

Collection #
M 0227
OMB 0016
BV 1700-1708, 1884-1885, 1920-1922
R 2583-2584

**PLEASANT RUN CHILDREN'S HOME
(INDIANAPOLIS, IND.)
RECORDS, 1867–1985**

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 4 manuscript boxes, 14 bound volumes, 2 oversize boxes and 1 oversize folder, 2 artifacts, 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1867-1985

PROVENANCE: Pleasant Run Children's Home, 1835 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis IN 46202, January 1979, September 1980, June 1981, April 1993, February 1994, March 1995

RESTRICTIONS: Access to all records less than 75 years old, other than printed histories, must be approved by the Board of Directors of the Home

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1979.0114, 1980.0914, 1981.0607, 1993.0429, 1994.0482, 1995.0471

NOTES: This is an open collection to which periodic additions are made.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Pleasant Run Children's Home got its start in the later 1860s as one of several attempts to help children orphaned by the Civil War. A German fraternal society in Indianapolis, inspired by a similar group in Cincinnati, founded a home for orphans in 1867 under the name Deutschen Allgemeinen Protestantischen Waisenvereins (German General Protestant Orphan Association). In 1871 the association opened a permanent home for the orphanage on State Street near Pleasant Run; it was used for over a century, and is still standing. The building usually accommodated about fifty children. In 1918 the association changed its official language from German to English, and its name to the General Protestant Orphan Association.

Between 1918 and 1971 the focus of the association altered, so that by the 1960s the home was serving as a treatment center for neglected and pre-delinquent children, mainly wards of the court, most of whom stayed at the home for only a few years. To reflect the change in emphasis, the association changed its name in 1971 to the Pleasant Run Children's Home. There was a sizeable fire in the building in 1979.

Changes in circumstances and philosophy brought further modifications to the organization in the 1980s. Group homes housing from five to ten boys or girls were developed in different parts of the city, sometimes with considerable resistance from local residents. This group-home phase began in 1981-1982, with homes on Cooper Road and High School Road. Meanwhile the original building on State Street was turned over to the Koala Hospital. In 1989 the Home launched a \$1.2 million capital campaign aimed at doubling the number of children served (from 28 to 63).

In 1993 the Pleasant Run Children's Home had its headquarters at 1835 North Meridian Street. It operated five group homes located at different points on the city's periphery. Residents were from six to eighteen years of age. Most were wards of the court for various reasons including parental abuse and lack of control. The Home got its funding mainly from the city welfare department, augmented by grants from United Way and by fund-raising efforts. The Home's program had several facets. Younger children were prepared either for reunification with their families or for foster care. Older residents were taught living and work skills in preparation for independent living; many accumulated some savings with which to fund their emerging independence. There was considerable emphasis on counseling-- of residents, of parents, of children under foster care, of recent graduates, and of home-based cases.

Sources: Materials in collection
Telephone interview with staff of Home
Indianapolis News, 12 June 1989

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection, filling three manuscript boxes and two oversize boxes and including fourteen bound volumes, spans the years 1867-1985. It is arranged by category, and chronologically within category.

Box 1 contains directors' minutes 1867-1965. Minutes 1867-1912 are in BV 1700-1704. Minutes 1912-1947 are oversize, stored in OMB 0016.

In Box 2-3 are minutes and reports 1966-1987. Minutes from 1972 to 1974 are in BV 1884, 1885, and 1920.

Box 4 contains historical, financial, and other records. In Folder 1 are copies of the 1930 publication of the articles of association. In Folders 3-5 are succeeding versions of a history of the Home, and in Folders 6-7 are historical papers.

Folder 8 contains reports of the Home's superintendent for 1919-1923 and 1933-1935. Tax reports and audits are in Folders 10-15, and membership dues records in BV 1921 and 1922. Records of the ladies auxiliary, which operated 1902-1918, are in BV 1707-1708. Various records of children in the Home, dating 1873-1952, are in BV 1706 and Folders 20-23. The collection concludes with miscellaneous papers (Folder 24), three 1948 photographs, and two bronze plaques stored in Artifacts. The plaques are heavy and require additional time for retrieval.

Because the names of residents are included, this collection is restricted to the superintendent and to current directors; for all others, access to all records less than 75 years old, other than printed histories, must be approved by the Board of Directors of the Home.

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BOX 1: Minutes and Reports, 1867-1965

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Board minutes -- Dec. 1953-Dec. 1955	Box 1, Folder 1
Board minutes -- 1956-1957	Box 1, Folder 2
Board minutes -- 1958	Box 1, Folder 3
Board minutes -- 1959	Box 1, Folder 4
Board minutes -- 1960	Box 1, Folder 5
Board minutes -- 1961 (1962 missing)	Box 1, Folder 6
Board Minutes -- 1963	Box 1, Folder 7
Board minutes -- 1964	Box 1, Folder 8
Reports and financial-- 1964	Box 1, Folder 9
Board minutes-- 1965	Box 1, Folder 10

BOX 2: Minutes and Reports, 1966-1985

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Board minutes-- Jan.-July 1966	Box 2, Folder 1
Board minutes -- Aug.-Dec. 1966	Box 2, Folder 2
Board minutes -- Jan.-Aug. 1967	Box 2, Folder 3
Board minutes -- Jan.-Aug. 1967	Box 2, Folder 4
Board minutes -- Sept.-Dec. 1967	Box 2, Folder 5
Board minutes -- Jan.-July 1968	Box 2, Folder 6
Board minutes -- Aug.-Dec. 1968	Box 2, Folder 7
Board minutes -- July 1969 - May 1970	Box 2, Folder 8

Board minutes -- June 1970 - Dec. 1971	Box 2, Folder 9
Board minutes -- 1975	Box 2, Folder 10
Board minutes -- 1976	Box 2, Folder 11
Board minutes -- 1977	Box 2, Folder 12
Board minutes -- 1978	Box 2, Folder 13
Board minutes -- 1979	Box 2, Folder 14
Board minutes -- 1980	Box 2, Folder 15
Board minutes -- 1981	Box 2, Folder 16
Board minutes -- 1982	Box 2, Folder 17
Board minutes -- 1983	Box 2, Folder 18
Board minutes -- 1984	Box 2, Folder 19
Board minutes -- 1985	Box 2, Folder 20
Annual Report-- 1985	Box 2, Folder 21

BOX 3: Minutes and Reports, 1986-1987

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Board minutes, Mar.-Dec. 1986	Box 3, Folder 1
Annual report, 1986	Box 3, Folder 2
Board minutes, 1987	Box 3, Folders 3-4

BOX 4: Historical; Financial; Residents

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Articles, 1930 version	Box 4, Folder 1
Membership blanks	Box 4, Folder 2

History, 1976 version	Box 4, Folder 3
History, 1978 version	Box 4, Folder 4
History, 1980 printed version	Box 4, Folder 5
Historical papers	Box 4, Folder 6
Historical papers removed from minutes	Box 4, Folder 7
Reports of superintendent 1919-1923, 1933-1935	Box 4, Folder 8
Tax reports 1943-1949	Box 4, Folder 9
Audit-- 1974	Box 4, Folder 10
Audit -- 1976	Box 4, Folder 11
Audit -- 1978-1979	Box 4, Folder 12
Audit -- 1979-1980	Box 4, Folder 13
Audit -- 1982-1983	Box 4, Folder 14
Audit, 1986	Box 4, Folder 15
Children at the Home 1873-1969	Box 4, Folder 16
Children's records 1909-1931	Box 4, Folder 17
Christenings and baptisms 1916-1952	Box 4, Folder 18
Miscellaneous papers	Box 4, Folder 19

Bound Volumes

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Board minutes-- 1867-1882	BV 1700
Board minutes -- 1882-1888	BV 1701
Board minutes -- 1888-1895	BV 1702
Board minutes -- 1902-1909 (1896-1901 are missing)	BV 1703

Board minutes -- 1909-1912	BV 1704
Board minutes -- 1950-1953	BV 1705
Children at the Home 1873-1906	BV 1706
Ladies auxiliary-- 1902-1908	BV 1707
Ladies auxiliary -- 1908-1918	BV 1708
Board minutes -- 1972	BV 1884
Board minutes -- 1973	BV 1885
Board minutes -- 1974	BV 1920
Financial-- 1972-1974	BV 1921
Membership dues-- 1935-1969	BV 1922

OMB 0016

CONTENTS

Board minutes -- 1912-1937, Articles of association, 1887 (photostat)

Board minutes -- 1937-1949

Officers and Directors of the General Protestant Orphans Association, 1918-1950

CONTAINER

OMB 0016, Box 1

OMB 0016, Box 2

OM 0016,
Flat File FF 11-o

Visual Materials and Artifacts

CONTENTS

Three photographs, 1948

Bronze plaque, memory of Anna Frances Blank (1858-1911)

CONTAINER

Visual Collection:
Photographs, Folder 1

R 2583

Framed list of donors of \$100 or more, 1871-1962,
Framed list, Edward A. Gardner Memorial Fund,
Appreciation of Faithful Service, 1925-1962, Framed
list of Presidents and Officers of the Board of
Directors, 1918-1938

R 2584