



**Interview No.:** OH 3.3

**Title:** H. Biemann Othersen, Jr., MD, Interview by Brooke Fox, 24 June 2009

**Interviewer:** Fox, Brooke

**Interviewee:** Othersen, H. Biemann, Jr.

**Date:** 2009-06-24

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**Subject (Topical):**

Hurricane Hugo, 1989.

Medical University of South Carolina.

Medical University of South Carolina. Medical University Hospital.

Medical University of South Carolina. Children's Hospital

Hurricane Hugo, 1989--Personal narratives.

Disaster response and recovery.

**Subject (Names):** Othersen, H. Biemann

**Subject (Genre):** Oral histories.

Interviews.

**Summary:** Dr. H. Biemann Othersen, Jr., was chief of pediatric surgery and medical director of the Children's Hospital in 1989. In his interview he describes the preparations made by the Children's Hospital administration to ensure the safety of pediatric patients and hospital staff. Nurses were assigned to each bassinet and were given flashlights and Ambu bags for hand ventilation. Dr. Othersen discusses the storm's physical impact on the hospital and his office,

such as roof and window leaks, shattered windows, and loss of power and water. He describes how the Children's Hospital emergency generator worked throughout the storm and as a result patients from the main hospital, with equipment requiring electricity, were moved to the Children's Hospital. Dr. Othersen recalls the heroic efforts of hospital and maintenance in boarding up windows and responding to emergencies throughout the night. Additionally, Dr. Othersen recalls the impact the storm had on his home, neighborhood, and downtown Charleston.

**Collection:** Waring Historical Library Oral History Collection

**Contributing Institution:** Waring Historical Library (MUSC)

**Media Type:** Oral Histories

**Note:** This interview is part of the "Hurricane Hugo Oral History Project" series. These interviews document the experiences of administrators, hospital personnel, and maintenance staff who worked on the MUSC campus during landfall of Hurricane Hugo, September 21-22, 1989. Eleven interviews were conducted between June and August 2009 in preparation for the development of a physical and online exhibit, "MUSC Remembers Hurricane Hugo." The online exhibit is available at <http://waring.library.musc.edu/exhibits/hurricanehugo/>.

Transcripts has been edited by the interviewee.

In cases where the audio and the transcript differ, the audio is provided for background use only.

See also: Collection # OH 3.1-3.11

**Language:** English

**Digitization Specifications:** Audio recorded using a Marantz digital recorder. Archival masters are .wav files.

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**Series Title:** Hurricane Hugo Oral History Project, 2009

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**Transcript:** 18 p.