

*GOVERNOR'S MANSION
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT*

Interview

with

Gus Graydon

Interviewers:

George Terry and former First Lady Anne Edwards

Date:

October 5, 2000

Location:

Still Hopes Nursing Home, Columbia, S.C.

Topics:

Gus Graydon discusses the Governor's Mansion book project, the role of the Governor's Mansion Commission in acquiring Mansion furnishings, and the evolution of the Mansion complex property.

Transcriber:

Sara S. Repinski

[Tape Begins]

Terry: . . . [your] role with that and your role in terms of the first volume [of the Governor's Mansion book], and your relations with the various first families, because you've known them all since what, Strom Thurmond, Ransome Williams, probably even further back than that.

Graydon: Yes.

Terry: Tell us a little bit.

Graydon: Well . . . fortunately this thing that they are doing over now is going to make it a lot more livable. There was a governor named Olin D. [Johnston], you remember him. His mother-in-law thought she ran the Mansion but. . .

Terry: She had a suite. [?] [Laughter]

Mrs. Edwards: Now Gus, your first association with the Mansion, can you speak to that?

Graydon: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: You had to put up with a lot of first families.

Graydon: I certainly did. [Laughter]. Yes. Mrs. Johnston was kind of a pitiful person.

Mrs. Edwards: She was a what?

Graydon: Pitiful person.

Mrs. Edwards: Yes.

Graydon: But she was smart. She knew a good bit about politics.

Terry: Very partisan.

Graydon: Very partisan, yes.

Mrs. Edwards: Of course you didn't have to worry about being partisan back in his day.

Graydon: No. [Laughter] Now you were the first governor . . .

Mrs. Edwards: First Republican governor.

Graydon: First Republican governor.

Mrs. Edwards: Elected.

Graydon: Elected, yes.

Mrs. Edwards: They tell a joke that Jim [Edwards] has always enjoyed. A very good friend of his, one of the Democrat senators, said "Jim you're the first mistake we've made in a hundred years."
[Laughter]

Terry: One thing I think both of you will be pleased to know, when I met with the Mansion people yesterday, the proceeds from this book will go to the foundation that you all established, Anne, when you all were in office. The earnings will go to buy additional things for the Mansion and for the Lace House and the Boyleston House.

Graydon: Well that's what I had hoped was going to happen.

Mrs. Edwards: That would be nice ongoing money to have coming in.

Graydon: Yes.

Terry: We were debating how many copies we were going to print.

Graydon: How many did you print of the first one that we got out?

Terry: I don't know how many copies we printed the first time, but Walter tells me that within six months it was sold out.

Mrs. Edwards: I think, I am not positive, but seems to me something like five or six thousand, maybe a little bit more.

Terry: And we had talked about five thousand this time, but that does not preclude a second printing.

Graydon: How many pages will there be? That's a nice size book that you [have].

Mrs. Edwards: I just happen to have it with me.

Terry: It will probably be about the same size, Gus. It might be just a little bit larger, because of all the new material that we've been finding and the photos and everything. Plus, every governor since Fritz Hollings has agreed to be on camera. We've done every governor and first lady, so we have a whole lot of new material.

Mrs. Edwards: This is a hundred and twenty-four or twenty-five pages.

Graydon: Yes. That's a nice size.

Terry: Brings back a lot of memories.

Graydon: I'm sure it does.

Terry: Very sweet memories.

Mrs. Edwards: Gus, I think one of the nice things, personally, for me when we were there [at the Mansion] was the fact that we had such a very cohesive Mansion Commission.

Graydon: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: You know, we had Lill[?] Hardy, and she was from Greenville and wonderful. Then Nita Milliken.

Graydon: Nita Milliken was wonderful.

Mrs. Edwards: And she gave us such beautiful gifts, you know the side board . . .

Graydon: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: . . . The ----- [sounds like train; tureen?] table, and rugs, and things like that.

Graydon: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: Then of course Jack Scoville.

Graydon: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: And Fraser Wilson and Patty Whitelaw. And each one brought their own expertise to the Mansion. Wallace Reed was there. My daughter said about you, that she liked your peach basket, because you always used that as your briefcase, and you'd come in with all sorts of treasures in your peach basket. [Laughter]

Terry: And stories about the Mansion long before Governor and Mrs. Edwards ever came to the Mansion. You, had been there many, many times before that.

Graydon: That's right.

Terry: Do you remember the first time you came?

Graydon: I think it was about 1922. The first time I came up there.

Terry: Tell us a little bit about that.

Graydon: Well, we were debating as to what the role of the Mansion should be. And, we didn't have any trouble raising \$25,000 to buy that large . . . it's the Philadelphia piece that's in the main room now. What they did, which I think was a smart thing to do . . . We were down in Charleston -- debating about what to do about Charleston -- and we didn't know what the story was. We bought that piece for \$25,000. It was just a fine piece, and it was in the residence. Some pieces weren't very good. We got rid of those, one way or another.

The one thing that we didn't do though -- I'll see if we can get that done -- is to have, in the Governor's Mansion, another dining room so that you can seat twenty. One of the ways we would get the \$22,000 was we went down and see the Governor, George Bell [Timmerman], and he said, "We'll get the money, don't worry about that." So we did. But I don't like for the Governor's Mansion to not buy that, or, that's one of the things that this will be for. We need to have a Mansion Commission which is not . . . you know where the Governor is living now?

Terry: On Heyward Street? Or. . .

Graydon: Not on Heyward Street, George Bell Timmerman..?

Terry: He'd lived in the Jefferson Hotel didn't he?

Graydon: Yes.

Terry: When they were doing the renovations, I think he and his family moved to the Jefferson Hotel.

Graydon: That's right. They did that. One thing that I would like to do -- I don't know whether this is possible or not, but this is done -- they sent somebody, you probably don't know him well, but do you know George Bell Timmerman?

Terry: I met him a few times.

Graydon: I don't know where the money came from, but it came from some part of the state. I want to make it so that the average citizen . . . you have to be very careful of this because the first thing you know they'll bring your grandmother's old Victorian clock in. [Laughter]

Terry: It's interesting, I don't know what has happened in terms of the Commission, but it seems to me that they are on a very even keel right now in terms of what they will accept and what they won't accept. In fact, in 1978, and Anne, maybe you can help me with this, there was a complete inventory done at the house that's over two thousand pages.

Mrs. Edwards: You know, we went to the White House, and asked Clem[ent] Conger, who was the curator of the White House, how you did an accessions program. [A program in] which you

have an article, and you describe the article, describe who gave it, how much it's worth, whether it's our article or a loan with the location. And then if you move it somewhere you can just change the location and the history of it, the provenance of it. I think that has helped a great deal. And then the Commission had the responsibility to investigate something that was to be a gift to see if, in fact, it was something that we could use, and that we needed, and that we had a history of it. They had a sign-off on it.

Terry: In other words, they served almost as a buffer for what Gus is talking about.

Graydon: That's right.

Terry: Exactly. . .

Graydon: [If someone] wants to give his grandfather's clock . . . But the Mansion has turned out to be pretty good.

Terry: It looks beautiful. I was over there, I guess the last time about two months ago, and they want to have it finished by February.

Graydon: I was going to ask you when you think they'll finish it.

Terry: They probably won't have an opening, but they want to have the book published about the time the Mansion opens, for sales purposes and things of this sort. So the book will probably come out in May, and so we'll be doing the autographing. Remember those over at the pool house?

Graydon: Oh, yeah. [Laughter]

Terry: I don't know how many hours we spent autographing books, but we autographed them. I should be calling you "First Lady," but Anne, do you remember? I cannot remember where

we were when Big Bill Thompson and his wife came in, and we were autographing books somewhere. That wasn't at the pool room was it? We were someplace else.

Mrs. Edwards: Well we did it all around.

Terry: We were downtown somewhere, I think.

Mrs. Edwards: Yes, yes.

Terry: We just autographed away. [Laughter]

Graydon: That's right, that's right.

Terry: Do you remember Lydia?

Graydon: Lydia?

Terry: Yes, she was the driver. I think she worked for SLED.

Mrs. Edwards: She did.

Terry: I've never seen somebody drive as fast as her, but she could drive. We got to the Timmermans' house in about twenty minutes and they lived about forty miles outside of Columbia at the time.

Graydon: That's right, that's right.

Mrs. Edwards: Will there be, do you know, George, if there'll be different editions of this new [Mansion book]? Like we had three editions, you know, the one that was the limited edition and then the hardback and the softback.

Terry: The same thing will happen this time.

Mrs. Edwards: The Superintendent of Education asked for one for every school and every library, which was given before we started selling the books.

Terry: I remember that, I remember that.

Mrs. Edwards: So that may be a consideration when you start to number the number of books.

Terry: Uh-huh. I do believe that there will be the presentation copy and then the hardback copy. The problem we had until yesterday, we did not have a designer for the book. And now we have a designer, Mary Arnold [Garvin]. I don't know if you know her, but she is very good.

Graydon: Who is she?

Terry: Mary Arnold [Garvin], and Mary Arnold is . . .

Graydon: Where is she from? Is she handy?

Terry: She's actually from Columbia, and she does all of our publications for the Library, *Ex Libris* and things like that. She's very, very good.

Graydon: Good.

Terry: She said that for the amount of money that we are talking about spending for this, she thought we could probably do many more than five thousand. So we'll just have to play that by ear.

Graydon: We didn't have any trouble getting rid of them.

Terry: No, they were rare books within six months. Seriously, they were rare books within six months.

Mrs. Edwards: Which may have some bearing on how many you print, because I, even today, get requests for one of these books.

Terry: Talking about the last time that I saw you in the Governor's Mansion before we started doing this history, I was wondering, do you remember the last time you were in the Governor's Mansion, Gus?

Graydon: I spent the night up there. I had a room to myself upstairs. I was not too well, and I spent the night up there sometimes. There's a bedroom upstairs, a little small bedroom.

Terry: Who was Governor at the time?

Graydon: The Governor was, I started to say George Bell Timmerman. It was George Bell. They are changing that room, to a nice bedroom. You know the room I am talking about that's upstairs?

Mrs. Edwards: Upstairs?

Graydon: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: I'm not sure which room.

Terry: One thing that I think is showing you how times have changed -- and you helped change the times a good bit, both of you -- they're building two offices in the Mansion now, one for the First Lady, and one for the Governor. Or vice versa depending on who gets elected for a term. Back then there was only the one office, that little office that you had back off to the side and the governor pretty much his work in the office.

Mrs. Edwards: That's right.

Terry: So, I think that's a sign of the times, to have two offices, because both of you work full-time jobs. You don't get paid a salary being first lady or first husband, depending on what happens, but you do work full-time.

Mrs. Edwards: You know, you certainly do, and it's good to have an adequate office and place in which to operate.

I think that one of the interesting things about Gus, is the fact that, had he not made himself available and been so knowledgeable of not only the history of South Carolina but the history of the people of South Carolina. He was able to, even though there weren't living governors, I believe -- George, correct me if I'm wrong -- I think you were able to contact a relative of Ben[jamin Ryan] Tillman . . .

Graydon: Oh, yes.

Mrs. Edwards: . . . Out in California, do you remember that? And numerous people that would not have been available to us had he not known their connection . . .

Terry: Right.

Mrs. Edwards: . . . when you get through the living governors and their families and then you have to look for auxiliary people, and Gus knew all those people.

Terry: Right.

Graydon: The private fountain [?]; it's a wonderful thing to have it on a night.

Mrs. Edwards: It's beautiful.

Graydon: Yes, it's beautiful. And that came from Mrs. Boyleston's house. She was getting old, and she [got out of the house?] and owned her house in ----- [Pennsylvania?]. And she had -- I don't know where that is -- but she had a, what do you call one of these things that . . . a lady . . . It was quite a sight on Main Street to have Mrs. Boyleston come down in front of [attention?] and she was quite a lady.

Mrs. Edwards: We acquired that house during the time we were there. And Gus you were so instrumental, because at that same time we acquired the rest of that block, which is . . .

Terry: The complex now.

Mrs. Edwards: Yes, the complex now. And went and tried to have that street closed.

Terry: I remember so well one interview. I'd never met a man so genteel, I guess would be the word, Mr. Manning. He was a wonderful person.

Graydon: Who?

Terry: Mr. Manning, was it Richard Manning?

Graydon: Richard I. Manning [III]

Terry: Okay, and he had lived there during the First World War, I believe.

Graydon: Yes.

Terry: And was just a very gentle, urbane gentleman. Did he own Heathwood Hall?

Mrs. Edwards: I think they did.

Graydon: They did, they did.

Terry: Okay.

Graydon: They tore it down.

Terry: I remember the Richards sisters. [daughters? of Gov. John G. Richards]

Mrs. Edwards: Oh, remember all the Richards sisters?

Graydon: Yes.

Terry: That's one of the hardest things, because we did not have some the things that we take for granted today in terms of technology. I still have the tapes of the Richards sisters and trying to get them all to sit down at one time instead of running around the mansion was a difficult thing. So, we have bits and pieces of what they said. But they were something.

Graydon: My [Marguerite?] is ninety-four, or older than that. She played the piano for concerts for the girls in the Mansion. They got a big bang out of that, going back up there.

Terry: Now you were a frequent guest for just about all the first families, from about the twenties on. What do you remember most about the Edwardses? Because you were like the key figure in terms of the, I would call it the governance of the Mansion, I don't think that's overstatement. You were like the conscience of the Governor's Mansion in terms of the custodian of the history. What do you remember most about the Edwardses?

Graydon: Well the Edwardses were a great surprise. I was shocked at this . . . but she fitted herself in.

Mrs. Edwards: I made it all right? [Laughter]

Graydon: You never know how things are going to [work out]. We had two kind of ugly chandeliers in the hall and they also had. . . I said the thing to do was to get the state plane and take the whole bunch, the Commission, down to New Orleans. And I called on the telephone, and I figured it would cost about \$12,500. They would be put back in, one in the, are you familiar with the one that's in the . . .

Mrs. Edwards: The living room?

Graydon: The living room.

Mrs. Edwards: The large drawing room?

Graydon: No, we had one in . . .

Mrs. Edwards: That was the Pickens one, wasn't it, that was in the small dining room?

Graydon: No, it was from Philadelphia, [down there?]

Mrs. Edwards: In the small drawing room?

Graydon: Yes.

Terry: When I think of the Mansion when the Edwardses were there, I think about some the guests that came, and I am sure you were there for a lot of those events too. Anne, do you remember some of the things in terms of some of the people that came to visit?

Mrs. Edwards: One of the people was President [Gerald] Ford, and Gus told me that he was the first sitting president to come visit the Mansion since [Franklin D.] Roosevelt.

Graydon: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: Roosevelt had been there, and I think he was there when the Johnstons were there.

Graydon: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: Then we had, Reagan was there. We had President Samozza there from Nicaragua. We had Lowell Thomas there, and that evening he stood up -- we didn't want to impose on him -- but he stood up and talked about all of his travels at dinner that evening. It was just fascinating to have him talk. Then for the Bicentennial we had General [William] Westmoreland and we had Martha Rae and Celeste Holme. We had a big 1976 celebration.

Graydon: I was worried about something. There was talk of turning Heathwood into the Governor's Mansion. That would have been a big mistake I think.

Mrs. Edwards: That's right.

Terry: And that happened during your term?

Mrs. Edwards: It was in such terrible condition that there was discussion about what to do with it. But, it was just a rumor. Gus put that to bed in a hurry. [*laughter*]

Terry: Gus, I interviewed Willie Brown [former Head Butler at the Mansion] a few weeks ago, and he told me to tell you "hi." He remembers you very fondly.

Graydon: How is he?

Terry: He's doing fine. It is one of these things that when you think back about our project, I never forget the day you told me that, because it was the first time I'd ever had lunch at the Governor's Mansion, first time I'd ever been in the Governor's Mansion. I dropped some broccoli on my lap. And Willie kind of reached down and picked it up and put it off to the side in another dish, and I told you about it afterward. I told you how embarrassed I was because I was very nervous, and you said, "Well, you've got to understand most of the people that work in the Mansion are from CCI [spell this out in brackets] and they're on loan, in other words, they are trustees. One of the most touching stories I ever heard was when Governor . . . who was it? [Ibra Charles] Blackwood, the one who had on the Christmas tree all the pardons.

Mrs. Edwards: Yes.

Terry: That's right, and to me that was just as touching as could be. All of those people are some of best people I have ever known in my life. Willie Brown, and Maxie [?], a bunch of the folks that worked at the Mansion are just very, very nice.

Graydon: I was telling you the story of [what's] presently going on [up there?]. And they took John C.D.[?] Smith's house, and they are living in that now.

Terry: Really?

Graydon: They are living in that . . . I think she would be very amenable doing it, its a nice house.

Terry: We're going to cut this part out because I want to ask you a couple of questions, if you guys remember these. The most difficult interview for me, and I don't know if you remember this Anne. You and Gus sent me over to see Mr. [William?] Workman after the first one because I was so nervous doing my first interview. You all told me to go see him to get some pointers on how to do interviews, and he gave me some good advice. The hardest one for me was the first Mrs. Hollings. I don't know, she was so, I don't know how to put it, uptight or . . .

Graydon: [not Hollings]

[Tape 1, Side 2]

Terry: . . . The camera's off, don't worry about it. And I promise all that other stuff will be cut out too.

Mrs. Edwards: I guess things like that fade in your memory. Virginia. . .

[Tape cuts off and restarts]

Mrs. Edwards: Another interesting factor, you asked me to secure some pictures, and I have lots of pictures. But back when you look at the early seventies, we didn't have the technology that we have today, so we didn't have a whole lot of color photographs. Then as we look back, remember they had [a] cow[?] on the Governor's Mansion, you remember they had their gardens, you remember that?

Terry: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: When you think of the evolution of South Carolina, to me the Governor's Mansion epitomizes doing the best you can with the resources at hand.

Graydon: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: Because, some of the pictures that was all I had. South Carolina wasn't a wealthy state, it didn't have a whole lot of resources.

Terry: And when you consider the fact that the Governor's Mansion basically became the Governor's Mansion because there was no housing in Columbia at the time for a residence for the governor. The Mansion, really because of the Arsenal Academy -- and those cadets were probably the last ones put into service in the Confederate Army before the end of the war -- They did the best they could with what they had.

Mrs. Edwards: That's right.

Terry: They really did. Somebody told me the other day what a nice neighborhood it is. But back at the turn of the century it was a pretty rough neighborhood, where the Mansion is.

Graydon: That's right. That's right.

Terry: Right behind the Mansion in particular, one of the governor's sons or daughters got mugged in the twilight, it was not even dark, just walking around the street there and got mugged. I learned so much from you, Gus, going around to the neighborhoods. You took me to all the neighborhoods around in Columbia and showed me where so-and-so grew up, and so-and-so lived, and this type of thing. It was an education all unto itself, it really was.

Graydon: Well, we were lucky to have you.

Terry: No we were lucky to have you. [*laughs*]

Mrs. Edwards: Very fortunate. [*laughter*] All through this George's love of history has made it a wonderful, it's really not just a book, it's the story of the families that have been there.

Terry: I think we all became a great team, it was a team filled with love. And George Rogers, bless his soul, was an important part of that. He was kind of like our senior advisor, so to speak. Gus, you were our number one consultant in terms of who to talk to. I can remember oftentimes after an interview, after the person left, you would give us the real scoop. I can't remember the one person, we'll cut this one out too, about a legacy; and she cornered you in the side of the library about her father. Do you remember that by any chance?

Graydon: Yes, I remember that.

Terry: She wanted some legal advice, about something that happened, do you remember that, Anne? It happened like twenty years before we did the interview, and you told me that her father or husband or somebody had basically run off with somebody else and the estate was in jeopardy.

Graydon: [*Chuckling*] Yes.

Terry: I remember Mr. Prioleau talking about picking up Bernard Baruch and saying that his children didn't even send him a Christmas card, or a birthday card it was. Also, which family was it that came back to Columbia to see the flag at half mast?

Mrs. Edwards: Harley.

Terry: That's right.

Graydon: Who?

Terry: Governor [Joseph E.] Harley.

Mrs. Edwards: Governor Harley had cancer of the throat, or trachea, or larynx or something. And somebody else gave his inaugural address. Of course, communication was so poor at that time [early 1940s], and he died very shortly after being in the Governor's office. They called for his sons to come, that his condition had gotten a lot worse. When they came across the bridge into Columbia they looked up at the Capitol, and the flag was at half mast, and they knew their father had died. Do you remember that?

Terry: I remember that. There were some real touching stories the first go around. What do you remember most about the Mansion in terms of family?

Mrs. Edwards: I think my family, personally, my children gained a great deal from living in the Mansion. There were opportunities that you wouldn't ordinarily have. They had experiences meeting leaders, not only in the state, but in the country, and foreign leaders. Their vision became not only statewide but national and international, and I think this helped develop them. It was a wonderful experience for all of us, we had a marvelous time.

Terry: But it helped you all to develop too, didn't it?

Mrs. Edwards: It certainly did, it certainly did.

Terry: One of my fondest memories of those days was the -- well I have two. One, I was in your office with, who was your assistant, Anne?

Mrs. Edwards: Ann [Kroll?].

Terry: Ann [Kroll?], and we were talking about the project and everything. I was walking down the hall and the governor had come home for lunch and he was on the bed with his shoes off with his legs crossed, just kind of taking a little rest. He said, "Hey, come here." [*laughter*] "How's the book coming?" And he wanted to talk about the book for about fifteen [or] twenty minutes, and we had a good chat. I will never forget the evening, and I think this was right after the Mr. Pettis, you remember Walter Pettis, don't you, Gus?

Graydon: Yes.

Terry: You guys called me up and asked me to come over that evening. Y'all were having dinner in the family room upstairs. You told me that you were able to get the funds . . .

Mrs. Edwards: The money.

Terry: Yes, exactly, and that was a great thing because that was in doubt for a while.

Mrs. Edwards: We had hard time getting that money. [*laughter*] And then it cost us a lot more.

Terry: That's okay, it made a lot more. I don't know where the money went to, though. It probably went back into the state's general fund.

Graydon: No.

Mrs. Edwards: No, it went back into the Mansion.

Terry: Oh, it did? Wonderful.

Mrs. Edwards: That was my understanding that it would. We had asked for a sum and it was three times that. We paid every bit back and made money.

Graydon: That's right. It was wonderful thing.

Mrs. Edwards: When you print this new book you ought to consider printing more.

Terry: I think you are probably right, I do. Gus, I'll never forget one other thing. When you took me to the Big Apple building.

Graydon: Yes.

Terry: We had a candidate for provost at the University about four years ago from Emory. I was telling him about the Big Apple and the Apple building and everything. I told him that the Big Apple was developed here in Columbia, and he said "Well, how did they get up to New York?" I said, "We think by bus, but we're not sure." [*laughter*]

Mrs. Edwards: Gus you've been wonderful.

Graydon: Well, thank you.

Terry: You're looking good.

Graydon: I'm doing pretty good for my ancient . . .

Terry: You're not that ancient, for somebody who ran into Calvin Coolidge in Washington, D.C., one day when he was still president. You told me that story.

Graydon: Yes. Calvin Coolidge was a wonderful guy. They owned a house up on top of . . . what's the name of that mansion that's up on top of the mountain?

Terry: Arsenal Hill?

Graydon: No, that was the one that belonged to . . . and I hope we can put it somewhere on one of these possibly, if that's feasible.

Terry: We'll do our best. Anne, are any other things you want to talk about at all?

Mrs. Edwards: I can't think of anything else.

Terry: You know it's funny . . .

Mrs. Edwards: I think that it's good to know that the Mansion not only was involved in the history, but in the first foundation, and also in the accessions and that we acquired all that property that is now the Mansion complex.

Graydon: The warehouse right near here . . .

Terry: The storage facility?

Graydon: Yes, and we hope that we can do all of that and add it, because you do need someplace to put things.

Terry: Right, right.

Mrs. Edwards: And they have to have the right temperature . . .

Graydon: That's right.

Mrs. Edwards: The good Lord really walked with us when we were here. Not that he hasn't since we've been here. But we had the First Lady Prayer Retreat. And George, I had gone to the National Prayer Breakfast with Jim, and then the governor has his Prayer Breakfast. I felt that the first lady should have something for the wives of the leaders because they have a difficult time many times. So we had the first Prayer Breakfast which invited the Constitutional officers' wives, legislative wives, president of the university, coaches' wives, and the judiciary. And we didn't get a very good response, maybe a hundred people came to breakfast. They didn't know what it was going to be like. We had a non-denominational person with the last one that we had when we were leaving office -- we had them every year just like the Governor and the President -- there were so many people the hotel couldn't seat them, and there were over fifteen hundred people who had to go to the Coliseum.

Terry: That's incredible.

Mrs. Edwards: Isn't that something? And I think that says something about South Carolina, too.

Terry: It also says something about how the state has progressed. As you said, the Mansion started out as a military academy and is now a complex of three very historic buildings. In fact, we're probably unique in terms of this country, in terms of . . .

Graydon: [What were you just talking about?]

Terry: By governor or . . . the officers from the arsenal academy arrived in the 1850s.

Mrs. Edwards: Yes, 1856.

Terry: 1856.

Mrs. Edwards: Then the first in continuity was 1879, and the reason I remember that is because we were the first [Republican] governor in a hundred years, and the year we left was a hundred years that they had continually occupied the Governor's Mansion.

Graydon: How long were you governor?

Mrs. Edwards: Four years.

Graydon: Four years. That's right.

Mrs. Edwards: They changed the Constitution after that.

Graydon: That's right.

Terry: Mrs. Riley helped produce a television documentary about the Governor's Mansion too, which I hope you've had a chance to see. Both of you, it's a very good, very balanced. You're interviewed in it. I've got a script.

Mrs. Edwards: I'd like to see it.

Terry: I don't have the video tape, but I have the script. But I'll see if I can find a video tape of it as well. It was done by Greenville Educational Television.

Mrs. Edwards: She [Mrs. Riley] really did so much for the Boyleston garden, remember that?

Graydon: Yes.

Mrs. Edwards: Tunky did a nice job and really did a fine job there.

Graydon: But, there's one thing that I want to say. The Wardlaw Junior High School; you familiar with that?

Terry: Yes sir.

Graydon: Well, it's in the hands of the state now, and I would hope that it's safe. It is named for Wardlaw. I went to school there.

Terry: Uh-huh. This is October 5, 2000, and I am with two of the finest people I have ever had an opportunity to know and love.

Mrs. Edwards: George, one last thing I would like to pay tribute to all the other first ladies. Each in their own way has contributed so much, and they have been first lady of the entire state after the husbands.

Graydon: How far are they along now?

Terry: Oh, in terms of the book?

Graydon: Yes.

Terry: This is the last interview that will be done, and I need about two weeks off from my day job to finish up the life at the Mansion, and the new inventories that we got Gus, I've got to use those to insert.

Parts of the book are going to be the same. What we've decided to do is the first chapter that we had -- remember the first chapter that talked about the houses in Charleston and whatnot? -- will probably be reduced to a portion of the introduction. Then we'll have a chapter on the history of the house, like we did before, and we'll use a lot of the same material and a lot of the same photographs in that. But we have some new material. And then two chapters on life at the Governor's Mansion. In between those two chapters or before the two chapters will be all the decorative arts and art work that has been put in the Mansion for the last thirty years. The collections that the house had accumulated -- and it's because of you two and Jack Scoville and some others -- are quite significant. We want to highlight those in at least one extended chapter, and then probably a conclusion.

The reason we had the meeting yesterday was because I thought that. . .

[Interview ends]