



Fall 2010

## Fall 2010: "Playaway" the Holidays

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# Focus

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## “Playaway” the Holidays

With the holidays approaching and many taking long trips, readers may be interested in an old idea that has been recast in a new garb. The road is long, as the song has it, and if you have young children in the car, it may seem even longer.

You can't always get the radio station you want, and there are only so many songs you can sing-along with. Or maybe you're flying, and you only want to lean back and enjoy the flight but can't, what with that screaming baby beside you. So, what can you do, I mean, apart from going stark raving mad?

Why not try a Playaway?

Playaway? What in the world is it and why should you care? Put simply, Playaways are a relatively new form of the old audiobook, but they're aren't CDs, nor are they cassettes, (assuming you're old enough to remember what a cassette player is.) Playaways involve no downloading, no fuss, and no bother.

The unit (pictured below) is a small recorder containing either in whole or in part (some texts are abridged) a new or classical text of a book.

What makes Playaways popular is their versatility. In addition to the usual functions of an audiobook, they are also iPod compatible. And they are very small and compact.

Coming in at slightly larger than a credit card, Playaways fit con-

veniently into your hip pocket or purse, are compatible with standard earbuds (though they come with their own) and can go wherever you want to go, with the possible exception of the shower (though one might wish to attempt a bath with lighted candles, Bach playing in the background and –well, you get the picture).

The “library” of titles is fairly extensive, and more titles are being added daily. To date, Dacus has added the following for checkout: Sara Gruen's novel, “Ape House,” Tony Blair's controversial memoir, “A Journey: My Political Life;” the late Steig Larsson's “The Girl Who Played with Fire;” Muriel Barbery's “The Elegance of the Hedgehog;” Rhoda Janzen's “Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: A Memoir of Going Home;” Paul Greenberg's “Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food;” the ever provocative Nicholas Carr's “The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains;” and “Voices of Black America,” recordings made between 1908 and 1947 of speeches, writings and more of Langston Hughes, Booker T. Washington, Paul Laurence and others. If your taste tend more classical, we have “James Joyce in 90 Minutes;” “Kafka in 90 Minutes;” Kate Chopin's “The Awakening” and Voltaire's “Candide.”

If you're looking for something that can go when you go, pause when you pause, and resume when you're ready, then Playaways may be just the thing you're looking for. Whether you're running on a treadmill, dreading that trip over the hills and through the woods, or just want to unwind before going to bed,

Playaways provide a delightful way for you to explore yet another way of “reading.” Like most new technologies—and this particular format is new—Playaways aren't exactly cheap. We bought a few to test them out. But if you like them and want us to purchase more of them, just let someone in the library know. You can view the possible titles here <http://library.playaway.com/> and can always find how many titles Dacus owns by doing a subject search using the term “playaway.”

At first blush, it might seem silly to record one text per unit. But audiobooks have posed a problem for libraries—as do e-readers— if they contain multiple texts. Once that unit is checked out, so are all the titles. Instead, these audiobooks have only one title, so keeping it out as long as you need it isn't the problem it would be if multiple texts were contained on each one. Titles do vary in price, with the most recent titles costing the most, and the more “classical” texts costing only a fraction as much as their “just released” brethren.

So drop by and check out a Playaway and, well, play away.

(A version of this text appeared on the library's blog at <http://dacuslibrary.wordpress.com/>.)

Mark Y. Herring  
Dean of Library Services



Winthrop's Army Era: Army Air Corps Cadets at Winthrop



Gina White

In 1942, during WWII, the U. S. War Department approved Winthrop as a training facility for cadet aviators enlisted in the Army Air Corps. President Shelton Phelps signed an agreement with the War

Department that Winthrop would house, feed, and teach the cadets.

The War Department paid Winthrop approximately \$180,000 per year for cadet maintenance and instruction. All of the funds had to be used for the cadets. The college could not make a profit. The contract was signed on February 23, 1943 indicating that the program would begin on March 1, 1943 and end on June 30, 1944.

Groups of 160 aviation cadets were to be stationed on Winthrop's campus for five months receiving academic instruction and flight training. When Winthrop first investigated participation in the program, they believed they would be training women cadets. However, it was determined that complications between students and cadets were not to be expected due to the strict Army discipline over the cadets and the amount of study and training they would endure.

The detachment that Winthrop housed was the 41st College Training Detachment. The school was expected to furnish textbooks, teachers, classroom facilities, food, housing, and entertainment. Ralph Blakely and Mrs. W.M. Patrick taught physics; Francis E. Harrison and Elwood I. Terry taught geography; Blanche C. Badger and Ellen F. Rasor taught mathematics; Ruth Rollins, Ruth Roettinger, Dr. Ruth Bourne, and Dr. Warren G. Keith taught history; Solon Gentry, Dr. Donniss Martin, and Dr. Paul M. Wheeler taught Eng-



Cadets Behind Bancroft Hall, July 1943

lish; and W.W. Wisner taught Civil Air Regulations. Cadets were also required to take a course in first aid which was taught by Frances Cake of the P.E. department. The courses were arranged by block scheduling, allowing five course combinations. Cadets were to have Saturdays & Sundays for recreation, ceremonies, open-post privileges, and dating.

The cadets were housed in Bancroft Hall, which was immediately dubbed "Fort Bancroft," and were enthusiastically welcomed by the whole Winthrop community. An editorial in *The Johnsonian* on February 26, 1943 stated:

"We've looked forward to 'Winthrop's cadets' quite enthusiastically. In fact, not only the campus, but the whole college community has looked forward to your coming. Your arrival is something new for us. It gives us a new reason for existing. . . a more active part in this war in which we're all wrapped up. And we like the idea of being able to do a little more."

The first cadets arrived on campus on Sunday night, March 7, 1943 at about ten o'clock. They marched in formation from the train station downtown to Winthrop's campus. They arrived at "Fort Bancroft" and

were assigned rooms. The army atmosphere became apparent overnight.

A waving American flag flew atop the new home of the cadets. Inside Bancroft the walls were bare and the furniture plain and serviceable. They set up a mail room, an infirmary, and the parlors became reading, writing, and smoking rooms (Winthrop students were not allowed to smoke on campus).

The Winthrop campus realized that their contributions contributed to the war effort. A piece in *The Johnsonian* of March 12, 1943 states: "It gives one a good feeling to see "Old Glory" flying high over Fort Bancroft and over Main Building [now Tillman]. It's funny how you just notice something, but we think it took the flag over the 41st Detachment College Training [sic] Aircrew to really bring our attention home to the United States and State flags flying high over our Main building."

Winthrop showed movies, had dances, and gave other entertainments for the cadets. These events gave the cadets and Winthrop students a chance to interact with each other. Many of the students dated the cadets

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and officers of the detachment and quite a few of the couples eventually married.

One of the cadets, Carroll F. Dillon, wrote a book about his experiences in the Army Air Corps in 2004 titled "The Crooked Road to Combat." Two of the chapters in the book deal with his time at Winthrop. He writes that the cadets spent the first ten days restricted to campus while being processed.

The Commanding Officer, Captain John S. Downing and the Adjutant, Lieutenant Robert L. Goldman, were "fearful that 320 cadets on the campus with 1540 girls could cause serious complications." In order to avoid "something like an international incident arising out of the close association between the cadets and the girls, our leaders adopted a regulation that while under restriction, we could not get any closer to a Winthrop girl than twenty paces."

The first Sunday the cadets were on campus, Winthrop held a non-sectarian church service in Johnson Hall for both cadets and students. Mr. Dillon writes "our Commanding Officer waived the twenty-pace restriction solely for the Sunday service. Some of us recognized the advantages of religious services. We went to the church service and met many girls."

After the ten day restriction period, there was more interaction between the Winthrop students and the cadets. They would sit together and talk on campus benches, attend class plays or the free movies shown on campus, or walk across campus for a milkshake at The Good Shoppe (now the Campus Police Department). Mr. Dillon notes that the Home Economics majors held dances for the cadets at 4:00 several afternoons a week.

He writes "the students at these dances as well as other dances on the campus outnumbered the cadets so much that the practice of 'girl-break' was followed. The custom initiated



Cadets on walking tours for having too many demerits, April 1943

by the girls was a new experience for the cadets, but it made good sense. The girls outnumbered the men on the campus almost five to one. We had no objections; it was something beyond our fondest dreams."

When a cadet was caught breaking the rules or not passing inspection or was found guilty of some infraction, they were required to walk tours on the sidewalks between "Fort Bancroft" and the Tillman Science Building (razed in 1962).

This consisted of walking the triangular path made by the walks for a specified number of "tours." The tours were discontinued in March 1944 by Captain R.L. Goldman after realizing the ordeal endured by the cadets was both bad for morale and embarrassing.

In April 1943, the cadets formed a twenty-eight piece military band under the leadership of Cadet Vincent A. Davis. The instruments were graciously lent to the cadets by the Winthrop students. This band gave several concerts to the Winthrop community.

The cadets also produced a play titled "Wild Blue Yonder." Cadets

wrote the script and the performance took place on Saturday, May 15, 1943 in Byrnes Auditorium. The tickets were 45¢ for adults and 30¢ for students and proceeds benefitted Army Emergency Relief. It consisted of musical numbers such as "Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer by the Cadet Chorus," and skits such as "If Cadet Winthrop Played Cards as Coed Winthrop Does (Heaven Forbid!)," and "Saturday Morning Inspection—(Or how to spend the week-end going around in circles)." The grand finale was titled "Finale (Aren't You Glad It's Over)." The cadets gave another performance on October 22, 1943—a musical comedy titled "Kiss Me My Fool." Winthrop students participated in this performance.

The Army discontinued the air cadet training program in June of 1944. Winthrop was proud of its contribution to the war effort. An editorial in the April 21, 1944 issue of *The Johnsonian* sums it up well:

"The news that Winthrop's year old 41st College Training Detachment would be abolished, along with

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# A Tricky Treating Halloween at Dacus

Since Winthrop University has been horrifying students for 125 years, Dacus Library decided to pay them back.

On October 28th and 29th, the Library Outreach Committee compensated by scattering over 1,800 pieces of candy throughout the building for our Tricky Treats event.

Students began arriving as soon as the doors opened at 8 am. They were

greeted with small Halloween bags for the candy and instructions to win the prizes.

To receive one of the prizes, the students had to find five pieces of candy and one small plastic skull.

The students had no problem locating the five pieces of candy; the difficult and challenging part was finding the small skulls.

All the students had positive remarks about this 'break from studying' activity. One student even commented that it was the most fun she had ever had at Halloween.

Tricky Treats was a great opportunity for the students to explore different areas of the library collection, to make new friends as they paired up to search for the elusive skulls, and to beg librarians



*Tricky Treats at Dacus*

for hints.

Not only do the students enjoy these activities, it was fun for the library staff as well.

**Susan Silverman**  
Head of Public Services



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many other similar units in the South, was accepted on the campus with a keenly felt note of regret. Regret: because campusers have welcomed and enjoyed the privilege of lending a campus for the training of army men; because students have learned to temper their war-complacency upon seeing 'the real thing' in the making; because a coed campus has been pleasing and attractive.

Our entire campus-students, faculty and administration-has met the demands of a total war and met them gracefully. During the year that we might call Winthrop's 'army era' there was complete co-operation and co-ordination among all the forces of our college. Neither the Winthrop record nor the army record has been marred by serious disruptions or disharmonies created by the wartime set up at the college. Students nor faculty were disconcerted by the activation of the detachment, and the detachment's

training program was not interrupted by the presence of some 1500 women students around.

And now that the reverberations of marching feet, a sounding drum, taps and reveille bugle calls and formal retreats are all just as Winthrop as the navy blues, we will find it difficult to revert to our normal, prewar campus."

**Gina Price White**  
Head of Louise Pettus Archives

## **Dacus**

### Focus

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*Robert Ryals, Co-Editor  
Kaitlin Burdette, Co-Editor  
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## Active People

**Spiro Shetuni**, database management, has written a manuscript titled *Albanian Traditional Music: An Introduction*, which was officially accepted for publication by McFarland Press on Monday, October 4, 2010.

**Dr. Ronnie Faulkner**, technical services, attended two conferences this fall. The first, the South Carolina Library Association Meeting, was held at Myrtle Beach, S.C. on October 20-23, 2010. The second conference was a grant writing workshop held in Asheville, N.C. on November 3-4, 2010.

**Gale Teaster**, head of serials, attended the North American Serials Interest Group conference (NASIG) in June 2010 .

**Jackie Mcfadden**, government documents, attended the South Carolina Library Association Meeting at Myrtle Beach, S.C., in October 2010.