



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Dent County Native Honored in 2007-2008 Edition of the Blue Book

JEFFERSON CITY –Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, recently called attention to the work of a past Dent County resident which has been featured in the 2007-2008 edition of the Missouri Official Manual, also known as the “Blue Book.” Charles Elliot Gill, a photographer of the early 20th century who documented life in the Ozarks, was the subject of an article in the book, and selections from his collection were included as a feature in the 66th edition. Gill lived in the 16th Senatorial District until his death in 1962.

“Charles Gill dedicated his life to documenting the way of life of those living in Dent County and the surrounding communities,” said Sen. Barnitz. “His efforts have created an invaluable tool for anyone interested in studying our state and our community at that time.”

The Blue Book, which is published every two years, was recently unveiled at the Capitol in Jefferson City. In attendance was Ed Gill, Charles Gill’s son and a Salem resident, who decided to donate his father’s collection, consisting of 722 glass plate negatives and some original prints, to the Missouri State Archives. The collection highlights life in the Ozarks from the Industrial Revolution through early Modern America, a period spanning the 1890’s through the 1930’s.

The Blue Book is the source of information about Missouri state government. This resource for Missourians includes an overview of state government services and contact information for government officials and departments. The Charles E. Gill photo collection is a special feature for the 66th edition.

“The Blue Book acts as an important informational tool for Missourians who want to keep up on their state government,” said Sen. Barnitz. “I think it is especially meaningful that this edition focuses on Missouri’s past and present.”

The publication of the Blue Book is mandated by state law and the Secretary of State's office has published it since 1889. An online version of the Blue Book is available at

[http://www.sos.mo.gov/BlueBook/2007-2008/.](http://www.sos.mo.gov/BlueBook/2007-2008/)

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