

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Edward VanDrunen

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

Interview # AIS-V-L-2008-056

Edward VanDrunen owner of herb farms and processing/marketing plants, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Oral History of Illinois Agriculture project of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and the Illinois State Museum.

Interview dates & location:

Date: June 17, 2008 Location: Momence, Illinois

Interview Format: Digital video

Interviewer: Michael Maniscalco, Illinois State Museum

Technical Support: Robert Warren, recording engineer, Illinois State Museum

Transcription by: Tape Transcription Center, Boston, MA

Edited by: Michael Maniscalco and Amy Moore, Illinois State Museum

Video indexed by: James Oliver, Illinois State Museum

Total Pages: 23 Total Time: 1:20 + 1:00 / 1.33 hrs + 1.0 hrs = 2.33 hrs

Session 1: The evolution of a family farm to a major herb producer

Session 2: Walking tour of the herb farm, processing plant and warehouse

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on 11/202009.

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

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Abstract

Edward VanDrunen, *Oral History of IL Agriculture*, AIS-V-L-2008-056

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Edward VanDrunen was born on May 20, 1936 in South Holland, Illinois. Edward's grandparents were immigrants from Holland in the middle 1800's and settled in the South Holland area, which was a Dutch enclave at that time. The farm he grew up on included cattle, swine, and a variety of crops. During Ed's father's era the farm turned most of its operations over to chives and onion production. As a youth, VanDrunen took several trips with his father and grandfather to the Chicago food markets.

VanDrunen has changed the focus of the farm from just chives and onions to over twenty different herbs. The farm also has three production plants where both the herbs and outside produce are freeze dried, drum dried, air dried, or infused. Ed has made his farm into a world wide business, supplying and purchasing products from Japan, Chile, and many other countries.

Subject Headings/Key Words: South Holland, IL; Immigrants; Holland; 1800's; Dutch Enclave; Church Services; Chive Production; Onion Production; Chicago Food Markets; Herb Production; Production Plants; Dried Herbs; World Wide Business; Japan; Chile

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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