

Collection #  
P 0323

## INDIANAPOLIS FALL CARNIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS, 1900

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 3 folders of photographs

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1900

PROVENANCE: Mary Covert (Mrs. Robert D.) Pritchard, 1959

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1959.0904

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The first Indianapolis Fall Carnival took place from 9 October to 12 October 1900. The Fall Festivities Society, a group of Indianapolis, Indiana, businessmen, sponsored the event. The objective of the carnival was to draw visitors to Indianapolis by emulating small-town street fairs. The Fall Carnival featured parades, sideshows, and races. Optimistic organizers declared that the carnival should continue as an annual event, but only a second and final carnival took place in October 1901.

The carnival opened 9 October with a parade to the State House, and the arrival of an actor dressed as Chief Tecumseh. City representatives presented Tecumseh with a wooden key, and the "freedom of the city." Tecumseh then led civic and military officials in a parade down Washington Street. Children, manufacturers and businessmen, and civic organizations participated in afternoon and evening parades held every day of the fair. These included the Allegorical, Floral, Merchants and Manufacturers, and Grotesque parades. Monument Circle, illuminated at night with colored bulbs, attracted visitors to booths featuring local exhibitors such as the Indianapolis Brewing Company, the Patton Brothers Cigar Company, and the Bell Telephone Company. Bell Telephone displayed telephones that offered local and long-distance connections.

A sideshow presented by the Bostock Company featured trained animals, high-divers, high-wire walkers, dancers, and human curiosities. Carnival officials considered the female dancers in the attraction "The Streets of Cairo" to be too suggestive and banned their performances. Republican vice-presidential candidate Theodore Roosevelt spoke at the State House on 11 October. The following day Frank Moore and C. C. Fisher raced their French "racing automobiles" against two horses down Sixteenth Street.

Businessmen, merchants, and the City of Indianapolis funded the carnival on \$15,000 capital. D. M. Parry, president of the Indianapolis Board of Trade; Albert Lieber; W. W. Hubbard; E. K. Chapman; and Hugh J. McGowan, president of the Indianapolis Street Railway Company, headed the Fall Festivities Society. Committee chairmen were F. J. Schols, Charles R. Daly, Admiral George Brown, Mayor Thomas Taggart, James F. Quigley, C. C. Perry, Louis Murr, H. T. Hearsey, Charles P. Freechauer, E. K. Chapman, M. R. Hyman, Horace Wood, Albert Lieber, T. J. Carter, and Charles A. Bookwalter.

### Sources:

"A Carnival Every Year," *The Indianapolis News*, 10 Oct. 1900, supplement.

"Carnivals a Necessity," *The Indianapolis News*, 10 Oct. 1900, supplement.

- "No Suggestive Dancers," *The Indianapolis News*, 9 Oct. 1900, p. 9.
- "Now at its Hight [sic]," *The Indianapolis News*, 11 Oct. 1900, p. 1.
- "Where Special Attractions May Be Found," *The Indianapolis News*, 11 Oct. 1900, p. 9.
- "Tecumseh's Day," *The Indianapolis News*, 8 Oct. 1900, p. 1.
- "The Magic Circle Booth," *The Indianapolis News*, 9 Oct. 1900, p. 9.
- "To See Roosevelt," *The Indianapolis News*, 11 Oct. 1900, p. 1.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains nineteen photographs made at the 1900 Indianapolis Fall Carnival. Most images are parade scenes, possibly from the Floral, Grotesque, and Allegorical parades. These include photographs of horse-drawn carriages decorated with flowers; and groups of men in blackface, or wearing women's clothes. Other photographs show the Soldier's and Sailor's Monument and Monument Circle decorated for the fair, and the monument illuminated by electric lights.

The processor arranged these photographs by general subjects into three folders. The folder titles were provided by the processor and are noted in square [ ] brackets.

## CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
[Parade scenes] (1 of 2)	Folder 1
[Parade scenes] (2 of 2)	Folder 2
[Monument Circle scenes]	Folder 3

## 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://157.91.92.2/>
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, P 0323).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.