

Title Page & Abstract

Restricted Interview

An Interview with Julie Cellini

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
IHPA Legacy Oral History project

Interview # HP-A-L-2015-013

Julie Cellini, the chair of the IHPA Board of Trustees and one of the main forces behind the creation of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IHPA Legacy* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Mar 9, Mar 11, Mar 17, Mar 26, Apr 22, May 5, Jul 13 & Oct 6, 2015

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Audio Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Cheryl Wycoff and Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: Sessions 1-6 = 195 pgs Total Time: 1:26(1) + 2:13(2) + 2:12(3) + 1:34(4) + 2:27(5) + 1:44(6) + 1:26(7) + 1:56(8) / 1.43(1) + 2.22(2) + 2.2(3) + 1.57(4) + 2.45(5) + 1.73(6) + 1.43(7) + 1.93(8) = 14.96 hrs.

Session 1: Early years and journalistic career in Springfield

Session 2: Service on the Historic Library Board and Chair of the new IHPA

Session 3: Early years of IHPA, and initial planning stages for the ALPLM

Session 4: Development of President Lincoln Museum exhibits

Session 5: Museum exhibits, continued, planning for library and siting decisions

Session 6: Funding for ALPLM and construction and staffing for ALPLM

Session 7: Opening of the Library and Museum, and early management issues

Session 8: Reflections on IHPA and ALPLM since 2011, and closing comments

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on April 5, 2017.

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

Restricted Interview: Access to Session 7 and Session 8 of the interview are currently restricted. The interview will be released from restriction and available to the general public after January 1, 2035.

Abstract

Julie Cellini, *IHPA Legacy*, HP-A-L-2015-013

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Julie England was born on Christmas day in 1944 in Springfield, Illinois, and grew up in Mount Vernon, Illinois. Following graduation, she attended Southern Illinois University, majoring in journalist, and graduated in 1964. She soon found employment with the Springfield *Journal* and Springfield *Register* as a feature writer, and in 1966 married William (Bill) Cellini, an influential young Republican who became director of the Illinois Department of Transportation for Governor Richard Ogilvie in 1969. Julie resigned her job with the paper to raise her young son, and also began volunteering at the Old State Capitol in Springfield in the mid-1970s. In circa 1980, Governor Jim Thompson appointed Julie to the governing board of the Illinois State Historical Library.

In 1985 the Thompson administration created a new agency, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), which consolidated most of the historic sites formerly managed by the Department of Conservation into the new agency, along with Preservation Services and the IL State Historical Library. Governor Thompson selected Julie to be the chair of the IHPA Board of Trustees, a governing board. She remained on the board for the next twenty-seven years, and for most of that time worked toward creating a fitting place to house and display the Historical Library's extensive collection of Abraham Lincoln artifacts and materials. In 1998 Gov. Jim Edgar's administration budgeted enough money to start planning for a facility. Over the next several years, that project continually evolved and grew, resulting in the opening of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in 2004, and the Museum in 2005. During the course of the interview, Julie discussed every aspect of creating ALPLM, from its initial conception and selling the idea, to design of both of exhibits and the buildings, to fund raising, staffing, the grand opening, and the many management challenges IHPA and ALPLM have faced since its opening. Julie is widely acknowledged as the most important, certainly the most persistent person behind the creation of the Presidential Library and Museum, heralded as a world-class institution.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; William (Bill) Cellini; Gov. Jim Thompson; Gov. George Ryan; Gov. Jim Edgar; Lura Lynn Ryan; Dr. Tom Schwartz; Bob Roger of BRC Imagination Arts; Susan Mogerma; Bob Coomer; Senator Dick Durbin; BRC Imagination Arts; Richard Norton Smith; Rick Beard; Eileen Mackevich; Dana Thomas House; Abraham Lincoln; Judy Baar Topinka; Frank Mason (Springfield, IL);

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