

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Brian Holst

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-078

Brian Holst, an agricultural implements mechanic working at the John Deere Collectors' Center, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and the Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: October 1, 2008      Location: Moline, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Mike Maniscalco, Illinois State Museum

Technical Support: Robert Warren, recording engineer, Illinois State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Michael Maniscalco and Tony Collantino, Illinois State Museum

Video Indexed by: James Oliver, Illinois State Museum

Total Pages: 14 + \_\_\_    Total Time: 0:42 + 0:55 / .7 + 0.92 hrs = 1:37 / 1.62 hours

Session 1: Growing up on a dairy farm & work as a mechanic for John Deere

Session 2: Walking tour of the John Deere Collection Center

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 11/20/2009.

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

## Abstract

### Brian Holst, *Agriculture in Illinois*, Oral History project AIS-V-L-2008-078

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Brian Holst was born on August 14, 1964 in Iowa City, Iowa. He is the son of a farmer and grew up on his family's dairy farm. In the 1980's Brian was graduating from high school and found himself in the center of the 1980's farm crisis. He wanted to follow in his father's footsteps, but his father pushed him to go to school. Brian ended up going to a trade school where he became a mechanic. After a few years of working on small cars, he decided that due to his size and the small size of cars he needed another way to do his job. He went back to school to become an Agricultural Implements, Tractor and Combine Mechanic. After graduating, Brian was offered a job in Texas where he worked on agricultural machinery that was used to harvest rice. This new form of agriculture opened Brian's eyes to the diverse world of agriculture and machinery. While working in dealerships he took every opportunity to fix the older model two cylinder tractors. With this experience, hard work ethic, and his ability to network, eventually Brian found himself in Moline, IL working in the John Deere Collectors' Center restoring vintage tractors.

**Subject Headings/Keywords:** Iowa City, IA; Texas; Trade School; Mechanic; Agricultural Implements; Rice Harvest; Machinery; Moline, IL; John Deere; Vintage Tractors

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