FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

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Abstract: Joseph P Court

J.P. [Joseph Patrick] Court is a member of the extensive Court family that has lived and been active in Stafford, Texas, since 1919. He was born in 1929 and attended Missouri City schools from 1st grade till graduation. J.P., nicknamed Pistol, excelled in a variety of high school sports. In high school he had a weekend job delivering Mrs. Baird's Bread. After graduation in 1948, he attended Texas A&M Police Academy where he received a degree in criminology in 1953. While an officer in Bellaire, he became the youngest Police Chief in the State of Texas. J.P, and his wife, Betty Sue, married in 1949 and lived the remainder of their lives in Stafford. They had two sons, Ron and Greg.

J.P. Court was 91 years old when he was interviewed specifically for the Missouri City Gymnasium/Landmark Community Center Project. The Center contains a museum that displays many of his personal papers and artifacts. Additional papers and artifacts collected for that Project are housed in the Fort Bend History Association Collections.

10 pages

⇓ Scroll down for Key Words from the Interview. ⇓

Interview Summary

People (in alphabetical order)

J.C. Court, relative who was a year younger
Mr. Shapetta, Missouri City School bus driver
Font Wade, Missouri City Coach
E.A. Jones, Missouri City Coach and High School Principal
Leon Scarcella, Missouri City School Band Director
Leonard Scarcella, Leon's son, J.P.'s cousin, Mayor of Stafford
Betty Sue Wootten Court, Missouri City cheerleader, J.P.'s wife
Kenneth Hall, Sugar Land High School athlete
Charlie Tise, Sugar Land High School athlete
Richard Fogg, Sugar Land High School athlete
E.F. Patton, Missouri City School Superintendent
Darrough family, owners of the cafeteria
Nan Darrough, daughter of the cafeteria owners, 1948 Missouri City graduate
Mr. Cash, brother of Frank Cash, Sr.
Frank Cash, Sr., property owner in Stafford
Frank Cash, Jr., property owner in Stafford
Anthony P. Ruffeno, classmate
Ron Court, son of J.P.
Greg Court, son of J.P.
Gary Summers, Bellaire City Manager
Troy Nehls, Fort Bend County Sheriff
Trever Nehls, Precinct 4 Constable

Places/Businesses

Missouri City Gymnasium/Landmark Community Center
Missouri City High School
St. Joseph's Hospital, Houston, Texas
Stafford, Texas
Sugar Land High School
Sugar Land School Gymnasium
Rice Institute
Pike's Road
Mrs. Baird's Bread Company
Addicks, Texas
Texas A&M University
Bryan/College Station, Texas
Texas A&M Police Academy
Houston Police Academy, Northwestern University
Bellaire, Texas
Fort Bend County Jail

Events

J.P. favorite sports were football and basketball.
The 1948 Senior Prom at Missouri City Gym, where they had a jukebox.

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