

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Toby McDaniel

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
Rochester Community Stories Oral History project

Interview # CR-A-L-2017-071

Toby McDaniel, a prominent Springfield journalist for 37 years, a Cold War era Navy veteran and a Rochester resident was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Community Stories - Rochester* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 1, 2018      Location: McDaniel home, Rochester Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carole Strick, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: Leslie Struble, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 0:48 + 1:20 / 0.8 + 1.33 = 2.13 hrs.

Session 1: Early life, marriage and enlistment in the U.S. Navy in 1958

Session 2: Navy experiences and life as a reporter/columnist for Springfield State  
Journal-Register

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 16,  
2018.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in  
Springfield, Illinois.

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# Abstract

Toby McDaniel, Community Stories-Rochester, CR-A-L-2017-071

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Toby McDaniel was born October 31, 1935 in Indianapolis, Indiana. His home town was Advance, Indiana. He graduated from high school in 1953, but while in high school, he frequently missed school chasing after relevant news stories, taking pictures of various events and turning them in to local newspapers. He obtained his first camera when he was in seventh grade. He had his own dark room and developed his own pictures. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1958 until 1963, assigned to a west coast submarine command. He served on the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, whose mission was to look for Soviet submarines.

McDaniel married Sharon Biggerstaff in 1956, and they have one daughter. After the service, he obtained a journalism degree from San Diego State College. After working in the newspaper business in California, he moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1967 and was employed by the Copley Press, specifically for the Illinois *State Journal* and later when the paper consolidated, with the *Springfield State Journal-Register*. Toby wrote a newspaper column three times a week until his retirement after thirty-seven years with the paper. His columns were filled with various insights and observations, both social and political. He recounts several interesting adventures during his career, some dangerous, like going on a drug raid, riding a circus elephant down the streets of Springfield, and finally, going underground Springfield to tour the sewer system.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** U.S. Navy journalist; USS Hornet; Rochester Illinois; Copley Press; *Springfield State Journal Register*

**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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