

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with David Blanchette

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
IHPA Legacy Oral History project

Interview # HP-A-L-2009-032

David Blanchette, the long-time Communications Manager (Public Information Officer) for the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IHPA Legacy* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: November 2, 2009

Location: 2123 So. Park, Springfield

Date: November 5, 2009

Location: ALPL conference room

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Julie Dirksen, ALPLM Volunteer

Transcription by: Kay Smith, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Jan Culp & Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

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

David Blanchette, IHPA Legacy, HP-A-L-2009-032

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dave Blanchette was born January 23, 1960 in Kankakee, Illinois and subsequently moved with his family to Jacksonville, Illinois in 1972, where he lives today. Dave graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1978, and earned a BA in Journalism at Mac Murray College in Jacksonville, Illinois in 1982. Thereafter, Dave pursued his love of communications, writing and photography. He found work as the Radio News Director and Reporter at WJIL-WJVO Radio in Jacksonville from May 1979 through November 1987. While there, he was the recipient of the 1987 Silver Dome Award from Illinois Broadcasters Association for best medium market editorial program in the state. During this time, he also did work as a free lance reporter, and became a published author.

In 1987 Blanchette began work as the Public Information Officer (Communications Manager) for the Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, and in 1989 moved to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) as their PIO. In 2006, he also became the spokesman for the Illinois Capital Development Board. While with IHPA, Blanchette participated in the reorganization of the agency, a series of difficult downsizings, and the opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in 2005, an institution that has brought millions of visitors to Springfield. Much of Dave's efforts in 2009 were focused on the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth. Since August of 1989, Blanchette has also owned and operated Studio 131 Photography in Springfield.

Subject Headings/Key Words: State of Illinois Public Information Officer; Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; Communications Manager, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; Illinois Capital Development Board; Richard Norton Smith; Rick Beard; Tom Schwartz; Bob Rogers; Julie Cellini; Susan Mogergerman; Governor George Ryan

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