

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Sherry Struck

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

Interview # ISG-A-L-2010-050

Sherry Struck, personal assistant for Governor Jim Edgar, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project.

Interview date & location:

Date: November 3, 2010 Location: Struck residence, Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center

Edited by: Mike Czaplicki, ALPL, and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteer

Total Pages: 68 pgs Total Time: 3:28 / 3.48 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on Jun 27, 2011.

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

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Abstract

Sherry Struck, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2010-050

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Sherril (Sherry) Struck was born Sherry Williams on October 15th, 1949 in Bloomington, Illinois. Her father passed away when she was ten, so times were challenging for Sherry's family when growing up. Upon graduation from Bloomington High School in 1967, she began working for the Illinois Farm Bureau, whose headquarters was in town. She stayed with the Farm Bureau until 1979 when she and her husband, Earl Struck, moved to Springfield, Illinois. She began working for the Illinois Coal Association in 1980.

When the couple moved to Springfield, they soon met their new neighbors, Jim and Brenda Edgar. Edgar was then Governor Thompson's legislative liaison, but was soon appointed as the IL Secretary of State. The couples became close friends, with their children growing up in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Springfield, a typical middle-class suburban neighborhood. When Edgar made a run for Governor in 1980, he asked Sherry, a political novice, to serve as Comptroller for the campaign. Following his victory in a tight race, Edgar asked her to serve as his personal assistant.

Sherry stayed in that role for the next eight years, working at the desk outside Governor Edgar's office, screening visitors, handling all of his personal correspondence, plus a myriad of other duties and responsibilities. Although not involved in policy issues, she was one of the most trusted members of his team. She spoke about the budget crisis Gov Edgar faced during the first administration, about her memories of other members of the administration, about the 1994 election, Edgar's heart problems, and the MSI scandal late in the second administration.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Gov. Jim Edgar; Brenda Edgar; 1990 IL gubernatorial election; Carter Hendren; Sen. Kirk Dillard; Jim Reilly; Gene Reineke; Earl Struck; Brad Edgar; Elizabeth Edgar; Management Services of Illinois (MSI) scandal; Mike Lawrence; Joan Walters; 1994 IL gubernatorial election; Baby Richard Case; Sen. James 'Pate' Philip; Sen. Phil Rock; Speaker Mike Madigan; Representative Lee Daniels; Fred Edgar; Tom Edgar; Illinois Farm Bureau; George Fleischli; Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra; the Edgar family dogs

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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