

Collection #
M 1219
DVD 0717-0728

TOWN OF CROWS NEST ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEWS, AUGUST-NOVEMBER, 2012

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

Processed by

Paul Brockman
February, 2016

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 1 manuscript box, 12 DVDs

**COLLECTION
DATES:** August–November, 2012

PROVENANCE: Lee Alig and Emily Daniels, Joseph Blakely and William Fortune, Jr., Robert Hebert, William and Catherine Lawson, Thomas and Joan O'Brien, and Richard D. Wood.

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

**REPRODUCTION
RIGHTS:** Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBERS:** 2016.0042m0001–2016.0043m0006

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

An affluent residential area located on the Northwest side of Indianapolis, the Town of Crows Nest has been home to some of the most prominent residents in the city. The area comprises two distinct neighborhoods, Sunset Lane and Questover Circle.

Sunset Lane was originally a farming area owned by the Lemings, Hessongs, and Krise families. John Krise purchased land in the area in 1830. Located west of the White River, the area was a popular summer retreat that also had a Lutheran cemetery. The area was later nicknamed "Pill Hill" for all of the Lilly executives who built homes there.

In 1904, Albert Lieber, president of the Indianapolis Brewing Company, built a farmstead on his property along the White River just west of Sunset Lane. Following his example, other large estates were built in the area. In 1910, Dr. Albert Cole built his home, named "Cedar Crest", on Sunset Lane. A few years later, W. Hathaway Simmons also built a home on Sunset Lane.

In 1920, Lieber sold the property to Frank and Cecilia Stalnaker who named the property Questover. Their estate set a new standard for subsequent development in Crows Nest and the face of the area started changing in the 1920s with the construction of large private estates. Fearing the expanding boundaries of Indianapolis and the annexation of other suburbs, 37 residents petitioned for the town's incorporation in 1927. In 1971, Crows Nest became an "included town" within the Unigov structure and maintains an elected council.

The Town of Crows Nest was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

Sources:

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Town of Crows Nest National Register of Historic Places Registration form, 2000

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains six oral history interviews with transcripts of long time residents of Crows Nest and is part of the Indiana Historical Society's oral history collecting initiative. The interviews were conducted by Kendra Clauser from August–November, 2012 at the homes of the interviewees. Each interview contains a digital copy of the interview and a transcript.

Interviewees are:

Cornelius "Lee" Alig and Emily Daniels
Joseph D. Blakley and William L. Fortune, Jr.
Robert Hebert
William and Catherine Lawson
J. Thomas and Joan O'Brien
Richard D. Wood

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Lee Alig/Emily Daniels Transcript	Box 1, Folder 1
Lee Alig/Emily Daniels Interview (user copy)	DVD 0717
Lee Alig/Emily Daniels Interview (master copy)	DVD 0718
Joseph Blakley/William Fortune Transcript	Box 1, Folder 2
Joseph Blakley/William Fortune Interview (user copy)	DVD 0719
Joseph Blakley/William Fortune Interview (master copy)	DVD 0720
Robert Hebert Transcript	Box 1, Folder 3
Robert Hebert Interview (user copy)	DVD 0721
Robert Hebert Interview (master copy)	DVD 0722
William and Catherine Lawson Transcript	Box 1, Folder 4
William and Catherine Lawson Interview (user copy)	DVD 0723
William and Catherine Lawson Interview (master copy)	DVD 0724
Thomas and Joan O'Brien Transcript	Box 1, Folder 5
Thomas and Joan O'Brien Interview (user copy)	DVD 0725
Thomas and Joan O'Brien Interview (master copy)	DVD 0726
Richard Wood Transcript	Box 1, Folder 6
Richard Wood Interview (user copy)	DVD 0727
Richard Wood Interview (master copy)	DVD 0728