

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Meryl Fairchild

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Community Stories - Rochester Oral History project

Interview # CR-A-L-2017-050

Meryl Fairchild, a resident of Rochester, Illinois and a farmer from a long line of farmers, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Community Stories - Rochester* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 31, 2017 Location: Fairchild home, Springfield Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Carole Strick, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript
being processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:12 / 1.20 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 20, 2018.

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

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Abstract

Meryl Fairchild, *Community Stories*, CR-A-L-2017-050

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Meryl Robert Fairchild was born on July 2, 1931 at a hospital in Springfield, Illinois. Bob's family resided in Rochester Illinois at the time, and he grew up there. He, like several generations before him, spent a lifetime as farmers. He contracted polio as a child, but had no long-term impact from that dreaded disease. He attended school in Rochester, graduating from Springfield High School in 1949. Bob attended the University of Illinois briefly, but his time there was interrupted when his father needed help on the farm. He was never able to return. Bob married Helen Jane Brubaker on October 24, 1954. They have two sons and a daughter. He is of the Methodist faith, and has been a long-time member of the Rochester Historical Preservation Society.

Fairchild reflected about his life spent on the farm, talking about working with cattle and horses in his earlier years, and reflects on how much technology has changed farming in central Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: growing up in Rochester Illinois; University of Illinois; Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO); use of Global Positioning Satellites in agriculture; technological advances in agriculture

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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