

**Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**  
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**Mary Elizabeth McKenzie Henkel Collection**  
**Collection Number: 1750**

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:** Collection is open to all researchers.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE:** Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Processed by Buffy Knappenberger. Last updated January 2026.

**ACCESSION NUMBER(S):** 1988.008 THL; 2023.082 THL

**EXTENT:** .21 linear feet

**CREATOR:** Henkel, Mary Elizabeth (McKenzie) (1910-2001)

**DATE:** 1969-2000 (bulk 1996)

**EXISTENCE AND LOCATION OF COPIES:** Photographs from this collection are digitized and may be viewed online via the Past Perfect online database: <http://handley.pastperfectonline.com/>

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** The material in this collection consists of items related to Mary Elizabeth (McKenzie) Henkel, president and chairman of Henkel-Harris Co., a furniture manufacturing company. Items within the collection include newspaper articles, correspondence, and items related to the American Furniture Hall of Fame.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL:** Mary Elizabeth (McKenzie) Henkel was born on August 5, 1910 to William Meredith and Lille Maude McKenzie in Frederick County, VA. Mary McKenzie married Carroll H. Henkel. Carroll H. Henkel was born on August 23, 1910 in Opportunity, WA. He would attend school in Martinsburg, WV, and he would move to the Winchester area in 1933 for a job with Virginia Woolen Co. He was a veteran of World War II and would retire from service in 1961 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Following the war, he partnered with John Harris in June 1946 to form Henkel-Harris Co., a furniture making company. Mr. Harris would leave the company in 1956 to work as an interior designer in Washington D.C. Henkel-Harris Co. would go on to manufacture over 200 furniture designs and employ nearly 300 staff members. Carroll Henkel was the president of Henkel-Harris Co. and a member of the Winchester City Council. He died on January 16, 1969 in Winchester, VA.

Following her husband's death, Mary Henkel continued to lead and grow the business. Mary Henkel became the chairman of the board of Henkel-Harris Co. For her achievements, she was inducted into the American Furniture Hall of Fame in 1996. Mary Henkel died on November 17, 2001 in Winchester, VA. Both she and her husband are buried in Mount Hebron Cemetery.

**IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:** Gifts of Robert Snyder and Frances Bucher

**CONTAINER LIST:**

**BOX 1**

**Folder 1: Achievements – Supplement to *The Winchester Star***

“A Dream Come True.” *Achievements: A Supplement to The Winchester Star*, March 18, 1988.

**Folder 2: Advertisements and Articles**

2 advertisements for Stuckey Brothers Furniture. *The Charlotte Observer*, October 31, 1982 and Walter Learns. *The Washington Star*, February 22, 1981.

3 advertisements for Henkel-Harris Company/Patton’s Furniture Sales

Advertisement for Earley’s. November 1, 1982.

Advertisement for Henkel-Harris Furniture Store. *The Roanoke Times*, July 20, 1995.

Advertisement for Lawson’s.

Advertisement for Toms-Price Company. *Suburban Trib*, April 23, 1979.

Advertisement for Valley Furniture Shop. *New Jersey Monthly*, December 1983.

“AFHF Inducts Four.” *High Point Enterprise*, October 18, 1996.

Brown, Alice. “Widow’s Newmarket Chest Bears Reminders of Family’s Historic Past.” *The Statesville Record and Landmark*.

Byard, Wayde. “Henkel Joins Furniture Hall of Fame.” *Winchester Star*, October 26, 1996.

“Carroll H. Henkel Dies, Councilman, Businessman.” *Winchester Evening Star*, January 16, 1969.

Fortner, Curtis. “An Honor Well-Deserved: Mary Henkel Enters Hall of Fame on Special Night.” *Winchester Star*, October 29, 1996.

**Folder 3: Correspondence**

Letter from Plato S. Wilson, December 26, 1995.

Letter from Bob, November 17, 1996.

Card from Joan, November 19, 1996.

Letter from Roy Briggs, June 30, 1998.

Letter from Curtis, July 20, 2000.

Card from Rachel, no date.

#### **Folder 4: Letters of Congratulations on Hall of Fame Induction**

Letter from Jeff Young, October 21, 1996.

Card from Sarah and Jimmie Foscue, October 25, 1996.

Letter from Larry Ombs, October 29, 1996.

Letter from H. Russell Potts, Jr., October 30, 1996.

Letter from Janie Dickens-Bowman, October 30, 1996.

Letter from Bob Ferrell, October 31, 1996.

Letter from Robert C. Romagna, October 31, 1996.

Card from Dot and Jae Frye, November 1, 1996.

Card from B.N., November 4, 1996.

Letter from Stewart Bell, Jr., November 4, 1996.

Letter from Nancy High, November 13, 1996

Card from Frances Frye, no date.

Letter from Tom Baker, no date.

#### **Folder 5: Mary Henkel's Induction into Furniture Hall of Fame, 1996**

Invitation and directions for Hall of Fame Ceremony

Press release for inductees in Hall of Fame

Brochure for American Furniture Hall of Fame, 1998

Program for American Furniture Hall of Fame Banquet, October 16, 1997

Seating Arrangement for American Furniture Hall of Fame Banquet, October 17, 1996

Letter of support for Mary Henkel to be inducted into Hall of Fame, August 28, 1996

Nominee List for American Furniture Hall of Fame Banquet, 1996

Nomination Letter for Mary Henkel for Hall of Fame, September 4, 1996

Program for American Furniture Hall of Fame Banquet with guests' signatures throughout, October 17, 1996

Press release for Mary Henkel's induction into Hall of Fame, October 29, 1996

**Folder 6: Mary Henkel's Scrapbook Regarding Demolition of Conrad House**

**Folder 7: Plaque from YMCA Presented to Mary Henkel, 1987**

**Folder 8: Jaycees "Boss of the Year" Award, 1974**

**PHOTOGRAPHS (filed with collection)**

**Folder 9: Photographs**

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