

Grassroots Focus on Elly Hutcheson
August 2007



I am an Army Brat. I was working in the Pentagon as an Analytical Statistician and met this guy from Fort Worth. He had just returned from Korea. He had also been on General MacArthur's staff in Japan as a Judge Advocate in the Army. On short notice we married and I was taken to Fort Worth. Without being here over a month I had attended my first Republican District Convention in 1952. I have attended them every two years since. By the way, I became a Texan by marriage. I also have regularly attended the State conventions, years back we had two different ones every other year to attend. Once I was privileged to be elected to attend a National Convention in Philadelphia.

Although I have never been able to drive I was able to help the local headquarters by calling those precinct boxes of 3x5 cards. Gosh if you called all day and found one Republican you were excited. We started out with 3 precincts at the Primary in the county and look what we do now! When the children were older they helped at headquarters... Looking up telephone numbers or putting on stamps when the youngest could not read as yet was a help. And they were so excited! I have spent many hours working daily jaunts at headquarters for years.

I have worked in the Elections Administration now for 50 years. Back then for the GOP it was all volunteers. The candidates did not have to pay a filing fee to run, nor to compile lists of signatures. The Democrats had to, however. But when the State took over we were paid. I have been a Precinct Chairman since around 1960. I do not have a definite date on that after 30 odd years I was the Election Judge for the total Precinct elections. Last year my Republicans chose not to vote in that election and since there were more Democratic votes for Governor the Election Judge switches to the Democrats. Too bad.

My husband and I were Chairman for Al Fay for Governor one year. We always attended every GOP function just so there would be people there. Suddenly there was a problem! We were very short of Box Suppers. WOW as a Party we had had grown up.

Billy Coutts Hutcheson, my husband since deceased, ran for several offices in the Republican Party, Probate Judge, and District Judge. He was also the lawyer for the Headquarters. Most times he was the only lawyer candidate in the Courthouse professing to be a Republican. He said he was cannon fodder for the party. But it worked; finally the people began to see that the Democrats were not their friends after all and we elected many and then some more Republicans to office. I ran for Educational Chairman from this district in 1982, but Ken Grusendorf won.

When politics are on the back burner, I read textbooks at the state level. I have done this since 1974 when I was sued for \$30 million dollars by the publisher whose book was removed. One would be surprised to read the gross inaccuracies that are fed to our children continually. I can tell you things that your hair will stand straight up. I am a genealogist and active in the Fort Worth Genealogy Society, in the Huguenot Society and the DAR. I have two daughters and four grandchildren, two in college, one in the Army. I am a sinister

with grandchildren. I am very active in the Scottish Societies and the Fort Worth Woman's Club. I give programs on many of these subjects. Have wheel will travel. I volunteer at the Fort Worth Zoo and always have animals at home; at least one Great Dane. I am known as Elly in Republican circles. Ellie in usual places. My name is Eleanor but there was someone in the past that ruined it for me. Guess who?