

Collection #  
M1406  
BV 5372

**W. BRYAN KARR  
MATERIALS, 1947–1981**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 7 black and white photograph folders 1 half sized manuscript box, 1 bound volume

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1947–1981

**PROVENANCE:** Paula Karr Wampler, Denver, CO

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** P 0018, OM 0440, Claypool Hotel Photographs, ca. 1890–1966  
BV 0579–0580, SC 0246, Claypool Hotel Records, 1885–1952

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2000.0886

**NOTES:**

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **W. Bryan Karr**

William Bryan Jennings Karr (1901–1961) was born in Bruceville, Texas, to George and Zella Karr. With aspirations to work in the hotel industry, his early jobs included working as a bellboy in Waco and Dallas. While in Dallas, he was eventually promoted to Resident Manager of the Jefferson Hotel. In 1937, he started as manager the Faust Hotel in Rockford, Illinois. In 1946, he came to Indianapolis to manage the Claypool Hotel. Karr retired from Claypool in December of 1960. He received recognition of his service to Claypool from the City Mayor and State Governor.

While manager of Claypool Hotel, Karr and his wife Pauline resided at the hotel. Karr also involved himself in numerous organizations in the city. He served on the “500” Festival Committee, acting as Chairman in 1958; Treasurer and Director of the Indiana Hotel Association; and Director of the American Hotel Association. Karr was also involved in the Indiana Convention Bureau, Indianapolis Press Club, Murat Shrine, Scottish Rite, and Chamber of Commerce, among others. In 1949, he became a member of the Junto of Indianapolis. In 1954, the meetings were moved to the Claypool in Parlor B of the mezzanine, later dubbed the “Benjamin Franklin Room.” In 1959, Karr served as Vice President of the Junto, and President in 1960. In 1961, months prior to his death, he was named an honorary member of the Junto of Indianapolis.

### **Junto of Indianapolis**

The original Junto was formed in 1727 by Benjamin Franklin and several friends. The club was dedicated to mutual improvement. Meetings were held once a week to discuss important topics of the time through the areas of philosophy, morals, politics, and economics. The original group lasted roughly forty years. Modern Junto clubs still exist across the nation, where citizens come together to form political and current event discussion groups, with the original purpose of the betterment of society.

The Junto of Indianapolis consisted of four officer positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, along with a Board of Directors. General meetings were held every Monday at noon. In the early 1950s, these meetings occurred in the Washington Hotel. Directors held monthly meetings at the Claypool Hotel.

Sources:

“Junto of Muncie” website, <http://www.juntomuncie.org/about/>, Accessed 5 July, 2018.

*Ancestry, Library Edition*, Accessed 5 July, 2018.

Information in collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains award and tribute materials for W. Bryan Karr, in recognition of his passing and honoring his service to the Junto of Indianapolis. Also in the collection are news clippings referencing Karr, Junto of Indianapolis Bulletins from 1960 to 1961, Claypool Hotel promotional materials, and various black and white photos of Claypool Hotel staff.

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“Memorial Resolution in Tribute to W. Bryan Karr,”  
1961

“Award of Merit and Honorary Membership in the  
Junto of Indianapolis,” 1961

News Clippings, 1961, N.D.

Junto of Indianapolis Meeting Bulletin, 1961

“Reflection of Great Moments” Brochure, 1981

Claypool Hotel Materials, N.D.

Hotel Staff, 1947

Gov. Handley and Bryan Karr, 1960

Hotel Staff, N.D.

Portrait with Gov. Shricker, N.D.

Bryan Karr and Unidentified Man, N.D.

Tony Hulman, Karr, Wallard, N.D.

Karr and Samuel Freeman in vehicle during parade,  
N.D.

The Junto of Indianapolis Bulletins, 1960

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