

INDIANAPOLIS GARDEN CLUB RECORDS, 1930-1996

Collection #

M 672

OMB 59

BV 3059

Table of Contents

[User Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Box and Folder Listing](#)

[Cataloguing Information](#)

Processed by
Charles Latham
21 March 1996

USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box, 1 bound volume

COLLECTION DATES: 1930-1996

PROVENANCE: Indianapolis Garden Club, per Mrs. Edward W. Harris, Jr., 4540 Park Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46205, 6 March 1996

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 96.0312

NOTE: This collection will probably have additions in the future.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indianapolis Garden Club was formed in 1930 by a group of Northside Indianapolis ladies led by Mrs. John N. Carey. Mrs. Booth Tarkington was a vice president. The group at its genesis showed that it had in mind far more than social meetings and home gardens. Committees were immediately appointed for "conservation of wild flowers, plants and tress," for billboard and roadside improvement, and for spring and fall horticultural shows. The original 35 members increased to 44 by 1932, and membership eventually evened out at between 55 and 70.

The Garden Club became a charter member of the Indiana Federation of Garden Clubs in 1932, and was admitted to the Garden Club of America in 1940. From that time on, individual members have served as national officers and on national committees. Ten members have had their gardens listed in a national "garden locator," and several members, notably Mrs. Perry O'Neal and Mrs. Bowman Elder, did nationally recognized work as horticulturists.

Early on the club sponsored scholarships to gardening and conservation schools, sponsored lectures on gardening and related subjects, and ran and participated in flower shows. The club worked for roadside improvement and against billboards, and members appeared when necessary before City Council and before committees of the Indiana General Assembly. During World War II members worked hard at canning fruits and vegetables, and donated time and money to improve Fort Benjamin Harrison, Billings Hospital, and the Wabash Service Men's Center. Successful efforts were made to preserve Cox Forest at Paoli and Shades State Park.

Records of the early decades of the Garden Club are incomplete. From 1965 on, records show a highly organized and active group. Meetings are held monthly except in the summer, and each general meeting is preceded by a board meeting. In addition to maintaining gardens, having annual flower shows, hearing speakers, and serving on active committees, the members have taken on a number of ambitious projects in the fields of civic beautification, education, and conservation. Beautification efforts have included planting along the Central Canal and Fall Creek Parkway, in planters downtown, and in Pan-Am Plaza. Gardens have been planted at Herron Art School, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Historic Landmarks headquarters, Lockerbie Square, Riley Hospital, the Indianapolis Zoo, and the Governor's mansion. As one form of education, greenhouses or greenhouse equipment have been given to the Girls' School, Manual Training High School, Children's Museum, Goodwill Industries, and IPS #56. Garden Club of America zone meetings have been held stressing landscaping, conservation, and water conservation.

Some of these projects have been financially ambitious, and the club has raised money by personal donations, by giving garden parties, by making and selling a needlepoint rug, and by auctions and garage sales. Over \$20,000 was raised for the Lockerbie project, and \$137,000 for the Goodwill project.

For these efforts, the club and its members have received numerous local and national awards.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling five manuscript boxes, one oversize box, and one bound volume, contains minutes, reports, clippings, photographs, and correspondence from the period 1930-1996. It is arranged by category, and chronologically within category.

Box 1 contains historical material, and records from 1930 to 1972. Historical material is in Folders 1-8, including two narrative histories and historical notes and lists. Folders 9-42 contain records of the years 1930-1972. Records of the early years of the club vary, sometimes including no more than a membership list or a single report. Records are more complete from the 1960s on.

Box 2 contains records from 1972-1973 to 1982-1983, and Box 3 from 1983-1984 to 1990-1991. Membership lists for these years are incomplete because the club adopted a loose-leaf notebook directory and the pages for some years are missing.

In Box 4 are records of club projects from 1966 on, and of tributes and awards to individual club members. Project records are in Folders 1-27; the most complete are for plantings at Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA) (Folders 3-7) and at Lockerbie Square (Folders 9-11). Awards, and nominations for awards, to individual members, are in Folders 28-32.

Box 5 contains awards to the club by various organizations (Folders 1-6), and records from the national Garden Club of America (Folders 7-15) and of its regional Zone X (Folders 16-21).

OMB 59 contains, in Folder 1, planting plans for gardens at IMA and at Goodwill Industries, and, in Folders 2-4, pages from a scrapbook of club activities 1961-1976.

BV 3059 is a scrapbook of club activities from 1976 to 1995.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Historical; 1930-1972 **FOLDER**

Historical

- 1 Original bylaws and constitution
- 2 Booklet-- history ca 1965
- 3 Historical notes from President's Notebook
- 4 History 1963-1978
- 5 Historical notes by Mrs. E. W. Harris 1996
- 6 Programs 1930-1989
- 7 Admissions 1948-1989
- 8 Honorary memberships

Club records

- 9 1930-1931
- 10 1931-1932
- 11 1932-1933
- 12 1933-1934
- 13 1934-1935
- 14 1935-1936
- 15 1937-1938
- 16 1938-1939

17 1939-1940

18 1940-1941

19 1941-1942

20 1942-1943

21 1943-1944

22 1944-1945

23 1945-1946

24 1946-1947

25 1947-1948

26 1948-1949

27 1949-1950

28 1950-1951

29 1951-1952

30 1952-1953

32 1953-1954

33 1954-1955

34 1955-1956

35 1956-1957

36 1958-1962

37 1962-1963

38 1963-1964

39 1964-1965

40 1965-1966

41 1966-1967

42 1967-1968

43 1968-1969

44 1969-1970

45 1970-1971

46 1971-1972

BOX 2: 1972-1983

FOLDER

1 1972-1973-- minutes, treasurer

2 1972-1973-- correspondence

3 1973-1974-- minutes, treasurer

4 1973-1974-- correspondence

5 1974-1975

6 1975-1976

7 1976-1977

8 1977-1978-- membership, general meetings

9 1977-1978-- board, treasurer

10 1978-1979-- membership, general meetings, treasurer

11 1978-1979-- board, correspondence

12 1979-1980-- board, general meetings

13 1979-1980-- treasurer, correspondence

14 1980-1981-- committees, board and general meetings

15 1980-1981-- treasurer

16 1981-1982

17 1982-1983-- board and general meetings

18 1982-1983-- treasurer, correspondence

BOX 3: 1983-1984 to 1990-1991

FOLDER

1 1983-1984-- membership, minutes

2 1983-1984-- meeting notices

3 1984-1985-- membership, meeting notices

4 1984-1985-- minutes, treasurer

5 1985-1986

6 1986-1987-- membership, meeting notices

7 1986-1987-- minutes, treasurer

8 1987-1988

9 1988-1989

10 1989-1990-- minutes

11 1989-1990-- treasurer, correspondence

12 1990-1991-- minutes, treasurer

13 1990-1991-- correspondence

14 Meeting notices-- n.d.

15 Clippings-- general

**BOX 4: Projects; Individual Awards
FOLDER**

Projects

1 Landscaping symposium 1966

2 Zoo, downtown planters 1968-1969

3 Planting at IMA-- 1969-1985

4 (VC) Planting at IMA -- photographs

5 (VC) Planting at IMA -- slides

6 (OMB 59) Planting at IMA -- plan of garden

7 Planting at IMA -- needlepoint rug 1978

8 Greenhouse at Children's Museum 1976

9 Lockerbie planting-- 1976

10 Lockerbie planting -- tree donors

11 Lockerbie planting -- auction donors

12 Greenhouse at Goodwill Industries-- 1979

13 (VC) Greenhouse at Goodwill Industries -- slides

14 (OMB 59) Greenhouse at Goodwill Industries -- planting plan

15 Flower shows 1979-1993

16 Garage sale 1980

17 Hoosier Heritage Garden at Governor's mansion 1980-1981

18-19 Water 1982-1983

- 20 Conner Prairie 1983, 1985
- 21 List of projects 1986-1993
- 22 Planters in Pan-Am Plaza 1987-1988
- 23 Biome at Indianapolis Zoo & Linda Ronstadt concert 1990-1991
- 24 Earth Day 1990
- 25 Greenhouse equipment at IPS #56
- 26 Historic preservation 1991
- 27 Courtyard at Riley Hospital 1993

Individual Awards

- 28 Tributes to members
- 29 Nominations for awards 1965-1978
- 30 Nomination of Mrs. Bowman Elder for GCA Horticultural award 1983
- 31 GCA Creative Leadership Awards 1986, 1993
- 32 Clippings-- Phyllis Vonnegut, Allen W. Clowes

BOX 5: Club Awards; Garden Club of America; GCA Zone X **FOLDER**

Club awards

- 1 Garden Club of Indiana 1964-1987
- 2 Civic Beautification-- Central Canal planting 1966
- 3 Lockerbie planting 1976
- 4 Historic Preservation Week 1978
- 5 National Council of Garden Clubs 1978, 1983
- 6 Pan-Am Plaza planting 1987

Garden Club of America

- 7 Purposes, general
- 8 Correspondence 1968-1970
- 9 Booklet for Bicentennial 1976
- 10 Reports from GCA meetings 1973, 1978, n.d.
- 11 Packet on environmental education 1980

12 Study guide on natural resources

13 1987-1989

14 1989

15 1990-1991

GCA Zone X

16 General on Zone X

17 1960-1961

18 1969-1970

19 Conservation meeting 1979

20 1986

21 1989-1991

OMB 59
FOLDER

1 Planting plans at IMA, Goodwill

2-4 Pages from scrapbook of activities 1961-1976

BV 3059 Scrapbook of club activities 1976-1995

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Indianapolis Garden Club

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Indianapolis Garden Club--Photographs

Garden Club of America

Women--Indiana--Indianapolis--Societies and clubs

Gardening--Indiana--Indianapolis--Societies, etc.

Clubs--Indiana--Indianapolis

Gardens--Indiana--Indianapolis--Design

Nature conservation--Indiana

Fund raising--Indiana--Indianapolis

Roadside improvement--Indiana

Civic improvement--Indiana--Indianapolis

Horticultural exhibitions--Indiana--Indianapolis

END