

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Fred Huddlestun

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Agriculture in Illinois Oral History project

Interview #AI-A-L-2011-040

Fred Huddlestun, a farmer who has served on the Jasper County School Board, a district struggling with financial and attendance challenges, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Agriculture in Illinois – School District Reorganization* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: 9/7/2011 Location: Newton, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPLM Volunteer

Transcription by: Jan Droegkamp, ALPL Volunteer

Edited by: Patty Maynor and Rozanne Flatt, ALPL Volunteers

Total Pages: 12 Total Time: 38.55/ 0.65 hours

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

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Abstract

Fred Huddlestun

Agriculture in Illinois

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Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Fred Huddlestun was born September 23rd, 1957 in Mattoon, Illinois. He graduated from Newton High School in 1975. He operates a large grain and cattle farm in Yale, Illinois, and is married with three children. Huddlestun has been a member of the Jasper County School Board since 1995, and has also served as board president since 1997. The Jasper County School District was created in 1971 when Fred was in 8th grade. At the time of the interview it served 1400 students, and covered a 462 mile area. In the late 2000s the district reduced the number of attendance centers due to financial constraints. The Jasper County school district went from ten schools down to four. At the time of the interview, the district had never passed a school referendum. Challenges for the district include finances, transportation, building up keep, and declining student enrollment.

Subject Headings/Key Words: school consolidation and reorganization; school transportation and bussing; school attendance centers; school referenda; Newton, Illinois; Jasper County, Illinois; St. Marie, Illinois

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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