Interview with Janie May Carroll Rice

Janie May Carroll Rice

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RICE, Janie May Carroll
Class of 1903

At Winthrop: 1900-1903
Interviewed: November 13, 1976
Interviewer: Sally Tyler
Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard
Length: 00:41:59

Abstract: In her November 13, 1976 interview with Sally Tyler, Janie May Carroll Rice expresses her love of Winthrop. Rice recalls President Johnson’s involvement with the students, and his desire to include religion in all aspects of campus life. Rice also defends the many rules and regulations of Winthrop. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: President Johnson, Winthrop Training School, Practice Teaching, Religious aspects, chapel, dorm life

Interview Session (November 13, 1976): Digital File

Time Keywords

00:00:00 Start of Interview/Interviewer’s Introduction

00:00:18 Question: Why Winthrop? Answer: JR couldn’t afford to go to any other college. JR received a scholarship.

00:00:40 Question: How did you arrive? Answer: Train.

00:01:10 Question: Uniforms? Answer: Coat suits and blouses. JR talks about ways students got around the rules and regulations of uniforms.

00:02:13 Question: How often could students leave campus? Answer: Students could go shopping downtown once every two weeks with a professor and senior. Freedom Store.

00:03:17 Question: Signing out? Answer: Oral permission to leave. There were approximately 300-400 students.
Question: Where were uniforms issued? Answer: Students bought coat suits from different stores in Rock Hill. Students made their own blouses.

Question: How did you feel about uniforms? Answer: JR didn’t have much money. Equalized students.

Question: Church line? Answer: Everybody had to go to church. Catholic students may have been excused. D.B. Johnson led the line.

Question: Attend chapel? Answer: Students had chapel five days a week. Students sat according to classes.

Question: What would happen if students didn’t go to chapel? Answer: Students had to talk to the President.

Question: Dorm? Answer: One dormitory at the time. Students aptly called it “The Dormitory.” JR recalls Winthrop building dorms.


Question: License to teach? Answer: “No. My degree gave me that.”

Question: Assigned roommates? Answer: Students could pick roommates. Students couldn’t leave until 6pm. Students had to go to rooms at 7pm. Lights out at 10pm. House Matrons. Night watch.


Question: Shipped? Answer: Recalls a girl crawling out her window. Student was reprimanded but not shipped.

Question: Homesickness? Answer: Freshmen were homesick.

Question: How did students get downtown? Answer: Students walked. President Johnson would escort girls down Oakland Ave.

Question: Room inspections? Answer: Hall Matron would inspect. Students knew to keep rooms clean.

Question: Fire drills? Answer: Girls could go out their windows.
Question: Gym classes? Answer: Gymnasium was in the basement of Main/Tillman Hall.

Question: Swimming pool? Answer: Not in use, while JR was there.

Question: Gym uniforms? Answer: Bloomers. It snowed once, and President Johnson allowed students to play in the snow in their gym outfits.

Question: Meal times? Answer: Everyone ate at the same time. Mrs. O’Brien. Describes table layout and how food was served.

Question: Other dining room customs? Answer: Occasionally announcements were made.


Question: Compulsory assemblies? Answer: No. Chapel was required, though. Sunday nights students were required to go to assembly.


[no question] Continues talking about religious influence on campus. Bible classes on Sunday afternoon.

[no question] Classroom and professors. All of the classes were in Main Building. Labs held on the top floor.

Question: Characteristics of professors? Answer: Overall nice. JR recalls being frightened by one professor. Grades. Mrs. Roberts’s Latin class.


Question: Supervised city schools? Answer: Did that for three years. Taught professionally at the Winthrop Training School.

Question: Responsibilities at Winthrop Training School? Answer: Just teach. Did not attend faculty training at Winthrop.

Question: Supervised student teachers? Answer: Yes. Sometimes JR had three student teachers in one hour.

Question: Did the students study at other places than the Training School? Answer: 
Not when JR was there.

00:37:55  Question: Cheating at Winthrop?  Answer: Does not recall. JR remembers a student stealing another girl’s blouse. President Johnson “didn’t want us to do anything that would spoil the reputation of his girls.”

00:39:40  Question: Anything else?  Answer: JR provides reasoning to rules and regulations. JR loved Winthrop. “I never get tired talking about Winthrop, and I’m so glad to do it.”

00:41:59  End of interview