

# INDIANAPOLIS PRESS CLUB RECORDS, 1935-1988

---

**Collection #**  
**M 625**  
**OMB 48**  
**BV 2632-2634**

---

## Table of Contents

[User Information](#)  
[Historical Sketch](#)  
[Scope and Content Note](#)  
[Box and folder Listing](#)  
[Cataloguing Information](#)

Processed by  
Charles Latham  
27 December 1992

---

## USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 17 manuscript boxes, 2 oversize boxes (15 linear feet)

COLLECTION DATES: 1935-1988

PROVENANCE: Indianapolis Transportation Museum, 30 September 1986 and David McGhee, President, 150 West Market Street, Indianapolis IN, 23 February 1987

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ACCESSION NUMBER: 86.0784, 87.0202

---

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indianapolis Press Club was incorporated 10 April 1934, "not for pecuniary profit," and for the following purposes:

"to promote the social enjoyment among its members, and to encourage and foster the ethical standards of the newspaper profession."

The Club had several predecessors, notably a Press Club founded in 1890 which lasted for some twenty-five years and listed among its members not only newspaper writers (including four women) but local literary figures such as James Whitcomb Riley, Meredith Nicholson, and historian Jacob Piatt Dunn. It had rooms on the second floor of the Claypool Hotel.

The 1934 Club immediately looked for rooms in which the "social enjoyment" of its members could be promoted, a bar being essential for the purpose. Such rooms were found, first in the basement of Mike Hanrahan's Bar at 23 North Pennsylvania Street (1934-1935), then in rooms above the Pretzel Bell Tavern at 117 North Illinois Street, (1935-1937), then on the third floor of the Journal Building at 48 Monument Circle. Two fires in 1953 necessitated vacating the premises on the Circle and moving to Jerry's Cabaret at 136 West Market Street. After three years there, the Club made arrangements to occupy the penthouse of the new Indiana State Teachers Association building at the northeast corner of Capitol and Market Streets. When this building was remodelled in 1988, the Club moved from the penthouse to the basement.

To begin with the Club was restricted to male newspapermen. In 1941 Sheriff Al Feeney became the first representative of a new class of members not newspapermen but "deemed by the board to be an asset to the club." Membership has been extended to members of the legislature when it is in session. It took quite a while for radio journalists to achieve equality in the club; their first representative was elected president in 1969. In that same year full membership was extended to female journalists, and the first woman president served seven years later. The membership list has expanded over the years from forty-one to over seven hundred.

Along with maintaining a restaurant and bar, the Club has made a point through the years of providing parties and entertainments. Of these, the most elaborate, and the most reliable source of income, has been the yearly Gridiron Dinner, which began in 1947. Modelled after the event given by the National Press Club in Washington, D. C., the Gridiron "roasts" a number of political figures, and includes an elaborate program and often a joke edition of a newspaper. Other frequent events have been Front Page Balls, Inflation Nights, and Old Timers' Nights. There have also been golf tournaments, 500-Mile Race parties, and movie premieres.

Scholarships have been given to deserving students entering Indiana colleges. At one period prizes were given for excellence in news coverage. There have also been prizes for creative writing.

---

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling sixteen manuscript boxes and two oversize boxes, contains minutes, correspondence, programs, scripts, and photographs. It is arranged by function.

Box 1 contains historical material (Folders 1, 6-8), articles and bylaws (Folders 2-5), Club election results (Folders 15-19), and publications: newsletters (Folders 22-24) and a Club history, *Dateline Indiana*, published in 1958 (Folders 25-32). Portraits of Club presidents are stored in Visual Collectins.

Boxes 2-3 contain board minutes and correspondence, 1936-1983. Financial data are in Boxes 4 and 5 and in OMB 48 Box 1.

In Box 6 are material on Club scholarships (Folders 1-9) and on a fund-raising effort in 1979 (Folders 10-13); also ABC licenses 1937-1972 (Folders 14-16).

Boxes 7-11 contain membership applications, 1934-1980.

Boxes 12-15 contain material about the Club's Gridiron Dinners. Programs are in Box 12, and joke newspapers in OMB 48 Box 2. Several roastmasters' scripts are in Box 13. Correspondence and other Gridiron material are in Boxes 14-15. Box 16 contains material about other Club entertainments.

In Box 17 (stored in Visual Collections) are photographs of Club parties and other events. Identification of people and events in these photographs was based largely on the advice of longtime member James E. Farmer. There are also some original cartoons by local cartoonists, some once used as decorations in the Club headquarters.

---

## BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

### **BOX 1: History; Articles and Bylaws; Elections; Publications** **FOLDER**

- 1 Indianapolis Press Club of 1890
- 2 Articles of association 1934, 1960
- 3 Bylaws
- 4 Bylaws
- 5 House rules
- 6 IPC history and materials
- 7 Club history 1960 in *Indiana Business and Industry*
- 8 Club history-- 1982 draft
- 9 History-- *Indianapolis Times*
- 10 (ART) Historical artifacts
- 11 1980 Brochure
- 12 Awards
- 13 Creative writing contest n.d.
- 14 Clippings
- 15 Elections-- 1936-1939
- 16 Elections-- 1940-1949
- 17 Elections-- 1950-1959
- 18 Elections-- 1960-1967
- 19 Elections-- n.d.
- 20 (VC) Presidents 1933-1956
- 21 (VC) Presidents 1957-1979
- 22 *Behind the Headlines* 1945-1963
- 23 *IPC Newsletter*-- 1970-1976

24 *IPC Newslette* -- 1977-1982

25 *Dateline Indiana*-- preparation, orders

26 *Dateline Indiana*-- book (1958)

27 *Dateline Indiana*-- correspondence

28-32 *Dateline Indiana*-- advertising

33 Script-- 50th anniversary videotape

**BOX 2: Board minutes and correspondence 1936-1979  
FOLDER**

1 Board minutes-- 1936-1937

2 Leases 1937-1983

3 Board minutes -- 1938

4 Board minutes -- 1939

5 (BV 2632) Board minutes -- 1947-1959

6 Board minutes -- 1950-1951

7 Board minutes -- 1952-1955

8 Board minutes -- 1956

9 Board minutes -- 1957

10 Board minutes -- 1958

11 Board minutes -- 1959

12 Board minutes -- 1960

13 President's book ca 1960

14 Resolutions-- deceased members 1960-1962

15 (BV 2633) Board minutes-- 1961-1970

16 Board minutes -- 1970

17 (BV 2634) Board minutes -- 1970-1977

18 Correspondence with Szabo Food Service, 1973-1980

19 1979 drive to pay off Szabo

20 Board minutes-- 1978

21 Board minutes -- 1979 (Folder 1)

22 Board minutes -- 1979 (Folder 2)

23 Board correspondence-- 1979

**BOX 3: Board minutes and correspondence 1980-1983  
FOLDER**

1 Board minutes-- 1980

2 Board correspondence-- 1980

3 Colbert lawsuit 1980

4 Management agreement with Colbert 1980

5 Colbert financial reports 1980

6 Bayh-Quayle debate 1980

7 Speakers' program 1980

8 Board minutes-- 1982

9 (OMB 48) Diploma-- "Grand Buffalo" (Box 1 Folder 11)

**BOX 4: Financial 1953-1967  
FOLDER**

1 Ledger accounts 1953-1966

2 Financial 1957-1964

3 Gross receipts 1959-1964

4 Financial 1959

5 Financial 1960-1961

6 Resolutions re bank accounts 1960-1964

7 Operating account numbers

8 Financial 1962-1963

9 Unemployment claims 1963-1964

10 (OMB 48) Financial 1963 (Box 1 Folder 1)

11 Financial 1964

12 (OMB 48) Financial 1964 (Box 1 Folder 2)

13 "Loot Bag" 1964-1965

14 Financial 1965

- 15 (OMB 48) Financial 1965 (Box 1 Folder 3)
- 16 Worksheets-- January-June 1965
- 17 Worksheets-- July-December 1965
- 18 Financial 1966
- 19 (OMB 48) Financial 1966 (Box 1 Folder 4)
- 20 Worksheets-- January-June 1966
- 21 Worksheets-- July-December 1966
- 22 Financial 1967
- 23 (OMB 48) Financial 1967 (Box 1 Folder 5)

**BOX 5: Financial 1967-1986  
FOLDER**

- 1 Worksheets-- January-June 1967
- 2 Worksheets-- July-December 1967
- 3 (OMB 48) Financial 1968 (Box 1 Folder 6)
- 4 (OMB 48) Financial 1969 (Box 1 Folder 7)
- 5 (OMB 48) Financial 1970 (Box 1 Folder 8)
- 6 Worksheets-- January-June 1970
- 7 Worksheets-- July-December 1970
- 8 (OMB 48) Financial 1971 (Box 1 Folder 9)
- 9 Worksheets-- January-June 1971
- 10 Worksheets-- July-December 1971
- 11 Insurance 1970-1972
- 12 Financial 1972
- 13 Audit 1973
- 14 Management agreements 1970s
- 15 Financial 1973-1975
- 16 Taxes 1976
- 17 Operating expenses 1955-1977
- 18 Insurance 1977-1979

19 Audit 1977-1978

20 Insurance 1980

21 Financial 1986

**BOX 6: Scholarships; Fund-raising 1979; ABC Licenses  
FOLDER**

1 Scholarships -- 1957-1962

2 Scholarships -- 1963-1965

3 Scholarships -- check stubs 1965-1973

4 Scholarships -- ledger 1966-1972

5 Scholarships -- 1966-1967

6 Scholarships -- 1968-1969

7 Scholarships -- 1970-1971

8 Scholarships -- 1972

9 Scholarships -- 1973-1976

10-13 Fund-raising 1979

14 ABC licenses-- 1937-1949

15 ABC licenses-- 1950-1959

16 ABC licenses-- 1960-1972

17 Restaurant menus n.d.

**BOX 7: Membership applications 1934, 1942-1948  
FOLDER**

1 1934

2 1942

3-4 1943

5 1944

6-7 1945

8-10 1946

11-12 1947

13-14 1948

**BOX 8: Membership Applications 1949-1956**

**FOLDER**

1 Club rosters 1945, 1976

2-3 1949

4-5 1950

6-7 1951

8-10 1952

11-12 1953

13-14 1954

15 Billed and not paid 1954-1958

16 1955

17-18 1956

**BOX 9: Membership Applications 1957-1961****FOLDER**

1-2 1957

3-5 1958

6 Billed and not paid 1958-1962

7-9 1959

10-11 1960

12-13 1961

14 College interns 1961

**BOX 10: Membership Applications 1962-1967****FOLDER**

1-2 1962

3 Resignations 1962-1963

4-5 1963

6 1964

7 Billed and not paid 1964

8-9 1965

10-11 1966

12-14 1967



**BOX 11: Membership Applications 1968-1980  
FOLDER**

- 1 1968
- 2 1969
- 3 Legislative members 1969
- 4 1970
- 5-6 1975
- 7-8 1976
- 9-12 1977
- 13-14 1978
- 15 Board of Governors 1979-1980
- 16 Life members 1980
- 17 Applications 1980

**BOX 12: Gridiron Dinner Programs 1948-1988  
FOLDER**

- 1 Gridiron history 1958
- 2 Gridiron roastmasters 1947-1982
- 3 Programs -- 1948-1952
- 4 Programs -- 1953-1955
- 5 Programs -- 1956-1959
- 6 Programs -- 1960-1964
- 7 Programs -- 1966
- 8 Programs -- 1967-1970
- 9 Programs -- 1871-1974
- 10 Programs -- 1975-1978
- 11 Programs -- 1979-1981
- 12 Programs -- 1986-1988
- 13 Program material ca 1965
- 14 Program material ca 1976

- 15 (OMB 48) "Times," "Star" 1947-1948 (Box 2 Folder 1)
- 16 (OMB 48) "Gridiron Grit" 1949 Box 2 Folder 2)
- 17 (OMB 48) "Gridicule" 1950 (Box 2 Folder 3)
- 18 (OMB 48) "Star" 1951 (Box 2 Folder 4)
- 19 (OMB 48) "Fog" 1962 (Box 2 Folder 5)
- 20 (OMB 48) "Twist" 1965 (Box 2 Folder 6)
- 21(OMB 48) "Hoosier Chronically" 1966 (Box 2 Folder 7)
- 22(OMB 48) 1981 paper (Box 2 Folder 8)
- 23 (OMB 48) "Cheap Shot Bugle" 1982 (Box 2 Folder 9)
- 24 Material for "Cheap Shot Bugle"
- 25 (OMB 48) "Indy Rag Times" 1983 (Box 2 Folder 10)
- 26 (OMB 48) Material for 1983 paper (Box 2 Folder 11)
- 27-28 Material for 1983 paper
- 29 (OMB 48) "The Newt" 1984 Box 2 Folder 12)

**BOX 13: Gridiron Scripts and other material  
FOLDER**

- 1 Program material 1983
- 2 Two poems-- 1953
- 3 Toastmaster scripts -- 1963, 1965
- 4 Toastmaster scripts -- 1967
- 5 Toastmaster scripts -- 1968
- 6 Toastmaster scripts -- 1970
- 7 Toastmaster scripts -- 1971
- 8 Toastmaster scripts -- 1973
- 9 Toastmaster scripts -- 1976
- 10 Toastmaster scripts -- 1977
- 11 Toastmaster scripts -- 1978
- 12 Toastmaster scripts -- 1979
- 13 Toastmaster scripts -- 1984

14 Toastmaster scripts -- 1987

15 Toastmaster scripts -- n.d.

16 Toastmaster scripts -- n.d.

17 (partial) Toastmaster scripts -- n.d.

**BOX 14: Gridiron Dinners-- Correspondence etc. 1945-1965  
FOLDER**

1 1945

2 1952

3 1958

4 Guidebook by James E. Farmer 1960

5 1961

6 1962-- correspondence

7 1962-- bills

8 1963-- correspondence

9 1963-- ads

10 1963-- publicity

11 1964-- correspondence

12 1964-- planning

13 1964-- bills

14 1964-- ads

15 1965-- planning

16-17 1965 -- correspondence

18 1965-- ledger

**BOX 15: Gridiron Dinners-- Correspondence etc. 1966-1983  
FOLDER**

1-2 1966

3-4 1967

5 1969

6 1972

7 1973

- 8 1974
- 9 (OMB 48) 1974 accounts (Box 1 Folder 10)
- 10 1974 bills
- 11-13 1975
- 14 1976
- 15 1977
- 16 1978
- 17 1979
- 18 1980
- 19 1982
- 20 1983 [?]
- 21 n.d.
- 22 clipping

**BOX 16: Parties Other Than Gridiron  
FOLDER**

- 1 "Around the World in 80 Days" premiere 1957
- 2 Election party 1963
- 3 Front Page Ball-- 1956
- 4 Front Page Ball-- 1957
- 5 Front Page Ball-- 1958
- 6 Front Page Ball-- 1959
- 7 Front Page Ball-- 1960
- 8 Front Page Ball-- ledger 1960-1966
- 9 Front Page Ball-- 1961
- 10 Front Page Ball-- 1963
- 11 Front Page Ball-- 1964
- 12 Front Page Ball-- 1968
- 13 Golf tournament 1961-1970, n.d.
- 14 Grand opening party 1958

- 15 Ground Hog Day 1962-1967, n.d.
- 16 Hawaiian party 1964-1966, n.d.
- 17 "How the West Was Won" premiere 1963
- 18 Inauguration dinner ca 1967
- 19 Inflation Night-- 1952-1967
- 20 Inflation Night-- n.d.
- 21 Jazz party n.d.
- 22 Old Timers' Night-- 1958
- 23 Old Timers' Night-- 1959
- 24 Old Timers' Night-- 1962
- 25 Race party 1962-1964, n.d.
- 26 St. Patrick's Party n.d.
- 27 Parties-- miscellaneous

**BOX 17: Photographs and Cartoons (Visual Collections)**  
**FOLDER**

- 1 Mike Hanrahan's Bar 1930s
- 2 Early photos n.d.
- 3 Jess Andrew party, West Point IN ca 1950
- 4 1950
- 5 Gridiron 1951
- 6 "Careful Casting Club" 1952
- 7 Shrine party at Press Club 1956
- 8 1957
- 9 Indy 500 party 1958
- 10 1961
- 11 1962
- 12 Las Vegas party 1965
- 13 Gridiron 1966
- 14 1972

- 15 1974
- 16 1975
- 17 1976
- 18 Cartoon for 1977 program
- 19 1980-- John Anderson
- 20 1982
- 21 Gridiron-- early 1980s-- identified
- 22 Gridiron-- early 1980s -- identified
- 23 Gridiron-- early 1980s -- unidentified
- 24 Gridiron ca 1985
- 25 Photos-- n.d.-- identified
- 26 Photos-- n.d.-- unidentified
- 27 Cartoon-- Press Club hat n.d.
- 28 Reid Duffy for *Indianapolis Magazine* 1980
- 29 Entry in photo contest-- fire scene
- 30 Entry in photo contest -- fire scene
- 31 Bob Hope and Gov. Henry F. Schricker
- 32 Barnett cartoons 1976-1977
- 33 Bigelow cartoon
- 34 Hendrixson cartoon 5-26-1977
- 35 Hendrixson cartoon n.d.
- 36 Robinson cartoon 4-7-1953
- 37 Robinson cartoon n.d.
- 38 Swartz cartoons 1963, n.d.
- 39 Werner cartoon-- 3-5-1976
- 40 Werner cartoon -- 2-20-1977
- 41 Werner cartoon -- n.d.
- 42 Unidentified cartoon

- 43 Lamm cartoon (News) n.d.
- 44 McLeod cartoon 1976
- 45 Robinson cartoon-- 2-24-1954
- 46 Robinson cartoon -- 4-24-1954
- 47 Robinson cartoon -- 5-15-1954
- 48 Robinson cartoon -- 9-7-1954
- 49 Robinson cartoon -- 9-28-1954
- 50 Robinson cartoon -- 4-15-1963
- 51 Robinson cartoon -- 4-27-1965
- 52 Robinson cartoon -- 7-1-1965
- 53 Robinson cartoon -- 7-2-1965
- 54 Robinson cartoon -- 9-13-1965
- 55 Salker cartoon -- 10-23-1976
- 56 Robinson cartoon -- 2-11-1978
- 57 Werner cartoon n.d.
- 58 Photo-- Olson and Johnson-- early
- 59 Ad copy 1982
- 

## CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Indianapolis Press Club

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Journalism--Indiana--Indianapolis--Societies, etc.

Journalists--Indiana--Indianapolis--Societies, etc.

Clubs--Indiana--Indianapolis

Newsletters--Indiana--Indianapolis

Associations, institutions, etc.--Indiana--Indianapolis

Journalism--Scholarships, fellowships, etc.--Indiana--Indianapolis

Caricatures and cartoons--Indiana--Indianapolis

Roasts (Public speaking)

After-dinner speeches

Political satire, American--Indiana--Indianapolis

Indianapolis (Ind.)--Politics and government--Caricatures and cartoons

Indianapolis (Ind.)--Societies, etc.

Indianapolis (Ind.)--Social life and customs

END