

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Jack Rooney

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Family Memories Oral History project

Interview # FM-A-L-2009-033

John L. “Jack” Rooney, who shares his reflections on the Cherry Mine Disaster of 1909, was interviewed on the date listed below, as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library’s *Family Memories* Oral History Project.

Interview Dates & Location:

Date: November 20, 2009

Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mike Czaplicki, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: Marianne Lawrence, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman and Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 28 pgs

Total Time: 1:13 / 1.22 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 02/01/2010.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Jack Rooney, *Family Memories*, FM-A-L-2009-033

Biographical Information / Overview of Interview: John L. “Jack” Rooney was born on January 24, 1963, at the hospital in Spring Valley, Illinois, the second of two children born to Paul and Mary Rooney. He spent his entire youth in Cherry, Illinois, leaving when he was eighteen to attend Illinois State University. After majoring in marketing, Rooney moved to Springfield, where he currently works in computer marketing. His mother’s father worked in the coal mine at Cherry and was a survivor of the 1909 disaster.

In this interview, Rooney talks about the Cherry Mine disaster, how he became interested in the disaster as a young boy in Cherry, and his current efforts to preserve the memory of the event and the people who lived through it.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Cherry Mine Disaster of 1909, ethnic relations in Cherry, neighborhood life in Cherry, coal industry, industrial safety, United Mine Workers, local history, historical memory.

Note to the Reader: Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word and that the interviewer, interviewee and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for the views expressed therein. We leave these for the reader to judge.

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