

Collection #
SC 3228

JEFFERSONVILLE FLOOD COLLECTION, 1937

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Processed by

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April 2017

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder, 1 black-and-white photo folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1937

PROVENANCE: University of Arizona Libraries, Tucson, AZ; December 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Indiana Flood Photographs P0475; American Red Cross, Indianapolis Area Chapter Records M0551; "1937, mud, sweat and tears: a community remembers the flood" pamphlet F534.J45 N5 1984; "57.1 feet, the 1937 flood remember" pamphlet F534.J45 H68 1997

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0426

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

In January 1937 the Ohio River flooded, causing damage to nearby towns in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois. At one point during the crisis the entire river, 981 miles long, was above flood stage. Thousands of people lost their homes and hundreds died. Relief workers were sent into the affected regions, including around one thousand WPA workers sent to Jeffersonville. The flood caused an estimated \$13 million in damage in six Indiana counties. Most of Jeffersonville was underwater, including roads and railroad tracks leading out of town. Wilmer T. Fox wrote that "the water was over the sidewalk flowing down the driveway into our basement and the following morning at four o'clock it commenced to go over our lower floor, finally reaching a point only eight inches from the ceiling."

Sources:

Collection materials.

"Ohio River Flood of 1937," Lilly Library, Indiana University Bloomington,
<http://www.indiana.edu/~liblilly/wpa/flood.html>

Welky, David. *The Thousand-Year Flood : The Ohio-Mississippi Disaster of 1937*.
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains seven black-and-white photographs of the flood in Jeffersonville and its aftermath. One of the photos was used as a postcard, dated 13 April 1937. There is also a black-and-white photographic postcard depicting the damage the flood caused at the Citizens Bank. Finally, the collection includes a letter from Wilmer T. Fox, Fox & Fox Attorneys at Law, in Jeffersonville, Indiana to John C. Zulauf in New York, dated 5 March 1937. The letter discusses the damages and extent of the flood both at his home and office.

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Letter, 5 March 1937

Photos, 1937

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Visual Collections:
Photographs,
Folder 1