

*South Carolina Political Collections
University Libraries
University of South Carolina*

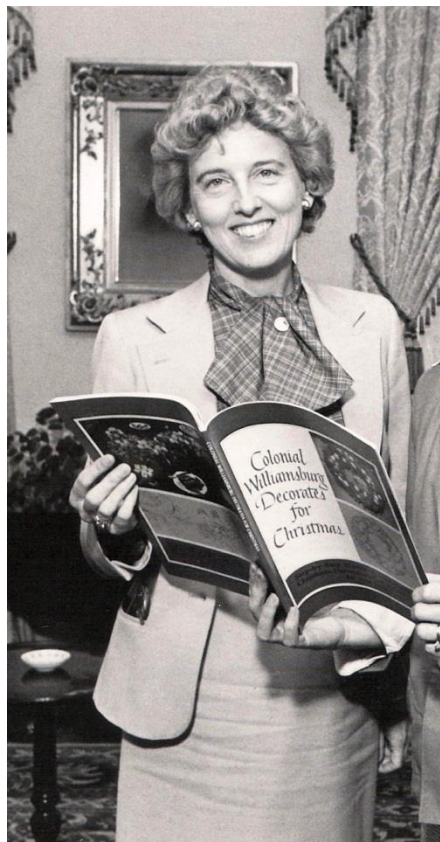
Ann Yarborough “Tunky” Riley
(1935 – 2008)

Papers, c. 1880s-2008, bulk 1978-1988

Volume:	3 linear feet
Processed:	2009, by Dorothy Hazelrigg; additions, 2016, by Dorothy Walker and Mae Bradford
Provenance:	Donated by the Honorable and Mrs. Richard W. Riley
Citation Form:	Ann Yarborough “Tunky” Riley Papers, South Carolina Political Collections, The University of South Carolina
Copyright:	Copyright of the Ann Yarborough “Tunky” Riley papers has been transferred to the University of South Carolina.

Biographical Note:

Ann Osteen Yarborough Riley served as South Carolina's First Lady from 1979 until 1987, and was known not only for her gracious hospitality and warmth, but for her work toward improving South Carolina's educational system. The daughter of Hubert Yarborough and Anne Yarborough Bryson, Mrs. Riley was born in Florence, SC. Known from childhood by the nickname "Tunky" (thought to be a Gullah word meaning "sweet little baby"), she was a graduate of McClenaghan



High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of South Carolina. In 1957, she married Richard W. "Dick" Riley, then a law student at USC. Following his graduation, they moved to Washington, D.C., where Riley worked for Senator Olin D. Johnston and the Senate Judiciary Committee. Ultimately the Rileys returned to the state, settling in Greenville, which Riley represented in the General Assembly from 1963 to 1977. The couple had four children: Richard, Jr., Anne, Hubert, and Ted.

Mrs. Riley was actively involved for years in the Greenville public schools, as a volunteer coordinator, tutor, and teacher. That interest carried over into her husband's priorities as a legislator, governor, and, eventually, Secretary of Education under President Bill Clinton. In 2006, Riley credited his wife as "one of the chief reasons he got involved in education."¹ Mrs. Riley was a full partner in the Riley administration's efforts to advance public education, leading the Governor's Task Force on Citizen Participation in Education, as well as chairing the South Carolina Adult Reading Campaign and helping to marshal support for 1984's landmark Education Improvement Act. Mrs. Riley also took interest in the arts,

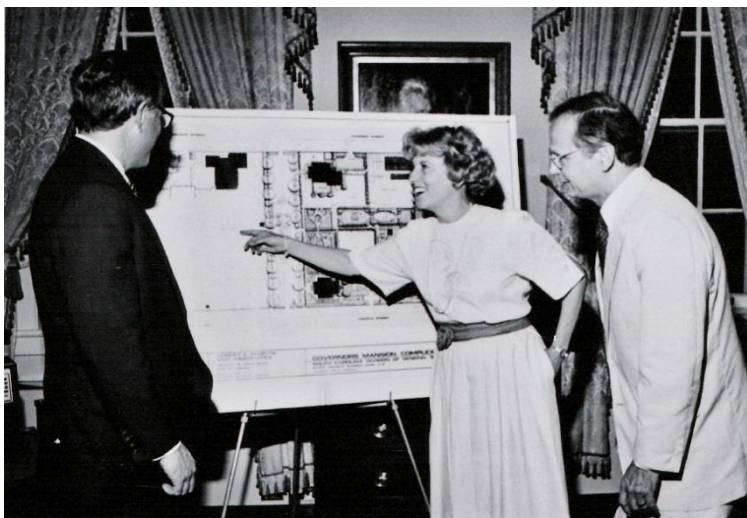
wildflowers, and natural beauty, but as she told the *Spartanburg Herald-Journal* in 1986, "My primary interest has always been in education, and I've spent much of my efforts working with various committees, programs and reforms—like the Education Improvement Act—because I believe education is the most important function state government provides."²

One of Mrs. Riley's most visible projects as First Lady was raising funds for, planning, and carrying out a major renovation to the state's Governor's Mansion. The Mansion, its grounds and associated buildings, including the Lace House and the Caldwell-Boylston House, were developed into a nine-acre complex featuring refurbished gardens and the Mansion Mall area that is now a gathering place for public and private events.

¹"Florence native, former first lady, 'Tunky' Riley dies at 72," *Florence Morning News*, 7 March 2008

² Ginger Lundy, "'Tunky': The State's First Lady is Heading Home," *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, 23 February 1986

Mrs. Riley was diagnosed with breast cancer in the early 1980s, but continued her work as First Lady during the treatment of her cancer. She was noted for her regular presence in the chamber of the South Carolina Senate during debate on the Education Improvement Act, despite undergoing chemotherapy. In March 2008, after a recurrence of the disease, Mrs. Riley passed away at the age of 72. A resolution passed by the General Assembly soon afterward stated in part, "Ann Riley is remembered as gracious and kind in every situation and a friend to everyone she knew. She was a rock to her husband personally and politically and an example and teacher to her children; and...the members of the South Carolina General Assembly are saddened to learn of the death of Ann Yarborough Riley who served her beloved Palmetto State so effectively with such vitality and grace."³



Scope and Content:

Mrs. Riley's papers consist of Public papers relating to her work as First Lady of South Carolina, as well as Personal papers, Speeches, Clippings, and photographs. The Public papers particularly document her leadership on education issues and her active involvement in the Governor's Mansion renovations.

Personal papers and photographs include material on Mrs. Riley's family and family history. The Speeches series includes many on subjects close to Mrs. Riley's heart, including various facets of education, adult literacy, volunteerism, and the arts.



³H. 4852, 13 March 2008

Box List:

Public:

Box 1

General:

1979-1980
1981-1982
1983-1985
1986 and n.d.

Invitations

Topical:

Arts:

General
Governor's Task Force on the Arts
Joint Legislative Committee on Cultural Affairs, Advisory Committee

Children:

General
International Year of the Child
South Carolina/Southern Association on Children Under Six (2)

Education:

General

Adult:

General (2)
South Carolina Adult Reading Campaign (2)
Governor's Task Force on Citizen Participation in Education:
1979
1980-1981 and c. 1981
1982-1984
1985
1986-1988
N.d.

Institute for Responsive Education (3)

Law-Related Education

First Lady Cookbook

Governor's Mansion Complex:

General (2)

Boylston House and Gardens

Budget

"Development of an Historical Area in the Capital of South Carolina: The Arsenal Hill Project"

Events and Visitors:

1979-1980
1981-1986 and n.d.

Furnishings

Governor's Mansion Commission:

General
Meetings

Regulations for Use of Mansion and Grounds
Governor's Mansion Foundation:

Box 2

General
Budget and Contributions:
1979-1985
1986 and n.d.

Bylaws and Membership
Events:
1982-1984
1985-1986 and n.d.

Meetings
Grounds and Gardens
Kenner House
Lace House
Maps and Architectural Plans
Master Plan [Restoration/Expansion]:
1979-1984
1985
1986 and n.d.

Staff

Tours

Video Tours

Waring House, Charles Towne Landing, Charleston

Governor's Task Force on Critical Human Needs

Gubernatorial Spouses Seminar, 1985 (2)

Health Care:

General
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Inauguration:

1979
1983
n.d.

National Governors' Conference:

1980-1981
1986:

General
Planning (2)
Program
Thanks

South Carolina Mother of the Year/Family of the Year

Southern Governors' Conference

Volunteerism
Wildflower Alliance

Personal:

Box 3

General
Campaign [Dick Riley Gubernatorial]:
 1978
 1982
Civil Service (1957)
Democratic Party
Education
Family:
 General
 Bryson, Anne Osteen Yarborough (mother)
 Osteen Family Papers
 Osteen Genealogy Charts
 Wedding (1957)
 Yarborough Family Papers
Topical:
 Dinner "In Honor of Ann Yarborough Riley," 19 October 1986
 Macrobiotic Diet

Speeches: [*See speech index*]

Speech Material:
 General
 Education:
 General
 Adult and Literacy
 Citizens Participation and Volunteerism
 Early Childhood
 Governor's Mansion
 Volunteerism

Texts:
 1979-1980 and c. 1980
 1981 and c. 1981
 1982 and c. 1982
 1983 and c. 1983
 1984-1985 and c. 1984-1985
 1986 and c. 1986
 1987-1988

Clippings:

General:
 1976, 1978-1980
 1981-1988

2008 and n.d.

Education

Family:

General

Bryson, Anne Osteen Yarborough (mother)

Governor's Mansion, 1976, 1978, 1980-1986, and n.d.

National Governors' Conference

Audiovisual, Photographs:

General

Osteen/Yarborough Family:

c. 1880s- c. 1950s

c. 1960s- c. 1970s

c. 1980s- c. 1990s

Oversized

Speech Index

1979:

July 19, SC Festival of Flowers, Greenwood

Aug.:

25, Democratic Women's Club, Florence

26, Alex Harvin Highway Dedication Ceremony

28, Oconee County Democratic Party

1980:

Apr.:

10, "Arts in the Eighties," J.L. Mann High School, Greenville

23, Garden Clubs of SC

May 23, Spoleto, Charleston

June 16, SCAPCAE/ACE/SCAAED [adult education] Summer Conference

Oct.:

13, Atlas Road Elementary School, Columbia

21, Business and Professional Women's Club, Anderson

c. 1980, Kirkland Jaycees

1981:

Jan.:

13, Charleston County Kick-off, Adult Reading Campaign

29, Community Awareness Luncheon, Adult Reading Campaign, Richland
County School District One, Columbia

Feb. 16, Forest Lake Elementary School PTO

Mar. 13, SC State Conference of the International Reading Association

Apr.:

28, Volunteerism

29, Adopt-A-School Luncheon, Greenville

30, Governor's Health Promotion Workshop, Columbia

May 11, Blackville School Spring Commitment for Reading Campaign

c. 1981:

"Commitment to Excellence 1981," Conway High School

Governor's Award for Citizen Participation in Education, Mauldin High School

Democratic Women of Greenville County

c. 1980-1981, Greenville Urban Ministry

1982:

Jan. 27, United Way of Florence County

Feb.:

- 17, Lake City Junior High School
- 25, Clemson Home Extension Symposium

Mar., Democratic Women?

Apr.:

- 9, Annual Meeting, SC Association of Human Service Agencies
- 20, Webber School
- 30, Volunteer Greenville

May:

- 3, Bradley Elementary
- 10, Sumter Junior League

Sept. 15, Legal Secretaries Association

Oct. 9, Delta Kappa Gamma

c. 1982:

- Campaign issues
- South Carolina's Outstanding Head Start Parent for 1982
- Women's History Week, Greenville

1983:

Jan.:

- 27, Pedestrian Safety Campaign
- No date, Governor's Mansion and volunteerism, Clover

Feb.:

- 16, Easter Seal Luncheon
- 17, Wil Lou Gray Literacy Meeting
- 24, Beta Club Induction, Monaview Middle School, Greenville

Mar. 23, Gaffney Literacy Council [also used for Greenwood LC]

Apr.:

- 13, Midlands Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
- 21, Camden Elementary School PTO

May 11, Logan School Head Start Parents

Sept. 7, Greenwood Literacy Council [text also used at Lancaster, Chester, and York Counties?]

c. 1983, Democratic Women of Columbia

1984:

Mar. 1, Easter Seals Kickoff Luncheon

May 7, Lexington County Hospital Volunteers

c. 1984, "Partnerships for Progress: Parents, Schools, and the Community," SC School Boards Association

1985:

Jan. 17, Chester County Literacy Council

Mar. 29, Institute for Responsive Education, Atlanta, GA

Apr. 23, Lexington School District 2 Volunteer Recognition Banquet

Nov.:

4, Bennettsville High School Academic Boosters

9, Parent Involvement Conference

N.d., Cherokee County Literacy Association Annual Meeting

1986:

Jan. 10, Intergenerational Reading Program, Orangeburg

Mar.:

17, Orangeburg Art Center Dedication

18, Press Conference, Adult Reading

25, Education Improvement Act Update

Sept. 9, "Working Together to Fight Illiteracy: A Focus on Older South Carolinians"

Oct. 18, South Carolina Association on Children Under Six

c. 1986, "Second South Carolina Conference on Effective Schools—Focus on Teaching '86"

1987:

Apr. 30, Greenville County Education Association Human Relations Awards Banquet

Aug. 14, Furman University Commencement Address

1988, Sept. 16, Greenville Democratic Women