



Special Collections and University Archives

**William Lafranchi Collection
Manuscript Group 122**

**For Scholarly Use Only
Last Modified December 6, 2017**

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William Lafranchi Collection, Manuscript Group 122
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
2 boxes; 2 linear feet

Biographical Note

William Lafranchi was born in Brookville, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Clarion State Teachers College (later Clarion University) in 1949 with a BSED degree. He started working as a librarian at Clarion High School. He earned his MS in Library Science from the University of Illinois in 1953. In September 1953, William Lafranchi joined the professional staff of Indiana State College (later IUP) in 1953 as Director of Libraries and Media Services, and he continued to work for the IUP for 33 years until his retirement in 1986. In 1977, William Lafranchi married Sylvia Martin Lafranchi who went onto be elected as the first female mayor of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, from 1994 to 1998.



Scope and Content Note

The William Lafranchi Collection contains correspondences, newspaper articles, information about the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Indiana County program through the YMCA of Indiana County ([Manuscript Group 90](#)), and photographs. His interest in expanding the Pennsylvania Collection and the [Rare Book Collection](#) at the IUP Libraries led to the creation of the Lafranchi Endowment to purchase rare books for the [Special Collections & University Archives](#) at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The collection

also contains an audio recording of William Lafranchi being interviewed by Harrison Wick on November 6, 2014.

Provenance

Donated by William Lafranchi.

Restrictions

None, this collection is open for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist.

Processor

The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on December 6, 2017.

Container List**Box 1 William Lafranchi (19 folders)**

1. IUP Correspondence to William Lafranchi
2. Correspondence to William Lafranchi
3. Correspondence from William Lafranchi
4. Miscellaneous Correspondence
5. Reports
6. Awards, Certificates, Invitations, and Programs
7. Personal Cards and correspondence
8. Will and Final Testament
9. Forming the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Indiana County ([Manuscript Group 90](#))
10. Newspaper Articles
11. State Retirement Bulletins and Pamphlets
12. Retirement Correspondence
13. Retirement Appointment Records
14. Education: Diplomas
 - a. Master of Science from the University of Illinois, 1952
15. *Archives*: Wilkinsburg Historical Society Newsletter, William Lafranchi served as President, Volume 2 Issues 3-4, May and June 1995
16. Speech given by Sylvia Martin Lafranchi, wife of William Lafranchi about sexism and feminism, 1970s (Sylvia Martin Lafranchi served as the first female mayor of Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania, 1994-1998)
17. McNutt Family History and Correspondence, 1880-1939
 - a. Matthew Brown McNutt (1869-1952) biography
 - b. Correspondence from Aunt Lida to Matthew B. McNutt, January 27, 1880
 - c. *Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania* (1898) about Matthew B. McNutt
 - d. *World's Work* (1910). "Men in Action" and "Ten Years in a Country Church" by Matthew B. McNutt, December 1910

- e. Correspondence from Mary Campbell to Mary McNutt Gillespie (daughter of Matthew Brown McNutt), July 29, 1939
- 18. William E. Lafranchi Endowment Correspondence, 1995-2004
- 19. Audio interview with William Lafranchi accompanied by several digital photographs, interview recorded by Harrison Wick on November 6, 2014 in Verona, Pennsylvania

Box 2 William Lafranchi (9 folders)

- 1. Photographs of William Lafranchi's retirement from IUP Libraries, January 1986
- 2. Miscellaneous Photographs
- 3. Certificate of Retirement from IUP
- 4. 50th Reunion Diploma from Clarion University, Class of 1949 signed by Clarion President Diane Reinhard, 1999
- 5. Photographs
 - a. College Photograph of William Lafranchi, after 1949 (age 22-23)
 - b. Photograph of William Lafranchi (2 prints), August 1976
 - c. Oversized Photograph of William Lafranchi's retirement signed by Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornberg, 1986
- 6. Pittsburgh Radio Station KDKA AM 1020 "Listen to what we started," anniversary special, original air date, November 2, 1970.
- 7. A Notebook on the War with Japan, written by William Lafranchi, World War Two, 1941-1945
- 8. United States Army, Certificate of Retirement, First Sergeant William E. Lafranchi, December 6, 1986 (green binder with U. S. Army embossed gold seal)
- 9. Memorabilia: Pennsylvania License Plate, 2012-2013