

Collection #
SC 3331
DVD 1122-1128

**MARY BYRNE AND TAMMARA TRACY
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW AND TRANSCRIPT, 2015**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

Processed by

Melanie Hankins
August 2017

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 COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder: preliminary questionnaire; related newspaper articles; interview transcription. 7 DVDs: 3 user copies of the interview; 3 master copies of the interview; 1 digital transcription

COLLECTION DATES: 17 January 2015

PROVENANCE: Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0013p0032

NOTES: Forms part of the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

In 2014 the Indiana Historical Society began the Indiana LGBT Collecting Initiative to collect, preserve, and make accessible materials that document the rich history, tradition, and culture of Indiana's LGBT communities. Part of the collecting initiative includes the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project. During the time period of 2014-2015, interviews were conducted of individuals, couples and families from all walks of life in Central Indiana area. This collection centers around the oral history interview of Mary Byrne and Tammara Tracy conducted by Mark Lee on January 17, 2015.

Mary Byrne (b. 1951) grew up in Rushville, Indiana, and has been involved with many aspects of the LGBT community in Indianapolis. She owned and managed Labyris, a lesbian bar; organized the National Women's Musical Festival in Bloomington, Indiana; and became the Executive Director for Indiana Youth Group in 2008. Tammara Tracy (b. 1962) grew up in Great Bend, Kansas. She is a land use planner for the city of Indianapolis, and she also owned the gay and lesbian bookstore Out Word Bound with Byrne until 2009. Mary and Tammara have been together since 2001. They married under the care of their Quaker meeting in 2004 and legally married in June of 2014. They currently reside in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

Information found in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The interview was transcribed from a video recorded interview with Mary Byrne and Tammara Tracy conducted on January 17, 2015 by Mark Lee, lead project manager for the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project. The interview, which includes the video recording and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The video recorded interview is approximately three hours long, and is recorded on three DVDs. The collection includes one folder with preliminary questionnaires, articles from the Indiana LGBT local newspaper *The Works*, other articles about Mary Byrne and Tammara Tracy and the interview transcription.

The following is an index to the oral history transcript listing the topics discussed and the pages on which they can be found.

TRANSCRIPT

Interview

Introduction to Tammara Tracy.....	3
Tracy moves to Indianapolis/Coming out coworkers.....	6
Description of local Indianapolis LGBT bar, Jimmy's.....	8
Going out to gay bars in Indianapolis in the 1980s.....	9
Tracy comes out to her mother.....	11-12
Tracy going to the National Women's Music Festival.....	14
Tracy faces discrimination as a female and as a lesbian.....	15-16
Tracy's first Pride Event in 1989 at Monument Circle.....	18
Working at Coffee Zon, an alternative coffee shop.....	19
Working with Randall Fisher, LGBT activist on Indy Pride.....	20
Tracy organizing Pride at the Indianapolis War Memorial, 1993.....	22
Tracy's participation in the March on Washington, 1993.....	23
Initial work with Greater Indianapolis Fairness Alliance.....	25
Opening up the Outward Bound, bookstore.....	27

Experience working at Outward Bound/Connecting with LGBT Community.....	28
Introduction to Mary Byrne.....	29
Byrne's first crush/College experiences at Eastern Illinois University.....	30
Working at a non-profit organization at Stopover in Indianapolis.....	31
Byrne goes to the first Michigan Music Festival.....	33
Byrne comes to terms with her sexuality/Comes out to her mother.....	35
Byrne's political participation.....	37
Relationship with Byrne's uncle and coming out to rest of the family.....	38
Protest against conservative figure, Anita Bryant, at the Indiana State Fair.....	39
Byrne's experiences at Indianapolis gay bars in the 1970s.....	41
Opening up Labyris, lesbian bar in Indianapolis.....	43
Atmosphere and clientele at Labyris.....	46
Working with the National Women's Festival in Bloomington, Indiana.....	50-52
Working for the lesbian magazine, "I Know, You Know".....	54
Byrne and Tracy discuss how they met in Tracy's bookstore.....	55
Getting to know each other/Attending lesbian Quaker conference together.....	58
Byrne and Tracy get married at a Quaker meeting.....	60
Marriage recognized by the Indiana government in 2014.....	61
Byrne and Tracy working together at the bookstore.....	63
Byrne becomes Executive Director of Indiana Youth Group.....	67
Background information about Indiana Youth Group.....	69
Byrne and Tracy's political involvement in Great Indianapolis Fairness Alliance..	71
Establishing a vanity license plate for Indiana Youth Group.....	74
Changes in the Indianapolis gay community.....	76
Important figures in the Indianapolis gay community.....	78-80

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Preliminary Questionnaires, Newspaper Articles, and Transcription	Folder 1
Byrnes and Tracy Oral History Interview Disc 1, user copy	DVD 1122
Byrnes and Tracy Oral History Interview Disc 2, user copy	DVD 1123
Byrnes and Tracy Oral History Interview Disc 3, user copy	DVD 1124
Byrnes and Tracy Oral History Interview Disc 1, master copy	DVD 1125
Byrnes and Tracy Oral History Interview Disc 2, master copy	DVD 1126
Byrnes and Tracy Oral History Interview Disc 3, master copy	DVD 1127
Digital Transcription	DVD 1128

