 30 August 1936; the other was taken by H.L. Younger of Harbor Creek, PA.

Three photos of Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad trains – one was taken by John F. Boose of LaGrange, IL on 1 September 1936; one was taken in LaGrange, IL in May 1937; the other was taken by Max Miller of Cottage Grove, Ind., n.d.



**Long Island Railroad through Northern Pacific**  
trains:

Box 1, Folder 11

Three photos of Long Island Railroad trains.  
One photo of a Louisiana & Arkansas Railway train.  
Two photos of Louisville & Nashville Railroad trains.  
Two photos of Minneapolis Eastern Railway trains.  
One photo of a New Haven Railroad train.  
Three photos of New York Central Railroad trains – one was taken by James B.M. Johnson of Trenton, NJ.  
One photo of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad's Empire State Express train.  
One photo of a Nickel Plate Road train (a.k.a. the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad Company).  
Two photos of Norfolk Southern Railway trains – one was taken by J.R. Reid of Roanoke, VA [ca. 1940s].  
Two photos of Northern Pacific Railway trains – one is of the wood-burning Minnetonka engine on display.

**Penn Central Railroad through Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railway** trains:

Box 1, Folder 12

Four photos of Penn Central Railroad trains (three are the same).  
One photo of a Pennsylvania Railroad truck.  
Five photos of Pennsylvania Railroad trains – one has Kenneth Detamore's name stamped on back; one is marked on back as having been taken at Converse, Ind., on 8 June 1948; another is marked as having been taken at Marion, Ind., on 5 June 1949; another is dated 1 June 1952.  
One photo of a Pittsburgh & West Virginia Railway train.

**Southern Railway through Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway** trains:

Box 1, Folder 13

One photo of a Southern Railway train.  
Two photos of Southern Pacific Lines trains – one is marked as having been taken at Avondale, Louisiana, on 12 February 1949.  
Two photos of Southern Pacific Railroad trains.  
One photo of a St. Louis – San Francisco Railway (a.k.a. "Frisco") train in Pensacola, Florida [1973 print of a ca. 1940s image].  
One photo of a St. Louis Southwestern Railway train.  
(continued on next page)

**Southern Railway through Wheeling & Lake Erie  
Railway trains (*continued*):**

Box 1, Folder 13

One photo of a Terminal Railroad Association train in St. Louis.

One photo of a Texas and Pacific Railway train.

Four photos of Toledo, Peoria & Western Railway trains.

Two photos of Union Pacific Railroad trains.

One photo of a Virginian Railway train.

One photo of a Wabash Railroad train with "Kenneth Detamore / Locomotive Photographs / Converse, Indiana" stamped on the back.

One photo of a Western Maryland Railway train.

One photo of a Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway train.

Twenty-five photos of unidentified trains.

Box 1, Folder 14

Twenty-eight negatives of trains, including Penn Central; Chesapeake & Ohio; Toledo, Peoria & Western Railway; and Erie Lackawanna Railroad [most ca. 1940s].

Cold Storage:  
120 Film negatives,  
Bin 1, Folder 10