

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Redd Griffin

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

Interview # ISR-V-D-2012-055

Redd Griffin who as an Army veteran, and later as a teacher, writer, philosopher and historian, followed Ronald Reagan's political career, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Dixon Historic Center's *Ronald Reagan* Oral History project.

Interview dates & locations:

Date: May 24, 2012 Location: Dixon Historic Center, Dixon, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital Video

Interviewer: Ann Lewis, Executive Director, Reagan Centennial Project

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Interview being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 55 min / 0.92 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

Redd Griffin, *Ronald Reagan*, ISR-V-D-2012 055

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Redd Griffin was born on December 3, 1938 in Oak Park, IL. Redd attended Shimer College and went on to have careers as a newspaper reporter and also worked at WTTW TV. In 1960 he attended the Republican National Convention in Chicago and heard Goldwater speak. He greatly enjoyed the speech that Reagan gave in support of Goldwater, endorsing Goldwater as a candidate. While serving in the U.S. Army in the early 1960s, Griffin was stationed in Berlin; he viewed the Berlin Wall as a permanent feature of the city. Because of that, Reagan's June, 1987 speech in Berlin imploring the communists to "tear down this wall" made a profound impact on Griffin. Once Redd got involved with President Reagan's homecoming to Dixon in 1984, he deepened his interest in Ronald Reagan as a person as well as a politician. He discusses various aspects of Reagan's White House years, such as meeting with the landscape architect as well as the strength of the volunteer sector. Redd Griffin passed away in November of 2012, six months following this interview.

Subject Headings/Keywords: Shimer College; Oak Park, IL; WTTW TV; Berlin Wall; U.S. Army; Barry Goldwater; Young American's for Freedom; *Death Valley Days*; Hometown Heritage Foundation; the film *Hoosiers*; landscape architecture of the White House; Reagan Boyhood Home; USS Ronald Reagan (aircraft carrier); atomic age

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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