

Collection #
SC 2932
DVD 0248-0249

MAX B. SCHUMACHER INTERVIEW, 2012

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

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folders, 2 DVDs (1 master and 1 copy) 01:49

COLLECTION DATES: 7 May 2012

PROVENANCE: Indiana Historical Society project, 2011-

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0006m0005

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Max Schumacher (b. October 21, 1932), was born in Indianapolis, Indiana to Virginia Barney Schumacher and William J. Schumacher, Jr. He was the youngest of three, following his sisters Dorothy and Joan. His family lived at 4363 Winthrop, a house built by his maternal grandfather as a wedding present for his parents. Max and his mother continued to live in the Winthrop home, even after his parents divorced. He attended Indianapolis Public School #70. During his youth he liked playing baseball with the neighborhood boys and swimming at the Rivera Club. Prior to graduating Shortridge High School in 1950, he was an editor for the school's daily newspaper, *The Echo*, and a player on their baseball team. After high school, he attended Butler University where he majored in journalism and wrote for the school's daily paper, *The Collegian*. During his teens, he worked in the Indiana State Fair ticket office, coached for the Junior Baseball League, and was a research assistant/writer for Mayor Alex Clark's radio show "Ask the Mayor." He graduated from Butler University in 1954 and then entered the Army where spent time in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Fort Sheridan, Illinois. After the Army, he became the ticket manager for the Indianapolis Indians in 1956. He met his future wife, Judy Whybrew, working together in the ticket office. They were married on December 20, 1958, began a family in 1959, and eventually had four children, Bruce, Brian, Karen and Mark, two of whom currently work for the Indians franchise. Schumacher continued with the Indians working his way from ticket manager to publicity director and finally to his current position of President and Chairman of the Board. His gifted leadership led the Indians franchise to turn a profit for thirty-eight consecutive years as of the 2011 season. Schumacher also served on the board of directors for organizations such as the Kiwanis and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indianapolis, where as president, he led the merging of the two organizations in the late 1970s. One of Schumacher's major achievements is building the new Victory Field in downtown Indianapolis which opened on July 11, 1996. *Baseball America*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *MinorLeagueNews.com* all recognized Victory Field's success as the "Best Minor League Ballpark in America" (1999, 2001). Schumacher has received multiple awards for his contributions to Indianapolis. For his work in baseball, Schumacher earned the American Association Executive of the Year honors (1996) and was inducted into Butler's Athletic Hall of Fame (2005). For his commitment to the community he was named a "Sagamore of the Wabash" by governors Otis R. Bowen and Mitch Daniels and an Honorary Degree of Associate of Science in College and Community Service from Ivy Tech Community College. Schumacher still maintains a close connection to the fans as he "make[s] the rounds every night unless it's pouring down rain."

Sources: Materials in the collection

"Max Schumacher Bio." Indianapolis Indians. Accessed September 25, 2012. http://indianapolis.indians.milb.com/team4/page.jsp?ymd=20060329&content_id=50944&ykey=team4_t484&fext=.jsp&sid=t484

Marion County, Indiana, Index to Marriage Record 1920 - 1925 Inclusive Vol, Original Record Located: County Clerk's Office Ind; Book: 120; Page: 698.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Folder 1 contains the transcript of an oral history interview with Max B. Schumacher and a life history form. The master DVD contains an audio recording of Schumacher's oral history interview, and a transcript. The copy DVD contains an audio recording of the transcript only. Schumacher was interviewed as part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral History Project (ICB), an ongoing project collecting oral histories of outstanding individuals who continually work to advance Indiana. The primary goal of this project is to collect life stories from remarkable people whose involvement in Indiana philanthropy, business, politics, religion, and education continues to enhance the Indiana community. Through these individual lives, we can witness the development of Indiana's recent past. IHS believes collecting these reflections also extends our capacity as Indiana's Storyteller because we can better understand Indiana history from a personal and professional perspective. Including both perspectives illustrates each individual's contributions to Indiana and their personal connections to all Hoosiers. Interview topics include: growing up in Indianapolis; influences provided by family, especially his mother; elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education; employment experiences; Indianapolis Indians; challenges and successes faced; volunteerism; and change of Indianapolis/Indiana over time. The interview was conducted by Kendra E. Clauser on May 7, 2012 at Victory Field. Clauser has been the Project Archivist for ICB since April of 2011.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Life history form

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Max Schumacher oral history interview, transcript

Topic	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Transcript page
Early life	00:00	page 1
School and baseball	02:01	page 2, 8
	21:10	
Shortridge & Butler	04:35	page 2, 5
	14:08	
Summer jobs	06:36	page 3
Early career w/ Indians	08:56	page 4, 9
	24:21	
Bush Stadium	28:57	page 10, 14
	38:47	
New Victory Field	30:50	page 11
Attendance and fans	42:03	page 15
Judy their children	46:33	page 17
Boys and Girls Clubs	54:44	page 19
Knot Hole Club	56:55	page 20
Indians interns	58:21	page 21
Fans and stockholders	1:03:28	page 22
Schumacher and the fans	1:12:03	page 25
Super Bowl XLVI	1:14:03	page 26
Indianapolis past	1:24:18	page 29
His sisters	1:34:32	page 33
Stadium improvements	1:38:41	page 34
Indians and the Olympics	1:41:54	page 35

Max Schumacher oral history interview, audio WAV
file on DVD (1 master and 1 copy)

DVD 0248, 0249