

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Rich Bradley

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

Interview # ISP-A-L-2011-057

Rich Bradley, the first News Director of WUIS, Springfield, Illinois's public radio station, former Illinois state house reporter, and the 'father' of the Illinois Public Radio Network. He was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Journalist's View* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location: All Interviews were done at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library.

Date: Dec. 2, Dec. 9, Dec. 16, 2011; Jan. 27, Mar 23, April 13, April 27, 2012

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Chris Reynolds, ALPL Volunteer

Transcription by: Patty Maynor

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:51(1) + 1:15(2) + 1:46(3) + 1:44(4) + 1:36(5) + 1:53(6) + 2:13(7)/1.85(1) + 1.25(2) + 1.77(3) + 1.73(4) + 1.6(5) + 1.88(6) + 2.13(7) = 12.17 hrs

Session 1: Biographical information, early radio related career.

Session 2: Formation of WSSR/ WUIS and affiliation with NPR

Session 3: Formation of IL Public Radio Network, technology changes in radio, history of SSU/UIS

Session 4: Governor Jim Thompson Administration

Session 5: Governor Jim Edgar Administration

Session 6: Governor George Ryan Administration

Session 7: Governor Rod Blagojevich Administration

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 13, 2012.
The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Rich Bradley, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISP-A-L-2011-057

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Rich Bradley was born on May 13th, 1940, in Urbana, Illinois, and grew up on a farm north Ogden, Illinois, east of Urbana. He graduated from Ogden Community High School in 1958, then attended the University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign before transferring to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where he graduated in 1963. He worked in radio part-time at WSIU (Carbondale) and at WITY (Danville) in 1961. His full-time career started at WCIL in Carbondale, Illinois, and he became the news director at WCVS in Springfield, Illinois in 1965.

Bradley became the managing editor of the Illinois News Network before coming to help build a public radio station at what was then Sangamon State University in 1974. He covered and supervised the coverage of state government during the administration of five governors, from 1972 to 2009. He helped affiliate the University's radio station (WSSR, later WUIS) with National Public Radio (NPR), worked as the station's statehouse news reporter, and is considered the father of the Illinois Public Radio Network as the News Director for 30 years. He was the host of the long running weekly radio news show "State Week in Review". He has been a board member of Illinois News Broadcasters Association. He has received numerous professional awards, including the prestigious Lee Award presented by the Public Radio News Directors, Inc. to notable NPR figures. He has mentored numerous reporters who themselves have won national and statewide journalism awards. In his final years with WUIS he anchored coverage of Barack Obama's presidential announcement and his vice presidential announcement at Springfield's Old State Capital. Bradley also anchored coverage of the Governor Rod Blagojevich impeachment trial for Illinois Public Radio.

Subject Headings/Key Words: SIU-C; Illinois News Network; WSSR, WSSU, & WUIS; Illinois Public Radio Network; National Public Radio (NPR); State Week in Review radio show; news coverage of five Governors and their administrations (Dan Walker; Jim Thompson; Jim Edgar; George Ryan; and Rod Blagojevich); Barack Obama's Springfield presidential announcements; Blagojevich Impeachment Trial.

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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