

Brimfield

Oral

History

Project



William “Bill” Minor

Interviewed on 11 March 2022

Biographical Information and Summary of Interview:

Bill Minor was born in 1941 to William D and Lillian (Fristoe) Minor Sr. He grew up in Brimfield, Illinois during the 1940s and 1950s. He attended Brimfield Grade and High Schools. In 1962 he married, Jana Miars. They lived and raised their family of four children in Brimfield. Bill’s dad, Bill Sr was a businessman in town and owned and operated Brimfield Motor Company. He sold Case Tractors, Dodge vehicles and Parker wagons during the 1940s until his retirement in 1973. Bill Jr worked in his father’s business from high school until his father’s retirement. He went on to work for Caterpillar Tractor Co., Peoria, IL and Waste Management Corp., Oak Brook, IL. Bill Jr. talks about growing up in Brimfield and life around town and his father’s business.

Time Stamp for major topics:

Introduction

01:33 Origin Story – Birth and Parents

03:58 Cady’s Grocery Store

10:36 School Days

18:08 Old Settlers

22:12 Dungan Auto Sales

35:07: World War II – Draft and Service

44:18 Brimfield Motor Company

55:53 Brimfield Volunteer Fire Department

Topics Covered/Key Words:

William “Bill” Minor, Sr

Lillian (Fristoe) Minor

Cady’s Grocery Store

Kaiser-Frazer cars

Lucky’s Grill

Exchange State Bank

Hal Cady

Brimfield Grade School

Brimfield High School

Dean Johnson

Old Settlers

John Dungan

Chrysler, Dodge, Plymouth automobiles

Brimfield Public Library

John R Minor, rural mail carrier

Robert “Bob” Minor
World War II
Great Lakes Naval Base, Chicago, Illinois
Navy Seabees
Camp Parks, Shoemaker, California
Galesburg, Illinois
Case Tractors, Dodge trucks and Parker wagons
Howard Towne
Claude Merrill
Jack Emery
International Farm Equipment building
Allis-Chalmers
Firestone
Bowman home
Brimfield Tavern
Fire phone
Robert and Peggy (Johnson) Powers
Brimfield Jail

Interview Format:

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

Interviewer: Diane Minor

Total Time: 1:05:54

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

The Brimfield (Illinois) Public Library’s 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 (Illinois) Area Historical Society, and the Peoria County Genealogical Society.

Note to Reader: 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 volunteers are not responsible for the factual accuracy of this interview, nor for the opinions expressed within.

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