CLAUDA G. BOWERS
UNPUBLISHED DIARY AND RESEARCH, 1964-1986

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Processed by
Courtney Rookard
March 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
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Claude Gernade Bowers was born 20 November 1878 in Westfield, Indiana, to Lewis Bowers and Julia Etta Bowers. Lewis Bowers operated general stores in Jolietville (Hamilton County) and in Whitestown (Boone County). Lewis and Julia Bowers divorced in 1888, after which Claude lived with Julia in Lebanon (Boone County). They moved to Indianapolis in 1891. Claude graduated from Indianapolis High School in 1898 but could not afford to attend college. He became an editorial writer for the Indiana State Sentinel, and later the Terre Haute Gazette and the Terre Haute Star.

Claude was a Democratic congressional candidate in 1904 and 1906, and in 1911 moved to Washington D.C. to serve as secretary to Senator John W. Kern. Before moving he married Sybil McCaslin in Marion County, Indiana, on 28 November 1911. Their daughter Patricia was born in 1915. By 1919 they were back in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Claude was an editorial writer for The Journal Gazette. The family lived in New York from 1923 to 1933, where Claude was an editorial writer for the New York World and a political columnist for the New York Journal.

Claude was Temporary Chairman of the 1928 Democratic National Convention where he delivered a keynote address. He campaigned for Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932. Roosevelt appointed Claude Bowers as ambassador to Spain in 1933 and ambassador to Chile in 1939. After 1953 Claude and Sybil lived in New York where Claude worked with Eleanor Roosevelt and Adlai Stevenson.

Claude G. Bowers died on 21 January 1958 in New York, New York and was buried in Highland Lawn Cemetery in Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana.

Sources:

Material in collection
Collection guide for Sybil M. and Claude G. Bowers Letters (M 0767)
Ancestry.com


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

In 1964 Indiana Historical Society editor Gayle Thornbrough and historical author Holman Hamilton published the high school diaries of Claude Bowers. They then began editing Bowers’ New York diaries from 1923 to 1933, but they were never published. This collection contains material from their editing and research of the New York diaries—mostly transcripts and research for footnotes.
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