

# Brimfield

## Oral

## History

## Project



### Steve Howe

Interviewed on 28 October 2021

Steve was born deaf; therefore, Angie Sander participated in the interview as a volunteer sign language interpreter. Steve has lived his entire life in Brimfield, except when attending school.

**Biographical Information and Summary of Interview:** Steve Howe was born 30 August 1947 to Lloyd (1907-1971) and Ida Pemble (1912-2000) Howe. Steve had 6 brothers and 1 sister: Betty, Everett, William, Donald, Melvin, and Gary. Steve was born with cerebral palsy and as a result is deaf. In this interview, he shares some of his life events including his education, some work history, and when the community built him a new house. In addition, the interview shares information about Steve's grandfather Harlan Pemble who travelled with his Merry Go Round, worked for the Brimfield Telephone Company and was chief of the Brimfield Fire Department.

#### Time Stamp for Major Topics:

- 2:03 Parents Lloyd and Ida Pemble Howe and family
- 3:31 Maternal Grandparents Harlan and Clara Pemble, Merry Go Round
- 4:58 Brimfield Telephone Company-Harlan Pemble
- 6:28 Brimfield Fire Chief-Harlan Pemble
- 8:50 Steve growing up, education
- 11:50 Illinois School for the Deaf
- 16:17 Post high school
- 17:13 Working at Crockers 66 Service Station
- 19:35 St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- 23:33 Brimfield High School basketball 50/50 drawing
- 24:59 Community builds Steve a new house
- 30:04 Sign language on porch railing
- 30:51 Bicycle as transportation
- 35:13 Video Phone with Interpreter
- 40:08 Closing. "Brimfield is my hometown."

#### Topics Covered/Key Words:

- ASL: American Sign Language
- Caterpillar
- Grandparents: Harlan and Clara Pemble, Brimfield residents
- Pemble Merry-Go-Round
- Brimfield Telephone Company
- Brimfield Fire Department
- Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD), Jacksonville, IL
- Vocational Training School in St. Louis, MO
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Brimfield, IL and Pastor Michael Liese
- Crockers Phillips 66 Station, Brimfield, IL

Roger Kepple, Brimfield Insurance  
Larry Heinz  
Ed DeVries  
Sherman's Pharmacy, Brimfield, IL  
Video Phone (with Interpreter)

**Interview Format:**

Zoom with mp3/mp4 & closed caption transcription or digital video or digital audio or other. Additional Slide presentation.

**Interviewer:** Kim Claybaugh Hanks

**Total Time:** 41:32

The interview is archived at the Brimfield Public Library District in Brimfield, Illinois.

The Brimfield Oral History Project is a long-term effort to record the stories of Brimfield's past in the voices of those who remember and make these original sources available for generations to come. This collaboration is a partnership between Brimfield Public Library District, Brimfield Area Historical Society, and the Peoria County Genealogical Society.

Readers of interview transcript, if available, should bear in mind that this is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, interviewee, and editors sought to preserve the interview as recorded. Brimfield Public Library District and project volunteers are not responsible for the factual accuracy of this interview, nor for the opinions expressed within.

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