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Retrospect

News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University

April, 2010

Volume 6, Number 1

Winthrop Through the Lens of Joel Nichols



Joel Nichols retired as Winthrop's photographer in December 2008. He captured life at Winthrop through his lens for 46 years from 1962 to 2008. Nick brought over to the Archives literally tens of thousands of negatives and prints of his work at Winthrop. These images are a veritable treasure trove of Winthrop history, student life, campus life, and campus events over the past half century. He has them arranged by year and we have left them that way until we can begin to complete an index and re-house the negatives in archival envelopes and containers. Because of the size of the collection, it may take us a while to complete our indexing and finding aids and unfortunately, requests to access them will be limited. However, the collection is accessible so long as the researcher has an approximate date for the photograph or photographs they need.

Although most of the Archives Winthrop photograph collection is post 1960, we have a good number of photographs from the '40s and '50s as well as some from after 1960 that are unidentified. We would love to have any alumni or faculty and staff (former or current) to come by and help us, for the sake of posterity, identify some of the people and places in the photographs. If you are interested in helping us in our endeavor to preserve Winthrop's past, please give us a call at (803) 323-2334 or send us an e-mail at archives@winthrop.edu.

Quote of the Quarter

From his opening speech to the student body September 18, 1912:

“So many are prone to soothe their consciences for present idleness by the resolve to be diligent tomorrow—and tomorrow never comes. Begin right today.” Pres. D.B. Johnson, Winthrop's founder and first president.

The Girls of Summer:

Jean Faut and 'Lib' Mahon '42 All American Girls Professional Baseball League



Jean Faut



“Lib” Mahon

With the onset of World War II, many minor league baseball franchises found themselves at a crossroads. Losing many of their players to military service, minor league teams began to feel the pinch and many went under. Philip K. Wrigley, the chewing gum mogul and owner of the Chicago Cubs, created the All American Girls Softball League in 1943 to bring in the crowds and to help these franchises stay afloat. The league eventually became the All American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL) and was the inspiration for the 1992 hit movie *A League of Their Own*.

Two of the stars of the AAGPBL were Jean Faut and Lib Mahon. Jean Faut starred as a pitcher for the South Bend Blue Sox in the league from 1946 to 1953. She was twice the recipient of the Player of the Year award and her 1.23 ERA was the lowest in league history. She was also the only pitcher to throw two perfect games during her career. Elizabeth 'Lib' Mahon was a Winthrop graduate (Class of 1942) and played in the league from 1944 to 1952. Lib was a gifted outfielder who was known for her hitting prowess and her speed. In 1946 the two-time all-star stole 114 bases in 116 attempts.

An exhibit located on the Main Floor of Dacus Library commemorates their accomplishments as two of the star players in AAGPBL and is comprised of photographs and memorabilia from the Jean Faut Papers and the Elizabeth “Lib” Mahon Papers housed in the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections. The exhibit will run from March 5 through June 30. For more information on the exhibit, the Jean Faut Papers, or Lib Mahon Papers, please contact the Archives at (803) 323-2334 or e-mail archives@winthrop.edu.



Jean Faut's first professional hit 1946

The Sounds and Sights of Winthrop



The Archives has a wonderful collection of audio tapes (reel-to-reel, cassette, etc.), films, and videos of Winthrop people, events, and scenes. The dates of this media range from 1919 to the 1990s and cover such topics as May Day, Physical Education Department events, Music Department events, Commencement, and much more. We have successfully converted the 1919 film and some reel-to-reel oral history interviews of Mrs. D.B. Johnson (Winthrop's 1st first lady), Mrs. Lee Wicker Kinard (wife of Winthrop's long-time dean and 2nd president), as well as a poetry reading by Dr. James Pinckney Kinard and a speech by Dr. Shelton Phelps to a digital format but most of the films, tapes, and videos documenting our university's heritage are still in their original format and are deteriorating quickly. The film at above is of May Day in 1949, 1950, and 1951. Unfortunately, a portion of this film will be lost even if we were to take measures in the next couple of months. We have plans, when resources are available, to preserve these wonderful treasures so that the entire Winthrop community may enjoy them and learn about the heritage of our school.

Through the Casement—Window on Winthrop's Past



Winthrop moved to Rock Hill from Columbia in the fall of 1895. This is the first year that students were required to wear uniforms and the first year that most of the students lived on campus. Following are some of the General Regulations from the College Catalogue to which students were required to adhere:

Pupils will not be allowed to receive visits from men, whether cousins or not, or to spend the night out of the College. This rule will not be departed from. Communications from parents or guardians concerning withdrawal, leave of absence or visiting must be made direct to the president in advance and not through the students. Requests not conforming to this rule will not be considered. The right is reserved to the President to refuse such requests when in his judgment it would be unwise to grant them.

- Excuses for absence [sic] must be submitted by the student to the President in writing every Monday before 4 P.M., or, in case of protracted absence, on the first Monday after the student's return to duty, and will be acted on by the President.
- Notes, bouquets or other form of communication or marks of attention to boarding pupils from persons outside of the College are prohibited, unless authorized by consent of the President. Day pupils are forbidden, under penalty of *exclusion from the school*, to receive or deliver communications of any kind whatever from or to the boarders, without permission of the President.
- Visitors are not admitted to the private apartments of students unless by special permission of the Matron. Calls are not allowed to interfere with College duties.
- The College Uniform must be worn as required on all occasions.
- Pupils will not be allowed to linger in Rock Hill after they have withdrawn from the school or after commencement exercises in the summer, unless their parents address to the President a written request to that effect.
- The President's authority over the conduct of students continues until they return to their homes and parents. They remain members of the school until dismissed, honorably discharged or graduated from it.
- No student or students shall be permitted to make or unite in making any party, festive entertainment or celebration without special permission of the President.
- Parents are requested not to send boxes of eatables, except fruit, to their daughters. They are productive of excess, sickness, and loss of time, and *will not be delivered, if sent*, except at Christmas.
- Borrowing textbooks, clothing, jewelry and other articles is forbidden.
- Pupils are not permitted to make accounts at stores [in Rock Hill].

We will continue with another list of past rules and regulations in our next issue.

For information on the Archives' collections and holdings, how to donate historical material, or how you can help, contact:

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