



**Special Collections and University Archives**

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**Local History Project: A Collection of Oral Histories  
Manuscript Group 30**

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Last Modified December 18, 2020**

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**Local History Project: A Collection of Oral Histories, Manuscript Group 30  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives  
11 boxes; 4.25 linear feet**

**Historical Note**

IUP History Professors Dale Landon, Ernest Fricke, Dorothy Vogel, George Wiley, and Wayne Smith conducted the Oral History Project from 1978 to 1981. It includes more than ninety interviews on various experiences in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Those interviewed included IUP faculty, administrators, staff, and local residents of Indiana County.

IUP History Professor Gary Bailey's History 606 Spring 2007 Oral History Project includes interviews with IUP alumni. These interviews were conducted by students in the course with the signed written consent of the interviewees. In the interviews IUP Alumni reflect on their experiences and memories at IUP. Represented are IUP graduates from 1950 through 1999.

Additional oral history interviews are available for research in collections including [Record Group 27 Student Publications and Projects](#).

**Scope and Content**

The Local History Project Oral History Collection is housed in eleven archival boxes. The collection consists of audio cassettes.

The Collection continues with the History 606 Spring Oral History Project consisting of fourteen interviews housed in one document case and cassette box. Contained is the print paper copy (transcript) and cassette recording of each interview.

**Provenance**

Unknown.

**Restrictions**

None.

**Processor**

Records rearranged and inventory rewritten by Special Collections in 2001 and 2014.

**Container List**

**Box 1 (10 interviews)**

- |                     |          |               |
|---------------------|----------|---------------|
| 1. Lorrie J. Bright | LA 001-A | April 2, 1979 |
| Annemarie Draham    | LA 001-B |               |
- Lorrie J. Bright, the faculty advisor, and Annamarie Draham, the editor of The Penn discussed the staff and operations of the school newspaper. Durham described what she felt to be important in decision making, taking into account the changing emphasis preferred by students and faculty in world, national, and local news.



10. Frederica Furman Litsey '16                      LA 012                      June 13, 1978  
Mrs. Litsey graduated from ISNS in 1916. She discussed how she came to Indiana, and her experiences as a student. After leaving Indiana she taught for two years. She felt that ISNS gave her an excellent education.

**Box 2 (12 interviews)**

1. James W. Laughlin '51                      LA 010-A                      July 20, 1978  
Warner E. Tobin '51                      LA 010-B  
Mr. Laughlin was the Dean of Students Services, and Mr. Tobin was the Director of the University School; both graduated from ISTC in 1951. In a class presentation they discuss their years at IUP as students and administrators.
2. James W. Laughlin                      LA 011                      July 29, 1978  
In a class presentation, Mr. Laughlin, Dean of Student Services, discussed his views of the student experience at IUP.
3. Edward Long                      LA 013                      April 9, 1979  
Mr. Long was a student at ISNS from 1907 to 1909. He discussed the social and academic life at IUP, and his involvement in sports.
4. David Naylor                      LA 014                      November 3, 1978  
Mr. Naylor, the President of the Indiana Borough Council, in a class presentation and interview discussed the Council and its history. He reviewed the departments in the Council and the General Budget.
5. Clarissa Bost Nichol '14                      LA 015                      June 13, 1978  
Wilma Hafer Anderson '32  
Mrs. Nichol graduated from ISNS in 1914. Mrs. Anderson graduated from ISTC in 1932. Both had a good experience at Indiana, and remembered the faculty and students with affection and admiration.
6. Flossie Wagner Sanford '17                      LA 016-A                      July 3, 1978  
LA 016-B  
LA 016-C  
Mrs. Sanford graduated from ISNS in 1917. In a detailed, chronological account, she related her experiences as a student at IUP and as a teacher. She knew Jane Leonard and Dr. Keith very well. Although she gave up teaching after she married, she kept close ties with the school through the time of this interview. Mrs. Sanford stated she taught in "the Renaissance" of Indiana.
7. Elwood B. Sheeder '46                      LA 018-A (2 copies)                      March 22, 1979  
LA 018-B (2 copies)  
Mr. Sheeder was a 1946 graduate of ISTC. He was Dean of Men from 1960-1969. In a class presentation and interview, Mr. Sheeder described the "period of demonstrations" at IUP in the 1960s, and his involvement in campus life.
8. Herman Sledzik                      LA 019                      October 27, 1978  
Mr. Sledzik was Athletic Director at IUP. He came to Indiana in 1963. He described the Athletic Department and the Athletic Program at IUP for both men and women. Mr. Sledzik related the history of sports at IUP, and their relationship to the growth of the school from a normal school to a university.
9. Evelyn Jones Still '27                      LA 020                      June 13, 1978



- Mr. Mills knew Ralph McCreary during WWI. He went to work for Hiram McCreary in 1919 in the office. Later he was promoted to sales. Mr. Mills went on the road throughout Pennsylvania selling tires. He left McCreary's in 1924 and returned in 1938 having worked for Firestone in the interim. During WWII there was a shortage of rubber so alternative materials were used.
7. Floyd Carroll Rankin                      FR 007-A                      November 22, 1977  
FR 007-B
- Mr. Rankin was born on December 26, 1904 in Oklahoma. Before going to McCreary's he was employed as a teacher, and went back to school, receiving a degree in electrical engineering. He was a factory superintendent for 36 years originally working 12-hour shifts for \$0.40 an hour, he related how the company expanded during WWII.
8. Floyd Rankin                                  FR 007-A                      November 22, 1977  
FR 007-B
- Mr. Rankin discussed the manufacture of tires with such materials as rubber, cotton, and synthetics. He compared and contrasted his employers, Ralph and Harry McCreary, saying that Ralph, in production, was the more reserved while Harry, in sales, was the more outgoing brother. He also mentioned that during World War II they mostly made tires for trucks.
9. Floyd Rankin                                  FR 008                      November 29, 1977
- Mr. Rankin discussed the technical side of the McCreary Company. Elmore J. Baruth was the technical director; under him they experimented with synthetics as well as natural materials in the manufacturing of tires. Baruth established a quality control program. Mr. Rankin also discussed departments, pay rates, methods of learning a job, apprentices, and personnel.
10. Foreman / McCreary                      FR 009                      1977-1978?
- Miss Foreman related her experiences in the office of McCreary's from 1922 to 1963. She spoke of the team spirit of the office workers; how they would do whatever was necessary to keep things going. Except for the Depression and WW II, the company was fairly prosperous. Ralph McCreary spoke with pride and affection of the various people connected with the company. He said his father had originally intended profits to be used for orphans.
11. R & P Baseball League                      FR 010                      April 1, 1977
- At a meeting for the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County, the Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Company's Baseball League was the topic of the evening. Mr. Vintner, a member of the R&P League, spoke to the group, relating the heyday of the league in the late 1920s and early 1930s.
12. J. Freberg                                      FR 011                      1977-1978?
- "The United States of America"
- This is a musical comedy of the early history of the U.S., beginning with the discovery of America to the end of the Revolutionary War. Included: Discovery of America, The Puritans and the Indians, The Sale of Manhattan, Boston Tea Party, Declaration of Independence, Valley Forge, and Betsy Ross.
13. John Bertuzzi                                      November 16, 1989
- Dislocated R&P coal miner, Indiana, Pennsylvania, interviewed by Paula Fitz-Coy
14. Frank Campbell                                      October 27, 1989

- Dislocated R&P coal miner, Homer City, Pennsylvania, interviewed by Paula Fitz-Coy
15. David Mitsko December 14, 1989  
Dislocated R&P coal miner, Indiana, Pennsylvania, interviewed by Paula Fitz-Coy
  16. Victor Nastase December 14, 1989  
Dislocated R&P coal miner, Blairsville, Pennsylvania, interviewed by Paula Fitz-Coy
  17. Ed Pavlick October 18, 1988  
Dislocated R&P coal miner, Homer City, Pennsylvania, interviewed by Paula Fitz-Coy
  18. Gene Raymond December 14, 1989  
Dislocated R&P coal miner, Shelocta, Pennsylvania, interviewed by Paula Fitz-Coy
  19. Bill Rokosky November 21, 1989  
Dislocated R&P coal miner, Homer City, Pennsylvania, interviewed by Paula Fitz-Coy
  20. John Sacco December 14, 1989  
Dislocated R&P coal miner, Homer City, Pennsylvania, interviewed by Paula Fitz-Coy. Sacco was a Trustee for the UMWA R&P Unemployment Assistance Fund (UAF).
  21. Robert Uher November 3, 1989  
Dislocated R&P coal miner, Indiana, Pennsylvania, interviewed by Paula Fitz-Coy. Uher was the secretary of trustees for the UMWA R&P Unemployment Assistance Fund (UAF).

**Box 4 (8 interviews)**

1. Audrey Faloon (missing) VO 010 August 23, 1978  
(Mrs. Herbert)  
Mrs. Faloon was born in 1909 in Marion Center. She attended ISTC and graduated after a two-year program in 1929. Mrs. Faloon loved children; she taught school for 18 years. Her mother, Mary Ellen Neely Barr, was also a teacher and instructed her in oration.
2. Irene Fletcher VO 011 March 27, 1979  
Mrs. Fletcher was born in a small mining town July 1, 1902. Her father was a miner, and had come to the U.S from England at the age of 15. Mrs. Fletcher attended California State Normal School, and taught four years until her marriage. During WWII, she was an inspector for Federal Lab, and Indiana defense plant.
3. Ethel Orr VO 017 March 28, 1979  
Mrs. Orr was born in 1920. Her mother, Mary Strickland, was born in 1900. Her father, John Francis Hinick, was born in 1891. Her parents divorced when Mrs. Orr was 9. Her mother worked in a silk mill in Indiana, and in later life at a gas station. Mrs. Orr was a stringer for the Indiana Gazette.
4. Anna O'Toole VO 019 February 14, 1979  
Miss O'Toole was born in 1900. Her father, Michael Joseph O'Toole, was a miner. He was born in 1872. Miss O'Toole related her experiences as a child and adult, and the values and attitudes of her parents.
5. Lavina Mae Peterman VO 020 April 4, 1979  
Mrs. Peterman was born 5 May 1900 in Mount Pleasant, PA. Her mother was Mary Martha Hann, and her father was Alpha John Smith. Her father was a painter, and later was a mine foreman. Her mother took boarders in their home. Mrs. Peterman was married in 1921 to Edward Earl Peterman. Before her marriage, Mrs. Peterman considered careers in music, nursing, and business.

6. Mrs. C. Philippi VO 021 November 20, 1978  
Mrs. Philippi wanted to become a nurse in order to care for her mother. She was unable to learn Latin, so she went to Business College instead. Her mother, Maggie, was born in 1896. Her father, Edward Joseph Sowers, was born in 1885. It was not popular for young married women to work, but Mrs. Philippi did help her father with his books at the Gas Company.
7. Verdun Ruddock VO 023 March 20, 1979  
Mrs. Verdun Ruddock was born on January 4, 1919 in Clymer. Her mother was Elizabeth Davis (born in 1889), and her father was Paul X. Renaud (born in 1890). Mrs. Ruddock spent her childhood in Clymer and at her parents' jobs. She married Robert Ruddock and his the mother of retired Major General Rodney Ruddock (Manuscript Group 156), U.S. Army Reserve, 99<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Command
8. Margaret T. Serene VO 026 November 9, 1978  
Miss Serene was active in the Indiana Red Cross from 1942 to 1975 as Executive Secretary, and later as its Executive Director. Her parents owned a prosperous butcher shop in Greensburg. Miss Serene was educated at the University of Cincinnati in music. She taught piano and voice before entering her career as a social worker.

**Box 5 (20 interviews, 15 cassette tapes)**

1. Todd Boden WI 001 no date
2. Chellman WI 001 November 1981  
Mr. Chellman was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on December 7, 1941. He was eating breakfast, and rushed to his station on an observation post. The attack was noisy, and there were black clouds of smoke from the bombings. He could see the faces of the Japanese pilots very quickly, because they flew in so close to their targets.
3. Craig WI 002-A July 14, 1977  
WI 002-B  
Mr. Craig was involved in the early years of the Rochester & Pittsburgh (R&P) Baseball League. His father was one of the chief backers of the League, and supported them in many ways. Mr. Craig emphasized the loyalty and closeness between the players and his father.
4. Betty Davis WI 003 May 1982  
Mrs. Davis was in high school when World War Two began. She participated in most community activities for the war effort: victory gardens, collecting scrap, writing to soldiers, and many other activities. She remembered that people used their cars very little and that everyone usually walked where they needed to go.
5. Cofy Dellafioro WI 005 1982  
Mr. Dellafioro's family from England recalled their experiences of WWII in Hampshire, England. Mr. Dellafioro was on a minesweeper coming into Pearl Harbor at 8 a.m. on December 7, 1941. He saw the planes bombing the harbor and the battleships sinking. His ship never came under attack at that time.
6. Sam Furgiuele WI 006 May 1982





- Mr. O'Hara was born August 21, 1907. His father came from Ireland, and was a coal miner. Mr. O' Hara left school in eighth grade to go to work. As a boy he had been a mascot for the baseball team, where he learned to pitch.
17. Clymer Women's Group      WI 014      November 1981  
Most of them heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor on the radio. One woman heard it from a streetcar conductor. The general reaction was shock and disbelief, but the seriousness of the situation was felt the next day. The nature of the community changed; people drew closer together. Some of the women worked in munitions, making grenades and bombs.
  18. Larry Tweed      WI 001      November 16, 1981  
Mr. Tweed was on the ship Zane in 1941 when Pearl Harbor was attacked. They were totally unprepared for the attack; the ammunition was locked up. The attack, at first, seemed unreal, as if they were watching a movie.
  19. John Yackuboskey      WI 015      October 27, 1981  
Mr. Yackuboskey joined the National Guard at the beginning of WWII. He left Indiana at 3 a.m. from the railway station. He had worked in the mines as had many men in the area. They were ready to rush to the West Coast when they heard of the attack on Pearl Harbor.
  20. Zip Zentner      WI 015      March 3, 1978  
Mr. Zentner played for the R&P baseball League as a pitcher. He related a team trip to Dayton, Ohio in 1937, and some of the activities outside of ball playing.

**Box 6 (9 interviews, 14 cassette tapes)**

1. Martha Murtland      SM 001      March 4, 1977  
Mrs. Murtland lived in Indiana during the Depression. She felt that Indiana was more fortunate than some of the other communities, as people were friendly and willing to help those in need. She also stated that she was not overly concerned about her "lot", and did not pity herself or her husband, who lost a good job and had to work odd jobs to keep them going.
2. Martha Murtland      SM 002      August 3, 1977  
People could get just about anything if they had the money for it. She went from a job paying \$35 a month to \$45, which was a great improvement. Before the Depression hit, her husband worked for \$1.50 an hour for 12-hour shifts. Everyone was friendly and willing to help, so everyone got by.
3. Charles Receski      SM 003      June 3, 1977  
Mr. Receski recalled his impressions of the Depression in Indiana County. He worked in the coal mines where the working conditions were often very poor, due in part to mine management. He stated that larger families were hit harder than the smaller families and individuals.
4. Charles Receski      SM 004      June 10, 1977  
Mr. Receski was born March 18, 1908 in Somerset County. He came to Indiana a year later. In 1925 he began to work in the mines. After an absence of five years, he continued to work in the mines until 1965. He related some of the aspects of mine work and relationships between miners during the Depression.
5. Mary Bagley      SM 005-A      1978-1979?
6. Edna Foltz      SM 005-B      1978-1979?

- |                        |          |            |
|------------------------|----------|------------|
| 7. Ann Gapshe          | SM 005-C | 1978-1979? |
| 8. J. Reppell Moorhead | SM 005-D | 1978-1979? |
| 9. Martha Murtland     | SM 005-E | 1978-1979? |
- Interviews 5-9 appeared in the winter 1978-79 edition of Indiana County Heritage, entitled "Hard Times in Indiana County" By Dr. Wayne Smith. The tapes are on file in the library.

**Box 7 (9 interviews, 15 cassette tapes)**

- |                     |          |               |
|---------------------|----------|---------------|
| 1. Lorrie J. Bright | LA 001-A | April 2, 1979 |
| Annemarie Drahman   | LA 001-B |               |
- Lorrie J. Bright, the faculty advisor, and Annemarie Drahman, the editor of The Penn discussed the staff and operation of the school newspaper. Drahman described what she felt to be important in decision making, taking into account the changing emphasis by students and faculty in world, national, and local news.
- |                         |        |                 |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| 2. Charles A. Davis '34 | LA 002 | October 9, 1978 |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------|
- Mr. Davis attended IUP during the Great Depression. He related how he came to Indiana, and the life the young men and women had on campus. Mr. Davis was a music major. He played in bands on campus and around the local area. He later returned to IUP to teach in the Music Department.
- |                         |          |               |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 3. Charles A. Davis '34 | LA 003-A | March 8, 1979 |
|                         | LA003-B  |               |
- In a class presentation, Mr. Davis described his undergraduate experiences at IUP as a music major in the 1930's. He graduated in 1934, and returned to teach at IUP in 1942. After serving in World War II, Mr. Davis taught at IUP until 1973.
- |                         |          |               |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 4. S. Trevor Hadley '37 | LA 004-A | July 17, 1978 |
|                         | LA 004-B |               |
- Mr. Hadley attended ISTC and graduated in 1937. He worked at ISTC (later IUP) as an administrator from 1946 to 1978. In all his years at IUP as a student and administrator, he was impressed with the dedication and commitment of all people associated with the school.
- |                         |          |               |
|-------------------------|----------|---------------|
| 5. S. Trevor Hadley '37 | LA 005-A | March 6, 1979 |
|                         | LA 005-B |               |
- Mr. Hadley was an administrator from 1946 to 1978 at ISTC and later IUP. He graduated from ISTC in 1937. He discussed the quality of education at IUP and the various problems he was aware of through the years. But overall he was very pleased with IUP.
- |                    |          |               |
|--------------------|----------|---------------|
| 6. Edward Harkless | LA 006-A | July 25, 1978 |
|                    | LA 006-B |               |
- In a class presentation, Mr. Harkless, the Indiana Borough Manager, related some of the changes in land development at IUP. He compared the original campus with the current one, and all the additions made over the years.
- |                            |        |                  |
|----------------------------|--------|------------------|
| 7. E. Samuel Hoenstine '38 | LA 007 | November 8, 1978 |
|----------------------------|--------|------------------|
- In a class presentation, Mr. Hoenstine, an administrator of IUP, discussed his experiences of the school as a member of the staff, and in his years as a student. He graduated from ISTC in 1938.
- |                |        |                  |
|----------------|--------|------------------|
| 8. Karen Kelly | LA 008 | December 1, 1978 |
|----------------|--------|------------------|





**Box 10 (15 folders)**

History 606 Oral History Project Spring 2007

Paper Copies of Interviews (Transcriptions)

1. Interview with Michael Burkley, 1997 IUP Graduate
2. Interview with Vito J. DonGiovanni, 1988 IUP Graduate
3. Interview with Susan Drummond, 1976 IUP Graduate
4. Interview with Amy (Hornyak) Held, IUP Graduate
5. Interview with Deborah A. Johnson, IUP Graduate
6. Interview with Blaine Knupp, 1983 IUP Graduate
7. Interview with Barbara Laughlin, IUP Graduate
8. Interview with Lisa Matts, IUP Graduate
9. Interview with Benjamin McBride, 1999 IUP Graduate
10. Interview with Larry Panaia, IUP Graduate
11. Interview with Dorothy Palmer, 1957 ISTC Graduate
12. Interview with Sherry Renosky, 1989 IUP Graduate
13. Interview with Ellen Ruddock, 1966 IUP Graduate
14. Interview with Bob Vargo, 1950 ISTC Graduate
15. Signed Oral History Interview Release Forms for interviews with dislocated coal miner employees who worked for the Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Company, who were part of the UMWA R&P Unemployment Assistance Fund (UAF), 1988-1989 (see MG 30 Box 3 Tapes 13-21: John Bertuzzi, Frank Campbell, David Mitsko, Victor Nastase, Ed Pavlick, Gene Raymond, Bill Rokosky, John Sacco, and Robert Uher). R&P was experiencing a down turn and many employees were laid off.

**Box 11 (14 cassette tapes)**

History 606 Oral History Project Spring 2007

Audio Cassette Tapes of Interviews

1. Interview with Michael Burkley, 1997 IUP Graduate
2. Interview with Vito J. DonGiovanni, 1988 IUP Graduate
3. Interview with Susan Drummond, 1976 IUP Graduate
4. Interview with Amy (Hornyak) Held, IUP Graduate
5. Interview with Deborah A. Johnson, IUP Graduate
6. Interview with Blaine Knupp, 1983 IUP Graduate
7. Interview with Barbara Laughlin, IUP Graduate
8. Interview with Lisa Matts, IUP Graduate
9. Interview with Benjamin McBride, 1999 IUP Graduate
10. Interview with Larry Panaia, IUP Graduate
11. Interview with Dorothy Palmer, 1957 ISTC Graduate
12. Interview with Sherry Renosky, 1989 IUP Graduate
13. Interview with Ellen Ruddock, 1966 IUP Graduate
14. Interview with Bob Vargo, 1950 ISTC Graduate