

ARCH N. BOBBITT PAPERS, 1923-1972

Collection #

M 512

F 638

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes

COLLECTION DATES: 1923-1972

PROVENANCE: Lester A. Bingham, Charlestown, WV, 11 August 1983, June 1984

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to publish or reproduce material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 83.0808, 84.0619

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Arch Newton Bobbitt (1895-1978) was born in Eckerty, Crawford County, Indiana, the son of Irvin and Ida Mae (Newton) Bobbitt. He graduated from Birdseye High School and Central Normal College, and taught school for four

years. Nominated for county clerk in 1918, he resigned to join the Navy, and saw service on USS El Oriente.

Bobbitt was Crawford County auditor from 1921 to 1925, and state gasoline tax collector from 1929. In the latter position he uncovered a system of gasoline bootlegging, and saved the state considerable revenue. He served one term as state auditor (1929-1931).

In 1921 Bobbitt married Frances Bringle Adams. In 1927 he earned an LL. B. degree from Benjamin Harrison Law School. He practiced law from 1930 to 1941 in the firm of Hoffman, Bobbitt and Pike.

Bobbitt became Republican state chairman in 1937. Chairman of the Indiana delegation at the national convention in 1940, he managed Wendell Willkie's presidential campaign in Indiana. Voted out of his party position in 1941, he was city attorney for the city of Indianapolis in 1943-1944, and corporation counsel for the city from 1944 to 1948. During these same years (1942-1951) he was senior partner in the firm of Bobbitt, Martz and Beattey.

From 1951 to 1963 Bobbitt was a member of the Indiana Supreme Court, serving part of the time as Chief Justice. After being defeated for reelection by Walter Myers, Jr., in 1962, he was a partner in the firm of Ruckelshaus and Bobbitt. Bobbitt was a member of several professional and fraternal organizations and of the Meridian Street Methodist Church.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling three manuscript boxes, contains correspondence, speeches and other papers, and clippings, from the years 1923-1972. It is arranged by category, and chronologically within category.

In Box 1, Folders 1-6 contain some of Bobbitt's correspondence, 1923-1952. In Folders 7-10 are papers from three conferences in which he was involved, and in Folders 11-12 papers concerning the courts in the 1950s and 1960s. Folders 13-23 contain the texts of speeches by Bobbitt from 1929 to 1958.

In Box 2, Folders 1-8 contain speeches by Bobbitt from 1959 to 1964, and Folders 9-11 speeches by others from the same period. In Folders 12-15 and 21-23 are papers relating to Bobboitt's political activities, especially the 1940 presidential campaign and his unsuccessful campaign for reelection in 1962. Folders 16-17 contain items about the War and Community Fund campaign of 1944-1945, and Folder 18 contains petitions about real estate development in Speedway in 1948.

Box 3 contains some later political material, e.g. the Republican state platform for 1964. In Folders 7-14 are clippings; these show an especial interest in Wendell Willkie and John F. Kennedy, and a preference for columns by conservative pundit Ralph de Toledano.

The collection concludes with a scrapbook of Bobbitt's unsuccessful campaign for reelection to the Supreme Court in 1962 (F 638), and ten photographs and one negative (stored in Visual Collections), all but two being 1958 portraits of Bobbitt and the remaining two being of the dedication of a World War I memorial in Llano Grande, Texas.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

Box 1: Correspondence; speeches 1929-1958

Folder

1 Correspondence-- 1923, 1925

2 Correspondence -- 1926

3 Correspondence -- 1927-1928

- 4 Correspondence -- 1929-1936
- 5 Correspondence -- 1940-1952
- 6 Stationery
- 7 Conference of Chief Justices, 1955
- 8 Debate on Bricker Amendment, 1956 (A. N. Bobbitt, moderator)
- 9 Moot Court competition, 1962
- 10 Programs, 1960s
- 11 Court matters, 1950s
- 12 Court matters, 1960s
- 13 Speech-- Lincoln Day 1929
- 14 Speech -- campaign for state auditor, ca 1930
- 15 Statements as state Republican chairman 1939
- 16 Speech-- Hammond 1-1-1952
- 17 Speech -- on George Washington 1-29-1952
- 18 Speech -- admission to bar 1953, 1955, 1958
- 19 Speech -- WFBM-TV 1-29-1954
- 20 Speech -- Lincoln Day 2-16-1956
- 21 Speech -- 1956
- 22 Speech -- Commencement, Butler University 1957
- 23 Speech -- 1957-1958

**Box 2: Speeches 1959-1964; papers
Folder**

- 1 Speech-- Crawford County Courthouse 10-31-1959
- 2 Speech -- "Looking at errors" 8-25-1960
- 3 Speech -- Memorial to Mexican Border veterans, 1961-1962
- 4 Speech -- Mount Vernon 11-27-1961
- 5 Speech -- American Legion Post 4-17-1962
- 6 Speech -- 1962
- 7 Speech -- "Politics and the Courts" 2-28-1963

- 8 Speech -- 1964, n.d.
- 9 Speeches by others-- 1944-1951
- 10 Speeches by others -- 1952-1954
- 11 Speeches by others -- 1962, n.d.
- 12 Trends in Indiana 1932-1940 I
- 13 Trends in Indiana 1932-1940 II
- 14 Trends in Indiana 1932-1940 III
- 15 Republican convention 1940--petitions against Willkie
- 16 War and Community Fund 1944-1945 I
- 17 War and Community Fund 1944-1945 II
- 18 Petitions-- Speedway, Ind. 1948
- 19 Crime reports 1962
- 20 Re: income tax
- 21 Indiana general election results 1962
- 22 Re: Senator Capehart 1962
- 23 1962 campaign

**Box 3: Papers; clippings
Folder**

- 1 Americans for Democratic Action 1964
- 2 Republican state platform 1966
- 3 Political and legal
- 4 Re: John Marshall
- 5 Quotations 1933, 1959-1964
- 6 Miscellaneous
- 7 Clippings-- Wendell Willkie
- 8 Clippings -- Wendell Willkie
- 9 Clippings -- court related
- 10 Clippings -- Pres. Kennedy
- 11 Clippings -- political 1950s

12 Clippings -- political 1960s

13 Clippings -- 1966-1972

14 Clippings - n.d.

19 (VC) Photographs and negative

20 (F 638) Scrapbook 1962 campaign

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Bobbitt, Arch N., 1895-1978

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Bobbitt, Arch N., 1895-1978--Photographs

Willkie, Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis), 1892-1944

Toledano, Ralph de, 1916-

Capehart, Homer E. (Homer Earl), 1897-1979

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963

Marshall, John, 1755-1835--Biography

Indiana. Supreme Court

Americans for Democratic Action

Republican Party (Ind.)

Indianapolis United War and Community Fund

Courts--Indiana--Officials and employees

Judges--Indiana

Judges--Indiana--Election

Presidents--United States--Election--1940

Political parties--Indiana--Platforms

Elections--United States

Elections--Indiana

Real estate development--Indiana--Speedway

Charities--Indiana--Indianapolis

World War, 1939-1945--Civilian relief--Indiana--Indianapolis

Crime--Indiana

Income tax--law and legislation--United States

Speeches, addresses, etc.

Indiana--Politics and government

Indianapolis (Ind.)--Politics and government

Speedway (Ind.)

END