

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Julie Cellini, Bob Coomer and Susan Mogerman

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

IHPA Legacy Oral History project

Interview # HP-V-L-2015-011

Julie Cellini, Bob Coomer and Susan Mogerman were three of the key individuals responsible for the creation of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, which opened in 2005. They were interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Evening with the Creators series which celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening of the museum. This interview is part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IHPA Legacy* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 26, 2015 Location: Union Theater, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support (cameraman, etc):

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

**Transcript
being processed**

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:29 / 1.48 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 28, 2015.

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

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Abstract

Cellini, Coomer & Mogergerman, *IHPA Legacy*, HP-V-L-2015-011

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Julie Cellini (born 1944 in Springfield, IL), Robert (Bob) Coomer (born 1945 in St. Louis, MO) and Susan Mogergerman (born 1945 in South Shore, IL) were three of the key figures behind the creation of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The library opened in 2004, and the museum was dedicated on April 19, 2005, with a host of dignitaries participating in the opening celebration. On February 26, 2015 the three participated in a panel discussion commemorating the museum's tenth anniversary. The panel members talked about their many struggles over a period of nearly twenty years. They discussed their relationship with Bob Rogers, the founder and president of BRC Imagination Arts, and the creative process behind the design and creation of the museum's many exhibits. They addressed the key role that State Historian and Lincoln scholar Tom Schwartz played throughout that process, and also the difficulties in procuring the property and financing for the library and museum.

Julie Cellini spoke about the creation of IHPA in 1985, and the origins of the idea to find a better, more appropriate venue to display the state's extensive Lincoln collection. She also explained why the IHPA Board of Trustees selected Bob Rogers and BRC Imagination Arts to design the exhibits. Susan Mogergerman talked about the group's initial experiences with Walt Disney Imagineering, with Bob Rogers and his designers, and about the many visits the group took to other museums around the country. Bob Coomer addressed the challenges they faced working with the architectural firm of Helmuth, Obata, and Kasselbaum, the BRC team, Central Management Services (CMS) and the many contractors who worked on the project.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; Julie Cellini; Susan Mogergerman; Bob Coomer; Bob Rogers and BRC Imagination Arts; Tom Schwartz (State Historian); Lura Lynn Ryan; Governor George Ryan; Judy Baar Topinka; Central management Services; Gov. Jim Edgar; Senator Dick Durbin; Walt Disney Imagineering; Helmuth, Obata, and Kasselbaum, Inc. (HOK)

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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