

Hal Lewis Collection

Finding Aid to the Collection at the Center for Railroad Photography & Art

CRP&A | CENTER FOR RAILROAD
PHOTOGRAPHY & ART

Last updated: 3/20/2024

Collection Summary

Title: Hal Lewis collection

Span Dates: 1947 – 1998

Bulk Dates: 1947 – 1959

Creator: Lewis, Hal

Extent: 0.8 linear feet

Language: English

Repository: Center for Railroad Photography & Art, Madison, WI

Abstract: Collection, 1947-1998 (bulk 1947-1959), of about 1,600 railroad photographs from the United States, Mexico, Canada, Ecuador, and Brazil. Strengths include steam locomotives in the American Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and West Coast regions, such as on the New York Central Railroad, Baltimore & Ohio Railway, Northern Pacific Railway, Southern Pacific Railroad, and West Side Lumber Company Railroad.

Selected Search Terms

Country:

Brazil

Canada

Ecuador

Mexico

United States

State:

Aguascalientes

Arizona

British Columbia

California

District of Columbia

Illinois

Indiana

Manitoba

Maryland

Minnesota

Nevada

Ohio

Pennsylvania

Virginia

Washington

West Virginia

Railroad Name:

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad

British Columbia Railway

California Western Railroad

Canadian Pacific Railway

Chesapeake and Ohio Railway

Chicago and North Western Railway

Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and
Pacific Railroad

Cowiltz, Chehalis and Cascade Railway

Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range

Ferrocarriles del Ecuador Empresa
Publica

Ferrocarril Interoceanico de Mexico

Ferrocarril Mexicano	Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad
Ferrocarriles Nacionales de Mexico	Reading Company
Grand Canyon Railway	Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad
Great Northern Railway	Sierra Railroad
Illinois Central Railroad	Southern Pacific Railroad
McCloud River Railroad	Southern Railroad
Monon Railroad	Spokane, Portland and Seattle Railway
Monongahela Railway	Union Pacific Railroad
New York Central Railroad	Viacao Ferrea Centro-Oeste
New York, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad	Wabash Railroad
Norfolk and Western Railway	Washington Terminal Company
Norfolk Southern Railway	West Side and Cherry Valley Railway
Northern Pacific Railway	West Side Lumber Company Railroad
Pennsylvania Railroad	Western Maryland Railway
Pickering Lumber Corporation	Western Pacific Railroad
Pittsburgh, Chartiers and Youghiogeny Railroad	Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine

Biographical Note

Harold O. (“Hal”) Lewis Jr. (1931-2016) was born on July 10, 1931, to Harold O. Lewis Sr. and Catherine Cardozo Lewis. His father was a history professor at Howard University who gifted Hal his first camera. Hal began photographing trains as a junior in high school in the late 1940s.

Hal earned his undergraduate degree in engineering from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, in 1953. During college he worked as a fireman on steam locomotives and photographed the region’s railroads. He married Thalia Thomas in 1954.

Following graduation, Hal pursued a career in aeronautics. He worked as an aeronautical engineer for the Boeing Company in Seattle, Washington from 1953-58. From 1958 until his retirement in 1989, Hal worked for Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale, California. He earned an MBA from San Jose State University while working for Lockheed.

Hal’s photographs have appeared in *Classic Trains* and *Railfan & Railroad* magazines. In addition to photographing railroads, Hal made railroad audio recordings. He started recording railroad audio as a hobby in 1957, and later sold recordings through a business he started with another recordist, L&H Railsonics.

Following his retirement from Lockheed in 1989, Hal volunteered with the Central Coast Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society and the Pacific Limited Group. He received the Gerald M. Best Senior Achievement Award from the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society in 2013.

Hal passed away on August 27, 2016.

Scope and Content Note

The Hal Lewis collection, 1947-1998 (bulk 1947-1959), consists of about 1,600 railroad photographs from the United States, Mexico, Canada, Ecuador, and Brazil, shot by Hal Lewis. Contents include about 750 black-and-white negatives, 800 35 mm color slides, and 85 4x6 and 8.5x11 inch prints. Strengths include steam locomotives in the American Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, and West Coast regions, such as on the New York Central Railroad, Baltimore & Ohio Railway, Northern Pacific Railway, Southern Pacific Railroad, and West Side Lumber Company Railroad.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is arranged by format, following Lewis' original order.

Administrative Information

Provenance

This collection was donated to the Center for Railroad Photography & Art by Hal Lewis in 2011.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 2015.

Additional Notes

Metadata has been recorded only for the 492 digitized images.

Copyright Status

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Access and Restrictions

For educational use only, please contact the Center for other usage requests.

Container List

<i>Box</i>	<i>Contents</i>
Lewis-01	59 4 x 6 inch black-and-white prints, circa 1950, United States, Brazil, Ecuador Baltimore & Ohio Railway; Ferrocarriles del Ecuador Empresa Publica; New York Central Railroad; Norfolk Southern Railway; Northern Pacific Railway; Pennsylvania Railroad; Viacao Ferrea Centro-Oeste; Wabash Railroad; Western Pacific Railroad; Westside Lumber Company Railway
Lewis-01	36 8.5 x 11 inch black-and-white prints, 1948-1995, United States Baltimore & Ohio Railway; New York Central Railroad; Norfolk Southern Railway; Northern Pacific Railway; Pennsylvania Railroad; Southern Pacific Railroad; Southern Railroad; Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway; Western Pacific Railroad; Westside Lumber Company Railway
Lewis-01	About 800 35 mm color slides, 1947-1998, United States, Mexico, Canada Railroads include, among others, Baltimore & Ohio Railway; British Columbia Railway; California Western Railroad; Canadian Pacific Railway; Chesapeake & Ohio Railway; Chicago & Northwestern Railway; Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad; Cowlitz, Chehalis & Cascade Railway; Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range Railway; Ferrocarril Interoceánico de México (Interoceanic Railway of Mexico); Ferrocarril Mexicano (Mexican Railway); Ferrocarriles Nacionales de México (National Railway of Mexico); Grand Canyon Railway; Great Northern Railway; Illinois Central Railroad; McCloud River Railroad; Monon Railroad; Monongahela Railway; New York Central Railroad; New York, Chicago, & St. Louis Railroad; Norfolk & Western Railway; Northern Pacific Railway; Pennsylvania Railroad; Pickering Lumber Corporation Railroad; Pittsburgh & Lake Erie Railroad; Pittsburgh, Chartiers & Youghioghenny Railroad; Reading Company; Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Railroad; Sierra Railroad; Southern Pacific Railroad; Southern Railway; Spokane, Portland, & Seattle Railway; Union Pacific Railroad; Wabash Railroad; West Side & Cherry Valley Railway; West Side Lumber Company Railroad; Western Maryland Railway; Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad

Lewis-01

About 750 black-and-white negatives (mixed size), 1947-1958,
United States, Canada

Railroads include, among others, Baltimore & Ohio
Railroad; Canadian Pacific Railway; New York Central
Railroad; Northern Pacific Railway; Southern Pacific
Railroad; Wabash Railroad; Washington Terminal
Company