

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Gary and Mike Watson

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

Interview # SSB-V-L-2017-041

Gary and Mike Watson, identical twins who came of age in the 1950s and 1960s, with one becoming a St. Louis Cardinals fan and the other a Chicago Cubs fan, were interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Sports Stories - Baseball* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: July 7, 2017    Location: Illinois Information Service studio, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital video

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

Technical Support (videographers): Mark Suszko, Bobby Troesch, Tony Bateman and Justin Davsko, Illinois Information Service videographers

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 2:01 / 2.02 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on October 31, 2017.

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

Transcript  
being processed

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# Abstract

Gary & Mike Watson, *Sports Stories*, SSB-V-L-2017-041

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Gary M. and Gerry Michael (Mike) Watson were born on April 3, 1953 in Bloomington, Illinois, and grew up there in a house across the street from the Normal Community High School. They were mirror image twins with one being right handed, the other left handed. Their father (a Chicago Cubs fan) was a television repairman, and their mother (a St. Louis Cardinals fan) worked as a secretary at Illinois State University. They enjoyed a typical Midwest upbringing in a household, and during their high school years at Normal Community High School, both boys played football and swam on the varsity team. Both grew up as Cardinals fans. They started college at Western Illinois University in 1971, majoring in history, but Mike returned to Normal and enrolled at Illinois State University after one year, and Gary followed his brother to ISU the next year. Upon graduation in 1975, Gary pursued a career in parks and recreation. Mike graduated in 1976 and spent the bulk of his working life as a business analyst for State Farm Insurance in Bloomington.

In this interview, Gary and Mike talk about their passion for baseball, and share memories about their lives and that sport. Mike has been a life-long Cardinals fan, while Gary switched allegiances and became a Chicago Cubs fan in 1980. Both men reminisced about their favorite players, most memorable moments, and most painful disappointments. On March 23, 2017 Gary and Mike attended the members' only premier of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum's new exhibit, 'Cubs vs. Cards, the Rivalry,' where they met Sam Wheeler, Illinois State Historian, who recommended that the brothers be interviewed.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** St. Louis Cardinals history; Chicago Cubs history; growing up in the 1950s and early 1960s in Bloomington, Illinois; Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals rivalry; baseball fans; Chicago Cubs World Series victory of 2016; 1994-1995 baseball strike; draft lottery; John F. Kennedy assassination; anti-war protests at Western Illinois University

**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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