



**Mss 154 / P 52 / OVA 60 / POVA 42 / S 12 / PN 52**

**J. Roberts Dailey Papers, 1949-1991**

3 Boxes

### History

J. Roberts Dailey was born June 22, 1919 in Riley, Indiana. After graduating from Riley High School in 1937, Dailey entered Indiana State Teachers College (now Indiana State University), where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1941. He entered the U.S. Army in September 1941 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant a few months later after attending officer candidate school. In April 1946, following his discharge from the Army at the rank of captain, Dailey settled in Muncie to become manager of The Bender Company, a local real estate brokerage. He played an active role in the civic and social activities of Muncie and became a prominent figure in various organizations, including AMVETS, the American Legion, the Muncie Insurance Board, the Reserve Officers Association, and the Muncie Board of Realtors.

Dailey had been active in politics in high school and college and quickly became involved in Muncie's political scene. In 1951, Dailey switched his party affiliation from Democratic to Republican and worked on Joe Barclay's successful mayoral campaign. In January 1952, Dailey was elected to fill Barclay's unexpired term on the Delaware County Council. At 32, Dailey was one of the youngest people elected to the council. After his term expired in 1955, Dailey remained active in local Republican politics, serving as precinct chairman (1958-1978) and Delaware County Republican Finance Chairman (1963-1978). In addition, he also attended every state Republican convention between 1954 and 1980.

In 1976, Dailey defeated Democrat Richard Mark Hays to become the 37th district's representative in the Indiana House of Representatives. He won reelection in 1978. Between 1977 and 1980, Dailey served on the School Finance Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee. He also served on the Governmental Reorganization Committee (1977-78); the Sunset Committee (1978-80); and the Cities and Towns Committee (Ranking Member, 1979-1980).

In 1980, after winning election for his third House term, Dailey successfully ran for Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives, defeating E. Henry Lamkin on the second ballot. Dailey's victory was impressive not only because of his relative lack of political seniority, but also because he defeated the man generally considered the heir apparent of former Speaker Kermit O. Burrous (Goshen News, 8 Nov. 1980).

Dailey's years as Speaker were marked by his strong leadership. Dailey focused his efforts at limiting government spending and reducing taxes. Two issues in particular

marked Dailey's tenure as Speaker. In 1983, Dailey led a successful campaign to defeat a resolution to institute a statewide lottery. Dailey originally stated he would refuse to hand down the bill to a floor vote, but relented after widespread protest (Indianapolis Star, Feb. 14, 1983). The bill eventually died in committee. A year later, Dailey refused to hand the same legislation down for a vote, effectively killing the measure until 1986 (Anderson Bulletin, Feb. 2, 1984).

A second important issue during Dailey's tenure was regarding a multi-county banking bill. Dailey led efforts in 1984 to defeat legislation that would allow banking across Indiana county lines. Dailey opposed the bill despite strong support from Republican Governor Robert D. Orr and Republican Lieutenant Governor John M. Mutz. He maintained that the legislation would undermine the ability of small businessmen and individuals to obtain credit because of the possibility of many small, local banks being absorbed by larger statewide institutions. The bill was soundly defeated by a vote of 62-38.

Dailey's position in the House allowed to him provide many benefits for his constituents in Muncie and East Central Indiana. During Dailey's years in office, state funding for Ball State University more than doubled. A four-lane expansion of Indiana 332 was completed. Dailey was also influential in initiating legislation for what eventually became the Indiana Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

In 1986, however, Dailey's political fortunes dramatically changed. Dailey's opposition to the lottery bill had earned him some enemies within the state. Dailey also made enemies with his control over legislation that reached the floor for votes. In addition, his opponent in the 1986 election, Democrat Marc Carmichael received strong support and funding from the Indiana State Teachers Association (ISTA), which was angry with Dailey's efforts to limit state spending in education. In the November election Dailey was soundly defeated, losing to Carmichael who captured 59% of the vote.

After political defeat in 1986, Dailey returned to concentrate full time on his real estate business at Lunsford, Allardt, Dailey and Canan Realtors. In 1988, he published Mr. Speaker, which detailed his six sessions in the Indiana state legislature. Dailey remained an active part of the community as a member of many organizations. In 1992, Dailey, along with state representative Hurley Goodall and former state representative Patrick J. Kiely, were honored by Ball State University with the President's Medal for Distinction for their efforts in advancing Ball State University. Along with his business and other activities, Dailey is an avid golfer. He is also an accomplished amateur gourmet chef and was featured several times in local news stories with his wife Anita.

### Scope and Content

The collection focuses primarily on the political career of J. Roberts Dailey and includes campaign materials, correspondence, legislation, speeches, news clippings, state election board reports and other items related to Dailey's years as a legislator. The collection also contains items from President Reagan's 1982 visit to the Indiana General Assembly, including a signed copy of his address, and correspondence from George Bush, Jimmy

carter, and Jack Kemp.

A photo collection, P52, contains approximately 150 items highlighting Dailey's political career.

An oversize photo collection, POVA 42, contains seven items, including five photos of Dailey's visit to Taiwan in 1982.

Another separate collection, OVA60, is comprised of three items: a 1984 Community Service Award for Dailey's efforts in the Governor's Voluntary Action Program; a 1980 Certificate of Election; and a laminated news clipping from the January 16, 1981, Muncie Evening Press.

**MSS 154**

**J. Roberts Dailey Papers, 1949-1991**

3 boxes.

Container List

Box    Folder

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|   | 3  | Biographical Data, 1980, 1985   |
|   | 4  | Book - <u>Mr. Speaker</u> , draft, 1988                                     |
|   | 5  | Book - <u>Mr. Speaker</u> , draft, 1988                                     |
|   | 6  | Book - <u>Mr. Speaker</u> , draft, 1988                                     |
|   | 7  | Book - <u>Mr. Speaker</u> , prologue, 1988                                  |
|   | 8  | Burriss/Indiana Academy, 1984   |
|   | 9  | Campaign Contributions and Honorarium, 1976-1986                            |
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|   | 12 | Campaign Materials, 1986  |
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|   | 15 | Caucus, 1983-1985   |
|   |    | Certificates  |
|   | 16 | Friends of Indiana Libraries, Jan. 17, 1985                                 |
|   | 17 | Governor's Award, Dec. 2, 1983  |
|   | 18 | Member, 100th General Assembly, 1977  |
|   | 19 | Member, 101st General Assembly, 1979  |
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|   | 23 | Private Property Week Program, 1984   |
|   | 24 | Real Estate Broker, Nov. 29, 1984   |
|   | 25 | Committee on Renovation of House Chambers, 1983                             |
|   | 26 | Correspondence - Legislative, January 1986                                  |
|   | 27 | Correspondence - Legislative, February 1986                                 |
|   | 28 | Correspondence - <u>Mr. Speaker</u> , 1989                                  |
|   | 29 | Correspondence and Related Material, 1980-1982                              |
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|   | 2  | Correspondence and Related Material, April-May 1985                         |
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|   | 4  | Correspondence and Related Material, 1986                                   |

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- 8 District Information, 1980-1985
- 9 Economic Interest Statement, 1983
- 10 Economic Interest Statement, 1984
- 11 Economic Interest Statement, 1985
- 12 Education, 1981-1987
- 13 GOP Financing, undated
- 14 Grand Jury, 1983-1984
- 15 House Concurrent Resolution No. 60, 1982
- 16 House Costs, 1977-1986
- 17 House Newsletter - Mailing List, undated
- 18 Judicial Nominating Commission, 1985
- 19 Legislation, 1988

#### Lists

- 20 Legislation, undated
- 21 Legislators' Occupations, 1985
- 22 Miscellany

#### News clippings

- 23 Banking, 1984
- 24 Education, 1981-1987
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- 35 Polling, undated
- 36 Prairie Creek Reservoir, 1982
- 37 President Reagan's Address to Indiana State Legislature, Feb. 9, 1982
- 38 Presidential Inauguration, January 20, 1981
- 39 Presidential Inauguration, January 21, 1985
- 40 Programs, 1982-1985

#### Publications

- 41 Indiana State Government Guide, undated
- 42 The Indiana Trooper, June 1982
- 43 The Newt, undated
- 44 Prime Years, January 1991

- 45 The State House, c.1985  
46 State Legislature, July 1986  
3 1 Recommendation Letters, 1981-1983  
2 Recommendation Letters, 1984  
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4 Recommendation Letters, 1986
- Rosters
- 5 Employees, House of Representatives, 1981-1987  
6 Indiana General Assembly, 1981-1982, 1989-1990  
7 Indiana House of Representatives, 1982-1986  
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9 Lobbyists, undated  
10 Salute `79 Legislative Weekend  
11 Speaker's Legislation, 1984-1985  
12 Speaker's Legislative Dinner Party, Union Station, Feb. 10, 1986  
13 Speaker's Trip to Europe, 1986  
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17 State Election Board - Instruction
- Manuals, 1984, 1988
- 18 State Election Board Reports, 1976  
19 State Election Board Reports, 1978  
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31 Taiwan Delegation Visit, 1980, 1983  
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UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES 0/Related

Ball State University Weightlifting Club Container List

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| 5  |   | Contest, 1989                 |
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| 8  |   | Financial Records, 1983       |
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| 10 |   | Photographs, n.d. (13 photos) |
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