

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with William 'Bill' Barnhart

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Illinois Statecraft – Journalists View* Oral History project

Interview # ISJ-A-L-2012-028

William Lockhart, business journalist for the Chicago Tribune from 1979 to 2008, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Journalist's View* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jun 14, 2012    Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
Date: June 15, 2012    Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
Date: Jul 18, 2012    Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
Date: Jul 18, 2012    Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
Date: Sep 4, 2012    Location: Pritzker Military Library, Chicago, Illinois  
Date: Sep 6, 2012    Location: Pritzker Military Library, Chicago, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: Jan Culp

**Transcript  
being processed**

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 2:27 + 2:29 + 1:09 + 2:22 + 1:59 + 2:06 / 2.45 + 2.48 + 1.15 + 2.37 + 1.98 + 2.1 = 12.53 hrs.

Session 1: Early life through Barnhart's work at the Suburban Trib and local beat

Session 2: Covering Walker administration from 1974-76 & early business reporting

Session 3: Barnhart's early years as a business reporter for the Chicago Tribune

Session 4: Barnhart's career as a business journalist with Chicago Tribune thru 2008

Session 5: Barnhart discusses his book on Governor Otto Kerner

Session 6: Otto Kerner's trial and conviction, and Justice John Paul Stevens

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 14, 2013.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in  
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# Abstract

William Barnhart, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISJ-A-L-2012-028

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** William ‘Bill’ Barnhart was born on August 26, 1946 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and grew up in a various communities, as his father, a salesman, was frequently reassigned. He attended Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and in 1968, attended the University of Chicago, where he earned a teaching degree. He began teaching at Glenview, Illinois, but in 1970, moved to journalism, initially for the Chicago based *City News Bureau*. By 1972, he was working for the *Suburban Tribune* and covered the state capitol beat in Springfield for that paper from 1974 to 1976. He returned to Chicago in that year to write for the business section of the *Chicago Daily News* and ultimately ended up writing for the business section of the *Chicago Tribune*, from 1979 to 2008. For many of those years, he wrote a daily column for the Tribune’s business section, entitled “Market Report,” where he focused on stock, bond and market stories.

Much of the interview focuses on Barnhart’s reflections on the highlights of American business and economic news over the past thirty years. In the early 1990s, Barnhart also began authoring a book, with former state legislator Gene Schlickman, on Governor Otto Kerner, entitled, *Kerner: The Conflict of Intangible Rights*. The book is a thorough-going assessment of Kerner’s life and career, woven into a detailed historical tapestry that includes some of Illinois’s more interesting and important historical events. The two followed that book with a biography of Justice John Paul Stevens’ long judicial career.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Governor Otto Kerner; Governor Dan Walker; Chicago Tribune; Chicago Sun-Times; Suburban Tribune; Mike Royko; *Kerner: The Conflict of Intangible Rights*; *John Paul Stevens: An Independent Life*; Gene Schlickman; Anton Cermak; Helena Cermak; National Accelerator Lab (Fermilab); Richard J. Daley;

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