

*GOVERNOR'S MANSION
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT*

Interview

with

Governor James H. Hodges and
Mrs. Rachel Hodges

Interviewer:

George Terry

Date:

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Location:

Lace House

Topics:

Gov. and Mrs. Hodges reflect on their years, 1999 to date, as Governor and First Lady.

Transcriber:

Kelly Gilbert

[Interview begins]

Terry: We're very fortunate to be here today with Governor and Mrs. Hodges, the First Lady. It's August 23 of the year two thousand and we're doing what will probably be the final interview in terms of preparation for our Governor's Mansion book. This will be the second book that's been published on the Governor's Mansion. Mrs. Hodges, what got you interested in doing a remake of the Governor's Mansion book?

Mrs. Hodges: Well, I remembered, as a child, the original book that you worked on. I can remember using that book in school. When Jim announced that he was running for governor, I went to the library to pull out every book I could about South Carolina history and books about this place and kind of update myself about what has happened here and who has been here before me. I found that same book. I was surprised that there hadn't been a follow-up book to that original one. I believe Mrs. Edwards had originally done that book. Is that correct?

Terry: She did.

Mrs. Hodges: So I remembered that and when Jim did win the election and we did move to Columbia and found ourselves in this place I remembered that experience and thought, that's something that I can do. I'm very interested in reading and, as you know, have a reading program for children. I just think this place is just chock-full of history that we could continue to share in some way with kids in schools.

Terry: Governor, when was the first time that you came to the Governor's Mansion? Do you remember?

Gov. Hodges: The first trip I ever made to the Governor's Mansion was during Dick Riley's term. Actually, I think Rachel came with me.

Mrs. Hodges: I did.

Gov. Hodges: It was right after we met and before we got married we came for an event in 1986. I had just been elected to the House and it was a farewell party, I think it involved some event for Mike Daniel over here. And that was my first trip here. I had not had the experience of visiting the Governor's Mansion as a child. Since that time, the visit with Mike Daniel, I have always found it a very fascinating place.

Terry: Did you all ever believe on that first trip that you would live there at some point?

Gov. Hodges: I didn't. *[laughter]* I never thought I wanted to live there on that first visit.

Mrs. Hodges: It's kind of funny too in hindsight, looking back at that date. Jim and I met on a blind date in December of '86. And that was one of the first dates that we had, and he invited me to join him to come to this event. I can remember so clearly standing there in what was then called the Hollings Dining Room with our friends that had joined us that night. Of course, the mansion was just full of people and such a huge crowd you couldn't move. And I can remember so vividly looking through and seeing Dick Riley standing there and just being in awe of he and Mrs. Riley and thinking, "Wow, what am I doing here?" *[laughter]*

Terry: Now, you have the distinction of being the first family to be out of the Mansion for as long as you have because of the extensive renovations. George Bell Timmerman was out of Mansion for almost a year for some renovations, but they weren't very extensive. This is a fairly extensive remake of the Mansion. How much have you been involved in that?

Gov. Hodges: I have been involved very little in the Mansion renovation. Like a good husband, I understand my role in renovation projects. I have been over several times. Ironically, I came after the election and did a tour of the house after Rachel had to see the problems that existed. It was probably nine months before I set foot in the Mansion again during the renovation. We, as a family, spend time over here, a good bit of time at the Lace House when we have entertainment functions. And we spend some time at the pool house. We

bring our children over and sometimes have friends over. But I have not spent a lot of time with the Mansion renovation project other than looking at the cost figures and reviewing things like the banquet hall. Those would be areas that I would be more interested in. Rachel has tended to be more involved in the living area upstairs and some of the questions that are really pertinent to us as a family.

Terry: I think this particular project is a lot different than the one for George Bell Timmerman because it was pretty much a cosmetic redo in terms of wallpaper and carpet and things like this. I remember looking through newspapers when I was doing research on the first book. Ransome Williams was accused of sabotaging the furnace that was in the Mansion. Strom Thurmond took his place as governor and it was in the newspaper, there were allegations that it had been neglected or sabotaged or something like that. The state had to dig deep to be able to replace the furnace. I think the state has come a long way to recognize the historical validity of a house like that, and the Capitol as well. I was mentioning to Willie Brown that the Mansion, unlike most mansions in this country, is in fact historical. A lot of [governor's] mansions across the country are fairly recent models and editions and this is one of the few public buildings that was still left after the Civil War. And so I think it's very important. Now that you don't live in the Mansion yet, how are you all able to do the functions as the First Family that are expected of you in terms of entertaining and this type of thing?

Gov. Hodges: Very difficultly. That has probably been our biggest challenge because we do not have a large area if we want to have a dinner party for visiting dignitaries or prospects for commercial development. We have to have it over here. The one dining room table seats I think at most twelve or fourteen. And we can have two rooms here that we could fill up and probably have twenty to twenty-five people at the most. We simply don't have in our temporary quarters, or here, adequate facilities to be able to have a larger crowd for any events. That's maybe a little more difficult because, despite the fact that we do live in temporary quarters, there still are expectations. Reasonable expectations, I might add, on people's part that we continue to have events, public functions and a variety of things. It really has made it tough to scramble to be able to have them. And I think what's resulted is we have had, perhaps, to cut down on some of the things that we both would very much like to do because we don't have the banquet hall

that the new Mansion will have or the dining area that the old Mansion had. It's limited what we could do and we've been disappointed in the sense that we have not been able to do quite as much.

Mrs. Hodges: It's kind of unique in this Governor's Mansion complex also, that while we are out of this mansion temporarily, that this complex, which is unique to others around the country, has two other homes here that are a part of the Governor's Mansion area, part of the grounds. I don't know any other mansion in the country that has that. So in that regard we were very fortunate because we could clean up the Lace House and make it what it needed to be temporarily for us to use it for official entertaining and hosting events. In hindsight, I think what that has done has caused us to look at our initial move here to Columbia in a different way because I think it really helped us as a family transition into these very demanding roles a little easier. We have two little boys that are ages seven and four. By living in temporary quarters and being able to separate the two, having our official engagements here, having our residence as only family and friends and being able to live throughout the house as a family does and keeping the two separate, I think has really helped us on a personal level, for our kids and for our family.

Gov. Hodges: That I think is an important point that Rachel made, people are constantly telling me if they see me at Eckerds buying something, they say, "What are you doing here?" You know, "You're the Governor, you're not supposed to be at Eckerds," or "You're not supposed to be having a hamburger somewhere." We are able to do things that I think other governors were not able to do, and first families. We are able to walk in the neighborhood and I think people, at least in Columbia, have gotten to see us in a different light than they might have prior people that held the office because we have not been behind these gates. We have been out there living in an area and taking our kids to school, driving them to school, and going for walks and doing the same thing any new neighbor would do when they move into a community. And that's really helped. I think it's helped humanize the office and it's allowed our children to feel when they moved in here that they found a new home and a community where they actually had neighbors and weren't compounded behind these gates.

Terry: Were you able to move some of the furniture from the Mansion to your temporary

quarters?

Mrs. Hodges: We did. Initially when they first began making the decision of, "What are we going to do with all the things inside the Mansion, where are they going to go?" So the Budget and Control Board and the Mansion Commission made the good decision to, "Let's take some of the things from the Mansion and put them in the residence because the care of them is much better living with them than putting them into storage." For the most part, virtually everything that you or others [who] have visited the mansion will remember in that downstairs area, the large drawing room furnishings, the library, the small drawing room furnishings, for the most part, those things are in the residence. It was some chests and beds that are really very large and made for ceilings this high [as found in the Lace House], not made for ceilings of a 1950 house, those things have been put in storage here in the Lace House as well as in the State Museum and other places that were appropriate to put them.

Terry: What will be the first thing you all will do when you move into the Mansion?

Mrs. Hodges: Unpack.

Gov. Hodges: Probably have a public function. [*laughter*] Honestly, probably the first thing that we do when we move in will be to have a function to invite the public to come in. But we will unpack and I think our children will particularly be excited because they have been waiting to move over here and will enjoy running around those rather large halls.

Mrs. Hodges: We didn't tell them for the longest time that they were not living in the Mansion. They were just so excited about the notion of moving to Columbia and living in the Mansion. They just loved that term, the Mansion. And so when we got to Columbia and we moved into the residence in Shandon, they thought that was a mansion, you know, they were quite thrilled with it. I kind of hated to disappoint them and bring them over here and say, "Well, this is where you could have lived." But now they've been over of course and have played around here, they love the lawn and being able to have these wide open spaces here to run around.

Terry: How much interaction are you able to have with the staff living in one portion of the city and the public functions over here? Do you get to see the staff very much and get to know them?

Gov. Hodges: Rachel probably would. I think we both get to know them, but I would say Rachel more than me.

Mrs. Hodges: It's much more on a limited basis in what you see staff here, because there is much more staff here because there are more needs here. But we still have housekeeping staff and of course Bruce comes in as needed. But I think for the most part, I'd say that we are still living what every normal family lives. We are still rinsing the dishes, and I still like getting in there and having an opportunity to cook. Jim and the boys have often said, "We want you to fix what you used to fix in Lancaster," and those sorts of things. It's still been as much real life inside the house as it appears real life outside the house in our taking the kids to school and doing those things that every other family does.

Gov. Hodges: With one exception, there are people with guns outside our house.
[laughter]

Mrs. Hodges: That's right.

Gov. Hodges: In some neighborhoods, that might happen too. We always laugh about that, we're just like any other neighbor, except we have people that have weapons that are standing outside. [laughter]

Terry: When you were talking about taking a walk, do they walk with you?

Gov. Hodges: No, in fact that drives them crazy. We are probably a security team's nightmare because Saturday morning we'll get up and go to McDonald's to get coffee or get a biscuit for the kids and wander down to . . .

Mrs. Hodges: The Gourmet Shop . . .

Gov. Hodges: . . . the drug store, or go for a walk, and it drives our security folks crazy. We want to try to live as normal a life as can be, and they don't follow us around. I think that would look kind of . . .

Mrs. Hodges: I've got to tell George your McDonald's story because we always loved taking the kids to McDonald's and getting coffee on Saturday mornings. When we were in Lancaster we would always meet friends and Jim's parents there and so we sort of discovered after a few months we were missing that little routine on Saturday, so Jim hops in the car and he drives over to McDonald's and he's going through the drive-thru to get some things for the boys and us. The first window, the girl takes his money and his order and says, "You know, you look like somebody. Who are you? You the mayor?" [*laughter*]

Gov. Hodges: "Aren't you the mayor?"

Mrs. Hodges: "Aren't you the mayor?" [*laughter*] By the time he got to the second window, everybody was looking out, going, "It's the governor, it's the governor! What are you doing in the drive-thru?"

Gov. Hodges: Same thing everybody else is doing in the drive-thru.

Terry: Does the house that you currently occupy feel like home?

Mrs. Hodges: Very much so.

Gov. Hodges: Yeah, we like it. It's a very nice, nice home. But it's typical of a lot of 1920s and '30s homes, it has lots of formal areas downstairs, but not the living area. We only have three bedrooms. Which means our kids have to share a bedroom, and we have one, and we have a guest bedroom. But our guest bedroom in that home shares a bathroom with four and

seven-year-old children. So it's not like you could have the President staying in there sharing a bathroom with our two little boys. In many respects, it's a great location, beautiful home. But it's like a lot of older homes, it's designed in a way to meet the needs of families of the 1930s and '40s with a formal dining room and a formal sitting area and a den but not the sort of personal space that we have in the year 2000.

Terry: You, for the first term, will live in the Mansion approximately how long?

Gov. Hodges: About two years.

Mrs. Hodges: Yes, close to two years.

Terry: I have told just about every First Family when we get together, that the First Families have two big things in common. One, they are able to basically help mold the destiny of our state, and two, the house, the Governor's Mansion. Because it does become a home. And I might have told you, Mrs. Hodges, at the end of every interview, we've taken the First Families over there, and it is like [a] homecoming. Mrs. Edwards had her daughter Kathy pose on the stairs coming down from where she had her debut at the Mansion, looking into the living room and talking about parties and things there. It truly is a home and I'm sure it will become that way with you, and you will probably at some point in time swap stories with other former governors about what the home was like, or different anecdotes about what you all have done over the past years as the First Family. I do think that's going to be something that's going to tie you all together. I'm always amazed; it's almost like a little club. I think a portrait is at the Capitol Fitness Summit Club, I believe, there is a portrait of all the governors that were around . . .

Gov. Hodges: The Capitol City Club, when the Capitol City Club was unveiled, I think it's all the former governors.

Terry: It is almost like a club. Now tell me, in terms of refurbishing the house and this type of thing, once you do that, are you going to continue to build . . . ? The Mansion

Commission has really been successful in acquiring new furnishings, historical pieces, portraits and things like that. Will that continue? With your interest in history, for example, I would assume that it would almost accelerate.

Mrs. Hodges: I certainly hope so and they have worked so hard. I think there has been no time in the history of the Mansion Commission that the Commission has worked as tirelessly as this group has. They really have taken a great deal of time and effort to ensure that the decisions that they're making throughout the house And with the Budget and Control Board and the contractor's involvement, they are doing the very best that they can. Because this is the one time to do all of it. They are very interested in making sure that the pieces that go back into the home are the ones that have been there long-term, that they are refurbished if need be, that they are reupholstered where they need to be, but that those pieces that have traditionally been there go back into those same spaces. But also see to making it more functional. That the dining rooms, for example, the State Dining Room and what is now being called the Palmetto Dining Room, that they do work to serve a governor now and in the future for being able to host as many as possible. I think there was a great deal of criticism that the Mansion couldn't really seat that many people for dinner. Now, with the changes that have been made over there, I think a Governor could easily seat up to sixty people for dinner. Above and beyond that is a crowd too large for dinner really, because you sometimes get to a crowd so large that you don't feel like you've had a personal exchange with the Governor. So the Commission really took great strides to try to evaluate all of it and answer that evaluation with the best result.

Of course, the upstairs area, as every First Family has had I'm sure some tale to tell about, was in great need of attention. I was so stunned when I took the tour. And I told Jim, "You really need to go look. Because they don't want us to move in and they're right, we shouldn't." There are so many reasons why this needs to move forward. But I think every First Family that has lived there, and will live there in the future, will appreciate what the Commission has done, especially to that upstairs area. Because it has really given those families a place to live and be as a family. The Commission's approach has been, "Let's keep that downstairs area that's so historical and so important to the state more on the museum, historical sort of approach, and keep it for receptions and entertaining and the like. More official. But let's make the upstairs comfortable and make it suitable not only for VIP guests, but for a First Family to have a place to

go and be together as a family and be relaxed and at ease."

Gov. Hodges: It's going to be much more functional for having guests in the home. When you compare the layout of the old home with a relatively small bedroom downstairs that was isolated from the First Family, I think that having some guest space upstairs where you can have visitors, particularly visiting dignitaries so they can stay in the home, will make it much more usable as a mansion beyond the use of the First Family. And I think that's good. We hope to be able to utilize it more and I think to be able to have your larger groups, as Rachel mentioned, down in the Hall of Governors. All these things will allow us to enhance the use of the Mansion, not only for us, but for the state. And that's really what it's all about, trying to find better uses for it that can highlight the wonderful opportunities people have to be a part of South Carolina.

Mrs. Hodges: And that's one thing that the Commission repeatedly has said in their discussions. I sit on the Commission as First Lady; it's part of the guidelines I guess, whatever you call them. Their discussions have centered around, "Let's make this renovation showcase who we are as a state, who we are as a people. It should highlight the best of South Carolina." There are so many ways to do that, within not only the downstairs area, but also upstairs. Because when we invite those guests for overnight stays or visiting dignitaries, to have a place for them, that gets them upstairs into our personal quarters, which makes them feel that they have really experienced the Governor's Mansion, not only on the official level but also on the family, personal level.

Terry: Is there any work space planned for the mansion?

Gov. Hodges: Yes. Well, there's plenty of work space for Willie [Brown] and for Bruce. That's what's so special about it is that Bruce will have a commercial kitchen where he can do the work that he needs to for large events. There will be a library. One of the nice things I think about the Mansion is the historical accuracy. The First Family's bedroom will be where the First Family's bedroom has always been. The Governor's Study will be where the Governor's Study has always been. The library downstairs, all of these things are consistent

with the same experiences shared by governors all the way back to when the Mansion was originally constructed.

Mrs. Hodges: But your point is a good point because that was another, it was a real hindrance for the staff to do what the staff needed to do to provide good service to the guests in the former mansion. It just did not work well to have storage, laundry room and kitchen all in one space. Any normal, rational, thinking person would agree that that is just not right. So what this has done is opened up a wonderful flow of space behind that official area for guests and visitors, and it's given the staff adequate space for them to do what they need to do. It's giving them a day room, and security a space for them to have the equipment that they need to have. Delivery and receiving capabilities that hadn't been there before. A commercial kitchen which Jim mentioned, which is so appropriate for a place like this. We host over a hundred and fifty events a year. Almost five thousand people come through here in a year. If you look at some small hotels, we're doing more than them. So you have to have those adequate facilities to be able to do that. Storage was another big issue and I think it will continue to be a big issue even though we have a basement where the laundry area is. We still are going to be squeezed for adequate storage of just the things you have to have to be able to entertain a hundred people in the courtyard, for example. It's just a lot of stuff.

Terry: Was there an inventory done of the house, the furnishings, before things were moved out?

Mrs. Hodges: Yes, as far as I know, George, it was the Budget and Control Board. They took an inventory and an appraisal of everything that was there. And of course catalogued all of that and where it was going and the like.

Terry: The reason I was asking is because two of the most fascinating documents I found, I believe one was done in the 1880s or early '90s, and one was done in 1916. They were inventories of the house. And we were able to almost reconstruct the rooms from the descriptions of the furniture and things of this sort. And we were also pretty much able to date the arrival of such things as telephones and things of this sort, from those types of documents.

So I guess what I'm looking towards is the next history; probably that inventory will be a valuable historical document as well.

Mrs. Hodges: Certainly.

Gov. Hodges: And I would think that the next history will reflect the addition of computers in a lot of areas. I think they likely were already in the mansion, but [the renovation will feature] a much more updated computer system. And a range of modern conveniences that perhaps hadn't been in the Mansion prior to the time the renovation was done.

Terry: Governor, is the house completely wired for . . . ?

Gov. Hodges: I believe it is. I know that the work areas are, the areas like the study upstairs and the library, but I would guess it all is.

Mrs. Hodges: Yes. It is completely. Most of those rooms were designed, upstairs, to be multi-purpose rooms. We only have two children but if another First Family came in that needed more bedroom space, there are adequate facilities there now to make all of those rooms bedrooms if they needed to. But if they wanted to make them libraries or studies for themselves or [for] the First Lady, for example, to have an office over there, then they are wired and equipped, the fiber optic cables [are] in, and the computer link is in. All of the things that connect us to technology are finally in this house. Where it wasn't before.

Gov. Hodges: And I would think that over the years, if you look at the inventories and also look at the design of the house, that like the home we're living in now Modern families have different needs and the structure of the house We have playrooms now. And they likely converted a room that they had to a playroom in the old Mansion. But there are a variety of family rooms that you have now that you wouldn't have seen back in the early nineteen hundreds.

Terry: Twenty-five years from now, what do you think the First Family or even a

historian of the mansion would say about you in terms of the house? What stamp of character did you place on the house or would you want to place on the house?

Gov. Hodges: Well, I think a couple of things. One is that we will be known as the First Family that was not in the house for several years during a significant overhaul and refurbishing of the home. I think historians will look back on this period as one in which the house was earthquake-proofed and modernized in a way that had not been done before. I think that will probably be the most significant part of our period of time. It probably will be looked on in other ways. I hope as a time in which we recreated the downstairs area of the Mansion to make it more amenable to official functions for the state. I hope, from a landscaping perspective, this is something that we've been talking about, that we'll work on landscaping it in a way that the entranceway is very attractive to visitors on the site. I think those are ways in which I think that the house will be remembered during our time. And what do you think?

Mrs. Hodges: It's hard to say. I think that twenty-five years from now, when they look back and they see and other families, if they really had an appreciation for how some of the former first families lived in this house. And that there was no difference between that First Family having their quarters upstairs, or small apartment so to speak, upstairs. The former families lived, or were expected, I guess, to live all over the house, upstairs and downstairs. And today, I see how that can be extremely difficult when you have young children or even teenage children. Because there are official things going on in the house all the time.

I think now, what I'd like, if there's a stamp, it's that we provided in this change an adequate place upstairs for families to live. For example, Jim may be having a legislative breakfast at seven in the morning downstairs. Before, there was no other dining area for the other family members except downstairs. Now there is a small family dining room upstairs. The mother and those children can have their cereal in that small dining room at seven in the morning, while the Governor is hosting the Legislature for a breakfast downstairs. Before, there was nowhere for that family to go. So I hope that long-term, what this provides, this stamp that we've put on it, gives the future First Families a place of their own upstairs even when there are things going on down below them, that they necessarily don't have to be a part of. Because that occurs, quite often, that Jim is involved in something that's official going on here, right now, that

I don't necessarily have to be a part of and I'm at home taking to boys to soccer practice. Or getting them ready for school in the morning and Jim is here hosting a breakfast or whatever. So when we're over here, I think there's going to be an opportunity for a little more privacy, I guess, for that First Family upstairs.

Gov. Hodges: There's a great old story they tell about that, Dick Riley may have told you, about the fact that the whole home was essentially a place that people could tour. And the story they tell about Riley is that after he was elected into office, he was taking a shower and getting ready to go to work. This was a few weeks after his inauguration. And he had wrapped a towel around him and walked out into the hallway where he was greeted by some women who were there on a tour of the Mansion. *[laughter]*

Mrs. Hodges: Because his closet was at the top of the stairs; that was his closet.

Gov. Hodges: The point that someone made was that they didn't know who was more startled, Dick or the guests, and all they could blurt out was, "We voted for you." *[laughter]* And he hurried back into his room. And I guess that's the best example of how the whole home was available for public access in a way that sometimes could be uncomfortable for First Families and for guests.

Terry: One thing too that I think you all will be remembered for is the solidification of the history of the Mansion. I think it's remarkable that only one of the governors that we interviewed [the] last time is no longer with us, and that's George Timmerman. Everybody else is still with us, and everybody is now on tape.

Gov. Hodges: Donald Russell?

Terry: Oh, Donald Russell. We'd not interviewed Donald Russell the first time, we interviewed Virginia Russell. She was very good in her memories as well.

One of the things that will come out of this project is we've already got transcripts of almost all of the interviews. The videotapes, we'll put that on safety tape. And they will come

over here as part of the archives of the Mansion, and I think that will be a benefit. The original typescripts that were done back in 1975, '76, they're not complete, but we still have them. They're over at the University archives and I'll make sure all that type of material comes to the Mansion as well. I think to redo this and do it while everyone can still have the memories like the one you were talking about Dick Riley, I think that the state's going to be better for it. This is one of the most historic homes in the state, and one of the most historic homes in the South. It truly is. Anything else that we want to talk about in terms of the house and your aspirations for it?

Gov. Hodges: I don't have any.

Mrs. Hodges: I just feel like our addition to this is a little dull because we don't have those grand stories that former First Families have about funny things that happened while we were living there.

Terry: You will. And like I say, it just depends on the production schedule whether or not we can get some more [interviewing] in. Hopefully, we can get back together again to talk about your initial experiences [in the renovated Mansion] because I think that would add greatly to the book. You're right, you will be remembered for the fact that you did not live in the Mansion for half of the first term. I think that that's important, but it's not going to be as important as the second half of the administration. I would suspect that you are beginning to look at the calendar in terms of when you will be able to move over and take possession. I like your idea, too, of preserving the rooms, the original rooms for their original purpose, I think that's very good.

Gov. Hodges: It works very well because when we talk about the history of the place for those who are offering tours, they can say, "This is the room where the children have always stayed," or "This is the Governor's study and has been since man knoweth not." Those sorts of things I think add a perspective for kids who are doing tours, to know that this is a room that has some history. The White House is that way and the Governor's Mansion should be too.

Mrs. Hodges: I think one feature about the house that I'm really intrigued by how it will turn out, a new feature in the downstairs area, is the Hall of Governors. The Hall of Governors is a hallway that was there originally but it's a little wider than it had been before. It extends from the courtyard area where it opens to the courtyard, to the opposite end of the house where it opens out to a walkway that is in the direction of the Lace House. So when you walk now into the mansion, and you follow through the foyer and you step into this hallway that is adjacent to the Palmetto Dining Room, it really is going to be quite spectacular because the Commission's vision for that hallway is that that will really kind of reflect who our governors of past have been. There are five spaces there for portraits and it just so happens there are five portraits of former governors in the Mansion collection and it's our hope to see those hanging in that hallway so that when children do walk through, we can say, "This is Governor So-and-So, who served during this term," and introduce . . .

I was kind of surprised that portraits of governors don't remain here at the Mansion, because there is so much opportunity to showcase every governor throughout the Mansion. But we do have these five, and they will be quite handsome in the Hall of Governors. The floor in that space will be leftover marble from the Capitol. Which is a really special touch. So throughout, I think, in this tour and with this renovation, there will be features like that that we can introduce to the South Carolinians that tour through here. I think they'll have as much pride about this renovation as they do about the capitol.

Terry: Any plans to borrow items from museums and things of this sort throughout the state as well? To enhance

Gov. Hodges: We've borrowed artwork both at the governor's office and over at the Mansion from the Arts Commission. And I would think where there are opportunities to borrow significant pieces of artwork or other museum pieces available, to showcase, that would be nice.

Mrs. Hodges: The Commission has tried really hard, where they need pieces, to fill those with South Carolina antiques, which are very difficult to find. Not only as a request from someone to loan to the Mansion, but they're also seeking to purchase. The Foundation has worked very hard to raise funds to refurbish and put things in the Mansion that have long been

needed over the years to complete this. I found it very interesting that some of the leaders of corporations and industries in South Carolina that had made contributions to the Foundation for the renovation project, that they were all in agreement that this needed to be done; it needed to be done quite some time ago. But they all said the same thing, "Let's do it, but let's do it right." And that means let's furnish it appropriately. Let's put in the antiques that represent who we are as a state and as a people, and let's do it right.

Terry: Thank you all very much.

Mrs. Hodges: Can I tell you one other thing before we go? I've got to tell you one more story. They were moving the things into the residence and I was there unpacking boxes and the movers were unpacking boxes and putting things in place. These were things that were coming from the Mansion over to the residence. One of the movers was unpacking the sterling candlesticks. And he said, "Oh, Mrs. Hodges, you've got to look at this." And I went over and he handed it to me, and engraved on the bottom of it, it said, "In honor of Governor Strom Thurmond and his wife on the day of their marriage," and they listed the date, 1947 or so, "at the Governor's Mansion in South Carolina," and da da da da da da.

You know, everything is such a rush during the campaign and the election, and that win, and moving and getting kids in school, and all of the things that you have to evaluate when you're moving to a new place. And then when I read that I thought, "Oh, my stars," it just startled me because these people that have come before us; these famous people . . .

Terry: Senator Thurmond, we interviewed him in the sitting room. Everybody else we interviewed in the library. You know the room I'm talking about, as you first walk in, the room on your left. He was in a hurry to catch a plane, and he was chomping at the bit to get out of here. And you could tell he was in a hurry. Well, right as he was getting ready to leave, this group from the DAR came in. There must have been forty or fifty women. They were in the living room. And Strom immediately went around and talked to each one of them, probably sixty percent of them were personal friends of his or relatives of some sort. He must have spent another fifteen, twenty minutes in there. I asked Mrs. Edwards when he left, "I wonder if he caught his plane?" [*laughter*] But there are a lot of stories, though, about the house, and I wish

you well, both as First Family and as residents of the Mansion.

[Interview ends]