

Collection #  
SC 3385

**JOHN AND DENISE BITTNER  
COLLECTION, 1968–2004**

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** Six manuscripts folders, one photographs folder, one color photographs folder, one artifact, seven printed materials

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1968–2004

**PROVENANCE:** Denise Alexander Bittner, Eagle, Idaho, 2006–2007

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2006. 0467, 2006.0526, 2007.0080

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

**John Robert Bittner** (4 May 1943 – 9 April 2002) was born and raised in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. He attended Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota, where he had a job with KORN (later KXON) radio and television. He then went to Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, where he received an M.E. and Ph.D. in communications and history. He served as the full-time news director for the Peoria Journal Star radio station in West Lafayette (WAZY). He received accolade and was elected president of the United Press International – Broadcasters of Indiana branch for his coverage of Vietnam protests.

He briefly taught at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, where he was the director of their Center for Media Research. He met his wife, Denise Alexander, and they married in Boise, Idaho on 8 September 1972. Bittner then taught at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, as an associate professor from 1973–1980, where he was the director of their Broadcast Communication Program. He was also the general manager of the WGRE-FM, a public broadcasting radio station in the area. He won several awards and was recognized for his contributions to journalism while at the station.

Bittner then served as the Chairman of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Radio, Television, and Motion Pictures department. He also held several other high profile positions at the University of North Carolina and its various branches.

He authored between eight and sixteen textbooks on mass communication and journalism in his career, including some with his wife.

**Denise [Alexander] Bittner** (1950–) was born in Boise, Idaho. She attended the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, receiving a degree in journalism and mass communication. She met John Bittner and they married in Boise, Idaho, on 8 September 1972. She received a Masters of Business degree from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University in 1984.

She owned and operated a public relations firm, Bittner & Associates, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina from 1980–1984. She served as the Assistant Dean for Institutional Advancement, School of Medicine; Vice President of the Medical Foundation of North Carolina, Inc.; and the Director of Development for the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, all at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1984–2002. She then served as the Director of Development in the Department of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at UNC from 2002–2005. She received many donations and grants for her positions during her time at UNC.

She has served on and chaired numerous professional organizations during her career.

### Sources:

"Former Communication Prof. John Bittner Dies at Age 58." DePauw University news page. April 11, 2002.

Items in collection.

"John R. Bittner Obituary." Greensburg Tribune Review. April 11, 2002.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains one color photograph of Denise Bittner at her desk and eight photographs of John Bittner at work, with company, or as part of a news article.

The collection also contains a John Bittner memorial sheet featuring a quote from Ernest Hemingway, two posthumous news articles about John Bittner, a brief biography of John Bittner, and a three-page resume for Denise Bittner.

The collection contains an envelope signed by astronaut Neil Armstrong (a Purdue graduate) addressed to John Bittner, news director at WAZY radio station in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The collection also contains several academic articles written by John Bittner, an award booklet highlighting a news report from WAZY while John Bittner was news director, the summer 1970 *Journal of United Press International* edited by John Bittner, and papers from John Bittner's time at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

There is one artifact included in the collection. It is a glass tray with the Indiana State Police logo placed in the center. John Bittner's dissertation was about the Indiana State Police.

There are seven printed collection materials associated with this collection: six historical fiction novels by John Jakes, a DePauw graduate who was a guest lecturer in one of John Bittner's classes; and one children's book by Hortense Meyers, a United Press International correspondent based in Indianapolis and guest lecturer in some of John Bittner's classes, and Ruth Burnett. All of the books are inscribed to John Bittner and all but Jakes' first two books to Denise Bittner as well.

John Jakes books: *The Bastard*, *The Rebels*, *The Seekers*, *The Furies*, *The Titans*, and *The Warriors*

Hortense Meyers book: *Edward R. Murrow, Young Newscaster*

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Articles [about John], biography [John], and résumé [Denise]

Journal of United Press International, Summer 1970 [for Indiana]

Academic articles by John Bittner

WAZY radio station [Lafayette, Indiana] award booklet

DePauw University papers

Envelope signed by Neil Armstrong

John Bittner working

Denise Bittner in office

Indiana State Police glass tray

Printed Collection  
Type: book

Printed Collection  
Type: book

Printed Collection  
Type: book

Printed Collection  
Type: book

Printed Collection  
Type: book

### CONTAINER

Manuscripts  
Folder 1

Manuscripts  
Folder 2

Manuscripts  
Folder 3

Manuscripts  
Folder 4

Manuscripts  
Folder 5

Manuscripts  
Folder 6

Photographs  
Folder 1

Cold Storage:  
Color Photographs  
Folder 1

Artifacts:  
2006.0467

General Collection:  
PS3560.A37 B3 1976

General Collection:  
PS3560.A37 R4 1976

General Collection:  
PS3560.A37 S4 1977

General Collection:  
PS3560.A37 F8 1976

General Collection:  
PS3560.A37 T5 1976

Printed Collection  
Type: book

Printed Collection  
Type: book

General Collection:  
PS3560.A37 W3 1977

General Collection:  
PN4874.M89 M9 1969