

## **Title Page & Abstract**

An Interview with Charles Lockhart, Jr.

Interview #: SAA-A-D-2004-024

Conducted by the Springfield African-American History Foundation  
For the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Springfield, Illinois native Charles Lockhart, Jr. played in the Feitshans High School band and in the Colored Municipal Band. He was a member of the Navy Band while in the service. Returning from the Navy, he first worked for Allis-Chalmers and then joined the police department in June of 1951, as their first black uniformed officer.

Interview date(s):	April 8, 2004
Interview Location:	Springfield, Illinois
Interview Format:	audio cassette
Interviewer:	Jackie Wilkes
Transcription by:	The Tape Transcription Center
Edited by:	Cheryl Pence
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Interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential  
Library in Springfield, Illinois.

## Abstract

### Charles Lockhart, Jr. Springfield African-American History Foundation Project

**Biographical Information and Synopsis:** Charles Lockhart, Jr. was born on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 1927. He attended Lincoln Grade School and Feitshans High School. He discusses learning to play the saxophone and playing in the school band in high school, as well as playing in the Springfield Colored Municipal Band, which was founded by his friend, Josh Douglas. He talks about discriminatory business owners – the owner of the Quality Dairy would sell ice cream cones to black children but they could not eat them in the store.

Charles joined the Navy before he graduated from high school so he would not be drafted by the Army. In the Navy, he continued his love of music by playing in the Navy band, playing with and bunking with John Coltrane, who later became one of jazz music's greats. After the Navy Charles worked at Allis-Chalmers, and then went to work for the police department in June of 1951, where he was the first black uniformed officer. He later became director of police-community relations. Charles married his wife, Barbara while on a leave of absence from the police department, working for the Illinois Human Relations Department.

**Topics Covered:** Springfield, Illinois, 1920s – present; Quality Dairy; Josh Douglas; Luther Banks; John Coltrane; Black Egyptians; U.S. Navy Band; Springfield Colored Municipal Band; Allis-Chalmers; Springfield Police Department

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