

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ronald Whitaker

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key-Community College Oral History project

Interview # EC-A-L-2013-029

Ronald Whitaker, who tells of his experiences at Joliet Junior College, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Community College* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: April 30, 2013 Location: New Lenox Historical Society, New Lenox, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Phil Pogue

Transcription by: Susan Burke, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Richard Herndon & Janice Culp, ALPL volunteers

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

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Abstract

Ron Whitaker, *Education is Key-Community Colleges*, EC-A-L-2013-029

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Ron Whitaker was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1935. He graduated from Joliet Township High School in 1953 and earned an associate's degree from Joliet Junior College in Business in 1969. Ron was a long time insurance broker in New Lenox, Illinois. He has a unique perspective, having been a student at Joliet Township High School when it operated the junior college, and then later as a part-time student at the college and as a trustee when the college operated as an independent body. This interview covers those years and covers the evolution of Joliet Junior College from 1965-1970 when several critical issues were being considered, including the school's geographical territory, voter approval of the new school, selection of the new president, the division of assets with the high school, and site selection.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Joliet Junior College; 1965 Junior College Act; school referendum; building bonds; Class I/II Status; Joliet Township High School; site selection; culinary arts; name of college; Joliet Junior College trustees

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