

Collection #  
P 0860

**SORGHUM-MAKING IN GNAW BONE  
PHOTOGRAPH, SEPTEMBER 1966**

Collection Information	1
Historical Sketch	2
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	4
Contents	4

Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 photograph folder

**COLLECTION DATES:** September 1966

**PROVENANCE:** Gift from Stewart "Stu" E. Huffman of Nashville, IN, 1990

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1991.0807X

**NOTES:**

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

Gnaw Bone, in the Washington Township of Brown County, Indiana, has been a center of the sorghum industry. Wayne and Rosie White owned a horse-powered sorghum mill west of Gnaw Bone on State Road 46 between the Indiana towns of Columbus and Nashville. They made sorghum syrup from the juice of the sorghum plant by crushing the cane and boiling it to be bottled for sale. Visitors would gather to watch the horse go round and round, pulling the press that squeezed the sap from the cane. Small buildings housed the boiler works for the mill, which every autumn would operate to produce the syrup. The boiling process took about three hours. It took eleven gallons of juice to make one gallon of syrup. An acre of cane could produce about one hundred gallons of syrup.

Source:

Bond, Jack. "Sorghum's On!" *The Republic* (Columbus, Indiana), 4 October 1969, p. 17.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Stu Huffman worked for *The Republic* (formerly *The Evening Republican*) newspaper in Columbus, Indiana. He served as its editor from 1972 to 1986.

Stewart Edward "Stu" Huffman was born on 12 January 1933 in Greencastle, Indiana, the eldest son of Neil and Julia Fulk Huffman of Columbus. Because of his father's work as a bridge builder, Stu moved to thirteen towns in central and southern Indiana during the first ten years of his life. The family settled in Columbus in Bartholomew County in 1943.

Stu began his journalism career at age eleven as a paperboy in East Columbus for *The Indianapolis Star* and *The Indianapolis Times* after receiving a bicycle for Christmas. He carried a notebook and camera in his bike basket "in case he saw any news to report" and set up a darkroom in his family's basement. He graduated from Columbus High School in 1950, where he served as editor and chief photographer of the *Triangle* newspaper.

At Indiana University Stu majored in journalism and political science. He worked freelance and summers for the Columbus paper while he was editor of *The Indiana Daily Student* and a member of the Board of Aeons and Sigma Delta Chi. Before he graduated from college, he was drafted into the Army and served from 1954 to 1956 in Heidelberg, Germany. He called himself a "heavy armored typewriter operator." He graduated from IU in 1956.

Stu then returned to Columbus to work for *The Evening Republican* as a general reporter and photographer. He became news editor in 1963, managing editor in 1968, and editor in 1972. It was in 1967 that the paper's name was changed to *The Republic*. Stu led the newspaper through significant technological developments and was a mentor to many young reporters.

Stu took the photograph of sorghum-making at Wayne and Rosie White's mill in the early morning in mid-September 1966. He considered it one of the most satisfying photographs he ever took. Copies of the photograph were sold to readers and to other publications. It was the most popular photograph ever available for readers of *The Republic* to order.

Stu married Jane Allebaugh in 1967 in Bloomington, Indiana. They had a daughter, Amy.

Stu received many professional awards from the Hoosier State Press Association, United Press International Indiana Newspaper Editors (UPINE), and Ball State University. He was an active member of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, president of UPINE, and served on the publications advisory board and executive committee for the IU Alumni Association. In 1979 he was appointed by Governor Otis Bowen as the first journalist member of the state Oversight Committee for the Indiana Commission on Public Records.

In Columbus, he served as a director for the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, president of Easter Seals of Bartholomew County, chairman of the Columbus Salvation Army Christmas Kettle campaign, and treasurer of the Lincoln Center Figure Skating Club, as well as serving on advisory boards for the Red Cross of Bartholomew County, Columbus Fireman's Christmas Cheer Fund, and the American Center for International Leadership.

After leaving *The Republic*, Stu and Jane moved to Nashville in Brown County in 1987. From there, Stu commuted to the Statehouse in Indianapolis for seventeen years, where he was then a speechwriter and public affairs specialist for two superintendents of public instruction.

He also served as president and longtime newsletter editor of the Brown County Lions Club and as president of Friends of the Brown County Public Library. He was an active member of Nashville United Methodist Church, the Salt Creek Trail Committee, the Ernie Pyle Society, and the Brown County Literacy Coalition. Throughout his life, he was an ardent supporter of the First Amendment and a longtime member of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

Stu died on 15 November 2012 in Nashville, Indiana.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 13 June 2023):

Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017  
Indiana, U.S., Marriage Certificates, 1960–2012  
United States Federal Census, 1940, 1950

Huffman, Stu. Personal communication, 12 October 1990.

“Notable Obituaries.” *Brown County Democrat*, 9 January 2013, p. 5.

Obituary for Stewart Huffman. *Brown County Democrat*, 21 November 2012, p. 2.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of one 8x10 black-and-white photograph of part of the process of sorghum-making at Wayne and Rosie White's mill near Gnaw Bone in Brown County, Indiana. It shows a horse and a man working the press to squeeze juice from the sorghum cane. The photograph was taken in the early morning of mid-September 1966 by Stewart "Stu" Huffman.

## **CONTENTS**

### CONTENTS

Photograph of sorghum-making at Wayne and Rosie White's mill near Gnaw Bone, Indiana (photo by Stu Huffman, mid-September 1966)

### CONTAINER

Folder 1 of 1