

Collection #
P 0753

**INDIANAPOLIS ATHLETIC CLUB
PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1920–2000**

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Processed by

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William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box photographs, 1 box cold storage color photographs, 1 folder OVA photographs, 1 folder OVA cold storage color photographs, 1 folder manuscripts, 1 envelope 4x5 acetate negatives, 1 envelope 5x7 acetate negatives, 1 bin of slides
COLLECTION DATES:	ca. 1920–2000
PROVENANCE:	Hearthview Residential, LLC, Indianapolis, IN
RESTRICTIONS:	<p>Items listed as being in cold storage need at least four hours to acclimate, so patrons are advised to call ahead of their visit if they wish to view those items to allow for thawing time.</p> <p>Slides and negatives must be requested in advance and may be viewed by appointment only and with the assistance of library staff.</p>
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	<i>IAC Fifty Golden Years</i> , GV563.I55 1970; <i>INDAC</i> , GV563.I54
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2006.0280
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

At the request of industrialist Harry C. Stutz and with encouragement from Henry P. Angel, a former member of the Cleveland Athletic Club who had recently relocated to Indianapolis, fifteen prominent Indianapolis businessmen convened at a luncheon at the Chamber of Commerce on 28 April 1920 to discuss the formation of the Indianapolis Athletic Club (IAC). At the time, Indianapolis was the tenth largest metropolitan area in the United States, and these men felt that having an Athletic Club in the same vein as comparable cities would give Indianapolis a competitive edge. The men convened at the meeting decided to move forward with the proposition of the club and began to seek out other potential members/stakeholders. Thus the Committee of Sixty was formed. The committee worked to drive membership and raise funds for a permanent home for the club. They entered into an arrangement with Frederick Fahnley for his property on the southwest corner of Vermont and Meridian. The original home was demolished and the Renaissance Revival style building designed by Robert Frost Daggett replaced it. The permanent home for the Indianapolis Athletic Club was finished and officially opened to members on 11 January 1924.

As this organization was an *athletic* club, they joined the Indiana Amateur Athletic Union (IAAU) in December 1920 and the board agreed to the club's participation in a national championship swim meet, which would be held at Broad Ripple Park in 1921. The IAC's participation in swimming meets was the beginning of a long association between the IAC and their nurturing of swimming and diving talent over the years, as they had members participate in the Olympics. In addition to swimming, members of the IAC and the club itself participated in, hosted, or raised funds for a variety of other amateur sporting events, such as boxing, golf, bowling, tennis, and squash.

The organization also produced a monthly magazine that was sent to members, called *INDAC*, which kept members up to date on club events and news. Since IAC also functioned as a social club, there were many dinners, dances, socials, and gatherings of members and their families held throughout the years. There was a yearly anniversary party, the hosting of Indianapolis 500 events, the Gaslight Party, and the Tulip Time ball, amongst other events. The club also played host to many famous politicians, authors, actors, musicians, and athletes over the years.

Club membership was open to both men and women, but men made up the majority of membership. In 1970, the club reported a membership of 3,600, four hundred of which were women and forty of which were original members. The IAC also had a Junior membership for young adults and welcomed members' children.

The IAC closed in September 2004, but the building interior was redeveloped into luxury condominiums. The IAC building was also put on the National Register of Historic Places in 2015. However, the Athletic Club Foundation still exists and continues to host the city of Indianapolis' St. Patrick's Day festivities, including the parade and the Shamrock Run & Walk, which the IAC had spearheaded since the early 1980s.

Sources:

Indianapolis Athletic Club Fiftieth Anniversary Program

Hostetler, Joan. "Indianapolis Then and Now: Hasselman-Fahnley House and the Indianapolis Athletic Club, 350 N. Meridian Street." *HistoricIndianapolis.com*
<https://historicindianapolis.com/indianapolis-then-and-now-hasselman-fahnley-house-and-the-indianapolis-athletic-club/> Accessed 15 November 2018

"Athletic Club Foundation 2018 Grants." <https://www.indystpats.com/> Accessed 15 November 2018

Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is made up mostly of photographs taken in and around the IAC. This included images showing the exteriors of the IAC building, both the original Hasselman-Fahnley home and the Robert Frost Daggett designed building, interior photographs of club rooms set up for events and parties, and portraits of potential Board candidates. Other images include a series of photographs from squash tournaments, parties and other social gatherings, and St. Patrick's Day festivities.

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