

Collection #
P 0644

**HEARTLAND DOCUMENTARY
PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE PROJECT, 1998-1999**

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Processed by

Maire Gurevitz
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Revised by Barbara Quigley, 29 March 2023

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 boxes of cold storage photographs, 1 half size box of cold storage photographs, 13 folders of OVA cold storage photographs, 1 bin of 35mm black-and-white acetate negatives

COLLECTION DATES: 1998-1999

PROVENANCE: Kim Charles Ferrill, Pendleton, IN; Tyagan Miller Photography, Bloomington, IN; Dan Francis, Indianapolis, IN; Rich Remsberg, Bloomington, IN; Kevin Montague, Bloomington, 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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REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *Twilight In Arcadia*, HD9137.I6 N48 2000; Jay County Fair Souvenir Book, pamQ S555.I62 J4 1976; A Royal Event: Celebrating Jay County Fair Queens, 1962-2017, pamF F532.J4 R6 2017; *Hoosier Hysteria: A History of Indiana High School Boys Single Class Basketball*, GV885.72.I6 S395 1997; *Hoosier Temples: A Pictorial History of Indiana's High School Basketball Gyms*, GV885.72.I6 H36 1993; *Historic Hoosier Gyms: Discovering Bygone Basketball Landmarks*, GV885.72.I6 N43 2010

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.1188; 2000.1217; 2003.0270X; 2003.0271X; 2003.0272X; 2003.0421; 2003.0422; 2003.0439; 2004.0100

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indiana Historical Society began the Heartland Documentary Photographic Archive project in 1997 with the aim to visually capture the changing Hoosier landscape at the turn of the twenty first century and add it to the permanent research collection of the institution. The impetus for this project also came about because at the time, Indiana Historical Society was in the process of building its new (present) location at 450 W. Ohio Street and it was thought that this photography project could provide good fodder for expanded exhibition space in the new building. The project resulted in a series of photographs that fall into three categories: 1) tobacco growing in southern Indiana as part of the Indiana Historical Society Press book *Twilight in Arcadia* 2) Indiana county fairs 3) historic Indiana school gyms.

Indiana Tobacco Growers:

Twilight in Arcadia was collaboration between photographer Tyagan Miller and author Susan Neville to document the process of planting, harvesting, and selling tobacco at auction in Madison, Indiana. As of the 2012 census, Indiana remains the eighth state in number of tobacco farms and tobacco acreage in the nation. However, the amount of farms and acreage has decreased over the years. The photographs document a way of life that has disappeared further, as the amount of tobacco farms and acreage continues to decrease due to the cessation of the government quota system for tobacco growers in 2004. Tobacco is still grown in Indiana, but farmers now operate under a contract method, which is less stable than the former quota system, as there is no more guaranteed price for the tobacco.

County Fairs:

The DeKalb County Fair has been in operation since 1871, when the Northeastern Indiana Agricultural Association was formed and they purchased a tract of land near Waterloo. The current iteration of the fair is the DeKalb County Free Fall Fair which has been held in Auburn since 1932. This fair is unique because it is mostly a street fair, and it is marketed as “America’s Largest Family Reunion”.

The Elkhart County 4-H Fair first began in 1851 with the formation of the Elkhart County Agricultural Society and was held near the court house in Goshen. The agricultural society kept up the fair until they ran out of funds in 1893. The current iteration of the fair is located on 143 acres of land in Goshen and is one of the largest 4-H county fairs in the country.

The Jay County Fair first began in 1853 and is now held at the fairgrounds located in Portland, the county seat. The Floral Hall on the fairgrounds, constructed in 1891 and restored in 1982, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Johnson County 4-H and Agricultural Fair was first held informally in 1838 on property that belonged to Garrett C. Bergen, which was later known as Martin Place. The fair more formally began after the formation of the county agricultural society and was held in September 1852. The current fairground, located in Franklin, was purchased by the county in 1888.

The Monroe County Fair was first organized by the county agricultural society and was held in October 1855 on a plot of land just east of Bloomington called Dunn Meadow. In subsequent years, the site of the fairgrounds shifted around Bloomington, at one point during the 1920s and 1930s being held around the courthouse square and in 1946 at the Indiana University fieldhouse. In 1955, the Monroe County Fair Association was formed and the fair has been held on that property every year since.

Indiana High School Basketball:

The man who created the game of basketball, Dr. James Naismith is quoted as saying that “basketball really had its beginning in Indiana,” even though the first games were played in Springfield, Massachusetts. The first game of basketball was played in Indiana in 1894 in Crawfordsville and the first high school state tournament was held at Indiana University Assembly Hall in 1911. By the 1920s and 1930s, basketball season in Indiana was known as “Hoosier Hysteria”, because in the single-class system, almost every high school in the state fielded a team, with 1938 being the peak year when 787 schools participated in the state tournament. Some teams played in auditoriums, in barns, outside, in basements or in rooms above hardware stores, and some teams had dedicated gyms for the sport, many of which were built as part of Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects. The important thing was that on winter Friday nights, the local high school teams were playing and the community would turn up, sometimes sitting on rafters or standing along the walls because there wasn’t enough room for bleachers to watch and cheer on their team. Then, at the sectional, regional, and state tournaments, small towns could face down big towns or cities in a David and Goliath scenario, adding to the drama of Hoosier Hysteria. However, in 1959, the School Corporation Reorganization Act was passed and the landscape of Hoosier high school basketball changed as little town high schools got swallowed up into larger county or township schools and the makeshift or palatial gyms of yore fell into disuse or were repurposed for a middle school or elementary school. Another change to Hoosier basketball tradition came in 1997 when the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) did away with the single class system in favor of a four-class system. Still, the popularity of the sport in the state of Indiana endures, and the Indiana High School Boys Basketball State Tournament is now hosted at Banker’s Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis and is played before many sellout crowds.

Sources:

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"About the Monroe County Fairgrounds"
<http://www.monroecountyfairgrounds.in/about.html> Accessed 13 Dec. 2017

Schwomeyer, Herbert F. *Hoosier Hysteria: A History of Indiana High School Boys Single Class Basketball*. Indianapolis: H. Schwomeyer, 1997.

Neddenriep, Kyle. *Historic Hoosier Gyms: Discovering Bygone Basketball Landmarks*. Charleston: History Press, 2010.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains color photographs and color processed black and white photographs, which have been sorted together, as all photographs are stored in cold storage. The photographs have been divided into three series. The first series contains black and white prints of images taken for the book *Twilight In Arcadia*, which capture the process of tobacco farming in Indiana. The second series contain black and white prints which were taken at county fairs around Indiana. The scenes feature livestock showing, 4-H kids hanging out in the livestock barns, people enjoying fair food, the action of the fair midway, and other fair events such as the demolition derby and the rodeo. The third series show interiors and detail shots of historic Indiana basketball gyms, some of which are still in operation and some of which are now used as event spaces or antique malls.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Indiana Tobacco Growers

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CONTAINER

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Photos used in *Twilight in Arcadia*, 1998 (2 of 2)

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Series 2: Indiana County Fairs

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CONTAINER

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DeKalb County, Livestock and Produce Showing,
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Cold Storage
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DeKalb County, People, Rides, Games, and Food
Booths on the Midway, 1998

Cold Storage
Photographs,
Box 1, Folder 5

DeKalb County, Work/Draft Horses Competition,
1998

Cold Storage
Photographs,
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DeKalb County, Negatives, 1998

35mm Acetate Negatives,
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Elkhart County, Contact Sheets, 1999

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Elkhart County, Livestock Showing, Cows, 1999

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Elkhart County, Livestock Showing, Fowl, 1999

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Hancock County, Livestock Show Prepping and Downtime in Livestock Barns, ca. 1998	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 1, Folder 16
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Jay County, Miscellaneous Scenes, 1998	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 2, Folder 4
Jay County, Pet Parade, 1998	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 2, Folder 5
Jay County, Rodeo, 1998	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 2, Folder 6
Johnson County, Contact Sheets, 1999	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 2, Folder 7
Johnson County, 4-H-ers and Farmers in the Livestock Barns, 1999	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 2, Folder 8
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Johnson County, Livestock Showing, Horses, 1999	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 2, Folder 10
Johnson County, Livestock Showing, Pigs, 1999	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 2, Folder 11
Johnson County, Livestock Showing, Sheep, 1999	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 2, Folder 12
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Monroe County, Contact Sheets, 1999 (2 of 2)	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 2, Folder 14

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Monroe County, Livestock Showing, Pigs, 1999	Cold Storage Photographs, Box 2, Folder 18
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Contact Sheets, Hoosier Gym Detail Shots, 1999

Details, Anderson Wigwam, 1999

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