

Collection #  
SC 2928  
DVD 0240, 0241

**ELTON T. RIDLEY,  
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 2011**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 folders, 2 DVDs

**COLLECTION DATES:** 6 October 2011

**PROVENANCE:** Indiana Historical Society project, 2011-

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:** None

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** Indiana Community Builders interviewees

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2012.0120m0001

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Elton T. Ridley (1926-2012), was born in Syracuse, New York to Edna and Clarence Ridley. He spent most of his childhood in Chicago, Illinois where Elton's father was the executive director for the International City Manger Association. During his youth Elton enjoyed attending White Sox baseball games with his father and visiting Lake Michigan. While at the University of Chicago High School, also known as the Lab School, he participated in sports and especially liked Music Appreciation class.

After graduating in 1945, he entered the army and was stationed in Italy where he managed an officer's club. Upon returning to Illinois in 1948, he received his bachelor's degree from University of Illinois and then earned his MBA in hospital administration from the University of Chicago. Elton married his first wife Mary in 1953, after meeting her during his residency at Indiana University Hospitals. Mary then taught elementary school for the rest of her career. On completing his residency, he accepted the new position of Hospital Administrator for IU Hospitals, which included leadership of Long, Riley, and Coleman hospitals.

He spent his entire career with IU Hospitals, including managing the opening of University Hospital and teaching for the IU School of Medicine Department of Public Health. Elton also served as president for several professional organizations, including the Indiana Hospital Association, Indianapolis Area Hospital Council, and Indiana Health Careers. Elton's professional success has been acknowledged through several awards including the Sagamore of the Wabash and the Spirit of Philanthropy in addition to two scholarships given in his name, the Elton T. Ridley Scholarship for Health Information Administration at IUSM and the Mary E. & Elton T. Ridley Endowed Scholarship for elementary education majors at Butler University.

While attending IU's Mini University, he met his present wife, Margaret and they were married in 2005. After retiring he continued to share his professional skills with the Ovid Butler Society Executive Committee and IUSM Dean's Council Board of Directors. He also performed with the Shepherd's Singers, part of the Mid-North Shepherd's Center, a Christian outreach organization for older adults. Elton and Margaret are supporters of many local organizations including the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Eiteljorg Museum, the Indiana Historical Society, and the Indianapolis Zoo.

Sources: Material from the interview

*Web: Marion County, Indiana Marriages since 1925.*

<http://www.biz.indygov.org/apps/civil/marriage/search> (accessed 27 September 2012).

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Folder 1 contains the transcript of an oral history interview with Elton T. Ridley, 1 life history form, and 1 obituary for Mr. Ridley from the *Indianapolis Star*. The DVDs include WAV file audio recordings of Ridley's oral history interview (1 master and 1 copy).

Ridley was interviewed as part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral History Project (ICB), an ongoing project collecting oral histories of outstanding individuals who continually work to advance Indiana. The primary goal of this project is to collect life stories from remarkable people whose involvement in Indiana philanthropy, business, politics, religion, and education continues to enhance the Indiana community. Through these individual lives, we can witness the development of Indiana's recent past. IHS believes collecting these reflections also extends our capacity as Indiana's Storyteller because we can better understand Indiana history from a personal and professional perspective. Including both perspectives illustrates each individual's contributions to Indiana and their personal connections to all Hoosiers. Interview topics include: influences provided by family; elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education; employment and volunteer experiences; challenges and successes faced; philanthropy; and change of Indianapolis/ Indiana over time.

The interview was conducted by Kendra E. Clauser on October 6, 2011 at Marquette Manor, Mr. Ridley's residence at the time. Clauser has been the Project Archivist for ICB since April of 2011.

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Elton T. Ridley obituary, *Indianapolis Star*

Elton T. Ridley life history form

Elton T. Ridley oral history interview, transcript

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Elton T. Ridley oral history interview, audio WAV file  
on DVD (1 master and 1 copy)

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