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.

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