Guide to the Susanna Bruff Scrapbook

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5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
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URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791
Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Susanna Bruff Scrapbook
Dates: 1927-1929
Identification: MS-0481
Creator: Susanna Bruff, 1915-2001
Physical Description: 0.21 linear ft
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives

Biographical Information:
Susanna Bruff was born in Holtville, Imperial County, California, the first child of a struggling farmer and his wife. Her father was trying to grow lettuce but in the absence of adequate transportation it was impossible to get his produce reliably to the markets in Los Angeles and San Diego. About 1925, the farm was bankrupt and the family moved in with Susanna’s mother’s mother, who lived in Santa Ana, California. Susanna graduated in English from Scripps College in Pomona and married a college Professor, Stephen Cartland Bruff. Susanna and Stephen had three children, Barbara, Dana, and Stephen. Susanna passed away in 2001.

Access Terms
This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Topical Term:
Comic books, strips, etc.
Flappers -- 1920-1930

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Preferred Citation:
Identification of item, folder title, box number, Susanna Bruff Scrapbook, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Scope and Contents
This scrapbook consists of newspaper clippings brilliantly hand-colored in watercolor by Susanna Bruff, and pasted onto pages of a discarded catalogue. Each clipping is an issue of a popular comic strip entitled Ethel, which was drawn by Ethel Hays and syndicated in the 1920s. Using the daily adventures of flapper Ethel, each comic is a commentary on the changing role of woman in 1920s American society. Topics covered by the comic strips include: advances in technology such as telephones, electricity, and refrigeration; changes in fashions, hairstyles, and cosmetics; equal rights and
representation for women in society; increasing participation in sports and traditionally male activities; developing changes to courtship and marriage; and the emerging culture of flappers. The colored comic strips appear in no order, but larger full-page newspaper clippings of the comic are folded and pasted in near the end of the book.