

American Archive

OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Greetings from the AAPB!

Happy Spring from all of us at the American Archive of Public Broadcasting! With the fresh promise of this new season, we're thrilled to share that we're well on our way toward our [Mellon-funded](#) goal of digitizing 150,000 items of publicly broadcast programs over the next three years!

While archival work may not always be seen as urgent, in the last month alone we've met with stations that have had media collections damaged by weather events, libraries that no longer have space to store their physical media collections, and producers whose early films have started to deteriorate. In many cases, it's a race against the clock to protect at-risk media for future generations.

So here's to a month filled with purpose, progress, and the relentless pursuit of preserving our collective heritage!

The AAPB Celebrates Women's History Month

The American Archive of Public Broadcasting is the proud home to thousands of programs that celebrate and commemorate the vital role women have played in history, culture, and society. Explore our [recent Women's History Month blog post](#) for descriptions of choice programs and collections in the archive.

Additionally, if you're a teacher looking for ways to work historical primary sources into the classroom this month, look no further than the archive's primary source sets dedicated to women's rights and movements in an ever-changing political climate. Both primary source sets offer background information, discussion questions, and suggested classroom activities to ease use in the classroom!



[The Feminism, Anti-Feminism, and Social Activism from the 1960s to the 1980s Primary Source Discussion Set](#)

Examines the rise and contestation of women's liberation and women's rights in the 1960s focused on the role of government to strengthen the opportunities for expanded equal rights



[The Reproductive Rights Primary Source Discussion Set](#)

Explores the history of reproductive rights in America with topics including the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision, the modern pro-life (anti-abortion) movement, and the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* Supreme Court case that overturned *Roe v. Wade*

Finally, we'd be remiss not to highlight : Linda Wertheimer, Susan Stamberg, Nina Totenberg, and Cokie Roberts. These four women became journalists when opportunities for women in the field were scarce and often consisted of off-air support roles.

Nonetheless, these trailblazers defied the odds and forever changed the broadcast media landscape for women. We're proud to have known Cokie Roberts, who served as Vice Chair of the AAPB's Executive Advisory Council and honored us with her sage advice and years of industry wisdom.

To learn more about these remarkable women and their accomplishments, don't miss this [PBS NewsHour interview in the archive](#) featuring Susan Stamberg and Lisa Napoli, author of "susan, linda, nina & cokie," as they discuss the extraordinary story of the Founding Mothers of NPR.

AAPB Collections: New & Notable



[Kansas Public Media Collection](#)

This robust collection includes over 3,700 Kansas public radio and television programs dating as far back as 1960, documenting Kansas's unique history. Highlights of the collection include [a KMUW report on the women of Wichita](#); [KMUW's Dockum Drug Store Sit-In](#), coverage of one of the first organized sit-ins against segregation; and hundreds of Vietnamese language broadcasts courtesy of Wichita's Vietnamese Public Radio.

[Georgia Traveler Collection](#)

This colorful collection includes over 40 weekly travel television episodes that guide viewers through the wackiest tourist traps, quirkiest local festivals, and most insightful historical tours. Carefully step back in time with the [Fire Ant Festival](#), keep your wits about you as you take a [ghostly tour of Civil War battlegrounds](#), and witness the ["live birth" of a Cabbage Patch Kid](#) with this fun-filled collection.

Dig Deeper with the AAPB

If you're like us, you spent the early days of March curled up on the couch catching up on the Oscar noms and later watching *Oppenheimer* take home the gold for Best Picture (among others)!

If the three hours depicting the intense, true story of the development of the atomic bomb and the moral dilemma it posed weren't enough, fear not! In the archive, [watch Nobel Prize-winning physicist Dr. I. I. Rabi and Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, former director of the Manhattan Project's Los Alamos Laboratory](#) (portrayed in the film by David Krumholtz and Cillian Murphy respectively), describe the first experiences that brought them into the field of science in National Educational Television's 1963 program *Exploring the Universe*.

Additionally, to learn more about "American Prometheus," the Pulitzer Prize-winning book that inspired the film, don't miss this [PBS NewsHour interview with authors Martin Sherwin and Kai Bird](#).

And as for the other show-stopping films nominated this year, they're still winners in our hearts. Explore the Oscar nominees real-life references in the archive with our recent blog post, [The AAPB Goes to the Oscars!](#)



Cillian Murphy (left) comparison with J. Robert Oppenheimer (right)



1963 interview with Dr. Oppenheimer in the archive

In the Industry



America's Public Television Stations Media Summit

This spring is already shaping up to be a busy one for us at the AAPB! Just last month, GBH Archives Executive Director Karen Cariani (right) and Outreach Specialist Meghan Sorensen (left) [attended the America's Public Television Stations Media Summit](#) in Washington, D.C. The team spoke with public broadcasting general managers and community leaders about ongoing and new digitization efforts to preserve American public media for generations to come.



NPR Founding Mother Linda Wertheimer Retires

We're not quite done speaking about the achievements of NPR's Founding Mothers...

Last month, Linda Wertheimer announced her retirement after 50 incredible and iconic years at NPR.

I am proud to say I was one of the first hires on the news side. At our first staff meeting there were no chairs (or tables) but there were eager people with lots of plans sitting on the floor and I was one of them.

Linda Wertheimer in her final message to NPR

We wish her a very happy and relaxing retirement after years of paving the way for women in media. You can read the rest of her bittersweet goodbye message to NPR [here](#).

P.S. To see her in action, check out [this 1980 interview](#) where she sat down (alongside Cokie Roberts and Scott Simon) with Bill Moyers to reflect on the presidential primary races and Moyers’ question “Who’s Choosing Our President?”

In Memoriam



Sandra Elkin, creator, producer, and host of the groundbreaking feminist public television series *Woman* (1972–1977) brought attention to prominent women’s issues including but not limited to the Equal Rights Amendment, the women’s liberation movement, sexuality, motherhood, and ageism, alongside icons such as [Gloria Steinem](#), [Betty Freidan](#), and [Bella Abzug](#). Her legacy lives on in the archive where nearly 200 episodes are available to stream for free in the [Woman Series Special Collection](#).



Bob Edwards, the first and longest-serving host of NPR's *Morning Edition* [passed away last month](#). A lifelong journalist, Edwards was a Peabody Award-winning member of the National Radio Hall of Fame. Although the precise year is unknown, [he can be seen here](#) visiting a fundraising event at KYUK in Alaska where he speaks about his regular visits to local stations and the importance of small stations to the public and NPR.

#FoundintheAAPB

We know firsthand that there’s no better feeling than the thrill of discovering a gem in the archive. Something so eye-opening, inspiring, or just plain cool that you want to shout it from the rooftops. Well, now’s your chance!

Tag us on social with the hashtag #FoundintheAAPB or email us with a note about what the program you found means to you for a chance to be featured in the next edition of the newsletter!

Ideas for future AAPB collections or exhibits? Questions about how to digitize your station’s items with the AAPB? Email us at aapb_notifications@wgbh.org!

The [American Archive of Public Broadcasting](#), a collaboration between the Library of Congress and GBH Archives, coordinates a national effort to digitally preserve and make accessible significant historical content created by public media over the past seven decades.



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