

## ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

**MAIN ENTRY:** McCathern, Gerald

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** March 23, 2010

**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Littlefield, Texas

**INTERVIEWER:** Andy Wilkinson

**FORMAT:** File on Server

**IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:**

**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 2 hours 52 minutes

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** Gerald McCathern, a veteran of the U. S. Army, studied at Texas Tech and majored in Geology. He made a career farming with his brother and father and became a member of the American Agriculture Movement. He participated in the Tractorcade protests.

### ABSTRACT:

#### FILE

#### TIME STAMP

Background	0:00
In the Army	
Enrolled at Texas Tech	
Met his wife in Lubbock, Texas	
Life after graduating	0:12
Conflicts finding employment	
Farming with his family	
National Farmers Organization	
Experiences with American Agriculture Movement	
Farm Strike	0:22
Tractor route	
Gaining notoriety	
Political meetings	
Conflicts with the Farm Act	

Other issues with Agriculture	0:38
Income and loans	
Price controls and debt	
Experiences advocating	
Working for Department of Agriculture	
Conflicts with work and family	
Reasons for leaving	
Washington, D.C.	0:50
Meeting with congressmen	
Reasons for striking	
Telling their story	
Conflicts with politicians	
Running for congress	
Life after Washington	1:00
Issues losing the bill	
Planning another trip to Washington	
Bringing more tractors	
Other recollections	1:10
Conflicts in some states	
Experiences on the road	
Issues with highway patrol	
Violence from police	1:32
Arrests being made	
Acts of violence	
Other conflicts	1:46
Delayed from leaving	
Snow storm	
Health conditions	
Farmers acting out	
Conflicts with meetings	
Issues with other organizations	
Meeting Congressmen	2:00
Meeting President Jimmy Carter	
Getting congressmen on board	
Uncooperative congressmen	
Other recollections	2:10
Talking to George Bush	
Working for the Secretary of Agriculture	
Experiences with public speakers	

Having his daughter on the road with him

More about the Tractorcade 2:30

News stations and media helping

His sons input in the Tractorcade

Family taking care of the farm

McAllen Protests 2:40

Going to McAllen, Texas

Bad meat and vegetables coming from Mexico

Conflicts with Police

**DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT:** 1926

**GENDER OF INFORMANT:** Male

**ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT:**