



THE ILOHI IN REVIEW:

THE HISTORY, LESSONS, AND RESOURCES OF THE INDIANA LEGISLATIVE ORAL HISTORY INITIATIVE

Dr. Michella M. Marino



DR. MICHELLA MARINO

IHB Deputy Director/Oral Historian



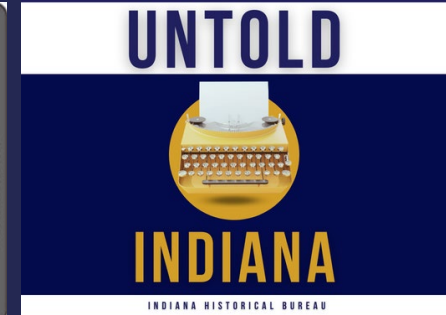
- IHB, 1 OF 3 Divisions of ISL
 - 3 departments
- Born out of State Centennial Celebrations in 1915-1916
- Evolved to our own agency in 1925
- Merged formally with the library (again) in 2018
- Mission:
 - “...provides publications, programs, and other opportunities for Indiana citizens of all ages to learn and teach about the history of their communities, the state of Indiana, and their relationships to the nation and the world.”

IHB PROGRAMS

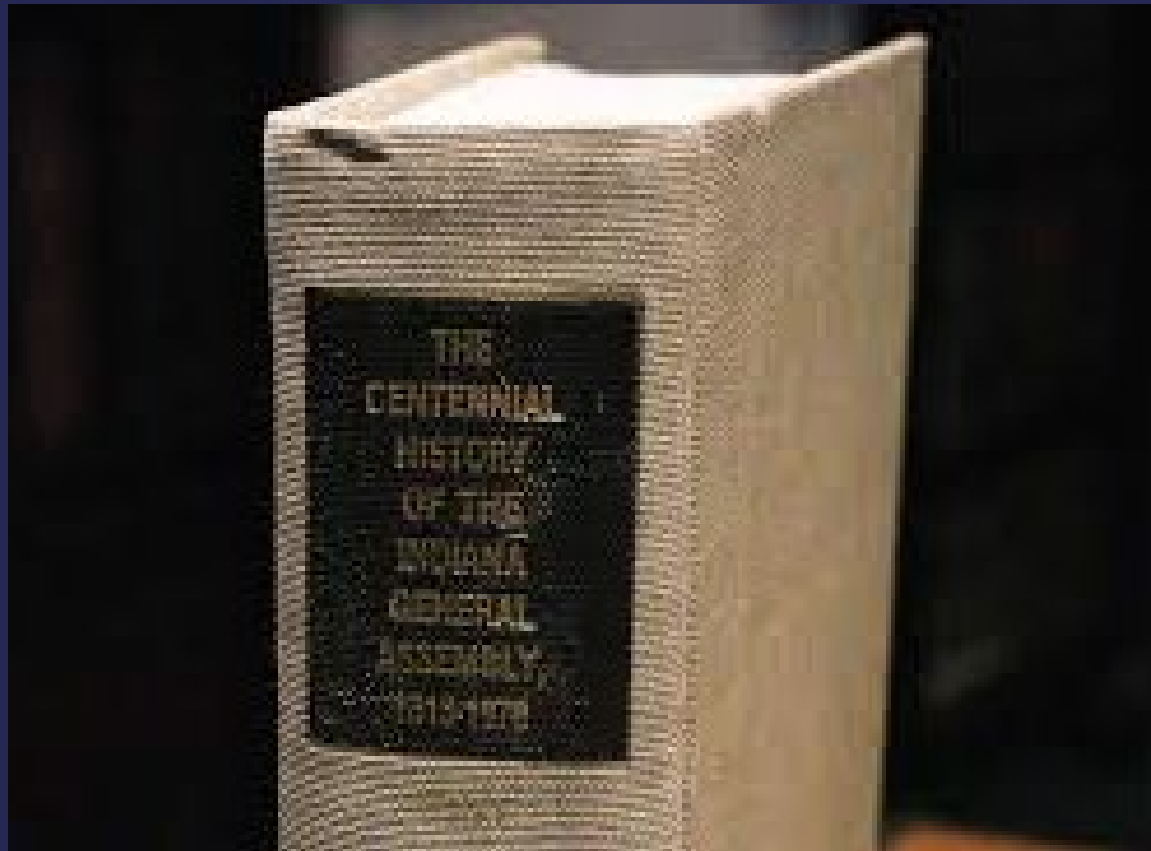
- Untold Indiana Blog
- Talking Hoosier History Podcast
- Indiana Almanac
- Outreach and Partnerships
- 2 Legislatively Mandated Programs

-State Historical Marker Program

-The Oral History of the General Assembly



PRECURSOR TO THE ILOHI



General Assembly wants its tales told

■ Bill would let legislators hire a historian to present lawmakers' public service in context of their lives.

By Rob Schneider

rob.schneider@indystar.com

The Indiana General Assembly has its eye on becoming a literary agent with the hopes of producing a page-turner. The subject? Itself.

A Senate bill scheduled to go before the House today calls for the state to spend \$150,000 to hire a historian, who would pick up the legislative body's story where *The Centennial History of the Indiana General Assembly, 1816-1978* left off.

The last tome, available at the State Library and at Indianapolis-Marion County public libraries, includes 832 pages of accounts from how the state

selected a capital to tables showing the number of legislators who attended college.

This time around, legislators want to emphasize the "human interest" stories. "We want it to be readable, colorful as Indiana actually is," said Sen. James Merritt Jr., R-Indianapolis, the author of Senate Bill 422.

That could be accomplished in part through an oral history of lawmakers.

"What we're hoping is that this is a life history interview, so it puts their public service in the context of their whole life," said Barbara Truesdell, assistant director for the Center for the Study of History and Memory at Indiana University. Truesdell advised an interim study committee before the legislation was drafted.



"A lot of people have no more of a vision of what we are like as members of the legislature than what they read in the paper, and they assume we are all guys in suits who will soon be in bright orange prison outfits."

See History, Page B5

Sen. Lindel Hume, D-Princeton

HOUSE BILL 1100 BECOMES CODE



https://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/house-endorses-legislative-oral-history-project/article_4c5235b8-d7f5-56bd-8814-b9c62188f653.html

- IC 4-23-7.2-20 Oral history of the general assembly
- Sec. 20. (a) The historical bureau shall establish and maintain an oral history of the general assembly. The director shall employ a qualified historian to conduct and preserve interviews of members of the general assembly about topics of public and historical interest.
- (b) At the request of the legislative services agency, the historical bureau shall share information obtained through the establishment of the oral history with the legislative services agency for the legislative services agency's use in maintaining a data base of biographical information for each member of the general assembly.
- (c) The historical bureau shall submit a report to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6 on the status of the oral history of the general assembly before July 1, 2018, and upon request thereafter.
- As added by P.L.77-2017, SEC.1.

FOUNDATION BLOCKS (OTHERWISE KNOWN AS PHASE 1, 2017-2019)



- Building oral history project from scratch
- Researched other states who had similar projects
- Set project parameters
 - Only interviewing once out of office
 - Legislators by era
 - Identifying those that needed to be interviewed first
 - Learning the ins and outs of Indiana politics
 - Set up info. meetings/informal interviews with those connected to the IGA

Arizona State Archives Legislative Oral History Project



About this collection

[Browse and Search This Collection](#)

Contributed by Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, State Archives

The Legislative Oral History Project documents the memories of former state legislators about their time in office. This online collection only features excerpts of these oral history interviews, located at the Paddy Rosenbaum Archives and History building, 1901 W. Madison, Phoenix, Arizona.





Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative Description, Mission, and Goals

Description

The Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative (ILOHI), founded by House Bill 1100 of the 120th General Assembly (2017), is an ongoing oral history project to record the history of the Indiana General Assembly from 1978 to the present from those who experienced it first-hand. Building on the work of *The Centennial History of the Indiana General Assembly, 1816-1978*, the oral histories of Indiana state legislators will not only provide a new history of the IGA and its members but will also reveal the modern political and legislative processes that help shape our state. The ILOHI strives to provide a primary source collection that highlights the ways in which Indiana has changed over the course of the last four decades and the lawmakers' contributions towards and responses to this evolution. By sharing the history of the IGA and its influence on the people, processes, and institutions of the state, we can begin to more fully understand the role of Indiana in a national and global context.

Mission

The Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative's mission is to conduct, transcribe, preserve, and make publicly accessible oral histories with state legislators in order to better understand Hoosier political history.

Goals

- Conduct thorough oral history interviews with state legislators detailing their lives, experiences, achievements, and struggles in the Indiana General Assembly and in Indiana politics as public servants.
- Transcribe each oral history interview and make it publicly available.
- Provide legislators biographical information to the Legislative Services Agency for their biographical database.
- Preserve the audio file and transcript of each interview with the project archive and the Indiana State Library.
- Create a user-friendly online archive and website to house and make publicly available the interviews and transcripts as well as relevant and thematic excerpts about topics of public and historical interest.
- Develop curriculum and/or resources for teachers to integrate oral history materials in

CORE INTERVIEW GUIDES

CORE INTERVIEW GUIDE #1 (Thorough)

I. Childhood

A. When and where were you born?

B. What were your parents' names?

C. Where is your family from? How and when did they get to Indiana?

D. What were your parents' occupations?

E. Do you have any siblings? If so, names, years apart?

F. How would you describe your childhood?

G. Who were the most influential people in your childhood? Why were they so influential?

H. What understanding, if any, did you have about your family's politics/political beliefs as a young child?

II. Education

A. What schools did you attend as a child and teenager?

B. How would you describe your educational experiences? Favorite subjects? Extracurriculars?

C. As a child, what were your views about the state of Indiana or being a Hoosier?

D. Where did you attend college?

E. What was your major? How did you come to this major?

F. What did you hope to do with this major after graduation?

G. Were you involved in any clubs, organizations, sports teams, etc.?

H. How did you view your college experiences at the time?

I. In what ways did your awareness of politics evolve as you matured?

J. How did they align with that of your family?

III. Work/Career

A. Describe your employment history after high school/college.

B. What were your career aspirations?

C. How did you work towards those aspirations?

IV. Family

A. When, if at all, did you get married?

B. Did you have children? If so, what were their names, and when were they born?

C. How did your family influence your career? Conversely, how did your career influence your family?

V. Political Development

A. How did you become more seriously involved in politics?

B. What shaped your political outlook?

C. As you initially became involved in politics, what were key issues or legislation you championed or fought against?

D. Who were your national political heroes? State or local?

Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative

Indiana Historical Bureau

Narrator Information Sheet and Voluntary Consent Form

The Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative (ILOHI), a project under the direction of the Indiana Historical Bureau, was founded by House Bill 1100 of the 120th General Assembly (2017). The ILOHI is an ongoing oral history project to record the history of the Indiana General Assembly from 1978 to the present from those who experienced it first-hand. The ILOHI's mission is to conduct, transcribe, preserve, and make publicly accessible oral histories with state legislators *in order to better understand Hoosier political history*.

We appreciate your willingness to participate in our project and would like to explain our oral history process:

1. The interview will be recorded digitally, and transcripts will be produced from the interview. We would like to take a photograph of you for our project as well. You will be identified by name in the interview, transcript, and photographs.

2. Each interview takes approximately 2-3 hours unless a different time is decided upon between the interviewee and narrator beforehand.

3. At the end of our interview, you will be asked to sign a copyright release form that will permanently give, convey, and transfer the oral history to the ILOHI (as a project of the Indiana Historical Bureau) and the Indiana State Library Oral History Collection. Upon your request, a copy of the audio file and/or transcripts can be provided for your personal records.

4. The copyright release provides the ILOHI and the State Library the right to use the interview in any manner it may determine, including but not limited to presentations, publications, promotional use, and online. Signing the consent form does not prevent you from using the content, stories, or expressions from the interview. If you wish to place any restrictions on the interview or on the use of the interview, there will be a space on the copyright release form to record those restrictions.

5. Our interview questions will generally align with the following topics/themes: childhood, education, work/career, family, political development, election/s, Indiana General Assembly, key legislation, life after the IGA, and a changing Indiana. If you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions about our project, please contact Dr. Michela Manno (ILOHI project director), mmanno@library.in.gov (317) 223-3040.

I, _____, (signature of legislator/narrator), understand and verify that my participation in this interview is completely voluntary. My signature confirms my agreement to participate in this recorded oral history interview. I realize that I have the right to refuse to answer any questions posed to me if I so wish.

PRINTED NAME: _____

ILOHI

DOCUMENTS

Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative

Indiana Historical Bureau

Release and Deed of Gift Form

The ILOHI's mission is to conduct, transcribe, preserve, and make publicly accessible oral histories with state legislators in order to better understand Hoosier political history. In order for your interview to be used by the ILOHI as well as the Indiana State Library Oral History Collection (ISLOHC), it is necessary for you to sign this Release and Deed of Gift Form. Before doing so, please read it carefully, and ask any questions you may have regarding its terms and conditions.

I, _____, (name of legislator/narrator), of _____ [address, city, state, zip code]

herein permanently donate and convey my oral history interview/s to the ILOHI and the Indiana State Library Oral History Collection (ISLOHC). In making this gift, I understand that I am conveying all right, title, and interest in copyright to the ILOHI and the ISLOHC. I also grant to the ILOHI and the ISLOHC the right to use my name and likeness for any lawful purpose, including educational and advertisement purposes and in any medium, including both print and electronic. I understand that ILOHI and ISLOHC may use such recordings and images with or without associating names thereto. I further waive any claim for compensation of any kind for ILOHI and ISLOHC use or publication of the recordings and images. I hereby permit ILOHI and the ISLOHC to edit, crop, or retouch such recordings and images and waive the right to inspect the final recordings and images.

My signature below also confirms my agreement to allow transcripts to be produced based upon the recorded audio interview. This agreement does not in any way preclude me (the legislator/narrator) from any use of the content or expressions contained in either the audio recording of this oral history or the transcripts produced from such.

I hereby fully and forever discharge and release ILOHI and the ISLOHC from any claim for damages of any kind (including but not limited to invasion of privacy, defamation, false light, or misappropriation of name, likeness, or image) arising out of the use or publication of the recordings and images by ILOHI and the ISLOHC and covenant and agree not to sue or otherwise initiate legal proceedings against the ILOHI and the ISLOHC for such use or publication.

The full audio interview as well as edited excerpts will be open for research to the public, available for use in publication, and digitally available on the internet including in, but not exclusive to, the ILOHI's online archive and the ISLOHC, except with any restrictions listed below.

____No restrictions.

____Restrictions (Please list):

ILOHI INTERVIEW CHECKLIST

Items Needed

- ____TASCAM recorder
- ____AA Batteries
- ____Backup Sony recorder
- ____AAA Batteries
- ____Converter Box and Cord/Phone Charger
- ____Extension Cord
- ____Narrator Information Sheet and Voluntary Consent Form (2)
- ____Release and Deed of Gift Form (2)
- ____Phone to take picture
- ____Business Cards
- ____Headphones for playback to verify TASCAM is working
- ____Interview Questions
- ____Pen and Notebook
- ____Address and Phone Number of Interviewee



Former Senator Virginia Blankenbaker



Former Senator Bob Meeks



Former Senator Gene Snowden

ILOHI INTERVIEWS

NAME	INTERVIEW DATE	INTERVIEW LENGTH	PARTY, CHAMBER
Morris Mills	28-Aug-18	2:02:50	R, Senate
William Vobach	4-Sep-18	1:57:30	R, House
Gene Snowden	14-Sep-18	1:18:17	R, Senate
Robert Garton	25-Sep-18	3:44:54	R, Senate (Pro Tem)
Spencer Schnaitter	September 27 & Oct. 2, 2018	8:56:29	D, House
Bob Meeks	11-Oct-18	2:36:08	R, Senate
Virginia Blankenbaker	October 17 & 23, 2018	4:55:39	R, Senate
Earline Rogers	29-Oct-18	2:17:44	D, House, Senate
Anthony Miles	9-Nov-18	2:29:22	R, House
Choice Edwards	30-Nov-18	1:20:02	R, House
William Roach	4-Dec-18	1:55:18	D, House
Tom Wyss	17-Dec-18	3:23:26	R, Senate

PHASE 2 (2020-2024)

- Joint interviews
- Online archive/website
- <https://ilohi.ihb.in.gov/>
- Conducting 1-2 interviews per month
- Transcript backlog
- 80+ interviews available to the public
- ILOHI in the Schools
- Affected by Covid-19

[Home](#) [About](#) [Interviews](#) [Classroom Curriculum](#) [Events](#) [Subscribe](#) [Contact](#) [Disclaimer](#)

Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative (ILOHI)

LESSONS FROM THE ILOHI

- Interesting Backgrounds
- Not a Linear Path to Serving
- Party Lines/Issues Different Than Today
- What Legislators Want Citizens to Know:
 - The IGA is not the US Congress
 - How state government operates
 - Compromise matters
 - Your voice matters



BIG ISSUES

- Indiana politics have changed
- Legislators consistently give 3 reasons:
 1. Gerrymandering
 2. Money
 3. Aggressive Politics



HOW IHB HAS BEEN USING THIS INFO



PUBLIC
PRESENTATIONS



HISTORY IN
SESSION



ALMANAC
ENTRIES



SOCIAL MEDIA



BLOGS

**Indiana History
in Session**
CONNECTING PAST AND PRESENT




Image: *Indianapolis Star*

**CHOICE EDWARDS,
REPUBLICAN, HOUSE, 1969**

As a Republican Representative of Indianapolis, Choice Edwards served in the Indiana General Assembly for one year in 1969. When asked what he believed was the most important work of the legislature in an Indiana Legislative Oral History Initiative (ILOHI) interview, Rep. Edwards stated, “To do no harm and to do good...Listen to constituents, to listen to experts, and have that help formulate your opinions about any change in legislation or any proposed legislation.” Listen to this and other ILOHI interviews at <https://ilohi.ihb.in.gov/>.

Brought to You By:
INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU | Indiana Archives

The 1978 Blizzard and an Unforgettable Political Campaign



Ben Baumann

November 29, 2023

Law & Politics, Media

Bill Montgomery, Blizzard of 1978, DePauw University, House of Representatives, Indiana General Assembly, political campaign, Republican Primary

Spotting Publicity Hounds

IT'S NO SECRET in politics that it doesn't matter so much what you say, as long as enough people hear you say it. That the ability to attract attention from the media often transcends all other talents, is unfortunate, but true.

So when a young man with an unknown name launches a political career, exposure has to be the first order of business.

Bill Montgomery, a 27-year-old assistant manager at the Ladoga Federal Savings and Loan, decided recently to run in the Republican primary for a seat in the Indiana legislature from the 28th District.

His district, represented at the moment by a Democrat, covers all of Clinton County and parts of Carroll, Tippecanoe, Boone and Hamilton counties.

to get a permit from the police department.

"Then I borrowed five 45-pound huskies from my father, who raises them in Ohio. I brought the dogs to Indianapolis, hitched them to a racing sled with steel runners, and had two men, trained as handlers, standing by in case of trouble."

THIS, OF COURSE, was after Montgomery had informed the media of his plans.

When the time came to open his political career, Montgomery drove his team of dogs about six blocks, stepped out of the sled on the west side of the Statehouse and into the view of one local television crew.

That there was even the one TV unit on hand was sheer luck, a combination of circumstances in which the camera crew was already in the area and nothing else was happening at that particular time.

When asked what he was up to, Montgomery smiled into the magic eye and said he just wanted to make sure he would get home that night. A little humor, he reasoned, always made for a good opening.

Indianapolis Star, February 21, 1978, 19, accessed Newspapers.com.

When it comes to mobilizing a political campaign, candidates are always trying to stand out to get publicity, whether it be appearing in commercials, putting up billboards, or simply knocking on doors. Visibility is always crucial to getting elected to office. However, never in the history of the Indiana General Assembly had a candidate utilized a blizzard to help them

HOW EDUCATORS CAN UTILIZE THE ILOHI

- ILOHI in Schools
- Full Interviews and Transcripts
- Snippets for Projects/Exhibits
- Publications
- Primary Source Database
- Understanding how the General Assembly/State Govt. Works
- What They Wish the Public Knew/How to Influence the IGA
- ILOHI Supplemental Resources

THE ILOHI FUTURE (PHASE 3)



Transcripts



Outreach



Enhanced
Educational Tools



Classroom
Curriculum