



Gloria N. Biggs Papers (C4077)

Collection Number: C4077

Collection Title: Gloria N. Biggs Papers

Dates: 1947-1989

Creator: Biggs, Gloria N., 1911-2001

Abstract: The papers of Gloria N. Biggs, a journalist, editor, and the first woman publisher of a Gannett newspaper, the *Melbourne Times* in Florida in 1973, contain correspondence and clippings pertaining to her career.

Collection Size: 0.2 cubic feet
(4 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The donor has given and assigned to the University all rights of copyright, which the donor has in the Materials and in such of the Donor's works as may be found among any collections of Materials received by the University from others.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Gloria N. Biggs Papers* (C4077); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Gloria N. Biggs on January 24, 1992 (Accession No. CA5102).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Gloria N. Biggs Papers can be found in the following collection:

[*Penney-Missouri Journalism Awards Records*](#), (C4050)

Processed by: Processed by Elizabeth Engel on May 23, 2012. Finding aid revised by Elizabeth Engel on August 16, 2021.

Biographical Note:

Gloria N. Biggs was born Gloria Neustadt on September 18, 1911, in New York City and grew up there. She did not attend college. She married Scott W. Biggs, a real estate broker and concert pianist, and the couple lived in New York, Honolulu, and Los Angeles before moving to Florida. While living in Los Angeles, Gloria N. Biggs worked as a freelance writer and had one of her short stories selected for inclusion in *The World's Best Short Stories* in 1947. She also wrote columns and articles for California newspapers and magazines.

Biggs entered full-time newspaper work after she and her husband moved to Florida in 1953. She got her start at the *St. Petersburg Evening Independent* before getting a job at the *St. Petersburg Times* in the women's department. In 1955, Biggs went on to the *Sunrise Magazine*, published in St. Petersburg, before returning in 1957 to the *Times* as the women's editor, a position she held for six years. While at the *Times*, Biggs won a third place Penney-Missouri Journalism Award in 1962.

Biggs then worked for the *Palm Beach Post-Times* in West Palm Beach, Florida, for a year before accepting a position as executive women's editor at *TODAY* in Coco, Florida, in February 1966, one month before the publication of the brand-new Gannett newspaper. The newspaper's tagline was "Florida's Space Age Newspaper." Within a year of *TODAY*'s inception, Biggs won another Penney-Missouri Award, this time taking first place. She was named executive women's editor of Gannett Florida Newspapers in 1967. This was followed by three more Penney-Missouri Awards in 1967 (second place), 1969 (second place), and 1970 (first place).

In 1973, Biggs was promoted to editor and publisher of the *Melbourne Times*, making her the first woman publisher at a Gannett newspaper. Two years later she joined Gannett's corporate staff in Rochester, New York. Biggs retired from full-time work at Gannett in December 1976 and became a part-time consultant for its news division and also served as a consultant for the Frank E. Gannett Newspaper Foundation. Biggs served as a judge for the Penney-Missouri Awards in 1977.

In the summer of 1969, following a *TODAY* series about the several thousand hungry people living in Brevard County, Florida, Biggs started Stop Gap, an all-volunteer organization providing emergency food for families and individuals not eligible for government aid. She served as its first chairman and later was a board member.

Two years after her husband died in 1981, Biggs wrote *Handbook for Caribbean Journalists*. Gloria N. Biggs died on June 12, 2001.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged chronologically by type of material.

Scope and Content Note:

The Gloria N. Biggs Papers concern her professional life as a journalist and largely contain correspondence and clippings. The bulk of the correspondence is congratulatory letters

concerning Biggs being named the editor and publisher of the *Melbourne Times* in 1973, making her the first woman publisher of a Gannett newspaper. Also included is a certificate from July 1969 marking her participation in “the recording of history” of the Apollo 11 moon landing story.

Container List:

- f. 1 Correspondence, General, 1959-1989, n.d.
- f. 2-3 Correspondence, Congratulatory, 1973
- f. 4 Certificate and clippings, 1947-1973

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