

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Roy Harrington

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Oral History of Illinois Agriculture project

Interview # AIS-V-L-2009-080

Roy Harrington, a farmer and long-time employee with John Deere, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: October 1, 2008

Location: John Deere Collectors Center, Moline, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio & Digital video

Interviewer: Mike Maniscalco, Illinois State Museum

Technical Support: Dr. Robert Warren, Recording Engineer, Illinois State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Mike Maniscalco and Ashley Abruzzo, Illinois State Museum

Video Indexed by: James Oliver, Illinois State Museum

Total Pages: 24 Total Time: 1 hr 42 min / 1.7 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 11/20/2009.

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

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Abstract

Roy Harrington, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-080

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Roy Harrington was born on a farm near Atlanta, Missouri on October 23, 1925. The family raised cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and chickens, but their main source of income was from registered Hereford Cattle, which were sold for breeding stock.

Education was valued in Roy's family. Both of his parents attended the University of Missouri at Columbia, and Roy followed in their footsteps, studying Agricultural Engineering. Drafted into the Army in 1944, Roy attended school for a new technology called Recoilless Rifles. He soon was training others on the use of the new weapon. After WWII, the GI Bill paid for Roy's education. In 1950, immediately after finishing college, Roy went to work for John Deere. Farm tractor sales were at a peak, and companies were willing to invest in Engineers to develop new equipment. Some of the projects Roy worked on include: hay balers, tractor seat suspension

Subject Headings/Key Words: Cattle; WWII; Engineering; John Deere; Farm Machinery; G.I. Bill; University of Missouri at Columbia

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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