

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Ellis Vanderpool

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

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-057

Ellis Vanderpool, an orchard owner and apiary operator near Arenzville, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's and IL State Museum's *Agriculture in Illinois* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 15, 2008

Location: Arenzville IL

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Michael Maniscalco, IL State Museum

Technical Support: camera, Dr. Robert Warren, IL State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Michael Maniscalco and Dennis Sweatman

Video indexed by: James Oliver

Total Pages: 25 Total Time: 1hr + 19 min / 1.32 hrs

Session 1: An orchard owner and apiary operator talks about beekeeping

Session 2: A walking tour of Vanderpool's beehives

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 07/29/2009.

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

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Abstract

Ellis Vanderpool, *Agriculture in Illinois*, Oral History project
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Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Ellis Vanderpool was born on June 30, 1932 in Salt River Missouri, the son of Norman and Edith Vanderpool. Ellis' father was absent during his childhood, and he and his mother moved to Arenzville Illinois, where his mother remarried. His mother and stepfather ran a diversified farm that produced food for the family and a little to sell in the market.

Ellis served in the U.S. Army and is a veteran of the Korean war. After the war he moved to Springfield where he was a Fiat-Allis dealer. After 33 years as a farm implement dealer, Vanderpool moved back to Arenzville and bought a 38.7 acre orchard near where he grew up. Ellis grew apples, peaches, and strawberries on a smaller scale. Instead of picking the fruit and bringing them to market, he opened his orchards to the public as a 'pick your own' operation.

Ellis' orchard business led him into honey production as well. This business grew from just a few hives to over 160 at its peak. Eventually, Vanderpool found honey production more profitable than marketing the fruit from his orchards. With this notion, he built a certified honey shed. He discusses the impact of government policies toward apiaries, explaining that the government policies for farmers often do not apply to apiarists.

Topics Covered: Salt River, Missouri; Arenzville, Illinois; Korean War; Fiat-Allis; apple and peach orchards; Apiary and honey production; CCD (colony collapse disease); Foul Brood; government farm subsidies; government agriculture programs; Certified Honey House; Farmers Markets

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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