

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with David Hedrick

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

IHPA Legacy Oral History project

Interview # HP-A-L-2012-007

David Hedrick, retired Site Superintendent of Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IHPA Legacy* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Feb 22 & Feb 29, 2012 Location: Hedrick home, 14924 Kent St. Athens, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Julie Dirksen, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: Susan Burke, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Patty Maynor and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL volunteers

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Session 1: Hedrick's career with Dept. of Natural Resources & early years at New Salem

Session 2: Hedrick's career with IHPA at New Salem

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

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Abstract

David Hedrick

IHPA Legacy

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Biographical Information Overview of Interview: David Hedrick was born February 17, 1949 in Olney, Illinois. He grew up with four siblings in a southern Illinois farming community. Both parents were instrumental in providing their children with a sound education and many life experiences through camping and travel. Upon graduating from Edwards County Senior High School in 1967, David knew what career he wanted to pursue: Parks and Recreation. He graduated from SIU Carbondale in 1971 with a BS degree in Parks and Recreation.

David's post graduate career began in 1971 as Superintendent of Recreation at the Norridge Park District, Norridge, Ill. He was responsible for adult and children's Sports Leagues, preschool and after school programs and overseeing 110 part time employees. He remained there until 1974. In that year, he was hired by the Illinois Department of Conservation as a Ranger for Jubilee College State Historic Site. Although the site is now closed, at the time David was there he oversaw the Park's eighty acre State Recreational Park and worked with the farmers leasing the Jubilee College State Historic Site's adjacent 3,000 acre farm property.

In 1979, David was interviewed and hired as Site Superintendent for Lincoln's New Salem. At that time, historic sites were then part of the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources. In 1985, Governor James Thompson created the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, which included the Lincoln's New Salem site. David worked with the initial IHPA Director, David Kenney as well as subsequent Agency Directors: Dr. Michael Devine; Susan Mogerman; Maynard Crossland and Bob Coomer. David retired in 2008 during a period of severe budget cuts for IHPA during the Rod Blagojevich administration.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois Department of Natural Resources; Illinois Dept. of Conservation; Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; Gov. Dan Walker; Gov. Jim Thompson; Gov Jim Edgar; IHPA Directors David Kenney, Michael Devine, Susan Mogerman, Maynard Crossland and Robert Coomer; Norridge Park District; Jubilee College State Park; Lincoln's New Salem; New Salem Lincoln League

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