INDIANA LIONS CLUB PHOTOGRAPHS, 1942–1972

Collection Information

Historical/Biographical Sketches

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Cataloging Information

Processed by

Pamela Tranfield May 2000

Revised by Dorothy Nicholson 5 March 2004

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF 1 box of photographs, 1 OVA photograph, 1 artifact

COLLECTION:

COLLECTION 1942–1972

DATES:

PROVENANCE: Heritage Photo Services, November 1999

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection

RIGHTS: must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE None

FORMATS:

RELATED Bass Photo Collection (P130), polyester 4" x 5" negatives (Bass

HOLDINGS: nos. 186112-1-186112-20),

ACCESSION 2000.0074

NUMBER:

NOTES:

HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

The International Association of Lions Clubs chartered the first Indiana-based Lions club in Lafayette, Indiana, in 1920. Indiana was the twenty-fifth geographical location to receive a charter, and thus the state was designated District 25. The Indianapolis club was founded in 1922. Lions clubs in Indiana are organized into eight sub-districts, based on geographical location. Designated as Indiana Sub-District "F," the Indianapolis club is further divided into local zones. These zones include Indianapolis (Downtown), Franklin Township, Warren Township, Beech Grove, and Southport. The eight Indiana sub-districts meet yearly at a statewide convention.

Henry Frederick Schricker (30 August 1883-28 December 1966) served as governor of Indiana from 1941 to 1945, and from 1949 to 1953. Born at North Judson, Starke County, Indiana, Schricker attended public and parochial schools in Knox County. He was admitted to the Indiana Bar in 1907 and held positions with several financial institutions including the Starke County Trust and Savings Bank and the Fletcher Trust Company of Indianapolis. Schricker also served a term as lieutenant governor of Indiana from 1937 to 1941. He ran unsuccessfully for the state senate in 1924 and for the U. S. Senate in 1944 and 1952. Schricker died in Knox, Indiana.

Eugene C. Pulliam (3 May 1889-23 June 1975) published several newspapers in Indiana, including the *Indianapolis News*, the *Indianapolis Star*, the *Muncie Evening Press*, the *Muncie Star*, and the *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*. He also owned the *Arizona Republic* newspaper and the *Phoenix Gazette*. Born in Ulysses, Grant County, Kansas, Pulliam arrived in Indiana ca. 1906 to attend DePauw University. At DePauw Pulliam and other students started Sigma Delta Chi, which is now the largest journalism organization in the country. Pulliam died in Phoenix, Arizona.

Louis B. Russell, Jr. (1924-26 November 1974) was the thirty-fourth person in medical history to undergo heart transplant surgery. He lived for six years with a new heart, longer than any previous transplant patient. Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, Russell served in the United States Air Force, and graduated from Indiana State University in 1954. He taught industrial arts at School 69 in Indianapolis. Russell died at the Medical College of Virginia Hospital, and was survived by his wife, Thelma, and four children: Connie, Charles, David, and Helen.

The following Indianapolis photographers are responsible for some of the photographs in this collection:

• L. J. (Lawrence) Foster, a salesman for the Blakely Granite Company before opening a photographic studio at 1220 North Park Street, Apartment 28, ca.1941. Foster's name does not appear in Indianapolis directories after 1957.

- Frank Fitch, a photographer in Indianapolis from ca. 1942 until at least 1963. He maintained a studio at 24 East 14th Street from ca. 1945.
- Clarence E. Downey, an X-ray technician in Indianapolis in 1945. By 1947 he had opened a photographic studio at 1202 Meridian Street in Indianapolis. During the 1950s the Downey Studio operated from 803 East 43rd Street, Apartment 26.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

"Eugene C. Pulliam." In *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, edited by David J. Bodenhamer and Robert G. Barrows, 1151–1152. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994. F534.I55 E4 1994

Cloe, Lee. "Lions in the State of Indiana." Indianapolis: Lions Club of Indianapolis, ca. 1998.

"Eugene C. Pulliam, Publisher, Dies," *Indianapolis News*, 24 June 1975, p. 1, col. 1.

"Louis B. Russell, Jr. Funeral Monday," *Indianapolis News*, 27 November 1974, p. 7, col. 1.

Polk's Indianapolis (Marion County, Indiana) City Directory, 1940. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk and Co., 1941. [and other volumes dating from 1941-1963]

Walsh, Justin E. *Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly*, vol. 2. Indianapolis: Select Committee on the Centennial History of the Indiana General Assembly, 1984.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains thirty-four black-and-white photographs of Indiana Lions Club activities. The images date from 1942 to 1972, and show convention delegates, and scenes from international and local clubs and conventions. The processor arranged the photographs in chronological order. They are stored in four folders with titles enclosed in square brackets []. One oversized photograph is stored separately from these folders.

The name "Gene Thornburgh" is written on the back of two photographs in Folder 1, and the name "F. E. Thornburgh" is written on the back of one photograph in Folder 2. "F. E." Thornburgh is listed in Indianapolis city directories during the 1940s, but "Gene" Thornburgh is not listed. It is not known if Frank E. Thornburgh once owned the original collection.

Folder 1 contains the following 1940s images: the Indiana Lions State Band at Union Station in Indianapolis, a group of Indianapolis and Beech Grove Lions Club member delegates "on route" to the 1942 Lions International Conference in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, a breakfast in San Francisco, and a display of cards and letters from service men.

The three photographs in Folder 2 show Frances Meckling, Indiana's "War Bond" Queen. Meckling is shown with Indiana Governor Henry F. Schricker, newspaper publisher Eugene C. Pulliam, and Edward H. Paine, the president of Lions International. Indianapolis photographer L. J. Foster made these photographs on 8 June 1943.

Folder 3 contains photographs dating from ca. 1940s to 1971. Eugene C. Pulliam and Edward H. Paine can be seen at a Lions Club banquet, ca. 1940s. One undated image made by the Downey Studio of Indianapolis (ca. 1950s) shows four young African American men on stage with a group of men in Blackface make-up at a Lions Club event. There is a group portrait of women at a banquet or luncheon (ca. 1950s), the Lions State Band at Monument Circle (ca. 1960s), a group of Lions Club members and their wives at a club-sponsored "Corn Cob Booth" at the 1967 Indiana State Fair, and a 1971 ceremony where a banner behind the head table reads: "For Service to Exchange. Unity for Service. National Exchange Club."

Folder 4 shows images commemorating the Indianapolis clubs' fiftieth anniversary in 1972. Louis B. Russell, Jr., an early heart transplant survivor from Indianapolis, can be seen seated at a table with his wife, Thelma. The Bass Photo Company of Indianapolis made these photographs on 28 May 1972. The folder title "50th Anniversary Dinner-May 28" was transcribed from information on negative sleeves in the Bass Photo Company Collection (P 0130).

The artifact in this collection consists of an adhesive-backed decal of the Lions International symbol. For conservation reasons this decal is stored separately from the photographs in the Indiana Historical Society artifacts storage area.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS CONTAINER

[Group photos and display, 1940s] Photographs,

Box 1, Folder 1

[Crowning of War Bond Queen, 8 June 1943] Photographs,

Box 1, Folder 2

[Events ca. 1940s–1971] Photographs,

Box 1, Folder 3

[Lions Club Band at event, ca. 1960] OVA Photographs,

Folder 1

[50th Anniversary Dinner, 28 May 1972] Photographs,

Box 1, Folder 4

[Decal of Lions International symbol] Artifacts: R2101

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

- 1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://157.91.92.2/
- 2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
- 3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
- 4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P0378).
- 5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.