

Magill, Orrin Rankin, Papers

Orrin Rankin Magill Papers

1945-1972



Title Statement

Magill, Orrin Rankin, PapersOrrin Rankin Magill Papers, 1945-1972 Ms.1975.010

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1975.010

Unit Date

1945-1972

Unit Date

1960-1972

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains the papers--including correspondence, memoranda, subject files, and printed materials--of Orrin Rankin Magill, graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute (class of 1913), VPI professor of philosophy and religion, and active participant in civic and political affairs of Blacksburg and Montgomery County, Virginia. Materials document Magill's community activities, particularly as a member of the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors and the New River Valley Planning Commission.

Creator

Magill, Orrin R. (Orrin Rankin), 1887-1976

Extent

2.5 Cubic Feet 5 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Orrin Rankin Magill Papers were donated to Special Collections in 1975.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Orrin Rankin Magill Papers commenced and was completed in June, 2012.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Orrin Rankin Magill Papers, Ms1975-010, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Orrin Rankin Magill, son of Robert N. and Ella F. Doty Magill, was born in Dayton, Tennessee on November 21, 1887. Magill later moved with his family to Alabama, and he graduated from Mississippi State University. While attending graduate school at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI) in 1911 and 1912, Magill served as secretary of the university's YMCA. Later, after obtaining a master's degree in education from Columbia University, Magill moved to China, where he served on the staff of the Chinese National YMCA. In September, 1915, he briefly returned to Southwest Virginia to marry Ellen Howe Bell (1893-1968), the daughter of Francis Bell. The Magills, who would eventually have six children, both worked in establishing a YMCA in Manchuria. Beginning around 1917, they lived for 25 years in Shanghai, where Magill served on the staff of the National Chinese YMCA and Ellen Magill worked as a teacher for the American Community Church and worked with refugees. The Magills lived in New York during World War II then returned to China for a few years. After retiring from the YMCA in 1950, Magill served for five years as public relations director of the International Missionary Council.

In 1955, the Magills moved to Blacksburg, Virginia, where Magill became active in civic, educational, and religious affairs. Magill served on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors from 1959 to 1971 and is generally credited with leading efforts in passing several ordinances to govern the orderly development of the county during its period of rapid growth in the 1960s. During these years, Magill also served in numerous other boards and commissions, some as a direct result of his position on the board of supervisors, while others were separate from his work there. Among the other bodies on which Magill served were the New River Valley Industrial Commission, Mountain Empire Board of Mental Health Clinic, Virginia Polytechnic Institute Centennial Planning Committee, Association of Virginia Counties, Showalter Memorial Hospital board of directors, New River Valley Airport Commission, and New River Valley Planning District Commission. (Ellen Magill also remained active in the community, working with the university's foreign students and serving on the board of directors of Showalter Memorial Hospital. In 1962, she was named Virginia's Mother of the Year.) Orrin Rankin Magill died on September 3, 1976, and was buried at New Dublin Presbyterian Church, Dublin, Virginia.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of Orrin Rankin Magill, a graduate student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1911-1912), long-time YMCA officer, and active local community leader in Blacksburg and Montgomery County, Virginia during the 1960s. The papers, containing correspondence, administrative documents, subject files, and printed materials, document Magill's many community activities, particularly his service on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors and the New River Valley Planning District Commission.

Separated Materials

The following item was removed from the collection and added to the Historical Map Collection:

Montgomery County, Virginia, showing Primary and Secondary Highways. Virginia Department of Highways, 1969. 19 x 24 in., Map-0548.

Keywords

Blacksburg (Va.)
Faculty and staff
Local/Regional History and Appalachian South
Montgomery County (Va.)
Students and alumni
University History
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three series:

Series I. Personal and Community Activities, 1945-1972. This series contains materials relating to the personal life of Orrin and Ellen Magill, as well as Orrin Magill's public activities apart from his official duties on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors and the New River Planning District Commission. Included is a folder of personal photographs, correspondence, notes, and newspaper clippings; as well as folders relating to Magill's service in other organizations. Also included is a file of materials relating to Virginia Tech, where Magill served on the Derring Retreat Planning Committee and the Virginia Tech Centennial Committee. A folder labeled "Community and Political Activity" contains materials relating to Magill's political campaigns as well as notes, speeches, correspondence, and certificates relating to his other public activities. Among these are a few items relating to the Blacksburg Area Committee for Public Schools, formed in 1959 to address Virginia's public school desegregation controversy.

Series II. Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, 1958-1972. The files in this series relate largely to issues confronting Montgomery County during Magill's service on the board of supervisors. Many of these issues relate to rapid growth in the county during the 1960s and Magill's advocacy for various ordinances to govern that growth. Broad topics include public health concerns, commercial and residential development, public services, planning and zoning, schools, taxes, and transportation. The files include such materials as correspondence, reports, notes, and printed materials. The series also includes materials relating to the board's routine administrative maintenance as well as county governance, including budgets. The series also includes files devoted to other bodies on which Magill had a seat due to his position on the board of supervisors. These include the New River Valley Airport Commission and the New River Valley Industrial Commission.

Series III. New River Valley Planning District Commission, 1968-1972. This series largely consists of subject files maintained by Magill during his service on the New River Valley Planning District Commission. Included are files on health, housing, land use, law enforcement, and water/sewer services, represented in correspondence, reports, notes, and printed materials. The series also contains administrative files relating to the commission's work, as well as meeting minutes and financial records.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I. Personal and Community Activities

Unit Date 1945-1972

Personal Papers

Unit Date 1962-1970, n.d.

box-folder 1 (box)
Container 1 (folder)

Community and Personal Activity

Unit Date 1945-1971, n.d.
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 2 (folder)

Council on Alcoholism, Delinquency, Crime and Poverty

Unit Date 1966-1971, n.d.
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 3 (folder)

Mountain Empire Mental Hygiene Service

Unit Date 1962-1968
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 4 (folder)

Showalter Memorial Hospital

Unit Date 1967-1970, n.d.
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 5 (folder)

Virginia Tech

Unit Date 1958-1971, n.d.
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 6 (folder)

Series II. Montgomery County Board of Supervisors

Unit Date 1958-1972

Administrative File

Unit Date 1960-1971, n.d.
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 7 (folder)

Air Pollution

Unit Date 1964-1965, n.d.
box-folder 1 (box)
Container 8 (folder)
Physical Characteristics [2 folders]

Annexation

Unit Date 1964-1970, n.d.
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 1 (folder)

Budgets

Unit Date 1961-1972
box-folder 2 (box)
Container 2-3 (folder)

Census

Unit Date 1960-1971

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Civil Defense

Unit Date 1961-1963, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Community Action Program

Unit Date 1965-1968, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Courthouse

Unit Date 1962-1971, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Dogs

Unit Date 1962-1971, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Electrical and Plumbing Ordinances

Unit Date 1970-1971, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Financial Statements

Unit Date 1965-1971

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Fire Departments

Unit Date 1962-1971, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Health Department

Unit Date 1963-1965, n.d.

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Insurance

Unit Date 1965-1971

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

League of Virginia Counties

Unit Date 1961-1965, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Library

Unit Date 1962-1971, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Magisterial Districts

Unit Date 1965-1971, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Miscellaneous Local Issues

Unit Date 1960-1971, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

New River Valley Airport Commission

Unit Date 1960-1965, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

New River Valley Industrial Commission

Unit Date 1962-1971, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Planning Commission

Unit Date 1961-1971, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Public Service Authority

Unit Date 1969, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Real Estate Tax Appraisal

Unit Date 1960-1972, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Roads and Bridges

Unit Date 1961-1971, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Roanoke River Watershed Project

Unit Date 1959-1971, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Sales Tax

Unit Date 1966, n.d.

box-folder 3 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Schools

Unit Date 1959-1971, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Physical Characteristics [2 folders]

Subdivision Ordinances

Unit Date 1961-1971, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Trailer Ordinance

Unit Date 1962-1969, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Virginia Association of Counties

Unit Date 1966-1971, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Welfare

Unit Date 1961-1971

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Zoning Ordinances

Unit Date 1958-1971, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Series III. New River Valley Planning District Commission

Unit Date 1968-1972

Administrative File

Unit Date 1968-1971, n.d.

box-folder 4 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Physical Characteristics [2 folders]

Health Planning Advisory Council

Unit Date 1969-1970, n .d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Housing Committee

Unit Date 1971, n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Land Use Plan

Unit Date n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Law Enforcement Plan

Unit Date 1970-1971, n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Water/Sewer Services

Unit Date 1969-1971, n.d.

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Financial Records

Unit Date 1970-1972

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Minutes

Unit Date 1969-1971

box-folder 5 (box)

Container 7-8 (folder)