

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with William (Tony) Sunderman

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar Oral History project

Interview # ISG-A-L-2009-018

Tony Sunderman, a Charleston, Illinois lawyer and childhood and lifelong friend of Governor Jim Edgar, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Jim Edgar* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 21st, 2009 Location: Brainard Law offices, Charleston, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

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

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Mike Czaplicki and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 29 Total Time: 1:31 / 1.52

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

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Abstract

William ‘Tony’ Sunderman, *Illinois Statecraft*, ISG-A-L-2009-018

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: William Anthony ‘Tony’

Sunderman was born and raised in Charleston, Illinois. Tony described Charleston as an idyllic community in which to grow up. He first met Jim Edgar (later the governor of Illinois) in 3rd grade when both attended the University of Illinois Lab School. (This was shortly after Edgar’s father had died in a car accident.) They grew up in the same neighborhood, and attended school all the way through their college years in Eastern Illinois University. Tony shared his memories of Jim Edgar while growing up, of their days in the University’s lab school, of Jim’s early interest in politics, and of the many class offices for which Jim always ran. While in college, both Tony and Jim worked for Cavins and Bayles, a clothing store that catered to the college crowd. It was there that Edgar first saw and met Brenda Smith, his future wife.

Sunderman graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1968, and attended Law School at the University of Illinois Law School for two months, then enlisted in the Illinois National Guard, serving with a company of the 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment in Mattoon. Following graduation from law school, and successfully passing the Illinois Bar Exam, Sunderman returned to Charleston and began his law practice. For the next several years, he followed Edgar’s career closely, and helped with various political campaigns in modest ways. Toward the end of Edgar’s administration, the governor asked Sunderman to serve on the state’s Judicial Inquiry Board, which investigated judicial misconduct. Sunderman served on the board from 1998 to 2006, including several years as its chairman. Tony and his wife continue their friendship with Jim and Brenda Edgars to this day.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Jim Edgar; Brenda (Smith) Edgar; Charleston, Illinois; Cavins and Bales clothing store; Southern Illinois University Lab School; Charleston High School; 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment; Illinois Judicial Inquiry Board

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