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UNIVERSITY

Walter P. Reuther Library

Guide to the Sonny Eliot Papers UP002542

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on February 25, 2020.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Title:	Sonny Eliot Papers
ID:	UP002542
Date [inclusive]:	1939-2012
Date [bulk]:	1955-1980
Physical Description:	11.25 Linear Feet (10 SB, 1 OS, 1 MB)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	<p>Sonny Eliot, husband of Annette Gaertner, was a beloved weathercaster in Metro Detroit from the late 1940s to 2010. Eliot worked for Channel 4 (then WWJ-TV), Channel 2, Channel 50, and WWJ AM radio. Eliot also wrote children's books and he hosted a slew of game shows, in addition to hosting "At the Zoo" for the Detroit Zoo for 17 years. During his career, Sonny Eliot was inducted into both the Michigan Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame. Moreover, Eliot was the master of ceremonies for the Thanksgiving Day Parade for numerous years. Prior to his career in weathercasting and media, Sonny Eliot (born Marvin Schlossberg) was a B-24 pilot in World War II. During a mission in Germany, Schlossberg was bombed down and held as a POW at Stalagluft I, a prison camp near Barth, for 18 months.</p>

Citation Style

"Sonny Eliot Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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History

Sonny Eliot, husband of Annette Gaertner, was a beloved weathercaster in Metro Detroit from the late 1940s to 2010. Eliot worked for Channel 4 (then WWJ-TV), Channel 2, Channel 50, and WWJ AM radio. Eliot also wrote children's books and he hosted a slew of game shows, in addition to hosting "At the Zoo" for the Detroit Zoo for 17 years. During his career, Sonny Eliot was inducted into both the Michigan Broadcasters Hall of Fame and the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame. Moreover, Eliot was the master of ceremonies for the Thanksgiving Day Parade for numerous years.

Prior to his career in weathercasting and media, Sonny Eliot (born Marvin Schlossberg) was a B-24 pilot in World War II. During a mission in Germany, Schlossberg was bombed down and held as a POW at Stalagluft I, a prison camp near Barth, for 18 months.

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Scope and Content

This collection holds correspondence, newspaper clippings, and website print outs about his time as a prisoner of war. Notably, this collection also contains a digital copy of the journal he kept during his imprisonment at Stalagluft I. Largely, this collection includes scripts, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs created and taken throughout his long career.

Series Description: Series 1: Scripts, circa 1954-2007; Series 2: Correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photographs, 1939-2010; Series 3: Audiovisual materials, 1944-2007

Important Subjects: Detroit (Mich.) Detroit news Detroit Zoo Prisoners of war Weather forecasting World War, 1939-1945 WWJ-TV (Television station : Detroit, Mich.)

Important Names: Eliot, Annette, 1916-2014 Eliot, Sonny, 1920-2012 J.L. Hudson's Thanksgiving Day Parade

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Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is arranged into three series- Series 1 (Boxes 1-4), Series 2 (Boxes 4-11), and Series 3 (Box 12). Folders in each series are simply listed by their location within each box. They are not arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout several boxes within each series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

Acquisition

This collection was donated by Sara Pendleton and Robert Weitz in 2014.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Meghan McGowan on June 15, 2015.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials."

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Related Materials

Related Material

Harry W. Flannery Papers, Everett R. Phelps Papers, Tony Spina Collection, Toni Swanger Papers, WDIV Transcripts

Transfers

Box 12 including negatives and slides, three DVDs, five vinyl records, 1 VHS, and 5 CDs of photographs, including Eliot's journal while a prisoner of war, were transferred to the Reuther's audiovisual department.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Detroit news
- Weather forecasting
- World War, 1939-1945
- WWJ-TV (Television station : Detroit, Mich.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1961-1963	Box 1	folder 1
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1964-1966	Box 1	folder 2
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1967	Box 1	folder 3
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1968-1969	Box 1	folder 4
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1970	Box 1	folder 5
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1971	Box 1	folder 6
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1972	Box 1	folder 7
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1973	Box 1	folder 8
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1974	Box 1	folder 9
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1975	Box 1	folder 10
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1976	Box 1	folder 11
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1977	Box 1	folder 12
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1977-1979	Box 1	folder 13
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1978	Box 1	folder 14
Thanksgiving Day Parade Notes, 1979	Box 1	folder 15

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Publishing contract for Eliot's Ark, 1972	Box 1	folder 16
Eliot's Ark, stories, undated	Box 1	folder 17
Eliot's Ark, stories, undated	Box 1	folder 18
Eliot's Ark, stories, undated	Box 1	folder 19
Eliot's Ark, stories and illustrations, undated	Box 1	folder 20
Eliot's Ark, a proposal for cable television series, undated	Box 1	folder 21
Broadcast notes, jokes and sets, undated	Box 1	folder 22
Broadcast notes, jokes and sets, undated	Box 1	folder 23
Broadcast notes, jokes and sets, undated	Box 1	folder 24
Broadcast notes, jokes and sets, undated	Box 1	folder 25
Broadcast notes, jokes and sets, undated	Box 1	folder 26
Essays and scripts, 1965	Box 2	folder 1
Ask Sonny, undated	Box 2	folder 2
Ask Sonny, undated	Box 2	folder 3
Ask Sonny, undated	Box 2	folder 4
Zoo School and WWJ Zoo Report scripts, undated	Box 2	folder 5
Recipes, undated	Box 2	folder 6
Roasts, undated	Box 2	folder 7
Roasts, undated	Box 2	folder 8
WWJ-TV notes, 1962-1979	Box 2	folder 9
WWJ-TV scripts, circa 1956-1963	Box 2	folder 10
WWJ-TV news releases, 1963-1975	Box 2	folder 11
WWJ-TV scripts, undated	Box 2	folder 12
WWJ-TV scripts, undated	Box 2	folder 13
WWJ-TV scripts, undated	Box 2	folder 14
WWJ-TV scripts, undated	Box 2	folder 15
WWJ-TV scripts, undated	Box 2	folder 16
WWJ-TV scripts, undated	Box 2	folder 17
WWJ-TV scripts, 1953	Box 2	folder 18
WWJ-TV scripts, 1973-1977	Box 2	folder 19
WWJ-TV scripts, 1973-1977	Box 3	folder 1
WWJ-TV scripts, 1973-1977	Box 3	folder 2

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Scripts, 1954-1987	Box 3	folder 3
Scripts, 1976-1987	Box 3	folder 4
Scripts and notes, undated	Box 3	folder 5
Scripts, undated	Box 3	folder 6
Scripts, undated	Box 3	folder 7
Scripts, undated	Box 3	folder 8
Scripts, undated	Box 3	folder 9
Scripts, undated	Box 3	folder 10
Scripts, undated	Box 3	folder 11
Unused scripts, circa 1954-1958	Box 3	folder 12
Sonny's Similes by Sonny Eliot, undated	Box 3	folder 13
WWJ's Zoo Report, 1989	Box 3	folder 14
Eliot's Almanac, undated	Box 3	folder 15
Stargazing with Sonny, undated	Box 3	folder 16
At the Zoo, 1973	Box 3	folder 17
Michigan Winter and Woe is Me, undated	Box 3	folder 18
Scripts for hockey and some commercials, undated	Box 3	folder 19
Speeches, undated	Box 3	folder 20
De Bones of Mr. Tambo, undated	Box 3	folder 21
At the Fair scripts, undated, 1961-1964	Box 3	folder 22
Sonny Sez! story originals, undated	Box 4	folder 1
Sonny Sez! story originals, undated	Box 4	folder 2
Sonny Sez! story originals, undated	Box 4	folder 3
Sonny Sez! Publisher's press, 2007	Box 4	folder 4
Program schedules, circa 1975	Box 4	folder 5
Eliot Whiting Productions, 1989-1992	Box 4	folder 6
Retirement newsletters, 1992-2002	Box 4	folder 7
Comedy newsletters, 1959-1966	Box 4	folder 8
Comedy newsletters, 1975-1982	Box 4	folder 9
Contemporary Comedy, 1980-1998	Box 4	folder 10
The Weenie, undated	Box 4	folder 11
Traffic Study Association of Detroit Bulletin, 1960	Box 4	folder 12

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Pilot Log Books, 1970-1975	Box 4	folder 13
Tornado Central USA, 1972	Box 4	folder 14
Ordination Papers, 1970	Box 4	folder 15
Entry for the National Safety Council Public Services Awards for Distinguished Service to Safety, 1964	Box 4	folder 16
Biographical information, undated	Box 4	folder 17
Biographical information, 1962-2002	Box 4	folder 18
Detroit Zoo publications, undated	Box 4	folder 19
Weather newsletters, 1950-1970	Box 4	folder 20
JoJo Shutty MacGregor, photocopies of newspaper clippings, 2007	Box 4	folder 21
Sonny Eliot: An International Salute, event cards, 2003	Box 4	folder 22
Public Relations Director, 1972	Box 4	folder 23
Public Relations Society of America, 1975	Box 4	folder 24
Just for Fun by Berl Falbaum, undated	Box 4	folder 25
Crafty Cats and Cranky Crocodiles by Sonny Eliot, 1993	Box 4	folder 26
Promotion stunts and programming ideas, Show Biz Comedy, undated	Box 4	folder 27
Detroit News, meeting materials, 1984-1985	Box 4	folder 28
A Sad But True Story by Roger Wilco, comic about Stalag Luft, undated	Box 5	folder 1
Interview about experiences in World War II, undated	Box 5	folder 2
Sonny's War by Jack Lessenberry, 1998	Box 5	folder 3
Clouds of War by Jack Lessenberry, 2005	Box 5	folder 4
Stalag Luft 1, website about prisoners of war, 2005	Box 5	folder 5
Prisoner of war and related correspondence 1944-1945	Box 5	folder 6
American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, 1949-1959	Box 5	folder 7
American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, 1961-1974	Box 5	folder 8
Celebrity scrapbook, undated	Box 5	folder 9
Celebrity scrapbook, undated	Box 5	folder 10
Celebrity scrapbook, undated	Box 5	folder 11
Celebrity scrapbook, undated	Box 5	folder 12
Celebrity scrapbook, undated	Box 5	folder 13
Celebrity scrapbook, undated	Box 5	folder 14

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Celebrity scrapbook, undated	Box 5	folder 15
Celebrity scrapbook, undated	Box 5	folder 16
Notes, undated	Box 6	folder 1
Correspondence, 1968-2010	Box 6	folder 2
Essays, 1963-1989	Box 6	folder 3
Event flyers and news releases, 1965-1996	Box 6	folder 4
Awards and certificates, 1988-2002	Box 6	folder 5
Funeral information, 2012	Box 6	folder 6
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, event flyers and photographs, 1958-1962	Box 6	folder 7
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, photographs, and news releases, 1952-1967	Box 6	folder 8
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, event flyers, and certificates, 1965-1976	Box 6	folder 9
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, photographs, and news releases, 1965-1967	Box 6	folder 10
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, photographs, and event flyers, 1967-1969	Box 7	folder 1
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, 1969-1971	Box 7	folder 2
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, event flyers, and photographs, 1970-1972	Box 7	folder 3
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings and photographs, 1971-1973	Box 7	folder 4
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings and photographs, 1971-1982	Box 7	folder 5
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, 1976-1979	Box 7	folder 6
Sonny Eliot in Lafayette Apartments, photographs, 1959	Box 8	folder 1
City of Detroit awards, 1974-2008	Box 8	folder 2
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, 1978-1980	Box 8	folder 3
Scrapbook of newspaper clippings, 1980-1982	Box 8	folder 4
Scrapbook of photographs, undated	Box 8	folder 5
Newspaper clippings and magazines, 1959-2007	Box 9	folder 1
Newspaper clippings and articles by Eliot, 1967-1972	Box 9	folder 2
Photocopies of articles about Eliot, 1986-2006	Box 9	folder 3
Newspaper and magazine clippings featuring Sonny Eliot, 1953-2005	Box 9	folder 4
Feature Gallery from Detroit Tigers Yearbook, 1986	Box 9	folder 5

Central High School yearbook, 1939	Box 9	folder 6
Echoes of Detroit by Irwin Cohen, 2003	Box 9	folder 7
The Anchor, Leo, and Friends by Berl Falbaum, 1978	Box 9	folder 8
Detroit's Sports Broadcasters on the Air, 2003	Box 9	folder 9
Aviation Weather, 1975	Box 9	folder 10
Adcrafter Roster Issue, 1977	Box 9	folder 11
Dennis Morse, family photograph, 2009	Box 9	folder 12
Sonny Eliot with ape make up, 1970	Box 9	folder 13
Cut outs for masks, undated	Box 9	folder 14
Figure skaters, photographs, undated	Box 9	folder 15
Sonny Eliot doing the weather, photographs, undated	Box 9	folder 16
Sonny Eliot with monkeys, photographs, undated	Box 9	folder 17
Military photographs, undated	Box 9	folder 18
Annette Eliot and family photographs, undated	Box 9	folder 19
Sonny Eliot: An International Salute, photographs, 2003	Box 9	folder 20
Headshots and professional photographs, undated	Box 9	folder 21
Photographs, undated	Box 9	folder 22
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Scrapbook, photographs, undated	Box 10	folder 1
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Photographs, undated	Box 10	folder 5
Photographs, undated	Box 10	folder 6
Photographs, undated	Box 10	folder 7
Photographs, undated	Box 10	folder 8
Photographs, undated	Box 10	folder 9
Photographs, undated	Box 10	folder 10
Photographs, undated	Box 10	folder 11
Photographs, undated	Box 10	folder 12
4 portraits of Sonny Eliot		

	Box 11	folder unfolded
Negatives and slides, undated	Box 12	Folder 1
3 DVDs of Eliot's work, 1 VHS, 5 CDs of photographs, including Eliot's journal while a prisoner of war, 1944-2007 [see Digital Repository]	Box 12	folder 2
5 vinyl records of Eliot's work, 1954-1959	Box 12	folder 3
A Wartime Log: A remembrance from home through the American YMCA (Photographs of scrapbook), circa 1944, UP002542_CD01-04_TIFFs	Box Digital Repository	Item 1
Scrapbook belonging to M.E. Schlossberg at Stalag Luft 1 (photographed), 1944, UP002542_CD01-04_TIFFs	Box Digital Repository	Item 2-4

Scope and Contents

Sonny's scrapbook while he was a Prisoner of War in Germany

Vendo Company video ad for Coca Cola machines, circa 1950s, UP002542_CD05	Box Digital Repository	Item 5
70's Groovin in Detroit, circa 1979, UP002542_CD06	Box Digital Repository	Item 6

Scope and Contents

70s Groovin in Detroit was an hour long special on NBC reflecting back on important people and moments in Southeast Michigan during the 1970s.

Video interview with Sonny Eliot, UP002542_CD07	Box Digital Repository	Item 7
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Scope and Contents

Biographic information

Recognition letters, awards, certificates (photographed), UP002542_CD08	Box Digital Repository	Item 8
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