

S0402 BLUMBERG, THELMA (1920-2012) PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

6 BOXES

43 FOLDERS

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS

The Blumberg photographs were purchased from Thelma Blumberg on December 3, 1990. Accession # A2979. Additional images were donated by Jodi Darby on October 18, 2012 Accession # 12-38

Born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1920, Thelma Blumberg worked as a free-lance photo journalist who created a large volume of photographs in the late 1950s and 1960s in a location that came to be known as Gaslight Square. Her photographs documented the neighborhood people who lived near the intersection of Olive and Boyle at a time when that area changed from a quiet antique row into one of the country's most popular entertainment districts.

Blumberg learned about cameras and photographic equipment in the Navy, and she learned about the art of photography at art schools in Chicago and Los Angeles. In the 1960s Blumberg's journalistic photography appeared often in the *Sunday Magazine* section of the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, in the *St. Louis Scene Magazine*, and in *St. Louis Magazine*. She also served as the house photographer for Gaslight Square's own play house, the Gateway Theatre. In 1991 The Western Historical Manuscript Collection-St. Louis purchased over 5,000 of Blumberg's photographs. When Blumberg passed away in May, 2012, her niece Jodi Darby, donated two more boxes of photographs and negatives of subjects unrelated to Gaslight Square, including some unique images of the St. Louis Riverfront, Forest Park and the midtown area, as well as many uncatalogued negatives and proof sheets.

Images from this collection are available for viewing on the online photo database.

Box 1

Negatives 1-3864

Box 2

Negatives 3865-4643

Box 3

Negatives 4644-5700

Box 4

Negatives 5701-5850

Box 5 Prints

- 1 Musical Arts Building after Fire contact sheets
- 2 Gaslight Square General 8x10 prints
- 3 Gaslight Square General 8x10 prints
- 4 Tornado 1959 contact sheets
- 5 Contact sheets and prints St. Patrick's Day 1960s
- 6 General 120mm contact sheets
- 7 The Dark Side contact sheets
- 8 Folk singers 35mm contact sheets
- 9 Folk singers 8x10 prints
- 10 Folk singers 120mm contact sheets
- 11 Musical Arts Building fire 8x10 prints
- 12 Spot in the Square Gallery contact sheets
- 13 Spot in the Square Gallery 8x10 prints
- 14 Dog Show 8x10 prints
- 15 Jeanne Trevor contact sheets
- 16 Jeanne Trevor 8x10 prints
- 17 Sergei Sparber 8x10 prints
- 18 Sergei Sparber contact sheets
- 19 Gateway Theater contact sheets
- 20 Gateway Theater 8x10 prints
- 21 Gateway Theater 8x10 prints
- 22 Gateway Theater contact sheets
- 23 Portraits 8x10 prints

24 Portraits 8x10 prints
25 Portraits contact sheets
26 Gaslight Square general contact sheets
27 Gaslight Square performers contact sheets
28 Gaslight Square people 8x10 prints
29 Gaslight Square performers 8x10 prints
30 Gaslight Square people contact sheets
31 Gaslight Square decay contact sheets
32 Gaslight Square decay 8x10 prints
33 St. Louis Riverfront, Downtown 8x10 prints
34 Tenement children 8x10 prints
35 Forest Park 1950-1970s 8x10 prints
36 Los Angeles 1949-1950s 8x10 prints
37 St. Louis and Los Angeles contact sheets
38 Children 8x10 prints
39 Portraits 8x10 prints
40 Negatives 35mm
41 Letters and ephemera
Box 6 Oversize Prints
42 Printed by Thelma Blumberg
43 Printed by SHSMO for exhibition 11x14
Printed by SHSMO for exhibition 16x20

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