

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with David Bourland

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Thompson Oral History project

Interview # IST-A-L-2014-015

David Bourland, curator of the Illinois state executive mansion for many years, and a close friend of Governor Jim Thompson, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Illinois Statecraft – Gov. Thompson* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: May 29, 2014 Location: Illinois State Executive Mansion, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 2:12 / 2.2 hrs.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on June 25, 2014.

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

Transcript
being processed

© 2014 Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Abstract

David Bourland, *Illinois Statecraft*, IST-A-L-2014-015

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: David Bourland was born in March, 1953 in Springfield, Illinois, and grew up in the John Hay Homes project just blocks from the state capitol. He attended Springfield public schools, and graduated from Lanphier High School in 1971. By 1972 he had enlisted in the United States Air Force, receiving training in avionics. He served in various locations in the United States, and in 1973 was stationed at Korat Air Force Base in Thailand. By 1975 he was back in the United States, stationed at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois. He was discharged the following year, and took advantage of the G.I. Bill by attending classes at Lincoln Land College and later at Sangamon State University. In 1976 he began working at his step-father's store, Winchester Framing Company, purchasing the business in 1980.

Bourland first met Jim Thompson in 1976 while Thompson was running for governor for the first time. The two immediately formed a friendship based on their shared passion for art and antiques. Shortly after Thompson was elected, he asked Bourland over to the executive mansion, where the two toured the building and jointly assessed the art and furnishings. During the years that followed, Governor Thompson frequently asked Bourland for advice, and often brought him along as the Governor visited new venues for art and architecture. Those items the two acquired were typically paid for by the Executive Mansion Association. In 1983 Bourland was hired to work at the mansion as the curator, and he continued to work closely with the governor on their shared passion. In 1988 Bourland moved to Chicago to assist Thompson on furnishing the new State of Illinois Building, a period of time when Bourland's duties were steadily increasing, including accompanying Thompson on several foreign trips.

During the Jim Edgar administration Bourland worked for Secretary of State George Ryan, and when Ryan became Governor in January, 1999 Bourland once again became the mansion curator. He was still in this position at the time of this interview in 2014, having seen the mansion go through a succession of governors, and many tough fiscal years for Illinois.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Illinois state executive mansion; Gov. Jim Thompson; Executive Mansion Foundation; Gov. Jim Edgar; Gov. George Ryan; Gov. Rod Blagojevich; Du Quoin state fairgrounds; state of Illinois building – Chicago (now the James R. Thompson Center); antique collection; Winchester Framing Company

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.

COPYRIGHT

The following material can be used for educational and other non-commercial purposes without the written permission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. "Fair use" criteria of Section 107 of the Copyright Act of 1976 must be followed. These materials are not to be deposited in other repositories, nor used for resale or commercial purposes without the authorization from the Audio-Visual Curator at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, 112 N. 6th Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. Telephone (217) 785-7955