

VIGO COUNTY ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Index to Transcripts

by

Darlene Norman

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Project History

On February 11, 1980, the Wabash Valley Press Club Oral History Committee established the Vigo County Oral History Program in cooperation with the Vigo County Public Library. Members of the committee were William Pickett, chairman; Edward N. Howard, treasurer; Darlene Norman, coordinator; Harry Frey, Martin Plascak, Frances Hughes, and Shelton Hannig.

The George A. Foulkes Oral History Memorial Fund, already established, provided seed money for the committee to begin operation.

On March 15, 1980, a workshop was held on "Conducting the Oral History Interview." Tom King, Indiana University oral historian, was guest speaker and leader. Six days later, Ernestine Myers Morrissey was interviewed by Joyce Shanks—the first interview of the project.

In April 1980, Anita Wells and Jayne Lloyd were added to the Oral History Committee. The following January Jim Wright, incoming president of the Wabash Valley Press Club, became an active member of the committee.

As of July 1, 1980, the oral history project, "Terre Haute: Crossroads of the World," cosponsored by the Wabash Valley Press Club and the Vigo County Public Library, received a matching grant from the Indiana Committee for the Humanities.

The purpose of the project was to: 1) systematically collect historical documentation relevant to the period of 1900-1970; 2) promote a continuing interest in the history of Terre Haute as a basis for sound decisions about the future; 3) stimulate a sense of place and community; 4) investigate effect of changing transportation methods and patterns on the attitudes of residents toward their city, especially the downtown; and 5) perpetuate a growing interest in local history.

The total cost of the project was \$55,886.00. That included \$20,214 from the Indiana Committee for the Humanities, \$1,500 gifts and matching money, and \$34,172 in-kind contributions.

Finished products of the oral history project were: 54 taped interviews and transcripts, indexed and catalogued (94 hours 27 minutes on tape and 2,691 typed pages); a 28-minute TV videotape, "Terre Haute at the Crossroads"; slides of the local community; involvement of 23 interviewers; 4 seminars; 2 public programs; potential audience reached of 167,855 people; and records generated by the committee during the period of its existence.

Acknowledgements

Individual subject and name indexes were created for 52 oral history transcripts by Darlene Norman during the original project. In 2002, Vigo County Public Library archivist Susan Dehler created a Microsoft Access database to merge the 52 transcript indexes into one cohesive database. The original subject terms established by Darlene Norman were maintained for the most part. Joanne Spann, research assistant in Archives, input the index terms into the Microsoft Access database; Gayl Coppinger, Suzy Cristee, and Susan Dehler proofread data from the original indexes to assure accuracy.

An interview with Benjamin G. Cox

An interview with Howard Meredith Ehrmann

An interview with Demetrius Ewing

An interview with Harry Frey

An interview with Paul Frisz

An interview with George A. Gettinger

An interview with Ray Gosnell

An interview with Ray H. Hahn

An interview with Kenneth E. Hazledine

An interview with Adele Heckelsberg

An interview with James N. Hollis

An interview with Edward N. Howard by Darlene Norman

An interview with Edward N. Howard by William Pickett

An interview with Frances E. Hughes

An interview with Winton D. Jones

An interview with Robert Kadel
An interview with John Kent Lamb
An interview with Leland Larrison
An interview with Sid Levin
An interview with Herbert N. Mace
An interview with Abe Malooley
An interview with Kenneth W. Martin
An interview with Ewing H. Miller
An interview with Herman A. Moench
An interview with Ernestine Myers Morrissey
An interview with Paul Nasser
An interview with Robert M. Nesbit
An interview with George O. Nichols
An interview with Earl Pike
Prostitution: An interview with a Former Madam

An interview with Charles A. Purcell

An interview with William Ridge

An interview with Dr. Charles Roll

An interview with Milton Shubert Sebree

An interview with D. Omer Seamon

An interview with Howard L. Sharpe

An interview with Carleton L. Shideler

An interview with Martha Tapy

An interview with Sister Georgiana Terstegge

An interview with Raymond K. Turner

An interview with Louis A. Wailly

An interview with Joe Walker