

## Indiana Archives

### Indiana since 1945

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**[Editor's Note.** With this issue we introduce a new feature to our readers. It is our hope that this section, which aims to describe various archival holdings throughout Indiana, will appear once a year in the September issue. Each article will focus on one particular interest. Next year we hope to tackle the potentially much larger topic of the Civil War. We welcome comments from our readers.]

Fifty years after the end of World War II, the history of Indiana since 1945 remains the least explored era of the state's past. Whether because of nostalgia, the political ramifications of potential subjects, or a reluctance to confront those who are not safely dead, articles and books on Indiana habitually end their coverage with the end of the Second World War.

Fortunately, Indiana archives contain materials that reveal not only the fascinating, complex, and uneven changes that have combined to make the state more like the rest of modern America but also the determination of some residents to preserve values and institutions that are believed to give Indiana its distinctive identity. These manuscript collections, oral histories, photographs, statistical databases, and other holdings offer a rich record of where Indianans have lived since 1945 and what they have done for a living. Included, too, are their responses to government intervention and regulation and their concerns about such public issues as race relations, environmentalism, education, gender roles, and the health of both industry and organized labor.

These records also point to several potentially rewarding areas of research into Indiana's recent past. State residents reacted with uncertainty to the emergence of new trends during and after World War II, their apprehensions expressed most spectacularly in the

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General Assembly's 1947 antifederal aid resolution and its 1951 "revolt" over whether there should be public disclosure of welfare recipients. Other topics include the impact of veterans on the economy, education, and family life; the extension of civil rights and school desegregation issues to Indiana; the battle over daylight savings time; the beginning of the Save the Dunes campaign; and, perhaps as a result of the commitment of governors to the proposition that local problems can best be solved by local government, a reluctance to fund large-scale public works projects.

Indiana during the 1950s was dominated not simply by the Republican party but also by an ideological conservatism that generated as much internal conflict as it did discord between the state and the federal government. On the one hand, the era was marked by the passage of a right-to-work law, the only one in a northern industrial state; opposition to a Republican president's interstate highway program; a short-lived anticommunist campaign; public policies maintained by an artificially rural state legislature; and a state basketball championship won by all-white, small-town Milan High School. On the other hand, a dwindling state surplus prompted tax reforms; a Lake Michigan port site was purchased; several large, occasionally violent labor strikes erupted, and 7,000 union members marched on the State House to protest right-to-work; school consolidation grew, as did the interstate highway program and state government generally; the number of women in the Indiana work force continued to increase; and a widening rift between what Indiana was becoming and what its political leaders wanted it to remain resulted in the election in the late 1950s of the largest number of Democrats to state and congressional offices in a decade. Milan High may continue to capture the Hoosier imagination, but the dominant basketball teams of the 1950s came from the big-city, all-black Crispus Attucks High School.

The wave of changes that took place during the 1960s and early 1970s resulted from more than the election of Matthew E. Welsh, often dubbed Indiana's first "modern" governor, and the reform spirit generated by the New Frontier and Great Society. Federal courts forced reapportionment, which in turn led to a more urbanized General Assembly that at least temporarily resolved the dispute over uniform time, repealed the poll tax and right-to-work law, and established equal opportunity in housing and education. African Americans such as Gary Mayor Richard G. Hatcher represented the growing political clout of Indiana blacks. College students forced the repeal of old university rules, organized protests first over hefty tuition hikes and later over larger issues, and fashioned a relatively durable counterculture. Women secured such legal gains as an equal pay act and pushed for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Indianapolis Mayor Richard G. Lugar represented a "new Republicanism" that sought governmental reform, federal aid, and new economic opportunities.

For the rest of the 1970s and early 1980s Indianans sought to consolidate the changes that had occurred and to establish a new equilibrium in public affairs. Otis R. Bowen personified at least part of that search—a family doctor who as governor initiated far-reaching tax reform, oversaw the completion of the federal highway program, and pushed for a greater state share of the national GOP's "New Federalism." Elsewhere the balance was shakier. Indianapolis struggled to adapt to court-ordered busing. The General Assembly ratified the ERA, then rescinded its decision. Environmentalists and others kept nuclear power plants out of the state, but air and water pollution persisted. And the Indiana economy was not only beleaguered by three recessions between the mid-1970s and early 1980s but also by a long-term structural decline in manufacturing that contributed to a post-World War II unemployment high of 14 percent in 1982.

Indiana's most recent history continues to present a mixed picture. Public and private interests have made strenuous efforts to redirect the state's economy, endeavors that are exemplified by Indianapolis's campaign to become a sports and entertainment center. Yet Gary's Genesis Plan for urban revitalization collapsed, the decline of family farming reached crisis proportions in the 1980s, and problems first addressed in the 1960s remained unresolved. Indianans thus continue to be engaged in a process that has faced residents for five decades: the reconciliation of modernity with emotions and traditions that influence memories and perceptions of Indiana.

The following essays highlight the most promising kinds of archival materials available to those interested in studying Indiana's history since 1945. Robert Horton discusses the particular intellectual equipment one needs when using state government records at the Indiana State Archives. In complementary contributions on relevant resources at the Indiana Historical Society, Alexandra S. Gressitt surveys collections that reflect changes in the economy, religious life, politics, and status of women in postwar Indiana, while Wilma L. Gibbs identifies specific holdings that document the efforts of African Americans in Indianapolis and elsewhere to build community autonomy and achieve civic equality. Stephen G. McShane describes several ways of studying the multi-ethnic, multifaceted, and tumultuous history of northwest Indiana at the Calumet Regional Archives, located at Indiana University Northwest in Gary.

Together these archivists demonstrate how the study of Indiana's recent past can finally begin in earnest. Future articles in the Archives Section will focus on other eras and subjects and will also be designed to encourage further research and writing on Indiana and midwestern history.

## INDIANA STATE ARCHIVES

One of the notable themes in the history of post-World War II Indiana is the explosive growth of Indiana government, one consequence of which is the corresponding growth in government records as agencies are created, expand in size, and encompass greater responsibilities. Office technology has compounded that growth by introducing computers, photocopiers, word processors, laser printers, and electronic mail, all making the generation of records simpler and faster.

For the archivist and the researcher the results are daunting: there are enormous amounts of material to analyze and process. At the Indiana State Archives the response has been to develop, at the agency level, a records management scheme to determine what should be destroyed and what should be permanently preserved. Accordingly, most agencies in state government have for each discrete set of records a retention schedule that describes the material and outlines its "fate."<sup>1</sup> Researchers should be aware of these schedules, as records may be destined for a journey of fifteen years or more before they reach either the Archives or the shredder. That span represents a considerable portion of the postwar period.

Ideally, the retention schedule system allows researchers to determine the location of any record at any point during its "life cycle." Archivists and researchers, however, need to be aware of the ways in which governmental considerations (such as the status and development of agencies) and technological considerations (such as the advent of electronic media) affect the preservation of government records. Certain agencies, such as the Lottery Commission, are exempted entirely from the records management scheme. In addition, those parts of state government enjoying a relatively privileged status can control their own documentary history. The principal objects of interest here are the General Assembly and the Governor's Office.

Historically, the General Assembly has produced a paucity of records. No equivalent of the *Congressional Record* exists; thus, there are no texts of floor debates or committee deliberations. The Assembly's only publications, the House and Senate journals, note only the progress of a bill through the legislature. From these sources it is extremely difficult to discern anything like legislative intent.

<sup>1</sup> In Indiana the process began in 1978 with the formation of the Indiana Commission on Public Records (ICPR), the parent agency of the Indiana State Archives. The records management division, in cooperation with the agency involved, develops the retention schedules. In the years since 1978 many, but not all, agencies in state government have been scheduled. The ICPR's retention schedule database is now available on-line at the State Archives' World Wide Web site.

One way around this impasse is the use of reports coming from the Legislative Services Agency. The General Assembly routinely establishes standing and interim study committees that meet between sessions to research and recommend policy on a variety of topics. Recent concerns addressed by committees include the lack of secure storage space in the State Archives, workplace safety, education, and the problems faced by black males. Because of the need to account to the full Assembly, the committees generate a variety of records; at the very least they produce a final report but sometimes, as well, transcripts of testimony or minutes of meetings.

Like the General Assembly, the Governor's Office is not considered subject to the public records law. Although most postwar governors do have records at the Archives, the materials therein do not necessarily constitute a full history of the various administrations. Roger D. Branigin's official papers, for example, are largely at Franklin College. Personal papers, a category sometimes, one suspects, generously construed, are never brought to the Archives. When Robert D. Orr left office, his staff left eight years of records in dumpsters behind the State House; fortunately, the Archives' staff staged a rescue which brought hundreds of cubic feet of material to safety. It seems, though, that before being dumped the files were sanitized; post-Watergate, it can be assumed that such a procedure is and will be increasingly routine.<sup>2</sup>

Nonetheless, governors' papers are the single most important source to research for two reasons: (1) the office's involvement in all aspects of government generally guarantees some mention of a public issue; and (2) the Archives has produced useful finding aids that greatly facilitate access to the collections. Despite their drawbacks the Governors' Papers remain the necessary starting point for research in postwar records.

The attraction of records originating in the General Assembly and the Governor's Office lies, of course, in their catholicity. Agency records, on the other hand, are less appealing because of their irregularity, the foremost cause of which is the mutability of things: especially since 1945 state government has suffered continuing consolidation and fragmentation as it forms and re-forms itself in response to social changes and demands. Understanding this flux is critical because, as the principle of *respect des fonds* governs the archival treatment of records, all documents are kept in the order in which they are received at the Archives. They are not rearranged or reclassified. Researchers, accordingly, have to determine who created the records in order to find them, a process that is rarely simple.

<sup>2</sup> Former New York Governor Mario Cuomo's "clean-up" even shocked the New York Post. See its front page article, "The Shreds of Evidence: Cuomo aides destroy tens of thousands of state documents," November 15, 1994.

One of the most important developments in postwar history, for example, has been the increased concern for the environment. Within state government all of the following agencies have missions in some way related to the topic: the Department of Natural Resources, formed in 1965, principally incorporating the old Department of Conservation; the Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), formed in 1985 from portions of several agencies; the Utility Regulatory Commission, before 1988 the Public Service Commission; the Utility Consumer Council, formed in 1981; the Pesticide Review Board, 1971; the Hazardous Waste Facility Site Approval Authority, 1981; the Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission, 1939. Then, despite the all-encompassing concerns of these agencies, there are anomalies such as the Department of Health's special report on the Marble Hill nuclear plant, six cubic feet of records relating to a critical decision about Indiana's environment.

Untangling these knots is just the first phase of any researcher's project. Once a particular thread is identified, there remains the task of tracing the variety of documents that every agency produces. One possible impediment is confidentiality: all agencies produce some records that are deemed confidential, either permanently, such as adoption records, or for seventy-five years, such as hospital records. Other government records can be broadly categorized as minutes, financial records, correspondence, publications, and administrative materials.

Minutes are deemed critical records, thus are scheduled to be preserved completely and permanently at the Archives. Their value to the researcher lies in their overview of an agency's mission and in their account of all significant decisions. Financial records are copiously generated in the normal course of business but are not destined for long-term retention except in compiled formats. The routine is to keep these records only long enough for the State Board of Accounts to complete an audit and to satisfy any particular statutory obligation.<sup>3</sup> Correspondence is scheduled according to content. The retention period for "general" correspondence is three years in-house and then disposal. "Policy" correspondence, on the other hand, is transferred to the Archives after three years for evaluation. Publications are not normally sent to the Archives; under a longstanding division of labor, the Indiana Division of the State Library assumes responsibility for printed materials.

Retention schedules for administrative materials reflect a number of considerations. From the perspective of the agency producing the records, the foremost concerns are statutory obligations and the

<sup>3</sup> For example, under GRACC-1, the retention schedule for general accounting records, records are held at the State Records Center for fifteen years after completion of the State Board of Accounts audit and then destroyed.

economics of storage. Consequently, preservation becomes the focus of a "risk analysis," which determines the perfect balance of safety and frugality but which changes over time. Environmental records, for example, have become increasingly significant. As a result, IDEM is now exploring the use of imaging, a very expensive but potentially much more secure and flexible alternative to paper. Other agencies, too, plan the transition to electronic records, a course that would revolutionize record keeping and record access.<sup>4</sup>

With the Internet patrons and researchers now have the potential to connect directly to the government's electronic records. Indiana has already taken some steps to facilitate this process; the Information Services Division of the Department of Administration has created World Wide Web sites for, among other agencies, the State Archives, the Criminal Justice Institute, and the State Election Board. As a result, a number of records are now on-line. Whether this service grows is contingent on a number of factors, but principally on the state's budget. Given the financial restrictions that government agencies face, their capacity to make large capital investments in technology is limited. No matter what eventually takes shape, however, the concept of an "archives" will be drastically affected. The "paperless office" will probably never exist, but paper documents will undoubtedly serve ancillary and ephemeral roles in a predominantly electronic process, with all that that implies.<sup>5</sup> Determining the whys and wherefores of government actions, already difficult, may well become increasingly problematic as government computerizes.

#### INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Researchers seeking to re-create an image of the late twentieth century will find an interesting array of resources at the William Henry Smith Library of the Indiana Historical Society. Some of the research material will be traditional (paper-based materials), others less so (audio-visual), and, increasingly, others will require a broad range of technical expertise and/or equipment (electronic), if they are accessible at all.

Researchers will also find that the Indiana Historical Society's holdings reflect the societal changes resulting from World War II. Women entering the labor force and remaining in it had increasingly less time to devote to volunteer and social-educational activi-

<sup>4</sup> For an introduction to the question of electronic records, see Jeff Rothenburg, "Ensuring the Longevity of Digital Documents," *Scientific American*, CCLXXII (January, 1995), 42-47.

<sup>5</sup> The E-mail controversies that bedeviled the investigation of the National Security Agency's role in Iran-Contra are a good example of the shape of things to come. For an analysis of this problem from a general perspective, see Philip G. Schrag, "The Working Papers of Federal Policymaking: Our Vanishing Public History," *Public Historian*, XVI (Fall, 1994), 37-65.

ties; consequently, there was a rising professionalization of social services, a diminution of quasi educational-social clubs, and an expansion of professional organizations. Some representative collections of social and health service organizations include the Planned Parenthood Association of Central Indiana (M 468), Jewish Welfare Federation of Indianapolis (M 463), Indianapolis Urban League (M 476), and Citizens Forum (M 425). Professional organizations that rose to prominence after World War II include Women In Communications, Inc. (M 375), Indianapolis Press Club (M 625), Indiana State Nurses Association (M 380), Indiana Dietetic Association (M 282), and National Society of Arts and Letters (M 579). Many clubs that were established before the war and that were geared to moral and intellectual improvement also flourished after 1945. Smaller, neighborhood-based clubs, such as the Review Club (M 437), Pierian Study Club (M 176), and Current Discussion Club (M 65), all literary and current affairs discussion groups, and the McCutchanville Home Economics Club (SC 2464), a homemakers club, no longer exist. Larger, more broadly based clubs and organizations, such as the Indianapolis Literary Club (M 338), the Indianapolis Woman's Club (M 478), and Indianapolis Dramatic Club (M 646), continue to thrive.

Commercial ventures grew, sometimes so indiscriminately that avarice destroyed developing concerns. Some family businesses became corporations and ultimately conglomerates. While some business records continue to be deposited in special collections repositories, most such records are now only accessible in corporate headquarters archives (*e.g.*, the Indianapolis-based Golden Rule Insurance Company). Exceptions include portions of the L. S. Ayres Company Records (M 616); the historic files of Railroadmen's Federal Savings and Loan Association (M 656); the State Street Investment Corporation (BV 2695-6), a record of the sale of the Von Investment Company; and the files of the Indiana Architectural Foundation (M 629) and the Indiana Society of Architects (M 624), all of which are held by the Indiana Historical Society.

Two areas in which there are continuing efforts to collect materials are religion and politics. The diversity of material in these subject areas affords researchers the luxury of well-balanced inquiries. Some of these collections include the Indiana Religious History Project (M 577), which documented freedom of worship as guaranteed in an article of the Northwest Ordinance; the records of the Indianapolis Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (M 633); research notes on the Reverend Jim Jones (M 205); the Institute on Religion and Aging (M 421), created to promote improved services and meet the needs of older citizens; Church Women United (M 547); and the Indiana Council of Churches (M 344).

Collections representing changing attitudes toward military installations are recorded in three interrelated collections (M 332,

M 440, SC 870) detailing the history of the Jefferson Proving Grounds and the controversy over its closure in 1989.

Several good collections reflecting the role that women have played in politics in Indiana are available. With two of these collections, The League of Women Voters of Indiana (M 612) and The League of Women Voters of Indianapolis (M 611), researchers have the enviable opportunity to use resources spanning nearly the entire twentieth century. More activist materials are available in the Indiana NOW records (M 583) and in the papers of Julia Strain Fangmeir (M 637), educator, minister, and political activist; Joline Ohmart (M 610), political activist for equal rights and employment standards; Lee Ellen Ford (M 469), scientist, attorney, educator, and feminist; and Susan McWhirter Ostrom (M 337), civic leader and journalist.

Politicians' papers always provide an interesting perspective in understanding the concerns of an era. Some representative collections include the papers of Cecil Harden (M 584), a five-term Republican congresswoman from western Indiana; Martha Ellis Hopkins (M 146), Republican party leader; and James P. Fadely (M 651), educator and Democratic political candidate. Judicial and legal issues are more difficult to chronicle, in large part because of client privacy rights. Although an incomplete record, the correspondence and petitions addressed to the Indiana Supreme Court concerning Paula Cooper's (M 565) 1986 death sentence helps to illustrate the state's social consciousness. The Indiana Historical Society also has an invaluable resource in the Senior Lawyers Project (M 574), a collection of oral histories in which leading attorneys cover such wide-ranging topics as rural electrification, legal culture, civil rights, and Indianapolis-Unigov.

An area that is not as well documented, in part because people in a rapidly advancing technological society place little value on contemporary materials—the “they-are-valuable-only-if-they-are-really-old” syndrome—and in part because technological advances have altered people's lives, are personal papers of typical everyday citizens. In the past, people without access to instant gratification—movies, television, radio, etc.—created their own entertainment. They kept diaries and journals and wrote lengthy letters, skits, short stories, and miscellanies, sometimes dreary but more often eloquent, and occasionally so graphic as to rival our contemporary soap operas. In recording so voluminously their ideas, activities, hopes, and fears, they secured for themselves an assured niche in history. Today, with instant electronic communication, there is diminishing hope of establishing an accurate record of the daily lives of ordinary citizens. Even those who do maintain correspondence, or keep diaries or journals, do so with less reflection, less eloquence, and frequently with such terseness as to be questionably useful. The papers of Joann Walters (M 150), a contemporary

Hoosier, are a notable exception, with widely ranging correspondents providing insight into some of the problems faced by women in the last quarter of the twentieth century.

In part oral histories have been utilized to fill the informational void created by the absence of written records. The Senior Lawyers Project is a good example, as are two different interviews, one conducted by James H. Madison (SC 2254) with Evelyn Fortune Bartlett and Madeline Fortune Elder, daughters of William Fortune, a prominent Indianapolis figure, and one by Charles Latham (SC 2303) with Bartlett, Elder, and William Lemcke Fortune, grandson of William Fortune.

These and many other holdings at the Indiana Historical Society reflect the diversity of a post-World War II Indiana in which people engaged in myriad new activities and expanded old ones. Many of the changes involved dramatic advances by African Americans in the state, and the Indiana Historical Society's collections offer numerous examples of individual and organizational efforts to secure racial and civic equality.

#### **Selected African-American History Collections at the Indiana Historical Society**

The Indiana Historical Society has scores of collections that pertain to the history of African Americans in Indiana. Several collections have been gathered from a variety of sources and donors under the auspices of the Black History Program. Created to address the paucity of materials available for researching Indiana African-American history, the Program officially began in 1982, and its quarterly newsletter, *Black History News & Notes*, publicizes collections and publishes articles that utilize them. During the early 1980s the Society was one of five repositories in Illinois and Indiana to participate in the Black Women in the Middle West Project, an effort to gather manuscripts and photographs related to African-American women within the two-state area. The undertaking, directed by Darlene Clark Hine, netted the Society fifty collections, including the project's administrative records.

Numerous collections provide glimpses of the recent history of African Americans in Indiana. Several of the personal papers are useful because they include materials that denote the work of civic leaders, many of whom were involved with multiple organizations and causes. Especially noteworthy are the papers of Robert Brokenburr (M 492), Jesse L. Dickinson (M 532), Harvey N. Middleton (M 441), Henry J. Richardson, Jr. (M 472), and Roselyn Richardson (M 649). Brokenburr, an Indianapolis attorney, was the first African American to serve in the Indiana General Assembly. Dickinson, a South Bend legislator, served in both the Indiana Senate and House. An Indianapolis cardiologist, Middleton was active in

several local and national organizations, including the Flanner House, Senate Avenue Young Men's Christian Association, United Negro College Fund, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Meharry Medical College Alumni Association. Forever an advocate, Henry J. Richardson, Jr., was one of the first blacks to be elected to the Indiana General Assembly in the twentieth century. His collection gives an excellent overview of the advances in civil rights in the state since 1932. Roselyn Richardson has also been very active in numerous civic, religious, educational, and political organizations. Her collection contains the records of the Career Sampling Program, an educational initiative that she began in 1973 at Shortridge High School, part of the Indianapolis public school system.

In the spirit of self-help and volunteerism, several agencies, institutions, and clubs developed or adjusted their emphasis to address the social, health, educational, and recreational needs of a changing population during the post-World War II period. Many of the women's clubs that developed prior to World War I, under the umbrella of the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, touted the banner of racial or moral uplift. Club work often addressed critical health needs of the community. Records for the Woman's Improvement Club (M 432) reflect its work with an early open air tuberculosis camp. Responding to the need for health facilities for African Americans, the Grand Body of the Sisters of Charity (M 619) opened a hospital in Indianapolis in 1911. The records of the Sojourner Truth Club (M 540) reveal the activities of clubwomen in Richmond. Although all of these clubs have some materials that date from the post-World War II period, evidence suggests that the focus of many of their activities changed from solving critical social issues to being more recreational in nature. Recent health strides can be seen in the papers (M 510) of Walter Maddux, M.D., who helped found the Herman G. Morgan Health Center in 1943.

Not as well documented are the clubs and fraternal organizations of African-American men, although Indiana has active chapters of Elks, Masons, Knights of Pythias, Coalition of 100 Black Men, and Greek-letter fraternities. Indiana has two black Greek-letter organizations that can claim Alpha chapters: Kappa Alpha Psi at Indiana University and Sigma Gamma Rho at Butler University.

Collections of other organizations that give a broader sense of the Indianapolis African-American community include the Phyllis Wheatley Young Women's Christian Association (M 494), the Young Women's Christian Association (M 485), Flanner House (M 513), and the Federation of Associated Clubs (M 429). In 1964 Mattie Coney founded Citizens Forum (M 425) to get an open housing ordinance passed in Indianapolis and to improve the condition of the city's neighborhoods. Eventually the Forum developed an inter-

racial self-help program that served as an umbrella group for city block clubs. The Indianapolis Urban League, an advocate for housing and employment, was established in 1965. The organization's voluminous records (M 476) include materials from its forerunner, the Association of Merit Employment.

The end of World War II brought less tolerance of discrimination in the area of public accommodations such as hotels, restaurants, and recreational areas. Around the state a few cities instituted successful reforms before the passage of the Indiana school desegregation law in 1949. The Henry J. Richardson, Jr., Papers contain information about the passage of the school bill. Two other resources, Emma Lou Thornbrough's 620-page unpublished manuscript "The Indianapolis Story: School Segregation and Desegregation in a Northern City" (BV 2631) and "History of the Indianapolis School Desegregation Case: 1968-Present," a 28-page paper by Elson Benedict, Jr., and Frank D. Aquila (SC 1974), detail Indianapolis's response to a lawsuit initiated by the United States Department of Justice against the city's public school system, a response that subsequently involved outlying township schools.

Many Indiana colleges and universities significantly increased their enrollment of black students during the 1960s. Demographic trends suggest that these numbers will continue to grow. Institutions of higher education have identified in-house strategies to support their more diverse student bodies. State, regional, and national organizations have been formed to meet the academic, financial, and sociocultural needs of minority, disabled, and/or disadvantaged students. The Indiana Mid-American Association of Educational Opportunity Programs Personnel Collection, 1975-1989 (M 615), describes one organization's efforts to promote secondary and postsecondary programs that supported the needs of nontraditional students.

In more recent years smaller, private colleges have also actively recruited a more diverse student population. Like public universities, these private institutions have noted problems with black student population and retention. During the 1980s Wabash College instituted an oral history project focusing on African Americans at the school. The project subsequently expanded to include black residents in Crawfordsville. The Wabash College Oral History Project (M 647) includes interview tapes and transcriptions of fifty people from the college and the city.

The post-World War II period witnessed the establishment of many grocery stores, service garages, dry cleaning shops, night-clubs, billiard halls, and restaurants owned by African Americans throughout the state. Before the 1960s a highly segregated African-American community supported black-owned businesses, especially in service industries. Two early businesses that continue to exist,

under different ownership, are the Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company and the Indianapolis *Recorder*. Included in the large Madam C. J. Walker Collection (M 399) are the records of the Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company and several Walker Company entities, including a theatre, drugstore, restaurant, casino, and realty company. Hortense Harlin provides a history of the longest continuously operated African-American newspaper in Indiana in her 1951 Indiana University masters thesis, "The Indianapolis *Recorder*: A History of a Negro Weekly Newspaper" (SC 1886). The McArthur Conservatory of Music, Inc., located in Indianapolis, was organized in 1946 and closed in 1963. The McArthur Conservatory Collection (M 529) describes an institution that provided recreational and commercial training for children and adults.

The limited number and lack of geographical and denominational diversity of church records at the Indiana Historical Society does not reflect the role and influence that religious institutions have had in the lives of black Hoosiers. Although the Baptists can claim the largest church membership statewide, the African Methodist Episcopal, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion, Christian Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, Christian, Catholic, Pentecostal, and Muslim denominations have a significant number of congregants. Post-World War II church records at the Society include those of the New Bethel Baptist Church (M 450) and Second Baptist Church (M 524), both located in Indianapolis. Virtea Downey (M 509) gathered records pertaining to various churches in Indianapolis during the Black Women in the Middle West Project, as did Alta Jett (M 495) in Richmond.

In its short life span the Black History Program has gathered an impressive group of collections. A major challenge remains the collection of papers and records that will reflect the everyday lives and varied activities of African Americans in all areas of the state.

#### DOCUMENTING "INDIANA'S LAST FRONTIER": THE CALUMET REGIONAL ARCHIVES

In 1959 Professor Powell A. Moore published his classic history of northwest Indiana entitled *The Calumet Region: Indiana's Last Frontier*. Moore chose his subtitle to illustrate the point that Lake and Porter counties served as the final major areas of settlement in the nineteenth state. Although the "State of Lake's" development began later than its southern neighbors, its brief past remains one of the most fascinating and colorful subjects in Hoosier history. The study of the Calumet's history, however, could also be dubbed "Indiana's Last Historical Frontier." Only since 1959 has northwest Indiana received serious attention from professional historians; but as greater numbers of researchers probe the Calumet's past, they will find a repository of primary research materials awaiting them in the Calumet Regional Archives.

The youth of the Archives, established in 1973, reflects that of the Region. Primarily twentieth-century in scope, the repository contains over 360 distinct archival and manuscript collections that furnish information on the history of the arts and music in the area; African Americans, Latinos, and other ethnic groups; education; environmentalism; health; industry; labor; politics; recreation; women; and other topics. Correspondence, minutes, scrapbooks, programs, pamphlets, reports, photographs, and maps, as well as films, videotapes, and sound recordings, are collected and preserved. Many of the collections are small, yet they offer information unavailable anywhere else.

The holdings of the Calumet Regional Archives are particularly well suited to the study of Indiana in the post-1945 period. The themes of the recent past include the emergence of environmental movements, the rise and decline of industrial unions, civil rights/minority power campaigns, and crime and political corruption. While the Archives holds a number of collections on these subjects, a few of the more useful sources are highlighted below.

#### Environmentalism

In the early 1950s one segment of the population began to view the continued industrialization of northwest Indiana with alarm. Stimulated by Bethlehem Steel's plans to build a new mill in the Indiana Dunes, along with the Port of Indiana project, a group of Ogden Dunes women founded the Save the Dunes Council in 1952; the Council ultimately succeeded in winning an Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 1966. The Save the Dunes Council Records (CRA 149) include minutes, correspondence, articles, and other records describing this grassroots effort. In addition to the Council records, several leaders of this group have donated their personal papers. Of particular interest are those of Thomas Dustin, the Council's publicity director (CRA 113), Alton A. Lindsey, a scientist advisor (CRA 118), Sylvia Troy, a former Council president (CRA 287), and John Schnurlein, a member of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Advisory Commission (CRA 140).

As nuclear power came under fire in the 1970s, the Bailly Alliance formed to fight the erection of the area's first nuclear power plant in Porter County. The Bailly Alliance Records (CRA 23) comprise correspondence, leaflets, newsletters, and reports. While the Bailly Alliance fought the plant in the streets, the Concerned Citizens Against the Bailly Nuclear Site battled the utility in the courts. The papers of Ed Osann, chief attorney for the Concerned Citizens group (CRA 183), detail the legal maneuverings leading to the project's cancellation.

Other groups and individuals rode the environmental wave of the past fifty years, and some of their records have entered the

Archives. From the Community Action to Reverse Pollution (CARP) Records (CRA 99) to the People Against Hazardous Landfill Sites (PAHLS) Records (CRA 313), the documentation of this new Calumet tradition has become a major component of the Archives' holdings.

### Labor

Industrial unionism has served as a major theme in the history of northwest Indiana. The post-1945 period saw the rapid rise of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) to a position of incredible power in the Calumet Region. Interestingly, union influence declined in just thirty years, as the changing economy, loss of jobs, and internal strife weakened steelworker power by 1982.

The Calumet Regional Archives holds thirty collections, contributed by union locals and labor leaders, related to the history of the USWA. The USWA Local 1010 (Inland Steel, East Chicago) Records (CRA 115) are the most complete. The collection's strength is its coverage of the 1940-1965 period detailing the local's positions regarding wages, hours, and working conditions. A series of files offers useful data on several major strikes during the era, particularly the 116-day steel strike in 1959. Other major collections on the USWA include the USWA Local 1011 (LTV Steel, East Chicago) Records (CRA 121), the John Mayerik (USS Gary Works, Local 1014) Papers (CRA 168), and the USWA Local 6787 (Bethlehem Steel, Porter County) Records (CRA 228). Of special interest are the E. Thomas Colosimo Papers (CRA 325), which contain a run of a local steelworkers newspaper exhibiting an alternative point of view to the mainstream union pronouncements of the period.

The growing rift between the steelworkers' international union leadership and the rank-and-file membership exploded in the Region in the early 1970s as steelworkers split during the USWA District 31 election. The Samuel Evett Papers (CRA 137) offer insight into the disunity within the union, a fact that contributed to the demise of steelworker strength in the 1970s. Union power suffered even further as the 1980s began, as many local industrial plants either reduced their labor forces or simply closed their doors—the 1982 recession was especially hard on the Calumet Region. A collection of personal papers from Terry Steagall (CRA 31) contains materials related to many union locals as well as plant closings during this period and helps to document the lessening power of organized labor in this bastion of union strength.

### Civil Rights/Minority Power

The struggle for civil rights in northwest Indiana mirrored events nationally. Although the election of Richard Gordon Hatcher as one of the first black mayors of a major American city (Gary) is

often identified with the rise of local black political power, events in the 1940s and 1950s paved the way for Hatcher's 1967 victory. In documenting this subject, the Archives has had to rely on personal collections. Among early civil rights events were the desegregation of Miller Beach along Lake Michigan and the employment of African Americans in Gary's downtown department stores. The Clifford E. Minton Papers (CRA 160) chronicle those episodes and much more; Minton headed the Gary Urban League from 1949 to 1965. A brief record of the Gary NAACP activities can be found in the Jeanette Strong Papers (CRA 79), which include photographs of an open housing march down Broadway in 1963.

Unfortunately, the Archives lacks the papers of Richard Hatcher, but various small collections attempt to provide some information on the Hatcher era, 1967-1987. For example, the Archives has begun a Richard Hatcher Collection (CRA 86), a grouping of discrete items about the mayor. Included are items such as campaign materials and photographs. The Henry Coleman Papers (CRA 277) contain various reports and news articles about the Hatcher elections in 1967 and 1971 and the city controller's office in the early 1970s. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, programs, and campaign materials in the Charlene Crowell Papers (CRA 321) furnish information on the later years of the Hatcher administration. Finally, a few materials about the Gary Human Relations Commission and various Hatcher city programs are housed in the Leonard Dreyfus Papers (CRA 268).

In addition to the voices of African Americans seeking social justice, Latinos began to gain greater visibility in the political and social arena. Current collections include the Nicolas Kanellos Papers (CRA 273), which encompass records of the Concerned Latins Organization, established to promote greater sensitivity to Latino concerns in education and local government. The Abe Morales Papers (CRA 260) provide some data on the Gary Latin American Democrats, while the Manuel and Louise Martinez Papers (CRA 253) include materials about local League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) activities.

### Crime and Corruption

One of the most persistent images of the Calumet Region centers on its reputation as a "wide-open" area, home to organized crime leaders and corrupt politicians. This legacy began in the Prohibition era and continued into the post-1945 period as vice dens proliferated and local politicians were investigated by congressional committees and sometimes convicted and removed from office. The Archives has preserved several collections relating to this more colorful aspect of the Region's recent past.

In 1949 the senseless killing of a popular Gary schoolteacher prompted a group of outraged women to action. The Women's Citi-

zens Committee (WCC) began a crusade to clean up Gary and rid the city of vice and corruption. The Women's Citizens Committee Records (CRA 30) document these efforts, which gained national exposure. The Northwest Indiana Crime Commission succeeded the WCC in the late 1950s. The papers of Elmer Jacobsen (CRA 309), director of the crime commission from 1965 to its demise in 1975, contain minutes, correspondence, and subject files on topics ranging from corruption to gambling to prostitution. One of the politicians falling from grace in this period was Gary Mayor George Chacharis, who was sent to prison for tax evasion in 1962. The Chacharis Papers (CRA 18) furnish insight, through letters and other materials, into the life and times of this Greek immigrant who rose to prominence yet prematurely left office in disgrace.

Virtually all of the collections described above, along with the other 350 collections in the Archives, are available for research. "Indiana's Last Frontier" beckons—all explorers are welcome!