

ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

MAIN ENTRY: Geeslin, Mark

DATE OF INTERVIEW: June 23, 2005

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Jayton, Texas

INTERVIEWER: David Marshall

FORMAT: File on Server

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 1:36

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE: Mark Geeslin talks about his early life and education in West Texas, his service overseas in World War II, and his career as a county extension agent and county judge in Kent County, Texas.

ABSTRACT:

CD ONE	TIME STAMP
Introduction	00:00
Background	
Family history	
Living in Stephenville, Texas	
Father's interest in dairy business	
Chores on the farm as a boy	
Living on the edge of town	
Agricultural activities	
Future Farmers of America	0:10
President of FFA	
Qualifying for ranks	
Boy Scouts of America	
Activities while in Boy Scouts	
Religious background	
Influences in life	
High School graduation and enlistment	
Going overseas with the military	0:20

Belgium during WWII	
Heavy combat in Germany	
Units in World War II	
Worms, Germany	
Thoughts of death during the war	
Bitter feelings towards German soldiers	
Liberation of concentration camps	
Piles of bodies found	0:30
Reactions from camp survivors	
Ending of WWII	
Assisting in burials	
The war's affect	
Work as a military police	
Discharge from the military	
Life after the war	
Finishing college	
Moving to Dallas, Texas	0:40
Work as a lab assistant at a dairy	
Becoming an instructor in Arkansas	
Early aspirations	
County agent in Graham, Texas	
Agriculture emphasis in Graham, Texas	
Beginnings of the 4-H Club	
Seaman A. Knapp and the Porter Farm	
Moving to Kent County in Texas	
Drought in 1952	
Mineral deficiencies in cattle	
Public blame as a county agent	0:50
Boll weevil problems	
Field work done by county agents	
Cotton production in Kent County, Texas	
Changes in Kent County	
Wildlife management more important	
Beef production	
Land usage	1:00
Reasons for population decline	
Migrant labor	
Minority families in Kent County, Texas	
Changes in Mesquite growth	
Intensity of dust storms over the last 50 years	
Voting to move county seat	1:10
Challenging the vote	
County seat move to Jayton, Texas	
Courthouse burned down	
School consolidations	
Transition from county extension agent to county judge	1:20

Retiring from county agent
Appointed to county judge
Out of office
Father's death
Elected as county judge by write-in votes
House burned
Memorable events as county judge 1:30
Committee on Aging
Enjoying retirement
Prison ministry
Speaking opportunities
Interview ended

DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT: 1925

GENDER OF INFORMANT: Male

ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT: