

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Pam Gray

Part of the Illinois State Museum's and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Oral History of Agriculture in Illinois*

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-085

Pam Gray, Director of the Illinois State Fair Museum, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Illinois State Museum's *Oral History of Illinois Agriculture* project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: 8/12/2008

Location: Illinois State Fair

Interview Format: Digital audio / Digital video

Interviewer: Mike Maniscalco, Illinois State Museum

Technical Support: Robert Warren, recording engineer, Illinois State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Mike Maniscalco and Amy Moore

Video Indexed by: James Oliver, Illinois State Museum

Total Pages: 9

Total Time: 0:29 + 0:10 = 0:39 / 0.65 hour

Session 1: Pam Gray talks about the origins of the Illinois State Fair Museum

Session 2: Walking tour of the Illinois State Fair Museum

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 11/20/2009.

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

© 2009 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

Pam Gray, *Agriculture in Illinois*, AIS-V-L-2008-085

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Pam Grey was born on October 18 1953 in Streator, Illinois. She has spent her life in Illinois working for state government in different capacities. Eventually she found herself volunteering for the State Fair in Springfield. The first year she volunteered, she was disappointed by the lack of enthusiasm from the other volunteers. Over the years Pam held different volunteer positions in the State Fair, until she found some old photos of the Fair and pasted them on the wall. This started the ball rolling, and soon she was the Director of the Illinois State Fair Museum. Pam explained that the foundation of the Illinois State Fair is agriculture. In the early years the fair traveled and was used to show off agricultural techniques and accomplishments. Agriculture is still a large portion of the fair, and livestock shows and different competitions take place all week long. Pam explained that all the contests in the early years cost the fair \$900 in prizes. The Fair puts up thousands of dollars annually for blue ribbon winners.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Streator, IL; State Government; Volunteer; Illinois State Fair; Illinois State Fair Museum; Agriculture; Livestock; Competition

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