

Collection #
M 0760
BV 3378–3421
OMB 0087

ROTARY CLUB OF INDIANAPOLIS RECORDS, 1913–1998

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Processed by

Teresa J. Walker
Summer 2001

Pamela Tranfield
10 January 2002

Betsy Caldwell
22 March 2002

Manuscript 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: 22 manuscript boxes, 45 bound volumes, 1 OMB box, 2 boxes B&W photographs, 4 boxes color photographs, 10 Cirkut photographs, 1 OVA photographs box, 1 OVA graphics box, color slides, 2 boxes color negatives, artifacts.

COLLECTION DATES: 1913–98

PROVENANCE: Rotary Club of Indianapolis, Robert W. Seymour, Executive Director, 350 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, June 2001

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: Geelhoed, Bruce. *The Rotary Club of Indianapolis, 1913–1998: A Club, a Community, and a Century*. Carmel: Guild Press, 2000. HF5001 .G43 2000

McDowell, John R. *From Flood to Fire: the History of the Indianapolis Rotary Club, 1913–1969*. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Rotary Club, 1969. HF5001 .M22 1969

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001.0835

NOTES: The processing of this collection was assisted by financial support from the Rotary Club of Indianapolis.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Rotary Club of Indianapolis was founded on 17 February 1913. Founded on the principles of Paul Harris's Rotary Club in Chicago, clubs were initially created to form a community of the most prominent businessmen. The first meetings in Chicago rotated between the members' place of business, hence the name "Rotary." The Rotary Club of Indianapolis was the 58th club chartered. The Indianapolis club's first home was in the Claypool Hotel. Tuesday meetings at noon became the custom, with different speakers each week. Weekly luncheons, social outings, and sports, were and still are a key component in the recreational activities of the Rotary Club.

With the beginning of the First World War, the club changed its focus to community service. Today their motto is "Service Above Self." During the war the club maintained a place for the soldiers to relax. In the 1920s it supplied needy children with toys and musical instruments, and as the Depression came, offered clothes and food. One of the most famous members was the poet James Whitcomb Riley. The club raised money to build the Riley Convalescent Home for Children in his memory. The Riley Convalescent Center was completed in the 1930s. In the 1940s the club started programs to council youth on future career paths, and worked with Purdue University to sponsor 4-H leadership workshops. During World War II the club operated career centers to help returning soldiers with career centers. In 1946 Clarabelle Holycross donated \$25,000 in memory of her late husband to "aid the physically, mentally, and materially handicapped residents of Marion County."

The donation was the financial basis for the Rotary Foundation of Indianapolis. The Rotary Foundation is a separate organization, but run by members of the Rotary Club. The Foundation has its own board of directors and president. The philanthropic group awards grants throughout Marion County.

In the 1950s the Rotary Club helped the Southwest Social Center construct a new building, and also became a partner in Junior Achievement. During the 1960s the club sent educational aid to schools in El Salvador and helped the funding for the Junior Achievement headquarters. On 23 June 1967 the Claypool Hotel burned. It was later demolished and club headquarters moved to the Indianapolis Athletic Club. In the 1970s the club began its association with the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center. The 1980s brought new changes. The club allowed its first female members in 1987. In the 1990s Indiana Rotary Clubs joined together to win a bid to host the annual convention. In 1998, Indianapolis was home for the Rotary International Annual Convention.

Club officials are chosen by election. Elections are held each year for the offices of president, 1st vice-president, 2nd vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and sergeant at arms. Officers meet with the directors at the monthly Board of Directors meetings. The directors are also elected. Among the paid staff of Rotary are an executive director and office secretary. The executive director position had the original title of assistant secretary, which

was later changed to executive secretary, and finally to executive director. The large committees that meet are the Board of Directors and Membership and Classification Committee. Other committees meet individually, and send reports to the board of directors. These committees include Attendance, Beautification, Membership and Classification, Officer Nominating, New Members Information, Sergeant at Arms, and others.

Even with community service a key part of Rotary, the social aspects of the club are also important. Tuesday meetings are the main gathering of the club. Attendance is determined through Tuesday meetings. Attendance can be maintained by going to other cities' Rotary Club meetings. Each week a different speaker addresses the club followed with a luncheon. The club's newsletter *Link* keeps members up to date, and includes the week's Tuesday guest speaker. There are numerous programs, committees, and sports in which to participate. Bowling, softball, and plays have long been a part of the Rotary tradition. James Whitcomb Riley, Kin Hubbard, and Chic Jackson were some of the literary members of the club.

The club's first book *From Flood to Fire* covers the club's history from 1913–69. It describes events such as the founding of the club, war efforts, community service, and ends with the destruction of the club's longtime home, Claypool Hotel, and their move to the Indianapolis Athletic Club. It also contains an index of members from 1913–69. A second history, *The Rotary Club of Indianapolis*, covers much of the same period, and extends through to 1998.

Sources:

Geelhoed, E. Bruce. *The Rotary Club of Indianapolis: a Club, a Community, and a Century, 1913–1998*. Carmel, Ind.: Guild Press of Indiana, 2000. HF5001 .G43 2000

McDowell, John. *From Flood to Fire: The History of the Indianapolis Rotary Club, 1913–1969*. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Rotary Club, 1969. HF5001 .M22 1969

Materials from the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The most comprehensive series is the Board of Directors, with minutes of the meetings running from 1913–98. The Membership and Classification Committee minutes are in two runs, 1942–57 and 1973–97. This series deals with new members and what classifications the member's business falls under. The membership rosters go back to 1913–98. These were published for the members, and gives each member's name address, and occupation. The series on presidents, club officers, and club elections deals with the working structure of the club, and the processes for elections. The Rotary Foundation is a separate entity, but still connected to the club. Its main function is philanthropy. The next series is the club newsletter, which is published weekly. A series on the Tuesday weekly meetings includes some committee meetings and notes from the meetings. The Miscellaneous Committee series is the smaller committees minutes that survive in small runs. Service Programs covers the various efforts the club takes part in to better the community. The History series has papers that tell about the club. The Recreation series covers the other side of the Rotary club including sports, plays, and poems. The Membership Applications are from the early applicants of the club. Each applicant had to fill out the card. If they were admitted, the membership and classification committee signed the card. The Scrapbooks tell a thorough history of the club. These were compiled by the club, and include newspaper clippings, letters, and weekly newsletters from 1913–72. The next series had materials on the Rotary district which the Indianapolis Club is a part of, and other Indianapolis Rotary Clubs. The Special Events series has programs from special celebrations of anniversaries of the club and visits from presidents of Rotary International.

Series 1: Board of Directors, 1913–98. The Board of Directors Meetings included the elected officials and elected directors. These minutes run from 1913–98. The meetings were held monthly, with special meetings called by the president. The teens and the twenties minutes have notes and letters. From 1930–35 these minutes were rebound. The tops were cut off, sometimes with a line of text. Starting again in 1957 more notes and letters are included with the minutes. The first folder in the series is a typed copy of the historical resolutions passed by the Board of Directors from 1913–88. Two partial copies make a complete list. A member of the board collected their notes of the meetings from March to December 1993. Also included are election ballots from 1967 and 1979. Photographs in this series consist of group portraits of the Board of Directors in 1929 and 1955.

Series 2: The Membership and Classification Service/Committee, 1942–57 and 1973–97. The minutes run from 1942–57 and 1973–97. The Membership and Classification Committee was called the Membership and Classification Service from at 1942–57. The committee met every two weeks. The M and C decided who could join the club, and their assigned classifications. Each member is assigned a unique classification to insure only the best representative within a business field is allowed into the club. There are additional active members and senior active members. Within the committee, sub-committees

researched new members and recommended them for membership. A 1988 leaflet explains some of the classification process.

Series 3: Membership Rosters, 1913–98. Publication varied from annually to bi-annually. The rosters listed every member of the club. Early years had photographs in one book, and membership information in another. Member's name, classification, years of membership, and business address are included. The items are stored separately from the main collection under Call No. HS725 .I55 R68.

Series 4: Past Presidents, Club Officers and Club Elections, 1913–1960s and 1984–95. This series includes photographs of past presidents. Also included is the correspondence during Jim Schram's presidential term and beyond, 1984–90. This series includes club election materials, newspaper articles on the officials, and job descriptions. Artifacts in this series consist of name badges.

Series 5: Rotary Foundation of Indianapolis, Inc., 1947–97. The Rotary Foundation was formed in 1946. This series includes by-laws and goals of the foundation. The foundation directors met annually, with special meetings frequently called. Minutes run from 1947, 1949 to 1989. The series also includes documents on the tax status and financial statements, income and expenses of the foundation, grants awarded, and correspondence about grants. There are also items concerning foundation work with the Student Exchange Program, Southwest Social Center, and the Central Indiana Regional Blood Center. Also included is the proposal to write a history of the Rotary Club of Indianapolis.

Series 6: Rotary Weekly Newsletters, *This Week* and *Link*, 1966–94. The Rotary Weekly newsletters began as *This Week* and in 1988 became the *Link*. Ranging from 1966–94, the bulk of the series is from 1977–88. The newsletter contains information on the speakers for the Tuesday meeting, events within the club, and the current directors and officials. The scrapbooks (see Series 13) also have each weekly newsletter pasted among other materials.

Series 7: Weekly Meetings, 1941, 1950's, 1962, 1983–98. This series includes paperwork of the Program Committee from 1983–90. This committee coordinates speakers for the Tuesday meetings. Also included are past president Jim Schram's notes for the Tuesday meetings during his term from July 1984 to June 1985. Artifacts in the series include a flag of the Republic of Taiwan given by Major General S. Y. Wang of China in 1959. Other artifacts include patches, buttons, gavels, and memorabilia.

Series 8: Miscellaneous Committees, 1984–90. One folder contains a list of committees for 1984–85. Included committees are Attendance, Officer Nominating, New Members Information, Beautification, Sergeant at Arms, 75th Anniversary, and others.

Series 9: Services Programs, 1917–98 (bulk 1997–98). Worldwide service programs are a central part of the Rotary Club activity. Early folders in this series deal with World War I efforts by the club, and Rotary's efforts to build the Riley Convalescent Home. The bulk

of this series is from 1997–98. Files include Rotary club of Indianapolis' efforts in Russia, Uganda, Egypt, Savanna La Mar (Jamaica), and Brazil. Also included are photographs of service work, including Habitat for Humanity projects in Indianapolis. Artifacts in this series include patches from the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

Series 10: History of Rotary Club, ca. 1910–90. This series includes documents that cover some of the history of the club through statistics, charts, and reports. Included is a copy of a note from President George Bush, a folder on the Supreme Court ruling allowing women into membership, and a letter to Rotarians from James Whitcomb Riley dated 21 June 1916. Photographs include portraits of Rotary presidents dating from 1913 to the 1960s.

Series 11: Recreation, 1920s, 1930s, 1981–98. This series concerns the recreational aspect of the club. Included are bowling records from 1981–98 as well as a trophy from the 1920s. Also in the series are photographs of different recreational events, including bowling, softball, fishing, golf, and theatrical performances. One photograph shows the Bean Blossom Rotary Club dressed in costume. Kin Hubbard is identified in the photograph.

Series 12: Membership Applications, 1913–41. Filed alphabetically, these membership application cards run from 1913–41. Applicants had to include name, occupations, and address. Members of the Membership and Classification Service initialed the card after an applicant was accepted.

Series 13: Scrapbooks, 1913–72. The scrapbooks date from the club's founding in 1913, and usually span approximately one to one and a half years. The books contain letters, newspaper clippings about the club, and the weekly newsletters.

Series 14: Indiana Rotary District Conferences and Newsletters and Other Indianapolis Rotary Clubs, ca. 1910–98. The district that includes Indianapolis changed numbers several times, beginning with 11th, 155, 656, and today's 6560. Conventions include district conferences, R.I. conventions, and photographs of district conferences. Also included is the 1998 Rotary International Convention held in Indianapolis. The district series includes newsletters and directories from 1967 and 1981–98. This series also includes materials on the other Rotary Clubs in Indianapolis from 1989–94. The photographs include Cirkut photographs of executive and other groups at conventions in the 1920s and 1930s, interior views of the Claypool Hotel, and a portrait of James Whitcomb Riley.

Series 15: Special Event Programs, 1938, 1963, 1972, 1988, 1990. The special event programs include anniversary events and Rotary International president's visits to Indianapolis.

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CONTAINER

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Printed Collections:
HS725 .I55 R68

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Vol. 5 (4 Jan.–14 June 1977)	Box 13, Folder 1
Vol. 6 (5 July 1977–27 June 1978)	Box 13, Folder 2
Vol. 7 (11 July 1978–3 July 1979)	Box 13, Folder 3
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Vol. 10 (14 July 1981–29 June 1982)	Box 13, Folder 6
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Vol. 15 (15 July 1986–30 June 1987)	Box 13, Folder 11
Vol. 16 (7 July 1987–28 June 1988)	Box 13, Folder 12
Vol. 17 (5 July 1988–29 Nov. 1988)	Box 13, Folder 13
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CONTAINER

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Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 1,
Folder 18

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Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 1,
Folder 19

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 2,
Folder 1

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 2,
Folder 2

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Gavels	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835
Name Plate, Ranson W. Akin	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835
Rotary International Wheel with timer/clock, 1920s	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835
Flag of Taiwan, Gift of Major General S. Y. Wang, 1959	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835

Rubber Stamp, re: Conference Committee Meeting [n.d.]	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835
Patch: New Club Award, 1983–84	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835
Button: S. S. Rotary Cruise, 1988	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835
Marble Block with Rotary Logo	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835
Plastic Signs with Rotary Logo	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835
First Aid Kit with Rotary Logo	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835
Cigarette Lighter with Rotary Logo	Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835
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CONTAINER

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Artifacts: Accession no. 2001.0835

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CONTAINER

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Visual Collections: Photographs, Box 2, Folder 5

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Nov. 1997, negatives, 6 envelopes

Visual Collections: Color
Negative Storage, 35 mm,
Box 2, Bin 1

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Folder 7

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Visual Collections: Color
Photographs, Box 2,
Folder 8

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Visual Collections: Color
Photographs, Box 2,
Folder 9

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1962

Box 15, Folder 12

World Service, San Salvador, El Salvador, display
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Visual Collections:
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Folder 10

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panel 3

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 2,
Folder 11

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Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 2,
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panel 5

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 2,
Folder 13

World Service, San Salvador, El Salvador, display
panel 6

Visual Collections:
Photographs, Box 2,
Folder 14

World Service, San Salvador, El Salvador, display
panel 7

Visual Collections:
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Folder 15

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World Service, Partnership with Rotary Club of Heliopolis, Egypt, 1998	Box 15, Folder 15
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World Service, Brazil Volunteer Trip, 1991	Box 15, Folder 17
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World Service, Jamaica [1993 or 1994] (roll 1 of 2)	Visual Collections: Color Photographs, Box 2, Folder 11
World Service, Jamaica [1993 or 1994] (roll 2 of 2)	Visual Collections: Color Photographs, Box 2, Folder 12

World Service, Jamaica [1993 or 1994] (roll 1 of 2) negatives, 6 envelopes	Visual Collections: Color Negative Storage, 35 mm, Box 1, Bin 4
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World Service, Savanna La Mar, 1996 (roll 3 of 4)	Visual Collections: Color Photographs, Box 2, Folder 15
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World Service, Savanna La Mar, 1996 (roll 1 of 4) negatives, 7 envelopes	Visual Collections: Color Negative Storage, 35 mm, Box 1, Bin 4
World Service, Savanna La Mar, 1996 (roll 2 of 4) negatives, 10 envelopes	Visual Collections: Color Negative Storage, 35 mm, Box 1, Bin 4
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Patches: Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotary Logo

Artifacts: Accession no.
2001.0835

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[Rotarians at Mill Street Power Plant, Indianapolis Power and Light Co., 15 Jan. 1915]

[Indianapolis Delegates, Coney Island International Rotary, Cincinnati, July 1917]

[Group Photograph, Seated L to R: Grossman, Matson, Floyd, ca. 1920s]

World War, 1914–18, War Chest on Soldiers and Sailors Monument

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Box 15, Folder 21

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Visual Collections: OVB
Photographs, Folder 2

Visual Collections: OVC
Photographs, Folder 1

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CONTAINER

Visual Collections:
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Folder 35

Artifacts: Accession no.
2001.0835

Visual Collections: 120
mm negative storage

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Scrapbook, 30 Aug. 1921–11 Oct. 1922

Scrapbook, 17 Oct. 1922–21 Aug. 1923

Scrapbook, 28 Aug. 1923–18 Mar. 1924

Scrapbook, 25 Mar. 1924–2 June 1925

Scrapbook, 9 June 1925–21 Sept. 1926

Scrapbook, 28 Sept. 1926–26 Oct. 1927

Scrapbook, 1 Nov. 1927–18 Dec. 1928

Scrapbook, 8 Jan. 1929–27 Feb. 1930

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CONTAINER

BV 3378

BV 3378–A

BV 3379

BV 3380

BV 3381

BV 3382

BV 3383

BV 3384

BV 3385

BV 3386

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Map of North America and Mexican States, annotated with the Rotary logo covering Indianapolis and concentric circles radiating out from the logo, n.d.

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