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**WILLIAM A. BASTIAN, SR.
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW AND TRANSCRIPT, 2018**

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Processed by

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November, 2020

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript folder, 1 audio DVD; 1 DVD of scanned photographs
COLLECTION DATES:	2018
PROVENANCE:	William A. Bastian, Sr., Indianapolis, April, 2018, October, 2020
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ACCESSION NUMBER:	2018.0119; 2020.0169
NOTES:	This interview forms part of the Indiana Community Builders Oral History Project

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William (“Bill”) A. Bastian was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1930, to Robert E. and Mary Louise Stockdale Bastian. He grew up in then-rural Fishers, Indiana, next to Conner Prairie Farm and what is now part of Conner Prairie museum. He attended Fishers Grade School and Broad Ripple High School, from where he graduated in 1948. During his youth, he played various sports, including travel basketball, football, and competitive singles and doubles tennis. He attended three years at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, before entering the U.S. Coast Guard at the time of the Korean War. In 1953, he married Susan Jane Stark, whom he had met while at Broad Ripple High School. Upon completing his military service, he returned to DePauw University and graduated in 1955 with a bachelor’s degree in business.

After college, he and his wife returned to Indianapolis, where he took a position in his father-in-law’s small-wheel-distribution business. He started running the business in 1957 and then bought out his father-in-law in 1960, changing the company’s name from the E.C. Stark Company to Bastian Material Handling. The company then expanded from sales into a full material handling company. Eventually in the 1990s, during the digital age, they included manufacturing and automation. They became an internationally known material handling business around 2010. To reflect the company’s broader services, the company name was changed in 2012 to Bastian Solutions. Then in 2017, the company became a subsidiary of Toyota Advanced Logistics. Their international headquarters remain located in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In 1967, Mr. Bastian joined with several sports-minded men in Indianapolis to start the Pacers, the city’s professional men’s basketball team that then played at the State Fair Coliseum. He, along with that same group, supported the building of Market Square Arena in the early 1970s as well as bringing a professional hockey team, The Racers, to Indianapolis in the mid-1970s. He left the Pacers board in 1976. He has also belonged to such organizations as the Indianapolis Service Club, City Club of Indianapolis, Freemasonry, and several United Methodist churches in Indianapolis.

Mr. Bastian and his wife have five children—Sally Ann Bastian, William A. Bastian II, David A. Bastian, Sandra G. Bastian McCoy, and Kristin S. Bastian Summers. Mrs. Bastian died in 2016. Currently, Mr. Bastian resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

Information in Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on April 18, 2018, in the offices of Bastian Solutions, located in Carmel, Indiana, by Wendy L. Adams, Indiana Historical Society's (IHS) director of oral history. Data Logistics Control Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana, transcribed the interview in 2018, and Ms. Adams lightly edited it in 2020. The interview, which includes the audio recording, the transcript, and photographs, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Readers of this oral history interview should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word. Although the transcript has been lightly edited, IHS has diligently sought to preserve its informal, conversational style, as well as the integrity of the interview's content. While some attempt has been taken to explain through footnotes some of the facts given by the interviewee, IHS is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the interview's content or for the views expressed within.

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