

Collection #
P 0582

ROBERT HIGGINS COLLECTION
1947, CA. 1970

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Four photographs, one newspaper article

COLLECTION DATES: 1947, ca. 1970

PROVENANCE: Gift from Audrey Higgins, 1999

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.0232

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert Eugene Higgins was a weightlifter who competed in the featherweight class and represented the United States at international competitions. He won the gold medal at the 1947 World Weight Lifting Championships. Thirty-nine men from twelve countries competed in the event that was held September 26–27 in Philadelphia that year. On 21 June 1947 he had set a new American weightlifting record for the military press, lifting 220 pounds in the 132-pound class of the National AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) junior tournament. Photographs of his physique appeared in magazines such as *Bernarr MacFadden's Physical Culture*, *Iron Man*, *Muscle Power*, and on a cover of *Strength and Health*.

Higgins was born 20 March 1925 in Bloomington, Indiana, to Orville and Cecile Chandler Higgins. He married Audrey Ann Iiams (8 July 1931–11 September 2007) on 11 September 1950 in Marion County, Indiana. They had a son, Robert, and a daughter, Brenda. He was the owner of Higgins Gym. His last residence was in Noblesville, in Hamilton County. He died 4 September 1998 in Indianapolis and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Sources:

Indiana Birth Certificates, 1907–1940 <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 30 June 2017.

Indiana Death Certificates, 1899–2011 <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 30 June 2017.

Indianapolis Star, page 45, 22 June 1947

<<https://www.newspapers.com/newspage/104952005/>>. Accessed 30 June 2017.

Item in collection.

"Robert Higgins (weightlifter)". Wikivisually

<[http://wikivisually.com/wiki/Robert_Higgins_\(weightlifter\)](http://wikivisually.com/wiki/Robert_Higgins_(weightlifter))>. Accessed 30 June 2017.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains four small black-and-white snapshots and a photocopy of a newspaper clipping pertaining to weightlifter Robert Higgins (1925-1998).

Series 1: Photographs, ca. 1970 -- This series includes snapshots that appear to be of a trip that Higgins made to the Bahamas.

Series 2: Newspaper Article [1947] -- This series consists of a photocopy of a newspaper clipping, likely from the *Indianapolis Star*, congratulating then 22-year-old Higgins as "Man of the Week" for his weightlifting accomplishments.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Photographs, ca. 1970

CONTENTS

"Bob Higgins on board the plane."

Writing on back of photo indicates: L. Frank Wright Sr., Bob Drake (owner of Drake Refrigeration), "Bobbie Higgins" (1947 weightlifting champion of the world) boarding Frank's jet for Bahamas.

Robert Higgins with two unidentified men.

Men by an airplane.

CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

Series 2: Newspaper Article [1947]

CONTENTS

Newspaper column "Strauss Says" clipped [probably from the *Indianapolis Star*], ca. 1947, congratulates Robert Higgins as "Man of the Week." It identifies him as a 22-year-old who lives at 2332 Central Avenue in Indianapolis, and states that he recently broke the National Weightlifting Championship in Chicago. It mentions that "Higgins holds the Indiana State Record in all three Olympic lifts -- the press, the snatch, and the clean and jerk. In the military press--he set a new national record, and by placing second in the nationals, made himself eligible to be one of the members of the United States Team at the World Weightlifting Championship meet in Philadelphia this September." Column sponsored by L. Strauss & Co. department store.

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Photographs, Folder 1 of 1