

Collection #  
SC 3630

**RED KEY TAVERN  
JUKEBOX PLAYLIST, 1951-2011**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1951-2011

PROVENANCE: Patrick Chastain, Indianapolis, Indiana, December, 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2015.0388

NOTES:

## SKETCH

The location of the Red Key Tavern at 5170 N. College Avenue in Indianapolis was originally constructed in 1927 as a Piggly Wiggly Grocery. The store remained in business until 1932 when it closed due to the Great Depression. With the repeal of prohibition in 1933, the building was acquired by two brothers from England, Richard and George Duke, who opened it as a bar called The Old English Tavern. In 1935 the Dukes sold to Alva (Jack) Buening and his wife, Marie, and changed its name to the Red Key Tavern. In 1949 the Buenings sold the Red Key to Mike Tamer, who owned it until April, 1951, when it was sold to Russ Settle and Fran Gasper. Gasper retired in 1970, and Settle became sole owner. Russ Settle owned the Red Key for fifty-nine years, before passing away in 2010. Settle's son, Jim, and his wife Dollie assumed ownership and operation of the Red Key and continue to own and operate it.

The bar is known for its quiet laidback atmosphere that harkens to an earlier time with a jukebox that continues to play music from the Big Band Era. Russ Settle was a pilot during World War II and collected model airplanes which he hung from the ceiling. The rules Russ established are also still strictly enforced: all coats must be hung up and there are no feet allowed on the chairs. The Red Key was also mentioned a great deal in Dan Wakfield's semi-autobiographical novel, *Going All the Way*, and was featured in the film version as well.

### Sources:

Red Key Tavern Website: <https://www.redkeytavern.com/history>. Accessed 8 September 2020.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection is a five-page jukebox playlist of 45 rpm records (199 songs) selected by Russ Settle, owner of the Red Key Tavern, and played at the bar's jukebox from 1951-2011.

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Red Key Jukebox Playlist, 1951-2011

### **CONTAINER**

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