

**REGISTER OF THE NANCY HARVEY STEORTS PAPERS
1937-2000**

Nancy Harvey Steorts, 1936-

**Mss 123, 801 boxes (214.6 cubic feet),
9 boxes (.55 cubic feet) of 22 reel-to-reel tapes and 156 cassette tapes,
6 boxes (27 cubic feet) of 44 video tapes,
14 regular boxes (6.3 cubic feet) and 2 oversize boxes (1.15 cubic feet) of photographs,
and 6 oversize folders**

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**Nancy Harvey Steorts, 1936-
Papers, 1937-2000; bulk 1970-1990
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INTRODUCTION

This collection consists of the personal papers of Nancy Harvey Steorts, the majority of which document her long career in consumerism. Most of the papers relate to her positions as Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for Consumer Affairs (1973-1977), Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (1981-1985), and the business consulting firms that Steorts formed in the Washington, D.C. area and Dallas, Texas before and after her public service. In addition, there is information regarding Steorts' service as President of the Dallas Citizens Council (1985-1988); the organizations she actively participated in during her career; her work as the Assistant National Director of Volunteers for the 1972 presidential campaign of Richard M. Nixon; her involvement in the 1980 political campaign of Ronald Reagan; and her participation in the inaugurations of Nixon and Reagan.

Nancy Harvey Steorts donated her papers to Clemson University in October 1989. There are no restrictions on the use of this collection beyond those of Special Collections. The collection was partially processed by Pauline Klein and Karen Bates in 1991. The remainder of the collection was processed by Laurie Varenhorst and a number of student assistants from 2002 to 2006. The register was completed by Laurie Varenhorst in 2007. The collection consists of accessions 91-23, 98-87 and 00-91.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Nancy Josephine Harvey was born on November 28, 1936 to Frederick William and Josephine Elizabeth (Jones) Harvey in Syracuse, New York. She graduated from Fayetteville-Manlius High School in June 1955. Steorts majored in retailing and received a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics from Syracuse University in June 1959. From 1958 to 1961 Steorts worked as a coordinator of public relations at Woodward and Lothrop in Washington, D.C. Steorts was employed as a home economist for the Washington Gas Light Company in Washington, D.C. from 1961 to 1964, presenting food demonstrations, fashion shows and other promotional activities for civic organizations, as well as planning new promotions about the use of gas. From June 1967 to June 1968 Steorts served as a sales associate for a real estate company, Naomi B. Faison, Inc., in Summit, New Jersey. In November 1968 she took a temporary position as a survey specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, gathering data and evaluating feed tables at various college campuses until March 1969. In 1972 Steorts was appointed to a three-

year term on the Montgomery County Commission for Women which advocated equal rights for women. From March to May 1973, Steorts worked as a United States Expositions Officer on the United States Exposition Staff of the Bureau of International Commerce in Washington, D.C. Her responsibilities included procurement, publicity and direction of all aspects of the Expo '74 World's Fair Ground Breaking Ceremony in Spokane, Washington and the Foreign Visitor Business Program. During these years Steorts was also very active in civic organizations: she served as president of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) from 1970-1971 and president of the Welcome Wagon Club Newcomers' Club of the Summit Area in Maryland from 1969-1971. In addition to these activities, Steorts worked as the Assistant National Director of Volunteers and National Director of the Women's Speakers Bureau for the campaign to re-elect Richard M. Nixon from 1971 to 1972, as well as the Director of Candlelight Dinners for his inauguration from November 1972 to February 1973.

In July 1973 Nancy Harvey Steorts was appointed to the newly created position of Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for Consumer Affairs. Steorts was the first full-time consumer affairs advisor in any federal agency reporting directly to the Secretary. In this position, she represented the Secretary on consumer-related policy discussions before Congress, cabinet-level departments and agencies, and at public forums. She served as liaison between the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) and consumer organizations and consumer specialists in federal, state and local government and private industry. And she took her message to the public with over 300 speeches in 47 states, and appearing on numerous radio and television programs. Among her accomplishments was the establishment of the first U.S.D.A. National Consumer Advisory Committee and a department wide system to effectively handle all individual consumer complaints, and initiating a choice of portion program in the nation's restaurants.

In February 1977 Steorts left the U.S. Department of Agriculture to form her own consulting firm, Nancy Harvey Steorts & Associates, in the Washington, D.C. area. Steorts advised trade association executives, industrialists, academicians, and government officials on consumer issues and their effect on public and corporate policy. She lectured before major associations, at conferences and universities, and testified before Congress and government agencies on current consumer issues. In July 1979 she and Susan A. Davis founded a woman's marketing firm, Successful Woman, Inc., in Washington, D.C., which offered professional education for women through conferences, seminars and audio/visual presentations. The firm was in business from July 1979 till June 1980. In addition, from July 1978 to June 1980, Steorts served as the consumer representative on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Advisory Committee on Flammable Fabrics, and worked as a consultant to Virginia H. Knauer, Special Assistant to the President (Reagan) and Director of the White House Office of Consumer Affairs, from early 1980 to mid-1981.

On July 9, 1981, President Ronald Reagan nominated Nancy Harvey Steorts to be the fourth Chairman of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (C.P.S.C.), having been previously considered for the position in 1979. She was confirmed on July 27, 1981, and sworn into office on August 31, 1981. During her tenure as Chairman, Steorts advocated voluntary safety standards development but clearly enforced regulation when necessary, e.g., she voted to ban urea formaldehyde foam insulation in February 1982. In addition, she was a strong

supporter of consumer information and education. Some of the government agency's accomplishments during her administration included informing millions of consumers on the selection of safe toys through three consecutive National Toy Safety Campaigns; placing more than 2 million smoke detectors in low-income homes at no charge or at a discount rate through a C.P.S.C. program in 1600 communities in 26 states; beginning National Product Safety Conferences to encourage feedback from industry, consumers and state and local government officials; and introducing a C.P.S.C.-designed curriculum on poison prevention packaging to be used in the nation's pharmacy schools holding more than 50 seminars for pharmacists to address the problem of closures on prescription packages. Steorts resigned from the Commission on November 29, 1984, effective January 5, 1985.

Steorts moved to Dallas, Texas where she formed Nancy Harvey Steorts and Associates on April 25, 1985. The business consulting firm translated government policies for corporations and developed strategic plans to help businesses understand public policies. On February 1, 1985 Steorts was invited by Ray L. Hunt, President of the Dallas Citizens Council, a nonprofit organization made up of some of the city's most influential corporate and civic leaders which promotes a favorable business climate and quality of life for Dallas residents, to conduct a management review of the organization, and on January 1, 1986, Steorts became President of that organization, becoming the first woman to serve in that capacity. During her tenure as President Steorts was instrumental in increasing international business possibilities for Dallas, serving as a delegate to the 14th Annual Japan-Texas Association Conference in Tokyo and Oita, Japan (September 1987), arranging a Dallas delegation meeting with His Royal Highness, Prince Charles of Wales (who serves as President of Business in the Community in Great Britain) to promote a better understanding of minority economic development (July 1987). In addition, she advocated increasing the leadership roles of women in both the private and public sectors, as well as continuing to promote her specialized interest in consumer product safety and product quality by encouraging both sectors to develop and promote privatization as an alternative to solving problems. On July 13, 1987, Steorts resigned that position, effective December 31, 1987.

After leaving the Council Steorts started working for Boyden, a leading recruiter of management personnel, as a Corporate Senior Vice-President and co-managing director of the office in Washington, D.C., beginning May 16, 1988. It was her job to promote the new business efforts of Boyden in Washington and Dallas areas, concentrating her search efforts in the fields of government and corporate administration, academia, law, public policy and customer relations. Steorts left Boyden on August 25, 1988.

In 1989 Steorts relocated to Chevy Chase, Maryland and founded Nancy Harvey Steorts International, a consulting firm specializing in consumer product safety, quality standards, government representation, national media representation, and joint ventures with industry. On May 31, 1991 Nancy Harvey Steorts, Katherine Bulow, Nancy Ellis and Barbara Hayward formed BEHRS International, an export trading/marketing company that operated worldwide from headquarters in Washington, D.C. The company's mission was to increase investments and exports of quality American goods and services into the global market, to promote exports and investments of U.S. women-owned and small businesses, and to assist major corporations access the women's market. In addition, Steorts worked as an independent distributor for Quorum

International from 1992 to 1996. Steorts was also appointed to the U. S. Delegation to the U.S. Department of Commerce and Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations Intergovernmental U.S.-Russia Business Development Committee Standards Working Group which met in St. Petersburg, Russia in September 1992.

Steorts has actively participated as a member in a variety of organizations during her lifetime. Some of the consumer-related organizations include the Food Safety Council, Board of Trustees (1978-1980); American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and as Chairman of ANSI's Consumer Interest Council (1996-1999); Council of Better Business Bureaus (CBBB), Board of Directors (1985-1991); Federal Reserve System, Chairman of the Consumer Advisory Council (1990-1992); Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, Board of Overseers (1991- ?); and Texas Award for Performing Excellence, Board of Overseers (1993-1996). In addition, Steorts has served as a member of educational institutions, including Southern Methodist University, Dedman College Executive Board, Department of Economics Advisory Council (1988); Medical College of Pennsylvania, Board of Directors (1988-1991); Syracuse University Alumni Association, Board of Directors (1992-1995) and honorary board member since 1995; Syracuse University, School of Management, Corporate Advisory Council (1994); and Syracuse University, College for Human Development, Board of Visitors. Steorts' served in several organizations devoted to women-related issues, including the National Council of Career Women, Board of Directors (1977) and President (1978); Executive Women in Government, Chairman (1983); Texas Women's Alliance, Board of Trustees (1986); National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO); and the International Women's Forum. Also, Steorts participated in civic organizations and activities, including the I Have a Dream Foundation–Dallas, Board of Directors (1988-1990); Save the Children–Dallas, Advisory Council (1988-?), and Chairman of Save the Children: An Afternoon with Oprah Winfrey event (1989-1990).

Steorts has received several rewards for her dedication and work for consumer product safety and quality assurance. Some of the awards include: George P. Arent "Medal for Excellence in Government," Syracuse University (1976); "Special Award for Consumer Concerns," the National Diet Workshop (1976); Consumer Safety Award, the National Energy Journal (1983); and One of Best Public Servants of 1984, Gallagher Report. In addition, in 1983 the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission was designated a "Model Agency" by the Office of Management and Budget in recognition of the cost-effective management of Steorts.

Nancy Harvey married James Earl Steorts, Jr. on June 4, 1960 in Alexandria, Virginia. They had one daughter, Deborah Joan Steorts, born on September 15, 1962. They divorced in 1975. The biographical information on Steorts came from materials found within the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Nancy Harvey Steorts Papers contains addresses, agendas, appointment books, articles, booklets, briefing materials, bulletins, bylaws, calendars, clippings, correspondence, daily planners, directories, fact sheets, faxes, financial records, government documents, job applications, legal documents, lists, manuals, membership rosters, memoranda, minutes, newsletters, notes, pamphlets, petitions, plans, press kits, press releases, programs, publications, reports, resumes,

schedules, speeches, statements, statistics, telephone logs, television transcripts, testimonies, and yearbooks. Also included in the collection are photographs, audio cassette tapes, reel-to-reel audio tapes, and video tapes. Memorabilia and oversize materials can be found here, too.

Materials in this collection cover the period 1937-2000, from Steorts' high school graduation through her active involvement in various business and civic organizations during her lifetime. The bulk of the materials dates from 1970 to 1990, and documents her work as a consumer product safety advocate in the public and private sectors. In particular, this collection emphasizes Steorts' work as the first Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for Consumer Affairs and Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The Steorts Papers are divided into fifteen series: Personal, U.S.D.A. [United States Department of Agriculture], Nancy Harvey Steorts & Associates, C.P.S.C. [Consumer Product Safety Commission], Presidential Elections and Inauguration Papers, CREEP [Committee for the Re-election of the President (Richard M. Nixon)], Dallas Organizations, Nancy Harvey Steorts & Associates, Dallas, Boyden, Nancy Harvey Steorts International, Women, General Files, Organizations, Photographs, and Audio/Visual. The series are arranged alphabetically by folder title, and chronologically within each folder. However, the Photographs Series is divided into five sections: Nancy Harvey Steorts, General Files, Women Series, Ronald Reagan White House Years and Other Individuals. The Nancy Harvey Steorts section follows the same arrangement as the series in the Nancy Harvey Steorts Papers. The folders within each section are filed alphabetically by folder-title. Slides and negatives follow the same arrangement.

The papers were generated from Steorts' long career as a consumer product safety advocate working in the public and private sectors. In addition, individuals and organizations sent Steorts materials because of her interest and expertise in consumer product safety. Other papers were created from her involvement in business and civic organizations, as well as political campaigns and presidential inaugurals.

Significant topics found in the Nancy Harvey Steorts Papers include fire safety, fire toxicity, smoke detectors, flammable fabrics and upholstered furniture, as well as coal and wood burning stoves, factory-built metal chimneys, kerosene heaters, unvented gas-fired space heaters and the Cigarette Safety Act of 1984. Other well-documented topics found in the collection include materials on urea-formaldehyde in relation to its use as foam insulation to seal areas such as wall cracks and crawl spaces, and as resin in pressed wood products; European product standards; and the efforts of the United States and Russia to develop business standards. In addition, there is information pertaining to important business organizations such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the International Organization for Standards (ISO), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Federal Reserve Board's Consumer Advisory Council.

Information regarding politics and organizations and issues related to women can be found in this collection. One of the most important areas documented in the papers is the re-election campaign of Richard M. Nixon. There are materials relating to volunteers, women speakers, the committee's efforts toward women voters, and the National Advisory Committee. Other materials relating to politics include the Ronald Reagan-George H. W. Bush campaign, the 1980 Presidential election,

and the 1980 Republican National Convention, as well as information relating to the Republican National Committee's Advisory Council on Human Relations and the Platform Committee. Files regarding the candlelight dinners for President Richard M. Nixon's second inaugural in 1973 and President Ronald Reagan's first inaugural in 1981 can be found here as well.

Women's organizations that Steorts participated in which are geared specifically for certain career fields and levels and are documented in this collection include the American Women in Radio & Television, Executive Women in Government, the National Council of Career Women, the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO), and the International Women's Forum (IWF). Also included are materials relating to the International Women's Year, 1975, and the first American woman in space, Sally Ride, who was a member of the seventh flight of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*.

Correspondents include President George H. W. Bush; First Lady Barbara Bush; U.S. Senators Strom Thurmond, Robert J. Dole, Jake Garn, Jesse Helms, and Robert W. Kasten, Jr.; United States Representatives Berkeley Bedell, John D. Dingell and Henry A. Waxman; U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block; U.S. Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige; U.S. Secretary of Transportation Andrew L. Lewis, Jr.; Consumer Product Safety Commissioners Sandra Brown Armstrong, R. David Pittle, Terrence M. Scanlon, Edith Barksdale Sloan, Stuart M. Statler, and Samuel D. Zagoria; Virginia Knauer, Special Assistant to the President; Chase Untermeyer, the Presidential Personnel Director of the Bush Transition Team; Ron Kaufman, Deputy Chief of Personnel, Reagan Administration; Robert Estrada, Office of Presidential Personnel, Reagan Administration; David A. Stockman, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Reagan Administration and Nancy Thurmond, wife of U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond.

Other materials related to Nancy Harvey Steorts can be found in Mss 100, Strom Thurmond Collection.

This collection is indexed under the following terms in the University Libraries' online catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.

Subjects:

American National Standards Institute
American Women in Radio and Television Inc.
Astronauts--United States
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (U.S.) Consumer Advisory Council
Bush, George, 1924-
Businesswomen--United States
Chimneys--Standards
Cigarette industry--United States
Cigarettes--Safety regulations--United States
Dwellings--Insulation--United States
Executive Women in Government
Fire detectors--United States
Fire prevention--Law and legislation--United States

Fire prevention–United States
Fire resistant materials–Government policy–United States
Fire resistant materials–Toxicity testing–United States
Flammability–Standards–United States
Flammable fabrics–Law and legislation–United States
Formaldehyde
Formaldehyde–Toxicology
Furniture making–Environmental aspects–United States
Insulating materials industry–Law and legislation–United States
International Organization for Standards
International Women's Forum (Organization)
Kerosene heaters
Nancy Harvey Steorts International
National Association of Women Business Owners (U.S.)
National Council of Career Women
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-1994
Particle board industry–United States
Plywood industry–United States
Presidential inaugurations–Washington (D.C.)–1970-1980
Presidential inaugurations–Washington (D.C.)–1980-1990
Presidents–United States–Election–1980
Presidents–United States–Election–1972
Product safety–Standards–European Economic Community countries
Quality control–Standards–Russia (Federation)
Quality of products–Russian (Federation)
Reagan, Ronald
Republican National Committee (U.S.)
Republican National Convention (32nd : 1980 : Detroit, Mich.)
Republican Party (U.S. : 1884-). National Advisory Committee
Ride, Sally
Smoking and fires–United States
Smoking and fires–Safety measures
Space flight
Space heaters–Standards–United States
Space heaters–United States–Safety measures
Space shuttles–United States
Stoves, Coal
Stoves, Gas–Standards–United States
Stoves, Wood
United States–Politics and government–1969-1974
Upholstered furniture–Fire testing
Upholstered furniture–Flammability–United States
Urethane foam
Urethane foam–Safety regulations–United States
Urethane foam–Toxicology

United States. Dept. of Agriculture. Special Assistant to the Secretary for Consumer Affairs–
Officials and employees
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
U.S.-Russia Business Development Committee
Women astronauts–United States
Women–Employment–United States
Women in politics–United States
Women in the civil service–United States
Women-owned business enterprises–United States
Women–United States–Attitudes
Women–United States–Social conditions
Wood products–United States
Wood products–Formaldehyde release–United States

Form/genre:

Speeches
Transcripts

Correspondents:

Armstrong, Sandra Brown, 1947-
Baldrige, Malcolm (Howard Malcolm), 1922-1987
Bedell, Berkeley
Block, John R.
Bush, Barbara, 1925-
Bush, George, 1924-
Dingell, John D.
Dole, Robert J., 1923-
Estrada, Robert (Robert A.)
Garn, Jake
Helms, Jesse
Kasten, Robert
Kaufman, Ron
Knauer, Virginia H.
Lewis, Andrew Lindsay, 1931-
Pittle, R. David, 1938-
Scanlon, Terrence M., 1939-
Sloan, Edith Barksdale
Statler, Stuart Michael, 1943-
Stockman, David Alan, 1946-
Thurmond, Nancy Moore
Thurmond, Strom, 1902-2003
Untermeyer, Chase (Charles Graves), 1946-
Waxman, Henry A.
Zagoria, Sam, 1919-