

Department of Conservation Lieber Research Collection

Finding Aid

Created by: Grayson Murphy

Archives Intern, Summer 2021

Title: Richard Lieber Research Collection

Accession Number: 1986021

Creator: Department of Conservation

Date Range: 1901-1944

Extent: 9.4 cubic feet

Access Restrictions: Open

Physical Access: Some oversized materials

Historical Note:

The Indiana Department of Conservation was established in 1919 under Governor James P. Goodrich. A precursor to the Department of Natural Resources, it consisted of five divisions: Geology, Entomology, Forestry, Lands and Water, and Fish and Game. Its creation followed the establishment of Indiana's first two state parks, McCormick's Creek and Turkey Run, to celebrate the state centennial in 1916.

From 1919-1933, there was a four-member Conservation Commission appointed by the Governor to help run the department. After it was disbanded, a State Conservation Advisory Committee (1933-1941) was established. The committee consisted of delegates from thirteen state districts who came together quarterly to discuss legislation and general conservation issues. The Conservation Commission was reestablished by the Acts of 1939.

Integral to the department's founding was German-born Richard Lieber, who would become its first Director. Lieber oversaw the creation of McCormick's Creek and Turkey Run State Parks in 1916 as the Chairman of the State Parks Committee. He would go on to oversee the establishment of eight more State Parks during his tenure as Director (1919-1933). Lieber resigned from the department in 1933 when newly elected Governor McNutt dissolved the Conservation Commission and stifled Lieber's role as director.

Born in 1869, Lieber moved to Indianapolis in 1891 to join two of his uncles. He became an ardent conservationist after visiting Yosemite, CA in 1900. He would even go on to serve as a delegate to a conference on conservation at Theodore Roosevelt's White House in 1908. After his first visit to Brown County in 1910, Lieber suggested to his wife that it should be bought by the state and made into a park, thus birthing the state park idea he would pursue for the rest of his life.

Lieber referred to creating the state parks as "his life's work" and called his fourteen years at the helm of the Department of Conservation the "happiest in his life". He passed away in 1944 at McCormick's Creek Canyon Inn and his ashes were buried at Turkey Run State Park. At the time of his passing, he was considered the foremost conservationist in America. He is known today as the father of Indiana State Parks.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection includes correspondence, administrative files, financial records, speeches, legal opinions blueprints, maps, publicity, and publications related to the Indiana Department of Conservation and its first Director, Richard Lieber, from 1901-1944. The collection was pulled from a larger collection on the

Department of Conservation to suit the needs of a researcher writing a dissertation on Richard Lieber. The records were organized into named folders, seemingly in Lieber's time, though it cannot be confirmed who organized and named them or when. Only part of the collection was processed. The original collection lacked arrangement, so a new series-level arrangement was created with the assistance of the folder names. The original folder names were kept, wherever possible, in the new arrangement.

The new arrangement is made up of seven series: Department of Conservation, State Parks, Conservation Commission, Legal Files, Indiana Governors, Speeches, and Publicity and Publications. Each series is arranged by subseries, and then chronologically. There is a folder-level inventory.

The Department of Conservation series includes Richard Lieber correspondence¹, administrative files, memos, financial records, and files from department divisions such as Forestry, Lands and Water, and Fish and Game. The series spans four decades and provides insight into the creation of the department into its first two decades.

The State Parks series is the largest, and it includes general correspondence about the creation of a state park system in Indiana, as well as records pertaining to the creation and running of specific state parks. The major parks include Brown County State Park, Clifty Falls State Park, Indiana Dunes State Park, Pokagon State Park (previously Lake James State Park), McCormick's Creek State Park, Spring Mill State Park, and Turkey Run State Park. Most of these records are correspondence. Discussion of funding and land acquisition, planning, and logistics can be found in this correspondence. There are also records pertaining to various memorials around Indiana, including the Lanier Mansion, the George Rogers Clark Memorial, and the Lincoln Union Memorial.

The Conservation Commission series includes correspondence from commission members and minutes from the Conservation Committee (1933-1941). A notable Commission member is Dean Stanley Coulter of Purdue University.

The Legal series includes state legislature records and correspondence, state Attorney General opinions, Department regulations and resolutions, and files pertaining to legal considerations at specific locations.

The Governor series contains records from almost every governor during the collection's timespan. This includes Gov. Durbin, Gov. Hanly, Gov. Marshall, Gov. Ralston, Gov. Goodrich, Gov. McCray, Gov. Jackson, Gov. Leslie, Gov. McNutt, and Gov. Schricker. Most of this series is made up of correspondence, which includes discussion of appointing the first State Entomologist and pre-Department of Conservation Fish and Game issues. Another folder of note contains miscellaneous Gov. Goodrich correspondence about World War I, covering a wide span of issues from coal restrictions, the 2nd Indiana Field Artillery's role in the war, and National Guard discharge requests. There is an item level inventory for this folder.

The Speeches series contains transcriptions of conservation-related speeches given across Indiana by Richard Lieber.

¹ Please note that Lieber's correspondence can be found throughout the collection. The folders found in this series were explicitly titled as his correspondence.

The Publicity and Publications series contains brochures, newspapers, magazines, and other types of publications pertaining to the Department of Conservation and State Parks.

Container List:

Series: Department of Conservation Files, 1901 to 1943

Box 1: Folder 1: Correspondence, Richard Lieber, 1916 (1 of 3)

Folder 2: Correspondence, Richard Lieber, 1916 (2 of 3)

Folder 3: Correspondence, Richard Lieber, 1916 (3 of 3)

Folder 4: Correspondence, Director Lieber, 1921

Folder 5: Correspondence, Director Lieber, 1924-1932

Folder 6: Director's Correspondence, Deeds + Mortgages, 1925

Folder 7: Correspondence, Director Lieber, 1927-1928 (1 of 2)

Folder 8: Correspondence, Director Lieber, 1927-1928 (2 of 2)

Folder 9: Correspondence, Director Lieber, 1931

Folder 10: History of Conservation, 1919

Folder 11: Chief Clerk Information 1919

Folder 12: Engagements, Meetings, 1919

Folder 13: Inventory, 1919 (1 of 2)

Folder 14: Inventory, 1919 (2 of 2)

Folder 15: Guidelines for Railroad Crosstie Lumber Supply, 1920

Folder 16: General Office, 1920

Folder 17: Assistant to Director, 1919-1920

Folder 18: Capt. Sauers Personnel + Director, 1919-1921

Folder 19: Director, General Office, 1920

Folder 20: Museum, 1920

Folder 21: Inventory, State Owned Property, 1920

Folder 22: C.G. Sauers Assist to Director, 1921

Folder 23: Correspondence, C.G. Sauers, 1924-1927

Folder 24: Land Acquisition, 1925-1943

Folder 25: Meetings, 1926

Folder 26: Indiana Lincoln Union, 1927

Folder 27: Bulletins and Circulars, 1927-1928

Folder 28: Monthly Reports & Info Service, 1928

Folder 29: Meetings, 1928

Folder 30: Employees of Department, 1929

Folder 31: Conservation Dept., Correspondence, 1929-1930

Folder 32: Inventory Letters, 1930

Folder 33: Lincoln Highway Commission, 1930

Folder 34: Dept. of Conservation, Resolutions and Commendations, 1931

Folder 35: Correspondence, Requests, 1932

Folder 36: Memos, 1927-1928

Folder 37: Memos + Correspondence, 1930

Folder 38: Memos, 1931

Folder 39: Division Chiefs, Memos, 1931 (1 of 2)

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Box 2: Folder 1: Division Chiefs, Memos, 1932 (2 of 4)

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Folder 4: Memorandums, 1936

Folder 5: Memorandums, Custodian, 1936

Folder 6: S. Correspondence, 1914-1920

Folder 7: Odd Letters, 1920

Folder 8: Correspondence "M" , 1920

Folder 9: Odd Letters, 1921

Folder 10: S. Correspondence, 1921

Folder 11: Chase C. Deam Correspondence 1930

Folder 12: State Board of Forestry, Reports, 1901-1902

Folder 13: Board of Forestry Report 1908-1912

Folder 14: Forestry, Century of Progress, 1916

Folder 15: Corydon Capitol, 1917-21

Folder 16: Land + Water Publications, 1920s

Folder 17: Correspondence "A", Odd Letters, Lands and Water, 1920

Folder 18: Correspondence "A", Lands and Water, 1921

Folder 19: Correspondence "B", Odd Letters, Lands and Water, 1920

Folder 20: Correspondence "C", Odd Letters, Lands and Water, 1921

Folder 21: Correspondence "D", Letters, Lands and Water, 1919-1920

Folder 22: Correspondence "C", Lands and Water, 1920

Folder 23: Correspondence "F", Odd Letters, Lands and Water, 1919

Folder 24: Correspondence "G", Odd Letters, Lands and Water, 1920

Folder 25: Correspondence "H", Odd Letters, Lands and Water, 1921

Folder 26: Correspondence "H", Odd Letters, Lands and Water, 1919 - 20

Folder 27: Correspondence "I", Odd letters, Lands and Water, 1921

Folder 28: Correspondence "I", Odd Letters, Lands and Water, 1920

Folder 29: Correspondence "J", Odd Letters, Lands and Water, 1919

Folder 30: Land + Water Correspondence, 1919-1920

Folder 31: Land + Water Odd Letters, 1919-1920

Folder 32: Roadside Planting, 1927

Folder 33: Complaints, Lands & Water, 1928

Folder 34: Paul V. Brown, Lands & Water, Memos, 1928

Folder 35: Lands + Water, Sand and Gravel, 1924

Folder 36: Sand and Gravel, 1928

Folder 37: C.G. Sauers, Land + Water, 1928

Folder 38: Civil Service, 1919

Folder 39: Circulars to Game Wardens + Orders, 1920

Folder 40: Warded Force, 1920

Folder 41: Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries, 1921

Folder 42: Hunting and Trapping License, 1921

Folder 43: Sec. of Warden Services, Ehler's Folder, 1921

Folder 44: Badge + Gun Inventory, 1925

Folder 45: Ex-Servicemen in Division of Fish and Game, 1930-1931

Folder 46: Associations, Fish and Game General Office, 1943

Folder 47: Beaver, Fish and Game, 1943

Folder 48: Birds, 1943

Folder 49: Breeders License, 1943

Folder 50: Brooder, 1943

Folder 51: Buffalo, 1943

Folder 52: Cisco, 1943

Folder 53: Complaints, 1943

Folder 54: Confiscated Property, 1943

Folder 55: Conservation, 1943

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Folder 57: Deer, 1943

Folder 58: Ducks, 1943

Folder 59: Dynamite, 1943

Folder 60: Educational Permits, 1943

Folder 61: Elk, 1943

Folder 62: Exhibit, 1943

Folder 63: Ferrets, 1943

Folder 64: Field Trial Permits, 1943

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Folder 3: Fish Ladder, 1943

Folder 4: Foxes, 1943

Folder 5: Frogs, 1943

Folder 6: Reports of Accountant, Disbursement Reports, 1919

Folder 7: Bishop, Knowlton & Carson, Contractors, 1928

Folder 8: Board of Accounts, 1932

Folder 9: Observation Tower, Requisition, 1932

Folder 10: World's Fair Commission, Thomas Hart Benton Murals, 1933

Folder 11: Requisitions, 1936

Folder 12: Requisitions, 201-250, 1936-1937

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Folder 33: Correspondence, Buildings and Grounds, 1937

Folder 34: Correspondence, Sales, Tom Hannagan, 1936-1937

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Folder 6: General Correspondence, State Parks, 1921

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Folder 8: General Correspondence, State Parks, 1925

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Folder 10: Circulars, Brown County Preserve

Folder 11: Brown County Game Preserve, 1925-1930

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Folder 14: Brown County, Proposed Park, 1928

Folder 15: Brown County Game Preservation, 1929-1930

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Folder 17: Brown County State Park, 1930

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Folder 19: Clifty Falls State Park, 1920

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Folder 21: Clifty Falls State Park, Condemnation Proceeding, Notices to Non-Residents 1921

Folder 22: Clifty Falls State Park, McKim C. Copeland 1927-1929 (1 of 2)

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Folder 24: Clifty Falls Inn, Mrs. Della Luke, Mgr. 1927-1928

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Folder 3: Indiana Dunes State Park, Newspaper Clippings, 1921

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Folder 5: Dunes State Park, Dunes Road Newspapers 1927 (Entire Contents of Folder Removed to Oversize)

Folder 6: Dunes State Park, Wells Estate and Dunes Purchase, 1927

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Folder 8: Dunes Park, Leases A-L, 1927-1928

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Folder 12: Dunes State Park, Ralph Swisher, Concessionaire, 1928

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Folder 15: Chicago Regional Planning Association, Beach House Development, 1929-1930

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Folder 17: Dunes, Paul Brown, 1929-1930

Folder 18: Dunes, John C. Diggs, 1930

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Folder 21: Dunes, Edward J. Hjorth, Custodian, 1931

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Folder 29: Lakes, James, 1922-1924

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Folder 6: Spring Mill, General Correspondence, 1934

Folder 7: Correspondence, Spring Mill State Park, W.F. Caudell, 1935

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Folder 10: Correspondence, Spring Mill State Park, 1935-1936

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Folder 13: Survey + Deeds, Turkey Run State Park, 1914

Folder 14: Rappaport Leo, Turkey Run, 1919

Folder 15: Turkey Run, Strauss Memorial, 1919

Folder 16: Miscellaneous Matter, Turkey Run, 1919-1920

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Folder 18: General Correspondence, Turkey Run, 1919-1921

Folder 19: Indiana St. Farm, Brick for Turkey Run, 1920

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Folder 21: Contingent Fund Commission, Turkey Run, 1921

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Folder 40: Vance Prather, KY State Park Commission, 1927

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Folder 42: Nancy Hanks Memorial, Newspaper Article, 1925

Folder 43: Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Lincoln Union Memorial, 1928

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Folder 46: Lanier Home, Newspaper, 1928

Folder 47: Lanier House, 1929-1930

Folder 48: Lanier Home, Memorial Fence Blueprint, 1932

Folder 49: Indiana State Parks by Charles G. Sauers 1928

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Folder 53: Mounds Requisitions, Road Extension & Service Area, 1933

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Folder 55: Correspondence, George Rogers Clark Memorial, 1934

Folder 56: Fort Benjamin Harrison, 1936

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Folder 4: Tippecanoe River, Proposed Parks ,1928

Folder 5: Tippecanoe Battleground Memorials, Battlefield Map, 1928

Folder 6: River Park, Tippecanoe Property, 1928

Folder 7: Shakamak, Proposed Parks (Tri County Park), Blueprint, Jasonville, 1928

Folder 8: Shakamak, 1928-1929, Correspondence

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Folder 11: Professor of Holman Conservation Commission, 1920

Folder 12: John W. Holtzman, In. Conservation Commission, 1921

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Folder 14: Commission Correspondence, Members, 1929-1930 (2 of 2)

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Folder 16: Conservation Commission, Martin R. Goshorn, 1931

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Folder 20: Conservation Committee, Minutes, 1933-1941 (1 of 2)

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Folder 23: Legislature Correspondence, 1929

Folder 24: Legislature, Engrossed Senate + House Bills, 1929

Folder 25: Legislature, 1931

Folder 26: Legislature Special Session 1932

Folder 27: Attorney General Opinions 1919 -1920

Folder 28: Attorney General Opinions, 1928

Folder 29: Attorney General Opinions, 1920-1922

Folder 30: Clark County Land, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 31: Click Case [State vs. Emanuel Click], Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 32: Ditches, Leonard Bill (Senate Bill 255), Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 33: Forest & Farm Products, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 34: Funds of Department, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 35: Game Wardens Fees, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 36: Lake Levels, Lake George, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

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Folder 39: Pine Lake, Meandered Lakes, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 40: Petty Cash Fund, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 41: Oaths of Office, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 42: Clark State Forest, Richey Land, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 43: Sand & Gravel, Sugar Creek, Montgomery County, Attorney General Opinions 1921

Folder 44: Sand Suckers, Lake Michigan, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 45: Vinegar Mills, Jennings County, Attorney General Opinions, 1921

Folder 46: Attorney General Opinions, 1929-1930

Folder 47: Meander Lands, Decisions, U.S. Supreme Court, 1911

Folder 48: Lake Michigan, Sand Suckers, 1919-1920

Folder 49: Lakes, Bass Lake, 1922-1928

Folder 50: Lakes, Michigan, 1924-1926

Folder 51: Laws, US. + Federal, 1926

Folder 52: Regulation, Tires and Motor Boats, 1927

Folder 53: Dept of Conservation, Resolutions and Regulations, 1932

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Governor Files, 1901-1944

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Folder 56: Gov. Durbin, Proposed Legislation

Folder 57: Gov. Hanly, Correspondence, Fish and Game

Folder 58: Gov. Hanly, Correspondence, State Geologist

Box 9: Folder 1: Correspondence, Governor Gov T.R. Marshall, 1909

Folder 2: Gov. Marshall, Proclamations

Folder 3: Gov. Marshall, Vetoes

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Folder 6: Gov. Marshall, Correspondence, Fish and Game

Folder 7: Gov. Ralston, Correspondence, Fish and Game

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Folder 9: Gov. Goodrich, WW1, Miscellaneous

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Item 3: Newspaper clippings about coal price increase

Item 4: Letter from State Department of Engineering detailing bid prices of coal for Wisconsin state institutions, 5/27/1918

Item 5: Message from Lieutenant Governor on behalf of the Governor and the Indiana War Library Council, pleading for the public to collect books for the troops

Item 6: Letter to War Industries Board about purchasing a Jeffersonville, IN plant for shell production, 7/8/1918

Item 7: Telegrams, Secretary of Navy, 1918

Item 8: Letter to Governor about a meeting to discuss honoring local veterans of Marion County and his response (on back), 1/7/1919

Item 9: Resume of a veteran, James Edward Mendenhall, undated

Item 10: Edited draft of a write up summarizing Sergeant Paul T. Cunningham's military accomplishments, undated

Item 11: State of Indiana Appeal Board No. 3 decision about military service exemption

Item 12: Appeal Board No. 3, military service exemption legal claims

Item 13: Report on Commission for Registering and Voting Indiana Men in the Military Service of the United States

Item 14: Contract between Gov. Goodrich and U.S. War Department to house soldiers at the Indiana School for the Blind, 6/1/1918

Item 15: List of Indiana physicians appointed on Conscription Boards by County

Item 16: Draft of untitled speech about the War, undated

Item 17: News clipping from Indianapolis Star, "150th F.A. Boys Wounded"

Item 18: Handwritten letter from soldier requesting discharge from the Indiana National Guard so they can enter the Army, 7/16/1918

Item 19: Letter to Secretary of War Newton Baker about the Second Indiana Field Artillery, 5/3/1916

Item 20: Letter to Secretary of War Newton Baker about keeping the Second Indiana Field Artillery in Indiana for potential use at the Mexican border, 5/6/1916

Item 21: Letter requesting discharge from the Second Indiana Field Artillery in order to properly enlist elsewhere

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Item 23: Discharge Request

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Item 27: Letter from Secretary of War about keeping the 2nd Indiana F.A. in National Guard Status, 5/11/1918

Item 28: Discharge Request

Item 29: Letter from Acting Secretary of War regarding National Guard Policy, 3/27/1918

Item 30: National Guard Policy from the Chief of the Military Bureau, 3/27/1918

Item 31: Letter from Acting Secretary of War regarding National Guard Policy, 4/6/1918

Item 32: Letter to Canadian Military regarding a deserter who enlisted in the 2nd Indiana F.A., 1918

Item 33: Discharge request

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Item 45: Letter from Adjutant General recommending the disbanding of the 2nd Indiana F.A., 8/21/1918

Item 46: Letter to the Secretary of the Navy regarding the location of a soldier, 1/7/1919

Item 47: Letter to the Secretary of War regarding discharging a wanted criminal for arrest by Marion County officials, 2/5/1919

Item 48: War Department correspondence about discharging a wanted criminal for arrest by Marion County officials

Item 49: Letter from War Department commending the Governor about his administration's devotion to the Selective Service Law during the war, 2/17/1919

Item 50: Response to War Department Letter (#49)

Item 51: Telegrams from Indiana-born soldiers requesting assistance from the Governor, 5/4/1919

Item 52: Response to a letter from a mother requesting a pardon for her son who deserted, 5/6/1920

Item 53: Letter from Depot Quartermaster about adding a person to their circular mailing list, 11/27/1920

Folder 10: Gov. Goodrich, Reports, 1917-1921

Folder 11: Governor Goodrich Correspondence Letters, 1920

Folder 12: Governor McCray Correspondence, 1921

Folder 13: Gov. Jackson, Proclamations

Folder 14: Gov. Jackson, Indiana Lincoln Union

Folder 15: Gov. Jackson, Correspondence, State Highway Commission

Folder 16: Gov. Leslie, Correspondence, World's Fair Commission

Folder 17: Gov. Leslie, General Assembly

Folder 18: Gov. Leslie, Correspondence, George Rogers Clark Memorial

Folder 19: Governor Leslie Correspondence, 1929-1932

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Folder 21: Gov. McNutt, Correspondence, 1933

Folder 22: Gov. McNutt, Correspondence, 1934

Folder 23: Gov. McNutt, Correspondence, 1935

Folder 24: CWA, Memo

Folder 25: Gov. McNutt, Correspondence, Secretary Pleas E. Greenlee

Folder 26: Gov. McNutt, Executive Order, 1933

Folder 27: Gov. Schricker, Correspondence, 1944

Speeches, 1919-1928

Folder 28: Forest Policies Speech, 1919-1921

Folder 29: Indiana Federation Clubs Speech, 1919-1920

Folder 30: Indiana Pioneers Speech, 1919-1920

Folder 31: Beekeepers Speech, 1919-1920

Folder 32: Clifty Falls Speech, 1919-1920

Folder 33: Bird Conservation Speech, 1919-1920

Folder 34: Carvers Convention Speech, 1919-1920

Folder 35: Century Club Speech, 1919-1920

Folder 36: Rotary Club Speeches, Michigan City, 1920

Folder 37: Lecture on Birds, 1920

Folder 38: Director's Speeches, Des Moines, 1920

Folder 39: Earthquake Zone of Indiana, 1920

Folder 40: Fish and Game Speech, 1921

Folder 41: Huntington Speech, 1921

Folder 42: Director's Speeches, 1921

Folder 43: Engineering Society Banquet Speech, 1921

Folder 44: Indiana University Speeches, 1921

Folder 45: Republican Editors Speeches Dunes, 1921

Folder 46: Parent Teachers Speech, 1921

Folder 47: Lieber Speech, National Park, Turkey Run, 1923

Folder 48: General Speeches, 1927

Folder 49: Article for Governor's Speech, May 11, 1927

Folder 50: Indiana Lincoln Union Address, Sullivan, IN, Nov 1927

Folder 51: Lincoln Union Banquet, Clay Pool Hotel, June 8, 1927

Folder 52: Lieber Speech, 1927

Folder 53: Isaac Walton Speech League, 1928

Folder 54: Natural Resources Speeches, 1928

Folder 55: Dunes State Park, Speech Broadcast from Chicago, 1928

Folder 56: Indiana Lincoln Union, Lake Co. Republican Club, February 11, 1928

Publicity and Publications, 1920s-1930s

Folder 57: J.W. Frisz Proprietor, Waveland, IN

Folder 58: Publications 1921

Folder 59: State Parks 1921 – 1923

Folder 60: Brochures, 1920s

Folder 61: Correspondence, Chas Parrish, Publicity, 1925-1926

Folder 62: Park Advertising - Proposed Parks, 1927

Folder 63: Lincoln Article by James Benyor, Boston, MA, 1928

Folder 64: Publications, 1930

Box 10: Folder 1: Publicity, 1930

Folder 2: Publications, 1930

Folder 3: Publicity and Publications, 1931 (1 of 2)

Folder 4: Publicity and Publications, 1931 (2 of 2)

Folder 5: Publicity and Publications, 1932

Folder 6: Publicity

Folder 7: Publications and Publicity

Folder 8: Newspaper Clippings + Brochures Parks

Folder 9: Newspaper Clippings

Folder 10: Indiana State Banner (removed)