

Snowball Fight



West Hall - 2015

At Indiana University in 1960, there were three dormitories occupied by U.S. Air Force students who were enrolled in intensive language courses of approximately nine months in length. The dorms were named "South Hall," "North Hall," and "West Hall," forming a 'U' at the corner of North Woodlawn Ave. and 10th St. As of this writing, West Hall is now Edmonson Hall, the Collins Living and Learning Center. My room was on the 3d floor, directly above the entrance. It was the best room in the building because it protruded out from the rest of the structure and had a perfect view of the courtyard and the field across the street where the IU band used to practice. On the first floor of West Hall were the offices of the Air Force Commander, First Sergeant and other staff.

During the winter of 1960/61, there were some good snowfalls. One of these was the kind of snow perfect for making and throwing snowballs. I don't know how it got started, but a major snowball fight got underway out in the courtyard during lunchtime. There were at least a dozen airmen engaged on each side of the battle, and it continued for quite a while. At one point, the commander, Captain Shumann, came out to see what was going on. Unbeknownst to him, there were a few airmen up on the roof. When they spotted the commander, they quickly rolled up a huge snowball, perhaps a foot in diameter, and dropped it, striking a perfect hit right on his head. An uproar of applause erupted from all those in the courtyard and others who were watching from open windows. It was truly a sight to behold.

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