

Collection #
SC 3442
DVD 1398–1400

**COBY PALMER
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 2 FEBRUARY 2015**

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Processed by

Melanie Hankins
May 2018

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder; 3 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 3 February 2015

PROVENANCE: Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0143m0022

NOTES: Forms part of the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

In 2014 the Indiana Historical Society began the Indiana LGBT Collecting Initiative to collect, preserve, and make accessible materials that document the rich history, tradition, and culture of Indiana's LGBT communities. Part of the collecting initiative includes the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project. During the time period of 2014-2015, interviews were conducted of individuals, couples and families from all walks of life in the Central Indiana area. This collection centers around the oral history interview of Coby Palmer conducted by Mark Lee on February 2, 2015.

Coby Palmer grew up in Fulton, New York. Before moving to Indianapolis, Palmer was in the Navy for four years. He was married with two children before coming out; he has been divorced for over twenty years. Palmer owns his own flower shop, Coby Palmer Designs, and founded The Bag Ladies, a fund-raising organization for HIV/AIDS led by Indianapolis's drag queens, in 1981. He was crowned The Bag Ladies' Queen Mother in 2014. He currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Edmond Talucci (b. 1947) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1981, Talucci served as the first president of the Bag Ladies, a fundraising organization that hosts an annual bus tour featuring local drag queens to raise awareness for HIV/AIDS. He also performed on the bus tour as Latrina d'Or and won the Bag Ladies' Blossom/Cadillac Barbie Award for going "above and beyond" in making the Indianapolis community a better place for its LGBT members in 1986. Ed currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

Information found in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The interview was transcribed from one video recorded interview. This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on 2 February 2015, at the home of Coby Palmer in Indianapolis, Indiana. The interview was conducted by Mark Lee who was contracted by IHS for the project from 2014 to 2015. DLC was contracted by the IHS to transcribe the interview in February 2016. The interview, which includes the video recording and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center. The video recorded interview is approximately two hours long and is recorded on one DVD.

The collection includes one manuscript folder with the newspaper articles related to Coby Palmer and the Bag Ladies, and LGBT life in Indianapolis, Indiana. The folder also includes a copy of the interview transcription. The following is an index to the oral history transcript listing the topics discussed and the pages on which they can be found.

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Interview transcript and background information, 2015

Palmer Oral History Interview, user copy

Palmer Oral History Interview, master copy

Digital Transcription and photographs

CONTAINER

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