

OSU-Tulsa Library
THE MICHAEL WALLIS PAPERS
Introduction to the Inventory

About the Author

Michael Wallis, born in Missouri in 1945, has worked as a writer and editor since 1968. He lived in New Mexico, Texas and Florida for 12 years where he served as an award-winning reporter and feature writer. His articles have appeared in more than 75 magazines and newspapers in the United States and Europe including *Time*, *Life*, *People*, *Fortune*, *Money*, *Smithsonian*, *American West*, *GEO*, *Metropolitan Home*, *Outside*, *Texas Monthly*, *New York Times*, and many others.

In 1970, Wallis founded *Esperanza*, a quarterly of literature and art, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. From 1970-1972 he edited the publication and produced a series of dramatic presentations and readings under the *Esperanza* banner. In 1972, the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico in Taos awarded Wallis a grant-in-residence for fiction writing.

From 1973-1978 Wallis was a reporter, editor and bureau chief for a chain of daily newspapers in Texas. In this capacity he opened and pioneered a news bureau in a 10-county region of East Texas and acted as capitol correspondent and bureau chief in Austin, Texas. While building a reputation as a feature writer and investigative reporter, Wallis was selected for several state and local editorial awards.

Wallis moved to Miami, Florida in 1978 where he covered the Cuban refugee exodus, crime and drug smuggling and other news events for *Time*, Inc. and several European publications. In 1981 he was selected as a top feature writer by the Florida Magazine Association. Following his 21 months in South Florida and the Caribbean, Wallis returned to Missouri to complete several long-range projects.

His is a seasoned traveler and has concentrated most of his work on projects in the Southwest, Mexico and the Caribbean. During his career, assignments have taken Wallis to many US locations, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica, Grand Cayman and the Bahamas.

In 1982 Wallis was awarded the Bronze Quill for Excellence in Feature Writing by the International Association of Business Communicators. In 1983 the Public Relations Society of America presented Wallis with their prestigious Silver Link Award for Excellence in Feature Writing.

Michael Wallis's books include *The Real Wild West: The 101 Ranch and the Creation of the American West*; *Oklahoma Crossroads*; *Beyond the Hills: The Journey of Waite Phillips*; *En Divina Luz: The Penitente Moradas of New Mexico*; *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*; *Way Down Yonder in the Indian Nation: Writings From American's Heartland*; *Pretty Boy: The Life and Time of Charles Arthur Floyd*; *Route 66: The Mother Road*; *Oil Man: The Story of Frank Phillips and the Birth of Phillips Petroleum*; and *Songdog Diary: 66 Stories From the Road*, which he co-authored with his wife, Suzanne Fitzgerald Wallis. He is also the author of articles and essays which have appeared in both national and international magazines and newspapers including *Time*, *Life*, *People*, *Smithsonian*, *Texas Monthly*, and *The New York Times*. He is also a contributing editor for *Oklahoma Today*.

Mr. Wallis has been nominated on three occasions for the Pulitzer Prize and has also been a nominee for the National Book Award. Other awards include the Lynn Riggs Award from Rogers State College (1994), the Steinbeck Award (1996), the Arrell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oklahoma Center for the Book (1999), the Western Heritage Award from The National Cowboy Hall of Fame (2000), the Oklahoma Book Award from Oklahoma Center for the Book (2000), the Best Western Non-Fiction Award from the Western Writers of America, Inc. (2000), and the Will Rogers

Spirit Award (2001). Mr. Wallis has been inducted into the Missouri Writers Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Professional Writers Hall of Fame, and the Oklahoma Route 66 Hall of Fame.

About the Wallis Papers

The Michael Wallis Papers, housed in 125 legal-sized document boxes and 2 oversized document boxes, consist primarily of research material, book proposals, contracts, draft manuscripts, illustrations, proofs, galleys, and dust jackets, for the author's major book titles. Also included in the papers are Wallis's shorter pieces for magazines, newspapers, and journals, as well as general correspondence to and from colleagues, publishers, reference sources and contacts, as well as friends and fans.

The papers are organized alphabetically by title of major works, followed by articles and other writings. The writings are followed by General Correspondence (arranged alphabetically by surname, company, or institution) and the Oversize items.

The papers were acquired from the author in January 2001 and arranged and organized by M. Burkart.

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