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### 0627: Robert O. Ellis Papers, 1968-1977

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Marshall University

ROBERT O. ELLIS PAPERS, 1968-1977

Accession Number: 1996/03.627

Processed by: Amanda Shaver, Janine Pelfrey, and Alison Summer-Ramirez

Date Completed: May 7, 2019

Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library

Access and Use: For more information or to use any collection, contact:

Special Collections, Morrow Library  
Marshall University  
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(304) 696-2343  
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Corporate Name: N/A

Date: May 7, 2019

Extent: 3 cu. ft.

System of Arrangement: Materials have been divided into legal, political, and magic series.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Robert O. Ellis, Jr. was born in Huntington, West Virginia on September 1, 1920. He attended Marshall College in 1938, before going on to receive his B.S. in psychology in 1947 and his law degree in 1951, both from the University of Miami. He and his wife, Jeanne, married in

Huntington on May 28, 1948. Ellis served as the Mayor of Huntington from 1959-1960, and was elected Prosecuting Attorney from 1969-1973. His election in 1968 was controversial, and Ellis was declared the winner by only six votes after the case went before the West Virginia State Supreme Court. He was also an amateur magician, and was a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Order of Merlin. Ellis participated in charity events in and around Huntington, and for many years, he organized an annual Magicians Picnic at Camden Park, showcasing upcoming magicians and encouraging vendors to sell their magic tricks at the event. Ellis also created and built many magic tricks, illusions, and props. Robert Ellis died on October 2, 1984 at the age of 64.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

This collection contains materials from the 1960s through the 1980s, with the bulk of the collection from the 1970s. Little to no original order was known at the time of processing, so the collection was divided into legal, political, and magic categories. Items disposed of during processing included empty envelopes, blank memo sheets, newspaper advertisements with no relevance to magic or Ellis's professions, lists of names with no contextual information, and extra flyers for events. In the case of flyers, three (3) were kept in the file. Much of the correspondence contains carbon copies of Robert Ellis's replies, and these have been kept together. A significant amount of the political material focuses on Ellis's 1968 election to the position of Prosecuting Attorney, but information from other elections, including campaign materials, is also present. Legal cases handled by Mr. Ellis have been filed individually when possible. Ellis's correspondence concerning magic was extensive, and was separated into time periods or years. Of interesting note, the collection contains an unverified autograph from Judy Garland and an unverified note in pencil from Walt Disney.

Processors note: Folders designated by asterisks (\*) have restricted materials available upon request.

### I. **Series I: Political**

- a. Box A: Unknown Media Reels
- b. Box 1: Political

Folder 1: Cabell County Democrat Executive Committee, 1968

Folder 2: Cabell County Democrat Executive Committee Roster, 1970

Folder 3: Young Democrat Club of Cabell County

Folder 4: Democratic Campaign Flyers, Various Candidates

Folder 5: Democratic Fundraising

Folder 6: Cabell County Republican Executive Committee Rosters

Folder 7: Republican State Executive Committee of WV

Folder 8: WV Federation of Republican Women 1968 Program

Folder 9: Republican Campaign Flyers, Various Candidates

Folder 10: Campaign Ephemera, Various Candidates

Folder 11: Republican Executive Committee Lincoln Day Dinner, 1965, 1967

Folder 12: Cabell County Republican Executive Committee Correspondence

Folder 13: Cabell County Young Republicans

Folder 14: Republican National Committee

Folder 15: Newspaper and Magazine Articles, Various Subjects

Folder 16: Miscellaneous Political Correspondence

Folder 17: Campaign Advertisement Information

Folder 18: Cabell County "Kyle District" Precinct Descriptions

Folder 19: Cabell County Clerk Keith Arthur Correspondence

Folder 20: 1962 Election, Precinct Voting Locations, Cabell County

Folder 21: 1964 West Virginia Almanac, Government-Politics

Folder 22: 1964 Elections, Precinct Voting Locations, Cabell County

Folder 23: 1964 Election Certificate

Folder 24: 1964 Election Results

Folder 25: 1964 Campaign Advertising Contracts & Expenses \*

Folder 26: 1966 Primary Election Commissioner

Folder 27: 1968 Human Rights Ordinance Pros & Cons

Folder 28: 1968 Republican Correspondence

Folder 29: 1968 Campaign Speech

Folder 30: 1968 Election Certificate and Primary Nomination

Folder 31: 1968 Ellis Campaign Designs

Folder 32: 1968 Campaign Advertising Expenses \*

Folder 33: 1968 Election Campaign Memos

Folder 34: 1968 Election Campaign Correspondence

Folder 35: 1968 Election, Precinct Voting Locations Cabell County

Folder 36: 1968 Official Republican Ballot

Folder 37: 1968 Election Returns Ellis v. Chafin

Folder 38: "Ellis For Prosecuting Attorney" Campaign Ephemera

Folder 39: 1968 Election Controversy Newspaper Clippings

Folder 40: 1968 Election, WV Supreme Court of Appeals

Folder 41: 1968 Election Controversy, Miscellaneous Papers

Folder 42: Sheriff Campaign Flyers

Folder 43: Memos- Political

II. **Series II: Legal**

a. Box 2: Legal

Folder 1: Attorney Correspondence- To Ellis

Folder 2: Attorney Correspondence- From Ellis

Folder 3: Invoices, Books

Folder 4: Legal Supplements

Folder 5: The Michie Company, Law Publishers

Folder 6: Lawyers Co-operative Publishing

Folder 7: Miscellaneous Legal Publication Firms

Folder 8: Miscellaneous Legal Information and Copies

Folder 9: The Research Group

Folder 10: Madden vs. Klein

Folder 11: Harry F. Thompson Material

Folder 12: Dolan, John & Lillian\*

Folder 13: Hanson, Abshire et al vs. C&O Railway Co.

Folder 14: Brammer Court Case

Folder 15: Fairway Markets, Inc. of WV

Folder 16: B.C. McGinnis vs. John M. Haynes

Folder 17: Law Day 1977

Folder 18: Cabell County Bar Association

Folder 19: Cabell County Bar Association

Folder 20: Cabell County Legal Secretaries Association

Folder 21: Miscellaneous Legal Paperwork

Folder 22: Timesheets 1975

Folder 23: Timesheets 1976

Folder 24: Timesheets 1977

Folder 25: Timesheets 1981 and undated

Folder 26: Aetna, Banker's Life

Folder 27: Occidental Life\*

Folder 28: Pacific Mutual

Folder 29: Legal and Other Insurance

Folder 30: Property- 321 8<sup>th</sup> Street

Folder 31: Property- 1 Castle Hill

Folder 32: Property- 1108 Jefferson Ave

Folder 33: West End Rentals

Folder 34: Minard Hamlin

Folder 35: Miscellaneous Expenses, Invoices

Folder 36: Various Gas Receipts

Folder 37: Various Pamphlets, Booklets, Mailers, etc.

Folder 38: Memos-Rental

Folder 39: Memos- Legal

Folder 40: Memos- Miscellaneous/unknown

III.

**Series III: Magic**

a. Box 3: Magic

Folder 1: Correspondence to and From Ellis, 1971-1972

Folder 2: Correspondence to and From Ellis, 1973-1977

Folder 3: Correspondence to and from Ellis, 1978-1984

Folder 4: Correspondence to Ellis, Subject: Magic

Folder 5: Correspondence from Ellis, Subject: Previous work

Folder 6: Correspondence from Ellis, Subject: Non-Magic Requests

Folder 7: Correspondence from Ellis, Subject: Magic Requests

Folder 8: Correspondence from Ellis, Subject: Magic 1981-1982

Folder 9: Correspondence from Ellis, Subject: Magic 1978-1980

Folder 10: Correspondence from Ellis, Subject: Magic 1977

Folder 11: Correspondence from Ellis, Subject: Magic 1974

Folder 12: Correspondence from Ellis, Subject: Magic 1973

Folder 13: Correspondence from Ellis, Subject: Magic 1972

Folder 14: Various Magicians

Folder 15: Oskar the Clown

Folder 16: Doc Dougherty

Folder 17: Dr. Chang, Russ Glover

Folder 18: Michael Ammar

Folder 19: Magic Expenses, 1979

Folder 20: The Invisible Lodge, Constitution and by laws

Folder 21: Entertainment and Magic Advertisements, Acts, and Flyers

Folder 22: Magic- Legal Issues

Folder 23: Magic tricks: Ads, Descriptions, Instructions

Folder 24: International Brotherhood of Magicians

Folder 25: Newspaper clippings and Stories, Subject: Magic

Folder 26: Magicians Picnic 1977

Folder 27: Magic Fest, Columbus, OH 1972

Folder 28: Magic expenses 1973

Folder 29: Correspondence to and from Ellis, Subject: Magic 1971

Folder 30: Correspondence to Ellis, Subject: Magic 1970-1971

Folder 31: Correspondence from Ellis, Subject: Magic 1970-1972

Folder 32: Magicians Picnic Flyer 1969 or 1975

Folder 33: Magicians Picnic 1970

Folder 34: Magicians Picnic 1971



Folder 35: Magician Picnic 1972

Folder 36: Magicians Picnic 1976

Folder 37: Magicians Picnic 1981

Folder 38: Magicians Picnic 1981 Paid RSVP

Folder 39: Magicians Picnic 1981 Return to Sender

Folder 40: Magicians Picnic- Camden Park

Folder 41: Memos- Magic

Folder 42: Unverified Celebrity Autographs

Folder 43: Various Address Lists and Business Cards Unknown Affiliation

Folder 44: Various Photos, Subject: Magic