Protestors in Barney Alps Plaza.

of vodka and apple juice. Protestors were held in cells large and small, and Bryant was regularly confronted by her public appearances by queer activity. This negative publicity resulted in the loss of her job. The news spread through the community and Bryant was forced to leave Kansas City in July of 1977. She is planning a convention in conjunction with the Kansas City Convention.

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of the Christian Booksellers Association members in local gay bars at the completion of each day's convention meetings.

Despite the protests, Bryant returned to the region several more times during the remainder of the year. She traveled to Joplin with the "Revive America Crusade" in September, participated in a "Revival Fires" rally in Columbia, and returned to Municipal Auditorium for yet another Christian rally in December.

At each visit she was met with additional protests, some of which included participants from the Kansas City area. One KC activist noted that Bryant was actually playing an important role in encouraging the movement for gay rights: "Anita has united a lot of people who would have never gotten together otherwise."

Bryant's career continued to suffer setbacks because of her anti-gay rhetoric. By decade's end she was no longer affiliated with the Florida Citrus Commission, and she was a favorite topic for late night comedians, Johnny Carson in particular. She divorced her husband in 1980, which led to fewer opportunities with ultra-conservative fundamentalist Christian organizations.

She made several attempts at reviving her musical career. She tried a show in Eureka Springs, Ark., a different show in nearby Branson, and "Anita's Musical Mansion" in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., home to Dollywood, Dolly Parton's theme park. Each of these ventures failed miserably, leaving her massively in debt and ultimately bankrupt. Ostensibly she still operates "Anita Bryant Ministries International" in Oklahoma City, though the organization's website has not been updated since 2008.

Stuart Hinds is the Curator of the Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America at UMKC.

The July, 1977 protest in Kansas City.

Leroy Chadwick at the protest outside Municipal Auditorium.