

Collection #  
SC 3306

## ARTHUR R. VAN ALLEN MATERIALS, 1943–1980S

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 manuscript folder, 1 black-and-white photo folder, 1 cold storage photo folder

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1943-1980s

**PROVENANCE:** Arthur R. Van Allen, Indianapolis, IN; November 2001

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2002.0051

**NOTES:** Please call ahead to view photographs from cold storage.

## BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

**Arthur R. Van Allen:** Arthur Ross Van Allen was born in Logansport on 6 October 1930 to Francis Russell Van Allen and Freda Joan Begick. He attended Butler University, majoring in radio broadcasting. He married Mary Abel on 18 August 1957. Van Allen served as the program director of WIAN from 1958 until 1986. When the station was sold, Van Allen began teaching in the English department at IUPUI until 1994. He died on 19 October 2011.

**WIAN:** Indianapolis radio station WIAN-FM 90.1 first aired 1 November 1954. It was owned and operated by Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS). The station broadcast instructional programming to a small area which included the blocks around Shortridge High School. Shortridge students operated the studio and worked as on-air announcers through the 1960s. When IPS's Radio and Television Department moved locations in 1969–1970, Shortridge students no longer operated the station.

WIAN received a Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) grant in 1971 to boost transmitting power. Following this, WIAN developed its budget and staffing to qualify as a public radio station. WIAN became a National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate and began broadcasting their programs in July 1971. In the 1970s, the station lost listeners for its educational programs, which it broadcast into public school classrooms. In 1979, the station stopped its instructional programming. Instead it focused on full-service public radio programs.

IPS sold WIAN to Indianapolis Public Broadcasting (IPB) on 1 December 1986. The station's call letters were changed to WFYI-FM to match IPB's television station, WFYI-TV. In addition to NPR programs, WFYI offered locally produced programs, including rebroadcasts of performances of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and Indianapolis Opera.

Sources:

Bodenhamer, David. J and Robert G. Barrows, ed. *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Collection materials.

Indiana, Birth Certificates, 1907-1940, via Ancestry.com

Marion County, Indiana, Marriage Index, 1925-2012, via Ancestry.com

U.S., Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current, via Ancestry.com

U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014, via Ancestry.com

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains materials related to Arthur R. Van Allen. The majority of the materials are related to the Indianapolis radio station WIAN, including a 1964 informational flyer, news clippings from 1960 to the 1970s, assorted correspondence and memos from 1965 to 1984, a 1974 press release, an 8-page paper discussing CPB policies, a copy of "On Air: The FM90 executive club newsletter," and photos of sportswriter John Harrell and WIAN employee Glen Slaats. Also included in the collection are black-and-white photos of the May 1943 flood of the Wabash and Eel Rivers in Logansport, IN. These photos were taken by Francis R. Van Allen, Arthur's father.

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Arthur R. Van Allen materials, 1960–80s

Flood photos, 1943

Photos, 1966–73

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