

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Mike Latting

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
& the Illinois State Museum's
Oral History of Illinois Agriculture project

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-046

Mike Latting, a farmer and rodeo promoter, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 28, 2008 Location: Latting farm near St. Anne, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Elizabeth Simmons, ALPL Volunteer

Technical Support (cameraman, etc): Mark Suszko and Greg Lipe, Illinois Information Service, CMS

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 29 Total Time: 22 min + 33 min = 55 min / .92 hrs

Session 1: Early life on farm and rodeo business

Session 2: Walking tour of the ranch and discussion of life as rodeo promoter

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives 11/21/2008.

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

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Abstract

Mike Latting, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-046

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Mike Latting was born on August 15, 1952 in Harvey, Illinois, and grew up on his family's farm in Robbins, IL. Mike lives in Pembroke Township of Kankakee County, Illinois and operates the Pembroke Rodeo, a nationally sanctioned rodeo event held annually. Latting is also a rodeo promoter, supplying animals and equipment to rodeos throughout the United States. He lives with his family on his 60 acre property, breeding horses and other livestock, including bulls and calves for roping.

Latting defines himself as a rancher, not a farmer. He grows no crops for his family, livestock or for marketing locally. All of his feed is purchased and mixed locally. Latting discusses his biographical history as well as the layout of his land, his care and uses for his horses and livestock, and the history of the Pembroke Rodeo. He first began the rodeo in 1976, and has been the principal proprietor ever since.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Pembroke Rodeo; breeding, raising and care of rodeo livestock; bucking horses; livestock genetics; Pembroke Township, Kankakee County, Illinois; African American farmers in Illinois; growing up on the farm; leasing and renting farmland; land maintenance

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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