This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

This collection consists of fifteen issues of *over the rainbow*, a feminist newsletter edited by Betty Burnett of Springfield in Greene County, Missouri. The issues were published between June 1977 and July 1978.

The first (Vol. I, No. 1) issue of *over the rainbow* appeared in June 1977. The masthead declared it to be “Springfield’s Only Feminist Newspaper.” In the next issue the motto was altered slightly, to read “Springfield’s Only Feminist Newsletter.” This collection includes fifteen consecutive monthly issues, plus an extra issue in September 1977, from June 1977 through July 1978. It is not known whether any subsequent issues were published.

For the special issue of 15 September 1977, and thereafter, the motto was changed to “News for, by, and about women.” The masthead title was shortened to *OTR*, with the slogan “Show Us Equality,” beginning with the issue for April 1978.

The newsletter dealt with the feminist issues of the period, including ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, Title IX, the International Women’s Year, and discrimination in the workplace. Its particular cause was the establishment of a “women’s center” in Springfield. This was achieved by Women, Incorporated (later styled as Women, Inc. of the Ozarks) in the fall of 1977. However, the center closed due to lack of support in May 1978.

Regular features in the newsletter included interviews with prominent women in Greene County, such as Angie Busiek Bennett (November 1977), who was a delegate to the International Women’s Year conference in Houston, Texas, and an opponent of the Equal Rights Amendment. There were also announcements of programs of interest to women, such as a talk on “Child Advocacy” by future First Lady of the United States Hillary Rodham (January 1978).

Betty Burnett served as editor throughout this period.

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Vol. I, No. 5  15 Sept 1977  “News For, By, and About Women”
Vol. I, No. 6  October 1977  “News For, By, and About Women”
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Vol. I, No. 8  December 1977  [No slogan]
Vol. I, No. 9  January 1978  “News by, for, and about women”
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Index Cards

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