

Collection #
SC 3413
DVD 1369-1371

**GARY BRACKETT AND BILL HENDRIX
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 24 JANUARY 2015**

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April 2018

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder; 3 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 24 January 2015

PROVENANCE: Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0143m0016

NOTES: Forms part of the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

In 2014 the Indiana Historical Society began the Indiana LGBT Collecting Initiative to collect, preserve, and make accessible materials that document the rich history, tradition, and culture of Indiana's LGBT communities. Part of the collecting initiative includes the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project. During the time period of 2014-2015, interviews were conducted of individuals, couples and families from all walks of life in the Central Indiana area. This collection centers around the oral history interview of Gary Brackett and Bill Hendrix conducted by Mark Lee on January 24, 2015.

Gary Brackett (b. 1960) grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He currently works as a business manager and administrator for the IU Center for Bioethics. Bill Hendrix (b. 1959) grew up in Fountain Inn, South Carolina, and moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, for work with Brackett, first in 1992 and then again in 2000. He currently works as a research entomologist for Coastal Crops, USA, and DowAgroSciences.

Brackett and Hendrix first met in South Carolina and have been together for over thirty years. As a graduate student, Hendrix founded an LGBT student group at the University of Arkansas. He faced such severe pushback from the university that the ACLU got involved to protect both the group and Hendrix's status as a graduate assistant. Meanwhile, Brackett was forced out of his role of choir director at the Sequoia United Methodist Church. Later, while living in Indianapolis, Brackett founded the Cadillac Barbie Pride Parade, which is named for his drag alter ego. Married in 2014, Brackett and Hendrix are very active in the Indianapolis gay community and are often involved in local pride events. Brackett and Hendrix currently reside in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

Information found in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The interview was transcribed from one video recorded interview. This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on February 3, 2015, at the home of Gary Brackett and Bill Hendrix in Indianapolis, Indiana. The interview was conducted by Mark Lee who was contracted by IHS for the project from 2014 to 2015. DLC was contracted by the IHS to transcribe the interview in February 2016. The interview, which includes the video recording and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. The video recorded interview is approximately two hours long and is recorded on one DVDs.

The collection includes one manuscript folder with the newspaper articles related to Gary Brackett and Bill Hendrix, transgender protection rights in Indiana, and LGBT life in Indianapolis, Indiana. The folder also includes a copy of the interview transcription. The following is an index to the oral history transcript listing the topics discussed and the pages on which they can be found.

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Hendrix, Interview Transcription

CONTAINER

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Gary Brackett and Bill Hendrix LGBT Oral History
Interview, user copy

DVD 1369

Gary Brackett and Bill Hendrix LGBT Oral History
Interview, master copy

DVD 1370

Digital Transcription and photographs

DVD 1371