

Collection #  
M 1333  
BV 5237

**BROAD RIPPLE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF  
1949 FIFTY YEAR REUNION COLLECTION, CA. 1945–1999**

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 3 photograph folders, 2 cold storage color photographs folders, 1 bound volume, 58 printed items

COLLECTION DATES: 1945–1999

PROVENANCE: Susan B. Hetherington, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: 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.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *Riparian*, LD7501.I4643 R565; *Broad Ripple High School: a Centennial History, 1886–1986*, LD7501.I4643 B7 1987

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2005.0353; 2005.0375

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Broad Ripple High School was originally built in 1886 in the emerging town of Broad Ripple, located north of Indianapolis, Indiana. The high school started out with seven students after the building was completed. Broad Ripple High School developed its first athletic programs in the early 1900s, first with a football team, and eventually expanding to having a boy's basketball team in 1903.

By 1923, Broad Ripple High School was incorporated into the Indianapolis Public School system (IPS) as Broad Ripple was annexed into Indianapolis. Broad Ripple High School continued to grow and expand during the first half of the twentieth century, building new gymnasiums, athletic tracks and fields, and several new additions to the high school (1948). Effective as of the 2018–2019 school year, Broad Ripple High School was closed due to IPS's decision to consolidate high schools in the school system.

Broad Ripple High School Class of 1949 experienced dramatic changes during their time in high school. Their school underwent new construction in 1948 that would add new instrumental music rooms, a girls' gymnasium, industrial art classrooms, and rooms for the new ROTC unit. During their senior year, they enjoyed football games on a new field under the lights and their school hosted the first nighttime track meet in Indianapolis.

Broad Ripple High School, at this time, was expanding its extra-curricular activities. The school had new clubs related to their academic curriculum like art, music, business, foreign languages, history, mathematics, and sciences. Non-academic clubs included the school newspaper (*The Riparian*), debate team, drama club, school radio, the National Honor Society, Letterman's Club, and the Quill and Scroll Society. During their years at Broad Ripple High, their student council organized by using voting machines, and social events like the First Nighter, a real nighttime dance with dates and entertainment replaced afternoon dances at BRHS.

In 1998, Broad Ripple High School Class of 1949 began to plan their 50th anniversary high school reunion. Their 50th reunion party was planned for August 28–29, 1999 and would include: a Get Reacquainted/Cocktail Party and Dinner/Banquet at the Meridian Hills Country Club, a tour of Broad Ripple High School, an informal dinner, tour of Indianapolis, golf outing, and a brunch at the Riviera Club.

Sources:

Ralph Bedwell, Broad Ripple High School, *Broad Ripple High School: Centennial Celebration* (Indianapolis, Indiana: The Center for Humanities, 1986).

Materials in the collection.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Material in this collection relates to Broad Ripple High School Class of 1949 and 50th Class Reunion. The collection includes memorabilia from Broad Ripple High School from 1945–1949, such as school activities and athletic team photographs (1947–1949), class histories, newspaper clippings, programs from school activities, commencement programs, a blueprint for the 1948 Broad Ripple High School yearbook, issues of the school newspaper *The Riparian* (1945–1949), and Broad Ripple High School yearbook for 1988. This collection also includes material related to the planning of the 50th class reunion, such as newsletters, planning committee meeting minutes, correspondence with reunion attendees, the Broad Ripple Class of 1949: Then and Now booklet, and class reunion photographs.

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Broad Ripple Class of 1949 Contact List, 1999.	Box 1, Folder 11
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Broad Ripple High School Class of 1949: Then and Now, 50 Year Class reunion booklet.	Box 1, Folder 13
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