

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Allen Stare

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Sports Stories - Baseball Oral History project

Interview # SSB-A-L-2017-006

Allen Stare, umpire for the vintage baseball team, the Springfield Long Nine, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories - Baseball Oral History project*.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: February 9, 16 & 24, 2017

Location: Allen Stare residence, Jacksonville, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:05 + 2:02 + 2:05 / 2.08 + 2.03 + 2.08 = 6.19 hrs.

Session 1: Stare's early years, and careers in broadcasting and advertising

Session 2: The history of baseball from its beginning through 1869

Session 3: Stare's experiences with vintage baseball since 2005

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 27, 2017.

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

Transcript
being processed

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Abstract

Allen Stare, *Sports Stories*, SSB-A-L-2017-006

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Allen Stare was born in November, 1964 in Taylorville, Illinois, and grew up there. While in high school, he began working at the local radio station while also working as a DJ at school events and many other venues around the region. Following graduation in 1983, Allen attended Rose Hulman Institute in Terre Haute, Indiana for one year, then realized his future was not in engineering, and transferred to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. While there, he majored in Radio and Television Broadcasting, with a minor in public relations, while driving home to Taylorville every weekend to continue his thriving DJ business. He also was the midnight DJ for a local Murphysboro/Carbondale radio station. Following graduation in 1987, Stare began his broadcasting career at WRVI in Virden, Illinois. The following year, he changed careers, and began working for Pace Advertising. In 1989 he followed the primary manager from Pace Advertising and helped to start the advertising firm Kearney Advertising. When that business went bankrupt in 1999 through no fault of Allen's, he started Intense Multi-Media, and also moved to Jacksonville, where his wife worked at the School for the Deaf.

In 2005, Stare was asked to join a local vintage baseball team, the Jacksonville Orphans, to serve as their umpire. (The central Illinois teams play by rules that were set down in 1858.) This greatly appealed to Stare, combining his love for theatrics and his passion for the game. Over the next few years, 'Honest Al' served as umpire, first for the Orphans and since 2007 with the Springfield Long Nine at games all over the Midwest. He also became an avid student of the game as it was played in the 19th century. He spoke extensively about the way the game was played during its infancy, and especially talks about the evolution of the game from the New York Knickerbocker rules of 1845 to new rules adopted in 1857, then revised in 1858. He also discusses the impact of the Civil War on the game. Allen also talked about his involvement in the modern version of vintage baseball. He noted how even that game has evolved as historians have learned much more about the way the game was played during the mid-19th Century.

Subject Headings/Key Words: vintage baseball; Springfield Long Nine vintage baseball team; evolution of baseball in the early 19th Century; New York Knickerbocker baseball rules of 1845; 1858 baseball rules; National Association of Base Ball Players (NABBP); life as a radio DJ; Patrick Kearney of Kearney Advertising; Randy Miller of the Miller Media Group; Rose Hulman Institute of Technology;

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