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ROBERT O. ELLIS PAPERS, 1968-1977

Accession Number: 1996/03.627
Processed by: Amanda Shaver, Janine Pelfrey, and Alison Summer-Ramirez
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Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library
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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 8th 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