

**Collection #**  
**M 1096**

**RISER FAMILY COLLECTION**  
**CA. 1890–1977**

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Processed by

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May 2014

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 5 photograph folders, 5 slide bins

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1890–1977

PROVENANCE: Rosalie R. Schafer, Logansport, Indiana, 2012.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0324

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Richard "Dick" L. Riser was born on 29 December 1916 in Shelbyville, Indiana. His parents were Glen J. and Ruth Marie Linton Riser. Although Richard was born in Shelbyville, he was raised, and spent much of his adult life, in Indianapolis. He graduated from Shortridge High School in 1935 and Butler University in 1939. During World War II, Richard served in the U.S. Navy as a Specialist 2nd Class in the Cable Censorship office in the Canal Zone, Balboa, and Panama, from March 1942 to October 1945.

Richard obtained his first real estate business position through his first cousin, Warren M. Atkinson. Richard worked for Atkinson & Company, which was located near 46th and Allisonville Road, from 1941 to 1974. Later, Richard worked with 21st Century Gold Key Realtors. He was a member of the Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors and the National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers.

Richard married Elizabeth Rose Gunsett on 5 April 1952. They had two children: Richard "Rick" and Rosalie.

Richard belonged to many clubs and associations, including the Indianapolis Athletic Club, the Riviera Club, the Hillcrest Country Club, the Indianapolis Racquet Club, the Exhausted Roosters of Indianapolis, and the Meadows Area Optimist Club. In 1989, he was presented the Golden Legion Award as a 50-year alumni member by the Butler University Alumni Association. In his free time, Richard enjoyed tennis, golf, bowling, swimming and classic cars.

Richard's wife preceded him in death on 29 September 1998. Richard died in Logansport, Indiana, on 9 June 2000. Richard is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Richard's father, Glen J. Riser (b. 1888–d. 1956), worked as an accountant for Superior Chevrolet in the 1930s and 1940s. His hobbies were photography and stamp collection (philately). Glen married his wife, Ruth, on 20 May 1914.

Sources: Materials in collection. Indiana Marriage Collection, 1800–1941 and U.S. Find a Grave Index, 1700s– Current, accessed through Ancestry.com.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains materials relating mostly to Richard L. Riser and his father, Glen J. Riser. The collection has been organized into four series, mostly by type of material.

**Series 1** Contains materials relating to Panama and Richard L. Riser's service in the U.S. Navy from March 1942 to October 1945. It includes Richard's copy of a program for a 1944 Christmas Party in Panama, five issues of "Tropicana" newsletters published by the U.S. Navy in 1944 and 1945, two issues of "The Caribbean Breeze" magazine published by the U.S. Air Force in 1945, a 1939 booklet commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Panama Canal, and a 1942 circular for individuals interested in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

**Series 2** Contains three folders of general family materials. The first folder contains Richard L. Riser's obituary. The donor provided a photocopied photograph of Richard L. Riser circa 1942 and a photocopied Christmas card with a photograph of Richard L. Riser's family from 1966 on the same sheet as the obituary. The second folder contains two objects relating to stamp collecting (philately) from 1939 to 1951: a 1939 pamphlet for Canal Zone Postage Stamps, and a 1951 program for the Eleventh Annual Convention of the Tri-State Area Philatelic Clubs of Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. According to the donor, Glen J. Riser enjoyed collecting stamps. The third folder contains a 1907 calendar with a photograph of an unidentified woman, a Christmas card from Warren M. Atkinson (a first cousin and first employer of Richard L. Riser), a book print of a farmer named Mr. Heyworth, and six continent map tracers made in Germany for Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.

**Series 3** Contains five folders of photographs and 12 acetate negatives. The first folder contains a photograph of Richard L. Riser and an unidentified woman, as well as several photographs of identified women, circa 1940s. The second folder contains photographs of unidentified people in Panama, taken circa 1942–1945. The third folder contains numerous photographs of tennis matches held at the Woodstock Country Club of Indianapolis, Indiana, all taken by Glen J. Riser. The fourth folder contains photographs of a train wreck and bridge collapse, with no date or location information. The fifth folder is largely of unidentified photographs that either have no identification, or the information provided does not directly relate to any other materials in the collection. Two photographs of note: 1) a photograph of a cabinet victrola, which may have been made in Shelbyville, Indiana, by J.J. Riser, the grandfather of Richard L. Riser; and 2) a photograph entitled "June Clouds" by newspaperman and photographer Frank M. Hohenberger. The acetate negatives are of the Indianapolis 500 Race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, taken circa 1930s.

Aside from the Woodstock Country Club photographs, the other photographs in the collection are not attributed to any individual; however, one of Glen J. Riser's hobbies was photography. Descriptions of photographs provided by processor in brackets.

**Series 4** Contains a total of 67 slides featuring automobile racing circa 1950–1977, and a total of ten slides of landscapes. The identity of the photographer is not known. Descriptions of slides provided by processor in brackets.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Panama and World War II Materials**

#### CONTENTS

#### CONTAINER

Christmas Party at Panama, 1944 Program [contains program, menu, Christmas carol lyrics, and signatures of Richard L. Riser and 15 other people]

Box 1, Folder 1

"Tropicana" Newsletters, U.S. Navy, 1944–45

Box 1, Folder 2

30 Nov. 1944

15 Jan. 1945

31 Jan. 1945

28 Feb. 1945

30 Apr. 1945

"The Caribbean Breeze" Magazines, U.S. Air Force, 1945

Box 1, Folder 3

Jan. 1945

March 1945

The Panama Canal: 25th Anniversary (Aug. 15, 1914–Aug. 15, 1939) Booklet

Box 1, Folder 4

Circular [...] for Persons Desiring Appointments as Officers, Cadets, Midshipmen, or Nurses, or Enlistments in the United States Naval Reserve (Jan. 1942)

Box 1, Folder 5

### **Series 2: Family Materials**

#### CONTENTS

#### CONTAINER

Richard L. Riser Obituary, 2000. [On same sheet, the donor photocopied a photograph of Richard L. Riser in his navy uniform, circa 1942, as well as a Christmas card with a photograph of Richard L. Riser's family, dated 1966.]

Box 1, Folder 6

Stamp Collection Materials, 1939–51

Box 1, Folder 7

Canal Zone Postage Stamps Pamphlet, 1939

Eleventh Annual Convention: Tri-State Area Philatelic Clubs Program for 28-30 Sept. 1951. Hosted by Indiana Stamp Club in Indianapolis.

Miscellaneous Family Materials

Box 1, Folder 8

1 Calendar (1907), with photograph of unidentified woman attached

1 Christmas card from Warren M. Atkinson

1 book print of farmer labeled, "Mr. Hayworth my friend from Liberty"

6 continent map tracers made in Germany for Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, South America (ca. 1907–51)

**Series 3: Photographs and Negatives**

CONTAINER

CONTENTS

Portraits [ca. 1940s]

Folder 1

Richard L. Riser in uniform with unidentified woman

"Jean Lynch" [woman in flower dress]

"Edna Capps" [woman holding tennis racket behind her head, wearing dog-shaped brooch]

Edna Capps [woman from waist up, wearing dog-shaped brooch]

Unidentified Woman [possibly Edna Capps, reclining on beach in bathing suit]

Panama Photographs, [ca. 1942–45]

Folder 2

[5 unidentified Panamanians?]

[3 unidentified Panamanians?]

[unidentified white male]

Woodstock Country Club [Indianapolis, n.d.]

Folder 3

13 photographs total, featuring special tennis matches, includes view of clubhouse, pool. Some individuals identified:

"Bill Talbert"

"Commander Mathews"

"Bundy"

"Mrs. Bundy"

"Segura"

Train Wreck and Bridge Collapse Photographs [n.d.]

Folder 4

17 photographs total, taken from 6 angles

Unidentified Photographs

Folder 5

[Unidentified woman in long coat and hat standing on sidewalk, n.d.]

[cabinet victrola, possibly made by J.J. Riser, n.d.]

[unidentified schoolhouse or church in field, n.d.]

"Old Church Williamton, when mother and [?] father went to [Nillis?]" [one couple standing in front of brick building, n.d.]

"Polan School" [class with teacher in front of school, n.d.]

[Color print of two girls in front of windmill, mounted on cardboard, n.d.]

"June Clouds, Hohenberger" [country gravel road]

Acetate Negatives of Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis 500 [ca. 1930s]  
12 negatives total

4 x 5 Acetate Negative  
1-12  
Cold Storage

**Series 4: Slides**

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Landscapes [ca. 1950s, 10 slides total]

Bin 1

"Barn, 1952" [Large white barn—"Birchwood Farm"]

"Farm, 1952" [Complex of buildings—reads

"Birchwood Farm"]

"Farm, 1952" [Farmhouse with flowers and buildings in background, presumably Birchwood Farm]

"Underwood" [house with red roof]

[Underwood house from a distance]

[Underwood house with road in foreground]

"Lodge, 1952" [exterior of cabin in woods]

[Fireplace]

"Holiday Park" [close view of red and yellow flowers]

"Soap Box Derby" [view of 1948 and 1949 soap box derby cars displayed on sidewalk with signs]

Automobile Races, ca. 1950s–70s  
16 slides [Indianapolis 500?]

Bin 2

Automobile Races, ca. 1950s–70s  
22 slides [Indianapolis 500?]

Bin 3

Automobile Races, 1972  
16 slides dated May 1972 [Indianapolis 500?]  
1 slide dated Nov. 1972

Bin 4

Automobile Races, 1973-77  
6 slides dated June 1973  
5 slides dated Sept. 1973  
1 slide dated Aug. 1977

Bin 5



## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1096).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.