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**MAJIE FAILEY
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, JUNE, 2013**

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January, 2017

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

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NOTES: Forms part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral History Project.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mary Jane “Majie” Alford Zaring Failey was born in New York City in 1922 to Herbert Alford and Dorothy Heaton. When a young child, the family returned to Indianapolis, where she spent her formative years. She attended Tudor Hall as well as Shortridge High School before graduating from Dana Hall in Wellesley, Massachusetts. After graduating from Indiana University in 1945, she took the position of Society Editor with the *Indianapolis News*. She married William S. Zaring in 1946 and then William H. C. “Skip” Failey in 1962. She has three children, William A. Zaring, Catherine A. Zaring Boll, and Gaye A. Zaring Mueller, as well as two stepsons, William H. Failey and John N. Failey. Besides her many contributions to the *Indianapolis News*, Ms. Failey has written and published two books—one about her newspaper writing experiences and Indianapolis society (*Forgive Us Our Press Passes: A Society Editor’s Prayer*) and the other about her friend, Indiana author Kurt Vonnegut (*We Never Danced Cheek to Cheek*). She currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on June 20, 2013, at Majie Failey’s home in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Kendra E. Clauser, Indiana Historical Society’s (IHS) oral history archivist for the project from 2011 to 2013. Data Logistics Control, Inc., a local transcription service, transcribed the interview in May 2015, and Wendy L. Adams, IHS’s director of oral history (as of April 2014), lightly edited the transcript in July 2015. The interview, which includes the two audio recordings and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The 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.

The following is an index that lists the topics discussed in the interview and their location in the transcript:

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