Marilyn Holt to Discuss
Cold War Kids: Politics and Childhood in Postwar America

On Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m., the National Archives at Kansas City will host Marilyn Irvin Holt who will discuss her book Cold War Kids: Politics and Childhood in Postwar America, 1945-1960. A free light reception will precede the lecture at 6:00 p.m.

Today we take it for granted that political leaders and presidential administrations will address issues related to children and teenagers. But in the not-so-distant past, politicians had little to say, and federal programs had less to do with children—except those of very specific populations. Holt shows how the Cold War changed it all. Against the backdrop of the postwar baby boom, and the rise of a distinct teen culture, Cold War Kids unfolds the little-known story of how politics and federal policy expanded their influence in shaping children’s lives and experiences—making way for the youth attuned political culture that we have come to expect.

To make a reservation for this free program call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

All Sewn Up: The Garment Industry Goes to Court Exhibition

On Tuesday, February 24, the National Archives at Kansas City will open a new exhibit titled All Sewn Up: The Garment Industry Goes to Court. The exhibit explores the relationship between the Federal government and the garment and beauty industry from the 1870s to the 1950s.

Found in the holdings of the National Archives at Kansas City are records from Federal court cases that involve the garment and beauty industry. The exhibit showcases select cases demonstrating the variety of lawsuits that have made their way through the legal system, seeking to provide Federal protection for the consumer, for the company, or for the workers. Some of these cases involve well-known names, such as Levi Strauss or Carhartt, seeking patent protection for their products. Others involve common citizens hoping to receive financial compensation following “beauty disasters,” such as exploding bottles of nail polish and hair loss from permanents. More importantly, other cases chronicle significant events in the history of the labor movement and the rise of unions in the garment industry.

All Sewn Up is available for viewing Tuesday-Saturday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Admission is free. To schedule a group tour call 816-268-8013 or email mickey.ebert@nara.gov.
February Gems for Genealogists

The National Archives at Kansas City will offer one free genealogy workshop in February. *Preserving Your Digital Heritage: Methods to Preserve Your Digitally Born Files* will be held on Thursday, February 5, 2015, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at 400 West Pershing Road, Kansas City, Missouri.

**Workshop Description:**

*Preserving Your Digital Heritage: Methods to Preserve Your Digitally Born Files*

Thursday, February 5, 2015 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

In the past, your family’s photographic collection probably consisted of prints made with a single family camera. In the 21st century, we’ve gone digital with our phones, tablets, computers, and cameras. Technology has made it easier to capture memories, but has complicated the process of storing them. Keeping track of and preserving your digital files on multiple devices can be overwhelming. This session will show you how to organize, centralize, and protect your collections for yourself and those to come.

To make a reservation for this free workshop, please call 816-268-8000 or email kansascity.archives@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.

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**The Civil Rights Century: Milestones in Black History Series**

Screening and Discussion of *Malcolm X: Make it Plain*

On Thursday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m., the National Archives will present, in partnership with Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group, scholars and historians Dr. Fred Knight and Garrett Felber, who will provide commentary and answer questions following a screening of *Malcolm X: Make it Plain*. Professors Felber and Knight will be broadcast via video technology. A free light reception will precede the lecture at 6:00 p.m.

Malcolm X, born Malcolm Little in 1925, was an African American Muslim minister and a human rights activist. To his admirers he was a courageous advocate for the rights of blacks, a man who indicted white America in the harshest terms for its crimes against black Americans; detractors accused him of preaching racism and violence. In 1946, at age 20, he went to prison for larceny and breaking and entering. While in prison, he became a member of the Nation of Islam, and after his parole in 1952 quickly rose to become one of its leaders. However by March 1964, Malcolm X had grown disillusioned with the Nation of Islam and its leader. He ultimately repudiated the Nation and its teachings and embraced Sunni Islam. In February 1965, he was assassinated by three members of the Nation of Islam. This February marks the 50th anniversary of his death.

This event is the part of a program series titled *The Civil Rights Century: Milestones in Black History* and is presented in partnership with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Greater Kansas City Black History Study Group. To make a reservation for this free program call 816-268-8010 or email kansascity.educate@nara.gov. Requests for ADA accommodations must be submitted five business days prior to events.
No one disputed that Nichole Force, an incoming student at Pierce City (Missouri) Junior High School, loved sports and was a good athlete. During her elementary school years, she actively participated in swimming, diving, organized softball, organized baseball, organized basketball, and elementary school football. She was known for her toughness, playing most of one baseball season with her left arm in a cast. She was also recognized for her skill. Earle Staponski, the former principal of her elementary school, stated that he had seen Nichole play football and “if she is not the best football player, she is the second best.”

In spring 1982, Nichole told her parents that she wanted to play football on the junior high school’s seventh grade team, a team made up exclusively of boys. Her mother took her daughter’s request to school officials. The coach said he would allow Nichole to play as long as the school administration also agreed. After two meetings the school board voted unanimously that Nichole would not be allowed to play football. Disappointed by the decision, she told her mother, “But Mom, there has to be a reason. They didn’t give a reason. Just being a girl is not a reason. I don’t want to be ‘protected.’ I want to take my chances like anybody else. Besides, if somebody has to be protected that means they are weaker and not as good?”

Nichole’s parents filed a lawsuit in Federal court against the school district seeking that its refusal to allow her to play football was based solely on the fact that Nichole was a female rather than a male and that a sex-based determination of that sort violated her right to the equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment.

The legal process took so long that the 1982 football season came and went without Nichole being allowed to play on the team. However, the Force family pressed on, and the case was eventually heard in the U.S. District Court in Joplin, Missouri, in 1983. U.S. District Judge Ross T. Roberts ruled in August 1983 that the school district was “permanently enjoined from refusing to allow Nichole Force to compete for membership on the Pierce City Junior High School eighth grade interscholastic football team on the same basis that males are allowed to compete.” The Court explained, “Nichole Force obviously has no legal entitlement to a starting position on the Pierce City Junior High School eighth grade interscholastic football team on the same basis that males are allowed to compete.” The Court explained, “Nichole Force obviously has no legal entitlement to a starting position on the Pierce City Junior High School eighth grade football team, since the extent to which she plays must be governed solely by her abilities, as judged by those who

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coach her. But she seeks no such entitlement here. Instead she seeks simply a chance, like her male counterparts, to
display those abilities. She asks, in short, only the right to try.”

Nichole and her family were thrilled with the judge’s decision. An article in the August 31, 1983, Joplin Globe quoted Nichole as saying, “I wanted to play because I’m just good at it, and it’s a really fun sport.” She also said her teammates were looking forward to have her join the team. “They were happy about it,” she said. “They wanted me to play.”

Force played for one season as a wide receiver and halfback. Nearly 30 years after the court’s ruling, she recalled in a 2012 interview with the Globe that her victory in the courtroom did not lead to victory on the playing field. “I did not enjoy playing once I was on the team. I had loved football all my life, but by the time I won the right to play on the junior high team, the psychological and emotional toll of the case had drained any love I had for playing the sport.” She continued, “The community’s outrage over my playing did far more damage than any hits I sustained on the field.”

The case of Force v. Pierce City is one of several court cases held by the National Archives at Kansas City concerning women seeking an equal playing field. For more information about the case visit the National Archives online catalog at http://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/.

Left: Excerpt from the Judge’s decision in the case. National Archives at Kansas City, Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, U.S. District Court for the Southwestern (Joplin) Division of the Western District of Missouri, Civil Case Files, 1938-1987 (National Archives Identifier: 585977), Force v. Pierce City, Civil Case No. 82-5093.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Tuesday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Closed on Sunday, Monday, and Federal holidays. Hours are subject to change due to special programs and weather.

The National Archives at Kansas City is home to historical records dating from the 1820s to the 1990s created or received by Federal agencies in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

For more information, call 816-268-8000, email kansascity.educate@nara.gov or visit www.archives.gov/kansas-city. Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveskansascity. Tweet us @KCArchives or #KCArchives.