

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Gene Jontry

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Education is Key-School Reorganization* Oral History project

Interview # AI-A-L-2013-012

Gene Jontry, a retired Regional Superintendant of Schools for DeWitt, Livingston and McLean Counties who discusses reorganization experiences as Regional Superintendant and District Superintendant for several McLean County schools, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-School Reorganization* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: March 18, 2013      Location: Bloomington, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue

Transcription by: Patty Maynor, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman and Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 19 pgs.      Total Time: 0:59 / 0.98 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 18, 2014.

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

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## Abstract

Gene Jontry, *Education is Key-School Reorganization*, AI-A-L-2013-012

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Gene Jontry was born in Bloomington, Illinois in 1936. He is a graduate of Chenoa High School, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Illinois State University, and a master's degree from the University of Illinois. He began his teaching and coaching careers at Chenoa in 1959. In 1962 he became Principal at Chenoa and in 1967 he became the superintendent. In 1989 he became a dual Superintendent for the Chenoa and Octavia school districts. When the reorganized district of Ridgeview was formed he became its first Superintendent. In 1994, Gene became regional school superintendent of Livingston County. In later years this included the counties of DeWitt and McLean as well. Gene discusses the elimination of the small schools found in the Chenoa Unit District as the district reorganized. He also covers his Superintending, the creation of Ridgeview, and the much reorganization he was involved with as Regional Superintendent of Schools.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** School Reorganization, one room school, Community Unit School Act, Dual Superintendent, Regional Superintendent, unsuccessful consolidations, feasibility studies, dissolution, annexation, detachment, Regional Board of School Trustees, school mascots, colors, attendance centers, transportation , salary, schedules, state incentives, opposition to consolidation, school Board selection, tax levies, Classroom First Commission

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