

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ed Teefey

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

Interview # AI-V-L-2010-023

Ed Teefey, a banker from Mt. Sterling servicing a farm community, with a passion for harness racing, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 20, 2010 Location: IL Information Service Studio, Springfield, IL

Date: June 16, 2010 Location: IL Information Service Studio, Springfield, IL

Date: July 21, 2010 Location: IL State Fairground & Walker Standardbreds

Date: Aug 4, 2010 Location: Brown County Fair racetrack, Mt. Sterling, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support: Tony Bateman and Greg Lipe, IIS Videographers

Transcription by: Susan Burke, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman & Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 110 pgs Total Time: 1:53 + 1:27 + 0:52 + 0:46 + 0:35 / 1.88 + 1.45 + 0.87 + 0.76 + 0.58 = 5.54 hrs

Session 1: Teefey's youth and professional career as a banker to farmers

Session 2: Teefey's life-long fascination with harness racing

Session 3: Tour of Walker Standardbred farm

Session 4: Tour of IL State Fair standardbred horse barns & practice track

Session 5: A visit to Brown County Fair harness racing

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on March 7, 2013.

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

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# Abstract

## Ed Teefey, *Agriculture in Illinois*, AI-V-L-2010-023

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Ed Teefey was born on September 21st, 1952 in Quincy, Illinois, and grew up in the farm community of Mt. Sterling, Illinois. As a young boy, he developed a passion for harness racing, but decided on the law as a profession. He received an undergraduate degree from Western Illinois University, then attended the Northern Illinois University Law School, passing the Illinois Bar in 1978. He soon found work with the trust department at the Farmers State Bank and Trust Company in Mt. Sterling. Teefey describes the 1980s farm crisis from the perspective of the small town banker, working with farmers threatened with bankruptcy and foreclosure.

Teefey also discusses the history and the structure of harness racing, addressing its ties to agriculture in Illinois as well as the sport itself. He described all aspects of the sport, to include the evolution of gambling and the current struggles the sport is experiencing. He also discussed legislation being sponsored in the Illinois state legislature at the time of the interview, as it increasingly competes with other forms of gambling in the state.

The interview includes a walking tour of standardbred horse barns at the Illinois State Fairgrounds, video of horses being exercised, a tour of the Walker Standardbred farm near Sherman, Illinois, and a visit to the Brown County Fairground (Mt. Sterling) racetrack during harness races in August, 2010. The series includes interviews with a driver, veterinarian, race announcer and others at the racetrack.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** harness racing; bank loans to farmers & farm community; 1980s farm and credit crisis; County & State Fairs; standardbred horses; trotters and pacers; breeding and raising horses; racing terminology; gambling in horse racing; parimutuel betting in harness racing; Mt. Sterling Farmers State Bank and Trust Company; Walker Standardbreds; harness racing at the Brown County Fair, Mt. Sterling, IL

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