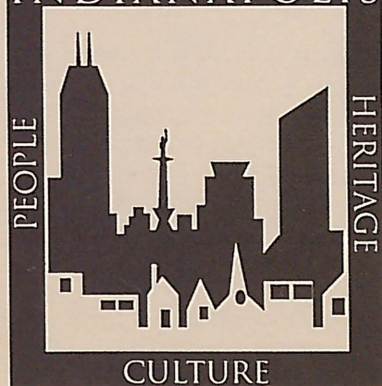


ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INDIANAPOLIS



Presented by the

POLIS Research Center

at

**Indiana University-
Purdue University
at Indianapolis**

July 1991 Volume 1 • Number 1

The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis:

A New Reference for the Modern City

In recent decades, Indianapolis has become a leading midwestern urban center, characterized by innovative governmental structures, important businesses and industries, and a vibrant cultural and sports life. Yet published accounts scarcely reflect, much less mention, the city's remarkable transformation during the 1970s and 1980s. Numerous state histories discuss the city in scattered references, but there is no comprehensive, reliable reference to Indianapolis' recent past. Specialized governmental publications and popular guides offer virtually the only available information on modern Indianapolis.

The *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* is the most comprehensive effort at recording the city's development in nearly a century. Ignatius Brown prepared the first city history as part of the 1857 city directory. After discovering numerous errors, Brown enlarged his work, re-publishing it in 1868. This volume, more than four times the length of the first, served as the city's basic record for several decades.

The last quarter of the nineteenth century witnessed a surge of popular interest in local history, stimulated primarily by the nation's centennial celebration. During the 1870s, J.H.B. Nowland prepared two books, *Early Reminiscences of Indianapolis* (1870) and *Sketches of Prominent Citizens* (1876), and William R. Holloway published *Indianapolis: A Historical and Statistical Sketch of the Railroad City* (1870). These volumes were primarily topical, biographical, and chronological in nature. Berry R. Sulgrove followed in 1884 with his 700-page *History of Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana*.

In 1910, Jacob Piatt Dunn, the secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, published a

massive two-volume work, *Greater Indianapolis: The History, the Industries, the Institutions, and the People of a City of Homes*. Organized topically and arranged somewhat chronologically, Dunn's work remains the most widely cited history of the capital city. But its weaknesses are readily apparent to the modern reader. For example, Dunn titled his chapter on African-Americans, "The Colored Brother." Also, the second volume is a compilation of biographies of leading men in Indianapolis and overlooks the role of minorities and women in the city.

Recent decades have witnessed a variety of entertaining accounts of the city's past. Edward A. Leary's *Indianapolis: The Story of a City* is a journalist's engaging account, published to coincide with the city's sesquicentennial. More recently, Hester Anne Hale produced a brief overview of the years 1820 to 1920 in *Indianapolis: The First Century*. Pictorial volumes also have chronicled Indianapolis. Butler University professor George Geib's folio-sized book, *Indianapolis: Hoosiers' Circle City*, appeared in 1981. Last year, WRTV's Howard Caldwell teamed with photographer Darryl Jones to produce *Indianapolis*, a photographic account of the modern city.

At 800,000 words, the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* will become the predominant reference work on the modern city. Interpretive essays will address larger issues affecting the development of the city. Nearly 2,200 separate entries will provide quick access to specific topics, removing the need to page through a narrative history in search of desired information. Entries also will include suggested bibliographical materials to assist readers in finding more detailed information about certain topics.

Continued next page

**Cavanaugh Hall, 301 • 425 University Boulevard
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Director's Notes

David J. Bodenhamer

Welcome to the newsletter of the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. For over two years, the staff of the POLIS Research Center at IUPUI has worked with hundreds of people in the city and elsewhere to create a comprehensive and reliable reference work on Indianapolis, past and present. When published by Indiana University Press in 1994, this 800-page, illustrated volume will become the best source of information on this major American city, especially for the years since 1945.

Why does Indianapolis need an encyclopedia? In brief, the city has no usable past: its last major history appeared in 1910. More recent books on Indianapolis end at World War II. Ironically, most citizens can find information about the 1830s and 1840s more readily than they can about the 1970s and 1980s. The *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* will remedy this deficit of knowledge through factual and interpretive articles on major topics, including business and economy, education, religion, social services, politics, ethnicity, sports and recreation, and culture, among other subjects, all written by experts.

Who will use the Encyclopedia? Everyone who has a need to know about the city, from students and educators to business men and women, from government and civic leaders to writers and journalists. At a projected price of \$35, the volume will be accessible to a wide range of individuals and institutions. Also, the work will be available in major public and university libraries across the United States and in Western Europe.

Will the Encyclopedia bring other benefits to Indianapolis? Yes, both directly and indirectly. In addition to organizing and presenting information about the city, the *Encyclopedia* represents an initial effort by the POLIS Research Center to create a complex, analytical description of Indianapolis that will inform public discussion about the city's present and future development. POLIS (Greek for "city")

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis Staff

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brings together at IUPUI a staff of scholars and practitioners who are skilled in the analysis of urban problems and who constitute a rich resource for the university and the city. Using the information base of the *Encyclopedia*, POLIS works with a wide variety of groups and organizations outside the university to address contemporary urban issues.

Who is writing the Encyclopedia? The *Encyclopedia* staff has recruited over 20 contributing editors for the major subject categories in the volume. These editors have demonstrated expertise in their fields, and they are responsible for proposing a list of entries to the *Encyclopedia* staff and advisory board. Editors also help the staff to identify and enlist experts to write individual entries and essays. The *Encyclopedia* staff ensures that all entries are factually accurate and meet the highest professional standards.

How much does it cost to create the Encyclopedia, and how is it funded? Approximately \$1.4 million for the five-year effort, a reasonable sum for a project of this magnitude. The greatest expense is staff salaries and editors' and authors' fees. We have almost \$1 million committed in cash, pledges, and in-kind support. Most of this money has come from POLIS grants and contracts. In the coming months we will ask the corporate and civic community to pledge the remaining \$400,000 to make the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* a reality.

How can you help the Encyclopedia of Indianapolis? You can help make the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* a reality in several ways: by identifying potential entries for the volume; by writing on a specific topic within your area of expertise; and by supporting this project financially with a tax deductible contribution. Please call the *Encyclopedia* office at 274-2458 for more information on how you can help create this unique statement about the heritage, culture, and people of Indianapolis. ■

From page 1

The *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* is a significant community-wide project, involving hundreds of experts on the city, past and present. Their combined efforts will promote the continued examination of the city's history and culture, result in new publications, video presentations, exhibitions, and public programs, and stimulate further research on contemporary Indianapolis as it prepares for the twenty-first century. ■

Cityscape

"Crossroads of America," "Circle City," "Home of the 500," "Hoosier Heartland," "Naptown," "India-no-place," "Railroad City," "Boomtown," and "A City of Homes"—all these tags refer to Indianapolis. They represent the city's reputation over decades and reflect the varying degrees of civic pride and purpose evident within the urban community as it has grown and developed.

Indianapolis became the political center of the state in 1820-1821 and has since become an important economic and cultural center as well. It began with a variety of small commercial and manufacturing ventures and gradually became the home to a large manufacturing population. The city emerged as a principal railroad hub in the 1850s, earning the title, "Crossroads of America."

Economic expansion during and after the Civil War placed Indianapolis among the nation's largest and most prosperous cities by the 1880s. The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries also saw the city emerge as a center for midwestern writers and artists.

During the twentieth century, Indianapolis expanded as a manufacturing center, producing many different automobiles in the early decades and becoming known as the nation's toolmaking capital by World War II. But the 1950s and 1960s witnessed a decline in the city's industrial manufacturing base and the flight of residents to the expanding suburbs. An urban resurgence, led by pharmaceuticals, insurance, and sports, contributed to economic diversification beginning in the 1960s. Likewise, Indianapolis and Marion County were joined in 1969 to create UNIGOV, an experiment in

consolidated government that continues to attract national attention. In the course of this consolidation, the city's population jumped from 485,000 to 745,000, and the area from 82 to 369 square miles.

The 1970s and 1980s brought a new urban landscape to Indianapolis. A renewed and exciting sense of civic purpose and a revitalization of the physical city contributed to its increased visibility and improved reputation nationwide. Consequently, Indianapolis has been touted as a model for the redevelopment of cities and communities in the northern "Rust Belt."

The *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* will address the complexity and diversity of the Hoosier capital. It will serve as a comprehensive, reliable, and accessible source of information on this major midwestern city. The format will allow more detailed treatment of many topics that cannot be covered in a traditional narrative. In addition, hundreds of citizens, scholars, and specialists will serve as authors of the estimated 2,200 entries and essays, thereby creating a community project unlike any other in the city's past.

In future issues of the newsletter, this section, which we call Cityscape, will focus on one of the twenty-six subject areas covered in the *Encyclopedia*. Contributing editors will offer overviews and progress reports on their particular sections. Sample entries will provide readers with a preview of the *Encyclopedia's* content.

We hope that this newsletter will entertain, inform, and stimulate your curiosity to learn more about Indianapolis, its heritage, and its culture. ■

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Indianapolis Foundation Supports the Encyclopedia

In April, the Indianapolis Foundation awarded a grant of \$50,000 to the POLIS Research Center at IUPUI for the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. The Indianapolis Foundation joins with Indianapolis Newspapers, Inc., American States Insurance Companies, and a number of individuals in leading community support of the *Encyclopedia*.

To date, nearly \$70,000 has been contributed. In the next several months, IUPUI will seek an additional \$350,000 from corporations,

foundations, and individual donors within greater Indianapolis to fund this effort. Prompt and generous response from the community ensures that the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* will be presented to the people of this city in a timely manner.

The Indianapolis Foundation has been an essential part of the development of Indianapolis since 1916. On its seventy-fifth anniversary, we thank the Indianapolis Foundation for its leadership gift to the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. ■

News Briefs

The POLIS Research Center recently received a grant to record the history of Indianapolis' amusement parks. Funded by an Indiana Heritage Research Grant, a joint effort of the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Humanities Council, and directed by David G. Vanderstel, assistant editor for the

Encyclopedia, the project will examine the development of the parks, including how the parks affected the lives of owners, neighbors, and residents of Indianapolis. The project staff invites the public to share information, materials, and memories of the parks in Indianapolis by contacting the *Encyclopedia* office. ■

Encyclopedia Subject Categories

African-Americans
Built Environment
Cultural Institutions
Demography, Migration, and Ethnicity
Economy
Education
Government
Labor
Law
Literature
Medicine and Health Care
Military and Veterans' Affairs
Natural Environment
Newspapers and Publications

Performing Arts
Philanthropy and Social Services
Politics
Public Safety and Crime
Radio and Television
Recreation and Popular Culture
Religion
Sports
Suburbs and Neighborhoods, Cities and Towns
Transportation
Visual Arts
Women and Women's Issues

WELCOME TO THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INDIANAPOLIS!

YES! I want to support the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Here is my contribution:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____

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Timeline ▲

History too often — and inaccurately — suggests only the memorization of important dates. Much more important is the analysis of human experiences over time. Still, dates are important. They serve as important reference points in our individual and corporate lives.

“Timeline,” a regular feature of the newsletter, will attempt to identify those significant, interesting, and even humorous chronological reference points in the development of Indianapolis. Future “Timelines” will focus on dates pertaining to the *Encyclopedia* section highlighted in that issue. Here, “Timeline” looks at the Hoosier capital in its formative years.

December 11, 1816 U.S. Congress makes donation of four sections of land for capital in new state of Indiana.

January 11, 1820 State legislature appoints ten commissioners to select new site for state capital near center of the developing state.

June 7, 1820 Commissioners locate capital at the confluence of White River and Fall Creek.

January 6, 1821 State legislature ratifies selection and calls for land surveys and sale of town lots in spring 1821. Debates over name of city results in adoption of “Indianapolis,” meaning “city of Indiana.” Other names considered: “Tecumseh” and “Suwarrow.”

December 31, 1821 Marion County established.

April 15, 1822 First meeting of Marion County commissioners.

April 17, 1822 Seal of Marion County adopted: county name with pair of scales (representing justice) above a plough and sheaf of wheat. Used until December 1841; replaced by basket of fruit and Berkshire hog to symbolize agricultural bounties.

Spring 1822 Commissioners pass first regulatory legislation: ferriage over White River at Washington Street for each wagon and four horses or oxen, 62 ½ cents; ferriage for each man or woman and horse, 12 ½ cents; night’s lodging in tavern, 12 ½ cents, and meals, 25 cents; half pint of whiskey, 12 ½ cents.

1825 State capital moved from Corydon to Indianapolis at cost of \$118.07. Sale of state furniture raised \$52.52, making total moving costs \$65.55.

1827 Population: 1,000

September 1832 Indianapolis incorporated as city; first city commissioners adopt general ordinances, appoint city officials, define offenses and fix penalties.

1833 Population: 1,600

1837 Washington Street macadamized (an early paving technique using layers of different size crushed stone) as part of the National Road.

1840 Population: 2,692 ■

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis

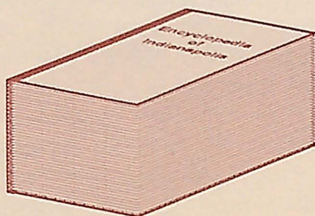
Project Schedule

POLIS/Encyclopedia staff recruitment begins	January, 1989
Initial staff recruitment completed	August, 1989
Identification of entries begins	November, 1989
Assignment of entries to authors begins	December, 1990
Identification of entries completed	November, 1991
All entries assigned to authors	December, 1991
Twenty-five percent of entries received	December, 1991
Fifty percent of entries received	March, 1992
Seventy-five percent of entries received	July, 1992
Selection of visuals completed	October, 1992
All entries received	November, 1992
Editing completed	March, 1993
Manuscript submitted to I.U. Press	July, 1993
Preparation of Index	March, 1994
Proofreading	June, 1994
Encyclopedia of Indianapolis published	October, 1994

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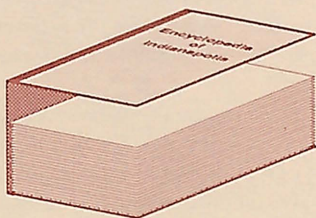
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A Progress Report



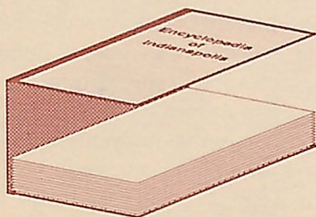
When published in 1994, the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* will contain the equivalent of 800 pages of information about the city.

Total estimated words= 800,000



The editors have already identified enough *Encyclopedia* entries and essays to complete nearly 534 pages.

Words identified to date = 533,775



Over 245 pages have been assigned to writers.

Words assigned to date = 245,450

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