

Collection #  
P 0802

**SENATOR WILLIAM E. JENNER PHOTOGRAPHS  
CA. MID-1940S–1959**

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7 February 2020

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. mid-1940s–1959

PROVENANCE: Gift from William B. Pickett of Minnesota, October 2018

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2018.0340

NOTES: *See also: H. Clark Springer Portrait Collection (P 0803)*

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

William E. Jenner was a lawyer, Indiana state senator (1934–1942), and U.S. senator representing Indiana (1944–1945; 1947–1959). He was a member of the Republican Party, an isolationist opposed to aid to foreign countries, and a supporter and defender of Senator Joseph McCarthy. He was best known for his 1953–1954 term as chairman of the Internal Security Subcommittee, which was charged with investigating subversive activities.

William Ezra Jenner was born 21 July 1908 to Lycargus Lenwood “Woody” Jenner (1877–1950) and Leota Jane McDonald Jenner (1878–1947) in Marengo, Crawford County, Indiana. He was named after his paternal grandfather. He had an older brother, Donald Lee (1903–1987), and a younger brother, Loren Lenwood (1914–1981). Woody was a hardware merchant.

After graduating from a preparatory school in Lake Placid, New York, he received his bachelor’s and law degrees from Indiana University in Bloomington. He was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity and the Delta Phi legal fraternity.

Jenner began practicing law in 1932 in Paoli in Orange County. He married Janet Paterson Cuthill (1908–2002) on 30 June 1933. Jenner became a state senator in 1934, serving as minority leader in 1937–1939, and as majority leader and president pro tempore in 1939–1941. By 1940 he and his wife had moved to Shoals in Martin County. He ran for Governor of Indiana in 1940, finishing second at the Republican state convention. By 1942 the Jenners had moved to Bedford in Lawrence County. Their son, William Edward (1942–2019), was born there. In 1942 Jenner resigned from the state senate to join the Army Air Corps as a first lieutenant in World War II. He eventually attained the rank of captain.

After his military service Jenner was elected to fill a U.S. Senate vacancy created by the death of Senator Frederick Van Nuys. He served the last few months of Van Nuys’s term from 14 November 1944 to 3 January 1945. Jenner was elected Chairman of the Indiana State Republican Central Committee in February 1945. He resigned in March 1946 to run for senator, which he did successfully. He made a second failed run for Governor of Indiana in 1948, but was reelected to the U.S. Senate in 1952.

After he left the Senate, Jenner resumed his law practice part time in Bedford and operated Seaway Corporation, a land development firm. He also owned three cattle and grain farms in southern Indiana and one in Illinois.

Jenner was a member of the Scottish Rite, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Forty and Eight Society, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Order of Elks, and Indiana Farm Bureau.

Jenner died 9 March 1985 in Bedford, Lawrence County. His remains are entombed at Cresthaven Memory Gardens in Bedford.

Sources:

Ancestry <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 6 February 2020:

Find a Grave

Indiana Birth Certificates, 1907–1940

Indiana Death Certificates, 1899–2011

Indiana Marriages, 1810–2001

U.S. City Directories, 1822–1995

U.S. World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947

U.S. World War II Hospital Admission Card Files, 1942–1954

United States Federal Census, 1910–1940

*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774–Present.*

<https://bioguideretro.congress.gov/Home/MemberDetails?memIndex=j000093> Accessed 6 February 2020.

“Ex-Sen. William Jenner, 76, Succumbs in Bedford Hospital.” *The Star Press* (Muncie, Indiana), 10 March 1985, p. 1, 13 <newspapers.com>. Accessed 6 February 2020.

“William Jenner services set Tuesday in Bedford.” *Indianapolis Star*, 11 March 1985, p. 27 <newspapers.com>. Accessed 6 February 2020.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of seven black-and-white photographs of Senator William E. Jenner, dating from the mid-1940s to 1959. They show him taking the oath of office, seated at a desk, at a press conference, at a dinner, in a tuxedo (in January 1957, possibly at an inaugural ball), and at the dedication of his painted portrait.

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Photograph of William E. Jenner taking the oath of office, standing between two other men [probably 1944 or 1947].

Portrait of William E. Jenner seated at desk [appears to have been taken the same day as the photo listed above – 1944 or 1947].

Portrait of William E. Jenner as Republican state chairman, seated at desk, December 1945.

Cropped photograph of William E. Jenner seated at a dinner [February 1952].

William E. Jenner reading a statement to the press at the Capitol, stating that he has asked the Justice Department to press a treason charge against John W. Powell, former editor of the *China Monthly Review* magazine. United Press Telephoto [September 1954]. [Stamped on back: *Indianapolis Times* Photo.]

Janet and William Jenner (on the left) with another couple [identified on the back as Mrs. and Congressman William Bray, but this appears to be incorrect]. [Photo was possibly taken at an inaugural ball in Washington, DC.] Stamped on back: Please credit United Press Photo [January 1957].

William E. Jenner posing beside a painted portrait of himself at the dedication of the painting, April 1959. Standing with him are Allen V. Strong and Robert F. Croll [but their faces each have a red X drawn through them, indicating cropping for a newspaper].

### CONTAINER

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