

DR. TOLLISON: Today is the morning of Tuesday, September 14, 2004, and my name is Courtney Tollison, and I am sitting at the headquarters of Hartness International, the international headquarters, with Thomas F. Hartness, Tom Hartness, who is a trustee emeritus of Furman University, and today we are going to talk about Furman. Let me go ahead and get just a few facts down about you or what we think are facts that I can check on. You attended North Carolina State University for one semester during the 1930s, during the Great Depression.

MR. HARTNESS: Right.

DR. TOLLISON: You served five terms on the Board, and we are going to look at how many of those you were elected Chair of the Board.

MR. HARTNESS: Four or five, time erases some of that memory.

DR. TOLLISON: You were elected the University's first Trustee Emeritus in 1997. President Plyler asked you to serve on the Board in 1952, and in 1972 Furman awarded an honorary Doctor of Law, and you and your wife have been very, very generous benefactors of Furman, and I can go into more detail about that later. Why don't we start off by you just telling me a little about yourself, where you're from, your background, your company, that kind of stuff.

MR. HARTNESS: Well, I came to Greenville in 1940 to open a Pepsi plant. I had an uncle who had the territory, and he decided to build a plant in Greenville.

DR. TOLLISON: Let me back up a little bit. Were you born in North Carolina?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, I was born in Shelby, North Carolina. My father was in flour milling, and he bought a mill in Sanford, North Carolina, and we moved up to Sanford when I was 3-4 years old. The flour mill business, of course, was one of the things that fascinated me and had some what to do with my being in the type of business we're in now. We're going to talk about Furman, and many, many things of course that have happened during that period. I knew very little about Furman.

DR. TOLLISON: When you came to Greenville in the 1940s?

MR. HARTNESS: In the 1940s. Incidentally, getting back to the bottling plant. I was only 21 years old, and I was a little presumptuous to ask this uncle to give me the job of managing it because of course a 21-year-old gentleman doesn't have a lot of experience in anything.

DR. TOLLISON: Right.

MR. HARTNESS: At first he rejected me, but a little bit later, after my constant pestering or begging perhaps, but because I needed a job, and jobs in 1938 were almost impossible to find. People were working for 10 cents an hour. So after having lived in Greenville, of course we met people who did know Furman and worked with Furman, and a number of the professors were in

my church, and some in my class in Sunday School.

DR. TOLLISON: You attend First Baptist Church?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, First Baptist. I really got interested in Furman as a result of Coach Lyles Alley, who was the basketball coach who asked me, we were at a little party one night, his wife and my wife were in the same Sunday School class most of our life, and he made the statement one day, "Well, I don't ever you see you at any of my basketball games," and I said, "Well, I don't particularly care for basketball." He said, "Well, would you come if I gave you some free tickets?" and I said, "Yes, I suppose I would." So we took the free tickets and started going to the ballgames and of course found it to be very entertaining, very worthwhile to go and watch. The result of it, Lyles never talked about donations to me, but I kind of could read the book a little bit and understand that he was being nice because he needed some financial help, and as a result we started making some small contributions, and that was my first entrance into Furman University.

DR. TOLLISON: That was when the basketball team must have been playing at Textile Hall?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, they were at Textile Hall.

DR. TOLLISON: Do you remember Frank Selvy?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, I knew Frank Selvy. It's almost ridiculous to tell people that I was at the game when he shot the hundred points, but I was there at that game, but not as a result of Furman or Coach Alley. A friend of mine had tickets, and he asked me to go with him, and that was my first exposure to a college basketball game. I recall I'm sure the guy sitting next to me felt I was a little nuts because I asked him, "Why is everybody so excited?"

DR. TOLLISON: And that was the game when Frank Selvy scored a hundred points?

MR. HARTNESS: Frank Selvy shot the hundred points that night.

DR. TOLLISON: Terrific. What else do you remember about that evening?

MR. HARTNESS: Well, I remember that I don't think anybody walked out; I think they all floated out that night. It was a most unusual thing to happen. Of course at the time I didn't realize the significance of it because I knew nothing about the scores of basketball or any other ball. Lyles was a very dedicated person to Furman. It was his whole life and it was somewhat contagious.

DR. TOLLISON: So you developed an enthusiasm for Furman largely as a result of his involvement.

MR. HARTNESS: And I'm sure John Plyler who was President at the time knew of the little contributions we were making, and maybe he was interested from that standpoint more than any other.

DR. TOLLISON: So did Dr. Plyler ask you to serve on the Board of Trustees?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, he told me that he was going to place my name before the South Carolina Baptist Association. And I told him no that I couldn't accept that, I didn't go to college and I didn't believe it would be even right for me to take the position on the board at a college because I certainly knew nothing about college work, and I remember his statement was "Why don't you let me worry about that."

DR. TOLLISON: He knew what he was doing.

MR. HARTNESS: Maybe he did and maybe not.

DR. TOLLISON: I think he did.

MR. HARTNESS: He did propose my name and I got a letter from the South Carolina Baptist outlining what I would do and I got to thinking *well if they are going to tell me what I'm going to do why do they even need me at all*, so I got in touch with Dr. Plyler and read the letter to him and said, "Look, you don't need me because this is all outlined. It would just be a rubber stamp sort of thing." I said, "I'm not going to send it back," and he said, "Well, okay," but somehow he got me through without that letter, and to my knowledge that letter was not used anymore after that, but I'm not positive about that. But it simply stated that the South Carolina Baptist Association would recommend people and these are the things that we suggest that you follow and so on, and to me it just wasn't acceptable.

DR. TOLLISON: What kind of guidelines did it layout?

MR. HARTNESS: I don't want to be specific because my memory is not that good, but there were things that were mundane, routine sort of things. You really didn't have to know anything about Furman if I followed that format.

DR. TOLLISON: Was it more Baptist interest or did you get the impression from the letter that there was a lack of autonomy in terms of..

MR. HARTNESS: I think they wanted it to be known that they were ruling Furman from Columbia rather than having Trustees do it.

DR. TOLLISON: So you got the impression from the letter that they just wanted a puppet to sort of say this is what you're going to do.

MR. HARTNESS: At least they wanted the puppet to know what they expected of him before he did anything.

DR. TOLLISON: Gotcha. And you said, "I'm not really interested."

MR. HARTNESS: I just told him, “No I couldn’t.” But he called me later and said, “You’ve been nominated, and it will go to the convention, and everything’s fixed.”

DR. TOLLISON: And you think they stopped maybe writing that same letter?

MR. HARTNESS: I don’t know that, I don’t know that at all. I never heard anyone else ever say anything about getting a letter. This was a little unusual, I felt, getting someone to sit on the Board and then to continue at the same to say this is what we expect you to do.

DR. TOLLISON: Right, it somewhat defeats the purpose of electing those Trustees. Let’s think about what was going on at the time you began to serve. There was ground-breaking for the new campus had just taken place in 1953. J.B. Crane and Alester Furman were also on the Board. What do you remember about that time?

MR. HARTNESS: Well, I remember one thing about; I don’t remember Crane for some reason. If he was on the board then he wasn’t on the Board very much because most of the people I do remember. I do have a little problem remembering their names at this stage, but, what was that question?

DR. TOLLISON: We were going to talk about the new campus, and you mentioned a story to me before we turned the tape on.

MR. HARTNESS: One of the things that Alester Furman, Jr. told a little group of us one day about the fact that they finally made a decision to move the campus. And it was not a result but somewhat of a starter when Dean Crane made the statement, “Well, let’s simply buy some bricks and put them out on the ground out there and tell them we’re going to build Furman University out there; if we show some effort people will begin to follow us and start making payments,” and of course that was the start. I don’t know that they ever took a thousand bricks out there and put them on the ground, but that was somewhat of a starter there, and it’s for sure that when you build anything you’ve first got to start with one, one brick, and then add bricks to it, and that’s what happened there; it just continued to grow.

DR. TOLLISON: Certainly, certainly. Do you remember the Furman Board of Trustees being called the Country Club Board by the Baptist Convention? Do you ever remember that phrase?

MR. HARTNESS: There was a little talk at one time about the “White Castle.” I don’t know who brought that up, but I remember one meeting, Furman was very interested particularly in the Greenville community, because Furman needs the community. It needed it then, and it needs it now. However, the general public of Greenville now accepts Furman more as their project more so than back then, and I remember one meeting where we talked about we needed to do something to get people coming out to Furman to what we have here, what we are doing. The people in Greenville think we are all out here in a “White Castle.”

DR. TOLLISON: Untouchable?

MR. HARTNESS: And there was some feeling about that. I guess somebody wanted to get a cousin or a kid in school, and they weren't qualified, and they didn't make it so therefore something, and we probably have that same type of problem now. People, of course, expect their kids or their sponsors to be able to take their kids into school.

DR. TOLLISON: So this was not when Furman was still downtown, this was in the early years of the new campus.

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, most of my time was at the new campus.

DR. TOLLISON: You felt that there was a detachment from the Greenville community?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes.

DR. TOLLISON: But you feel that...

MR. HARTNESS: I don't think the feeling about Furman being almighty was until after they moved the campus. When it was downtown, of course it had been there so long; I never heard anyone say much one way or another about Furman or what it was doing.

DR. TOLLISON: Tell me a little bit about Dr. Plyler, President Plyler, and his leadership style, his priorities.

MR. HARTNESS: Well, first of all, he had more intestinal fortitude than anybody I know, to decide to move a university from one place to another, when they didn't have fifty dollars to do it with. Well, maybe they had more than fifty dollars, but it wasn't much more than fifty dollars when they made the decision to move. They certainly didn't have the money to build a new campus. But he had the foresight, he along with Alester Furman and Dean Crane. I would say they were somewhat the leaders, the brains behind getting this done. They never gave up. He was such a cordial man that you enjoyed just being with him. It's been that way with all the Presidents at Furman. They've all been, as far as I'm concerned, the right person for the time.

DR. TOLLISON: I've had a lot of people say that; it's been very interesting. President Plyler asked you to be in charge of a \$30,000,000 campaign that began while he was still President, obviously. What do you remember? I've read that there was some difficulty in generating the goal, in terms of the year revenue. What do you remember about serving as chair of that campaign? Do you remember that there were problems or challenges?

MR. HARTNESS: There were problems, of course, because any time you are trying to raise a lot of money there are always problems involved, however, that campaign moved along very nicely. We had a group of very dedicated men and women who agreed to help with that program, and we met pretty often. We just simply took the cards of possible prospects, and we would go through them, and somebody would say, "Oh, I'll take him," or "I'll take her." As a result of that, we had a pretty good report meeting about every thirty days or six weeks.

DR. TOLLISON: So this was, maybe there were some challenges before you all decided to focus more on individual donors. Would you say that?

MR. HARTNESS: The foundations were in the background, or maybe I should say in the foreground. Because many of the foundations questioned us, "Okay, what are your local people doing, what are you able to do other than come to us for help?" As a result of knowing that, we made as much preparation as possible so when you made the application to these various foundations, you had something to show them. Fortunately, we had people like Alester Furman and Eric Littlejohn who was a devout sponsor and worker for Furman. Those people came up with some money themselves, and that was the seed that we needed to get things moving.

DR. TOLLISON: Who were some of the people that were helping you on that campaign?

MR. HARTNESS: Pardon?

DR. TOLLISON: Who were some of the other people that were helping you with that campaign?

MR. HARTNESS: Let's see, I've been on three or four campaigns, I have to think a minute. Arthur McCall was one, I think. Tommy Rowe. The others slip my mind right now.

DR. TOLLISON: And what was the primary purpose of this campaign? Was it for campus building?

MR. HARTNESS: We needed to get salaries up, professors' salaries up, for one thing. Of course, the buildings were being built, and there was a problem there, of course, we needed to get funds in. I remember the science building, we found that the government would put up about \$650,000 to Furman, and our board met and agreed to accept it, and then when the word got out of that to the South Carolina Baptists. We had certain Baptists say, "Well, now you are mixing the State in with our education, and we don't want that." After a good bit of controversy, we withdrew the request. As a matter of fact, I'm not sure we ever made a formal request. The group who was opposed to it took the position that they would see to it that that \$650,000 would be raised so that we would not have to accept the government money. That money came in pretty slowly, as I remember. It took quite some time for them to come up with that promise.

DR. TOLLISON: This was for Plyler Hall.

MR. HARTNESS: One of the interesting things, I want to be careful and not mention any names because some of these people might be a little embarrassed, but we had one person who everyone knew was rather wealthy, who was a graduate of Furman, and in these meetings where we would sit down and turn the cards and everybody would take one or two, "I'll take Sam, I'll take George, I'll take Mary," this guy's name came up and nobody would accept it, and I remember making the statement, "Well, you know this name has been around this table a number of times, we need to do something about it," and somebody said, "Then we appoint you." So rather than argue about it, I agreed to do that.

DR. TOLLISON: What was the problem?

MR. HARTNESS: Well, he was known to be very stingy.

DR. TOLLISON: Oh. You had to put a lot of work in it.

MR. HARTNESS: Stingy is not the word, thrifty.

DR. TOLLISON: So, how did that work out?

MR. HARTNESS: I went to see the guy, and he was very cordial, and so I asked him just point blank, “We need a million dollars. I want you to consider a million dollars.” And he blinked a little bit but said very little. When time passed and it was time to go, he said, “I’ll be back in touch with you,” and he called me the next day and said, “I’ve got you a million dollars.”

DR. TOLLISON: Would you care if, I’m thinking just for historical purposes, would you care to share that person’s name?

MR. HARTNESS: I don’t think it would be right to do it.

DR. TOLLISON: That’s fine. That’s your choice.

MR. HARTNESS: Because his family is still very prominent in Greenville. He didn’t actually give cash; he gave properties. I tried on a number of other occasions to get him to consider again, but I think he took the position he had done as much as he needed to for Furman and perhaps he had. It wasn’t a bad gift.

DR. TOLLISON: Certainly not.

MR. HARTNESS: It went a long way.

DR. TOLLISON: What were President Plyler’s other priorities before he resigned as President?

MR. HARTNESS: Just running that school and getting those buildings built. Incidentally, Bea Plyler, his wife, had a great deal to do with that campus. People don’t really realize how much time she spent there on the grounds, helping to plan and helping to lay things out, and she had many good suggestions I recall.

DR. TOLLISON: Well, it’s beautiful; the way it’s all worked out is so beautiful. What do you remember about his resignation?

MR. HARTNESS: I don’t remember it at all. I remember him telling us that it was time to make a change. Of course, we had reservations about him leaving because everyone felt that his baby wasn’t fully grown yet, that new campus. However, he made it known that he would be available to do anything possible. The details of his resigning I do not recall.

DR. TOLLISON: What about the selection committee and Gordon Blackwell?

MR. HARTNESS: Well, we had the committee, and here again, I was on that committee but I do not remember the others except Alester Furman and, let's see, Eric Littlejohn was on that group. I think there were seven or eight of us, and of course we got the names through the channels that are always available for institutions of that type and started going over names, and Gordon Blackwell's name came up a number of times, and here again, we avoided asking him because we knew we would get an answer of no.

DR. TOLLISON: Because he was at Florida State and you all assumed that...

MR. HARTNESS: We just couldn't imagine him wanting to leave Florida State and come back to a school with, at that time, about 1,500 or 1,600 students and I don't know how many he had down there, but it probably was 15,000 or 20,000. When we did get him to open up and agree to accept, one of the things he pointed out that impressed me was that he wanted to go where he felt that he could really do something really worthwhile, not that he wasn't doing worthwhile there, but he said he could not get the Trustees to meet, and he was constantly calling one or two of them, trying to get things done, and it would have been so much simpler if they had been able to get the group together and presented it to them and have either yes or no to the projects. So, as a result of that, he did agree and finally, I don't even remember who made the decision, "Well, let's go see the guy and see what he says; we keep saying he won't come, but he's never told us he wouldn't come." So he was asked, and he did accept and later told me about how anxious he was about getting the yes back to the Board before they might have changed their mind.

DR. TOLLISON: And gotten somebody else maybe. He and his wife did a lot of wonderful things for Furman. What kind of impact did he have immediately when he came to campus, or did he have an immediate impact?

MR. HARTNESS: I don't remember the details. He was very popular in Greenville to begin with, at the very beginning, because he went to school here, his boys went to school at Furman, and his transition into Furman was very pleasant and easy, I think. I don't know of any objection or anything that was ever presented, at least if there were any I didn't ever hear. Everyone liked him from the very beginning.

DR. TOLLISON: Was it important, as a member of the selection committee, was it important to you all with Dr. Blackwell's selection, Dr. Johns' and Dr. [David] Shi's selection, that the person that served as President was a Furman graduate?

MR. HARTNESS: No, that was not required.

DR. TOLLISON: That was not required. Was it preferred?

MR. HARTNESS: That was not a requirement. It just happened that way. I guess it would be a natural tendency, and it was a natural tendency for me to say, "Well, this person has been to Furman, he knows the school, he knows something about how the classes went, whether he was a good student or not, he had to know something about it, and they had already had tremendous

amount experience in other schools as President.” That generally is how you qualify anyway, what experience have they had and how successful were they in exploiting that experience.

DR. TOLLISON: Gotcha. This was the time, the mid to late 60s and early 1970s, was the time of a lot of student unrest in regards to the compulsory chapel, and there was a speaker ban that Dr. Blackwell implemented, and then the anti-Vietnam rallies and things like that. What do you remember about the debate over compulsory chapel? You and Dr. Frances Bonner and Dr. Blackwell sent a letter to about two hundred and thirty students that had signed a letter in opposition to compulsory chapel. Do you remember sending that letter?

MR. HARTNESS: I remember the incidents. I don’t recall the letter, because of course we had many letters go out over the years.

DR. TOLLISON: Do you remember the names John Duggin or Jack Sullivan, the two students who were sort of leading the charge?

MR. HARTNESS: I remember that I think they locked Dr. Blackwell in his office, and sort of put a little pressure on. I don’t know all the details of that because I was not there the day that happened, but I think Dr. Frank Bonner told me about that. Incidentally, Frank Bonner is one of the real supporters and workhorses that Furman has had, particularly on the campus move. He was almost the truck driver, and he did everything during that movement. I know he had details like having the board of trustees room table made, things of that nature. It was just unusual how many details he handled and how confident he was and still is. Of course, he retired from Furman a number of years ago, but he is certainly responsible for a lot of the work that was done to move Furman out to the new campus.

DR. TOLLISON: Tell me about Dr. Johns, the story of how he became President of Furman and your relationship with him.

MR. HARTNESS: It’s a little unusual, but the same reason we didn’t get to Johns sooner than we did was because of the fact we felt he was so happy where he was. Then a group of us did fly down to visit with John and Martha [Johns].

DR. TOLLISON: At Stetson?

MR. HARTNESS: At Stetson. And I felt that after a while, are we selling Johns on Furman or is he selling us Stetson? He was telling us all the good things, not in a braggadocious way but just, in a matter of fact, he had us for lunch in his new Cadillac that they had just given him. We went out to lunch to a private club and they had Johns private dining room that Johns used for entertaining. Their home was a beautiful home with beautiful antiques. Almost completed furnished with antiques, beautiful pieces. And I had the feeling and made the statement to the guys as we flew back, “I don’t think that fellow is going to give up that nice arrangement.”

DR. TOLLISON: You flew him down on your company’s plane, is that correct?

MR. HARTNESS: But here again, he told me later, he said, “I wanted to answer you while you were here but I just felt it wouldn’t have been the thing to do to tell you absolutely on one visit.”

DR. TOLLISON: That he and his wife were very much excited about the possibility of coming up?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, well, both of them graduated from Furman, and it was sort of a homecoming for them, I think that’s the way they felt about it. Of course the record shows what happened while John was there as President. He was a great organizer; he knew how to make calls that were necessary. I went with him on a number of trips.

DR. TOLLISON: Which ones do you remember?

MR. HARTNESS: I remember going to New York; I don’t remember the foundation. But it impressed me that when we got there and we walked in he went over and spoke to the receptionist and called her by her name. I later asked him, “John, how did you know that girl’s name?” He said, “Well, you know who makes a lot of decisions in these things don’t you? Because you need to know the secretaries sometimes as much as you do the donor.”

DR. TOLLISON: Gotcha. Was that the Ford Foundation perhaps? I think Dr. Blackwell started that.

MR. HARTNESS: It could have been the Ford Foundation; I don’t remember. I went with him on a number of calls, and I should have paid more attention to those names, but to me it was a trip that we were taking and the details of which one and so on it never occurred to me to try to remember, and had I remembered it then I probably couldn’t now.

DR. TOLLISON: Do you have a very close relationship with Dr. Johns?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, we still do.

DR. TOLLISON: Were you close to him than probably the other Furman Presidents?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, we were close to John. Martha, as you know, is a very vivacious lady. She’s always right out front in everything that goes on. A helpful front, not a dominating front. Yes, we got to know them, as a matter of fact; we are in a little group that my wife and I started back in 1942. At that time the Johns were not in this group. We had eight people that we met every week. At the outset we ate dinner at each other’s home. After a while it got a little boresome and we started going to restaurants around Greenville. Some have died, some have moved away, and some have gotten out of the group, but the Johns are still in that group and have been for quite a number of years.

DR. TOLLISON: Terrific. And you meet once a week for dinner.

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, we still go about once a week.

DR. TOLLISON: Who else is in that group now?

MR. HARTNESS: Mack Waiters and his wife, Donna. Bill Merritt and his wife. I'm still in it of course, and a girl named Betty Waters. We meet at her home almost every night after we have dinner for dessert. She has two pianos, and she and I like to play together, so we have a little jam session every Thursday, and the rest of the group sings.

DR. TOLLISON: How wonderful.

MR. HARTNESS: That doesn't have a great deal to do with Furman, except the fact that John and Martha are in the group, and it's a delight to be with them. They are still very vivacious. One of the things though on those visits that we made that impressed me, John prepared himself so well. He knew exactly what he was going to ask for, and he knew the people, he knew them by name, and he didn't waste a lot of time. I recall one that almost shocked me when he said, "George, you know why we're here, let's talk about that first and see what we can work out, and then we can talk about golf."

DR. TOLLISON: Did people respond very well to him?

MR. HARTNESS: That's the way he could get your attention. I don't think John even knew that there was a stranger in the world. Even when we would fly, he would send some message up to the pilot. I've been with him with the pilot would go back and forth two, three, or four times, talking about something and quite often he found that his cousin was in Furman or his brother or he was in Furman, or his mother was or something.

DR. TOLLISON: Interesting. Do you remember, were athletics a big priority for Dr. Johns?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, he was very supportive of athletics. As a matter of fact I don't think any of the Presidents were particularly against athletics. We had some faculty who were very opposed to using too much money in athletics. I think that happens in every institution. Because some people think scholastics is more important than anything else, and you don't need some of the side activities. Of course, I realize that I probably would have never gotten interested in Furman except through Lyles Alley, who was later the athletic director at Furman. I might have, but I don't know how it might have been. And not only that, but I've also noticed that some of our largest donors are the ones I see at ballgames almost consistently.

DR. TOLLISON: I want to talk a little bit about the Baptist Convention, and since you've been a friend of Furman since the early 1950s we can go back and tell me if you remember any incidents, little problems, big problems along the way, throughout the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, and early 90s, that lead to this decision.

MR. HARTNESS: We have a professor, Dr...

DR. TOLLISON: What year was this, what decade?

MR. HARTNESS: I think his name was Megs, I'm not sure, but we had a letter from one of the Baptist preachers, down in Newberry or somewhere, Dr. Meg was a Christian Scientist, and that was not the kind of professors that Furman should have, and he made quite a to-do over the fact that this was a Christian Scientist, and of course the Board took exception to this minister taking this approach, if he wanted to come in and cull out the people he didn't like at Furman. We did not, of course the professor knew about it, but the Trustees supported him 100%. Those were aggravating sorts of things and quite often we would have someone write in a letter about so and so being not qualified and recommend the Board move them out. Of course, if you are going to take that sort of thing to run an institution, then soon it's going to be torn up. So we always took a pretty strong position against that unless there was some reason, and generally the people who complained about the activities at Furman never knew of the things when people were dismissed for various and sundry things. Of course there was some of that, but some people just simply wouldn't cooperate with the school, and there was nothing much to do except let them go. But that has been very few and far between as far as I'm concerned or know.

DR. TOLLISON: So do you remember throughout the 50s and 60s, you just remember little things like that going on. Did you sense that there was a struggle for control?

MR. HARTNESS: There was later on, very obvious, not only the Southern Baptist Institution, the Trustees were taking over the seminaries and pretty well running them the way they wanted them run, and of course that trickled down into the state associations. I know of four people that were put on the Board, I don't know it actually but in my mind I feel very safe to say, that these people were brought in to start changing the Trusteeship of Furman.

DR. TOLLISON: So, you would call them Fundamentalist? Is that the term that you would call them? They very much had an agenda?

MR. HARTNESS: After seeing it come on, and I think we had a fifth one coming on or did come on the Board, so when we started having voting on anything, these people were always opposed to it. Not everything, of course, but certain issues they opposed to, and the majority of the Board could see the reasoning for putting in these new regulations and so on, but if we had not made the move, if Furman had not taken the position it did, and that was going down and asking point blank to allow Furman to select their Board in a way that was self-perpetuating, and I think had we not made the move, and the move came about as a result of some outside people who felt just the opposite of these fundamentalists, and said, "Look, your school is going to be taken over, and you are going to end up being a seminary rather than a college or university."

DR. TOLLISON: Do you remember who those people were?

MR. HARTNESS: I don't recall their names right now but you can get that from...

DR. TOLLISON: There were alumni?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, my memory is just not good enough to remember names anymore.

DR. TOLLISON: That's fine.

MR. HARTNESS: I wish that I could give you that detail, but you can get that detail probably from some of the personnel at Furman or some of the ex-personnel who have retired.

DR. TOLLISON: I could do that. How did Dr. Johns handle that whole process? Was he the one that spoke with those four Trustees that you are talking about?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes.

DR. TOLLISON: To try to get them to come around and understand the importance of this?

MR. HARTNESS: Well, John did everything he could to try to work with the South Carolina Baptists. We spent one solid year meeting, committee meeting, to work out something with the South Carolina Baptists so that there would be a mutual agreement. And one was that Furman would select its Trustees. We finally worked out a good plan. We met with their group, I know it irked me a little bit because I'd go to Florida and spend the winters every year and once every three weeks I was flying back to home to a meeting to try to work something out. The proposal went before the South Carolina Baptist Association in Columbia. It was presented and the President refused to even present it to the convention to vote on, even though their members and our members had met and met and met to come up with what we thought was a good solution.

DR. TOLLISON: This was the President of the South Carolina Baptist Convention?

MR. HARTNESS: Who?

DR. TOLLISON: The President of the South Carolina Baptist Convention refused to put it up for a vote?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, but it wasn't just him, of course. He and his associates made the decision, I'm sure. I don't think the President himself made the decision to do it on his own, but he of course was the moderator and did not allow it to come before. As a result of it, there started being quite a bit of tension among the Baptists in South Carolina, and a group of the ministers in South Carolina, I don't know who put it together, met and decided, "Well, the best thing for us to do it just turn Furman over to the Trustees and get the Baptists out of there," and that's what happened. It wasn't a pleasant situation. You have a lot of friends, you know, sometimes on the other side.

DR. TOLLISON: Do you remember any specific incidents, being approached by people that were not in favor of this decision by people either in the Baptist Convention statewide or here in Greenville?

MR. HARTNESS: It was a very controversial thing statewide, and I heard many people talking about it on both sides, of course, more against it than for it. And I say against what the South Carolina Baptist Association was trying to do. They wanted to continue to control the Trustees. We asked for the privilege, too, as I recall, of going outside the state and also asking people who

were not Baptist. You know the old rule was you got to be Baptist and must be South Carolina Baptist. Many good graduates of Furman didn't ever live in South Carolina except at that time. While it's a little touchy to say, "Well, these are good people, help support it," you've got to have the support and you've got to find people who have the means of supporting. And we couldn't go for those people. And until you get certain people involved to the point of being on a board, you don't get much attention from them. But when they get there and see the real need and why it's necessary, then it is so much easier for them to make the decision to do something worthwhile.

DR. TOLLISON: Who would you consider...well, let me talk about this first. Did Dr. Johns discuss his thoughts about retiring with you?

MR. HARTNESS: Ask that again now.

DR. TOLLISON: Did Dr. Johns talk to you about his plans for retiring, or when he was thinking about retiring, did he talk to you about that?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes. I think John realized that it was time to move on. Not because he wasn't doing a good job; he was doing a good job. As a matter of fact, his going away parties and so on were just terrific. I think everybody in the whole township pretty well got behind John and what he had done for Furman. He did do a great job.

DR. TOLLISON: Aside from splitting with the Baptist Convention, what would you consider his other primary accomplishments in the eighteen years or so that he was President?

MR. HARTNESS: Well, he brought the financial position up considerably. Of course, some people say, "Well, there you go, all you want to talk about is money," but you can't do these other things without it. He did a great job of enhancing the endowment. I recall very little student criticism while he was there. Almost none.

DR. TOLLISON: He got along well with students?

MR. HARTNESS: He has an open door. Gordon Blackwell had an open door, too, but not as much as John. John was one of the group. At the football games he always had his little leadership thing. You know it's funny, I asked David Shi, I said, "David, are you going to continue John's?" He said, "By no means, I don't want to do that."

DR. TOLLISON: Unique to the person, I guess. Well, tell me about the selection of Dr. Shi as President, and serving on that committee.

MR. HARTNESS: I was on the committee, let's see, who else was on the committee. Here again, I know the people, but I just don't recall their names. But you can get that from the minutes, I'm sure.

DR. TOLLISON: Certainly.

MR. HARTNESS: Dr. Shi was brought in as Dean under John. Johns brought him here. I met him at a football game for the first time up in the President's Box. I had an opportunity to sit and chat with him for ten or fifteen minutes. When my wife and I got back out to the car, I said, "Furman is going to have to have a new President one day, and I think I know who it is."

DR. TOLLISON: He made quite an impression on you.

MR. HARTNESS: As a matter of fact, I have made the statement to a number of people, if I had known David Shi was available to leave where he is, I would like to hire him to come in and handle a portion of our business. He's that sharp and he's an unusual guy, extremely intelligent, but he has a lot of good common sense that goes along with it. He's a great mixer. I hate people who can sit down with people they've never seen before and lead a conversation the way he does. It's most unusual. But when John finally made it known that he was ready to retire, of course the committee started meeting. We had numbers of names submitted. We chose a number of names to interview. My personal feeling was *why do we need to go anyplace, we've got a man here that seems to be so extremely qualified to do what we want done*. And of course the final result was, after we went over his resumes, a number of people came in and visited Furman. Some of them would have been a great President. Shi appealed to me and he appealed to all the rest of the group, almost from the very beginning. However, we did all agree now we are not going to be so one-sided that we don't do this thing properly, so we did have seven or eight different people who came to Greenville. The Johns entertained them, met them, and then the committee met with them, and so I think we did it properly. As a matter of fact, I know we did it properly, but the qualifications just kept popping up that you've got someone here already. He was a graduate of Furman, too, but that did not enter into the selection at all. But the fact that he was a student certainly gave him a good insight at Furman.

DR. TOLLISON: How do you think Furman has changed since the early 50s? You've had lots of time to observe her.

MR. HARTNESS: Well, the school has been so aggressive that the change has almost been daily, you can look at the buildings and tell. The new buildings and Johns building, and let's see what is the other.

DR. TOLLISON: Hipp Hall?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, and the South Carolina Governor's, Dick Riley Hall, all those things were being built, and that of course lead into a lot of additional students and professors and equipment to work with and so on, and of course when all of the apartments were built. The school, as far as I know, has run rather smoothly. We haven't had nearly as many of the types of complaints as we had back in the 50s and 60s.

DR. TOLLISON: And were they complaints mainly about the condition of the campus or were they complaints mainly about the Baptist Convention?

MR. HARTNESS: We had a terrible controversy about the rose garden. Some students said, "Now you've got a university here, and you're wasting money planting roses." The persons who

donate the money for the roses came in and said, "I want to have a rose garden, and I'll finance it if you'll put it in." It wasn't a matter of Furman saying, "Look, we need a rose garden." It was the fact that someone wanted the rose garden, and they were willing to finance it. And the rose garden has been extensively used, not only for people who walk by and see the beauty of it, but it has been used for receptions and weddings; it has done a lot of the things to get us out of the ivory tower and to get us down with the general public.

DR. TOLLISON: And your pavilion overlooks it, which is so beautiful. Tell me about your wife's relationship with Furman.

MR. HARTNESS: Well, she was part of everything that we did.

DR. TOLLISON: Love music?

MR. HARTNESS: Oh yes, she loved music. On my 70th birthday, she gave a Steinway piano to the school. They told her they needed a little better instrument for special concerts and so on. She shared in the cost of the Hartness Pavilion. That was an interesting story. John and Martha called one day and said, "You and Edna come out; we have something we want to show you." So we went out and Martha said, "Let's go up here," so we walked out on the roof of the building. Of the dining hall. And she said, "We want to build a nice big meeting room here." Edna and I had some stock in Bi-Lo Grocery that we had bought, and it had enhanced vigorously, and we decided that it had enhanced to the point that it would be a good gift to give to Furman, and we've never restricted any of our gifts. When we give it, it's for whatever Furman wants to do with it. And so they called us and asked if we would object to them building a meeting room that was adequate to take care of a lot of the functions at Furman. I remember making the statement to Martha, "It won't be used enough to justify spending that kind of money." And she said, "Oh, you're mistaken on that."

DR. TOLLISON: It's used almost every day, from what I see.

MR. HARTNESS: Sometimes twice a day. I remember saying, "Well, I tell you what I'll do, Martha, if you're going to have that many people, you're going to wear the rugs out pretty quick; I'll buy a new set of rugs." I had no idea it would ever be used the way it's been used.

DR. TOLLISON: It's beautiful. I can understand.

MR. HARTNESS: A funny little experience... my Sunday School class met out there for its Christmas party two or three times, and our President called out and wanted to make the reservation at so and so, and was informed that we don't have any reservations open at all between now and Christmas, there are no spaces at all. And he said, "Well, Tom Hartness is in my class, and he's the one that," and whoever he was talking to said, "I don't give a damn who he is."

DR. TOLLISON: It's booked!

MR. HARTNESS: He said, "I've booked it up and there's no place to put you."

DR. TOLLISON: Can't even get in, it's in such demand.

MR. HARTNESS: So we went back and took another location.

DR. TOLLISON: Well, that's a good problem to have. What about the Welcome Center? How did that come about?

MR. HARTNESS: My two sons decided to do that in honor of Edna and me. We didn't know about it until we had set that all up and started it in motion.

DR. TOLLISON: Wow, that's a wonderful gift in honor of you all.

MR. HARTNESS: That is the one things that I felt years ago that we needed. I never mentioned it to my kids. They didn't know how I felt about it at all. I don't think I ever--well, I did, too, I told John Johns one day, I said, "John, every now and again someone calls me, and I want to take them out to Furman, and when I get out there I don't know what to do with them. I don't know where to find somebody, and I don't know enough about the school to really do a good job of taking them around and selling them Furman." He agreed. But it just never came up until it was done, and of course now it's sort of the focal point for students coming in.

DR. TOLLISON: It's beautiful. Great facilities there as well. I don't know how you could turn Furman down now, once you see the video and all the great facilities and technology that they have over there. What about the organ? Tell me about the organ story.

MR. HARTNESS: It's the same sort of thing. Furman needed the chapel to be completed, and Edna and I decided that we could do it.

DR. TOLLISON: Was she, you mentioned that L.D. Johnson approached your wife about a chapel, about building a chapel?

MR. HARTNESS: No, no. L.D. Johnson was the chaplain at school, and Mrs. [Homozel Mickel] Daniel in her will, let it be known to Furman, that when she died the funds would be there to build a chapel, and L.D. decided that he would go to see her and see if he couldn't encourage her to do it now rather than wait until she died. And his approach was, "This will be a beautiful thing for you to enjoy," and he said, "I would like to see it, too." And her statement was, "Well, you better live longer than I if you expect to see it because I'm not going to do it until after I'm gone." And I don't know why she took that position. The only thing that I find fault with was that the chapel could have been built and the organ with the money that she had set aside for it, but by the time she finally passed away, prices had gone up and up and up, and it wasn't possible to do the job including the organ, so Edna and I decided that we would do it.

DR. TOLLISON: Gotcha. And you have two chamber music groups that are named after you and your wife.

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, my wife set up both of those. Her name of Edna Gladden, and of course I was Hartness, so she set up two quartets, one the Hartness group and one the Gladden group.

DR. TOLLISON: How did she do that?

MR. HARTNESS: Pardon me?

DR. TOLLISON: How did she do that? What was involved with that?

MR. HARTNESS: Well, she financed it. She gave \$1,000 scholarship to each one, each person. And it was unusual what she did for them after they finished. I remember one student, she bought a harp for her. She bought violins for some of the students, violas for one or two, and this was outside of Furman. Furman had nothing to do with that.

DR. TOLLISON: This was after they graduated?

MR. HARTNESS: These students would let it be known that they needed some help, and she helped them.

DR. TOLLISON: How wonderful. And this was after they were no longer Furman students at that point in time, is that correct?

MR. HARTNESS: They had graduated. One I almost got a little bit aggravated with. He wrote a letter to Edna saying he had found a manufacturer of violins who made five or six violins a year and that he would do anything to get one, and wondering if she would consider helping him with a violin. The upshot was \$15,000 for the violin. So she told him to go ahead and have it made, and then he later came back and said how much he appreciated it and I think he visited with us and came to see us, here and in Florida. But he came back a little bit later and said that he had found this tremendous bow for his violin and was wondering if she would possibly consider helping him with that, and the price was \$5,000. I told Edna, "You are not paying \$5,000 for a bow; I can find him one for \$15 somewhere." I couldn't believe that anybody would pay \$5,000 for just the bow itself.

DR. TOLLISON: My goodness.

MR. HARTNESS: It had some kind of history behind it. Stradivarius might have put a string in it or something.

DR. TOLLISON: It must have. Must have his name on it. Tell me about the campaign for Furman's future. Do you remember chairing that?

MR. HARTNESS: That was another campaign.

DR. TOLLISON: What was the primary purpose of that campaign?

MR. HARTNESS: I think it was just to take care of pretty much the same problems that we had on any campaign. We needed funds for buildings, for maintenance, for repair, for salary increases.

DR. TOLLISON: You're also a Trustee of the South Carolina Foundation of Independent Colleges and Universities, is that correct?

MR. HARTNESS: I'm sorry?

DR. TOLLISON: You've also served as a Trustee of the South Carolina Foundation of Independent Colleges and Universities?

MR. HARTNESS: Yes, and once you get on that Board you are always on it, I think. We have supported the institution.

DR. TOLLISON: Are you there as a Furman representative?

MR. HARTNESS: No. I don't think it's that way. I don't think they even list what school you are associated with in the brochures. I'm not active in that. We still participate financially. First of all, it's another one of those areas I know nothing about. I don't see any reason to waste somebody else's time, or mine either, trying to make decisions on things you really don't know the proper decision to make. Of course in the Trusteeship at Furman I think that just common sense prevails in any good institution, regardless of who the Trustees are.

DR. TOLLISON: Well, I think that's probably about it. Is there anything else that you would like to add, that we haven't talked about in the interview. Any other interesting stories?

MR. HARTNESS: I've always admired the people at Furman, the students of course. I guess you would say students first, then faculty and administration second. But it has always impressed me that the quality of people that Furman has been able to put together to run that school and to teach in that school, almost everyone in there could have made more money doing something else, but they are dedicated to doing that, and that to me is a tremendous asset for an institution.

DR. TOLLISON: Anything else?

MR. HARTNESS: I think that pretty well winds me down.

DR. TOLLISON: Well, thank you very much for spending time with me today and showing me around your beautiful property here. I think I'm going to try to get a shot of the outside over here if you don't mind, if we can open up the curtains. Thank you very much.

MR. HARTNESS: You're welcome.