

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Craig Shirley

Part of the Dixon Historic Center's  
*Ronald Reagan* Oral History project

Interview # ISR-V-D-2012-058

Craig Shirley, an author of historical books as well as a past member of the Ronald Reagan campaigns, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Dixon Historic Center's *Ronald Reagan* Oral History project.

Interview dates & locations:

Date: October 26, 2012      Location: Dixon Historic Center

Interview Format: Digital Video

Interviewer: Rev. Scott Porter

Technical Support (cameraman, etc.): Jerry Knox, Dixon Historic Center

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

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

Transcript being  
processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_      Total Time: 31 min / 0.51 hrs

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 30, 2015.

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

## Abstract

Craig Shirley, *Ronald Reagan*, ISR-V-D-2012-058

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Craig Shirley was born in 1956 and grew up in Syracuse, New York. He is married to Zorine Shirley and they have four children. He worked on various campaigns for Ronald Reagan and currently is working on writing several books on Reagan, as well as on other historical topics. His parents were members of the Conservative Party of New York that was formed in 1961/62. Due to his parents' strong political activity, Craig gained interest in politics at a young age. His first memory of Ronald Reagan was hearing a record album in 1965 of Reagan's 'A Time for Choosing' Speech, where Reagan endorsed Barry Goldwater. In college he was involved in youth politics for Ford. After college, he worked as press secretary for Gordon J. Humphrey (Republican Senator from New Hampshire) and got his start in politics. In 1980 he worked with the Fund for a Conservative Majority and then was approached again in 1984 by the National Conservative Political Action Committee to run independent expenditure programs for Reagan's campaigns.

**Subject Headings/Keywords:** Barry Goldwater; *Death Valley Days*; Republican National Convention; Gordon J. Humphrey; National Conservative Political Action Committee; Century City; World War II; Korean War; Saint Paul's United Methodist Church; Screen Actors Guild; Conservative Party of New York; *A Time for Choosing*; New Hampshire Highway Hotel; Fund for a Conservative Majority

**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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