



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 30

Ruth E. Nelson Papers, 1933-1976: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Nelson, Ruth E.

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 30

Extent: 7 boxes (7 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Ruth E. Nelson Papers. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Provenance: Received from Ruth E. Nelson, April, 1988.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Marc Widershien and Brenda Howitson, October 16, 1989. Updated by Abigail Cramer, March, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents Nelson's work as a stenographer and secretary for a multitude of special commissions and committees of the Massachusetts Legislature.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection spans the forty-year period during which Nelson worked as a stenographer and secretary. It represents a broad spectrum of commissions formed to study issues of concern to the government of the Commonwealth. In addition to testimonies from hearings, correspondence, and memoranda, the collection contains meeting notices and minutes, press releases, photographs, news clippings, and commission reports. Commissions of particular interest include the Special Commission on Revision of the Massachusetts Constitution, the Special Committee to Investigate the Fire at the Sherry-Biltmore Hotel, the Special Commission

on Mental Health, the Special Commission on Belchertown State School and Monson State Hospital, and the Governor's Emergency Commission on Food. The collection also contains records documenting Nelson's work with the Governor's Council.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Ruth E. Nelson compiled these papers during her career as a court stenographer and secretary for various special commissions and committees within the Massachusetts Legislature.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The material is arranged into series by commission, as follows:

Series I: Miscellaneous Commissions, 1933-1973

Series II: Massachusetts World Fair Commission, 1939-1965

Series III: Special Commission on the Revision of the Constitution, 1962-1967

Series IV: Special Committee to Investigate the Fire at Sherry-Biltmore, Inc., 1963

Series V: Special Commission on Firearms, Paroles, and Related Matters, 1963-1966

Series VI: Special Commission on the County Cooperative Extension Program, 1965-1970

Series VII: Special Commission on Mental Health, 1964-1967

Series VIII: Special Joint Legislative Committee on Air Pollution, 1967-1970

Series IX: Special Commission on Belchertown State School and Monson State Hospital, 1970-1972

Series X: Special Commission Established to Investigate and Study the Further Regulating of the Slaughtering and Processing of Certain Animals, 1970

Series XI: Special Joint Legislative Committee on State Land Planning Office and Land Bank, 1971-1976

Series XII: Governor's Emergency Commission on Food, 1973-1974

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The materials are entirely in English.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Received from Ruth E. Nelson in April, 1988.

Series Description and Container List

Series I: Miscellaneous Commissions, 1933-1973

Scope and Content

This series includes materials documenting the work of the following commissions and committees: Joint Committee on the Judiciary, Joint Committee Established for the Purpose of Investigating All Appointments Under the Unemployment Compensation Commission, Special Committee to Investigate Appointments by the Unemployment Commission, Special Commission on the Unemployment Compensation Law, Joint Special Committee on the Study of Mutual Insurance Companies, Special Committee to Study Rationing and Allied Problems, Committee on Conservation, Special Commission Relative to Establishing a State Department of Commerce, Special Commission Relative to the Study of Shellfish and Clams, Legislative Committee on Metropolitan Affairs, Recess Committee on Highways, Special Commission to Study and Investigate Transportation in Southeastern Massachusetts, Commission on the Blue Cross, Special Commission on Non-Profit Hospital Service Corporations, Special Commission on Edible Shellfish and Shellfish Purification Plants, Special Committee on New York Market, Back Bay Yards Development Commission, Special Commission to Investigate Groundwater Supplies in Plymouth and Bristol Counties, Special Commission on Hunting and Fishing, Special Commission on the Operation and Structure of Junior Colleges in the Commonwealth, Special Commission on Slaughterhouse Facilities, and Governor's Council.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically. Researchers should note that there are no folders 54, 58, and 59.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	1	Hearing before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary on a petition relative to the removal of Arthur P. Stone	March 29-31, 1933
1	2-4	Hearings before the Joint Committee Established for the Purpose of Investigating All Appointments Under the	May 6, 1938

		Unemployment Compensation Commission (3 folders)	
1	5	Massachusetts Special Committee to Investigate Appointments by the Unemployment Compensation Commission	undated
1	6	Report of the Special Commission on the Unemployment Compensation Law	Feb. 28, 1939
1	7	Hearings before the Joint Special Committee on the Study of Mutual Insurance Companies	Jan. 20-May 8, 1940
2	21	Special Committee to Study Rationing and Allied Problems, Minutes	July-Nov. 1943
2	22	Hearing on the confirmation of the reappointment of Herman A. MacDonald before the Governor's Council,	Feb. 15, 1944
2	23	Massachusetts Committee on Conservation	1943-1945
2	24	Hearings before the Special Commission Relative to Establishing a State Department of Commerce	June 25, 1945
2	25	Hearing before the Special Commission Relative to the Study of Shellfish and Clams	Nov. 21, 1945
2	26	Committee on Departmental Rules and Regulations, Agendas and minutes	Aug.-Nov. 1945
2	27	Legislative Committee on Metropolitan Affairs on the hearing of H. 10 with reference to the Boston Elevated Railway Co.	Feb. 19, 1947
2	28	Report of the Examination of the Massachusetts Hospital Service, Inc.	Aug. 1947
2	29	Interim Report on the Recess Committee on Highways	Feb. 11, 1948
2	30	Hearing before the Metropolitan Affairs Committee on the extension of the rapid transit to Quincy and Braintree	March 4, 1948
2	31	Executive Meeting of the Special Commission to Study and Investigate Transportation in Southeastern Mass.	April 2, 1948

2	32	Hearing before the Special Commission to Investigate Transportation in Southeastern Mass.	April 6, 1948
2	33	Hearing before the Special Commission to Study and Investigate Transportation in Southeastern Mass.	April 8-9, 1948
2	34	Hearing before the Special Commission to Investigate and Study Transportation in Southeastern Mass.	April 14, 1948
2	35	Recess Commission on Blue Cross, Meetings and hearings	Sept. 24-Oct. 1, 1948
2	36	Preliminary Report of the Special Commission on Non-Profit Hospital Service Corporations	Dec. 1, 1948
2	37	Report of the Special Commission on Edible Shellfish and Shellfish Purification Plants	Dec. 1, 1948
2	38	Hearing before the Metropolitan Affairs Committee	March 2, 1949
2	39	Report of the Special Commission on Non-Profit Hospital Service Corporations	April 4, 1949
2	40	Hearing before the Governor's Council on proposed amendments to the Civil Service Rules	April 12, 1949
2	41	Hearing before the Governor's Council on proposed amendments to the Civil Service Rules	May 10, 1949
2	42	Hearings before the Division of Insurance	1949
2	43	Miscellaneous correspondence	1953-1959
2	44	Meeting on the Metropolitan Transit Authority before the Finance Committee of the Governor's Council, Minutes	Aug. 29, 1950
2	45	Hearing before the Pardon Committee of the Governor's Council on proposed rules for Framingham Reformatory for Women	Jan. 2, 1951
2	46	Hearing before the Finance Committee of the Governor's Council on proposed rules and regulations for state departments	Jan. 16, 1951

2	47	Special Committee on New York Market Report Hearing	Oct. 3, 1951
2	48	Meeting of the Governor's Council on the case of Nyman Kolodny: Minutes	March 5, 1953
2	49	Meeting of the Committee on Communism of the Governor's Council on the case of Helen Bryan, Minutes	Aug. 19, 1953
2	50	Minutes of meeting of the Finance Committee of the Governor's Council	Sept. 23, 1953
2	51	Hearing before the Back Bay Yards Development Commission	Nov. 4, 1954
3	52	Hearing before the Back Bay Yards Development Commission	Nov. 18, 1954
3	53	Southeastern Mass. Water District Commission/Special Commission to Investigate Groundwater Supplies in Plymouth and Bristol Counties	1954-1956
3	55	Hearing before the Special Commission on Hunting and Fishing	1955-1956
3	56	Special Commission on the Operation and Structure of Junior Colleges in the Commonwealth	1956-1957
3	57	Special Commission on Slaughterhouse Facilities	1956-1958
3	60	Hearing before the Waterways Committee of the Governor's Council on license no. 4226 to Jaynes Onset Bay Yacht Club, Inc.	Nov. 30, 1960
3	80	Special Commission to Investigate and Study Laws Relative to Non-Profit Hospital and Medical Service Corporations	1962-1963
3	81	Correspondence and meeting notices	1962-1963
3	82	Meeting minutes	1962-1963
3	83	Hearing on the petition of John P. O'Brien and Charles H. McGlue for a recount of ballots cast for Representative in the 9th Hampden District	Jan. 24, 1963

3	84	Special Committee on the Attleboro Fire: Transcripts and summaries of testimony of employees of the Thompson Chemical Co.	Jan. 12, 1964
3	85	Hearings before the Special Committee on the Thompson Chemical Co. Fire	June 1, 1964
3	86	Summary of testimony of the Thompson Chemical Co. fire	May 17, 1905
5	144	Hearing before the Special Joint Committee Appointed to Investigate the Failure of the MDC to Operate the Pumping Station and Sewerage Treatment Plant at Deer Island	Dec. 13, 1967
6	145	Hearings before the Special Committee on Deer Island Sewerage Treatment Plant	Feb. 23-April 4, 1968
6	146	Hearing before the Special Commission on Blackout, Power Rates, and Related Matters	Feb. 27, 1968
6	147	Hearing before the Special Commission on Power Failures, Power Rates, and Related Matters	Jan. 9- Jan. 30, 1969
6	148	Interim Report of the Special Commission on Drug Abuse Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (draft)	July 17, 1969
6	149	Hearing before the Special Commission on Drug Abuse	Oct. 23, 1969
6	150	Hearing before the Special Commission on Drug Abuse	Nov. 7, 1969
6	151	Fourth Interim Report of the Special Commission on Drug Abuse...	Aug. 23, 1971
7	190	Miscellaneous correspondence	1960-1973

Series II: Massachusetts World Fair Commission, 1939-1965

Scope and Content

This series includes materials from the World's Fair of 1940 and the World's Fair of 1965.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	8	Contracts, insurance, and installation permits	undated
1	9	Financial information	undated
1	10	Miscellaneous reports	undated
1	11-16	Correspondence (6 folders)	1939-1941
1	17	News releases about the fair	1940
1	18	Photographs	undated
1	19	Architectural plans	undated
1	20	Memorabilia	undated
4	94	Correspondence and minutes	1963-1965
4	95-97	Invoices (3 folders)	1962-1965

Series III: Special Commission on the Revision of the Constitution, 1962-1967

Scope and Content

This series includes reports, proposals, memoranda, meeting minutes, and correspondence.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically. Researchers should note that there is no folder 72.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
3	61	General information	1962
3	62	"Report of the Subcommittee on Scope and Priorities," by Alan J. Dimond	Dec. 4, 1962
3	63	"Term of Office of Governor," by Alan J. Dimond	Feb. 1, 1963
3	64	"Classification of Property for Taxation," by Alan J. Dimond	March 4, 1963
3	65	Governor's Council, Reuben Goodman, Esq.	March 18, 1963

3	66	Proposed outline for the Initial Report of the Special Commission on the Revision of the Constitution	March 5, 1963
3	67	Initial Report of the Special Commission on the Revision of the Constitution	March 27, 1963
3	68	Proposed amendments to the Amendment Procedure in the Constitution	1963?
3	69	Statement of former Governor Volpe on the Governor and Lieutenant Governor running as a team	March 25, 1964
3	70	Report of the Special Commission on the Revision of the Constitution	June, 1964
3	71	"Report on Current Proposals for Amendments to the Constitution," by Morris Goldings	undated
3	73	Suggestions for Constitutional Revision in Massachusetts	Jan. 1967
3	74	Final Report of the Special Commission on the Revision of the Constitution and Letter of Transmittal	March 27, 1967
3	75	Memoranda and meeting notices	undated
3	76-79	Correspondence (4 folders)	1962-1967

Series IV: Special Commission to Investigate the Fire at Sherry-Biltmore, Inc., 1963

Scope and Content

This series includes the final report, correspondence, and photographs.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
4	87	Report of the investigation	July, 1963
4	88-90	Correspondence, building permits, and inspection reports (3 folders)	undated

4	91-93	Photographs (3 folders)	undated
---	-------	-------------------------	---------

**Series V: Special Commission on Firearms, Paroles, and Related Matters,
1963-1966**

Scope and Content

This series includes meeting minutes, reports, information about hearings, and newspaper clippings.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
4	98	General information, meeting notices, and meeting minutes	1963-1965
4	99	"Massachusetts Department of Correction," by Commissioner George F. McGrath: Paper prepared for Governor's Conference on Youth	April 27-28, 1964
4	100	Second Report of the Special Commission on Firearms...	March 24, 1965
4	101	Report of the sub-committee of the New England and State Police Administrators' Conference on the sale, transportation, and use of firearms, by Lt. John F. Collins	1963-1964
4	102	Hearing before the Committee on Public Welfare on the Third Report of the Special Commission on Firearms...	Sept. 30, 1965
4	103	Hearing before the Joint Committee on Public Welfare on S. 1151	Oct. 8, 1965
4	104	Fourth Report of the Special Commission on Firearms...	May 31, 1966
4	105	Newspaper clippings	1963-1965
4	106	Hearing of the Illinois Commission on Conflict of	May 20, 1966

		Interest Laws	
--	--	---------------	--

Series VI: Special Commission on the County Cooperative Extension Program, 1965-1970

Scope and Content

This series includes memoranda, correspondence, reports, and statements.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
4	107-109	General information, meetings notices, and meeting minutes (3 folders)	1965-1970
4	110	Memoranda and correspondence	undated
4	111	"County Cooperative Extension Programs," by Donald P. Allan: Presentation to the Legislative Study Commission	undated
4	112	"Professional Status, Funding Arrangements and Program Determination of County Extension Services in Northeast States," compiled by A.A. Spielman, Director of Extension, University of Massachusetts	Feb. 1966
4	113	Board of Trustees, Bristol County Extension Services: Statement of Position	April 26, 1966
4	114	Statements and recommendations made to the commission	undated
4	115	Cooperative extension in Essex County, Essex Agricultural and Technical Institute, Hathorne, Mass.	undated
4	116	Report to the Legislative Study Commission on Worcester County Extension Service	undated
4	117	General information on county extension in Massachusetts	undated
4	118	Preliminary and draft reports	undated

4	119	Report of the Joint Special Commission on County Cooperative Extension Programs	Dec. 30, 1970
---	-----	---	---------------

Series VII: Special Commission on Mental Health, 1964-1967

Scope and Content

This series includes correspondence, memoranda, budget material, press releases, information about hearings, and reports.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
4	120	Correspondence	1964-1967
4	121	Memoranda and meeting notices	1962-Jan. 1964
4	122	Memoranda and meeting notices	Feb. 1964-1967
4	123	Budget material and invoices	1962-1964
4	124	Press releases	undated
4	125	Reports of the staff of the Special Commission on Mental Health	Jan. 27, 1965
4	126	Study of the Commitment and Hospitalization Laws	May 1, 1965
4	127	Hearing before the Special Commission on Mental Health	Oct. 28, 1965
4	128	Progress Report of the Staff Director of the Special Commission on Mental Health	1965-1966
4	129	Report of the Special Commission on Mental Health	1967
4	130	Miscellaneous material	undated
5	131	Hearing on the Bridgewater State Hospital film, vol. 1	Oct. 17, 1967
5	132	Hearing on the Bridgewater State Hospital film, vol. 2	Oct. 20, 26; Nov. 2, 1967

Series VIII: Special Joint Legislative Committee on Air Pollution, 1967-1970

Scope and Content

This series includes information about hearings, statements, and reports.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
5	133	General information	undated
5	134	Meeting notices	1967, 1970
5	135	Hearing before the Special Joint Legislative Committee on Air Pollution,	April 10, 1969
5	136	Mass. Department of Public Health - Hearing on the proposed ambient air quality standards	Nov. 25, 1969
5	137	Statement of the Mass. Petroleum Council before the Division of Environmental Health / Mass. Department of Public Health	undated
5	138	Metropolitan Boston Citizens' Coalition for Cleaner Air – Remarks by Chairman Paul P. Brontas	March 9, 1970
5	139	Fifty-eighth Interim Report of the Joint Special Committee on Air Pollution	1970
5	140	Mass. Department of Public Health – Hearing on proposed rules and regulations for air pollution	March 9, 1970
5	141	Statements and comments on proposed regulations	March 9, 1970
5	142	Massachusetts Department of Public Health - Hearing on proposed ambient air quality standards for the Southeastern Mass. Air Pollution Control District	March 18, 1970
5	143	List of 1970 air pollution bills	1970

Series IX: Special Commission on Belchertown State School and Monson State Hospital, 1970-1972

Scope and Content

This series includes correspondence, meeting minutes, press releases, a project proposal, testimonies, and reports.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
6	152	General information	undated
6	153	Correspondence	1970-1971
6	154	Memoranda and meeting notices	1970-1972
6	155	Minutes	1970-1971
6	156	Press releases	1970-1971
6	157	Modernization of the Present Job Classification System for the Department of Mental Health for Serving the Mentally Retarded in the State Schools and in the Community, Project proposal	undated
6	158	Massachusetts Association for Retarded Children, Testimony	March 10, 1971
6	159	Special Progress Report on Belchertown State School and Monson State Hospital During the Period of March 1970 – March 1971	1971
6	160	First Interim Report of the Special Commission on Belchertown State School...	Aug. 1971
6	161	Second Interim Report of the Special Commission on Belchertown State School...	Sept. 21, 1971
6	162	Report of the Special Commission on Belchertown State School...	Feb. 22, 1972
6	163-165	Background information on state hospitals (3 folders)	undated

Series X: Special Commission Established to Investigate and Study the Further Regulating of the Slaughtering and Processing of Certain Animals, 1970

Scope and Content

This series includes meeting minutes, correspondence, and a report.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
6	166	History and organization of the special commission	undated
6	167	Meeting notices and minutes	1970
6	168	Correspondence	1970
6	169	Report of the Special Commission...	March 10, 1970
6	170	Acts on slaughtering regulations	undated

Series XI: Special Joint Legislative Committee on State Land Planning Office and Land Bank, 1971-1976

Scope and Content

This series includes correspondence, a report, and other records.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
6	171	General information	undated
6	172	Correspondence	1971-1976
6	173	Land use and land planning	undated
6	174	The Status of Land Use Planning in Massachusetts, Abstract	Jan. 1972
6	175	Preliminary Report of the Special Joint Committee to Investigate the Feasibility of Creating a Land Planning Office and Land Bank	Jan. 1972

Series XII: Governor's Emergency Commission on Food, 1973-1974
Scope and Content

This series includes correspondence, memoranda, meeting minutes, budget information, legislative proposals, and reports.

Arrangement

Materials are arranged chronologically.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
7	176	General information	undated
7	177	Memoranda and meeting notices	1973-1974
7	178	Meeting minutes	1973-1974
7	179	Correspondence	1973-1974
7	180	Budget and contract information	undated
7	181	Legislative proposals	undated
7	182-187	Reports and related material from commission task forces (6 folders)	undated
7	187a	Conference on Long Range Agricultural Land Use Planning	Feb. 5, 1974
7	188	Ancillary information	undated
7	189	Final Report of the Governor's Commission on Food: In Search of Food Policy	June, 1974