

**Collection #
M 1203**

**INDIANAPOLIS CHARTER CHAPTER, NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF RAILWAY BUSINESS WOMEN
RECORDS, CA. 1944-2002**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 8 manuscript boxes, 1 folder photographs, 1 folder color photographs

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1944-2002

PROVENANCE: Indianapolis Charter Chapter, Marian McClure, Indianapolis, IN, 2002

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2002.0419

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The National Association of Railway Business Women was founded in the Twin Cities in 1921 after founding member Hazel Cornell was traveling to Chicago for the holidays and noticed a room at the Union Depot marked "For Railroad Men Only". She was inspired to organize something for railroad women. What started as monthly dinner party with her friend Sarah Miles and acquaintances at various railroad offices grew into an official organization in March of 1925 when the organization received a charter from the State of Minnesota. A few months later, a chapter was formed in Chicago, then Cleveland and so on. The individual chapters came together officially to form the National Association of Railway Business Women (NARBW) on February 14, 1941.

The first meeting of the Indianapolis Charter Chapter was held in the Assembly Room of the Big Four building on October 15, 1945. There were 45 ladies in attendance, and by the end of the year, membership had grown to 188 women. The Indianapolis Charter Chapter members over the years engaged in both social and charitable activities. The Chapter held card parties, dinners and fundraisers. In addition to fundraising for the National Association's Residence Fund, which helped the organization build and maintain homes for retired members, the Chapter was a faithful supporter of Riley Children's Hospital, the Pleasant Run Children's Home, and the Mental Health Operation Gift Lift, among other charities.

The NARBW is still an active organization and encompasses 19 chapters across the United States. There is a second chapter of NARBW called the Circle City Chapter, but this collection focuses strictly on the Charter Chapter.

Sources:

www.narbw.org

Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains the records of the Indianapolis Charter Chapter of the National Association of Railway Business Records. The records encompass correspondence, programs, newsletters and minutes from both the National organization and the Indianapolis Charter Chapter. In addition, there are some personal papers and memorabilia from one of the Past Presidents and longtime members of the Indianapolis Charter Chapter, Juanita Close. The collection has been divided into four series with folders arranged within the series in chronological order.

Series 1 contains correspondence and minutes from various Chapter and National Committees including Residence, Revisions, Auditing and Membership. A short history of the Indianapolis Charter Chapter can also be found here, as well as some early portraits of Charter Chapter members.

Series 2 contains correspondence, programs and agendas that relate to District Conferences and National Conventions.

Series 3 contains the Charter Chapter's newsletter, *The Limited*, District II's newsletter *The Cannonball* and the National newsletter, *The Capsule*.

Series 4 contains miscellaneous items. There are minutes of the Indianapolis Council of Women, an organization of which the Charter Chapter was a member. In addition, there are some items belonging to longtime Charter Chapter member and former president Juanita Close, which include union membership information, personnel forms from the B&O line, and minutes and correspondence from her involvement with the American Legion Auxiliary chapter in Indianapolis.

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