



Clarissa Start Lippert Papers

Collection Number: S0470

Collection Title: Clarissa Start Lippert Papers

Dates: 1936-1976

Creator: Lippert, Clarissa Start, 1917-2008

Abstract: The papers contain scrapbooks, correspondence, and newspaper clippings documenting Clarissa Start Lippert's career as a features writer for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Collection Size: 0.8 cubic feet, 4 rolls of microfilm
(14 folders, 1 photograph; 36 volumes on microfilm)

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-St. Louis](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

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] *Clarissa Start Lippert* (S0470); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Clarissa Start Lippert on September 30, 1985 (Accession No. SA2717).

Existence and Location of Originals: The Scrapbooks series exists only on microfilm. The location of the original scrapbooks is unknown.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Clarissa Start Lippert Papers can be found in the following collection:

Advertising Women of St. Louis Records (S0372)

Processed by: Processed by Linda Belford, August 1988; revised by AJ Medlock, June 2022.

Biographical Note:

A native of St. Louis, Lippert was born on March 28, 1917, to George Michael, a civil engineer, and Ada A. Huebel Start. She attended Cleveland High School in South St. Louis and received a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1936. After college, Lippert worked as a stenographer and catalog copywriter for Rice-Stix Dry Goods Company and occasionally submitted unsolicited freelance articles to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. In May 1938, Lippert married E. Gary Davidson, a St. Louis-area lawyer who served as State Senator for the 15th District in St. Louis from 1952 to 1960. In the summer of 1938, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* hired Lippert to fill in for Dorothy Coleman, the newspaper's "Girl About Town" columnist, while she vacationed in Europe. Lippert remained with the *Post-Dispatch* when Coleman resigned after the birth of her first child.

During her journalism career, Lippert wrote columns, movie reviews, and feature articles for the *Post-Dispatch's* Everyday Magazine. She interviewed entertainers visiting St. Louis, including Artie Shaw, Cab Calloway, Benny Goodman, Vincent Price, and Glenn Miller; and politician's wives, such as Patricia Nixon and Claudia "Lady Bird" Johnson. She also wrote current affairs stories on trends in fashion and music, working women, women in politics, health, education, and women's rights. During World War II, Lippert wrote about soldiers' activities and their lives on military bases, the war's effect on families, part-time women Marines in St. Louis, and Red Cross civilian volunteer activities.

Lippert accepted an invitation by the then-West German Republic to tour its country in the mid-1950s, resulting in a series of articles for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on West German churches and welfare programs. While visiting West Germany, Lippert met World War II resister Bishop Martin Niemoller, who had spent eight years in a Nazi concentration camp for preaching anti-Nazi sermons. In 1959, Lippert published her first book, *God's Man: The Biography of Pastor Martin Niemoeller*.

In 1955, Lippert began writing a thrice-weekly column, "The Little Woman." The column became an immediate success with readers who identified with Lippert's personal approach to hone life, marriage, raising children, working, and maintaining a family. Within six months of beginning the series, Lippert received more mail than in all her sixteen years of byline feature writing. Lippert's third book, *Never Underestimate the Little Woman* (1969), was a compilation of her "Little Women" columns. The Missouri Writer's Guild gave Lippert its annual award in 1970 for the book.

Beginning in 1966, Lippert wrote for *This Day*, a monthly magazine published by Concordia Publishing House. Lippert also wrote a column entitled "The Family Room" for *This Day* until it folded in 1971. Lippert retired from the *Post-Dispatch* in 1972 but continued contributing a weekly column, "The Happy Gardener" Start continued writing the column until her final retirement in March 2002.

In addition to writing, Lippert's activities included gardening and raising her son, Bruce, born in 1951. Lippert held memberships in various women's and professional writing organizations, including the Women's Advertising Club, Missouri Press Women, Missouri Writers Guild, and the Missouri Commission on the Status of Women. Lippert was also active in child welfare; she chaired the Child Welfare Advisory Committee of St. Louis from 1955 to 1957 and was a

member of the Missouri Council on Children and Youth. The St. Louis Women's Chamber of Commerce awarded her "Women of the Year" in 1955 for her child welfare activism.

Lippert's first husband, E. Gary Davidson died in 1967. In 1968, Lippert wrote *When You're A Widow*, chronicling her experiences after her husband's death. She later married Raymond J. Lippert in 1972; he died in 1995. Clarissa Start Lippert died on April 9, 2008.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following three series:

Scrapbooks

Articles, Advertisements, and Correspondence

E. Gary Davidson

Scope and Content Note:

Scrapbooks

This series contains scrapbooks featuring articles and columns written by Lippert for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Included in the series is correspondence between Lippert and members of various organizations, which she featured in her articles. The scrapbooks are arranged chronologically and exist exclusively on microfilm.

Articles, Advertisements, and Correspondence

This series consists of newspaper articles by and about Lippert which appeared in magazines and newspapers other than the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, including Lippert's "Family Room" columns written for *Third Day* magazine, as well as general correspondence, and letters of sympathy from Lippert's readers regarding the death of her husband, E. Gary Davidson. Also included in this series is "The Elephant Show," a script Lippert wrote in 1962 for a Jefferson Township Republican club fundraiser, and a photograph of people rehearsing for the play. The materials in this series are arranged alphabetically.

E. Gary Davidson

This series contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, and legal opinions issued by the Attorney General of Missouri, documenting Davidson's political activities during the 1950s and 1960s. Materials of interest include correspondence with local officials, politicians, members of the Council for Christian Social Action, and the Missouri Council of Churches. This series is arranged alphabetically.

Container List:

Microfilm Rolls	Scrapbooks
1-4	
Roll 1	v. 1-9 Articles and correspondence, 1936-1949
Roll 2	v. 10-18 Articles and correspondence, 1950-1959
	v. 19 Columns, 1959-1961
Roll 3	v. 20-30 Columns and features, 1960-1969

Roll 4	v. 31-36	Columns and features, 1969-1976
f. 1-8		Newspaper Clippings and Correspondence
Box 001	f. 1	Articles by and about Lippert, 1944-1967
	f. 2-3	Correspondence, 1938-1966
	f. 4	Jefferson Township Republican Club, "The Elephant Show," script, 1962
	f. 5	<i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i> staff members' promotional advertisements, 1958-1963
	f. 6-7	Sympathy correspondence on the death of E. Gary Davidson, March 8-April 14, 1967
	f. 8	<i>This Day</i> Magazine, 1966-1970
f. 9-14		E. Gary Davidson
Box 002	f. 9	Committee book and Senate manual, 1959
	f. 10	Correspondence, 1952-1964
	f. 11	<i>Cosmo Topics</i> , the official publication of the Cosmopolitan International Club, May-August 1952
	f. 12	Council for Christian Social Action and Missouri Council of Churches, 1961
	f. 13	Newspaper clippings, 1962-1965
	f. 14	Opinions of the Attorney General of Missouri, 1952-1960

Index:

Index Terms	Folders	Volumes
Akins, Zoe		3, 15
Armstrong, Louis, 1901-1971		3
Billups, Ken		15
Calloway, Cab, 1907-1994		6
Czech Americans--Missouri--Saint Louis		15
Cook, Fannie		3
Davidson, E. Gary	1-14	
Dean, Dizzy, 1910-1974		3
Equal rights amendments--Missouri		33
Fashion		1-36
First Congregational Church (Webster Groves, Mo.)	12	
Fontbonne University		5, 15
Forest Park Highlands (Saint Louis, Mo.)		5
Gellhorn, Edna Fischel, 1878-1970		14, 21, 35
Girl Scouts of the United States of America		5-7, 9, 15, 21
Goins, Howell B.		27
Goodman, Benny, 1909-1986		2
Hempelmann, Clara		6
Horne, Lena		9
Italian Americans--Missouri--Saint Louis		4
Japanese Americans—Missouri--Saint Louis		14, 21

Index Terms	Folders	Volumes
Jukeboxes		1, 3, 5
Laurel and Hardy		3
Lippert, Clarissa Start, 1917-2008	1-14	1-36
Mark Twain Institute		15
McDonnell, James S., 1899-1980		31
Metropolitan Church Federation of Saint Louis		16
Missouri Association for Mental Health	12	
Missouri Council of Churches	12-13	
Mostel, Zero, 1915-1977		6
Municipal Opera Orchestra (Saint Louis, Mo.)		1-36
Musical theater—Missouri--Saint Louis		1-36
National Association of Negro Musicians (U.S.)		16
National Council of Jewish Women		15
Nixon, Pat, 1912-1993		21
Poliomyelitis--Patients		15-16, 21
Price, Vincent, 1911-1993		2
Provident Behavioral Health		3
Refugees--Berlin--Germany		15
Rice, Stix and Company (Dry Goods)		1, 26
Saint Louis Arsenal (Mo.)		8
St. Louis Post-Dispatch	1, 2, 5	1-36
St. Louis Tip Toppers Inc.		5, 25
Scruggs-Vandervoort-Barney (Saint Louis, Mo.)		1, 4
Shaw, Artie, 1910-2004		1
Smedley, Agnes, 1892-1950		1
Teenagers--Missouri--Saint Louis		6-7, 13, 15, 25
Thomas, Danny		9
Tucker, Raymond R. (Raymond Roche), 1896-1970	10	
Union Station (Saint Louis, Mo.)		6
United Nations Association of St. Louis		15, 21, 29
United States. Marine Corps--Women		15
Webster Groves (Mo.)		36
Webster University		3, 9, 25
Woods, Harriett		21
World War, 1939-1945--Women--United States		4-7
Women in agriculture		4, 5, 7
Women air pilots		3, 5, 8, 21
Women athletes--United States		1-36
Women journalists—Missouri—Saint Louis	1-14	1-36