MSS0500. John P. Bakke collection finding aid
John P. Bakke collection

Title: John P. Bakke collection
Collection No: MSS.500
Extent: 3.5 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1963-2012

Abstract: The collection comprises issues of Memphis, Tennessee, newspapers, predominantly from 1968, as well a number of publications about Elvis Presley.

Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: John P. Bakke collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: 2023 July
Biographical information

John P. Bakke was a former professor of rhetoric and communications art and chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Memphis. Bakke was born in Iowa and gained his BA from Luther College in 1960, and then a MA (1963) and PhD (1966) from the University of Iowa. He joined the faculty of Memphis State University in 1967, was chair of the Department of Communication for nine years, and retired in 1999. Bakke served as a political consultant to around 100 political campaigns during his career.

Scope and contents

The collection is comprised mainly of issues of the Commercial Appeal and Memphis Press-Scimitar newspapers which document the sanitation workers’ strike in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968. Not all the issues are complete but they offer a journalistic viewpoint of the impact of the strike on the city. There are also issues of the Tri-State Defender from that year. In addition, Dr. Bakke’s interest in the career of Elvis Presley is revealed by copies of Memphis newspapers reporting Presley’s death and a number of publications which catered to the fascination of his fans with the singer after Presley’s death in 1977. Some issues of Memphis newspapers report the resignation of President Richard Nixon and issues of Iowa newspapers report the assassination of President John Kennedy.

Subject terms

Sanitation Workers Strike, Memphis, Tenn., 1968.

Inventory

Newspapers:

Box 1 Commercial Appeal, 1968 March 21-April 10.
Box 2 Commercial Appeal, 1968 April 11-July 18.
Box 4 Memphis Press-Scimitar, 1968 March 22-April 12.
Box 6 Tri-State Defender, 1968 May 18-September 7.
The Sou’wester, 1968 November 22.
Box 7  
Death of Elvis Presley:  
Commercial Appeal, 1977 August 17, 18, 19.  
Memphis Press-Scimitar, 1977 August 17, 18, 19.  

Elvis Week, 1987:  

Box 8  
Resignation of President Richard M. Nixon and Watergate:  
Memphis Press-Scimitar, 1974 August 7, 8, 9.  
Commercial Appeal, 1974 August 6, 9, 10.  
Washington Post, 1974 July 28, 30, 31; August 9, 10; 1975 January 2.  

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy:  
Iowa City Press-Citizen, 1963 November 22.  
Cedar Rapids Gazette, 1963 November 22.  
Columbus Ledger, Columbus, GA, 1963 November 22.  
Columbus Enquirer, 1963 November 23, 25.

Box 9  

Box 10  
Elvis Presley publications:  


Miscellany:

Bakke, John, Acceptance speech for University of Memphis 2006 Martin Luther King Human Rights Award, 2006 April 4.


Appendix

The following is a chronological list of the 1968 issues of the Memphis, Tennessee, newspapers—Commercial Appeal, the Memphis Press-Scimitar and the Tri-State Defender—contained in the collection. Incomplete issues are noted.

The Commercial Appeal

March 23
March 24
March 25
March 26
March 27
March 28
March 29
March 30
March 31
April 1
April 2
April 3
April 4
April 5
April 6
April 7
April 8
April 9
April 10
April 11
April 12
April 13
April 14
April 15
April 16
April 17
April 18
April 19
April 20
April 21 (fragment)
April 24 (fragment)
April 25 (fragment)
April 26 (fragment)
April 27 (fragment)
April 28 (fragment)
April 30 (fragment)
July 19
July 20
July 21 (fragment)
July 25
July 26
July 29 (fragment)
August 2
August 4 (fragment)
August 7 (fragment)
August 10 (fragment)
August 12 (fragment)
August 13
August 14 (fragment)
August 22 (fragment)
August 25 (fragment)
August 26 (fragment)
August 27
August 28
August 29 (fragment)
August 30
August 31
September 1
September 2 (fragment)
September 5
September 6
September 7
September 8
September 10
September 11
September 12
September 13

Memphis Press Scimitar
March 21
March 22
March 23
March 25
March 26
March 27
March 28
March 29
March 30
April 1
April 2
April 3
May 30 (fragment)
May 31
June 5
July 4
July 5 (fragment)
July 12 (fragment)
July 15
July 17
July 18
July 19
July 25
July 29 (fragment)
August 1 (fragment)
August 2 (fragment)
August 13
August 15 (fragment)
August 16 (fragment)
August 19 (fragment)
August 21 (fragment)
August 23
August 26 (fragment)
August 27
August 29
August 31
September 2
September 3
September 4
September 5
September 6
September 7
September 9
September 10
September 11
September 12

*Tri-State Defender*

May 18
May 25
June 1
June 8
June 15
June 22
June 29
July 6
July 13
July 20
July 27
August 3
August 10
August 24
August 31
September 7