

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with John Crisp

Interview #: SAA-A-D-2006-005

Conducted by the Springfield African-American History Foundation
For the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

John Crisp, Springfield, Illinois artist and jazz musician, discusses growing up in the John Hay Homes housing project, performing as a musician, and teaching music and art to youth.

Interview date(s): March 4, 2006

Interview Location: Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: audiocassette

Interviewer: Cheryl Goza-Smith

Transcription by: Bill Waters, ALPL Volunteer

Edited by: Christy Barcus, Cheryl Pence

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

Abstract

John Crisp

Springfield African-American History Foundation Project

Biographical Information and Synopsis: John Crisp was born in Springfield, Illinois and raised in the John Hay Homes. His parents were very active in the community, as well as in music and art, which inspired him to do the same. John contracted rheumatic fever at a very young age and spent two years in the hospital. While he was in the hospital, John started drawing. Majoring in art, John took courses at Southern Illinois University, Ohio State University, Kennedy-King College, and Malcolm X College of Chicago. He also became a musician. His first professional job was at Stevie's Latin Village in Springfield. He also discusses traveling around the country playing music with acts such as Ike and Tina Turner. At the time of the interview, he was teaching for the Springfield Art Association and was President of the Harriet Tubman-Susan B. Anthony Women's Self-Help Center.

Topics Covered: Springfield, Illinois, 1950s – present; rheumatic fever; Springfield Art Association; Harriet Tubman-Susan B. Anthony Women's Self-Help Center; Stevie's Latin Village; Southern Illinois University; Ohio State University; Kennedy-King College; Malcolm X College of Chicago; traveling as a musician; Harriet Tubman-Susan B. Anthony Women's Self-Help Center

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