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McCANN

McCANN, KEVIN

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OPEN

Member, staff of General Eisenhower, 1946-51; Special Assistant and Consultant to the President, 1953-61.

DESCRIPTION – Interview #1: First meeting with DDE; George Allen and DDE's early interest in acquiring a farm; McCann's first visit to the Gettysburg farm in 1952; description of the farm at that time; 1964 campaign film made at the farm for Barry Goldwater; DDE's interest in the Battle of Gettysburg and the vicinity of Gettysburg; DDE experiences during World War II; Field Marshall Montgomery's visit to the Gettysburg battlefield; the battle; the old schoolhouse and purchase of the land; McCann's move to Gettysburg; visits to the farm during the presidency; 1964 campaign; DDE's writing; working with DDE during the writing of *At Ease* and *Crusade in Europe*; impressions of DDE; disagreements between Robert Patterson, DDE and McCann; DDE's interests; going to Europe with DDE as a civil assistant for NATO; some general observations.

Interview #2: Early association with DDE; working as a research assistant on *Crusade in Europe*; DDE as a writer; following DDE to Columbia and SHAPE; autographed copy of *Crusade*; purchase and remodeling of the Gettysburg farm; Bud Smith; DDE as a complex person; DDE's relationship with his son and grandchildren; the process of writing *At Ease*; stories that edited out of the book; plans for an additional book that was not written; McCann's former residence; McCann's book; description of the house at the farm; staff members; food and dining at the farm; DDE's temperament; continuing association with DDE after the presidency; accepting the position as president of Eisenhower College; golf; DDE and Joseph McCarthy; becoming ill during the 1952 campaign; gifts given to DDE; DDE's paintings; DDE's plans for the farm.

[Eisenhower National Historic Site, interview by Edwin C. Bearss on May 22, 1973; Kathleen Georg, Thomas Harrison, and John Arnold on June 30, 1980]