

Collection #
SC 3508
DVD 1498–1499

**JOHN C. BUHNER
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW AND TRANSCRIPT, 2012**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

Paul Brockman
September 2018

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

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder, 2 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 19 December 2012

PROVENANCE: John C. Buhner, Indianapolis, Indiana, November, 2013

RESTRICTIONS: The interview may be used for private study, scholarship, or research. Permission to reproduce or publish this interview, whether in whole or in part, must be obtained from the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46202-3269.

COPYRIGHT:

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2018.0296

NOTES: This forms part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral History Program

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John (“Jack”) Colvin Buhner was born in 1920 and grew up in Seymour, Jackson County, and North Vernon, Jennings County, Indiana. He married Betty Bevis in March of 1942 and graduated from Franklin College before enlisting in the United States Army in May of that same year. He served in the US Army Air Force in the China Burma India Theater as a radioman, rising to the rank of technical sergeant.

After the war, Buhner furthered his education and attended Indiana University for a master’s degree in political science. In 1948, he joined the faculty and administration at Indiana University’s Calumet Center in East Chicago, Indiana. Buhner served first as director then finally as chancellor of IU Northwest from 1961 to 1969, while receiving a PhD from Indiana University in 1963. He then moved to Indianapolis, where he served as vice chancellor and dean of faculties of IUPUI from 1969 to 1978.

He retired from IUPUI’s School of Liberal Arts and School of Public and Environmental Affairs in 1984. He and wife Betty were the parents of Carol Buhner Ward, Byron B. Buhner, and John C. Buhner, Jr. Mr. Buhner died in Indianapolis on 10 January 2017.

Sources:

Information in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The following interview is one of a series devoted to collecting life stories from remarkable people whose involvement in Indiana business, politics, religion, education, and philanthropy continues to enhance the Indiana community. Through these individual lives, we can witness the development of Indiana's recent past and better understand Indiana's history from a personal and professional perspective, as illustrated by each individual's contributions to Indiana and their personal connections to all Hoosiers.

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on 19 December 2012, at Mr. Buhner's home in Marquette Manor, Indianapolis, Indiana, by Kendra E. Clauser, Indiana Historical Society's (IHS) oral history archivist for the project from 2011 to 2013. DLC Transcriptions transcribed the interview in June 2015, and Wendy L. Adams, IHS's director of oral history (as of April 2014), lightly edited the transcript in 2016. The interview, which includes the audio recording and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	iii
TRANSCRIPT	
Recording I	
Birth / Family history.....	1
Franklin College (Franklin, Indiana) / Meets wife (Betty Bevis) / Military service in WWII (China / Burma / India)	2
Commonwealth Life Company (Louisville, Kentucky) / College life at Franklin College and Indiana University (IU) (Bloomington, Indiana)	5
IU's Calumet Center (East Chicago, Indiana)	7
IU's acquisition of Gary College (Gary, Indiana)	8
Director of IU's Gary Center (IU Northwest).....	9
IU's schools of medicine	11
Appointed to IUPUI (Indianapolis) / First impressions of IUPUI.....	13
IUPUI administration (Dr. Maynard K. Hine).....	15

IUPUI administration (Glenn Irwin) / Attitudes against combining IU and Purdue University at Indianapolis.....18

IUPUI administration (Jerry Bepko).....20

How IUPUI became a centralized campus21

IUPUI’s School of Physical Education and Tourism Management (Normal College of the American Gymnastic Union).....24

Degree programs added while vice chancellor28

Governor Roger Branigin31

Politicians and running IU Northwest.....32

Differences between IU Bloomington and IUPUI.....33

Betty Bevis Buhner’s career (teaching / interior design).....36

Recording II

Reason for moving to Indianapolis41

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Transcript of Interview

Interview and transcription, MP 3 (User Copy)

Interview and transcription MP 3 (Library Copy)

CONTAINER

SC 3508

DVD 1498

DVD 1499