

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Norm Wymbs
Redacted Interview
Part of the Dixon Historic Center's
Ronald Reagan Oral History project

Interview # ISR-V-D-2012-059

Norm Wymbs is the founder of the Dixon Historic Center. He was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Dixon Historic Center's *Ronald Reagan* Oral History project.

Interview dates & locations:

Date: May 2, 2012 Location: Dixon Historic Center

Interview Format: Digital Video

Interviewer: Ann Lewis

Technical Support (cameraman, etc.): Jerry Knox, Dixon Historic Center

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Transcript being
processed

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:23 / 1.42 hrs

Redacted Interview: Portions of this interview are currently redacted. This interview will be released in full and available to the general public after January 1, 2026.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 30, 2015.

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

Abstract

Norm Wymbs, *Ronald Reagan*, ISR-V-D-2012-059

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Norm Wymbs was born in New Jersey in 1923 and grew up in Virginia after moving there at the age of five. Norm is one of the founders of the Dixon Historic Center in Dixon, Illinois. He quickly gained an interest in Ronald Reagan from an early age due to the similarities in the architecture of both their houses as well the school buildings. Following his service in World War II, Dixon became a neutral ground for Norm and his fiancé because when they were dating they used Lowell Park as a meeting place for her family to meet Norm. After that, Dixon and Ronald Reagan became a large part of Norm's life. Norm first met Ronald Reagan when he was in Boca Raton, Florida. Reagan needed to get to Jacksonville, Florida for a General Electric Tour, and Norm was able to help get Reagan to his destination in exchange for an interview for Norm's "Game of Politics" article. When Reagan announced that he was going to run for the presidency in 1976, Norm requested to be a part of his campaign committee. Norm became close to Reagan during his time on his campaign and knows quite a bit about his personal life. Norm discusses the Reagan children and the emotional distance they had from Ronald Reagan. Norm also discusses a variety of things from Reagan's past such as horseback camping trips, snacks that the president liked to have in the oval office, and other anecdotes about the president. The Dixon Historic Center, for which Norm is one of the founders, was an old school building and was purchased for \$500.00 and remodeled into the center that it is today.

Subject Headings/Keywords: Dixon Historic Center; Citizens for Reagan Committee; Lowell Park; Boca Raton, FL; Game of Politics; Goldwater; Gerald Ford; Republican National Committee; Reagan's children; Reagan Home; Walgreen Family; Great Depression

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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