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# 0212: Parsons-Ensign Family Papers, 1899-1988

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FINDING AID  
FOR THE  
PARSONS-ENSIGN FAMILY PAPERS, 1899-1988

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1978/01.212A

Special Collections Department  
James E. Morrow Library  
Marshall University  
Huntington, West Virginia  
2011

James E. Morrow Libraries  
Marshall University

PARSONS-ENSIGN FAMILY PAPERS,  
1899-1988

Accession Number: 1978/01.212A

Processed by: Brandon Vanness and Linda Rich

Date Completed: May 2011

Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library

Corporate Name: N/A

Date: 1934 – 1988, bulk of content: 1970-1988

Extent: 4 linear feet (6 cubic feet)

System of Arrangement: There are two series to this collection; Personal Papers and Greeting Cards. The majority of the arrangement was imposed by the processors. The original order is the Parsons-Ensign General folder, 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and Thank You cards folders, and 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary folder.

Restriction on Access: One folder is restricted titled “Medical Information.”

Related Material: ENSIGN FAMILY PAPERS: ACCESSION 1997/01.0655 Dates: 1854-1945.

Collection Type/Materials and size: Papers, 1.5 linear ft.

Method of Acquisition and date: Gift of Larry Hite, 1997.

Description: Huntington, W. Va. family originally from Litchfield Co., Conn., settling in Huntington at its inception. Ely Ensign established the railcar manufacturing company that became American Car and Foundry in 1899. The papers consist primarily of letters from Ely Ensign to his wife Mary Walton Ensign during her trips to Conn. with her children. Includes correspondence from Ensign, Prentice, and Walton families in Conn. as well as school papers belonging to Ensign’s daughter May and letters of condolence upon her death at age 15, in 1889.

Abstract: Huntington, West Virginia family. Papers include items relating to Mrs. Bromley's music career, the Huntington Symphony Orchestra, early childhood mementoes, as well as minutes of the Huntington, West Virginia, First Congregational Church Missionary Society, 1905-1916. A later addition includes the personal papers of Janet Parsons Ensign (Mrs. Darwin A.).

### SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

Mrs. Janet Parsons Ensign was the granddaughter of Warren J. Parsons and daughter of Dr. John Weeks Parsons. Warren Parsons was the brother of Captain H. Chester Parsons who had a professional relationship with Collis P. Huntington. Dr. John Parsons established the first orthodontic practice in West Virginia.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Darwin Ensign, Mrs. Ensign's husband, was the descendant of the founders of the Ensign Manufacturing Company. Mrs. Janet Ensign and Dr. Darwin Ensign married in 1922.

This collection is divided into two series. Series I is Mrs. Ensign's personal and family information, while Series II is greeting cards. The Parsons-Ensign General folder contains genealogical information for the family.

The majority of this collection was arranged as the processors saw appropriate; however, there are a few original order folders. These include the Parsons-Ensign General folder, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Thank You Cards folders, and the 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary folder. The processors arranged the collection alphabetically and chronologically where appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Cabell-Wayne Historical Society, *National Register of Historical Place – Nomination Form*, July 1980, <http://www.wvculture.org/shpo/nr/pdf/cabell/80004016.pdf> (accessed March 27, 2011).

## FOLDER LIST

Series I	Personal Papers		
	Box 1	Folder 1	Address Lists
		Folder 2	50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and Thank You Cards (1/3)
		Folder 3	50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and Thank You Cards (2/3)
		Folder 4	50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and Thank You Cards (3/3)
		Folder 5	58 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
		Folder 6	Assorted Bills
		Folder 7	Philanthropic/Charitable Contributions
		Folder 8	First Congregational Church
		Folder 9	Greenbrier Rodeo
		Folder 10	Invitations, 1950s
		Folder 11	Invitations, 1960s
		Folder 12	Invitations, 1970s
		Folder 13	Invitations, 1980s
		Folder 14	Invitations, undated
		Folder 15	Letters, 1930s
		Folder 16	Letters, 1940s
		Folder 17	Letters, 1950s
		Folder 18	Letters, 1960s
		Folder 19	Letters, 1970s
		Folder 20	1979 Get Well Cards
	Box 2	Folder 21	Letters, 1980s
		Folder 22	Letters, undated
		Folder 23	Misc. Items
		Folder 24	Newspaper Clippings, undated
		Folder 25	Parsons Ensign General

Folder 26	Personal Memos
Folder 27	Photographs, 1970? To 1988?
Folder 28	Stationary for Darwin and Janet Ensign
Folder 29	Thank You and Replies to Luncheon, December 3, 1969, given by Mrs. Darwin Ensign
Folder 30	Travel Information
Box 3 Folder 31	Calendars 1962
Folder 32	Calendars 1964
Folder 33	Calendars 1965
Folder 34	Calendars 1966
Folder 35	Medical Information (Restricted). Planner 1955 (2 items) Planner 1959 Planner 1961 Planner 1962 Planner 1963 Planner 1964 (2 items) Planner 1965 Planner 1966 Planner 1967 (2 items) Planner 1968 (2 items) Planner 1969 Planner 1970 Planner 1971 Planner 1972 (2 items) Planner 1973 (3 items) Planner 1974 (2 items) Planner 1975

Planner 1976 (3 items)

Planner 1978

Planner 1979

Planner 1980

Planner 1981

Series II      Greeting Cards

Box 4 Folder 1      Birthday Cards

Folder 2      Cards, 1960s

Folder 3      Cards, 1970

Folder 4      Cards, 1971

Folder 5      Cards, 1972

Folder 6      Cards, 1973

Folder 7      Cards, 1974

Folder 8      Cards, 1975

Folder 9      Cards, 1976

Folder 10      Cards, 1977

Folder 11      Cards, 1978

Folder 12      Cards, 1979

Folder 13      Cards, 1980s (1/2)

Folder 14      Cards, 1980s (2/2)

Folder 15      Misc. Christmas Cards (1/5)

Folder 16      Misc. Christmas Cards (2/5)

Folder 17      Misc. Christmas Cards (3/5)

Folder 18      Misc. Christmas Cards (4/5)

Folder 19      Misc. Christmas Cards (5/5)

Folder 20      Misc. Greeting Cards (1/2)

Folder 21      Misc. Greeting Cards (2/2)