BUILDING a HOUSE | MAKING a HOME
A History of the North Dakota Governor’s Residence

FIRST LADY BETSY DALRYMPLE
Building a House, Making a Home
A History of the North Dakota Governor’s Residence

by First Lady Betsy Dalrymple
with Janet Daley Jury and Cathy A. Langemo

Published by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence. All proceeds raised from the sale of this book will benefit Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence.

Layout and Design provided by Odney.
This book is dedicated to Steve Sharkey, residence manager from 1985 to the present, and all those who have worked at the residence through the years. He epitomizes the kind and caring people who helped make this house a home.
Acknowledgments

When Governor Jack Dalrymple and I moved into the residence in December of 2010, we were struck by the sense of history within these walls. We were anxious to learn who built the house, why the location was chosen, the stories of families that had lived there, and what changes had been made in the residence since it was built in 1959. At that time there was no history of the residence to be found.

I asked Steve Sharkey, the residence manager, to arrange a visit with Bob Ritterbush, the architect, and Steve’s father, Stan Sharkey, who worked for Ritterbush Brothers. I had a great time visiting with these men and when I relayed some of the information to Jack that evening, he immediately asked me to invite them over again when he could also attend. I realized that I knew all the living first ladies at that time and wondered if they would be interested in documenting their lives in the residence. I knew that time was fleeting and that we might have only a brief chance to capture their stories. This is what began the search for information about the history and family life in the governor’s residence.

I sincerely thank First Ladies Jean Guy, Grace Link, Barbara Olson, Jane Sinner, Nancy Schafer, and Mikey Hoeven for the time they spent being interviewed and looking for photographs. I also thank Rick Davis, Nancy Guy, Deb Guy Igoe, Mary Jo Sinner Savageau, Eric Sinner, Kari Jones Hammer, and Marcella Hoeven Sampson for sharing their recollections of living in the residence. I'm grateful as well to Ed Conlin and Wayne Sanstead for their interviews. I think we all enjoyed the conversations and the time spent together.

This entire effort would not have gone so smoothly without the help of Sarah Johnson, my administrative assistant, who worked so diligently and was an indispensable partner in the interviews, research, numerous meetings, and in the review of multiple drafts of the book. She deserves credit for this project as much as anyone.

The real work of transforming the transcripts and research into a written narrative was the work of Janet Daley Jury and Cathy A. Langemo. This book is the direct result of their long hours of hard work.

I am full of appreciation for all these individuals, agencies, and organizations.
that helped make this book a possibility:

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Pat Finken and Odney for donating their time and talents in designing and creating the perfect layout for the manuscript.

We have tried hard to be historically accurate but due to lack of documentation in some areas and the various perspectives from years ago this book may contain some simplifications and oversights. Any inaccuracies are unintentional.

First Lady Betsy Dalrymple- September 2014
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Southwest of the eighteen-story skyscraper state capitol building in Bismarck, North Dakota, on the corner of Fourth Street and Boulevard Avenue, stands the North Dakota governor’s residence, a brick-clad rambler that has been home to the state’s governors and their families since March 1960.

This book offers a look at the public and private spaces in the residence, the lives and experiences of the families who have lived there, and the history of the house itself, from conception to renovation to its present appearance. First Lady Betsy Dalrymple initiated this project to preserve the memories and history of the house she currently occupies with her husband, Governor Jack Dalrymple. She and her assistant, Sarah Johnson, interviewed former first ladies and some of their children, as well as the residence’s architect and first interior designer. They went through photo albums and guest books and conducted research at the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Through First Lady Betsy’s efforts, the story of the modern governor’s residence unfolds with its
high moments and many challenges.

Since March 18, 1960, when Governor John and First Lady Pauline Davis moved out of the first governors’ “mansion” and into the new governor’s “residence” for the remaining nine months of his term, the residence has been the official home to eight governors and their families.

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<th>GOVERNOR AND FIRST LADY</th>
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*Until 1965 the governors served two-year terms; in 1964 a term became four years.
The First Governors’ Mansion

The first two governors of North Dakota, John Miller (1889-91) and Andrew H. Burke (1891-93), did not have an official residence. By 1893, however, the State of North Dakota had purchased a house on Avenue B and Fourth Street in Bismarck for $6,000 to establish a state residence for its governor and family. The large, two-story house featured porches with turned spindlework on both levels, and a “widow’s walk” cresting the roof. Sometimes described as Victorian, the architecture of the mansion is more accurately identified as “transitional between Stick and Queen Anne styles.”

That home, known today as the Former Governors’ Mansion State Historic Site, had been built in 1884 by Bismarck businessman, Asa Fisher, as his personal residence. Fisher was in the wholesale liquor business and was president of First National Bank in Bismarck. When North Dakota entered the Union in 1889 as a “dry” state and Prohibition took effect in North Dakota the next year, it wasn’t long before he was ready to move. When the Fisher home was first completed, Bismarck’s streets were still unpaved and development to the north of the mansion was minimal, except for the state capitol building and grounds. The Asa Fisher house served as the North Dakota Governors’ Mansion for sixty-seven years.

Governor Eli C. D. Shortridge and his family moved into the mansion in late May 1893. First Lady Anna Shortridge was active in planning furnishings for the house, using funds allocated by the state legislature. It was once described as having a “quiet elegance and soft coloring.”

As early as December 1902, before Governor Frank White began his second term, work was required on the interior, including new wallpaper, painting, and redecorating. Workmen were busy plastering in the kitchen, varnishing woodwork, and painting the exterior. Window treatments, hall rugs,
and some furniture were also replaced.  

During the next fifty years, the governors’ mansion underwent many other updates and improvements, such as new kitchen plumbing, repaired flooring, remodeling in the attic, and a bathroom addition. But one issue—the house’s inadequate heating—was never fully addressed. The heating problem was sometimes so severe that the resident governor and his family had to move to a local hotel during the coldest winter months. The need for a new home became more and more urgent.

By the 1940s, the state legislature began discussing construction of a new governors’ mansion. For the governor, it was always difficult to push for a better home for his family, despite the obvious needs, when it meant asking to spend tax dollars that could otherwise benefit another statewide program.

The State Legislature Takes Action

It was not until February 1951 that the state legislature passed House Bill No. 249, introduced to build a new mansion to be located on the capitol grounds. They appropriated $173,000 from the capitol building fund for the

The Former Governors’ Mansion was restored to its original appearance in 1893. The yellow building adjacent to it was the carriage house with rooms for the caretaker on the second story.
project. Though it passed the state house 85 to 19, Governor Norman Brunsdale vetoed the bill. He believed there were more pressing problems at hand than a new home for the governor.⁶

Supporters of the new governor’s residence made an effort to override his veto but did not succeed. Senator Milton Rue, Bismarck, said, “The legislature should take it upon itself to see that the governor of our state has a dignified residence in keeping with the importance of his office and in harmony with our splendid state capitol.”⁷

In 1952, a survey was sent to the governors in the neighboring states of Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Minnesota to help determine what planners should consider including in a new governor’s residence, such as a two- to three-car garage, the number of bedrooms set aside for state guests, size of the reception and dining rooms for public events, and bedrooms for employees (such as maid, cook, and chauffeur) at the residence.⁸

On March 10, 1955, the North Dakota legislature passed House Bill No. 761 by a 72-36 vote, authorizing $200,000 for a new governor’s mansion initially planned for the northeast area of the capitol grounds, about two blocks west of State Street and on the south side of Divide Avenue. This time, the legislature overrode Governor Brunsdale’s veto and, by mid-March, the bill had become law.⁹ An emergency measure which set aside an additional $2,500 to begin a site survey of the

The 1955 House Bill 761 stated, “... providing for the construction and equipping of an executive mansion on the capitol grounds and providing for an appropriation ... from moneys realized out of and from the sale of lands donated and granted to the state ... for the purpose of erecting public buildings at the capital of the state for legislative, executive and judicial purposes, the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to construct and equip an executive mansion on the capitol grounds ...”

“The board of administration, with the approval of the governor, shall provide for the construction and equipping of the executive mansion authorized by this Act and shall select a site upon the capitol grounds and enter into such contracts as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.”
proposed location was also passed. The money for construction would come from two sources—a building mill levy and income from land given to the state by the federal government.

The members of the Board of Administration [today known as the Office of Management and Budget Facility Management] were asked to include both “state” or public spaces, as well as “family” or private areas in the design. They requested an amendment for additional funds from the 1955 state legislature to accomplish their task, but legislators felt that $200,000 was more than adequate.

Architect Selection

On August 17, 1955, the Board of Administration selected Herman M. Leonhard as architect, from the Bismarck firm of Leonhard, Askew and Blake. A Minneapolis firm, Morrell and Nichols, provided plans for landscaping and other future structures for the residence and capitol grounds. Knute Henning, North Dakota Agricultural College instructor, was also retained as a consulting advisor. In September 1955, Ed J. Conlin, Jr., was hired as
Leonhard felt the new governor’s mansion should be the most distinctive residence in North Dakota and should be built as soon as possible. Five plans were considered from the *House and Garden’s Book of Buildings, 1954: 40 Houses and Plans*. Negotiations between the board, Governor Brunsdale, and the architects continued as they struggled to find a design that met the aesthetic, practical, and financial requirements of this building project. The original design submitted in the spring of 1956 was for a contemporary multi-level house more than 200 feet in length with massive windows on the south side to take advantage of the view that would overlook the capitol to the southwest. It included living quarters above the three-car garage for the caretaker. The headline on an undated newspaper article about the design read “Plans Develop for No. 1 House.”

In May 1956 the board asked for a revision of the original drawings. Jack Askew, a member of the architectural firm, “considered this a flat rejection of his concept of what the North Dakota governor’s mansion should look like, built on research and five months of work.” Nevertheless, Askew returned in June with a new sketch of a two-story home in a colonial style, but the board decided instead to revise and reduce the size of the original design to keep it affordable and simpler.
Governor Brunsdale suggested that any further action should be delayed until Governor John E. Davis would take office in January 1957, since the appropriation bill required that the current governor must approve the plan before any funds could be spent. Accordingly, the board informed H. M. Leonhard by letter dated August 31, 1956, that they had voted to “discontinue further negotiations with your firm” and requested a statement for services performed to that date. The letter stated, “There are various reasons why the above action was taken at this late date such as the unacceptable design and sketches furnished that do not meet the wholehearted approval of the Board and the Governor which is required and as set forth in the authorization for this project.” Waiting for the incoming governor’s approval, rather than moving forward on plans approved by the outgoing governor, seemed judicious.

New plans for the governor’s residence were completed in 1957, and, with the concurrence of the Board of Administration and Governor Davis, bids were let for a revised design submitted by Leonhard and Askew. A personal dimension to the planning process was added with Governor Davis’s election: Jack Askew, the principal designer
of the building, was married to Kay Huntley, a sister of First Lady Pauline Davis.

Since the original architectural plan had been scrapped as too expensive, the board agreed on a revision of the design. The house was to be no more than 150 feet long with the windows on the south reduced by 50 percent, but still nearly 10,000 square feet in space. They felt it would still allow for sufficient state areas and private quarters as well.

The major change in the physical appearance of the residence meant downsizing the plans from what was considered a “mansion” to what was later referred to as a “residence.”

The house was designed to face Divide Avenue with a single story and have a lower level “walk-out” on the south side, facing the city. The bids were opened on April 8, 1958. The lowest bid of $199,906 came from the Peavey Company. Included in the multi-level plan were these elements:

- winding, shrub-lined drive leading to house
- masonry for outside finishes
- slightly pitched roof
- four bedrooms, each with private bath and dressing room on the first floor
- reading, music, and multi-purpose rooms on the main floor
- large living room with various levels and plants to separate areas, rather than walls
- wood paneling as dominant interior finish
- basement with a large recreation room, three guest bedrooms, and a bar area leading to outside terrace
- floor-to-ceiling windows on the south side
- chauffeur’s cottage
- three-car garage
Even the lowest bid, however, was considered over the appropriated budget because it did not include the cost of architect fees or home furnishings. The Board of Administration met ten days later on April 18 and rejected all of the bids “because insufficient funds were available to go ahead.”

In what became a contentious and widely reported exchange, the board decided to end their contract with Leonhard and Askew and sent them a voucher for $7,000 for services rendered. Deeming the amount as “not sufficient to constitute a payment in full,” Leonhard returned the voucher to the board in a letter dated April 24, 1958. He wrote, “We were very surprised that this hasty and apparently final action was taken without further consultation with this office.”

The process for building a new residence had become what an editorial in the *Bismarck Tribune* dated April 26, 1958, referred to as a “bungled mess.” At the same time, the editorial reminded readers about the importance of getting this project right:

The residence we build now will serve governors of this state for generations. It should be erected with this in mind. It should be dignified, yet in keeping with the times and the progressive spirit of the state’s people. It should not be a palace but neither can it be an ordinary home. It should be a structure to which North Dakotans will point with pride for decades to come, just as they point with pride to their glorious capitol. More than a home, it will be a symbol of the state and its people, for although the governor is the one who lives in it, actually it belongs to all the people and they will want to be proud of it just as they want to be proud of all of their possessions.

**New Architect Selected**

In May 1959, the Board of Administration hired a new architectural firm, Ritterbush Brothers Architects and Engineers of Bismarck. The two brothers, Robert A. and Clarence W. Ritterbush, had an office at 209 North Seventh Street, where their family had provided architectural services since 1883. The board again gave the architects directions to stay within the 1955 budget of $200,000 for building and furnishing the new governor’s residence. The
board also decided to change the location from the northeast corner of the capitol grounds to the southwest corner.

Why the change of location? Perhaps the symmetry of the capitol grounds was a consideration with the recent purchase of the State Office Building in the southeast corner. Another large structure, like the governor’s residence on the opposite corner, could provide for a more balanced appearance. Another consideration was that the relocation was expected to make connecting to sewer, water, and electrical utilities along Boulevard Avenue and Fourth Street easier and less expensive. There was also discussion about placing an additional state office building across the capitol mall from the Liberty Memorial Building (now the North Dakota State Library building), which may have been an effort to create symmetry.

In a 2012 interview with architect Bob Ritterbush, he said, “There were no consulting engineers around or anything, so we did all the engineering for the residence, as well as the design and architectural part of it. Our firm had a reputation of coming within the funds so they hired us to do it. So we started designing the house. At that point, we were very careful trying to get it within the money so we had only a partial basement, and some of the areas were left a

Architectural drawing of new governor's residence.
little bit unfinished.”

The plan referred to by Bob Ritterbush was called “Prairie style on a budget.” It was a very simplified version of the “Prairie style,” a design influenced by famed architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, and still in the age of detached garages. Prairie style integrated the building with the natural landscape, featured low rooflines, and emphasized a connection between the interior of the home and nature outside. In many ways the house is successful in achieving those goals. Other versions of this style are now being called “mid-century modern.”

Ritterbush said, “The initial construction, like the fireplace, entrance and outside stone work, were designed by us. One of my favorite areas in the residence is the exterior granite wall coming to the inside and tying into the fireplace finish in the state living room. It leads into the space—that’s part of

The citizens of North Dakota freely offered their opinions of the house plan. Rodney Anderson from Harvey wrote on June 2, 1956, to suggest that the Board of Administration build “. . . a house expressive of North Dakota’s future, her native materials, and her sturdy people . . . for the development of a truly Dakotan prairie architecture completely new in idea and developed with the creative genius of a great architect. You know, if we ever want an architecture of our own, the time is now. Seldom will a more choice moment come.”

A letter dated May 10, 1956, signed by Alice and Anna Corbin from Livonia, expressed concern about a newspaper article mentioning a “bar area” to be placed in the basement recreation room, assuming that “bar” meant a place to serve liquor, rather than a snack and seating area for social gatherings. An excerpt of their letter appears below:
the prairie style, with a wall leading from the outside to the inside and then carrying through.”

Designing the new residence was a challenge because the architects could not predict what size a governor’s family might be—with one child, or five, or none. Ritterbush said, “Normally, when you're designing a home for a family, you know what size the family is.” This plan would require guesswork, along with the opportunity for further modification.

The architects’ decision to build all areas of the residence, but leave some unfinished to have the space available later as it was needed, kept the project from running over the budget at construction time. Ritterbush said, “Money is a major restraint on a lot of projects and very definitely here because the board gave specific instructions. [They] just wanted to get the house built.” He added that the plan included areas that might not be finished until there was additional legislative funding.

Governor Jack Dalrymple affirmed Ritterbush’s comment: “I think it’s exactly what the legislature wanted at that time. They wanted it to be a humble place and definitely not splashy. And yet, the interior is much larger than most people realize. In fact, I didn’t realize it myself until we toured the residence with [First Lady] Mikey Hoeven. She took us through every nook and cranny, and I suddenly realized how much square footage there was.”

Steve Sharkey, the current residence manager, agreed: “Ten thousand square feet is a lot for a house and a garage.” Today there are sixteen rooms within that square footage: nine for state/public use and seven for family/private use only.

Building Process

The general contract was awarded to Froeschle and Sons, owned by Roland and Don Froeschle of Bismarck, for $175,173, at $20/square foot. The original plan contained eighteen rooms. Ritterbush said, “Separating the state part of the house from the family part dictated a linear design. Because of the budget, we had to keep the simple, ranch style.” Choosing to use bricks made by the Hebron Brick Company in southwestern North Dakota for the house’s exterior also affected the look of the house.

The building plan was reconsidered and altered, resulting in a new bid of $161,530. Some of the changes that were made included a delay in finishing two bedrooms and a game room in the basement; substituting brick for stone on the
fireplaces; and using state crews to remove the trees from the residence site and to strip the black dirt to prepare for excavation, rather than hiring a private firm. The reductions in construction costs provided the needed funds to furnish the house and to pay the architects’ fees. The total cost was just over $201,000.

Other subcontractors included:

- Sanitary Plumbing and Heating, Mandan (plumbing)
- Gerlach’s Sheet Metal Works, Bismarck (heating and ventilating)
- Skeels Electric, Bismarck (electrical)
- Tavis Appliance, Bismarck (appliances)
- Monson Contractor, Bismarck (excavating)
- Atlas Redi-Mix, Bismarck (concrete)
- Hebron Brick Company, Hebron (bricks)
- Quality Builders, Bismarck (lumber)
- Fargo Foundry Company, Fargo (steel)
- Cold Springs Granite Company, St. Cloud, Minnesota (granite)
- Vantine Paint and Glass, Bismarck (glass)
- Dakota Flooring, Bismarck (tile and hard surfaces)

Construction started in June 1959 and, by early September, the foundation work was nearly finished. The brick exterior was begun after that, and construction was completed in March 1960. In the end, the two floors of the residence and garage totaled 10,152 square feet and required 400 yards of carpet, 750 yards of drapery material, 250 rolls of wall covering, and 146 separate items of furniture that were selected and purchased in competitive bidding.25

Landscaping

Bob Ritterbush said, “We planned the front part—the loop road and so on. Beyond that, the fences and hedges and so on all came later.” As the trees and hedges grew, they created natural privacy. The landscaping contract was let to Robey Nursery and Landscaping, owned by Duane Robey, in the spring of 1960. The landscaping and planting of the lawn and shrubs were completed in 1961 at a cost of $6,632.

Ritterbush noted that the decision to use penitentiary inmates for the excavation of the property was a big cost-saving measure: “They could basically dig the hole for the residence, and the contractor would square it off a little bit
and go from there. We were also told that we didn’t need to worry about the landscaping but just to get the residence built.” Stan Sharkey, the office manager for the Ritterbush Brothers, recalled, “The chauffeur lived across the street and up a few doors. He looked after the inmates that worked on the grounds.”

The new residence was a structure of steel, glass, and brick. As designed, it was divided into a state side and a private/family area. The state rooms include living room, dining room, guest bedroom and bathroom, two bathrooms in the hallway, and office space for the governor. A centrally located kitchen would serve both areas. The family area included a living/dining area, master bedroom (with bathroom and sitting area), one other bedroom, and one bathroom.

Finishing the Residence

In 1961, part of the basement was finished with two bedrooms and a
bathroom, but it was 1972 before the lower level was completed and furnished. By January 7, 1972, the total overall cost to build and furnish the new residence, including architect and engineering fees, came to about $253,000.27

SURPRISES

The spot selected for the new residence had once been a city cemetery, started in about 1873. Stan Sharkey commented, “Right after World War II, Tom Hall, the North Dakota Secretary of State at the time, and I had lunch together quite often at the Prince Hotel [in downtown Bismarck]. I’d give him a ride, and, coming up Fourth Street one day, he said, ‘You know this area was the original cemetery for the village of Bismarck, before St. Mary’s and Fairview Cemeteries [were built].’” In 1893, there was a major effort to move most of the graves, but not all of them were still visible by then.

Bob Ritterbush affirmed that, during Bismarck’s early days, the southwest corner was a “boot hill” or “undeclared cemetery,” with marked and unmarked graves. He said, “People who came out here early on died and maybe had no connection with anybody else who was buried there. Some graves were left unmarked because nobody knew anything about those people.” Before the cemetery was moved, supposedly in the 1880s, it is said that a woman was seen with a shotgun, sitting in a rocking chair and guarding her father’s grave.

The history of the site became obvious when, on June 12, 1959, a pine coffin, containing the remains of a man age forty to forty-eight years old, was uncovered by a tractor preparing the site. By November of that year, five pine boxes and sets of remains had been uncovered. While grading for the driveway, the last grave was uncovered right outside the residence’s front door when the tractor’s bucket scraped dirt off the top of the pine coffin.

There was no record or way of identifying the bodies so they were immediately reinterred at one of the local cemeteries. There may still be some unmarked graves in the area of the governor’s residence.
Original Decorating and Furnishing of the Residence

Once the plans for the residence were finalized, the work began on designing the interior décor and choosing furniture. The interior designer hired in September 1955 was Ed J. Conlin, Jr., of Reff Conlin Furniture, Inc., and a member of the American Institute of Decorators. When the Board of Administration rejected the first house plan, he was released in April 1958. Almost a year later, in March 1959, when bids were accepted for the new plan, he was rehired with a budget of $35,000 for all interior furnishings, equipment, and designer fees.

Furnishings for the new residence were selected after a comprehensive review of governors’ homes in other states and review of furniture lines displayed in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles showrooms. Conlin met with Governor Davis and his wife, Pauline, and H. H. Joos, chairman of the Board of Administration, to decide on color schemes and furniture groupings.

Ed Conlin said, “The interior design and furnishings were budgeted separately from the house construction budget. Though the budget was limited, we felt there was a certain minimum quality that would be appropriate for the governor’s residence.”

“We chose traditional furnishings...
because that was more compatible with people’s tastes in North Dakota. And it would stand the test of time a little better than using anything truly contemporary in the house, although the design of the home probably would have allowed that.”

Ed said, “The Baker Furniture Company and the Romweber Company were principal sources and considered the Cadillac of the furniture industry at the time. I always loved Romweber furniture—it’s such a classic style, so heavy and of such good quality. And the Baker furniture that was made at that time would still be really beautifully finished.” He had help from the outgoing and incoming first ladies in making decisions. “Both Pauline Davis and Jean Guy had very exquisite tastes, and we met frequently. We did a proposal for all of the rooms, and the entire project was put into one huge list of specifications that was turned over to the Board of Administration. The board then put the specifications out to various dealers for bids.” The final cost for furnishings came to $34,948.

**State Living Room and Dining Room**

The hearth of the state living room fireplace was made of New England slate. The walls were paneled with walnut and grass cloth, and large windows on the east wall offered a broad view of the grounds behind the residence.

The state living and dining areas would be used for entertaining visiting dignitaries and official functions so furnishings needed to be traditional enough to remain in good taste and be both elegant and informal. They chose the Baker Furniture Company’s Palladian style furniture for its classical design and the use of fine woods and mellow hand finishes. Cherry and other appropriate woods were selected, combined with rare imported woods, such as French walnut and French cherry, featuring distinctive
grain patterns and colors hand-matched into beautiful panels.

A large, curved sofa of blue-and-ivory woven damask imported from England served as the focal point of the living room. Tables included a large round coffee table in front of the sofa and a console table behind the sofa that doubled as a serving or dining table when needed. Two hand-carved wooden arm chairs and a lamp table completed the area. The west walnut-paneled wall featured a sixty-four-inch cherry commode, with pictures above it and a pair of chairs in the same fabric as the sofa. Two lounge chairs in a plain blue fabric stood by the stone fireplace and grey slate mantel at the north end of the room. Blue silk draperies and sheers covered the windows. A side table was moved from the former governors’ mansion for use in the state living room. Crafted of brass with mother-of-pearl finials, the glass-topped side table dated back to Governor John Burke’s three terms, from 1907 to 1913.

Most of the paintings throughout the first floor were limited editions by local artist Gary Miller. Other artists’ works displayed from time to time were chosen by the first ladies from art shows.
State Dining Area

The state dining area has a vaulted ceiling and a tall eight-foot long cabinet covering the south wall. Grilled doors in the upper portion allowed for displaying the state china. The Baker Furniture Company created a custom-designed, sixteen-foot-long dining table for the residence. The table originally

During the 1965 session, the state legislature appropriated $6,000 for a silver tea and coffee service and additional place settings of china. The china “Wheat Pattern” by Lenox, originally chosen by First Lady Carrie Brunsdale, is rimmed in gold. The flatware pattern is Gorham wheat.
had twelve matching chairs upholstered in a striped fabric of blue and ivory. With four leaves inserted, the table could easily accommodate eighteen. Both the china cabinet and table are still in use in 2014.

The blue damask floor-length drapes and wall covering of blue grass cloth matched the blue wool carpet, carrying out the color scheme in both the state living and dining rooms.

**State Guest Bedroom**

The guest bedroom to the left of the front foyer featured a “duo-bed” (two twin sofas) joined by a square corner table. The bedding and pillows were stored behind the sofa bolsters. The bolsters, upholstered in a gold and white hand-printed fabric, coordinated with the gold carpet, draperies, and gold silk wall covering. The en suite bathroom was finished in yellow ceramic tile with a bright Federal American wall covering in persimmon and yellow.

**Public Area Bathrooms**

There were two bathrooms to the right of the foyer for the visiting public. One was tiled in black and white, while the other was in blue and white.

**Kitchen – State and Family**

The kitchen was centrally located, serving both official state and family functions. It was outfitted with four small ovens, two cooktops, refrigerators, and sinks. The many drawers and cabinets
held china, glassware, and silver for official functions, as well as the dishes, silver, and glasses the first family used regularly. There was also a dishwasher and an eating area for three people at the end of the island. The cupboards were of Geneva metal with honey beige maple doors. The sinks, appliances, hoods, and exhaust fans were of stainless steel.

**Offices**

Across from the kitchen were two offices. The governor’s walnut-paneled office in the family living wing featured a specially constructed desk and cork-tile flooring. The second office was used by the first lady and later the residence manager for handling residence functions and menus, the first lady’s schedule, and correspondence.

Over time, the two office spaces became separate offices for the first lady and residence manager. In 1997, an office for the first lady was established in the capitol building for First Lady Nancy Schafer and her successors.

**Family Living/Dining Area**

The family living/dining wing was situated beyond the two hallway bathrooms. The chenille carpeting was custom-dyed to match other fabrics and draperies in each room. The walls were paneled in cherry wood, and a fireplace made of Hebron brick helped separate the living and dining areas. The
draperies were of a sheer, homespun tweedy casement cloth.

Ed Conlin, Jr. and First Lady Pauline Davis chose hand-hewn furniture called “Viking Oak” for this area. It resembled Early Scandinavian Provincial craftsmanship characterized by outstanding carved motifs and exceptional sturdiness. Moved from the former governors’ mansion were a tall wooden
buffet that was refinished to match the Viking Oak furniture and a sofa and chair that were slipcovered to fit the new décor. A Circassian walnut desk, a dining table with six chairs, and occasional tables completed the room. First Lady Jean Guy later had a small oak desk refinished for the family living room.

**Family Bedrooms**

Palladian-style furniture added a distinctive look to the master bedroom done in an aqua-blue color palette. A chaise lounge was upholstered in the same fabric as was used for the quilted bedspread on the king-sized bed. A night table and lamp stood on each
side of the bed. Two small chests were on either side of the dressing table with a large dresser at one end of the room. The darker blue draperies were accented by Austrian curtains in a lighter shade. An imported wall covering of aqua-blue and beige finished the room.

The other two bedrooms were tastefully decorated: one had white French Provincial furniture with a coverlet quilted in a design to complement the figured wallpaper. The second bedroom featured twin beds, black-and-copper-colored draperies, and imported wall coverings.
As the architect Bob Ritterbush had predicted, designing a home to suit the needs of its unknown potential first families was a big challenge. Beginning in 1960, the governors’ families varied in size from no children to the Sinner family’s ten children, who either lived in or visited the new residence. Changes to the house were inevitable to accommodate the families as they moved in and made the residence their family home.

1960—The Davis Family

When Governor John and First Lady Pauline (Laura Pauline Huntley) Davis moved into the nearly completed governor’s residence on March 18, 1960, they brought two of their three children: Richard (“Rick,”) age sixteen, and a sophomore at Bismarck High School; and Kathleen Ann (“Kathy,”) age twelve, and a seventh grader at Hughes Junior High. The oldest son, John Jr., was in college.

Rick Davis said, “I led a normal teenage life. It wasn’t a hardship living at the residence.” He doesn’t remember a lot about “moving-in” day, except that the “house was fully furnished, and there was a lot of blue.”\(^3\)\(^2\) He and his family were the last occupants of the first governors’ mansion, so more of his distinct memories of being the governor’s “kid” involved the older home, which he remembered fondly, despite its lack of modern conveniences.

In the new residence, Rick’s new bedroom on the main floor had cork
wallpaper, but his favorite place was the basement—largely unfinished, with exposed steel support posts throughout. The Cold War in the 1960s had raised the specter of nuclear warfare, so many homes were outfitted to survive an emergency. The architects included a bomb shelter in the laundry room in the lower level. A cedar closet, small storeroom, and a bathroom, partially finished with fixtures and a linoleum tile floor, were also completed.

The first state car was purchased when the Davis family lived in the residence. Rick Davis said, “Dick Fisher was the governor’s chauffeur, and he went out and bought a big old black Lincoln.” His wife, Ida Fisher, was the cook.

Residence Staff for Governor John and Pauline Davis:
- Chauffeur - Dick Fisher
- Cook/Housekeeper – Ida Fisher
Governor John Davis waves to the crowd while Vice President Richard Nixon speaks during a campaign stop during Nixon’s run for the presidency in 1960. Pauline Davis, Pat Nixon, and Frank Wenstrom are also visible in the photograph.

1961-1973—The Guy Family

Governor Bill and First Lady Elizabeth “Jean” (Mason) Guy began moving into the governor’s residence on December 30, 1960, from their family farm near Amenia. Jean Guy drove to Bismarck with the three older children: Bill (fourteen), Jim (twelve), and Deb (ten). Since the November election, Jean said, “Bill was in Bismarck. He had actually practically moved there after Thanksgiving.” A crib, bicycles, toys, books, furniture for the basement and crystal for the kitchen came in a farm truck and a U-Haul pulled behind a station wagon. At the time the Guys moved into the residence, there were no dish towels or even a coffee pot in the kitchen. According to Jean’s memory, the two younger girls, Holly (six), and Nancy (two), arrived a few days later on a bus, accompanied by Mrs. Rossow, who had babysat the children in Amenia. In an interview with two of the Guy daughters, Deb (Guy) Igoe and Nancy Guy, Deb’s memory of her arrival was in the company of her maternal grandparents, Sidney and Clara Mason, and her two little sisters.

State penitentiary inmates (trustees) helped the family move in. During the early years in the new residence, trustees from the state penitentiary worked on the residence grounds, supervised by the residence gardener or the chauffeur. They did yard work and other outdoor chores, such as washing the car. In the summer of 1961, when the grass and bushes were planted, Jean missed the flowers that she had enjoyed on the farm. She said, “I planted geraniums in front of the house. . . . I wanted something out there. So, actually, we paid for the flowers. And the children and I planted them.”
The Guy children grew up in the residence, with their father serving four terms as governor (the first two terms were two-year terms, the second two were four-year terms, after the state legislature changed the length of terms in 1964). Jean Guy noted, “One of the problems we had in the family part of the house was that there were only three bedrooms, and we had five children. So the boys were in one bedroom and the three girls in the other. . . . that was not good because Nancy needed to go to bed earlier than Holly and Deb. So the first summer we were there, they [the state] finished two bedrooms in the basement, “for Deb and Bill.35

![Governor Bill and Jean Guy with their family, Bill, Holly, Nancy, Deb and Jim, in the public living room.](image)

Before the rest of the basement was completed in 1972, the unfinished area was a favorite and fun play area for the children and their friends. It was an open area where they rode bikes, rollerskated, and ran around. In an interview, Deb (Guy) Igoe remembered having her friends over for parties in the basement; it was a perfect space for games, dancing, and listening to music. She also described the bomb shelter where, she said, there were fifty-five-gallon barrels of rice, water, and, “this one always blew me away—cherry candy with
sugar on the outside of it. . . . Like that was going to save us?”

Eventually, the residence acquired a pool table for the basement. A friend, Harold Fredrickson, donated a used one that was refurbished by one of the trustees who worked at the residence.

Jean Guy’s parents, Sidney and Clara Mason, often stayed at the residence. Sadly, Mrs. Mason suffered a stroke at the residence in the fall of 1967 and died soon thereafter. Afterwards, Sidney Mason came to Bismarck to stay with the family for a while, and Jean said, “That pool table was a lifesaver, because my dad loved to play pool and then he taught the girls to play. The boys were gone in the service by that time. So they [the Guy daughters] all learned to play pool with Grandpa.”

As security became more of an issue nationally, especially after the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, special emergency phone lines to the Bismarck Police Department and the North Dakota Highway Patrol at the capitol building were installed, and the residence

The Family Pets

Jimmy Guy raised rabbits that he kept in hutches behind the garage. His sisters, Deb and Nancy, described him as the “hunter/trapper” of the family because he also set up trap lines to catch gophers.

According to Nancy Guy, her father “thought that pets shouldn’t be in the house, and they specifically shouldn’t be in this house because it wasn’t our house. But, we begged and begged and begged.” The parents finally agreed to try having a dog at the residence on a two-week trial basis: a big standard poodle named “Poco.” Nancy said, “I don’t think he lasted the two weeks, and he went back from whence he came.”

Eventually, the kids were allowed to take in a cat that needed a home. The first one, a Siamese named Sam, was hit by a car and died. Eventually Holly and Nancy each got a cat—a Black Angora named Jason and a Siamese named Tabby. The latter cats proved to be a bit of a problem: Jason and Tabby had to be declawed after they had destroyed some furniture, much to the governor’s chagrin.
windows were upgraded with bulletproof glass.

Deb remembered an incident that frightened her when it happened: “When we first moved here, the doors weren’t locked. Then, one day, I’m pretty sure it was a Sunday because Dad was home working in his office, the front doorbell rang. Ninety-five percent of the time one of us kids would run down and open the door but, for some reason, Dad got up and walked down and opened the door. There was a giant man in the doorway, and he asked for Governor Guy. And Dad had enough forethought to say, ‘He’s not here, but he’s up at the capitol. And, if you go up this way, go in this door, you’ll find him.’ The man left, and Dad closed and locked the door and called the highway patrol.”

Governor Guy’s instincts were sound. As he described this incident in his memoir, Where Seldom Was Heard a Discouraging Word, the man had been taken into custody by a highway patrol officer and, after a sanity hearing, was sent to a Veterans’ Administration Hospital in Minnesota.37

Residence Staff for Governor Bill and Jean Guy:
• Chauffeurs - Dick Fisher, Walter Dockter
• Cooks – Ida Fisher, Ann Bern, Magdalena Wald, Katie Schriber, Christine Murray
• Gardeners – Don Hoag (NDSU Extension Service horticulturalist), Marvin Wahl
• Housekeepers – Ida Fisher, Christine Murray, Louise Beggar
• First Lady’s office – Jan McKinney
1973-1981—The Link Family

When Governor Art Link took office in 1973, he and First Lady Grace (Johnson) Link had already raised their six children—Walter, Marvin, Donald, Rodney, Harvey, and Joann—on the family farm near Alexander. The younger two, Harvey and Joann, were in college while their father served his first term.

The Links moved into the governor’s residence two or three days before the swearing-in ceremony on January 2, 1973. In an interview conducted in 2012, First Lady Grace Link recalled, “We moved into the residence from Washington, D.C., where Art was a U.S. Congressman. It was a day or two before the inauguration, which was on January 2, and there was a blizzard. It was a nasty, nasty day. We drove from the farm by Alexander, and the highway patrol followed us in case there was a problem, although we didn’t know that until after we got here.”

“Art and Jan McKinney [Jan was the first lady’s assistant] were at the house to open the door and thank goodness they were. We had not been in the house enough to know where the light switches were or how to open the garage door. Jean Guy had told me not to worry. She said all we needed to bring were our suitcases. Everything else was furnished. So all we brought was our clothes.”

Grace Link said, “We lived in the residence from 1973 through 1981. None of our children lived in the residence with us; however, we did have Art’s father, John Link, living with us for a number of years, mostly in the winter months. I stayed home with him some of the time, although we usually had someone
Never Too Old To Worry About Your Children

Grace Link related a story about John Link. She had been picked up at the residence by someone to go to an event, after which she “planned to meet Art at a political function in the evening. The weather was nasty, and Art’s dad was worried about us making it home. We hadn’t checked in with him and when we arrived, here he was, ninety-nine years old and worrying about his son, the governor, and me. He was pretty sharp for his age.”

Governor Link primarily used his office in the capitol which allowed the first lady and her secretary to each have an office in the residence. Grace said, “I usually helped put the menus together, although my secretary and Walter Dockter, the chauffeur, had worked at the residence for many years and were used to doing that. We would make the plans together, and then Walter would get the groceries. He would check on the staff to see if we needed additional help when we had events. His job was to get new equipment and anything like that and to drive Art around.”

In remembering her time in the residence, Grace Link said, “My favorite room was the living room in the family area. There were lots of windows and light. For artwork, I used to go to art shows and select pictures on loan for about six months. I mostly chose work from North Dakota artists.”

“One thing I remember is that we didn’t have the security at the residence that is there now. We opened the door and answered the phone ourselves. Some dignitaries who visited couldn’t believe it when the governor would answer the door himself. Security became more of a concern after Art vetoed the nineteen-year-old drinking bill. There was kind of an uprising by the young people, but we never had any fear.”

come in and stay with him so that I could go. It did put extra restrictions on what I could do. After Art’s father died, my mother, Margaret Johnson, lived part of the time at the residence, especially during her days of fighting cancer.”

Grace Link explained that the costs of food and catering for official events that took place in the state rooms of the residence came from the state budget. She said, “While we were at the residence we had a cook and one other lady who worked in the home. We would get extra people in to help with events, and the state would pay for those. Anything that was political, we paid for.”
Grace Link acknowledged, “The hardest thing about living in the residence was being in the public eye. I am actually a shy person and would just as soon be in the background.”

**Residence Staff for Governor Art and Grace Link:**
- Chauffeur – Walter Dockter
- Cook – Christine Murray
- Gardener – Marvin Wahl
- Housekeeper – Louise Beggar
- First Lady’s office – Jan McKinney, Marge Valeu, Florence Hauer

Grace Link was concerned about historic preservation: “During the 1975 legislative session there was a bill, HB 1315, to raze the Former Governors’ Mansion. Art and I were able to get a bill passed transferring the ownership from the state to the State Historical Society so that we could do something with it. We didn’t want the building destroyed.”

**1981-1985— The Olson Family**

At the time of Governor Allen Olson’s election in 1980, he and First Lady Barbara (Starr Brenner) Olson and their three young children—Kristen, Robin and Craig—were living in a new home in northwestern Bismarck where the children were in ninth, seventh, and fifth grade, respectively. The family did not move into the governor’s residence because they wanted to keep their children in their same schools and close to their neighborhood friends. Nevertheless, Barb Olson spent much of her day in the first lady’s office at the residence, working closely with

*Governor Allen and Barbara Olson and their children, Craig, Robin, and Kristen.*
the residence manager and other staff. The residence was regularly used for receptions, meetings, and other state and official events, and the staff kept it well maintained and spotless.

Barb said, “Kristen, our oldest, was just finishing ninth grade, and she would have gone to Bismarck High, rather than Century High School, and be separated from her friends. We also had two very large dogs. There were all kinds of things like that so we decided not to move into the residence.”

“We were five minutes from the residence [from their Bismarck home], and I would go to my office there each day; we just weren’t there day in and day out. It worked well for us and for our kids. Their lives really didn’t change all that much. Every morning, Peggy [Ormseth] and I would go over my schedule and what I needed to do. She was one of my very best friends and arranged events at the residence. She scheduled tours, parties, and me.”

Barb Olson said, “One of the nicest things that I had was the First Lady’s Club, made up of a lot of my friends, a lot of Republican women who had been involved in Al’s election or just in politics in general. They were kind of my support group when we needed help for a function or to address Christmas cards, for example. The First Lady’s Club was wonderful. We got recipes from them, ideas for different things, and sometimes some really good moral support.”

“The main thing we did in the residence was to place new artwork, mostly borrowed. We used wonderful animal and outdoor paintings. There was one of a hunter and his big white dog. The state didn’t own any of the artwork at the time.” Her favorite room in the residence was the state living room, which she recalled as “very pretty, warm, and welcoming.”

“Al had a few security concerns, but the kids and I didn’t have any. When visiting with other first ladies at governors’ conferences, I thought, ‘Oh, I’m so glad that we live in North Dakota.’”

**Residence Staff for Governor Al and Barb Olson:**

- Chauffeur – Walter Dockter
- Cook – Christine Murray
- Gardener – Marvin Wahl
- Housekeeper – Ann Wetzel
- First Lady’s office – Peggy Ormseth
1985-1992—The Sinner Family

Governor George “Bud” and First Lady Jane (Baute) Sinner moved to the governor’s residence from a farm near Casselton. They had ten children—Robert, George, Elizabeth, Martha, Paula, Mary Jo, James, Gerard, Joseph, and Eric—but only the youngest son Eric and his older sister Mary Jo actually lived in the residence.

The Sinners called the residence home from January 1, 1985, through December 14, 1992. Eric was eleven years old and in the sixth grade when the family moved in. Their daughter, Mary Jo (age twenty-seven), had moved back from Idaho, where she had graduated from the University of Idaho, to help with her dad’s gubernatorial campaign. She joined them for a short time in the residence before moving to an apartment in Bismarck.

Jane Sinner described the day they moved into the residence as “bedlam.” She said, “It was very cold that day—twenty-five degrees below zero. We had a chartered moving van, and Eric and I came in the car on January 1, 1985. We brought a bedroom set and Eric’s furniture because we felt he would be more comfortable. Our other personal things went into the storage shed behind the residence’s garage.”

“Living in the residence itself was sometimes difficult. It was a challenge to maintain privacy and to do all the things that needed to be done. The need for upgrading was a struggle; I just wanted to leave things better than how I found them.” Her concern for the maintenance and appearance of the residence resulted in a successful fundraising effort to accomplish significant improvements, especially in the kitchen and the family side of the residence, outlined more specifically in chapter five.
At that time there was no fence around the residence, and people felt free to take a shortcut from Fourth Street to the capitol grounds. Besides having strangers walking past the back entry and through the residence’s backyard, Jane Sinner remembered some upsetting invasions of privacy: “Sometimes there were drunks sitting on or falling asleep in the flower beds and walking through on the sidewalk. That was difficult because we had the windows open, and we could see people peering in, trying to see what was going on. Another time there were kids with beer around the house.”

The Sinner family had requested a fence be installed, but it wasn’t until President George H. W. Bush was scheduled to visit the capitol, including a stop at the residence, that the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission approved putting up a tall cedar fence to limit access to the residence’s yard, side entrance, and garage. She recalled, “Actually, he [the president] ran out of time, but we got the fence!”

It is not surprising that Jane’s favorite room was the little sitting room that had formerly been one of the small main-floor bedrooms. She said, “That was my escape. When I wanted privacy, I would go back there and sit in that room and read.”

When the family needed security or assistance, Jane said, “We always relied on the highway patrol, rather than the Bismarck police or capitol security. If you called the highway patrol to come over, they were always available to do so, and it could be kept private. The highway patrol took over residence security after Bud’s heart attack in 1991.”

Art in the Residence

Like her predecessors, bringing art to the residence was a priority of First Lady Jane Sinner. She said, “There was no art in the residence when we came, except one huge macramé made by Mary Gray that hung over the foyer stairway. I think it was returned to the artist’s family. I contacted Susie Freeman with the North Dakota Council on the Arts. She came out with a lot of art on loan from Fargo. Then I started going to art shows and bringing back award-winning pieces on loan. Jean Guy did a similar thing. But there was no permanent collection at the residence.” When the family living and dining areas were refurbished, Jane Sinner added a large framed piece of collage art created by Kathleen Moynihan of Bismarck to hang above the new sectional sofa.
The Sinners’ Children Remember

Mary Jo (Sinner) Savageau remembered coming to Bismarck with her dad, the new governor. “He had a meeting in Bismarck so we came early in my Volkswagen Rabbit. It was a freezing cold day—twenty-five below zero, and the heater broke down on the way. We were bundled up in our coats and freezing the whole way. That part is something I will never forget.”

She said, “I felt a little bit guilty about living in the residence because I was older and I felt I should be on my own but, at the same time, it was fun. I was making friends with my co-workers, and it was fun to bring them here and let other people experience it. I guess we enjoyed letting the public share the residence. We just really felt like it wasn’t our house.”

Mary Jo said, “My favorite area was the family living room and the fireplace. We gathered around it so many times, like when grandchildren came and at Christmases and whatever holidays when other people would come. It was big enough and had plenty of seats. We had a great time. And I liked the pool table in the basement. I also enjoyed basketball and shuffleboard games outside.”

Eric Sinner said, “As a youngster, I thought the residence was a big, awesome, spectacular house. While carrying boxes through the front doors, I thought, ‘Wow, we get to live here!’” He remembered his favorite space, downstairs. He said, “I loved to watch movies on the big screen TV in the basement and loved playing pool. I also set up a toy farm on the plywood cover on the pool table.”

There were clearly benefits to being part of the governor’s family. Eric said, “I enjoyed the big backyard. There were a lot of places to ride my bike, a lot of things to do and lots of people to meet. I learned how to respectfully introduce myself and properly shake people’s hands. I also liked flying in the state plane.” At that time, the state plane was a twin-engine turbo prop Cessna 421 Golden Eagle that seated up to eight, including two pilots.
On the downside, he said, “But it was also a struggle being in the spotlight and seeing my dad age and be gone a lot and my mom being so busy all of the time. I also missed life on the farm and in Casselton.”

But Eric did have the company of the golden retriever, Chloe, who moved into the residence with the Sinner family. She died there in the spring of 1990 and later Eric got another golden retriever puppy that he named Katie. She was his dog for more than sixteen years.

Governor Sinner was the first governor to discontinue the position of the chauffeur. It was said he felt it wasn’t justified with a two-minute commute to the capitol. Besides the gardeners on staff, Carolyn Godfread, a botanist from Bismarck, along with Bob and Marlene Morgan and Carol Bothun, helped design some English gardens around the governor’s residence during the Sinner

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<th>Residence Staff for Governor George and Jane Sinner:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chauffeurs – Walter Dockter, Al Schmaltz, Jim Inman</td>
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<td>Residence Manager – Steve Sharkey</td>
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<td>Cooks – Christine (Murray) Kauk, Kevin Colliton, Linda Backer</td>
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<td>Gardener – Marvin Wahl, Jim Dunn</td>
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<td>Housekeeper – Ann Wetzel</td>
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<td>First Lady’s office – Ann Murphy, Pat Ness, Steve Sharkey</td>
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Governor George and Jane Sinner, Governor Art and Grace Link, cook Christine Kauk, Barb and Governor Al Olson, and Governor Bill Guy at a Christmas gathering.
tenure. The Bismarck Garden Club began helping to plan annuals in the spring, and they continue to do so today.

1992-2000—The Schafer Family

On December 15, 1992, Edward T. Schafer became the thirtieth governor of North Dakota. His predecessor, Governor Sinner, had changed the swearing-in ceremony from January to mid-December in order to provide more time for the newly elected governor to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Only two days later, Governor Schafer married Nancy Kegel Jones of Fargo, making him the first North Dakota governor to marry while in office. The couple did not move into the residence until the summer of 1993.

Nancy, a widow, had two children, Eric and Kari, who were in the midst of their school terms in Fargo when she and Ed were married. She wanted to be sure that Eric could enjoy his senior year and graduate with his class, so she and the children stayed in Fargo where she “did all of the first lady duties out of my house. So I was my own assistant. It was pretty interesting to try to figure all that out.” In the meantime, Governor Schafer was living in a house in Bismarck. His two adult children, Tom and Ellie Schafer, had already graduated from college and moved on with their careers.

Nancy Schafer said, “My first visit to the house was when Jane Sinner gave me a tour of the residence, and we had a discussion about the first lady’s role.”3 Nancy traveled back and forth from Fargo to Bismarck, often with her children, when events required her presence. After Eric’s graduation, she sold the house in Fargo and moved most of their possessions to Bismarck in June.

While the family was waiting to be reunited, the
governor was busy having the master bedroom suite renovated, something he paid for personally. Nancy said, “After the master bathroom/dressing room was renovated, Ed, Kari (age fourteen), and I moved into the residence on a beautiful, sunny day in June 1993. The media was there, and they were intrigued that I still did my own canning when they saw the boxes with canned goods and canning things in them. The governor’s office put together a huge welcome banner, which was nice.”

A music education major from Concordia College, Nancy brought her grand piano to the family living room. Ed Schafer also loved music but his tastes ran more to rock and roll so he brought two jukeboxes—a Wurlitzer and a Seeburg—and a stereo system of his own for the Dacotah Room. The couple also brought Ed’s vintage Morris chair, lots of exotic plants, and their own bed and nightstands. Nancy said, “We spent a lot of time in the family living room; whenever we had some free time that was the place where we would hang out, and I would play the piano. We’d have a fire, maybe watch a movie or something. That was a nice, private area for us.”

Nancy said, “I also brought a number of pieces of artwork by my uncle, Andrew Hofmeister. One was a wedding gift that hung in the sitting area.”

Nancy said, “There was never a time when I didn’t feel safe, but there were a couple of situations where there was a woman who was confused and would be found wandering outside around the residence. And that, of course, made the security personnel a little nervous. One time security called and said there was something strange on the back side of the garage, something sticking out. Ed went out and checked, and it turned out to be my old chive pot. The plant had dried up, and it looked like it had wires or pipes sticking out of the pot.”

“My biggest struggle with life at the residence was that everything that could possibly change in my life had changed—I was a new wife, with a new name, new family, new community, new home, new church, and new job. It was an interesting scenario to build a marriage in. There was also the adjustment to having people around and the lack of privacy [and the need for] protecting family life.”

In the beginning, Nancy didn’t have an assistant or a computer in her office at the residence, but she relied on the residence manager, Steve Sharkey, and the staff in the governor’s office for help. In 1997, however, after the first lady’s office was established in the capitol building, Nancy added Kristen Tjaden as her assistant. She said, “It was challenging trying to forge the way for that, but
once that happened, it just opened up so many things, so many opportunities.”

“At first, I thought I could do it all as first lady because I had done it all myself before. But it didn’t take me long to realize that was totally unrealistic as first lady, and thank goodness those services were available.” She added, “The staff at the residence became like our family—those people who had cared for us and had done all these things for us for eight years became an important part of our life. And their families became our family. That’s an extra blessing that you don’t anticipate going in because it’s such an intrusion at first. But then, as we grew together, lived together, they became very, very important to us. And we, to this day, just dearly love them.”

Residence Staff for Governor Ed and Nancy Schafer:

- Residence Manager – Steve Sharkey
- Cook – Linda Backer
- Gardener – Jim Dunn
- Housekeeper – Ann Wetzel
- First Lady’s office – Steve Sharkey
- First Lady’s office in capitol – Kristen Tjaden, Kathleen Wrigley

First Lady Nancy (Jones) Schafer’s daughter Kari Jones (Hammer)

Nancy Schafer’s daughter, Kari Jones Hammer, remembered moving into the residence in the summer of 1993 at the age of fourteen. She attended Bismarck High School that was within walking distance. That was, until she was able to drive! She said, “I got my own car and would drive to school, though it was only about five blocks away. But when you’re a high school student, you drive anywhere you can.”

“I remember being excited to have my own space in the residence. At that time of life, you kind of want to get as far away from everybody as you can and do your own thing. So I was very excited that my room was going to be downstairs and kind of the furthest point away from my parents.”

She recognized that her experience was unique. She said, “Most families don’t live that much in the public eye, I suppose. There was a lot of adjustment, but having a big house to have your friends over was fun. My favorite place was the Dacotah Room. There was a pool table and the big screen TV which, at that time, was not as common. Ed had his jukeboxes there, and we always had some oldies music and Snapples in the fridge.”
Kari was also grateful having a cook as part of the residence staff. She said, “I wish I had appreciated having that then as much as I would now. Having someone ask what we’d like for dinner was kind of fun.”

“We didn’t use the kitchen in the basement a lot because I think Ann and Linda [residence staff members] ate their lunch down there. In the summer, we’d let them have their space for their lunch breaks because there wasn’t any other break room space for them.”

“I remember some pieces of my great-uncle Andy Hofmeister’s paintings. There were a few of his pieces over the piano that my mom brought in and then one over my bed. That was kind of just fun, family art. There was also a painting of the Badlands, called ‘Painted Canyon,’ by Nancy Friese. I later acquired a numbered print of that piece and have it in my house over the piano.”

“I would say that the loss of privacy and people paying attention to you all the time was my biggest struggle. Some people probably enjoy that aspect of it but, with my personality, not so much. Also, some people made assumptions about what a governor’s daughter should or shouldn’t be. In that way, I learned to value people for how they are and not who they might think they are. It
Kari Jones’s cat, Molly, made herself comfortable in the inbox on the residence manager’s desk.

"Whether I wanted to pay attention to politics or not, I think it forced me to learn more about it. I guess I probably became a little more politically astute and became a more confident leader.”

Kari Jones had wanted a pet for a long time, but “Of course, the answer had always been ‘no.’ And being in the governor’s residence, the answer wasn’t even close to being ‘yes.’”

Kari chimed in, “I had some friends whose cat had kittens, and they didn’t know what to do with them all. I thought I could find a home for at least one of them. My plan was to keep the cat in my room for a while and see how it went, but the cat had the oddest meow you can imagine—an odd, squeaky sound like a broken washer or dryer.

Her mom said, “Initially, we didn’t know Kari had a cat. One day, while working in the residence office, I kept hearing a squeaky noise like something needed oiling. A day or two later, we were awakened at 2:00 a.m. because Molly was walking around and stepped on the red panic button on one of the phones, causing the alarm to go off. The highway patrol security came from the capitol.”

Kari said, “I had to go tell them what happened. I hadn’t broken the news to my parents yet that we had a pet living with us. I don’t know how they ended up agreeing to it. I had named the cat Molly, but it turned out to be a boy! Molly the cat called the residence home for a while longer but one incident cut his stay short. Kari recalled, “When either the Chinese or Japanese ambassador was leaving the residence, Molly threw up on the floor right in front of him.”

2000-2010—The Hoeven Family

In November of 2000, John Hoeven was elected governor and was sworn
in on December 15, 2000. In an interview, Mikal “Mikey” (Laird) Hoeven said, “We had lived in Bismarck for a number of years before moving into the residence. Our children, Marcela (sixteen in the 10th grade) and Jack (ten in the 4th grade), only had to change locations, not schools or friends. It really was fairly seamless, coming from the background of someone who’s moved probably twenty times in my life and probably attended fifteen schools. The kids adapted easily.”

“Move-in day was very close to Christmas and pretty chaotic, but I made sure we had Christmas in the residence. It was December 15, 2000. I don’t even think we put up a tree that year, which I felt bad about. It was just so chaotic trying to get established.”

Mikey Hoeven said, “The back bedroom was furnished. I brought some pieces for the foyer area. We were told we didn’t need to bring anything. I brought some of my own china to personalize things when we entertained. We brought a few personal items, not bigger items, but some artwork for the family living room to make it feel homey. But, for the most part, most of our belongings went into storage.”

She recalled, “The sitting area in the master bedroom was probably my favorite spot. It was quiet, and I could work on my speeches. I liked the solitude back there.”

She said, “I made a concerted effort to keep things at home as normal as possible. I was home every day at three, for the most part, to be with the children, to do the homework and to run to their activities.”

“There were some security concerns. But I was so thankful that John and I could travel without having security. In other states, even the first ladies have entourages. It’s really nice and different than in other states. I think the realization of living in the fishbowl and knowing that every move is watched,
The Hoevens had three rabbits—Mackie, Betsy and Delilah. They also had two cats named Sapphire (Sappy) and later Chloe (Jack’s cat) and a Yorkshire terrier named Gus that died in 2010 at age sixteen. Pictured here are Marcela with one of the rabbits and Jack with Gus.

from the way you wear your hair to, you know, everything. Initially, that took me some getting used to.”

The Hoevens’ daughter, Marcela (Hoeven) Samson, said in her interview, “I think it was around New Year’s Eve when we moved in. It was very exciting, and we enjoyed exploring the house. We loved the cedar closet because it smelled so good. The yard and grounds were gorgeous!”

“We also liked the state side of the house because it was so fancy. The guest room on the state side seemed very luxurious! We got a kick out of all the bathrooms; we especially thought it was cool that there were both ‘men’ and ‘women’ designated restrooms and even an automated handicapped button for one restroom.”

“We thought the kitchen was so fun because it had two of everything. There were two microwaves, two dishwashers, two refrigerators, two ovens, two sinks. The basement had a little kitchenette right by our bedrooms, which was pretty slick.”

Marcela said, “The phones had intercoms so it was enjoyable to be able to page and talk to each other from room to room, but Jack and I didn’t always like to be so reachable to Mom, who often called us to come up and do chores!”

Residence Staff for Governor John and Mikey Hoeven

- Residence Manager – Steve Sharkey
- Cook – Linda Backer
- Gardener – Jim Dunn
- Housekeepers – Ann Wetzel, Gloria Schneider
- First Lady’s office in capitol – Jane Horien
Mikey said, “We especially loved the staff that worked there. They were like family and did so much for us. Linda [Backer] would cook or bake anything that we would ask of her, and she was so good at it. The sky was the limit! The staff does so much work, and they made it so much easier for us. They have been a salvation for many reasons, particularly during the moves, both moving in and out.”

Marcela said, “Sometimes it was difficult to have the staff around if I needed a little privacy, being I was in my teen years. Sometimes I wanted to raid the kitchen without any guilt. More often than not it was great, however.”

2010-present—The Dalrymple Family

Lieutenant Governor Jack Dalrymple had been elected with Governor John Hoeven three times, in 2000, 2004, and 2008. When John Hoeven ran for and was elected to the U.S. Senate in the middle of his third term, he resigned his position as governor on December 7, 2010. That same day, Jack Dalrymple was sworn in as the thirty-second governor of North Dakota. He and First Lady Elizabeth “Betsy” (Wood) Dalrymple moved into the governor’s residence on a bitterly cold New Year’s Eve Day in 2010. He won the gubernatorial election in 2012 and is currently serving his first four-year term. He and Betsy raised their four daughters, now all adults, on the family farm near Casselton: Jennifer, Lisa,
Jane, and Mary.

Betsy Dalrymple said, “We moved . . . in the middle of a snowstorm. We were worried that the moving van wouldn’t be able to come, but it did. It was a freezing cold day, and one television station came and took video of Jack carrying boxes because we also had to fill both our cars with boxes of smaller items.” She added, “The only time the security alarm has gone off in the residence was when the movers were hauling things in that day.”

“On the night we moved in, we had some friends over for dinner because it was New Year’s Eve. We cooked for eight friends for a sort of combination housewarming and New Year’s party.”

“Before moving in, we had been on the state side of the residence many times, but not on the family side. Mikey Hoeven graciously invited us over to tour every room on the family side. It was very informative and very nice of her to do that. You look at it from a different perspective, I think, when you go into a house and look at it thinking ‘I’m going to live here,’ instead of just visiting.”

“When we moved in, we brought some furniture from our Bismarck townhouse, thinking it would be homier and feel more familiar to us. All of the furniture on the state side had been updated and was in pretty good shape. However, the family living room furniture needed to be replaced and was given to the Youth Correctional Center. So we had the option of deciding how to replace that and, since we had our own furniture, we brought it to the residence. We also brought some small things for the family living room, our own bedroom set, some art for the walls, books, knickknacks, and, of course, clothes. We used one of the original bedrooms on the main floor as Jack’s office and brought in some of our other furniture for that room.”

As the current first lady, Betsy said, “I really enjoy the state living and dining rooms. They are so tastefully done, and it’s really fun to have people come and enjoy them with us. But I also like the family living room, which is our space and where we quite often entertain smaller groups, such as friends and family. We’ve really enjoyed living in this house.”

Betsy said, “We’ve done some work on getting more North Dakota art in the residence. That was interesting to us when we moved in. We asked what kind of art the state owned, thinking that we might rotate some pieces from other places. Actually, the state owns very little art. There were already some nice pieces in the residence by Andrew Hofmeister, who was Nancy Schafer’s uncle, and pottery pieces by Brad Bachmeier.”
“We have tried to highlight some North Dakota artists, and Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence has used discretionary money to pay for some new art. There are now two Frosty Paris, a painter from Mandan, landscapes hanging over the state living room sofa and a painting by Sheila Reiman of moonlit buffalo by the piano.”

The Great Seal of the State of North Dakota now hangs over the fireplace, a purchase also by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence. By state law, the use of the Great Seal is carefully regulated by the Secretary of State. Betsy said, “It’s a terrific addition to the state living room because it is a replica of the Great Seal hanging in Memorial Hall in the capitol. The group has also purchased a vase by Jon Offutt of Fargo who does blown glass, and a wonderful wooden vase with a meadowlark painted on it by Alice Berning.”

When the state rooms were renovated and redecorated under Nancy Schaefer’s guidance, they built a large glass case into the wall between the dining and the living rooms. Betsy said, “The North Dakota Pottery Collectors Society has been very nice to change out the display two or three times a year from their personal collections. Recently, Friends of the Governor’s Residence bought a painting by Walter Piehl from his “Sweetheart of the Rodeo” series, which hangs in the front foyer above the staircase to the lower level.
Betsy added, “That’s been something Jack and I feel strongly about—trying to encourage North Dakota artists. And, if in a small way we can highlight them in this house, I think it’s great.” She said, “We haven’t had any security issues since the day we moved in. That’s a good thing. I’m kind of easy going so I really haven’t had too much of a struggle living in the public eye. You have to adapt to having people around you more than you’re used to. Our days are pretty busy, but there’s no staff here, usually, in the evenings. It seems to balance well for us. It would be different with a whole family living here, however.”

Betsy said, “Steve has been at the residence almost twenty-seven years and has worked for four different families. Linda Backer and Jim Dunn have been here almost as long. They all do a terrific job.”

Residence Staff for Governor Jack and Betsy Dalrymple:
- Residence Manager – Steve Sharkey
- Cook – Linda Backer, Kristin Sande
- Gardener – Jim Dunn
- Housekeeper – Gloria Schneider, Sherrie Steinke
- First Lady’s office – Brandi Pelham, Sarah Johnson
The Davis Family

Rick Davis recalled activities that his mother, First Lady Pauline Davis, was involved with at the residence. He said, “Different groups would come, and they’d have teas or things. I remember the nice, big kitchen in the new residence.” One painful memory came on June 28, 1960, the special election night of his father’s unsuccessful race against Quentin Burdick to fill the U.S. Senate seat left open after the death of Senator William Langer. He said, “We usually hung out in the family living room, but that night everyone was sitting in the state living room awaiting the election results. That was a somber night.”

The Guy Family

The first memorable event in the governor’s residence for the Guy family was the celebration on January 4, 1961, when Governor Guy was inaugurated. The Democratic women served Kentucky Fried Chicken on card tables. The Big Boy Drive-In and Kentucky Fried Chicken became a kind of Guy tradition for future inaugurals.

The challenges of entertaining prominent guests in the residence that is also the home to a family of five children were evident during Vice President Hubert and Muriel Humphrey’s visit. As the Guys were preparing to leave the residence to attend
a rally for the Humphrey-Muskie presidential ticket, they couldn’t find Nancy. They went looking for her in the state guestroom where the Humphreys were getting ready. Jean said, “And here’s Nancy, sitting between Hubert and Muriel Humphrey. She was so little that her feet are sticking straight out, hanging over the edge of the davenport. And they are chuckling.”

The family remembers a humorous incident that occurred in 1964 while Texas Governor John Connally was visiting. “We had a big event at the residence. It was packed with people, and it was hot out so all the doors were open. Windows that could be opened were open because there was no air conditioning.”

Nancy Guy said, “I was walking by the storeroom (closet), and I hear a phone ringing. We had phone training early on because sometimes we’d get crackpot calls, that it’s someone from the White House or saying who knows what. So I answered the ringing phone, and a woman said, ‘This is the White House calling. President Johnson wants to speak to Governor Connally.’ I said, ‘Sure, I’ll go get him.’ The governor asked where the nearest phone was, and I opened the closet door.”

“To hear better, he had to shut the door. It got hotter and hotter, and he took his jacket off. Pretty soon the Secret Service is wondering where the governor had gone. I’m off doing something else by then, and nobody was asking me where he was. Eventually, Walter [Dockter] asked if I had seen Governor Connally. I told him, ‘Yeah, he’s over there on the phone in that closet.’ When he came out, he was just drenched with sweat, the poor Nancy Guy with a giant Santa at the state capitol.
man. It wasn’t that the door was stuck or locked. He just stayed in there for so long because President Johnson was talking to him for a long time about the governor chairing the president’s campaign.”

Unfortunately for Governor Connally, his night’s sleep was interrupted as well, because there were so many crows roosting in the trees all around the residence. The Guy sisters remembered, “The highway patrol came to the residence to do security walks every fifteen minutes, which stirred up the crows. The governor couldn’t sleep all night because of the cawing.”

Two of the Guy children were married while the family lived in the residence. The oldest son, Bill Jr., and his wife Marilyn [Walters] held their wedding reception there in August 1969, and Deb was married to Jim Igoe on January 30, 1971, which was her parents’ twenty-eighth wedding anniversary.

Jean Guy’s description of family life in the residence included activities typical of families in the 1970s: baking chocolate chip cookies, playing in the trees that surrounded the residence, and sleeping out in the backyard in tents. Nancy Guy recalled parties held in the basement family room. The children entertained their friends, put on plays, and learned to play pool with their grandfather.

The Guy daughters remembered some things they did and that their parents didn’t know about while living in the residence—like pushing Nancy down the laundry chute and Bill Jr. sneaking in and out through the passage that was for leaving packages and milk deliveries.

Every Easter, the Guy family held an annual family Easter egg hunt at the residence. Deb and Nancy remembered the time their father hid an egg on top of a lamp. None of the children found it, and, forgotten, the egg rotted and was stinking there for days.

Deb Guy also talked about a more serious event. She and some friends
were setting up for a party in the basement after the last school play in the fall. When she answered the phone, there was an Illinois newspaper reporter on the line calling about a plane with engine problems near Chicago that was carrying Governor Bill and Jean Guy back to North Dakota from a trip to Washington, D.C. The pilot was General Alexander McDonald of the North Dakota National Guard.

Deb said, “One of the three engines was on fire and had fallen off the wing.

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**Water, Water, Everywhere!**

By 1962, two bedrooms and a bathroom for two of the Guy children had been completed in the lower level of the residence. In the summer of that year, Deb Guy [Igoe] was in her basement bedroom when she found water coming in. She said, “I opened my bedroom door, and the water was literally gushing in. It wasn’t just a trickle; it was gushing. It was just filthy and was up at least two steps on the stairs and then went down into the kind of little kitchen area that’s there now.” She went upstairs and said, “Water is running downstairs.”

The water came from a two and one-half inch water line that ran from Boulevard Avenue to the capitol that had accidentally been opened by a city worker and was now pouring into the basement. Architect Bob Ritterbush explained, “The water line was discovered during excavation, and the city and capitol people said, ‘That’s all cut off. Just break it out of there.’ So they broke it out where the house is. But it turned out that nobody really knew or seemed to be interested that this line was still connected to the water service on the corner [of Fourth Street and Boulevard Avenue]. It was put in during the 1880s or ’90s when valves were turned off the opposite way from the way they operated in the 1950s-’60s.”

Unfortunately for the Guys, when a city employee was sent up to shut the water off, he unknowingly turned it on instead of off. Ritterbush said, “The full force of city water was facing right at the wall of the governor’s residence. Before anybody realized what he had done, it forced mud and water and everything around the footings and the foundation. There were about six inches of mud in the basement.”

Fortunately, that was before the entire basement had been completed.
They were somewhere near Chicago and had to fly another 200 miles to an air force base to land. While the party was getting started downstairs, I was with Walter Dockter, the residence manager, and Reverend Butler [pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck] until we heard the plane had landed safely. Mom and Dad downplayed the incident and insisted we continue with the party.” Governor Guy described this airplane ride in his memoirs, calling it a “harrowing three hours” with the Guys and the pilots very grateful to have survived.48

Both of the Guy daughters recall Walt Dockter with fondness. For Deb, the staff “became very dear friends. Walter was a second father a thousand times over. He truly was.”

The Link Family

Grace Link said, “The largest group for a sit-down dinner was the Christmas party with about thirty people. We’d seat twelve to fourteen at the dining tables and then set up card tables for the rest [in the state living room].” She added that there was enough china for the large table, but they had to use some of the older patterns to create settings for four at the other tables.

“The highlight of living in the residence was being able to entertain and have
family with us. We had extended family visit, also. Our family came for most holidays—Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter. At Christmas we had one tree in the state area and another in the private area. The staff helped us decorate.”

When Art and Grace Link’s only daughter, Joann, was married, the couple held the wedding at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and the reception at the governor’s residence.

The Olson Family

Barb Olson’s memories of Christmas while her husband was governor differed somewhat from the other first ladies since the Olson family wasn’t living in the residence. She said, “Though we didn’t celebrate holidays in the residence, it was decorated for Christmas for functions and tours.” She remembered an incident from the first Christmas. In keeping with tradition, the governor and first lady were sending out Christmas cards from the residence. In the midst of the process, her assistant, Peggy Ormseth, noticed that “governor” was misspelled on the card. Barb Olson said, “They were taken care of, but it was one of those little minor crises that almost push you over.”

“We used the residence for things like barbecues, and friends would come and help with the cooking. It was very relaxing and fun. Our daughter Kristen had a party at the residence at the end of her senior year.”

Barb Olson said, “There was a funny event, a tour of kids in the middle of the winter. It was sloppy and wet, and Peggy asked the kids, ‘Would you all mind taking your shoes off because we’ve got this lovely carpet?’ The kids thought that if they had to take their shoes off, their teacher should, too. So he sat down and pulled off his cowboy boots. He apparently had put a lot of powder in this pair of boots and, for the rest of the day, there were white footprints all over the
carpet. Peggy said he was very embarrassed.”

**The Sinner Family**

Jane Sinner, who had made mental health a focus for the first lady’s office, noted that one very special occasion was the lighting of the huge pine tree outside of the residence in honor of “The Celebration of Lights, a mental health fundraiser.”

On a personal level, she related, “My fondest memory of living in the residence was that it was big enough to have our entire family there for the holidays. There were two bedrooms in the basement and space in the Dacotah Room where the grandkids would put chairs together for sleeping.”

Another special memory for her was the first inauguration “because it was so exciting for my children. My mother came for it, and she was just thrilled that her daughter was married to a governor.”

Jane Sinner identified one really special event for her family as the *Midwest Living* article about their family—the Christmas 1987 issue. The article featured Governor Bud and Jane Sinner’s family and how they celebrate the holidays, including favorite family recipes. The magazine staff visited the residence during Thanksgiving of that year to take photos and gather information. Daughter Mary Jo said, “We just all gathered around the table with as many family and children as we could, and we were all sitting here thinking, ‘This is amazing that we’re all here.’ And then they had the photographer, and it was just really special.”

Mary Jo (Sinner) Savageau said, “I had a Halloween party at the residence in 1985 and dressed up as my father. Everyone signed the guestbook as their character.” She recalled, “I enjoyed letting the public share [the residence] by having my friends visit. And I enjoyed helping serve at parties and playing piano...”
at events.”

She added, “I remember Christmases at the residence in particular. There were two trees—one in the state area, and we had a tree in the family area, decorated with our own ornaments that all of us children had made.”

One year one of those trees became a problem. Jane Sinner said, “One funny thing that happened was when the Christmas tree fell over in the state living room. We had to fix it before a tour came through the next morning.” Eric Sinner also remembers that event. He said, “I was home alone watching a movie when all of a sudden I heard a loud crash that sounded like glass shattering. I turned the lights on and found the state tree lying on its side! Later, I learned that a heritage group decorated the state tree all on one side; all those decorations on one side were too heavy, and it fell over after the branches soaked up with water.” He recalled the happiness of holiday family gatherings and the big Easter egg hunt in the yard.

Jane Sinner noted, “The state dinner when Derek Bok, president of Harvard, visited was memorable. Stan Rothenberger, a Bismarck caterer, decorated the tables, and the Strolling Strings group provided the music. . . The North Dakota State Centennial party and state dinners were all memorable. A highlight was getting to know so many people from around the state. We were able to get around the state so easily with the state plane.”

Mary Jo and Eric both said a favorite memory in the residence was their
parents’ fortieth wedding anniversary celebration in the Dacotah Room. Mary Jo said, “We did skits and had a slide show. We also celebrated Marty’s wedding to Craig Boeckel in the backyard.” She also remembered her father fixing things in the residence, “though not always the prettiest fix.”

Eric said, “I remember the guys’ fall hunting trips with my dad and family, my high school graduation and Dad’s staff parties—they were a lot of fun, and I got to join in the games, like Pictionary.”

Jane recalled cancelling a trip at the last minute because she didn’t feel comfortable leaving Eric at home. She and the governor went back home instead of to the airport. She said, “That night I started hearing some racket in the front. I looked out the window, and these kids are walking in carrying beer. Eric must have told everybody at school that we were going to be gone. Bud went downstairs and told them he had called the highway patrol so they’d better get out really fast. And he said he’s never seen kids scramble so fast.”

In 1985, First Lady Jane Sinner, Mary Jo, and Eric hosted was a Valentine party for the legislators’ children. There was a magician, games and treats. The plan was for thirty to forty attendees, but about 120 people came.

The Schafer Family

Nancy Schafer said, “Living in the residence was such a privilege and, once we got used to having people in our lives 24/7, I recognized the value of having someone to do all the cooking, cleaning, and laundry. Another highlight of living in the residence was the beautiful grounds because I so love flowers.
and gardening.”

Nancy said, “The reception before the 1993 inaugural ball was surreal. I really didn’t know my way around the house. Sheila Schafer, my new mother-in-law, planned the event. I was still living in Fargo and had been married for less than two weeks. It was just kind of a strange feeling to walk into this place and not know where anything was. And I was entertaining people I really didn’t know. I was still getting acquainted with an awful lot of Ed’s family.”

“The first Christmas was another kind of fun memory. We decided we should get our families together because they really didn’t know each other particularly well. So we decided we would have Christmas at the residence, even though we weren’t really living there yet. We all stayed at the residence for a day or two,” Nancy said.

“The Christmas of 1993 featured Norwegian Christmas ornaments. In 1994 Fran Gronberg and a group of women spent hours making scherenschnitte angels, made by cutting out delicate, scrolled designs from lightweight paper to form the angels. They were absolutely striking. In 1995, we had dolls and trains; in 1996, children’s Christmas art. That year we chose artwork from one of the children’s pieces to become the art for our Christmas card.”

Nancy said, “We hosted big public open houses at Christmas time. Schools came in for tours. We had tours other times, but Christmas was kind of our focus for public tours and particularly for schoolchildren. I think it was the year with the Norwegian theme when I played my accordion for the students.”

“There was a huge backyard tree with Christmas lights strung with a cherry picker. We set the timer so the lights would be on every morning while everything else was pitch black, and we could see it from the kitchen

Nancy Schafer playing her accordion.
windows. There were two trees inside—a large Fraser fir in the public area and a smaller Fraser fir for the family area. I don’t think we ever put one downstairs—Christmas decorations, but no tree.”

Kari (Jones) Hammer said, “There was a committee that decorated for Christmas. It was always exciting to see the results of their hard work. Every year, we had a different theme so it was fun to come out and look at all the stuff. The elementary school kids would tour the residence to see the decorations.”

She said, “Holidays were always kind of fun. On the family side, we did a little bit of the Scandinavian theme with decorations and food—meatballs and lefse. Christmas Day was turkey. On Christmas Eve, we alternated between the lobster and the meatballs and lefse.”

Kari remembered, “Ed liked A&B Pizza so we would have pizza, popcorn, and movie nights. Those were always fun, too, being family.” She said, “I remember my prom dinner at the residence and my graduation party, which was fun.”

In getting to know Ed’s family better, Nancy recalled entertaining his father and stepmother, Harold and Sheila Schafer. She said, “They stayed overnight. I worked very hard with Linda Backer on the menu, and we had a rice and raisin
pudding for dessert. However, I had no idea that Harold hated raisins. He ate it all and raved about the meal. That's so Harold.”

Even in central Bismarck, wildlife occasionally found its way into the yards and gardens of homeowners. Steve Sharkey, the residence manager, recalled there was a wild turkey that really liked the front entrance of the governor’s residence and hung around for a while. At one point, a female turkey joined him. Steve said, “He would peck at the windows, maybe because he could see himself and thought it was another turkey. After a number of attempts to chase it away, the turkey had to be tranquilized and relocated.”

Nancy said, “One day I noticed about three baby ducks in the backyard water fountain. The fountain wasn’t running and was empty. The ducks couldn’t figure out how to get out of the hole. They’d get up almost to the edge, but they just couldn’t quite get up high enough. Mama duck was scurrying around and trying to encourage them to come out. We fashioned a little ramp and, eventually, one by one, they got up and scurried away across Fourth Street with their mother.”

![Mama duck and three ducklings in the fountain area.](image)

**The Hoeven Family**

Holidays were special at the governor’s residence for the Hoeven family. Mikey Hoeven said, “We would usually have friends over who lived in town or family from out of town for Christmas or Thanksgiving. All holidays were nice because we would have dinner in the state dining room.”
“We typically stayed in Bismarck for Thanksgiving. Occasionally, we’d have Thanksgiving at our friends’ house, taking turns. It was a quiet holiday. For many Christmases, my brother Carlos and his daughter came. And we’d have Santa Claus. We’d go to mass and sometimes to friends’ houses for Christmas Eve; other times, we’d have them over.”

Mikey said, “Kim Ocejo was hired to help with the Christmas decorating on the state side of the residence. Through the Friends, we would purchase items for decorating. Each year, we would add things.”

Marcela (Hoeven) Samson said, “On the family side, we used all our own Christmas decorations. We would also get our own big, real Christmas tree the day after Thanksgiving. The outside of the residence had beautiful icicle lights. On the state side, there was a beautiful Christmas tree, and many beautiful decorations that my mom would help orchestrate. Some Christmas Eves we invited Santa over to hand out gifts to guests. Linda, the cook at the residence, would make Christmas cookies galore! She was an amazing cook.”

She added, “Christmas time was always beautiful. And there were nights when the whole family would have ping-pong and pool tournaments in the basement. We’re a competitive family.”

Mikey said, “Halloween was always fun. We needed 1,200 pieces of candy because a lot of trick-or-treaters came. We loved that night. People were excited to be here, and we were excited to see them in costumes. A lot of people took pictures. We still talk about how much we miss it.”

Marcela said, “I had my graduation open house party there, too, which was wonderful.” The security at the residence was sometimes a surprise to her friends. She said, “When I had friends come over, the security would always
startle the guests walking up to the door by talking to them ‘from the sky’ through the hidden cameras. My friends always seemed to get a quick scare from the voices above!”

Mikey Hoeven said, “The first inauguration is my fondest memory. There were twenty family members, most of whom stayed overnight at the residence. It was chaotic, fun, and crazy. There were games and TV watching downstairs. We probably overwhelmed the staff a little bit. There was a lot of cooking, but it was fun. My family is very close, and they came from Texas and stayed for about four days. John’s family came for the actual inaugural event the day before and the day after.”

Mikey Hoeven said, “One thing that was unique was, when the staff left at five and someone would come to the door, typically I would answer it. Being able to visit with some of the constituents with issues was very eye opening for me. It was a great opportunity to really hear from them on a one-to-one, personal basis. Then I would pass along those concerns to either John or whoever dealt with those issues.”

Mikey said, “Probably the most unusual thing was when one of the bathroom stools in the basement plugged up. When the state plumber, David
Erbstosser, unhooked and lifted the toilet, a denture of false teeth fell out. After some investigation, we found out the teeth belonged to Wayne Sanstead. The interesting thing was that he never said he’d lost them.”

Janell Cole of the Fargo Forum reported on the story of the long-lost dentures. Steve Sharkey, the residence manager, declined to identify the owner: “I think it’s only fair to respect their privacy,” he said. As it turned out, Wayne Sanstead, who was the lieutenant governor during the Link administration, revealed the story himself.

**The Missing Denture**

In an interview for this book, Wayne Sanstead explained that Congressman Leo Ryan of California, a former teacher, was invited to speak at the 1978 North Dakota Teachers’ Convention to present a new civics book he had written. He was invited for dinner and to stay in the state guest bedroom at the governor’s residence where Sanstead was also staying, as he often did when he was in Bismarck for state business. Sanstead said, “Congressman Ryan asked if there was going to be wine at the dinner. I told him that the governor doesn’t serve alcoholic beverages in the residence.”

Congressman Ryan said his district had the finest wine in California—Inglenook—so after the dinner, Lieutenant Governor Sanstead took the congressman around Bismarck to several bars, but there was no Inglenook to be found. Wayne returned to the residence later in the evening and retired to a spare bedroom in the basement.

Sanstead recalled, “During the night I woke up and went to the bathroom. I still had my upper denture in, and it accidentally fell into the toilet. I had a major speech the next day so we were calling all over town to get a replacement. Since then, I’ve had two sets of dentures.”

A tragic footnote to this story is that only a month later, Congressman Ryan was one of the Americans killed in Guyana on November 18, 1978, just before the Jonestown Massacre there, where 909 followers of Jim Jones died in a murder/suicide mass killing. He had gone as part of a government investigation into the welfare of the many families who had joined Jones’s cult, The Peoples’ Temple.
Mikey said, “This is the state’s residence and, as much as we could, we opened the doors to organizations like Teen Challenge, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts. There were so many. In 2002, we sponsored a Day to Eat Dinner, with the winner enjoying dinner at the residence with the first family. In 2008, a blood drive was held at the residence and also a luncheon for Sister Thomas Welder, president of the University of Mary.”

For Mikey, “A highlight was representing the people of the state. The opportunity afforded us the ability to travel the state and, for me personally, to see parts of the state I’d never been to before, to meet people I would never have met. Truly, the people are our greatest natural resource. They’re hardworking, smart, caring, warm people who treated us very well during our tenure as governor and first lady. What an honor to represent such great people. That, in a nutshell, is what we enjoyed about it the most. It was an incredible blessing and opportunity for both John and me to do that.”

The Dalrymple Family

In her interview, the current first lady, Betsy Dalrymple, said, “It’s a real honor and privilege to be the governor and first lady and live in a beautiful home like this one. In reflecting on all the amazing things that have happened to us in the past three years, I have to say one of my fondest family memories in the residence was the evening before Jack was sworn in as governor—that would have been December 6, 2010.”

“The Hoevens were kind enough to let us have a family reception here at the residence, and Jack’s mother and stepfather were both present. They were
well into their nineties. Our daughters, my sister, Jack’s sisters and brothers-in-law were also here. That was really a highlight—having our family share that occasion with us.”

Betsy said, “An interesting side story is the day before we moved in, Steve Sharkey, the residence manager, called and said, ‘Betsy, we’re all ready for you to come. There’s just one little problem—the state dining room roof has sprung a leak, and we have buckets catching the water.’ We were on patrol, emptying the buckets the first weekend we were living there.”

“Every year we have a Fourth of July party for our friends and staff members and so far the weather has been cooperative because we have always
had it outside in the backyard. That’s been one of the holidays that we’ve enjoyed the most.”

“We’ve had friends over for New Year’s a couple times, aside from that first year when we’d just moved in, and that’s been fun. Every year at Christmas, we have a party for all the cabinet and our staff members.

Betsy said, “Talking about Christmas decorations, I have a great group of friends, the Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, who come every year to help decorate the state side of the house. They come late one afternoon, and we dig through the boxes. I’ve had different themes each year, and the North Dakota Council on the Arts has been very nice to loan some of their ornaments to us since they get hundreds every year. In 2011 we chose an angel theme. We had a wheat theme in 2012, and in 2013, we asked the Flickertail Wood Turners if they would loan us some of their wooden Christmas decorations.
Renovations over the years have kept the residence comfortable, updated, and accommodating to the changing needs of the first families. The changes are listed below by governor.

**Governor Bill and Jean Guy (1961-1973)**

With the Guy family of seven moving into the residence, it was obvious that some of the work on the residence that had been left unfinished due to budget constraints could not wait. The first step was creating extra bedrooms for the two of the children, but they also discovered that the original two furnaces could not keep the house warm enough for living on both levels, so two more were added during the time the Guys lived in the residence. Details of the changes to the residence are listed below.

1961 — In March, Froeschle and Sons received the contract for finishing a portion of the basement area for additional family sleeping quarters (two small bedrooms and a bathroom). Cost $6,180.

1965 — The state legislature appropriated $6,000 for a silver tea and coffee service and additional place settings of china; $12,000 to install air-conditioning, an intercom system, and a third furnace.

1969-1971 — Added fourth furnace for greater energy efficiency, added railings to the steps into the state living room, added recessed lights in the master bedroom; window glass replaced with bullet-proof glass ($32,000). Total cost $43,000, which included outside improvements.

1972 — With a $35,000 state appropriation in 1971, the basement was
completed by Johnson Hightower, architects of Fargo, including a staircase to the basement from the public foyer, a large family room, two restrooms, and a storage room. The family room was named the Dacotah Room (also spelled Dakota in some documents) and was decorated with a Native American theme. The west wall was done in cork bark tiles made from trees grown in Portugal, while the long fireplace wall was covered in antique bronze Idaho fieldstone and gold, split-faced stone. The fireplace hood was made of copper, and the floor covering was a rug with specially woven Indian logos. The Dacotah Room became a popular area for informal public gatherings, for the governor’s staff and cabinet meetings, and as a family room for the first family when needed.53

Bob Ritterbush said, “I was there quite a few times with the Guys. We were going over things that needed adjusting, like heating, air conditioning, and things like that. An early physical change in the residence was the addition of wrought-iron railings on the steps from the foyer into the state living room. Visitors sometimes fell because they didn’t notice the steps.”

Some structural changes were required because of the miller moths coming in between the soffit and roof. They were gathering in large numbers on the living room draperies, eating some of the fabric, which had to be vacuumed each day. The area was sprayed and then the cracks thoroughly caulked.
Deb Guy described her experience with the miller moths. She said, “At one time, I had one of those big tissue-paper flowers that were in vogue during the ‘60s. It was hanging above the curtain rod in my bedroom and, when I went to move the flower, it came alive because it was packed with the miller moths. It was like an Alfred Hitchcock movie.”

Another item that needed attention was tablecloths to fit the large dining room table. Jean Guy said, “I ordered drapery textiles and had the edges finished. I also had placemats made.”

**Exterior changes:**

Cement was poured for a back sidewalk and the installation of a sandbox. A basketball/shuffleboard court, a swing, horseshoe pits, fountain area with fish and benches, outside basement stairs, a door into backyard and clothesline, and area for garbage cans were added. The backyard was landscaped with grass, flowers, bushes, and trees. When a formal brick sign was planned, Jean Guy consulted with Bob Ritterbush about the wording. He recommended using the term “residence” because the word “mansion” required that the home be at least two stories and it should be “larger than this one.”

**Governor Art and Grace Link (1973-1981)**

The Links oversaw some decorating updates, including adding new carpet and drapes in the formal area and in some of the family area. Through the efforts of First Lady Grace Link in 1977-78, a beautiful legacy to North Dakota was created in hand-stitched needlepoint seats for twenty-four of the dining
chairs in the residence. Eight patterns were chosen from all of the designs submitted in a statewide contest initiated by Grace Link and run in cooperation with the North Dakota Extension Homemakers. Each pattern was used on three chairs, with each design signifying something special and characteristic of North Dakota—such as sunflowers, wild prairie rose, wheat, and the western meadowlark, North Dakota’s state bird. The fourteen women selected to complete the designs added their initials on the left-hand side of the chair cushion, and the designers’ initials were placed on the right-hand side. Eight of these chairs are still used in the offices of the First Lady. The rest are in storage at the Heritage Center.

![Governor Art and Grace Link with some of the women who worked on the needlepoint chairs.](image)

**Governor Al and Barb Olson (1981-1985)**

The governor’s budget requested $48,000 to cover various additions/improvements to the governor’s residence, such as installation of fire alarms and sprinklers, construction of a small patio off the basement area and some changes in the kitchen, including new cabinets and countertops. In the spring of 1981, the state legislature allocated $58,000 for residence renovation work. However, Governor Olson postponed the work in line with his ordered 5 percent cutback in state departmental spending. He approved only essential
maintenance, which included the installation of battery-powered smoke alarms.

With funds donated to the governor’s residence by Republican women’s clubs throughout North Dakota, First Lady Barbara Olson selected Swedish Orrefors crystal stemware for use in state receptions and dinners.

**Governor George and Jane Sinner (1985-1992)**

When the Sinners moved into the residence in 1985, Jane Sinner said, “The house needed a lot of work. Wallpaper was peeling off the walls, and the furniture was sagging. I decided I had to do something.” She was conscious of the criticism that some visitors had about the appearance of the residence, as well as discovering problems that became obvious after moving in. Finding the money was the biggest challenge. She said, “I had the capitol photographer come over and do black-and-white pictures for me. He photographed the areas that were desperately in need.”

Armed with the photos, Jane Sinner testified before a Senate Committee. She said, “The men were just absolutely upset that a first lady would come over, first of all, and then so skeptical. So I had quite a stack of photos and, after about five minutes, I started them around the table, one by one. Well, then they sat up and took notice.”

“But, in the end, they appropriated only enough money for a new roof. Then I knew that I would have to raise the money . . . I worked hard at trying to get that money raised. I didn’t want to wait until we had everything to get something done. So little by little, we did things, until Mike Ste. Marie, of Fargo, came out and offered his services free of charge, which was grand.”

First Lady Jane Sinner initiated a group in 1986 called Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence. She said, “I started the group to help raise funds to make improvements at the residence.” With the group’s help and state funds,
more than $143,000 was spent to make several improvements and changes in the residence and to purchase forty-eight place settings of Fitz and Floyd “American Wildflower” china. The major rooms updated were the kitchen, state guest bedroom, family living areas, the Dacotah Room, as well as some changes to the state living room.

State Guest Bedroom in 1986

The redecorating included replacing the furniture with the addition of a loveseat, a walnut desk, and a four-poster bed and dresser, made by Rough Rider Industries; Frank Koch of Bismarck carved the wheat design on the headboard and footboard (bed and desk are now in one of the basement guest rooms). The special quilt on the bed was designed by Carol A. C. Kelley of Grand Forks and constructed by various North Dakota quilters in a project organized by First Lady Jane Sinner.

Kitchen

Additions to the kitchen included a large bay window, an eating area for three, and an island counter area; stainless steel appliances (four larger ovens, two refrigerators, two double sinks, an additional dishwasher); all new cabinets and countertops; and asbestos glue was removed from original linoleum in kitchen in 1991. At the same time, asbestos encapsulation was
required in the ceilings of the family living and dining rooms and the hallways.

**Family Living and Dining Rooms**

The fireplace brick was covered with marble tile, and a new sectional sofa was added. They added grass cloth wallpaper to the wood walls, an entertainment center, a new dining room table and hutch, and recessed lights in both rooms and the hallways. The Moynihan artwork is shown above on the wall.

The office space was reconfigured with the residence manager moving into what had been the first lady’s office, and Jane Sinner moving to the office closer to the family living area for more privacy.

In the lower level, the Dacotah Room
was updated with vinyl wall covering, new carpet and window treatment, and new furniture, television, and electronics paid for by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence. The family bedrooms downstairs were also redecorated.

**Exterior**

A fence around the backyard was added prior to President George H. W. Bush’s visit to the capitol; existing flower beds were redesigned with help from Bismarck Garden Club; the parking lot bollards (light fixtures) were replaced; a storage shed was enlarged; and the east balcony was renovated with part of the solid wall surround replaced by a railing. Maintenance to the roof included adding a new membrane on the flat roof and converting the tar pitch roof with shingles.


When the Schafers moved into the residence in 1993, the house was more than thirty years old and, like all homes, was ready for some serious maintenance and updating. The challenge, as it had been for First Lady Jane Sinner, was raising private funds to pay for the work that needed to be done. Following her predecessor’s lead, First Lady Nancy Schafer spearheaded a major renovation of the residence, which, when completed in 2000, dramatically and beautifully enhanced this place the governors call home. The project took more than eighteen months and included the design team of Mike Ste. Marie and Roxanne Mairs of Fargo. The cost was more than $350,000, nearly two-
thirds of which was financed by private donations. State funds were used for structural and mechanical improvements.

With the kitchen already completely updated during the Sinner Administration, the new project included total renovation of state living and dining rooms, guest bedroom, public bathrooms, and hallway. As mentioned, the master bedroom had been renovated into a suite in 1992 with master closets, a bathroom, and sitting room added at Governor Schafer’s own expense.

Nancy said, “A memorable event for me was when we had an ‘undecorating’ party. It took a long time to get the plans in place to do the renovation of the state quarters. And, once we got everything approved by the State Historical Society and the Capitol Grounds Planning Commission and had the money raised, I had my Christmas committee, the ones who had stood by me through all of that process, come over.”

Front Entrance and Foyer

Starting with the front foyer, where a beautiful inlaid marble floor and new front doors welcome visitors, much of the space, both public and private, has a new and elegant look from the walls, floors, ceilings, and lights to the furniture. The front entrance was made handicapped accessible by widening sidewalks, adding ADA curb cuts, and enlarging the front door. The two public
bathrooms near the front door were upgraded, including making one of the bathrooms handicapped accessible. To further separate the family from the public area, a new privacy door was installed in the hallway between the public and the private areas of the house.

State Guest Bedroom
The state guest bedroom suite underwent a complete makeover, including a new custom shower, plantation shutters, crown molding, and new furniture. The “Railbaron’s bed” made by Michael Craig, Columbia, South Carolina, is a reproduction of furniture found in train executive cars.

State Dining Room
The original dining room table, hutch, and foldtop table were refinished by Paul’s Woodworking of Minot. Glass replaced the wire mesh in the doors of the
hutch. New chairs replaced the eighteen original dining chairs, some of which were moved to other rooms in the residence. Much-needed additional storage was provided with new built-in cabinets by Creative Cabinetry in Minot, with a marble top covering the length of the west wall. Four larger window panels replaced eight smaller ones in both the dining room and living room.

State Living Room
Changes included new windows framed by elegant gray silk drapes on the east wall, a new fireplace enclosure with a gas insert on the north wall, and a floor-to-ceiling, built-in glass display between the living and dining rooms. In addition, a Steinway grand piano graces the space, as well as new lighting, a sound system, painting and faux painting by Simon Gray of Duluth, Minnesota, and a stone column in the northwest corner were elegant new decorative elements. An Andrew Hofmeister painting was on the wall behind the piano.

Kari Jones said, “I was off to college before my parents moved out of the residence, but I did come back and visit for holidays. That was fun because the remodeling was going on, and I could see the changes on each visit. My favorite was the state dining room that turned out lovely.”
Governor John and Mikey Hoeven (2000-2010)

Mikey Hoeven said, “As far as decorations or major work in the residence, I concentrated on Christmas decorations and knickknacks on the mantelpiece and for the tables. The Christmas tree and sleigh were purchased. Nancy Schafer had done a great job of furnishing the state side of the residence. I just accessorized a bit more.”

The one area still needing work was the family living room. Mikey Hoeven said, “I. Keating’s, a Minot furniture store, donated a new couch for the family living room, to replace the sectional that was donated to the Youth Correctional Center. The couch was a donation to the state, along with artwork, tables and chairs, all for the family living room.”

Two gifts to the residence were beautiful additions to entertaining in the
state dining room. In 2001, the Liechty family donated forty-eight place settings of china in the Hancock pattern by Lenox, paired with chargers that Lenox customized with the North Dakota State Seal. In 2004 Harold and Mary Newman purchased and donated forty-eight place settings of Gorham sterling silver flatware in the Chantilly pattern. Plans to acquire new china and flatware were part of the remodeling master plan started during the Schafer years.

**Maintenance and Updates to the Residence**

The windows on the family side were replaced with Marvin Windows designed to match the original construction. The electrical system was replaced and upgraded, and a stand-by generator was added. Additional security cameras and a security gate on the family side were installed. An egress door exit and a fire door were added to basement bedrooms, as well as additional heating. Electric baseboard heaters were added to the north basement bedroom, while radiant heat was installed in the south basement bedroom.\(^{56}\)

**Governor Jack and Betsy Dalrymple (2010-present)**

Betsy Dalrymple said, “To my knowledge, the only pieces that are left in the house from the early 1960s are the dining room table, the large china cabinet, and a small expansion table that was originally in the state living room and is now in the state dining room.” In the 1990s, First Lady Nancy Schafer had those pieces stripped and stained during the remodeling project.

Some changes have been made since 2010 including updating the basement bathroom with tile, adding floor tile and a heated floor unit to an upstairs bathroom; converting the wood-burning fireplace in the family living room to gas; replacing carpet in the family living area and hallway; replacing blinds in three rooms; adding a new window in the family dining room and plantation shutters on the windows.

A new front flower bed completes the curve of the driveway all the way to the flag pole.
in the family living and dining area. Upgrades brought the addition of wireless service to the entire residence.

Exterior Changes

New plantings on the residence grounds and an expanded patio have created more appealing surroundings for more outside entertaining, both for family and public events. Flower beds and a tree were planted around the new patio.
in 2013. The overgrown lilac hedge was removed and replaced by ivory halo
dogwood bushes along the backyard fence.

Betsy Dalrymple said, “I have three very good friends—Doug Prchal, Bob
Christmann and Lisa Carlson—who are great gardeners at their own homes so I
asked them to come and advise me about the residence grounds.”

She has had other great helpers for the grounds. Betsy said, “Carolyn
Godfread and the Bismarck Garden Club have planted annuals here every year
for over twenty years. Carolyn has helped design a lot of the flower beds here
since the Sinners lived in the residence, and with the help and guidance of my
friends, Steve Sharkey and Jim Dunn, we have increased the flower beds in the
front of the residence. They now go all the way to the flagpole. We also added a
bed around the residence sign on Fourth Street.”

“We’ve been really, really pleased with the results, and I’ve had a lot of fun
gardening with the Bismarck Garden Club and working with my small group of
merry volunteers to make the outside look as appealing as the inside.”

Betsy said, “I love a beautiful garden, but I know I am not an expert. I’m
glad to have someone else tell me how to design it and what to plant.”
ART ACQUIRED FOR THE GOVERNOR’S RESIDENCE

The first ladies have selected artwork featuring various North Dakota artists for the residence, often on loan from statewide art shows and galleries. In addition, many art pieces have been donated by various groups or individuals that have become part of the residence collection. Some pieces have been acquired by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence.

Governor Bill and Jean Guy

Governor George and Jane Sinner
Artist Miles Bendixson, “Little Dreamer” print, donated by Democratic Legislative spouses, January 1990.

Artist Kathleen Moynihan, “Reveries of Airy” painting, donated March 1990.

Artist Kathleen Moynihan, painting, purchased July 1, 1986.


Governor Ed and Nancy Schafer
Artist Andrew Hofmeister, nine paintings, donated by Andrew Hofmeister and framing donated by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, May 1996.

Artist Brad Bachmeier, two pottery pieces, purchased by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, November 2000.

Artist Julie Berndt, pottery piece, purchased by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, January 2000.
Artist Randy Rick, wood-turned bowl, purchased by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, January 2000.

UND pottery bowl, donated by Republican Legislative Spouses, 1999.

**Governor Jack and Betsy Dalrymple**

Artist Robert “Frosty” Paris, paintings “Price Butte on the Missouri River” and “Clearing Storm,” purchased by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, October 2011.

Artist Jon Offutt, glass vase “South of Steele,” purchased by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, November 2011.

The Great Seal of North Dakota, purchased by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, June 2012.

Artist Sheila Rieman, “Buffalo,” purchased by Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, June 2012.

Artist Alice Berning, turned vase with painted meadowlark, donated to Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, 2013.

Artist Ron Day, maplewood turned vase, donated to Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, January 2014.

All of the governors and first ladies have entertained a variety of people in the residence. Documentation is incomplete about the guests who visited and may have enjoyed the guest bedroom, but the list below offers the names of some of the dignitaries, political figures, and celebrities who are known to have visited.

Some of the guests have been the recipients of the North Dakota Rough Rider Award, selected by the governors and given to North Dakotans who have made an outstanding contribution to the state and nation. Many of the award winners have been honored at the state capitol and feted at the residence, while others received their awards in their hometowns, such as acclaimed writer Louise Erdrich whose presentation ceremony was held in Wahpeton where she grew up.

**Guests of Governor John and First Lady Pauline Davis:**
- Governor Nelson Rockefeller, New York

**Guests of Governor Bill and First Lady Jean Guy:**
- Vice-president Hubert Humphrey, and wife Muriel, Minnesota
- U.S. Senator Eugene McCarthy, Minnesota
- U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy, New York
- U.S. Senator Ted and Joan Kennedy, Massachusetts – to dedicate Kennedy Center, Bismarck
- U.S. Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall
- Lawrence and Fern Welk, North Dakota-born bandleader and musician, first recipient of the Rough Rider Award
- Governor John Connally, Texas
- Governor Forrest and Margaret Anderson, Montana
Governor Archie Gubbrud, South Dakota
Governor Nils Boe, South Dakota
Buzz Aldrin, astronaut
Dorothy Stickney, actress, Rough Rider Award winner
Dr. Anne Carlson, director, Crippled Children’s School [known today as the Anne Carlson School], Jamestown, Rough Rider Award winner
Drs. Karl and Will Menninger, psychiatrists, The Menninger Clinic, Kansas City, Missouri
First Lady Maxine Morrison, Florida
• Governor Frank Farrar, South Dakota
• Governor Richard and First Lady Nancy Kneip, South Dakota
• Ivan Dimitri, photographer and lithographer, Rough Rider Award winner
• Peggy Lee, entertainer
• Angie Dickinson, actress
• Grandson of Marquis de Mores

In addition to these better-known guests, First Lady Jean Guy was famous for opening the residence to regular North Dakotans. She said, “The day after Bill’s inaugural, I had a phone call from a lady who wanted to see the house. Well, I was sort of stunned, and I didn’t know if I should be doing this or not. I asked her to call back. I called Bill and talked to him to see what he thought about it, and he said, ‘Well, it’s a public house; it belongs to the people of the state, so you better show it.’ So we did.” And that was the start of what became many public tours.57

Many school groups and others came to the residence for tours. Since the residence was still so new, people were interested in seeing it, and there were receptions, teas and coffee parties. A group of area women helped at some of these events. Jean said, “Occasionally, we planned public open houses that were advertised for certain hours and dates. A number of women helped at those so that one was stationed in each room to describe the furnishings and décor. Some places would be set at the dining room table so that people could see the china, crystal and silverware.”

The June 1972 Midwest Governors Conference was held in North Dakota, bringing additional visitors to the residence. A nonpartisan “women’s day at the Legislature” brought 500 women to the residence for coffee throughout that day.

*Governor William Guy presenting a plaque featuring a quotation from John F. Kennedy to North Dakota-born bandleader Lawrence Welk in 1972.*
Guests of Governor Art and First Lady Grace Link:
• Japanese and Egyptian groups
• Congressman Leo Ryan, California
• Lawrence Welk

Grace Link said, “Jean Guy had a very open policy [of offering tours of the residence], and I continued that. We had two or three a week. Groups of young people toured, and there were a lot of political events. Art also had morning breakfast meetings, and we’d have the staff and all of the elected officials in for Christmas parties.”

She added, “There were times when we closed off the family area. But on the state area, we felt that it belonged to the state and that the people should get the chance to see it. There’d be conventions in town, and the spouses would come to the residence for an afternoon tour. The Turkey Association members used to bring turkeys, and we’d have coffee and cookies with them.”

“The first ladies would invite legislative spouses to the residence for teas. They would be broken down into groups of twenty-five or so. I remember,
when I was there as a legislative spouse, thinking how big the state dining room was after the little cabins that we had lived in.”

“I especially remember when Lawrence Welk came for coffee while he was in Bismarck. My mother was at the residence at the time, and she enjoyed his music.”

**Guests of Governor Al and First Lady Barb Olson:**

- Governor Bob Kerrey, Nebraska, and Debra Winger, actress (during the Western Governors’ Conference)
- Carl Eller, Minnesota Vikings
- Tom Jones, British singer, and his son
- General David C. Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Rough Rider Award winner
- Phyllis Frelich, actress, Rough Rider Award winner
- Premier Grant and Chantelle Devine, Saskatchewan

Barb Olson said, “The residence was entirely furnished. It was nice that we could use it for out-of-town guests who needed more room than just the
guest room. Some of those guests included Carl Eller and the ambassador from Japan. We had a barbecue in the backyard for him and his wife.” She invited Carl Eller to visit because of her involvement with preventing drinking and drug use by teens, and helping them to “make the right decision.” As a former football player with the Minnesota Vikings, Eller was, in Barb’s words, “a great advocate of going to schools, talking to kids about choosing not to use.”

“We hosted the Western Governors Conference, which was a huge, huge deal. It involved a lot of people in Bismarck, and I would say that was the highlight of our time as governor and first lady. We had a big function at the Apple Creek Country Club, with a dinner at the residence. The dinner was for just the governors and their wives or girlfriends, and not the children. That was when Bob Kerrey, governor of Nebraska, was here with his girlfriend Debra Winger.”

“Another incident I remember was a group of Republican women scheduled a tour of the residence, but a couple of weeks before the tour something came up and Al needed to have the residence for a meeting. Peggy called to reschedule the tour, and the woman was very upset. She wrote a letter to the editor and finally somebody in Al’s office had to handle it, very discreetly and nicely.”

“We tried to accommodate tours as best as possible whenever they were requested. Peggy led the tours through the residence. She was there every day full time. She was a treasure, just wonderful. She was my assistant and paid by the state.”

“There are a lot of nice things that you host at the governor’s residence, receiving honoress at the residence and other events that are as nice for the first family as for them.”
Guests of Governor George and First Lady Jane Sinner:

- Virgil Hill, professional boxer and promoter of the Prairie Rose State Games
- Derek Bok, president of Harvard University
- Donald Kennedy, president of Stanford University
- Angie Dickinson, actress, Rough Rider Award winner
- U.S. Senator George Mitchell, Maine
- Phil Jackson, basketball star and coach, Rough Rider Award winner

President George H. W. Bush came in 1989 for a tree planting on the capitol grounds to celebrate North Dakota’s bicentennial, but he did not actually visit the residence.

Tours were by appointment only during the week, except on holidays. Jane Sinner said, “We did tours for only two hours during the week and none on the weekend. We eliminated events on the weekends because we felt like we had to have that for family time.”

It was during the Sinner administration that a formal policy for the residence was created, partly to deal with the popularity of public tours. Jane said, “We had just one brochure about the residence that was given out to visitors. It had a view of the house with snow on the ground.”

She said, “After a year or two, I also instituted a smoking ban in the residence.” It was not a universally appreciated decision, nor was Governor Sinner’s decision to ban smoking in the capitol building.

Guests of Governor Ed and First Lady Nancy Schafer:

- John Ashcroft, Missouri, and Jerry Franz, Washington, D.C.
- Japanese Trade Mission members
- Midwest Governors’ spouses
• Chinese and Japanese ambassadors
• Rev. Richard Halverson, U.S. Senate chaplain, Rough Rider Award winner
• Admiral William A. Owens, military service, Rough Rider Award winner
• Bobby Vee, musical star, Rough Rider Award winner
• Chinese Embassy representatives, D.C.
• Minnesota legislators
• Walter Rachinski, author
• Patrick Atkinson of Bismarck and Guatemalan visitors (God’s Child organization)
• Visitors from Russia, Vietnam, South Korea, Sudan, Taiwan, China, Ukraine and Australia
• Ambassador Pamela Bridgeusto and visitors from Ghana
• Chris Burke (Corky Thatcher on *Life Goes On*), a TV star
• Western Governors’ Association – a special lunch with the first ladies.

After the renovation of the governor’s residence was finished in 2000, Governor Ed and Nancy Schafer hosted Governor George and Jane Sinner, Governor Art and Grace Link, and Governor Bill and Jean Guy for a dinner.
Kari (Jones) Hammer said, “I remember when Admiral Owens, a Rough Rider inductee, visited the residence. He was there with his little box that he had to carry everywhere. In case there was an emergency, he had that secured phone. We had to have the visit fairly well laid out for him to be there and to stay with us. That was a memorable evening.”

Nancy said, “Steve or I did the tours, depending on the group or the situation. We were always willing to give tours, if they fit around other official events at the house. Those were always the first priority.”

**Guests of Governor John and First Lady Mikey Hoeven:**
- John Wooden, American basketball player and UCLA basketball coach
- U.S. Ambassador to Ghana
- U.S. Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu
- Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho (also U.S. Senator, Idaho, and U.S. Secretary of the Interior from 2006 to 2009).

Mikey Hoeven said, “We were always open to whoever called to tour the residence. Steve was very amenable. He’d give some tours, unless there were groups that I was affiliated with or if they’d ask for me to drop in. I would always try to get there if my schedule allowed.”

**Guests of Governor Jack and First Lady Betsy Dalrymple:**
- Governor Dennis and First Lady Linda Daugaard, South Dakota
- Denny Sanford, Sanford Health Systems, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
- Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisako
- Norwegian Ambassador Strommen and his wife Rev. Dr. Cecilie Jorgensen Strommen
- Norwegian delegation from sister city of Skien, Telemark, Norway
- Al Rankin, Jr., chairman, and Claire Rankin, North American Coal Corporation
  100th anniversary celebration
- Founding board of directors of Dakota Growers Pasta Company
• Board of Higher Education members, chancellor, and all North Dakota college and university presidents
• Flickertail Wood Turners, who loaned Christmas decorations
• Harold Hamm, president, Continental Resources Company, Enid, Oklahoma
• Tony LaRussa, world championship baseball manager, Oakland A’s and St. Louis Cardinals
• Admiral William Owens (an earlier Rough Rider Award winner) and a group of Chinese businessmen
• Doug Burgum, founder of Great Plains Software, Microsoft executive, Rough Rider Award winner
• Ron Offutt, chairman, RDO Enterprises, Rough Rider Award winner
• Justices of the North Dakota Supreme Court and their spouses on the occasion of Justice Mary Maring’s retirement: Chief Justice Gerald Vandewalle, Justice Dale Sandstrom, Justice Mary Maring, Justice Carol Kapsner, and Justice Dan Crothers

Left to Right:
Top Row: Scott Davis (Director of ND Indian Affairs Commission), Chairman Robert Shepherd (Sisseton Dakota Oyate), Chairman Roger Yankton (Spirit Lake Nation), Chairman Tex Hall (Three Affiliated Tribes).
Bottom Row: Jerod Tufte (governor’s office), Larry DeCoteau (Councilman, Turtle Mt. Band of Chippewa), Governor Jack Dalrymple, Chairman Charlie Murphy (Standing Rock Sioux Tribe), J. Kurt Luger (Executive Director, Great Plains Indian Gaming Association).
Betsy Dalrymple said, “Whenever we have a group, like the Flickertail Wood Turners, we ask if they would like to have a tour, and they usually do. Steve Sharkey does a great job of giving the history of the house, and I think they get a good flavor of the building.”

People have to call ahead to arrange a tour. They can’t just drop in. It’s interesting—we get people from out of state who want to visit every governor’s residence and capitol building so they know to call ahead. We’ve also hosted Girl Scouts and many North Dakota citizens. We’re happy to have them visit the residence.”

“We have a brochure on the first lady’s website that we also use as a handout at the residence.”

**Residence Policy**

In January 1985, during George Sinner’s administration, a policy on the use of the governor’s residence was established to assure adequate protection of the home, its grounds and its furnishings. It was also intended to provide for the safety, security and privacy of the first family while in residence.

Public use of the residence is available only when the governor and/or first lady are hosting the event. Weekends and evenings are for family use only, unless it is an official function hosted by the governor and the first lady.

Tours may be conducted by appointment only and scheduled in advance through the Residence office or submitting a request in writing. Tours are for adult groups only or for children accompanied by their parents.

Smoking is not permitted in the governor’s residence.
Moving into the governor’s residence can be an exciting experience, but preparing to leave the role of first family in North Dakota and the house that had become a home creates many other emotions. Former first ladies and family members recall their feelings and reflect on how living in the governor’s residence changed their lives.

**Rick Davis**, the younger son of Governor John and Pauline Davis, said, “After the governor’s residence, my family moved to the Robinson ranch (north of Bismarck) while waiting for our house to be built. It was a little less than a year at the ranch, and then we moved to our house on Owens Avenue.” Governor John and Pauline Davis were later divorced. John Davis died on May 12, 1990, in Rancho Mirage, California, at the age of seventy-seven. He had remarried in 1980; his second wife, Marilyn [Weinhandl Westlie] Davis, died on June 8, 2003, at age seventy-six. Pauline Huntley Davis died in October 2000 at the age of eighty-three.

**Governor Bill and Jean Guy** moved out of the residence on a cold, blustery, late December day. They moved to a rented house in Casselton while building a new house there. Jean Guy noted, “We spent twelve years in the residence and enjoyed living there. It became ‘home’ for the kids.” Bill Guy died on April 26, 2013, at the age of ninety-three. Jean Guy died just two months later, at the age of ninety.

**Governor Art and Grace Link** moved into a rented house in Bismarck after leaving the governor’s residence. “When Art left office, I had to keep his schedule again as I had previously done when he was a legislator. I’m not saying I didn’t enjoy it, because by doing that I was able to keep up on all the issues.”
Art Link died June 1, 2010, at the age of ninety-six. Grace Link, now ninety-five, continues to live in Bismarck and is actively engaged in community and cultural events.

**Governor George (“Bud”) and Jane Sinner** moved to a house they had built in South Fargo. Jane remembered, “Our move-out day was two weeks earlier than expected. We drove the cars back earlier . . . I soon noticed the feeling of freedom. It was a wonderful, exhilarating experience to come to my own house where I had nothing to get up for the next morning. I could get up and be in my bathrobe all day long if I wanted to.” She observed, “I changed a lot while living in the residence. I became more sensitive to others, more organized and learned more of the state’s history and how government works.”

“One thing I missed after Bud left office was seeing the other western spouses. There were six of us from Washington, Nevada, Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming and myself.” She said, “I still get together with some of the western First Ladies. We started that in September 1993. We just have a lot more in common, and it didn’t matter what party they were. We still meet once a year.”

**Governor Ed and Nancy Schafer** moved out of the governor’s residence and into a home in Fargo in 2000. Nancy remembered, “Moving out was bittersweet. It was emotional. The staff became like family. They took good care of us. When you spend eight years with people every day, they are like family. That really was the toughest thing for me—to leave, I think. The staff did a wonderful job of helping in any way they could, making our lives so much easier.”

She added, “I think the way I changed the most as first lady was that I was forced to be a manager, and I felt like I worked with the staff as a team. I’d done a bit of managing before, but not to the degree of what it was as first lady. It taught me to appreciate all that the staff did for me.”

**Governor John and Mikey Hoeven** bought a home in Bismarck as a base for their family but they quickly had to relocate to Washington, D.C., so that John could begin his duties as the new U.S. Senator from North Dakota. Mikey Hoeven said, “I loved the job as first lady but, like John, I felt it was time to move on, looking for different challenges. Move-out day was chaotic. Moving to
a new home after ten years was kind of overwhelming.”

She said, “It made me appreciate the help we had with cooking and cleaning; it surely was a bonus. But it also meant we lived in a fishbowl so we learned to always try to be on our best behavior.”

Mikey said, “I missed coming home in the afternoon and smelling whatever Linda had cooked, especially on the holidays. She’s such a great cook and, of course, I didn’t have to cook dinner! When I left, I mostly missed the staff, Linda’s cooking, the spaciousness of the house, and its central location.”

The current First Lady Betsy Dalrymple observed, “On leaving... I don’t know when that day will come. For however long we’re here, it’s certainly a privilege, and we’re trying to leave it a better place than it was before we arrived. I think all governors and first ladies feel that way. In small ways or big ways, we improved it for the next family, whoever comes next.”

In contemplating how living in the governor’s residence as the first lady has changed her, Betsy Dalrymple said, “I realize more people recognize me now. I feel I’ve gained some self-confidence that I didn’t have before. I’ve had to do more public speaking, which is a learning curve. Sometimes I’m better than other times.”

“It’s changed me because I’ve met people all across the state and in our travels that I wouldn’t have met otherwise, and that’s a really good thing. I have learned so much from them.”
APPENDIX A
Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence

The Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, a nonpartisan, nonprofit foundation, was formed in 1986 to help raise funds for ongoing costs of updating and maintaining the governor’s residence.

The group continues to support the ongoing work of maintaining and preserving the governor’s residence today, through a variety of fundraising efforts, including the sale of this book.

First Lady Jane Sinner

Marv Erdmann, 1st chairperson
Jack Schuchart, 2nd chairperson
Marcia Myers Olson, 3rd chairperson
Lu Dunn
Connie Bye
Cathy Howe Schmitz
Jenny Buell
Audrey Cleary
Pamela Alme Davy

Leo Legine
Peter Nielsen
Don Russell
Sheila Schafer
Michael Ste. Marie
Lisa Fay
Connie Gregory
Lois Heinrichs
Rosemarie Myrdal

William Ekberg
Don Green
Rose Greenberg
Audrey Kloubec
Marianne Lang
Connie Nelson
Joyce Starke
Peggy Williams
Steve Sharkey

First Lady Nancy Schafer

Julie Johnson, 4th chairperson
Marlene Axtman
Vi Barrett
Jolene Brosseau
Pamela Alme Davy

Lu Dunn
Nancy Gentile
Randy Hansen
Jude Heringer
Mikey Hoeven

Bruce Howe
Joe Ibach
Letitia R. Johnson
Katie Keogh
Diane Kinnoin
First Lady Mikey Hoeven

Jackie Velk, 5th chairperson
Nancy Adams
Clarice Fasbender
Lori Finken
Randy Hansen

First Lady Betsy Dalrymple

Susan Andrews, 6th chairperson
Linda Butts
Lisa Carlson
Linda Christman
Carol Cashman
Linda Collins
Lori Finken

Marcia Myers Olson
John Pierce
Eileen Scheel
Steve Sharkey
Louise Sherman
Ann Smith

Joyce Starke
Michael Ste. Marie
Dan Ulmer
Peggy Williams

Brenda Smith
Steve Sharkey
Joyce Starke
Dianne Syverson

Connie Nicholas
Carol Nitschke
Drinda Olsen
Anne Pyle
Laurie Rauschenberger
Steve Sharkey
Kathleen Wrigley

If you are interested in donating to Friends of North Dakota Governor’s Residence, please contact the first lady’s office in the state capitol building (701-328-1010) or mail your donation to P.O. Box 2024, Bismarck, ND 58502-2024.
## APPENDIX B
Theodore Roosevelt Rough Rider Award Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Date Presented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Welk, Entertainer</td>
<td>Aug. 28, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Stickney, Actress</td>
<td>Nov. 2, 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivan Dmitri, Artist</td>
<td>Apr. 13, 1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger Maris, Athlete</td>
<td>Jan. 4, 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Sevareid, Journalist</td>
<td>Apr. 17, 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Military Service</td>
<td>Apr. 23, 1965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Anne H. Carlsen, Educator</td>
<td>Sept. 9, 1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edward K. Thompson, Journalist</td>
<td>Apr. 19, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Robert Henry Bahmer, Archiving</td>
<td>July 28, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis L’Amour, Author</td>
<td>May 26, 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bertin C. Gamble, Entrepreneur</td>
<td>Oct. 20, 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casper Oimoen, Athlete</td>
<td>Feb. 12, 1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy Lee, Entertainer</td>
<td>May 23, 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Schafer, Entrepreneur</td>
<td>July 4, 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Era Bell Thompson, Journalist</td>
<td>Aug. 14, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Leon Orris Jacobson, Physician</td>
<td>Oct. 1, 1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Bodine, Humanitarian</td>
<td>July 27, 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phyllis Frelich, Actress</td>
<td>Apr. 27, 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cliff “Fido” Purpur, Athlete</td>
<td>May 16, 1981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gen. David C. Jones, Military Service</td>
<td>May 21, 1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald N. Davies, Judge</td>
<td>June 11, 1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Jackson, Athlete</td>
<td>July 30, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Woiwode, Author</td>
<td>Oct. 23, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angie Dickinson, Actress</td>
<td>Dec. 2, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Richard C. Halverson, Minister</td>
<td>March 26, 1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brynhild Haugland, Legislator</td>
<td>March 20, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carl Ben Eielson, Pioneer Aviator</td>
<td>Aug. 26, 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Christopher, Public Service</td>
<td>June 20, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby Vee, Entertainer</td>
<td>June 20, 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester “Chet” Reiten, Entrepreneur</td>
<td>Oct. 8, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas J. Clifford, Entrepreneur</td>
<td>Nov. 23, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister Thomas Welder, Educator</td>
<td>May 1, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry J. Pearce, Business Leader</td>
<td>Aug. 11, 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William C. Marcil, Business Leader</td>
<td>May 18, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Burgum, Entrepreneur/Philanthropist</td>
<td>Nov. 20, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald D. Offutt, Agribusiness Leader/Philanthropist</td>
<td>Sept. 15, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Erdrich, Author</td>
<td>Apr. 19, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herman Stern, Business Leader/Humanitarian</td>
<td>Mar. 13, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: North Dakota Office of the Governor*
NOTES


17. Letter from H. M. Leonhard to the State Board of Administration, Apr. 24, 1958.


19. Bob Ritterbush, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, Apr. 13, 2012, Oral History Collection, Governor’s Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. Also present were Stan Sharkey and Governor Jack Dalrymple. All quotes attributed to Bob Ritterbush are from this interview.
20. Letter from Rodney Anderson to State Board of Administration, June 2, 1956; Letter from Walter A. Zellmar, State Board of Administration, to Rodney Anderson, June 7, 1956; Letter from Rodney Anderson to State Board of Administration, received July 9, 1956.

21. Letter from Alice and Anna Corbin to State Board of Administration, May 10, 1956.

22. Governor Jack Dalrymple comment in Ritterbush interview.

23. Steve Sharkey comment in Ritterbush interview.


25. Files in residence manager’s office, provided by Steve Sharkey.

26. Stan Sharkey in Ritterbush interview.


28. Stan Sharkey in Ritterbush interview.


30. Ed Conlin Jr., recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, Oct. 2, 2012, Oral History Collection, Governor’s Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Ed Conlin are from this interview.

31. All room descriptions come from Conlin’s interview; also, the earliest residence brochure, files in residence manager’s office, provided by Steve Sharkey.

32. Rick Davis, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, June 6, 2012, Oral History Collection, Governor’s Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Rick Davis are from this interview.

33. Jean Guy, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, Apr. 5, 2012, Oral History Collection, Governor’s Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Jean Guy are from this interview.

34. Nancy Guy and Deb (Guy) Igoe, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, May 21, 2012, Oral History Collection, Governor’s Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to
Deb (Guy) Igoe or Nancy Guy are from this interview.


38. Grace Link, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, Mar. 12, 2012, Oral History Collection, Governor's Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Grace Link are from this interview.

39. Barbara Olson, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, May 15, 2012, Oral History Collection, Governor's Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Barb Olson are from this interview.

40. Jane Sinner, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, Dec. 18, 2012, Oral History Collection, Governor's Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Jane Sinner are from this interview.

41. Mary Jo (Sinner) Savageau, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, Feb. 12, 2013, Oral History Collection, Governor's Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Mary Jo (Sinner) Savageau are from this interview.

42. Eric Sinner, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, July 2, 2013, Oral History Collection, Governor's Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Eric Sinner are from this interview.

43. Nancy Jones Schafer, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, Oct. 19, 2012, Oral History Collection, Governor's Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Nancy Schafer are from this interview.

44. Kari (Jones) Hammer, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, May 16, 2013, Oral History Collection, Governor’s Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Kari (Jones) Hammer are from this interview.

45. Mikey Hoeven, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, Oct. 24, 2012, Oral
History Collection, Governor’s Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Mikey Hoeven are from this interview.

46. Marcela (Hoeven) Samson, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, Nov. 8, 2012, Oral History Collection, Governor’s Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Marcela (Hoeven) Samson are from this interview.

47. Betsy Dalrymple, recorded interview by Cathy A. Langemo, Dec. 7, 2013, Oral History Collection, Governor’s Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND. All quotes attributed to Betsy Dalrymple are from this interview.


50. Steve Sharkey, personal communication to Betsy Dalrymple.


52. Wayne Sanstead, recorded interview by Betsy Dalrymple, Jan. 17, 2013, Oral History Collection, Governor’s Residence Project, State Historical Society of North Dakota, Bismarck, ND.

53. Letter, Fiedler to Guy, Jan. 7, 1972; files in the residence manager’s office.


55. Jane Sinner, interview; files in the residence manager’s office.


58. Schafer, interview.


60. Link, interview.
PHOTO CREDITS

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6-7 | OMB Facility Management Box: Director of Institutions - Governor's Residence box
8-9 | Fargo Forum, June 12, 1956
11 | Office of the First Lady
11 | OMB Facility Management Box: Director of Institutions - Governor’s Residence box
12 | OMB Facility Management Box: Director of Institutions - Governor's Residence box
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17 | Ed Conlin
18 | ND Governor’s Residence
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30 | ND Horizons Magazine, Winter 1984
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49 | NDDOT
51 | Guy family
52 | Guy family
FOR FURTHER READING


*When the Landscape is Quiet Again: The Legacy of Art Link*. A film directed by Clay Jenkinson and David Swenson.

www: gov.nd.gov— The governor’s website has links to the first lady’s office, photographs, and a brief history of the residence, as well as information about each governor elected to the state’s highest office.
ABOUT THE AUTHORS & CONTRIBUTORS

Betsy Dalrymple became First Lady of the state of North Dakota on December 7, 2010, when Governor Jack Dalrymple was sworn in as North Dakota’s 32nd Governor. She immediately set out to work for the people of North Dakota and advance her long career of public service, with special emphasis on early childhood education and volunteerism. The governor and first lady were married in 1971, and they have four daughters.

Janet Daley Jury is a freelance writer, researcher, and editor. She served as the publications editor for the State Historical Society of North Dakota from 1993 to 2002, where she edited the quarterly journal, *North Dakota History*, as well as fourteen books. She was named the executive director of the North Dakota Humanities Council in 2004, leaving her post in 2008 to focus on freelance work. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Dakota (UND) with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English, Daley received the Maxwell Anderson Alumni Award from UND in 1997.

Cathy A. Langemo is a writer, editor, and researcher. In addition to publishing many newspaper and magazine articles, Cathy has served as editor for a number of area publications and authored several books, including pictorial histories of Bismarck, Mandan, and North Dakota rodeos. She also co-authored a genealogy how-to book entitled *Tracing Your Dakota Roots*. Cathy graduated from Bismarck State College in 1981 with a A.A. degree in business administration and the University of North Dakota with bachelor’s degrees in English and journalism in 1992.
Rick Davis, son of Governor John and Pauline Davis, recalls, “There was a lot of blue” in the house.

Governor Bill and Jean Guy’s family have memories of a visit from Texas Governor John Connally at the residence during which he disappeared for a while. Only Nancy, age five, knew where he was.

First Lady Grace Link recollects that Governor Link’s father, at 99 years old, stayed up half the night worrying about how Grace and Art were getting home after a political function.

First Lady Barb Olson remembers forming the First Lady’s Club, a group of friends who helped with functions, addressing Christmas cards, and in many other ways.

First Lady Jane Sinner and son, Eric recall the year the Christmas tree fell over in the state living room.

First Lady Nancy Schafer and daughter, Kari Jones Hammer, reminisce about the night the cat, Kari had smuggled into the residence, set off the security system.

First Lady Mikey Hoeven has fond memories distributing more than 1,200 pieces of candy on Halloween.

First Lady Betsy Dalrymple remembers moving into the residence in December of 2010 and being placed immediately on bucket watch as the ceiling in the state dining room was leaking in several places.