

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Helen Lawton

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

Interview # ISR-V-D-2010-062

Helen Lawton is a native of Dixon, Illinois whose father owned the Kennedy Music Store in downtown Dixon during the time Ronald Reagan lived there. She was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Dixon Historic Center's *Ronald Reagan* Oral History project.

Interview dates & locations:

Date: May 27, 2010 Location: Heritage Square

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: 14 min / 0.23 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

Helen Lawton, *Ronald Reagan*, ISR-V-D-2010-062

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Helen (Kennedy) Lawton was born in Dixon, Illinois on March 2, 1916. Her father owned the Kennedy Music Store in Dixon where she used to sell sheet music when she was younger. Helen remembers that, for a time, the Reagan family lived in the house next door to her and she would see Ronald Reagan at Lowell Park when he was a lifeguard. She graduated from Dixon High School in 1934 and attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she majored in home economics. She then taught home economics at a variety of different schools, one of which was in Mendota, Illinois. She was married to Fred Lawton. In 1981, Helen Lawton attended Ronald Reagan's presidential inauguration in Washington, D.C. During the interview, she wore the cowboy hat commissioned for the occasion that the high school band wore as part of their uniform. She has been interviewed by many authors about her memories of Dixon and Ronald Reagan. Helen Lawton passed away on July 1, 2014 at the age of 98.

Subject Headings/Keywords: Ronald Reagan in Dixon; Reagan inauguration in 1981; Home economics; University of Illinois; Lowell Park in Dixon, Illinois; Dixon High School.

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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