

## ***Clarine Gillenwater Interviewed by Hope Jackman and Doris Thrower***

**Jackman:** Good morning. It is a real pleasure to offer another installment in the living history of Trenton State College. Clarine Gillenwater, former first lady Trenton State College, is here on my right and on my far right Doris Thrower, who was the president of the Faculty Dames when Clarine Gillenwater was the first lady and I was also around at that time. Did you ever think that we would be sitting here like this? It's been a long time in the planning and it's a real thrill. It uh 20.... Is it 22 yrs to the day?

**Gillenwater:** 22 years umm the 13<sup>th</sup> of October that we arrived on campus.

**Jackman:** And the day when the portrait of President Gillenwater, which you see in the background, will be dedicated will be precisely 22 years from the day he assumed presidency of the College.

**Gillenwater:** How wonderful.

**Jackman:** Clarine, as you have been getting ready to come back to Trenton, I'm sure you had mixed feelings. What are some of the things you have been thinking about?

**Gillenwater:** Well, Hope, it's been a very happy but emotional time for me to think about coming back, especially on this occasion when you're dedicating this beautiful portrait of my husband, late husband Virgil, and umm I kept feeling how happy we were when, after, Virgil accepted the position to come to Trenton State. It was going to be such a traumatic change coming from the West coast to the East coast. I wondered if I would fit in the East coast but we just loved Trenton State College and had such a happy time and you and Doris both played an important role in making us happy.

**Thrower:** I don't think we had any problem. It was a great pleasure and I will never forget the first day when I met you and your husband and it's been a very, very warm friendship and it has continued and it will always continue. I feel very very close to you and it's been a pleasure to keep in touch with you. And we have missed you and it really doesn't feel like its been 20 years because I have been so close to you by phone and visited in your lovely home and it's just great to have you back today to see the campus and see the changes that have been made.

**Gillenwater:** Thanks, Doris. It's been wonderful. The reception that we have received coming back, you all....you made it so warm and cordial and friendly.

**Jackman:** I was so interested to realize that you and your friend Frances are staying in guest rooms where you and Virgil stayed when you first arrived over in the lower floor of Decker Hall.

**Gillenwater:** I said this morning when we were eating in the dining hall, it just seems like yesterday. We ate...lived in Decker Hall for about a month until the house was completed, Garden House, and then it was just like old times eating in the dining hall. That's when I learned how much tomato sauce they use on foods. (Laugh)

**Jackman:** I also think of...you didn't complain...Virgil didn't complain but he came to me, I had the housing of students at that time, and so the preparations of guestroom was part of my job and I was

very pleased with Decker Hall. It was quite new but Virgil said, “ You know, the showers must have been meant for girls because it hit me right here.”

**Gillenwater:** His being 6’2 has something to do with that.

**Jackman:** Yes, indeed.

**Gillenwater:** But we really, our daughter Beth lived down a couple doors on the opposite side. She was pretty homesick. She spent a lot of lonely nights in Decker Hall.

**Thrower:** Missing her friends from high school?

**Gillenwater:** Yes, right.

**Thrower:** Bill was at college at that time, your son Bill.

**Gillenwater:** Yes he was at NAU. He was excited about his dad’s acceptance and his position and thought it would be a great challenge which we thought it was going to be.

**Thrower:** And it was. It’s a great part of my life and it’s a part that I will always remember. It’s your warm friendship and your leadership during the years here and we really enjoyed working with you and we were so happy that Dr. Gillenwater felt that Faculty Dames was very important because usually if wives are happy, the husbands are happy and he really added to the organization and that he supported us in any way that we asked and you were such a gracious hostess and you made everybody feel so welcome in your home and did so many informal things as well as formal things which added a lot to the campus and you will always be remembered as a great great hostess.

**Gillenwater:** Well, thank you. Those are very kind words, Doris, and I love people so I didn’t have trouble loving and doing for others. It was my way of life.

**Thrower:** Entertaining came so natural to you and it was just a beautiful experience and I really appreciate it and it was a joy working with you and I was so happy to be president that year and have the privilege of working with you, new coming in, and I felt that we grew up together and I just really enjoy your friendship and I will always treasure it.

**Gillenwater:** You make me feel very humble and I appreciate your kind words and when I was digging through a box that I had at home of Trenton State College mementos, the first thing I picked up was a letter from faculty wives president 1966. Do you mind if I read it?

**Jackman:** Go right ahead.

**Gillenwater:** It’s from Doris! It says, “Dear Mrs. Gillenwater, We were so happy that you can attend our first meeting of Faculty Dames. Your presence and interesting speech was the highlight of the evening. Thank you for speaking to the group for we sincerely appreciate your interest and are looking forward to working with you for many happy years. It is a pleasure to have you and Dr. Gillenwater at Trenton State College. Sincerely, Doris Thrower.” And this was written October 26, 1966.

**Thrower:** It seems like it was yesterday.

**Jackman:** We were talking a little bit before we sat down here to begin the program about a period of two years because it was a period of very significant change. Can we talk a little bit about that?

**Gillenwater:** Yes, I think so. When Virgil accepted the position, he was so excited. His first interview, he came back to Arizona after his first interview and he was so thrilled he said, "I just wanted to stay." Of course, he hadn't accepted yet, but he said, "I wanted to roll up my sleeve and go to work. I just loved the campus but a lot needed to be done to it." So he was very hopeful that he was offered the position. And after he was offered the job, we both came back and we were excited because I always believed that I would support him in whatever he wanted, you know in whatever his pursuit was. When we arrived, he realized there will be many many changes. He was a new president, there was to be a new chancellor of higher education, and there were...I think each school was to have a new board of trustees, each state college, wasn't that right? And so we were excited and thrilled to be able to be in this new era where it was a time of change and Virgil believed that change was good if it were progress but if not, change for change sake wasn't good. So it was an exciting time and at that time in 1966, non-teacher education students were enrolling in Trenton State College. And Trenton State, another change was as I said before that we had this board of trustees, which meant it was a heavy responsibility for them so all in all we were excited.

**Jackman:** I am so glad that you brought notes because you have just included some of the things that I'm sure that if we had just been talking about would have been forgotten.

**Gillenwater:** Well, I, when Judy Wodynski called me and said we would be interviewed I thought, oh no, not that too and... but I did want people to realize why Virgil, why he resigned. Umm...he didn't state his reasons at first. He said they were completely personal reasons, purely personal reasons and I was thinking I would just tell people they can just refer to the 1968 Seal the yearbook and find the reasons but I'll state them. First, it was lack of financial support for the state colleges; second, lack of clear cut policy statement by the Board of Higher Education as to which direction the college should take; and third, lack of fiscal autonomy and as I stated before, he said his reasons were completely personal and he had made this decision and he thought his decision was the only way he can help Trenton State College. Now that puzzled me because I didn't understand it at that time, however, I do now. He wanted the state to realize that he just wasn't willing to spend time just wrestling with political situations that were not comfortable and umm....he being 52, he was 52 when he accepted the job, he thought he would have to be working for 5 years, maybe not working but fighting, and he thought he didn't want to sell what he believed in education down the drain for politics because he had been teaching since he was 19 years old and he was an educator. I thought he was a great educator. So I couldn't believe it when he came home one evening and stomped in through the back door and said, "I am resigning this position," and I thought oh it can't be true but now everything has a clearer picture in my mind.

**Jackman:** That's interesting because it comes back to me. It was early in the year of '68 when you know there was this, it spread really like wildfire through the college community, because we were so happy

and content with his leadership and we were knew that, we were called, the whole faculty, to Green Hall where he announced. It was something we just couldn't believe.

**Gillenwater:** I couldn't either.

**Jackman:** And as you say in retrospect, so much is understood, and you realize that he was not only a scholar but a gentleman. In the way...

**Gillenwater:** Very much so.

**Jackman:** ...the way he handled it. But he also was a really important person to me because he made me feel important and he made people who were working feel important, part of the team. He really brought the best out in people. We could do things that we didn't really realize we were able to do.

**Thrower:** Yes, he has meant a lot to me too. And I have always felt a void. In the 20 years I have enjoyed the other presidents very very much but there has always been a void in my life since '68 when Dr. Gillenwater left because I, as Hope just stated, we were so happy and comfortable and we thought it would last for a very very long time and it came to an abrupt end and as far as Trenton State but I just feel so comfortable that it did not end there because each time that I would talk to Dr. Gillenwater on the phone, he stressed more and more that he missed Trenton State and that it would always be a part of his life, regardless of where he went. And I think that he kept us all in mind and although he went back to Arizona and did a beautiful beautiful job there, umm, I think that he will always be a part of the history of Trenton State College and umm I know that the 25 years that I have been here, I have seen some wonderful people but I will never have a friend as true and as sincere as Dr. Gillenwater was and I really will always treasure him as one of my top friends and I miss him and I'm so thankful that I have you and your family now and that I can continue to visit with you and keep in touch . Would you like to tell us about your family?

**Gillenwater:** Well yes, but before I do tell you about the family I'll like to reiterate and tell you an instance when after Virgil's resignation, of his calling home. Our son was at NAU, a freshman, as I, I believe he was a freshman and Virgil really dreaded to call Bill to tell him that he was resigning. And he knew just about what he would to say. And sure enough he said exactly what Virgil had expected and when he told him he resigned, he said "Why dad! You can't do that. You're running from a hard job just what you told me never to do." And his reply was, "Bill I am not running from a hard job. I am taking a stand for something that I believe in and it has to be done."

**Thrower:** And I admire a person that does that, that stands for what they believe in and I think Hope and I agree that he was that type person and had such high morals that he really would not have left had he not have a good personal reason.

**Gillenwater:** And, I don't know, I think I'm correct in saying this, Joe Vena...Vena. He wrote the most beautiful letter to our children explaining how proud they should be of their dad, how he had the courage to take a stand in what he believed. It needed to be done for Trenton State College and I had it in my memo box. You know I didn't have time to find everything that I would like to have brought with

me but anyway I appreciated that because it reinforced what Virgil had told Bill and Beth being with us, he was able to explain to her and maybe she understood. I don't know but anyway it was better that she was with us.

**Jackman:** To go from the sublime to the ridiculous. After you left in 1968, nobody called me around quarter past 4 and said "Hope, are you going directly home?" and if I said yes, you'd say "Well stop by. I have cinnamon buns for your mother." And these are things that one never forgets.

**Gillenwater:** Well, Hope, your mother was special. She was a sweetheart.

**Jackman:** She sure was. Surely was.

**Gillenwater:** And I appreciated other people's mothers since mine was deceased and I loved her so much.

**Thrower:** That's one fact that I remember. You did so much for people outside the college, we call the college community and you were interested in everyone. You were just, you had so much love to share and you were so enthusiastic about sharing that we just really appreciate it so very very much.

**Gillenwater:** Well I consider it a great privilege for tea. One time when I was allowed to have Mrs. West, who was an arthritic, for tea uh party. Hope helped me arrange it. And she was hardly able to get out of bed but you gave me a guest list to invite and I was so pleased to do that and I think she really had good time.

**Jackman:** You know what that brings that something that I think we might talk about. It's a little change. Edith West was a darling person and of course her husband Roscoe, the former president, was...at one of the longest...ten years...

**Gillenwater:** 25 years.

**Jackman:** Goodness, I can't remember but it had to be just about that and in the library reference room where this portrait of Virgil is being hung, there is a portrait of Roscoe West painted by the same person, Robert Burns, who is formerly of the Art Department here at Trenton State College and I do need to tell you this, not only do we have great pleasure in the likeness but it is so good as a painting and one of the things that has made us feel pleased is that Bob is very pleased with it. Now Doris and I worked with Bob because, of course, it was done from various photographs and we talked quite a bit with Bob about Virgil and well, I don't know about Doris but I have the greatest satisfaction with the completion of this project.

**Thrower:** Oh I am so very pleased. It is so real. I think that the greatest thing of all was when I called his daughter and Hope had kindly sent some photographs out and when the mom showed the picture to the little boy and he said, "Aw papa!" and Beth said she knew that Jerry expected his grandfather to say hello to him and she can tell by the expression and I think for an artist to capture the umm...likeness of a two year old....that a two year old could remember, I think is one of the greatest things that artists could have and I really appreciate the time that Bob spent on this portrait. It is a beautiful beautiful painting

and I am so happy that we chose this memorial because it is a prominent memorial and it will be there for many many years to come and each time that you come back to campus it will be there and I hope someday that your family can come out and I am so sorry that Beth and Bill could not be with us for this but I certainly understand that with Beth's two children it was impossible to travel across country and since Bill had just taken a new job it is not very easy to ask to come but we appreciate their thoughts and we will be in touch with them.

**Jackman:** Clarine, will you ever forget Virgil's inauguration?

**Gillenwater:** (Laughs) No, never. (Laughs) As you know Frances, Frances Finnerty's former husband came unexpectedly from the West coast. He surprised us. We had no idea. And then, Hope, you had to hustle around and fix more, another place, make arrangements and, and do you remember?

**Jackman:** I don't remember doing that but I can tell you what I do remember is that Dorothy Peterson, who was former Dean of Graduate Studies, and I worked on the preparation for the inauguration and it was grand. The great big dining room in Phelps Hall was transformed and that is hard to do. I remember trees, small trees were brought in and the sky[?] as if they were planted and then there were daffodils and they looked as if they had been planted there. And what I remember is not having to hustle around to make extra places but coming in half an hour before the reception was about to begin and here was a dead daffodil and you know what I did? I cut it off and I went and found another daffodil, cut that off and slipped it over the stem because it was right in front. Now these are really insignificant things but umm....

**Gillenwater:** Important at that time.

**Jackman (Gillenwater):** Oh it was, the place was just beautiful, all silver and flowers. Dorothy and I had gone to a florist on Chestnut Hill with the catering service representative that we had then and it was just thrilling (It was beautiful). Well first time there was the academic side.

**Gillenwater:** And it was spectacular.

**Jackman:** And do you know there is something very interesting there too. I believe that there was a presentation to Virgil of the Medal of Office.

**Gillenwater:** The Medallion.

**Jackman:** Medallion, not the...,you're correct. And also the mace and the reason that's so interesting is that Robert Burns designed them both.

**Gillenwater:** Oh, he did?

**Thrower:** Oh, how wonderful.

**Gillenwater:** Oh, that's significant.

**Thrower:** It was a beautiful day. I'll never forget that the inauguration....

**Gillenwater:** And then I wanted you to know that I'm wearing the charm bracelet that this colleague presented to me. It's a beautiful gold bracelet. I think that Mike Travers was chairman of the committee who purchased this. They had a profile of Bill and Beth, our son and daughter, and then umm...a little charm of Trenton State College and a U and now I added three new grandchildren to the list and several other charms but it is precious to me because it has so much meaning.

**Jackman:** Oh please tell us about the grandchildren.

**Gillenwater:** Well I'll tell you a little bit about our family. Bill, our oldest son, 42, he is living in, he just moved for Portland, Idaho, to Greeley, Colorado. And they, he has, he had accepted a position as a principal which he was in Idaho also and Martha is teaching. She's teaching first grade and they have a little son Collin \_\_\_ Gillenwater and they are loving Colorado. They loved Idaho but it just reached the point where he thought he couldn't go any further in this position. And Beth...

**Jackman:** Oh. Problem. Let's see Beth had her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday when you were living here in the President's house on the campus, which the site is long gone, I don't mean to say the house is all gone, and Holman Hall, I believe, is really over the area where it was and umm, it was very interesting because those were the days before the riots and all that.

**Gillenwater:** It was just on the verge.

**Jackman:** And it was still possible for a college president and his family to live comfortably, happily, and without disturbances, right on the edge of the campus facing Lake Siva.

**Gillenwater:** Right, well Beth taught special education for 8 years and elementary for 4 in Tempe, Arizona, in the Phoenix area not specially Tempe. She later married David Anderson and he is with Citibank and they have two children, little Derrick 4 years old who we have spoken of and little Megan Elizabeth who is a little darling too. Virgil was privileged to know both of the little boys and he really loved them dearly. Of course, you know, it breaks my heart that he can't be around and have fun with them because he was enjoying his woodworking. He built this wonderful shop and he loved to work with woods and he had made Beth's nursery furniture and hoped to do so much more but after he had this devastating battle with colon cancer, it was a hard road. They had said he would live 6 months to a year at the time of the surgery and fortunately he was blessed to live 3 years and during that time we were very chancy in doing it but we went to Europe. We had a 6 weeks tour and it has proven to be a great blessing to have those wonderful memories and he certainly was courageous during this fight with cancer and he read everything he could possibly find about it because he thought he was, he was determined to \_\_\_ it.

**Thrower (Gillenwater):** I have never seen a person that can endure any more pain than he did without showing it. He never let on that he was, in any way, that he was sick (Nor did he complain) as he was and he really loved people and loved his family and I'm so thankful that he had his family with him at that time and I'm sorry that we had to lose him but I'm thankful that we have you and the children to carry on.

**Jackman:** I'm looking now at Virgil and I think really, what nobility in the face of illness but it wasn't without humor because I think...

**Gillenwater:** He had a sense of humor.

**Jackman:**....I think something similar as you may remember and you people sent me Norman Cousins's book Anatomy of an Illness which I found very helpful and I called (yes you did) one night and talked with you about it, thanked you for it, for introducing me to it and I what I said to Virgil was talking about how he was going along and I said, "Why don't you get some of the Marx brothers movies because remember that is what Norman Cousins did," and Virgil says, "Well, I can't afford it."

(Laughs)

**Gillenwater:** Well, he didn't feel put upon because he had cancer. He didn't feel sorry for himself. He was wonderful through the whole time of his suffering. You know he really didn't complain but he did suffer. It was a dreadful devastating time.

**Jackman:** You're moving now not in Flagstaff but in Sedona. There are people in this area who had never had the opportunity to visit Sedona, I did in the Thunderbird.

**Gillenwater:** We enjoyed your mother, your visit, and your mother's visit so much and Doris and...

**Jackman:** I will never forget how you people took us into your home. Mother and I were involved in an automobile accident. Mother was close to 80 at that time and everything was prepared for us to be at the motel and Virgil came out of a meeting to the hospital and then you came and said you are coming home with us.

**Thrower:** It was so great when Dr. Gillenwater returned to NAU and continued his career in higher education. Would you tell us about the new campus that he was in charge of when he went back?

**Gillenwater:** Well, they were starting what they call a South campus. It was in the making when he left. He was vitally interested in it and decided not to be caught up with it at that time. It was a great expanding in a "u" and they had several colleges on that campus and lovely student lounge and it was important part of his life to have been able to return and be a part of that because he was great at helping with making plans and he loved the architecture part of it, you know.

**Thrower:** Was it a different campus? A new campus?

**Gillenwater:** Well, they called it the South campus but it was actually a part of the old campus. You know it was just a continuation of it.

**Jackman:** I think I did mention that I have a niece Janet Jackman who is now in Northern Arizona University. In her first letter she wrote to tell me that there was a coeducational apartment type dormitory or I guess we say residence hall named for Gillenwater, Virgil Gillenwater.



**Gillenwater:** Right. That happened last year in October. They had a dedication of this dormitory. It had been called South Quad formerly and then they renamed it, actually for the both of us and they had a portrait, a picture that was taken from a family photograph and they lifted the two of us out of it and made a lovely picture and it is hanging in the lobby of Gillenwater Hall as they call it. So we felt real pleased and honored to have that happen. I'm just sorry he....well, I guess he didn't know about it. It's too bad these things happen after...

**Thrower:** Can you please tell us the scholarship that is established in his name and then continues in your name?

**Gillenwater:** Yes. So many people thought it was so tragic....quite a few people, I shouldn't say many, but several people mentioned to me, "You mean that Dr. Gillenwater isn't going to have a gravemarker with his name there?" and I said, no his choice was to have...to be cremated and his ashes scattered on this large, tall grey mountain by our home and I, too, will be scattered there but anyways, we thought that was a wonderful place because it will always be there unless, I don't know, nature plays a trick on us, because it is the tallest mountain in Sedona and he, then we decided to establish this scholarship fund. The children and I started it and it is now in a foundation and it will always be there as long as there's time and it has grown. I think it's about 12,000 now and we think it's a wonderful way for his life to continue through helping students and he wanted it to be for a junior student who was deserving and dedicated in any field and so two people, so far, have received this scholarship which they don't have to pay back, you know and just recently I received a call from the student who has it this year and she said that if she didn't get this amount of money, I think it was \$850 at that time, she couldn't have continued school. So I think Virgil's life would carry on through this and it's a great memorial.

**Jackman:** It's wonderful.

**Gillenwater:** I think it's much better than leaving a marker.

**Jackman:** Isn't it the residence hall where the plaque is that the quotes, the quotations from here...

**Gillenwater:** No, it is on the campus and it is not by Virgil. I don't remember who the quote is from but it's about excellence or become educated. Is that the one you mentioned?

**Jackman:** To become educated is to become human.

**Gillenwater:** Yes, to become educated is to become more human and that is, what I thought, one of Virgil's characteristics. He was very human. For instance, when he became, when he was promoted to vice-president at the university, they brought in a new sign being put above his door. You know, Virgil Gillenwater, executive or vice-president, and he had it removed immediately because he thought it created a stigma when a student arrived, students or whoever, came to his office and he wanted to be easy on people come to see him when they needed to.

**Jackman:** We talked a lot about Virgil Gillenwater's career, especially his last positions of leadership but umm...I think Doris you were talking about this morning, we need to know more about his background.

**Thrower:** Yes, I would like for you to brief me on his background, on his educational background, please.

**Gillenwater:** Well, I would have to start way back in high school. I was in love with a football captain at that time and Virgil was always doing homework for other girls and I should have had him doing my homework instead but anyway, he started teaching school at a very early age. I think he was 19. He had two years of college. You can teach then with two years of college and then in the summer he always attended summer school. He wasn't born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He had to really dig for his keep in his education and so...he would...there were five boys and they traveled....every summer....they were teachers...and they traveled every summer to improve their knowledge of the United States and they camped out...they did...you know roughed it...but it was wonderful education and then after he taught and going to summer school in 1941 he received his bachelor's degree just before he was to go to the army.

**Jackman:** All of this was in Illinois?

**Gillenwater:** Yes.

**Jackman:** Rushville?

**Gillenwater:** Rushville.

**Jackman:** Is that the name of the high school?

**Gillenwater:** Rushville High School **(with Jackman)** Rock Rock Rock.

**Jackman:** Right. And then he went...his bachelor's degree?

**Gillenwater:** He got....he received his bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University that is now called that. It used to be just Western State College, cum laude. Then he received a masters of science degree in Education from Macomb, that's where it was, Macomb, and then later after his army skinned, he was...he served in the United States Army in the South Pacific. He was in New Guinea, he was in Philippines when he was wounded. But the thing that I think is great, he went in buck private and came out a captain.

**Jackman:** Oh, wonderful.

**Gillenwater:** And he had malaria but this friend that has accompanied me, her husband and Virgil went through umm officer training school and many many things together even when they were wounded. I think the same \_\_\_\_\_ hit both of them at the time. But then when he....when he returned, he pursued his master's degree again....another master's degree at the University of Illinois and also his doctorate. We lived on in temporary housing on campus and he was plagued with malaria which never did leave his system. There's several kinds of malaria but his having been an officer, he didn't go to sick bay and consequently didn't receive any reiteration [?] for having been... having had malaria. And he then he...when we came to Arizona in 1950, he didn't have his doctorate dissertation quite completed and...but he accepted this position, he was offered a position at Arizona State College then, now

Northern Arizona University. And within...in 1952, then he went back to complete it because he found it wasn't successful trying to mail his work back and expect the professor to go through it. They just didn't do it. You know it was on their desk so in 1952 he was awarded the doctorate of Education at the University of Illinois. He was a member of Delta Kappa....do you want me to tell all this?

**Thrower:** Yea.

**Gillenwater:** It's quite a bit

**Jackman:** That's all right.

**Gillenwater:** He would not want me bragging on him.

**Jackman:** A lot of this is going to be in print anyways so go ahead and tell it. He can't escape it anyways.

**Gillenwater:** Well, I have to read because I don't remember all of these but anyway: Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Pi....Pi blue key. He served as I said in the army and oversees 26 months and he was a Presbyterian elder which I was always proud of and umm let's see, he was on so many different boards I don't know whether I should tell he was a member in Rotary, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Education, Who's Who in the West, served in the Junior College Commission which was appointed by the legislature. He served a second term as a member of the Board of Directors of the State Institution of Juveniles which was in Tucson and he was terribly interested in that and one of those students, I think he was about 12 years old, did a big portrait of Virgil which is terrible to say is hanging in our garage because it's just too humongous to bring in the house and it's a...oh, it's a complete likeness of Virgil. It was done from a little identification picture.

**Thrower:** Being the great educator that he was, I remember he was so interested in cultural events and we are really blessed to live in this Trenton area so close to the arts in Philadelphia and New York. I will always remember the nice theater parties in New York and how we got caught in the rain. Do you remember that?

**Gillenwater:** Yea.

**Thrower:** So wet when we went into the restaurant. And it was...we were eating at the Top of the Sixes and they would not check ladies' coats and our coats were so wet, we had to keep them at our chairs during the dinner hour.

**Gillenwater:** Right.

**Thrower:** It was a lovely evening but we really enjoyed the cultural event.

**Gillenwater:** It was lots of fun and I know I was privileged to go to New York with the Art Department several times and visit the museums which was quite a treat for me being a little mid-western girl.

**Thrower:** I will miss the area here too and I'm sure you did when you went away because there is so much to do here.

**Gillenwater:** I will never forget one of the times we went into New York City, we were...Virgil and I were standing on a street corner waiting for a stop light to change and somebody said "Dr. Gillenwater, what in the world are you doing here?" and you know, it's just amazing wherever you go, wherever we went, we would see someone we knew.

**Thrower:** Now that you are back, the campus is so different. It's grown so much and we have the new sidewalks through the center of campus which you did not have. It looks quite different.

**Gillenwater:** It's so different. I just can't hardly believe all the developments that has taken place.

**Jackman:** I'm gonna miss your house.

**Gillenwater:** I miss..I want...I'm going to say I...tomorrow I'm gonna say where is Garden House? I can't find it (laughs) In spite...despite the fact that Garden House wasn't the greatest house in the world and we were promised a new home, weren't we Hope?

**Jackman:** Yes, you were.

**Gillenwater:** That was part of our deal in coming and we weren't working with architects when we left but Garden House has lots of memories or it did have I should say and we had lots of good times because I remembered I was determined to have an open house with the faculty at Christmas after we arrived in October and we took off doors and whatever to make up a flow pattern.

**Jackman:** A flow of traffic.

**Gillenwater:** And the food service backed a big truck up and used it as a utility room it was an...they just backed it up to the end of our house and used it as a serving....

**Thrower:** Oh, that was your nature to make the best of anything that you had to work with and you did a lovely job.

**Gillenwater:** Well I was blessed to have people like you, Doris, who were really conscientious and dedicated, and Hope, and I feel like you are part of my family and I know Virgil felt that way about you.

**Jackman:** Makes me feel very proud.

**Thrower:** And very honored.

**Jackman:** Uh, I think it might be explained for the sake of the history of the College that the house referred to as the Garden House was one of several houses which had belonged to private individuals and on the land as the College...the state acquired the land for the College and this was one of the houses that faced, I think I said earlier, Lake Ceva and you did make it a very cordial place to come to.

**Gillenwater:** Thank you.

**Thrower:** Hope, why was that called the Morton House at one time before it was changed to the Garden House?

**Jackman:** No, no.

**Thrower:** It wasn't?

**Jackman:** It was the Garden House always.

**Gillenwater:** That's all I ever heard.

**Thrower:** I was always thinking it was originally the Morton house but did Dr. Morton live in the house?

**Jackman:** He did.

**Thrower:** Maybe that's where I got the idea.

**Jackman:** But it was never called the Morton House to my knowledge.

**Thrower:** It was always referred to as the Garden House.

**Jackman:** The other houses on the campus were referred to by the names of the former owners you know until...and they were used until they were torn down. Well I think this has really been a great experience and I think we have made a fine contribution to the informal oral history of Trenton State College.

**Gillenwater:** While I certainly appreciate you having the time to record this for posterity and I know that maybe someday our children will be able to...and our grandchildren will be able to check into all of this at Trenton State College and I just want you all to know that we love Trenton State College and we loved its people, faculty, and students and staff and we had lot...quite a few students in for various occasions and we still hear from...I still hear from some of them.

**Jackman:** It's amazing.

**Thrower:** Well, Hope and I have been so happy working on this project and we're so pleased that we have a living memorial that will be here permanent memorial and it's just been a great place to working for a person that we love so much.

**Gillenwater:** Thank you so much. Do I have time to say that Virgil when he was on his...practically on his death bed he was telling me what to do what not to do and this... He was managing up to the very end and I said "Oh Virgil, what will I do if people at Trenton State College want to do something in your memory, if anyone is still there who remembers you" and he said "Oh, just plant a tree" and so you know that is what I thought we were going to do, really, is just plant a tree and then after I talked to you Doris and you said, "Oh no not just a tree, there is gonna be something else done" so this is going to be a very living tree.

**Thrower:** Oh, we were so grateful to Dr. Burns because we were delighted when he agreed to paint the portrait. He has painted different ones on campus and...

**Gillenwater:** He was one of Virgil's favorite people and that's why I think it's so special Dr. Burns did it.

**Thrower:** And I was so happy when he agreed to do so because my husband was in Armstrong and he did Dr. Armstrong's portrait in the building and I was always so pleased to walk in and look at that portrait and I was so pleased when he agreed to do Dr. Gillenwater's and I'm so happy that he captured the expression...the true expression that I remember....

**Gillenwater:** Even to the hand.

**Jackman:** Well that does give a real feeling of authority.

**Gillenwater:** Right. Thank you so much.

**Jackman:** We have enjoyed this and tomorrow....