

Collection #  
M 0853  
DVD 0012-0067

## TOM COCHRUN MATERIALS, 1980-1997

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 manuscript boxes, 2 photograph folders, 2 cassette tapes, 56 DVDs
COLLECTION DATES:	1980-1997
PROVENANCE:	Tom Cochrun, Indianapolis, IN 2005
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2005.0095

**NOTES:** The contents of Box 3, Folder 2 are restricted. Patrons wishing to view this folder must first gain the permission of the Director of Manuscripts and Visual Collections.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Thomas Decker Cochrun was born 23 August 1946 in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is the son of Karl W. Cochrun of Muncie and Mary Helen Decker of Bluffton. As a Warren Central High School student, Tom worked as a sports stringer for the *Indianapolis Times*. During his college days at Ball State University he worked for Muncie radio station WERK as a newscaster and general assignment reporter. After graduating in 1968, Cochrun traveled to Europe where he did freelance pieces on the anti-Vietnam movement among European youth. He returned home in 1969 and took a position at WIBC/WNAP radio where he reported on police, city hall, and state house news. That year he married Lana Elmore at the Grace Lutheran Church in Muncie. The couple eventually had two daughters: Kristin Elizabeth and Katherine Meredith. In 1979 Cochrun went to work for CBS affiliate WISH Television where he produced the evening news magazine.

In 1981 he transferred to NBC affiliate WTHR Television where he became a senior news anchor and an award-winning investigative reporter and producer. During his fourteen years at WTHR Cochrun won numerous local and national awards for his documentaries. In 1981 he followed Ku Klux Klan leader Bill Wilkinson to Connecticut for an investigation into the resurgence of the KKK. Cochrun interviewed political officials, KKK victims, religious leaders, and KKK members during his investigation. Using these results, Cochrun wrote and produced the documentary *Klan*. The program premiered on 30 December 1981 to critical acclaim. The documentary netted Cochrun numerous awards including the 1981 Edward Willis Scripps Award for First Amendment Reporting, an Emmy in 1982, and a 1983 Ohio State Award from the Institution for Education by Radio-Television. In 1982 the Indiana Jaycees named him an Outstanding Young Hoosier.

Cochrun wrote and produced numerous other award-winning documentaries for WTHR including *The Secret War at Home* (1986) in which he exposed two Soviet KGB agents visiting America, *Indiana's James Bond* (1986) about American spy William King Harvey. He also produced *Shelter of Shame* (1984) about the deplorable conditions of public housing in Indianapolis, and *Who is Protecting our Children?* (1985) about sexual victimization of children. Cochrun's other investigations covered topics ranging from civil rights to natural disasters, presidential campaigns to medical research.

In 1994 he founded Nineteenth Star, a film company that provided creative media services for institutional clients. Cochrun served as the president and CEO of the company and later its chief creative officer. Nineteenth Star produced pieces for The Discovery Channel, TLC, Court TV, PBS, and The Travel Channel. The company also coordinated video and interactive elements for the Indiana State Museum, Conner Prairie, and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis. When Nineteenth Star was purchased during a merger, Cochrun and his associate Ben Stout founded

Masters Work Media, a production company that provides interactive programming for cultural institutions. In addition to his television work, Cochrun authored *The Sanibel Arcanum* (1994) and *The Sanibel Cayman Disc* (1999), and professional guide *Crisis Coverage and News Room Credibility* (1996).

In 2003 Cochrun returned to CBS affiliate WISH Television as the News Director. He is very active in the Indianapolis cultural community, serving as the president of the Benjamin Harrison Home Foundation Board and president of the Writers Center of Indiana. He is active in the Second Presbyterian Church and is involved with the Heartland Film Festival, Hooks Discovery and Learning Center, the Red Mask Foundation, and the Indianapolis Press Club.

Sources:

Materials in collection

Indiana Association of Historians 2005 Annual Meeting Program: [www.ncph.org/IAH](http://www.ncph.org/IAH)

MastersWork Media: [www.mastersworkmedia.com/experience.htm](http://www.mastersworkmedia.com/experience.htm)

Tom Cochrun in E mail to Susan Fletcher 12 September 2005.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of materials related to Tom Cochrun's investigative reporting including research files, interviews, notes, photographs, and film footage. The collection is divided into three series, the first containing research files and interviews for the documentary *Klan* as well as a copy of the program itself. These materials include newspaper articles and Associated Press wires about the resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1980s, anti-Klan publications such as *The Monitor* and *Klanwatch Intelligence Report*, photographs of burning crosses, and Cochrun's notebooks. There are also transcripts of interviews with officials opposed to Klan activity including Mayor William Hudnut and Reverend Jackson. In these interviews, the officials comment on the dangers of the resurgence of the KKK and they give their plans to protect people from its influence. There are also interviews with victims of Klan violence including Anthony Malone and President Gibbs of the Madison NAACP, as well as interviews with Klan members. The series also contains promotional materials for television miniseries *Cross of Fire* as well as author William Lutzholtz' response to the liberties that the miniseries took concerning the murder trial of D.C. Stevenson. There is information about the awards that *Klan* won during the early 1980s.

The second series contains materials related to Cold War intelligence and international espionage. The first folder in the series contains research files about Xenophon Kalamantiano, an American businessman who was imprisoned in Russia for three years, accused of spying for the United States. The second folder in the series contains articles and research related to the capture of American James Denby in Nicaragua. There are letters from Representative Dan Burton to Cochrun concerning the trip that the two of them took in 1987 to investigate the matter. The folder also contains an itinerary of Cochrun's visit to Mangua as well as invitations to dine at the American Embassy. The collection contains a copy of Cochrun's television reports of Denby's confinement and the Sandinista activity in Nicaragua. The rest of the series is related to American super-spy William King Harvey and his involvement with the Bay of Pigs Incident. Included are Harvey's FBI U.S. Civil Service Certificate of Medical Examination as well as copies of his 1940 evaluation to become a special agent. There are also transcripts of interviews with Harvey's daughter Sally, Tom Huston, Art Thurston, Robert Crowley, and Reverend David Kahlenberger. The two documentaries in the series are *The Secret War at Home* and *America's James Bond*.

The third series contains material related to Cochrun's special investigations into Indianapolis issues. Documentary *Shelter of Shame* is about the deplorable conditions of public housing in Indianapolis and the files in the collection

include letters from HUD officials, messages from Mayor Hudnut, and newspaper articles. The second folder in the series, containing materials from *Who is Protecting Our Children?*, is restricted because it contains material of a graphic and disturbing nature and may be viewed only with the permission of the Director of Manuscripts and Visual Collections. The file contains letters from abuse victims and their parents as well as from Planned Parenthood and The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis. The series also contains copies of news stories that Cochrun filmed during his work at WTHR.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Ku Klux Klan Investigation**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan	Box 1, Folder 1
Interviews with officials opposed to the KKK	Box 1, Folder 2
Interviews with victims of the KKK	Box 1, Folder 3
Interviews with KKK members	Box 1, Folder 4
Newspaper articles of the KKK	Box 1, Folder 5
“Study of the Political Influence of the KKK”	Box 1, Folder 6
Letters and newspaper articles related to the KKK	Box 1, Folder 7
Articles about KKK	Box 1, Folder 8
Anti-Klan publications	Box 1, Folder 9
KKK in Indiana	Box 2, Folder 1
Associated Press newswires about KKK	Box 2, Folder 2
<i>Cross of Fire</i> materials and correspondence	Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence from victims of KKK	Box 2, Folder 4
Ku Klux Klan	Box 2, Folder 5
Cochrun’s notebook	Box 2, Folder 6
Awards for <i>Klan</i>	Box 2, Folder 7
<i>Klan</i>	Box 4, DVD 0017
Photographs of KKK burnt crosses	Photographs: Folder 1
“Klan Songs of the Sixties”	CT 2014
“The Nineteenth State”	CT 2015

### **Series 2: Cold War Intelligence**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Xenophon Kalamantiano materials	Box 2, Folder 8
James Denby and Nicaragua articles	Box 2, Folder 9
<i>The Secret War at Home</i> investigation files	Box 2, Folder 10
William King Harvey FBI documents	Box 2, Folder 11
William King Harvey research	Box 2, Folder 12
William King Harvey interviews	Box 2, Folder 13
<i>The Secret War at Home</i>	Box 4, DVD 0020
<i>Indiana's James Bond</i>	Box 4, DVD 0019
"Nicaragua Series"	Box 4, DVD 0022

### Series 3: Indianapolis Investigations

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
<i>Shelter of Shame</i> files	Box 3, Folder 1
<b><u>RESTRICTED. Material is of a graphic or disturbing nature and may only be used with the permission of the Director of Manuscripts and Visual Collections:</u></b> <i>Who is Protecting Our Children?</i> Files	Box 3, Folder 2
<i>Shelter of Shame</i>	Box 4, DVD 0016
<b><u>RESTRICTED. Material is of a graphic or disturbing nature and may only be used with the permission of the Director of Manuscripts and Visual Collections:</u></b> <i>Who is Protecting Our Children?</i>	Box 4, DVD 0021
"Natural gas explosion"	Box 4, DVD 0013
Tom Cochrun News Files Archive 1	Box 4, DVD 0012
Tom Cochrun News Files Archive #2	Box 4, DVD 0014
Tom Cochrun News Files Archive #3	Box 4, DVD 0015
Tom Cochrun News Files Archive #4	Box 4, DVD 0023
Tom Cochrun News Files Archive #5	Box 4, DVD 0018
Tom Cochrun News Files Archive #6	Box 5, DVD 0028
<i>Looking Out For #1</i> , 14 September 1982	Box 4, DVD 0024
<i>Growing Up High</i> , 28 April 1982	Box 4, DVD 0025

<i>If It's May . . . It Must Be Indy . . .</i> , 1981	Box 4, DVD 0026
<i>Puzzles Inside Minds</i> , 20 June 1983	Box 4, DVD 0027
<i>Karl and Tom Cochrun</i> , 22 January 1988	Box 5, DVD 0029
<i>The Deadly Legacy</i> , 1983 March	Box 5, DVD 0030
<i>Northside / Envirochem Landfill Archive</i>	Box 5, DVD 0031
<i>1984 Democratic National Convention</i> , 16-22 July, 1984	Box 5, DVD 0032
<i>Class of 2000</i> , 14 September 1987	Box 5, DVD 0033
<i>Children of Faith Presentation Tape</i>	Box 5, DVD 0034
<i>Children of Faith</i> , 26 October 1983	Box 5, DVD 0035
<i>Kiwanis Club #2; Letterman Live at 5</i>	Box 5, DVD 0036
<i>Cross Burning</i>	Box 5, DVD 0037
<i>Harvey Slides</i>	Box 5, DVD 0038
<i>The Ride to Integration</i> , 22 April 1985	Box 5, DVD 0039
<i>The Pan American Life: Brazil Series</i> , 1986	Box 5, DVD 0040
<i>Probe Team Report, 1982 Work</i>	Box 5, DVD 0041
<i>Up Against the Law, Probe Report</i> , 26 December 1984	Box 5, DVD 0042
<i>P.M. Premier Clip</i>	Box 5, DVD 0043
<i>Cochrun and Letterman</i>	Box 6, DVD 0044
<i>Hoosiers and Gauchos: Pan Am Partners</i> , 5 August 1987	Box 6, DVD 0045
<i>Tom Cochrun on Letterman</i>	Box 6, DVD 0046
<i>Reel #2, News Promotion</i>	Box 6, DVD 0047

<i>Lee Hamilton and Clinton Inauguration Crowd</i> 1993	Box 6, DVD 0048
<i>Pan Am Security</i> , 1987	Box 6, DVD 0049
<i>Aircheck</i> , 4 May 1995	Box 6, DVD 0050
<i>Inaugural</i> 1993	Box 6, DVD 0051
<i>1988 Democratic National Convention Archive #1</i>	Box 6, DVD 0052
<i>Environment – Landfill and Hazardous Waste #3</i>	Box 6, DVD 0053
<i>Brazil Series</i> 1986, #2	Box 6, DVD 0054
<i>Supreme Court Investigation, Probe</i> 27 October 1988	Box 6, DVD 0055
<i>Newschannel</i>	Box 6, DVD 0056
<i>Airport Future / Cassidy / AK-47</i>	Box 6, DVD 0057
<i>Col. Roscoe Turner Film / Roscoe Turner Silent Film Archive / Mrs. Roscoe Turner</i>	Box 6, DVD 0058
<i>Tom Cochrun Fox 59 Interview</i>	Box 6, DVD 0059
<i>Cochrun's Comment</i> 1996-97	Box 7, DVD 0060
<i>Jonestown – Jim Jones</i> , 14 November 1979	Box 7, DVD 0061
<i>David Letterman Story (and misc.)</i> , January 1980	Box 7, DVD 0062
<i>Hazardous Waste #2</i> , 1982	Box 7, DVD 0063
<i>Envirochem Comparative Coverage</i>	Box 7, DVD 0064
<i>1988 Democratic National Convention Archives #2</i>	Box 7, DVD 0065
<i>1988 Democratic National Convention Archives #3</i>	Box 7, DVD 0066

*News*, 25 June 1995

Box 7, DVD 0067

GOP State Convention Photographs, n.d.

Photographs: Folder 2

## **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://opac.indianahistory.org/>
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, M0853).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.