COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 folders, 2 DVDs

COLLECTION DATES: 20 March 2013 and 30 July 2013

PROVENANCE: Robert Garton, Columbus, Indiana,

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0012m0005

NOTES: This interview is part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral History Project of the Indiana Historical Society.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert D. Garton was born in Chariton, Iowa, in 1933. He and his wife moved to Columbus, Indiana, in 1959 when he took a position with Cummins Engine Company. In 1971, he was elected to the Indiana Senate as a representative for Bartholomew County and remained in this position until 2006. During his tenure as a state senator, he held the position of president pro tempore as early as 1981. He and his wife currently reside in Columbus, Indiana.

Source: Information in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This manuscript was transcribed from two digitally recorded interviews conducted on March 20 and July 30, 2013, at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Kendra E. Clauser, Indiana Historical Society’s (IHS) oral history archivist for the project from 2011 to 2013. Wendy L. Adams, IHS’s director of oral history (as of April 2014), transcribed both interviews in June and July 2014, and lightly edited the transcript in July and November 2014. The interview, which includes the audio recordings and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. There is also a color photograph of Mr. Garton.

The following are subjects discussed in the interview and where they can be found in the transcript:

**Interview I**

Early life in Columbus, Indiana (Cummins Engine Co.) / Run for Congress 1

Run for Indiana State Representative / Celebration of Indiana’s General Assembly’s centennial ............................................................ 2


Centennial celebration activities (Student participation day) .................. 6

Re-enactment of the Indiana General Assembly’s first session in Corydon, Indiana / Dr. Justin Walsh......................................................... 6
The booklet Session Sketches / The booklet A Century of Achievement: Black Hoosiers in the Indiana General Assembly, 1881–1886 ............... 7

Considers update of publications ................................................................. 8

Interesting facts found in the history (Keeping Sunday a religious day / State’s ratification of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments during Civil War) ................................................................. 8

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) ............................................................... 9

Changes seen in Indiana State Senate from 1971 to 2006 ....................... 11

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Accomplishments as state senator (in-house printing / no sales tax on groceries / president pro tempore) ...................................................... 21

Ethics in the Indiana State Senate (trial for 1972 legislative influence peddling scheme involving three state senators) and the creation of ethics commission ................................................................. 22

Run for president pro tempore .................................................................. 23

Interview II


Riverboat gambling authorized / Relationships with other statesmen / Stance on non-germane bills ...................................................................... 28


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