

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Tom Shaw

Part of the Dixon Historic Center's
Ronald Reagan Oral History project

Interview # ISR-V-D-2010-072

Tom Shaw was the president of Shaw Media and he discusses the press coverage that Ronald Reagan received during his election years as well as during his presidency. 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 2010 Location: Dixon Historic Center

Interview Format: Digital Video

Interviewer: Josh Albrecht, Dixon 'Main Street'

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

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 30 min / 0.5 hrs

Transcript being
processed

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

Tom Shaw, *Ronald Reagan*, ISR-V-D-2010-072

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Tom Shaw was born in 1948 in Dixon, Illinois and was raised in Grand Detour, Illinois. At the time of the interview he was president of Shaw Media, and was the general manager of the Dixon Telegraph during Ronald Reagan's campaign in 1980. He recounts stories of how the press and the general public handled Reagan's campaigns and eventual election. Tom recalls that in the summer of 1980 he ran into a seller of encyclopedias who had already printed an edition showing Ronald Reagan winning the election. The confidence that the nation felt of Reagan's pending election was prevalent, especially throughout Dixon and the rest of Illinois. Shaw was chosen as an alternate delegate for the convention in 1980 after the primary elections. After Reagan won the presidency, Shaw put out a special edition of the Dixon Telegraph that was a tribute to "Dutch." There is an image of the president reading that special edition in the oval office. Shaw goes on to discuss Reagan and his legacy, not only for the nation but also for Dixon itself. He portrays Reagan as, "one of the two greatest presidents of the US."

Subject Headings/Keywords: Shaw Media in Illinois and Iowa ; John Birch Society; columnist; Dixon *Telegraph*; 1980 Convention; Norman Wymbs; Lowell Park, Dixon, Illinois; Alzheimer's disease; Jim Burke; Mikhail Gorbachev

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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