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Retrospect

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

December, 2012

Volume 8, Number 4



Toyland: Generations of Fun



What is your favorite toy from childhood? Is it a doll, or a train, or a bat and ball? Perhaps we have a toy that brings back memories in our December/January exhibit at the Louise Pettus Archives. From December 3 through January 25, an array of toys from the past 100 years will be on display during regular Archives hours.

Among the toys included in the exhibit are a 1920s teddy bear with a music box inside, a collection of baseball cards, a toy cupboard constructed in the early 1900s, a 1940s tow truck, and a collection of My Little Ponies from the 1980s. There are toys to interest

and delight the young and the young at heart.

The exhibit is available for viewing at the Pettus Archives, located at 700 Cherry Road, Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00. The Archives will be closing for the holidays and winter break on Friday, December 14 and will reopen on Wednesday, January 2. For more information call the Archives at (803) 323-2334 or e-mail archives@winthrop.edu.

Quote of the Quarter



He is doubly blest, who forgetful of self, ministers to the welfare, the pleasure, the interest of others. All blessings are in the way of him who unselfishly tries to be helpful to others and spends his life in loving deeds.

Pres. David Bancroft Johnson (Winthrop's founder and 1st president) from his opening speech to the student body September 1897

Photograph of the Quarter



Winthrop Christmas Program in Byrnes Auditorium ca. late 1970s

“Christmas Giving”



Winthrop’s literary publication was known as the *Winthrop Journal* from its inception in 1902 until 1964 when it was renamed the *Anthology*. It was generally published 4 or 5 times per year. In December of 1917, the world was at war. The United States had entered the conflict in April of that year. Most Winthrop students knew someone who was in the war and were very supportive of the war effort. In the 1917 December issue of the *Winthrop Journal*, Lucretia Baker, Editor-in-Chief, wrote the following editorial titled “Christmas Giving”:

This year, more than ever before, we need a true Christmas spirit. It will, of course, be a rather sad Christmas in some respects, for so many households will have an empty chair in the family circle. It is the duty of each of us girls to make the home-folks as happy as possible this Christmas. The spirit of Christmas is that of cheerful giving and, surely, never before has such a sacrifice been asked of us as that of giving our brothers and our friends to the call of humanity.

In order to make this greater gift of more use, it will be necessary for us to do away with many of our lesser gifts, which we have taken so much pleasure in heretofore. Everyone will take it as a tribute rather than as a neglect if the usual token is omitted this year. Let’s send our message of Christmas cheer on postals, and let them be messages of love and good will toward all mankind.

Through the Casement—Window on Winthrop’s Past

D. B. Johnson’s Christmas Wishes



Until 1908 Winthrop students were given only one day off at Christmas. Students were not allowed to go home because Pres. Johnson believed that this would cause a hardship for the parents. The students’ families would send boxes of food and presents to their daughters to alleviate any homesickness that may occur. Winthrop planned many activities for the students and tried to make the day a very happy one for them. D. B. Johnson gave the following speech, circa 1904, to the student body the day before Christmas.

I hope you may all thoroughly enjoy the holiday, that tomorrow may be a bright day in every particular and that this Christmas time may bring each one of you much of happiness and pleasure. I am glad to believe that most of you, if not all, have the right ideals about happiness, that you know that the most genuine happiness comes from a sense of duty done, from some thoughtful kindness to others; that pleasure flees from him who pursues her for herself alone; that he who forgets self and seeks first the pleasure of others gets the greatest pleasure.

Young Mr. Rockefeller, one of the richest, if not the richest man in the world, has recently said: “Half of the people in the world to-day are on the wrong scent in pursuit of happiness. They seem to think it consists in having and getting and in being served by others. That is a mistaken idea. It consists in giving and in serving others.” That is the testimony of one who is able to have anything of this

world’s goods that he might desire.

In celebrating the day, let us not forget in our enjoyment of it, in whose memory it is kept and that his life was a life of service and his death a sacrifice for us that we might live.

I wish you all a happy Christmas.

The Staff of the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections wishes each of you a happy holiday season!



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

Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections

Telephone: (803) 323-2334

E-Mail: archives@winthrop.edu

Website: www.winthrop.edu/dacus/archives/

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