

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Spalding (Lanny) Slevin

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Sports Stories- IHSA Oral History project

Interview # SIH-A-L-2017-013

Spalding (Lanny) Slevin, who had a forty-three year career as a sports broadcaster and his association with the Illinois High School Association, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories- IHSA* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb. 24, 2017 Location: Illinois Valley College, Oglesby, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue. ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:47 / 1.78 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 22, 2017.

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

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

Lanny Slevin, *Sports Stories-IHSA*, SIH-A-L-2017-013

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Spalding (Lanny) Slevin was born in Washington D.C. in July, 1942. He grew up in Peoria, Illinois and graduated from Spalding Institute (now Peoria Notre Dame) in 1960. Lanny attended St. Ambrose College (Davenport, Iowa), then joined the Air Force, being stationed in Greenland, where he worked with computers and electronics. After four years in the Air Force, Lanny took a position with R.C.A. in Sacramento, California. After three years in California, he returned to Peoria and worked for Peoria Insurance Sales. He began a career in radio broadcasting in 1971 at a Lincoln, Illinois radio station doing sales and sports broadcasting. In 1973, Lanny took a job at WLPO, a LaSalle-Peru station. For forty years he served as the station's sports director and was also involved in a weekly sports talk show. He also did sports reporting, and broadcasted games. Lanny also worked with the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) doing a fifteen minute weekly radio program aired on ninety-five stations. In addition, Lanny was selected to MC the 100th anniversary of the IHSA state track meet which honored over seventy-five former track and field champions. Lanny was also part of the Illinois Television Broadcast Network which televised the state basketball finals, and he also broadcast the state final games for WLPO. In recognition of his outstanding work, he has been inducted into four Halls of Fame (including St. Bede) and was the recipient of the first High School Association Media Achievement Award.

This interview covers his life during his forty-two years as a broadcaster, including the challenges and duties facing a local sports director in a small market, responsible for game broadcasts, sport news, and a weekly sports talk show. He also discussed broadcasting the state basketball finals over many years, highlighting some of the great individual achievements. Another interview feature was the IHSA's weekly fifteen minute radio program which highlighted all types of sports and activities sponsored by the IHSA. Another highlight covered the special '100 years of IHSA track' ceremony which Lanny MCd. Other topics explored were the changing sport conferences, the impact of the non-public multiplier, and sports officiating in the region covered by WLPO.

Subject Headings/Key Words: high school sports broadcasting; Illinois High School Association (IHSA); WLPO radio; 100th anniversary of the Illinois State Track Meet; state basketball championship highlights; high school basketball games between Peoria Manuel and Harvey Thornton

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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