

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Amber Harper

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Agriculture in Illinois – School District Reorganization
Oral History project

Interview # AI-A-L-2011-061

Dr. Amber Harper, a career teacher and administrator with extensive experience in school reorganization initiatives, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois – School Reorganization Oral History* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Dec 5, 2011 Location: Bureau, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:00 / 1.0 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 28, 2012.

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

Interview being
processed

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Abstract

Amber Harper, *Agriculture in Illinois*, AI-A-L-2011-061

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Dr. Amber Harper was born in Peru on May 4th, 1954. She attended grade school in Bureau Junction (Leepertown) and graduated from Hall Township High School. She earned her degrees from Illinois State University. Her work experience included teaching in the Districts of Tiskulwa, Tampico, Riverdale, Walnut, and Leepertown. Many of these Districts have since reorganized. She also taught at Illinois State University while also doing graduate work. Dr. Harper became Superintendent of Leepertown in 2003, having started her teaching career there in 1977. At the time of the interview, the District faced obstacles in reorganization. These included the costs of transportation, building concerns, the school administration's communication with parents, access with adjacent districts, high student costs, the limited options districts face, and state law restrictions. As a result, local legislators sponsored Illinois House Bill (HB) 0606 which would give the Regional Board of School Trustees authority to reassign the district to Non-contiguous Districts if needed.

Subject Headings/Key Words: School district reorganization; property tax rates; contiguous school districts; school district deactivation; school district dissolution; Regional Office of Education in Illinois; Illinois State Board of Education; Illinois State Compliance Review; Illinois state school incentives; school construction; Classrooms First Commission; Regional Board of School Trustees; Illinois House Bill 0606; Dual-Unit School Districts; Hall Township High School; Nationally Board Certified Teacher; generational poverty

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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