

Collection #
M 1376
OM 0673

**FORT WAYNE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
PHOTOGRAPHS AND EPHEMERA, CA. 1929–1991**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 OM folder, 1 photograph folder, 1 VHS tape

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1929-1991

PROVENANCE: William M. Bailey, Valparaiso Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1993.0676

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Central High School

Fort Wayne High School opened in 1864 on East Wayne Street as the only public high school in Fort Wayne. The school's student population steadily grew, and by the early 1900s, a new building was needed in order to serve this larger student body. In 1904, a new building for the school was opened at 1200 S. Barr Street, welcoming nearly 500 students. Along with the new building was a new name, Fort Wayne High and Manual Training High School.

In 1922, the school changed its name to Central High School as it was no longer the only public high school in Fort Wayne. Enrollment at the school maintained its growth, hitting over 1200 students. Through the 1930s, additions to the building were made to accommodate the number of students. In 1930, the boys and girls gyms were built, and in 1939, an addition to the building on its Clinton Street side was completed.

By the 1960s, student enrollment started to decline due to movement out of the city. By 1968, enrollment dropped to just under 1000 students. It was around this time that the Civil Rights community was heavily advocating for desegregation. Central High School was already integrated with a student population that was half black and half white. The other high schools in the area, however, were not. To aid in desegregating other area high schools, Central High School was closed, district lines were redrawn, and two new high schools were created. When Central High School closed in 1971, the building was repurposed as a vocational center, the Fort Wayne Regional Vocation High School. In 1990, it was renamed as the Anthis Career Center, and in 2015 became the Anthis Career Academy.

William and Ann Bailey

William Bailey was born in Waterloo, Iowa on June 14, 1923 (died February 4, 1999) to James and Mabel Bailey. He attended Central High School and graduated in 1941. He was very active in high school, having taken part in many extracurricular activities and earning recognition as an honor student. He attended high school with his sister, Ann Bailey (later Snowden), who was born on September 13, 1926.

Sources:

"Allen County Community Album." Allen County Public Library. Accessed May 16, 2018. <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/home/research/eresources/community-album>.

Ancestry.com

Harter, Randy. "Central High School circa 1912." Fort Wayne Reader. January 24, 2017. Accessed May 16, 2018. <http://www.fortwaynereader.com/story.php?uid=3144>.

Morris, Leo. "1970-1979: Era of Crisis-Central High Closed in Effort to Improve Racial Balance." News Sentinel. Accessed May 16, 2018. <http://fwn-egen2.fortwayne.com/ns/projects/history/2000/1970/crises1.php>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains materials relating to Fort Wayne Central High School and one of its former students, William Bailey. A scrapbook of William Bailey's, dated 1940-1941, includes news clippings about his various school activities. There are two speeches in the collection, one given at the 1941 Central High School graduation and one, presented by William Bailey, given at the 50th reunion for the Class of 1941. Several news clippings include mentions of William Bailey and his sister Ann Bailey and their various school activity involvements. There are several programs from Central High School in 1940-1941 including graduation, dances, and reunions. From these same years are two Central High School yearbooks, named The Caldron. There is a group photograph as well as a VHS tape of the Class of 1941's 50th reunion in 1991.

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