

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Lynn Knights

Part of the Dixon Historic Center's
Ronald Reagan Oral History project

Interview # ISR-V-D-2012 057

Lynn Knights, who was a postman in Dixon, Illinois, was in charge of the initial fundraising and restoration of the Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home. He was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Dixon Historic Center's *Ronald Reagan* Oral History project.

Interview dates & locations:

Date: August 9, 2012 Location: Dixon Historic Center

Interview Format: Digital Video

Interviewer: Rev. Scott Porter

Technical Support (cameraman, etc.): Jerry Knox, Dixon Historic Center

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 39 min / 0.65 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 30, 2015.

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

Abstract

Lynn Knights, *Ronald Reagan*, ISR-V-D-2012 057

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Lynn Knights was born on June 5, 1947. He was a member of the US Air Force and moved to Dixon in 1969. He worked for the Post Office in Dixon and while working his route one day discovered that the Reagan boyhood home was on his route. Lynn discusses how run down the home was when he found it. It was being used as a rental property at the time. Lynn gathered a group of volunteers and began the project of restoring the home to its condition when Ronald Reagan lived there with his family in the 1920s. They did several fundraisers and public awareness campaigns to get the attention of the people of Dixon. These campaigns spread the message about the importance of the home. It cost around \$54,000.00 to restore the home, and it was opened by Ronald Reagan himself when he attended his birthday celebration in Dixon in 1983. Lynn Knights retired to Lauderdale Lakes, Florida and passed away June 7, 2014.

Subject Headings/Keywords: Ronald Reagan Boyhood Home; Jim Burke; Hometown Coordinating Committee; Hatch Act; U.S. Air Force; Reagan inauguration celebrations; birthday celebration in Dixon in 1983; WSDR (Radio station for Sterling, Illinois).

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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