



Archives Current

Newsletter of the Friends of the Indiana State Archives, Inc.

Summer 2015

A New Building – at last!

Hooray! The General Assembly passed and the governor signed the budget containing \$25 million for a new State Archives building! This is a great thing for which members of the Friends should be proud. You may not be aware that inserted into the bill in conference was the following qualifier:

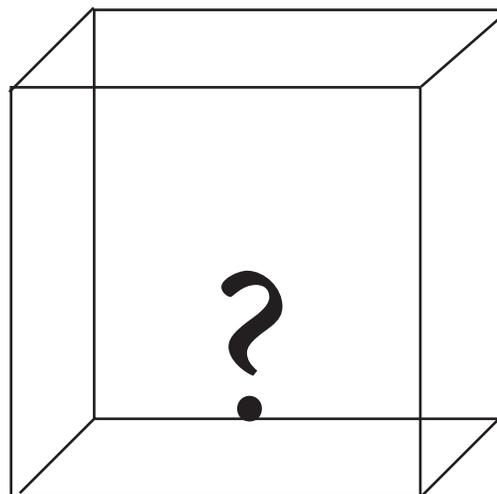
Section 65. IC 5-15-5.1-20.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 20.5. A facility to house some or all of the state archives or to be used in the administration of the state archives may not be located on land bound by New York Street, Ohio Street, West Street, and Senate Avenue in Indianapolis.

The canal runs through that downtown city block. Therefore, the state is prohibited from building a new State Archives building within that block, including

on the state-owned land adjacent to the canal.

We're wondering if this rather broad language says that any facility holding state archives, meaning the records of the state of Indiana, cannot be located within that block. That would certainly impact the Indiana Historical Society which holds some state records.

At this point, we have been "approved" but have no location. So that leaves us with good news and. . . at least, curious news. More will follow, we're sure.



A New Name and More

The General Assembly session has changed the name of the Commission on Public Records to the Indiana Archives and Records Administration, (IARA) The law (SEA 528) also makes a few minor changes to local government records requirements. The new name should provide more clarity for the general public who never seemed to understand what the Commission on Public Records was about.

The name change will also change Web sites and e-mail addresses. The new Web site for the State Archives is www.in.gov/iara/2358.htm. The office e-mail is arc@iara. IN.gov and Archives staff addresses will be (first initial-last name)___@iara.IN.gov.

The digital archives address will remain the same – www.in.gov/digitalarchives.

Business names from the past

From the Secretary of State’s file of dissolved corporations, Archives volunteer Tom York has come up with a few good ones.

National Auto Laundry	4050-135	Sept 1929	Fort Wayne
Wallace Expanding Machines, Inc	4056A-7	Sept 1957 to Feb 1961	Indianapolis
Sightsaving Kindergarten, Inc	4056A-126	Sept 1957 to Apr 1963	South Bend
Milk Bottle Exchange Inc	4057-1	Oct 1931 to Jul 1941	Indianapolis
Cocktail Hour Cigarettes, Inc	4057-8	Oct 1934 to Aug 1941	Indianapolis
Q-N Shoes Inc	4057-28	Aug 1936 to Aug 1941	South Bend
Stardust, Inc	4057-40	Mar 1940 to Sep 1941	Bloomington
Radios & Refrigerators Inc.	4059-52	1939-1945	Indianapolis

Wallace Expanding Machines gave no clue as to what their machines expanded. Sightsaving Kindergarten was a school for blind children. Milk Bottle Exchange was originally named Central Indiana Milk Dealers Bottle Exchange.

Q-N Shoes was owned by the KUEHN family. Stardust Inc was a liquor store/cafeteria/cigar store, etc. Radios... tom York recalls “When I was a kid in Chicago, I remember going to the Terman Tire Company Store (which sold, in addition to tires, washers, dryers, refrigerators and those new-fangled TV sets. We used to go there in an afternoon to watch the test pattern for half an hour, then Howdy-Doody came on.” Those were the good old days. Remember watching test patterns??

The Mertz Mystery

Surely you remember Fred Mertz from the *I Love Lucy* show? Well, you probably didn’t know there is an Indianapolis connection. One of the show’s writers was award winning Madelyn Pugh from Indianapolis. She went to Shortridge High School and graduated from the IU School of Journalism in 1942. Elizabeth Hague, Conservation Technician, came across a box of materials that highlighted Indianapolis neighborhood additions and one of those was a Fred Mertz 1 addition at 40th and Byram Streets (now Butler-Tarkington), platted in 1928.

Now, that’s interesting but even more interesting is the fact that our “Fred Mertz”

was not named after the real estate agent who platted the land. There was also a Henry O. Mertz, MD and his wife Ida in Indianapolis. They lived close to the Pugh family in the 1920s. Hague did some additional research and apparently Madelyn Pugh named the character “Fred Mertz” after her neighbor Henry O Mertz, MD, a urologist.

We don’t know if Pugh knew the real estate agent or why she chose “Fred” instead of “Henry.” Perhaps it had a better sound but there have been several Fred Mertz in Indianapolis. There was the real estate agent, his son Fred Jr., and a gentleman who lived on the other side of Pleasant Run from the original Fred Mertz in the late 1990s.

The next time you see an old re-run of *I Love Lucy* you’ll know about the Indiana connection!



Actor, William Frawley

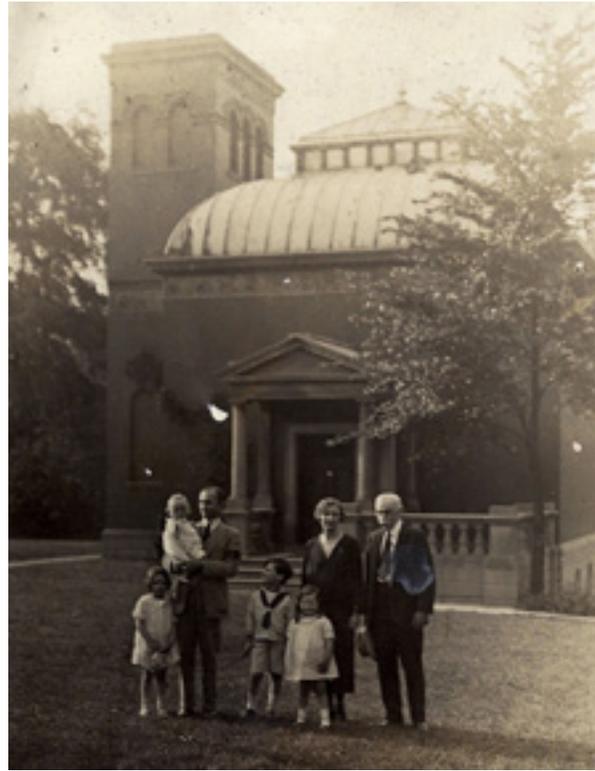
From the Archives to the Ben Hur Museum

While cataloging the collection of materials from the Wishard Hospital School of Nursing Museum, volunteer Ginny Terpening found the file from O.G. Pfaff, MD. The file contained letters from some very famous people in 1917 like the Vice President of the United States, Thomas Marshall! The Marshall letter recommended Pfaff for service at Base Hospital No. 32. There was a handwritten note from a prominent Indianapolis woman to General Jack Pershing also recommending Dr. Pfaff and several letters to Pfaff from Senator Albert Beveridge.

One letter was from Henry Wallace, Crawfordsville. We wondered if Henry was related to Lew Wallace, Civil War General, author of *Ben-Hur*, and Governor of the New Mexico Territory. Terpening contacted Larry Paarlberg, Director of the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum, Crawfordsville (www.ben-hur.com). Henry was Lew's son.

The Wallace letter, April 22, 1921, offers some travel recommendations to

Pfaff for an upcoming trip to Paris. Copies of the letter and Pfaff's obituary were mailed to the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum for their collection.



Henry Wallace, right, with his family at the Wallace estate, Crawfordsville. The photo was taken around the time of the Wallace letter to Dr. Pfaff. Photo: General Lew Wallace Study and Museum

Dr. Pfaff was presented with this graphite sketch and was quite pleased to receive it. This is what an undated newspaper notice states.





At the 2015 Annual Meeting held on April 14, the following Board members were approved: returning Board members Ray Boomhower and Clayton Miller. New to the Friends of the State Archives Board is Vivian Deno, Associate Professor of History, Butler University. Robert L. Gildea retired from the board after years of service.

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Don't forget to renew your Friends of the Indiana State Archives membership! Consider Volunteering at the Indiana State Archives (volunteers@fisa-in.org)

