

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Susan Mogerman

Restricted Interview

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

IHPA Legacy Oral History project

Interview # HP-A-L-2015-012

Susan Mogerman, Assistant Press Secretary for Gov. Jim Thompson and the Executive Director of the IL Historic Preservation Agency from 1991 to 2002, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *IHPA Legacy* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Dates: Mar 4, Mar 10, Mar 16, Mar 20, Apr 21, Apr 29, Apr 30, 2015

Location: Mogerman residence in Springfield, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

**Transcript
being processed**

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:54(1) + 1:51(2) + 2:22(3) + 2:04(4) + 2:21(5) + 1:53(6) + 2:02(7) / 1.9(1) + 1.85(2) + 2.37(3) + 2.07(4) + 2.35(5) + 1.88(6) + 2.03(7) = 14.45 hrs.

Session 1: Early life and career her work as a journalist with the *Illinois Times*

Session 2: Working with Gov. Jim Thompson as assistant press secretary

Session 3: Early years at IHPA and her selection as the Executive Director

Session 4: Efforts in the 1990s to build support for a new home for Lincoln Collection

Session 5: Detailed discussion about the Abraham Lincoln Pres. Museum exhibits

Session 6: Funding, construction and staffing phases for ALPLM

Session 7: Years at ALPL Foundation, opening of museum & recent history of IHPA & ALPLM

Restricted Interview: Access to sessions 6 & 7 for this interview is currently restricted. The interview will be released from restriction and available to the general public after January 1, 2030.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on February 10, 2016.

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

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Abstract

Susan Mogerman, *IHPA Legacy*, HP-A-L-2015-012

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Susan (Strom) Mogerman was born in June 1945, and grew up in South Shore, a suburb of Chicago. She graduated from high school in 1963 and attended the University of Illinois and later the University of Missouri, where she majored in journalism. In 1967 she married Jay Mogerman, and they moved to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky while Jay served a tour in the U.S. Army. By the mid-1970s the couple was living in Springfield. Susan began working for the *Illinois Times* in 1975. From 1983 to 1989 Susan worked in the Governor Jim Thompson administration as an assistant press secretary.

In 1989 the governor asked Mogerman to move to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), an agency that the Thompson administration established in 1985 to oversee Illinois's many historic sites, the Illinois State History Library, Historic Preservation and other activities. The historic library and much of the agency's office space was located underneath the Old state Capitol, in the center of an underground parking lot. Susan became the executive director of IHPA in 1991, and one of the main issues on her plate at that time was the agency's desire to build a new historic library, in part so that the library's extensive Lincoln collection could be properly archived and displayed. Over the next fifteen years Mogerman worked closely with the IHPA Board of Trustees, and especially its chair, Julie Cellini, on that project. Those efforts evolved into what is now the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. The project quickly gained momentum at the close of the Gov. Jim Edgar administration when, in his last year, some \$4.9 million was earmarked to begin planning for a new home for the library, as well as a museum honoring Lincoln. Mogerman left IHPA in 2002, but by 2004 was working for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library was opened in 2004, and the Museum in 2005 to rave reviews. Mogerman talks extensively about her time at the helm of IHPA, and especially about the long process that culminated in the opening of the Library and Museum. Susan died on July 15, 2021.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; Julie Cellini; Gov. Jim Thompson; Gov. George Ryan; Gov. Jim Edgar; Dr. Thomas Schwartz; Bob Coomer; Bill Cellini; Dana Thomas House; Illinois's Old

State Capitol; Judy Baar Topinka, Senator Dick Durbin; Richard Norton Smith; Robert Newtonson; Michael Devine

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