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THORNTON

**THORNTON, JESSIE WILLCOCK**

**OH-273**

**41 pgs.**

**PRCQ**

Wife of Dan Thornton (Governor of Colorado, 1951-55); friend of the Eisenhowers and Douds

DESCRIPTION: This interview deals only with social and family matters. Included also are comments from Mary Clayton, former administrative assistant to governors Dan Thornton and [Edwin C.] Ed Johnson.

Biographical information prior to 1950; anecdote regarding her first meeting with Eisenhower; her relationship with the Eisenhower and Doud families; comments concerning Eisenhower's 1955 heart attack; Clayton's comments about mail received concerning the heart attack; Clayton's connections with the Eisenhower family; biographical information concerning Clayton; anecdote regarding a Thornton conversation with Mamie Eisenhower concerning gifts; anecdote regarding an Eisenhower painting; observations about Mamie (incl. her attitude toward social obligations, her character, her friendships); comments about a Governors' Conference; the first inauguration; the Eisenhowers and politics (incl. Eisenhower's concerns with security, an anecdote concerning Mamie and a black Republican women's group); general comments about the Thorntons' political experiences; general remarks (incl. Mamie's unsteadiness on her feet, rumors and politics, anecdote about Mrs. Walter Johnson, rumors about the Eisenhowers' marriage and Mamie's drinking, Eisenhower as a cook); anecdote concerning Eisenhower and a Grand Junction speech; political activities at the 1952 Governors' Conference in Texas.

[Columbia University Oral History Project, interview by Ed Edwin, September 11, 1969]