7-12-2012

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

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>USO Interviews</th>
<th>1984-1985</th>
<th>9 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Interview with Princessa Mariolina Cembalo</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>1 item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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