

Collection #  
SC 3488  
DVD 1474–1476

**LOUIS MAHERN  
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 27 JANUARY 2015**

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August 2018

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 manuscript folder; 3 DVDs

**COLLECTION DATES:** 27 January 2015

**PROVENANCE:** Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2016.0143m0020

**NOTES:** Forms part of the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

In 2014 the Indiana Historical Society began the Indiana LGBT Collecting Initiative to collect, preserve, and make accessible materials that document the rich history, tradition, and culture of Indiana's LGBT communities. Part of the collecting initiative includes the Indianapolis/Central Indiana LGBT Oral History Project. During the time period of 2014–2015, interviews were conducted of individuals, couples and families from all walks of life in the Central Indiana area. This collection centers around the oral history interview of Louis Mahern conducted by Mark Lee on January 27, 2015.

Louis Mahern (b. ca. 1941) grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana. His younger brother, Mike, came out as gay when they were both young men, and the Maherns were very supportive of him. A Catholic family, the Maherns were involved in many interracial advocacy groups as well as politics and other social issues. Louis began a political career when he ran for state senator and won in 1976; he served for four terms. During his terms, he introduced a nondiscrimination bill to protect LGBT employees from unfair termination, but the bill never got a hearing. When Louis ran for mayor in 1991, he was one of the few candidates to openly court the LGBT vote. Louis currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources:

Information found in the collection.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The interview was transcribed from one video recorded interview This manuscript was transcribed from a digitally recorded interview conducted on January 27, 2015, at the home of Louis Mahern, Indianapolis, Indiana. The interview was conducted by Mark Lee who was contracted by IHS for the project from 2014 to 2015. DLC was contracted by the IHS to transcribe the interview in February 2016. The interview, which includes the video recording and the transcript, is housed at the William H. Smith Memorial Library, Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, Indiana. The video recorded interview is approximately two hours long and is recorded on one DVD.

The collection includes one manuscript folder with the newspaper articles related to Louis Mahern and his political career in Indianapolis, Indiana. The folder also includes a copy of the interview transcription. The following is an index to the oral history transcript listing the topics discussed and the pages on which they can be found.

## TRANSCRIPT

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Interview transcript and background research, 2015

Louis Mahern Oral History Interview, user copy

Louis Mahern Oral History Interview, master copy

Digital Transcription

### CONTAINER

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