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## Baird, Nancy Disher, b. 1937 (MSS 415)

Manuscripts & Folklife Archives

Western Kentucky University, [mssfa@wku.edu](mailto:mssfa@wku.edu)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Special Collections Library  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 415      BAIRD, Nancy Disher, b. 1937**

½ box. 9 folders. 9 items, 1984-1985. Cassette tapes.

SC2012.17.48

***ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY***

The United Service Organizations (USO) is a group that provides recreation and entertainment to United States military personnel across the world. The USO was founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941. Its tradition of entertaining the troops began during World War II and continues today. The USO was one of the many ways people supported the war effort in the 1940s. Civilian volunteers and celebrities joined together in hopes of boosting troop morale. The USO has over 160 locations in 14 countries throughout the world.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection of interviews was conducted by Nancy Disher Baird, Kentucky history specialist at the Kentucky Library and Museum, Western Kentucky University. She used the interviews to write an article about the role of the United Service Organizations (USO) during World War II, which was published in *World War II Times*. She also gave several presentations on the same topic, including "From the Heart of America: The USO," "Soldiers in Greasepaint: Camp Shows in the Foxhole Circuit," and "The USO: A Cultural Bridge." Interviews were conducted in Washington, D.C.; Chevy Chase, Maryland; New York, New York; Naples, Italy; Rome, Italy; Paris, France; Stuttgart, Germany; and Wiesbaden, Germany. These tapes have been digitized and are in the Manuscripts & Folklife Archives' Sound Archives. The tapes were damaged and the sound quality fades during the last 20 minutes of each tape.

***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>USO Interviews</b>	<b>1984-1985</b>	<b>9 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory	n.d.	1 item
Folder 2	Interview with Princessa Mariolina Cembalo	1984	1 item

Folder 3	Interview with Beverly A. Cerchio	1984	1 item
Folder 4	Interview with Ruth Chartier	1984	1 item
Folder 5	Interview with W. Clarke Cook	1984	1 item
Folder 6	Interviews with Helga Haub and Dr. Hans Schumann and H. Ghormann	1984	1 item
Folder 7	Interview with Thomas Henton	1984	1 item
Folder 8	Interview with Walter Hoving	1985	1 item
Folder 9	Interviews with Mike Menster and General George Blanchard	1984	1 item

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS BAIRD, Nancy Disher, b. 1937 1984-1985  
415

This collection includes eight interviews with various people around the world that were associated with the United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO) during World War II. Interviews were conducted by Nancy Disher Baird.

½ box. 1 folder. 9 items. Cassette tapes.

SC2012.17.48

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Blanchard, George Samuel, 1920-2006 (Informant)  
Cembalo, Mariolina (Informant)  
Cerchio, Beverly A. (Informant)  
Chartier, Ruth (Informant)  
Cook, W. Clarke (Informant)  
Haub, Helga (Informant)  
Henton, Thomas (Informant)  
Hoving, Walter (Informant)  
Ghormann, H. (Informant)  
Menster, Mike (Informant)  
Schumann, Hans (Informant)

United Service Organizations, Inc.  
World War II, 1939-1945 – Relating to

Knight/Jeffrey 06/26/2012