

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Richard Kahne

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

Interview # CS-A-L-2018-029_

Richard Kahne, a long-time employee of Illinois Bell and member of many Springfield-based tourism commissions, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Community Stories-Sangamon County* Oral History project.

Date: May 31, 2018 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Nathaniel H. Brower, Intern for the ALPL Oral History Program

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

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

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Abstract

Richard Kahne, *Community Stories-Sangamon County*, CS-A-L-2018-029

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Richard Kahne was born in April 1935 in Chicago IL. His father worked as a photo engraver while his mother was a housewife. During his childhood, Richard and his friends went to the park, and played pool (billiards) during the summer and ice-skated in the winter. After graduation from Von Stuben High School in Chicago, Richard started working with his family at his uncle's photo engraving. After a few months he found a job at Illinois Bell working as a draftsman. In 1965, Richard moved to Springfield to work at the Illinois Bell headquarters and as he mentions "I moved to Springfield for Lincoln." During his time in Springfield, Richard became involved with the Illinois Tourism Commission, creating the State Journal-Register's (SJR) Family of the Week series as well as working on the nation's Bicentennial in 1976. In 1980, Richard worked on a commission for the Illinois and Michigan Canal and attended a signing by then President Ronald Reagan. As Richard continued to work with Illinois Bell and tourism in Springfield he wanted to work on one final project; that project ended up being the reopening of the Lincoln home here in Springfield.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois Bell Telephone Company; Illinois Tourism Commission; Illinois and Michigan Canal; American bicentennial; Lincoln home, Springfield, Illinois; growing up in Chicago during the 1930s and 1940s;

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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