

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Thelma Bonds

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Oral History project

Interview # DST-A-L-2017-047

Thelma Bonds, retired from Illinois Power and a charter member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Springfield Decatur Area Alumnae Chapter, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jun 23, 2017

Location: 3685 N. Woodridge Dr. Decatur, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Yvonne Singley, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 0:27 / 0.45 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on (date).

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

Transcript
being processed

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Abstract

Thelma Bonds, *Delta Sigma Theta Sorority*, DST-A-L-2017-045

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Thelma Bonds was born on October 2, 1950 in Brownsville, Tennessee. Born to parents, Madison Wade Bonds and Ella Mae Clark, she was one of two children. Deborah Clark-Outlaw her younger sister, was born in 1957.

Ms. Bonds started her work life when she was a child detasseling corn in the fields surrounding Decatur, Illinois. Her family moved from Tennessee to Decatur, Illinois where she attended elementary and high schools. As a high school senior, she began training to be a Licensed Practical Nurse at the local hospital in the morning, while attending high school classes in the afternoon. In 1969, she graduated from MacArthur High School.

After high school graduation, Ms. Bonds worked at the hospital full-time, and completed her nurse's training. She later moved to Rochester, Minnesota where she worked at Rochester Methodist Hospital as a Graduate Practical Nurse for an approximate six-month period. Desiring to further her education, she enrolled at Eastern Illinois University (EIU). During her time at EIU, she pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Theta Zeta Chapter in 1972. In 1974, she graduated from the university with a BS in Business, with a Marketing major and a Management minor.

Illinois Power's Corporate Headquarters (Decatur) hired Ms. Bonds as an Assistant Computer Programmer. She remained with the company for twenty-three years in different positions including Computer Programmer, Project Leader, Supervisor, and Director of Technical Support Services, all within the Information Technology Department. After leaving Illinois Power, Accenture, LLP, retained Ms. Bonds as a consultant to work on the Bellsouth Project located in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ms. Bonds, a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and a charter member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Springfield-Decatur Area Alumni Chapter, is now retired and learning how to garden.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Theta Zeta Chapter;

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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