

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Glenn Matthews

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

Interview # CR-A-L-2017-085

Glenn Matthews, a WW II veteran and contractor in the Rochester area for over fifty years, 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: Aug 3, Aug 7 and Nov 19, 2017

Location: Carole Strick home in Rochester IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carole Strick, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:09 + 0:54 + 0:51 / 1.15 + 0.9 + 0.85 = 2.9 hrs.

Session 1: Early life and WW II experiences

Session 2: Life and contracting career in Roby and Rochester, Illinois

Session 3: More on Matthews' experiences in WW II in the Pacific & Japan

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on December 29, 2021.

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

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Abstract

Glenn Matthews, Community Stories,

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: (Floyd) Glenn Matthews was born on January 19, 1922 in Roby, Illinois. He attended a one room school, Bell Fountain School, and later went to Mechanicsburg and Tri-City High School. His father, Floyd Matthews, was a farmer, and his mother, Maude Roberts Matthews was a teacher. As a child, he worked for his uncle and got paid a dollar a day. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army in the Philippines on the staff of the 6th Ranger Battalion, the unit that liberated the Bataan prisoners. One company of that unit was responsible for rescuing over 500 Allied prisoners from the Cabanatuan Prison Camp in central Luzon Island in January 1945. (As a staff officer, Matthews was not directly involved.) It was one of the most successful raids of the war. After the Japanese surrendered, Matthews was on occupation duty in Japan for several months.

As a young man, Matthews worked for Caterpillar in Peoria for a year and a half before the war, then two more after the war. He met his wife, Loraine Anderson, while working at Caterpillar, and they were married in 1942. (They were married for sixty-five years and had six children.) Glenn then moved to Roby, Illinois and started his own builder/contractor business. He was in business for fifty years and constructed over 200 houses in the Rochester area. Glenn passed away unexpectedly on January 20, 2018 at the age of 96.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Roby, Illinois; World War II; Philippines; Rochester, IL; Bataan Death March; 6th Ranger Battalion; Cabanatuan raid; *Ghost Soldiers*: The Epic Account of World War II's Greatest Rescue Mission.

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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