

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Burnell Heinecke

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Family Memories Oral History project

Interview # FM-A-L-2018-069

Burnell Heinecke, who grew up in Freeburg, Illinois before beginning a long career as a journalist for the Chicago *Sun-Times*, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Family Memories* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Nov 13, 2018 Location: Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:14 / 2.23 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on November 13, 2019.

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

© 2018 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Burnell Heinecke, *Family Memories*, FM-A-L-2018-069

Biographical Information/Overview of Interview: Burnell Heinecke was born on June 11, 1927 in Mascoutah, Illinois, and grew up in nearby Freeburg, Illinois. Burnell's father was a coal miner, and an early member of the Progressive Mine Workers of America, and was involved in a conflict the union had with the United Mine Workers Union. Burnell shares many vivid memories of his early years in Freeburg. While attending Freeburg High School he became interested in writing, and especially journalism. He worked on the school newspaper and was excited to have an editorial he wrote published. Immediately upon graduation in 1945 from Freeburg High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy; the war in the Pacific ended while he was in boot camp. He eventually served aboard aircraft carriers Kula Gulf (CVE 108) Ticonderoga (CV14). After his navy service, he enrolled in McKendree College, graduating in 1950 with a major in English.

Burnell worked for twenty-three years as a journalist for the Chicago Sun-Times beginning in the early 1950s, including ten years as the bureau chief for the Sun-Times in the state capitol. While there, he covered the administrations for Governor William Stratton, Otto Kerner, Sam Shapiro, Richard Ogilvie, Dan Walker and Jim Thompson. Unfortunately, Burnell passed away on December 5, 2018, following an auto accident a few weeks earlier, during which he suffered serious injuries.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Life in Freeburg, Illinois in the 1940s; Progressive Mine Workers of America; miner conflict between the Progressive Mine Workers Union and the United Mine Worker Union; McKendrie College;

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955