

**Guide to the Evlyn Dorn Collection
(1952-1986)**

Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Evlyn Dorn Collection

Creator: Evlyn Dorn

Extent: 3.81 linear feet (15 boxes, 3 envelopes)

Repository: Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum
18001 Yorba Linda Boulevard
Yorba Linda, California 92886

Abstract: The Evlyn Dorn Collection contains correspondence and other documents, articles, audio tapes, and photographs, many from Nixon's early life and career. Most of the collection is made up of correspondence to, from, or about various members of the Nixon family, in particular Hannah Milhous Nixon. Campaign and inaugural memorabilia, and documents created by authors and local historians for Nixon-related projects are also in the collection.

Administrative Information

Access: Open

Publication Rights: Copyright held by Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation

Preferred Citation: Folder title. Box #. Evlyn Dorn Collection. Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation, Yorba Linda, CA.

Acquisition Information: Gift of Roberta Dorn

Processing History: The collection had been partially processed by Susan Naulty prior to September, 2003. The collection was arranged and described, and fully processed with preservation work by Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace archive staff.

Biography

Evlyn Dorn was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. There she attended King George High School. She came to the United States in 1916 to pursue a career in secretarial work. She attended Woodbury Business College in Los Angeles, California.

After finishing school, Dorn worked as a secretary for the Bartlett Music Company in Los Angeles. She then moved to Seattle, Washington, where she worked for the City Directory and later for the Keaton Tire & Rubber Company. Dorn moved back to Los Angeles and worked for attorney Ernest Noon, where she received on-the-job training as a legal secretary. During this time, she married Lawrence “Larry” Dorn.

Evlyn Dorn’s long association with Richard Nixon began in 1937. She was a legal secretary at the firm of Wingert and Bewley when Nixon, fresh out of Duke University Law School, came in to seek a job. The Dorn’s became friends with Richard Nixon and Pat Ryan (who in a couple years’ time would be known as Pat Nixon) and would often meet with them socially.

Dorn became Nixon’s first legal secretary in 1939. She was acquainted with Richard Nixon’s family and would visit the store in East Whittier that his parents owned and where his brother Don worked as a butcher.

When Nixon ran for the Senate in 1950 Dorn worked as his personal secretary. In 1960 when Nixon ran for President, she helped his parents read and answer the stacks of letters they received. She became especially close with Richard Nixon’s mother, Hannah Milhous Nixon. Evlyn Dorn often took care of Hannah Nixon’s appointments and phone calls, and they attended social affairs together.

Dorn also worked as a secretary for businessman F. Donald “Don” Nixon, Richard’s brother, who was in the restaurant business.

Later, Dorn served as a research consultant for Whittier College’s Richard M. Nixon Oral History Project. She interviewed people and took care of the paperwork with National Archives and Records Services (now National Archives and Records Administration).

Evlyn Dorn was a prolific note-taker. She took notes about and made copies of correspondence. She wrote biographical sketches of Hannah Nixon and Pat Nixon. She wrote extensive notes concerning Richard Nixon; these included biographical sketches and notes on his character.

Scope and Content Summary:

The materials in the Evlyn Dorn Collection were collected in the course of her long association with Richard Nixon and his family. They range in date from the early 1940s to the early 1990s, much of which is from the 1950s and the year 1960. Most of the collection is correspondence, articles, and political publications; there are also audio tapes and photographs.

The collection is arranged into six series: General Materials and Correspondence, Oral History Projects, Author Files, Newspaper Clippings, Audio Tapes, and Photographs.

Series I: General Materials and Correspondence: Correspondence by, for, or about Richard Nixon, Pat Nixon, Frank and Hannah Nixon, and other members of the family. The bulk of these are the result of Evlyn Dorn assisting Hannah Nixon field the letters, postcards, requests, and invitations she received. Included in this series are correspondence and other documents pertaining to Richard Nixon's career, especially the pre-Presidential years. Also included are campaign itineraries and other souvenirs; along with inaugural memorabilia. There are also newspapers and magazine articles and political publications interspersed within the series.

Series II: Oral History Projects: Documents related to various oral history projects, chiefly the Richard M. Nixon project conducted by Whittier College.

Series III: Author Files: Correspondence, articles, and other documents by authors who wrote about Nixon.

Series IV: Newspaper Clippings: Articles either sent to or collected by Evlyn Dorn. They span Nixon's political career; some of them are quite lengthy.

Series V: Audio Tapes: Audio tapes by or about Nixon.

Series VI: Photographs: Nixon photographs, including many from the early years.

Related Collections:

The Nixon Family Collection

Container List

Evlyn Dorn Collection

Series I: General Materials and Correspondence

	Box:Folder
Bewley, Thomas W.	1:1
Chotiner, Murray	1:2
Dorn, Evlyn (2 folders)	1:3–1:4
Eisenhower, Dwight D.	1:5
Eisenhower, Julie Nixon	1:6
Nesbitt, John R.	1:7
Nixon, Don	1:8
Nixon, Frank A. I	1:9
Nixon, Frank A. II	1:10
Nixon, Frank A. 1952–1953	1:11
Nixon, Frank A. 1954–1960	1:12
Nixon, Frank and Hannah 1952	2:1
Nixon, Frank and Hannah 1953	2:2
Nixon, Frank and Hannah 1954–1955, Undated	2:3
Nixon, Hannah M. I	2:4
Nixon, Hannah M. II	2:5
Nixon, Hannah M. 1952–1953	2:6
Nixon, Hannah M. 1954–1959	2:7
Nixon, Hannah M. 1960 (10 folders)	3:1–4:6
Nixon, Hannah M. III	4:7
Nixon, Patricia Ryan	4:8
Nixon, Richard M. Pre–1946	5:1
Nixon, Richard M. 1948	5:2
Nixon, Richard M. Congressional Years	5:3
Nixon, Richard M. 1950 Campaign (4 folders)	5:4–5:7
Nixon, Richard M. 1952 (3 folders)	5:8–5:10
Nixon, Richard M. 1953 Inauguration	6:1
Nixon, Richard M. 1957 Inauguration (2 folders)	6:2–6:3
Nixon, Richard M. Vice Presidential Years (3 folders)	6:4–6:6
Nixon, Richard M. 1954 Campaign (2 folders)	6:7–6:8
Nixon, Richard M. 1956	6:9
Nixon, Richard M. 1960 (2 folders)	7:1–7:2
Nixon, Richard M. 1961–1966	7:3
Nixon, Richard M. 1968 (3 folders)	7:4–7:6
Nixon, Richard M. 1969	7:7
Nixon, Richard M. 1969 Inauguration (3 folders)	7:8–7:10
Nixon, Richard M. 1973 Inauguration	7:11
Nixon, Richard M. 1970–1984	7:12
Nixon, Richard M. Christmas Cards	7:13
Nixon, Richard M. Crank File (2 folders)	8:1–8:2
Nixon, Richard M. Empty Envelopes	8:3

Nixon, Richard M. 1950s Publications	8:4
Nixon, Richard M. 1960s Publications (2 folders)	8:5–8:6
Nixon, Richard M. 1970s Publications	8:7
Nixon, Richard M. Articles	8:8
Nixon, Richard M. Speeches	9:1
Nixon, Richard M. Ancestry	9:2
Smith, Paul	9:3
Series II: Oral History Projects	
California State University, Fullerton	9:4
FDR Library	9:5
Articles	9:6
Whittier College Acquisition Suggestions	10:1
Whittier College Correspondence	10:2
Whittier College Transfer Documents	10:3
Whittier College Gift Forms	10:4
Whittier College Interview List	10:5
Whittier College Prospective Interviewees	10:6
Whittier College Photograph List	10:7
Whittier College Relatives List	10:8
Whittier College Reports	10:9
Whittier College Bewley, Thomas W.	10:10
Whittier College Dorn, Evelyn	10:11
Whittier College Eisenhower, Julie Nixon	10:12
Whittier College Fauts, Mrs. Roy	10:13
Whittier College Marshburn, Austin R.	10:14
Whittier College Nixon, Edward C.	10:15
Whittier College Stone, W. Clement	10:16
Whittier College Timberlake, Edith Milhous	10:17
Whittier College West, Jessamyn	10:18
Series III: Author Files	
Kornitzer, Bela (4 folders)	11:1–11:4
Marten, Kay	11:5
Mazo, Earl	11:6
Phillips, Don	11:7
Schreiber, Flora Rheta	11:8
Stewart, M. Jean	11:9
Series IV: Newspaper Clippings	
1953	12:1
1954	12:2
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1960s	12:4
1969	12:5
1970–1975	13:1
1974	13:2
1976–1979	13:3
1980–1986	13:4

1987–1989	13:5
1990–1992	13:6
Series V: Audio Tapes	
Notes	14:1
1972, Nov. 16. “Friends” Quakers	14
1972, Nov. 17. Jerome Dyeo	14
1973, Jan. 19. Roger Simon, Esquire Magazine	14
1973, May 1. Watergate: RN’s speech re: integrity of White House	14
1973, Jun. 29. Whittier Oral History Project wrap-up session (2 tapes)	14
1974, Aug. 9. RN’s farewell to his staff; Ford’s acceptance speech	14
1974, Aug. 9. Ford’s acceptance speech	14
1976, Jul. Carter’s acceptance speech; N.Y. Democratic Convention	14
1976. Fawn Brodie interview with Evlyn Dorn	14
1977, Mar. 25. Pat Nixon fountain dedication	14
1977, May 12. Nixon–Frost interviews, first two sessions	14
1977, May 12. First Nixon–Frost interview	14
Cathcart, Dr. Robert interview	14
Davis, Lester interview	14
Fouts, Mrs. Roy interview (2 tapes)	14
Nixon, Edward and Don identifying family pictures (2 tapes)	14
Nixon, Frank information (2 tapes)	14
Eisenhower, Julie Nixon interview	14
Nixon, Lawrene interview	14
Watergate, NBC News with John Chancellor; Nixon & Dean; John Mitchell (2 tapes)	14
Dorn, Evlyn summarizes RN’s involvement in Citrifrost	14
Head cleaner cassette	14
Blank tapes (6)	14
Series VI: Photographs	
Snapshots	15:1
Early Years	15:2
1946, 1950s	15:3
1960	15:4
1968–1969	15:5
Portraits	15:6

Separations List

Item	Description (Amount)	Department
Carpet	Inaugural carpet pieces (2)	Curatorial
Photographs	Nixon Oversize (4 photos)	Photographs
Photographs	1971, Tricia's Wedding (5 photos)	Photographs
Paperweight	Lucite paperweight	Curatorial