

Interviewer: Joshua D. Koenig

### INTERVIEW AND TAPE SUMMARY

Name: LELAND AMBUEHL Leland Ambuehl

Date and Place of Birth: 5-28-22 Highland, IL

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Interview Date, Time, and Place: 10-28-01 3:45 PM [REDACTED]

Interview Summary (attach additional sheets, as needed):

Mr. Ambuehl's interview discusses his life, and its relation to  
Granite City and more specifically Lincoln Place.  
Topics covered include: childhood, World War II, overseas adoption,  
ethnic life, Lincoln Place, The Lincoln Athletic Club, politics,  
and other various subjects.

Note any special circumstances involving the interview:

### Biographical Summary of Leland Ambuehl

Leland Ambuehl was born in Highland, Illinois in 1922. Leland's mother was a homemaker, and his father performed many occupations involving retail sales, such as a hardware store manager. When Leland was about twelve years old, his parents divorced. He and his family lived in Highland until his sophomore year in high school. His family then moved to Granite City, Illinois where he completed his high school career.

It was here in Granite City, that Leland met his future wife LeVanka. Leland was introduced to the neighborhood of Lincoln Place through one of his friends. Leland attended one of the neighborhood dances with a friend, and fell in love with his future bride. After high school, Leland took a job with Granite City Steel, and then shortly after, began working for Bell Telephone. When the Granite City Engineer Depot opened, Leland settled down into a position until he was drafted into the Army.

When Leland was drafted into the Army, he was sent to the Arkansas State College in Jonesboro, in order to learn clerical skills. His occupation within the Army was work with aircraft maintenance and flight plans. Leland was stationed at several bases around the country, and then ultimately spent his last thirteen months in Italy. One month after he was discharged from the Army, Leland and his new wife LeVenka were married in Granite City, Illinois. The two moved to the neighborhood of Lincoln Place, where with the help of LeVenka's father and brothers, they built the house in which they still live today. In 1959, the Ambuehls flew to Macedonia and adopted two children, a boy and a girl.

After the war, Leland returned to work with the Granite City Engineer Depot. He later took a job with the government, and remained there until he retired in 1982. In retirement, Leland is still very active. Currently, he is employed as a Granite City police commissioner. He

was elected to this position two terms ago. Leland is also a member of the Lincoln Athletic Club. This organization is an athletic based organization to foster the growth of children. In the past, Leland had been in charge of the baseball team. As of late, he has been the organization's secretary.

Leland is still involved with the Lincoln athletic club. Aside from his role in the club, his position as police commissioner, and spending time with his family, Leland and his wife LeVanka are active members within their church. Much of their free time is spent there. Leland is very content with the way in which his life has turned out. He has stated that moving to Lincoln Place was the best thing that he could have done. Retirement is keeping him busy, and he is having fun enjoying life.