

Prepared by: EWH
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THORNTON

THORNTON, JESSIE WILLCOCK OH-273 41 pgs. PRRCQ

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]