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Introduction

The Elizabeth "Betsey" Bruce papers contain television scripts, photographs, newspaper clippings, and reports, documenting her 46-year career as a television broadcaster at KMOV-TV and KTVI-TV, in St. Louis, Missouri. Subjects of interest include Bruce's reporting on school desegregation in St. Louis; Missouri Governor's races, including the death of Governor Mel Carnahan in 2000; the St. Louis County Special School District; and prominent women in Missouri politics, including State Senator Harriet Woods. The papers date from 1971 to 2016.

Elizabeth ‘Betsey’ Barnette Bruce was St. Louis’s longest-serving television journalist, covering politics, education, and general news. She became the first full-time female TV street reporter in St. Louis when KMOV-TV (Channel 4) hired her in January 1971. While working at Channel 4, Bruce was part of the team that pioneered “live” reports with portable video cameras and microwave technology. Later in her career, Bruce hosted KMOV-TV’s public affairs programs, where she interviewed local and national figures, including Gloria Steinem and Phyllis Schlafly on the Equal Rights Amendment, as well as David Duke of the Ku Klux Klan. In 1989, Bruce joined KTVI-TV (Channel 2) and covered several major news stories, including the civil unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, prompted by the shooting of teenager Michael Brown; the Mississippi River floods of 1973 and 1993; and Pope John Paul II’s visit to St. Louis in 1999. On December 16, 2016, Bruce retired from Channel 2, after covering St. Louis for 46 years.

Donor Information

The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Elizabeth “Betsey” Bruce on July 16, 2018 (Accession No. 18-15)

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