The Niela M. Eliason
City in Transition
Collection

A Researcher's Guide by
James A. Schnur

Department of Special Collections
Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
University of South Florida
St. Petersburg Campus
December 1993
Introduction and Provenance

In November 1993, Niela M. Eliason, a free-lance writer and St. Petersburg resident, permitted the Special Collections Department of the Nelson Poynter Memorial Library to copy the contents of two scrapbooks in her possession. The City in Transition manuscripts reside in a half-size document box and fall within the provenance of the Special Collections Department's local and regional history collections.

Scope and Contents

Niela Eliason's City in Transition series documented the social and cultural history of St. Petersburg, Florida, through the voices of civic leaders and common citizens alike. As stated in the first City in Transition column, these essays examined "a changing community--the people, the buildings, the activities, the attitudes and reactions, the progress and deterioration." This collection contains photocopies of her 123 City in Transition articles, as well as photographs from the St. Petersburg area. Her writings first appeared in the St. Petersburg Evening Independent, and later moved to the St. Petersburg Times after the afternoon Independent folded in November 1986. All materials fall within the inclusive dates from 1983 to 1988, with the bulk of the material representing the period from 1984 to 1988. This collection includes no access or photocopy restrictions. Niela Eliason has retained copyright privileges on the original photographic prints, which remain in her possession.

Additional Sources of Information

This collection offers a glimpse of St. Petersburg's social, civic, and cultural institutions through the eyes of Niela M. Eliason. Her articles and interviews may serve as a springboard for further research of local and "nearby" history. In addition to the microfilm copies of the St. Petersburg Times and the St. Petersburg Evening Independent, the researcher may want to consult books in the library's circulating and special collections, as well as the Oral History of Modern America, a set of interviews documenting local, regional, and state history. The Department of Special Collections maintains these oral history interviews at the USF St. Petersburg library. Please ask library staff for assistance if you wish to use our oral history collection.
2.

Sample Citations from this Collection

Footnote or endnote citations for 1984 articles (which lack specific titles):

1  Niela Eliason, "City in Transition," *St. Petersburg Independent*, 3 October 1984, Box 1, Folder 2, "City in Transition" Collection, Department of Special Collections, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg.

Footnote or endnote citations for later articles:

2  Niela Eliason, "Library Lost Its Cool at a Bad Time of Year," *St. Petersburg Times*, 30 July 1987, Box 1, Folder 3, "City in Transition" Collection, Department of Special Collections, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg.

Bibliographic Citation:

Eliason, Niela M. "City in Transition" Collection, Department of Special Collections, Nelson Poynter Memorial Library, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg.

Container Listing

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3.

Subject Index of Articles

Adult Congregate Living Facilities (ACLFs)
Alleys
Amtrak Trains
Aviation--Bay Air Flying Service
Beauty Salons
Bus Terminal--Greyhound and Trailways
"Cats Don't Want a New Leash on Life"
"Change Helps Us Realize Life's Worth"
Christmas Shopping
Christmas Tree "Fight"
Clearwater Marine Science Center--"Sunset Sam" the Dolphin
Conservation of Water Resources

Cooking and Culinary Arts
Ethnicity--Oriental Immigrants
Events of 1985
Events of 1986
Events of 1987
Films and Entertainment
Finance--Banks
Finance--Money Management
"Flyer" the Dog
"Garage Sitter is Part of Life's Parade"
Gas Stations
Homeless--ASAP Shelter
Homeless--Pinellas County
Hurricane "Elena"

"Indoor Tan isn't the Same as One You Get on Beach"
Interstate 275
Labor/Lawnmowing
Language
Literacy Council
Lottery--Florida
Newspapers
Newspapers--first article in the St. Petersburg Times
Nursing
"Pinellas Index of Misleading Indicators"
Poynter Institute for Media Studies
Printing Presses--Konglomerati Press
Recreation--Bicycle Trail
St. Petersburg--Architecture

St. Petersburg--Architecture--Demolished Buildings
St. Petersburg--Architecture--Old Homes
St. Petersburg--Architecture--Pink Buildings
St. Petersburg--Bayboro Harbor--Marina
St. Petersburg--"City in Transition" Opening Article
St. Petersburg--Climate--Air Conditioning
St. Petersburg--Climate--Seasonal Changes

St. Petersburg--Coliseum
St. Petersburg--Culture and the Arts

St. Petersburg--Downtown--Business and Commerce
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Edgewater Motel
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Events
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Gas Plant Area
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Gran Prix
St. Petersburg--Downtown, Living in
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Mass Brothers Department Store
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Pier
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Princess Martha Hotel
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Redevelopment

St. Petersburg--Downtown--Redevelopment and Civic Identity
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Redevelopment--Stadium
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Restaurants
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Restaurants--Chatterbox
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Shops and Stores

St. Petersburg--Downtown--Soreno Hotel
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Studebaker Building
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Tampa College Campus
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Theater

St. Petersburg--Downtown--Webb's City
St. Petersburg--Downtown--Webb's Plaza
St. Petersburg--Drinking Establishments, Social Changes in
St. Petersburg High School
St. Petersburg Historical Museum
St. Petersburg--Hospitals--Mercy Hospital
St. Petersburg--Library and Information Resources

St. Petersburg--Recreation
St. Petersburg--Recreation--Regattas
St. Petersburg--Recreation--Skating Rink
St. Petersburg--Recreation--Swimming--North Shore Pool
St. Petersburg--Restaurants, Clubs, and Hangouts

St. Petersburg--Restaurants--Doe-Al's Country Cookin'
St. Petersburg--Retirement
St. Petersburg--Skyway Shopping Center
St. Petersburg--Solarium
St. Petersburg--Tourists, Impression of
St. Petersburg--Vocational Technical Institute--Truck Drivers
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)
Supermarkets and Grocery Stores
Sunshine Skyway Bridge
Telephones and Communication
"Things Never Change, Except for . . ."
United States Postal Service
USF St. Petersburg

USF St. Petersburg--Department of English--Harriet Deer
USF St. Petersburg--Earl Jacobs Photographic Collection
USF St. Petersburg--Nelson Poynter Memorial Library
Weddings
Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)