

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Gov Jim & Mrs. Brenda Edgar

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

Interview # ISG-V-L-2012-048

Governor Jim Edgar and Mrs. Brenda Edgar, who served as Governor and First Lady of Illinois from 1991 through January, 1999, were interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library as part of the *Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Jim Edgar* Oral History project.

Interview date & location:

Date: Dec 4, 2013 Location: IL Information Studio, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

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

Technical Support: Tony Bateman and Greg Lipe, IIS Videographers

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:52 / 1.87 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 17, 2014.

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

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Abstract

Jim & Brenda Edgar, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-V-L-2012-048

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: This interview with Governor Jim Edgar and Brenda Edgar is a continuation of the Governor Edgar oral history project, and addresses their life together, both personally, and especially as it was lived in the public eye. The interview starts with their meeting while both were students at Eastern Illinois University (Charleston) in June of 1966. The interview covers their courtship and marriage, Brenda's help with Jim's campaign for class president at Eastern, his early experiences as an intern with the Illinois legislature, and his decision to run for the legislature in 1974. He lost that year, but was successful in 1976. Mrs. Edgar talks about her thoughts early on about his political career, and about her own involvement with her husband's many political campaigns. Governor Edgar talked about three key phone calls from Governor Thompson: a call in 1979 to become Thompson's legislative liaison, a call in 1980 offering Edgar the Secretary of State position, and finally a call in 1979 where Thompson told Edgar of his decision not to run for reelection, giving Edgar the opportunity to run for Governor in 1990. Finally, the two discussed Governor Edgar's decision not to run for reelection in 1998, and Mrs. Edgar addressed the challenges of serving as Illinois's First Lady.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Governor Jim and Mrs. Brenda Edgar; Eastern Illinois University; 1974 and 1975 legislative campaigns; Jim and Brenda Edgar as campaigners; 1982 election campaign for Secretary of State; living in Springfield while Secretary of State; 1990 gubernatorial election campaign; 1994 gubernatorial election campaign; the Edgars' life in retirement

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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