

**McLean County Museum of History**

**Frazier-McCulley Collection**

Processed by  
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**Collection Information**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1992 - 2004
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also: Oversized pictures from "Rolanda" Show; original filed in data base under People in museum photo library by surname.

## Brief History

Ron Frazier and Tom McCulley were one of the early openly gay couples in Bloomington. Together they raised Ron's biological daughter, Heidi, in what was considered at the time, a unique family situation. In the late 1990s, the family was featured in a *People Magazine* article and several articles in *The Pantagraph* which focused more on the normalcy of the family rather than the differences. Included in the collection are several newspaper clippings from *The Pantagraph* "Letters to the Editor" from some citizens expressing their dismay and condemning the newspaper for publishing such an article. Also included are letters supporting open mindedness of *The Pantagraph* for good reporting rather than passing judgment.

## Scope

The collection includes a family picture; copy of *People* magazine in which the family was featured in 1996; copy of *Alternative Family*, where the family was also featured in 1998. Two newspaper articles about the family appeared in *The Pantagraph* in 1985 and 1997 which generated many negative letters to the editor to the point where the editor published a letter stating no more negative letters would be published.

## Box and Folder Inventory

### Box 1

#### Folder 1: Photographs

- 1.1 Family picture of Ron Frazier, Tom McCulley and Heidi Frazier, circa 1992.
- 1.2 Photocopy of photos taken at the filming of the Rolanda show in New York City 1997.

#### Folder 2: Correspondence

- 2.1 Letter from Barbara Sandler of *People* magazine thanking Heidi for agreeing to participate in the article about the family published in June 1996 issue. June 4, 1996.
- 2.2 Letter from Senator Carol Mosley-Braun to Ron Frazier congratulating Ron on organizing the 2nd Annual PRIDE Fest. June 21, 1997.
- 2.3 Letter from Mary Fergus of *The Pantagraph* to Tom, Ron and Heidi asking if they would be interested in completing a story she had started for the paper the previous year. July 14, 1997.

#### Folder 3: Magazines featuring the Frazier-McCulley family

- 3.1 *People* magazine, page 50: "Happy Families Are Not All Alike." June 10, 1996.
- 3.2 *Alternative Family* magazine, page 32: "The 'McFrazier' Family." June/July, 1998.

#### Folder 4: Awards

- 4.1 County Advocacy Council for Human Rights Pride Award to Ron Frazier. June 23 1996.

- 4.2 Central Illinois Pride Festival The Triangle Award presented to Ron Frazier, Tom McCulley and Heidi Frazier. June 21, 1997.

**Folder 5: Newspaper articles**

- 5.1 “Untraditional family is breaking the mold,” *The Pantagraph*, July 2, 1985.
- 5.2 “Family newspaper should shun gays,” Letters to the Editor, *The Pantagraph*, no date.
- 5.3 “What about abuse in ‘mixed’ families?” Letters to the Editor, *The Pantagraph*, no date.
- 5.4 “Alternate lifestyle doesn’t scare him,” Letters to the Editor, *The Pantagraph*, July 21, 1985.
- 5.5 “Perversion takes its terrible toll,” Letters to the Editor, *The Pantagraph*, July 22, 1985.
- 5.6 “A People magazine article gives a former Decatur man and his gay partner in Bloomington a chance to show that their family MATTERS,” *The Pantagraph*, June 29, 1996.
- 5.7 “Growing up with two dads,” and “Gay family speaks out to support local, national change.” *The Pantagraph*, November 23, 1997.
- 5.8 “County rejects gay-marriage request,” *The Pantagraph*, May 20, 2004.