

# Indianapolis Sesquicentennial Commission

L575

1966-1972

14 mss boxes, 1 box oversized material; 7.5 cubic feet

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division  
Indiana State Library

Processed by: Alessandro Meregaglia, June 2013

## Biographical Note:

In 1971, in preparation for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Indianapolis, Mayor Richard Lugar authorized the creation of the Indianapolis Sesquicentennial Commission to serve as the organization that would facilitate the city's celebrations. George S. Diener, former state representative and senator from Marion County, chaired the commission and coordinated the events.

Public celebrations began on January 6, 1971; the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary the General Assembly accepted a report recommending Indianapolis become the state's capital city. Throughout the year, the city hosted numerous events, including a beauty pageant, special exhibits at the city's museums, co-sponsorship of the first Indiana Black Expo, a race of antique cars at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway as well as the July 4<sup>th</sup> Street Fair and Fireworks Spectacular, which drew an estimated 100,000 people. The city's religious communities united together to host an interdenominational program, "Faith for a City." Civil War re-enactors encamped at Fort Benjamin Harrison in June to remember the events of a century earlier.

Edward Leary wrote a narrative history of the city, *Indianapolis: The Story of a City*, specifically for the sesquicentennial. The commission also produced commemorative medallions and a cookbook that were sold to the public. The motto for the year-long celebration was "We Celebrate Our City."

### Source:

David G. Vanderstel, "Anniversary Celebrations," in *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*, ed. David J. Bodenhamer and Robert G. Barrows (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1994), 262-263.

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## Scope and Content:

The collection contains documents related to all elements of planning the 1971 Indianapolis Sesquicentennial, which began several years in advance. Papers include correspondence between commissioners and contractors for the various events and merchandise, proposals and suggestions for events as well as general notes and memos. The bulk of correspondence involves Thomas Kibler, Executive Director of the Commission.

Additionally, the collection contains information related to merchandise sold by the Commission including record books, invoices and promotional materials, and information related to events run by the Commission including committee reports. Resumes and original applicant photographs for Queen Contest and the Mr. and Mrs. Hospitality Event are also in the collection.

The Commission's offices were located at the Indianapolis Hilton Hotel and had a bank account through American Fletcher National Bank (now part of Bank One). The collection contains statements, payment receipts, invoices, and other budget related material in regard to the Commission's activities.

Artifacts in the collection include original artwork relating to the logo and medallion of the Sesquicentennial, a plaque given to the citizens of Marion County for their help with the Indiana Sesquicentennial, and two dozen photos of exhibits from the Indiana Sesquicentennial five years earlier. Commissioner John T. Sutton's collection of materials related to his two-year service on the Commission remains filed together.

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### **Arrangement:**

Series 1: Correspondence, 1969-1972

    Subseries 1.1: Administrative correspondence

    Subseries 1.2: Commissioner files

    Subseries 1.3: Subject files

Series 2: Reports, 1969-1972

    Subseries 2.1: Committees

    Subseries 2.2: Recommendations

Series 3: Events documents, advertisements, 1970-1971

Series 4: Merchandise invoices, receipts, documents, 1969-1972

Series 5: Public Relations press conferences, press kit, 1970-1972

Series 6: Financial documents, receipts, bank statements, 1970-1972

Series 7: Subject files, 1969-1972

Series 8: Artifacts, photographs, plaques, 1966-1972

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**Collection Inventory**  
**Box and Folder Listing:**

Box 1. *Administrative Correspondence*, 1969 October 7-1972 February 19

Folder

1. George Diener, Chairman, 1969 October 7-1971 August 9
2. Fred Hadley, Commissioner, 1969 October 15-1971 February 23
3. James Farmer, Commissioner, 1970 June 19-1971 February 11
4. James Rogers, Commissioner, 1970 July 10-1971 April 1
5. Commissioner Correspondence, 1970 October 20-1971 November 2
6. Correspondence, 1969 October 27-1971 June 31
7. Correspondence, 1971 July 1-December 27
8. Finished Business, 1970 November 21-1971 February 26
9. Finished Business, 1971 March 2-April 29
10. Finished Business, 1971 May 4-August 31
11. Finished Business, 1971 September 1-1972 February 19

Box 2. *Reports*, 1969 October 7-1972 January 9

Folder

1. Advisory Committee, 1970 September 16-September 23
2. Communications Committee, 1969 October 7-1970 November 9
3. Education Committee, 1970 January 8-1971 July 15
4. Fine Arts Committee, 1970 May 13-1971 June 8
5. Senior Citizens Committee, 1970 December 22-1971 July 8
6. Series of Meetings, 1970 July 6-1971 April 29
7. Speedway Committee, 1970 July 6-1971 December 17
8. Alfred Stern Event Planning, 1970 January 27-1971 January 26
9. Bids and Quotations, 1970 October 24-1971 January 25
10. Employment Applications, 1970 July 2-1971 January 27
11. History of Indiana, undated
12. History of Indianapolis, 1970 September 24-1971 April 7
13. Ideas, 1969 August 27-1970 July 2
14. Master Parks Plan for Marion County, undated
15. Postage Meters, 1970 June 19-1972 January 9
16. Proposals for Sesquicentennial Commission, 1970 December 16-1971 September

Box 3. *Reports/Events*, 1970 January 28-1971 November 19

Folder

1. Rogers Company Event Planning, 1970 June 18-1971 June 26
2. Recommendations Prepared for Sesquicentennial Commission, undated
3. Solicitation Applications, 1971 January-June 23
4. Suggested Projects/Schedule of Events, undated
5. Sesquicentennial History of Indianapolis Fillers, undated
6. Sesquicentennial Resume, 1970 July 22-November 18

7. Suggested Indianapolis Historic Sites, undated
8. Telephone Answering Service, 1970 September 24
9. Theme Center, 1970 July 20
10. Volunteers, 1970 September 15-1971 March 30  
Events
11. Auto Tour Guide, 1970 July 21-September 1
12. Black Expo 1971, 1971 April-June 24
13. Bus Tours, 1970 January 28-1971 May 10
14. Civil War in Indianapolis, undated
15. Clean-up Campaign, undated
16. Coin Club, 1971 May 14
17. Conference on Cities, 1970 July 15-1971 May 23
18. Faith for a City, 1971 April 26-November 19
19. Fashion Show, 1970 August 21
20. Film Festival, 1970 June 13-July 11
21. Golf Tournament, 1971 May 6-June 28
22. Grand Spree, 1971 March 25-November 15
23. Indy Spirits, 1971 May 3-May 21

Box 4. *Events*, 1970 April 1-September 16

Folder

1. January 6<sup>th</sup> (1971) Kick-Off, 1970 July 24-December 30
2. January 6<sup>th</sup> (1971) Kick-Off, 1970 December 7-1971 April 8
3. January 6<sup>th</sup> (1971) Kick-Off, 1971 January 6
4. July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration, 1970 April 1-1971 March 29
5. July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration, 1971 April 1-June 21
6. July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration, 1971 June 22-September 16
7. Junior Achievement Trade Fair, 1970 December 8-1971 February 12
8. Logo Contest, 1970 May 15-1971 August 23
9. Mr. and Mrs. Hospitality, 1971 June 28

Box 5. *Events*, 1970 June 25-1971 July 23

Folder

1. 150 Mile Bike Ride, 1971 March 30-July 23
2. 150 Club, 1971 29-February 27
3. 150 Club, 1971 March 1-May 24
4. 150 Club Letters, 1971 February 19-June 29
5. 150 Club Prospects, 1970 September 22-1971 March 12
6. 150 Club Receipts for Silver Medals, 1971 March 23-April 6
7. Photo Contest, 1970 June 25-1971 June 9
8. Queen Contest, 1970 November 13-1971 February 12
9. Queen Contest Completed Applications, 1970 December 14
10. Queen Contest Selection, 1970 October 28-November 12
11. Queen Contest Applicant Supplementary Information, 1970 December-1971 January

Box 6. *Events*, 1970 January 4-1971 November 19

Folder

1. Riley Event, 1971 March 18-1971 September 4
2. Rose Festival, 1970 May 29-1971 May 30
3. Sesqui Speedway Salute, 1970 January 4-1971 November 17
4. Sesqui Speedway Salute, 1971-August 31-November 15
5. Sesqui Speedway Salute, 1971 October 10
6. Sesqui Speedway Press Credentials, 1971 August 31-October 13
7. Sesqui Speedway Script Personnel, 1971 May 19-October 4
8. Sesqui Speedway Tony Hulman Luncheon, 1971 September 15-September 30
9. Sesqui Speedway Salute VIP List, undated
10. Shopping Centers, 1970 July 17-1971 January 14
11. Stamp Club, 1971 March 30-November 19
12. Youth Ambassadors, 1970 July 21-October 16

Box 7. *Merchandise*, 1969 December 7-1972 May 30

Folder

1. Cookbooks, 1970 July 7-1971 December 15
2. Cookbooks, 1972 January 5-May 30
3. Cookbook Detail, 1970 December 31-1972 January 10
4. Cookbook Orders, 1971 June 17-December 11
5. *Indianapolis: The Story of a City* Invoices, undated
6. Medallions, 1969 December 7-1971 September 16
7. Medallion Contest, 1971 May 27-1972 June 11
8. Medallion Correspondence, 1970 April 29-1972 February 25
9. Medallion Correspondence to Banks and S&L, 1970 October 8-1971 August 20
10. Medallion Inventory, 1970 January 4-1971 June 25

Box 8. *Merchandise*, 1968 April 8-1972 June

Folder

1. Medallion Inventory, 1970 November 23-1972 January 13
2. Medallion Invoices, 1970 November-1972 June
3. Medallion Invoices, 1971 February 17-December 29
4. Medallion – Medallion Art Company, 1970 May 4-1972 March 3
5. Medallion Miscellaneous Forms, 1970 November 19
6. Medallion Order Forms, 1970 December 10-December 22
7. Medallion Personalization, 1971 November 2-1972 January 27
8. Medallion Preliminary Information, 1968 April 8-1971 October 13
9. Medallion Record Books for Sales, 1971

Box 9. *Merchandise*, 1970 July 1-1972 February 6

Folder

1. Medallion – Richard Newman Associates, 1970 August 11-1971 August 20
2. Medallion – S&L Inventories, 1970 December 3-1971 November 1
3. Medallions Signed Receipts, 1970 October 30-1972 February 6

4. Merchandise Order Forms, 1971 May 20-July 28
5. Merchandise Order Forms, 1971 August 2-August 27
6. Merchandise Order Forms, 1971 September 8-November 24
7. Merchandise Order Forms, 1971 November 27-December 2
8. Merchandise on Loan/Display, undated
9. Sesquicentennial Newsletter, 1970 July 1
10. Sesquicentennial Picture Albums, 1971 May 21-December 2

**Box 10.** *Public Relations*, 1970 August 5-1972 May 16

Folder

1. Indy Images, 1970 August 7-1971 May 25
2. Press Conference, 1970 December 6-December 30
3. Press Kit, 1970 November 30-1971 April 1
4. Press Release, 1970 June 26-1971 June 2
5. Public Relations, 1970 October 15-1971 December 14
6. Speakers Bureau Request Form, 1971 January 15-November 21
7. TV and Radio Station Contact Information, undated
8. Visual Presentations, 1970 August 5-1972 May 16

**Box 11.** *Financial*, 1970 May-1972 June

Folder

1. Account Book Sheets, 1970-1972
2. Account Statements, 1970 May-1972 June
3. Account Statements, 1971 May-June
4. Deposit Receipts, 1970 September-1972 March
5. Deposit Receipts, 1971 January-November
6. Expense Vouchers, 1970 June 5-June 30
7. Finance, 1970 May 1-1971 February 18
8. Insurance Payment, 1971 January 27-November 3
9. Miscellaneous Financial Documents, 1971
10. George S. Olive & Company, CPAs, 1971 March 22-September 23

**Box 12.** *Financial*, 1970 July-1972 August

Folder

1. Payment Receipts, 1970 July-December
2. Payment Receipts, 1971 January
3. Payment Receipts, 1971 January-March
4. Payment Receipts, 1971 April-June
5. Payment Receipts, 1971 July-September
6. Payment Receipts, 1971 October-December
7. Payment Receipts, 1972 January-August

**Box 13.** *Subject Files*, 1969 October 20-1972 May 7

Folder

1. Authors of Indianapolis and Marion County, 1971
2. Color Books, undated

3. Parks Department "Sesqui" Summer, 1971
4. "The Indianapolis Downtowner, " undated
5. Indianapolis Federation of Community Civic Clubs, 1971
6. Jim Beam Distillery, 1971 March 30-May 25
7. Miscellaneous Papers, 1969 October 20-1970 December 30
8. Miscellaneous Papers, 1971 January-March 25
9. Miscellaneous Papers, 1971 April 7-November 30
10. Miscellaneous Papers, undated
11. Newspaper Clippings, 1972 February 10-May 7
12. Roberts Park United Methodist Church, 1971
13. Sesqui Seals, 1971 March 9-May 21
14. Souvenir License Plates, 1971 January 6-February 19

**Box 14.** *Subject Files / Artifacts*, 1966-1971 August 12

Folder

1. Sesqui Decals, 1971 April 1-August 12
2. Stationary Samples, undated
3. Systematic Environmental Enrichment, undated
4. "We Celebrate Our City" Tuchman Cleaners Bag, undated
5. "We Celebrate Our City" Classroom Calendar, undated
6. Windshield Decals, 1971 February 6-May 18
7. "Skylines" Publication, 1971
8. "Your Government: Blueprint for the Future" Brochure, undated
- Artifacts
9. Coin Sketches, undated
10. Indiana Sesquicentennial Photos, 1966
11. Original Art Work & Engravings: "We Celebrate Our City," undated
12. Plaque given to Marion County from the Indiana Sesquicentennial, 1967
13. Sesquicentennial Theme, undated
14. Commissioner John T. Sutton Documents Special Events
15. Commissioner John T. Sutton General Correspondence
16. Commissioner John T. Sutton Finance and Budget
17. Commissioner John T. Sutton Expense
18. Commissioner John T. Sutton Minutes
19. Commissioner John T. Sutton Meetings
20. Commissioner John T. Sutton Promotion
21. Commissioner John T. Sutton Commission Committees

**Box 15.** *Artifacts (OVERSIZE)*, undated

Folder

1. Sesquicentennial Coin Sketches
  2. "We Celebrate Our City" Painted Logo
  3. Photography Contest Poster
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## Collection Information:

Size of Collection: 14 mss boxes, 1 box oversized material  
Collection Dates: 1966-1972  
Provenance: Indianapolis Sesquicentennial Commission, Nov. 1971  
Access: The Collection is Open for Research Use  
Restrictions: None  
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