

RUSSELL A. LANE COLLECTION, 1933-1985

Collection #s:
M522

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Processed by:
Wilma L. Gibbs
20 November 1991

USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 box (.5 Linear feet)

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive 1933-85; Bulk

PROVENANCE: Russell Lane, Indianapolis, IN, 27 February 1985

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 86.541

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Russell Adrian Lane (1897-1986) was an educator. He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of George and Mattie Lane.

Lane received his elementary and high school education in Baltimore. His father, an attorney, was one of the first blacks admitted to the Maryland bar. His mother, a graduate of Howard University, was a school teacher. Russell Lane received four college degrees, including a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Indiana University..

After graduating from Brown University in 1921, Lane attended Howard University Law School for two years while he worked as a substitute teacher at Douglass High School in Washington D.C. In 1923, he and his wife, Marie, went to Heidelberg, Germany to study philosophy and education for a year. From 1924-27, Lane was principal of Wilberforce High School in Wilberforce, Ohio.

The Lanes came to Indianapolis in September, 1927. After a year as an English teacher at the newly opened Crispus Attucks High School for black students, Lane became head of the English Department. He became acting principal of the school in 1930. Named principal in 1932, he remained at Attucks until 1957 when he became assistant to the superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools. He retired from that position in 1968.

Lane was principal at Attucks during an era characterized by rigid segregation. A significant color barrier was broken during Lane's era when the Indiana High School Athletic Association permitted Attucks's admittance to its ranks. Attucks was allowed to participate in the championship tournaments, as well as the regular season play with other association members. In 1955, it became the first Indianapolis high school to win a state championship game. The school also captured this coveted title in 1956 and 1959.

The Lane administration at Attucks has been described as having a commitment to excellence. Lane encouraged teachers to seek more education and he insisted upon self-discipline from his students. As a matter of practice, he recommended employment of Attucks graduates whenever possible.

Lane was a member of the Serra International Catholic Men's Club, Retired Teacher's Association of the Indiana and Ohio bar associations, and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. As members of Saint Joan of Arc Catholic Church, he and his wife were honored in 1985 by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese for sixty-five years of marriage. A world traveller, Lane's travels included Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and South America.

Russell Lane died 28 April 1986.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection (1933-1985) consists of one manuscript box of clippings and programs which relate to Crispus Attucks High School and its third principal, Russell A. Lane. There are programs from class reunions ('33 and '58) and a 1933 yearbook. Also included is a lengthy biographical sketch of Lane and numerous newspaper clippings. The clippings mostly relate to Lane, alumni, or other individuals associated with the school. There is a 1983 article about the opening of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA time capsule. There are also a few articles which reference the planned 1986 closing of Crispus Attucks High School.

Rose Mickley Cheatham's dissertation, *Russell Adrian Lane: Biography of an Urban Negro School Administrator*, is stored in Printed Collections (PC). A paperback version of the dissertation that contains minor revisions is contained in

Folder 8. Two gold rings awarded to the Crispus Attucks High School boys basketball teams as the IHSAA (Indiana High School Athletic Association) champions for 1955 and 1956, and a small golden basketball inscribed with Lane's name, along with a Selective Service System Medal are stored in the Artifacts Collection. Several photographs, mostly of Russell Lane and others are located in Visual Collections (M 522).

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1 FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 Biographical Sketch and Award, 1955
- 2 Correspondence; Magazine
- 3 Russell A. Lane funeral program, 1986
- 4 Clippings, 1976-86
- 5 Programs
- 6 Crispus Attucks Yearbook, 1933
- 7 (PC) Dissertation about Lane
- 8 Book about Lane
- 9 (VC) Photographs
- 10 (ART) Artifacts

PHOTOGRAPHS (BOX 1, FOLDER 9)

- 1 Russell A. Lane with Vivian Terry Moore, Alexander Moore, and Julian D. Coleman
- 2 Russell A. Lane at desk
- 3 Russell A. Lane standing with seven other men
- 4 Russell A. Lane with a man standing adjacent to a pile of debris. (Crispus Attucks High School in the background), 1950
- 5 Rose Cheatham Mickey presenting a copy of her dissertation to Russell Lane and wife at entrance of Crispus Attucks High School, 1983
- 6 Russell A. Lane portrait
- 7 Russell A. Lane and others greeting Mary M. Bethune as she is deplaning
- 8 Group of Schoolage Children
- 9 Russell A. Lane and others at a table
- 10 Russell A. Lane with Mary Bethune and Mrs. O.A. Johnson adjacent to airplane
- 11 Russell A. Lane and others seated at dining table

ARTIFACTS (BOX 1, FOLDER 10)

1 Two IHSAA Rings on Necklaces, 1955-1956

2 One Selective Service Medal, n.d.

3 One small golden basketball inscribed with Principal, Russell Lane, 1956

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Lane, Russell Adrian

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Crispus Attucks High School

Indianapolis Young Women's Christian Association--Phyllis Wheatley Branch

Cheatham, Rose Mickley

Afro-American school principals--Indiana--Indianapolis

Afro-Americans--Education (Secondary)--Indiana--Indianapolis

Afro-Americans--Indiana--Indianapolis

Education, Urban--Indiana--Indianapolis

Education, Secondary--Indiana--Indianapolis

Educators--Indiana--Indianapolis

High school principals--Indiana--Indianapolis

High schools--Indiana--Indianapolis

Segregation in education--Indiana--Indianapolis

School yearbooks

END