



12-2006

## December 2006 Volume 2, Number 4

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/retrospect>



Part of the [Archival Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections, "December 2006 Volume 2, Number 4" (2006). *Retrospect: News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University*. 9.

<https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/retrospect/9>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Dacus Library Publications at Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Retrospect: News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. For more information, please contact [bramed@winthrop.edu](mailto:bramed@winthrop.edu).

# Retrospect

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

December 2006

Volume 2, no. 4

### Veterans History Project Exhibit and Reception



On November 14, 2006 from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Dacus Library and the Archives hosted an exhibit and reception on the library's main floor highlighting our Veterans History Project and honoring veterans and project participants. Over 75 people attended the event. Haney Howell, a Winthrop Mass Communication professor and U. S. Air Force veteran was the featured speaker. The exhibit included documents, photographs, artifacts, and uniforms relating to veterans and the wars fought in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. There was an accompanying exhibit on Admiral Husband Kimmel, the commander of the Pacific fleet during the Pearl Harbor attack at the beginning of U.S. involvement in WWII.

In September of 2003, Winthrop University began participation in the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project as a partner institution. The goal of this project is to "honor our nation's war veterans and those who served in support of them by creating a lasting legacy of recorded interviews and other documents chronicling veterans' and other citizens' wartime experiences, how those experiences affected their lives and America itself." As a partner institution, the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections will house, preserve and make available the interviews conducted by volunteers. The basic biographical information of the veteran will be entered into a national database identifying the institution where the interview and accompanying documentation are available. To volunteer or for more information, please contact us.

### How Winthrop Got Christmas Holidays



From an article by Louise Pettus

From 1895 to 1906, any girl who packed her trunks in September to attend Winthrop knew that she would not be allowed to go home until the following June. The college catalogue specified four holidays—Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, George Washington's birthday, and Robert C. Winthrop's birthday in May. Holiday literally meant "no classes." There was no holiday for New Year's Day. The explanation given in the catalogue was "This arrangement is made to save parents extra railroad fare, and to prevent the serious demoralization and loss of time to the students and the disorganization of the College work always consequent upon the breaking up of school within three months after the opening of the sessions." It also said that students who went home for Christmas took too much time to recover from "the effects of dissipation while at home."

Although Winthrop students were given a wonderful celebration, they and their parents wanted a Christmas holiday for the students. In the fall of 1905, Winthrop students initiated a well-conceived campaign to end the hated restriction. The girls organized themselves and sent a formal ballot to their parents. They wrote their own pleading letters to accompany the ballots and got back enough ballots to show that a majority of parents wished a longer holiday for their daughters.

The students presented the stack of returned ballots to the Board of Trustees in November of 1905, but were turned down. U.S. Senator Benjamin R. Tillman, long-time member of the board, was adamantly opposed to their proposal. The students then “went over the heads” of the trustees by turning to the state legislature. They felt sure that the majority of the legislators knew at least one Winthrop student and would come to their aid. A number of the students were “kin.” The South Carolina House voted to set aside the Winthrop Board of Trustees’ rule allowing only one day at Christmas. Tillman was furious with the students. He began writing letters from Washington to the S.C. Senate members urging them to ignore such nonsense. *The State* newspaper got word of Tillman’s letter writing and observed, “Winthrop is not Senator Tillman’s private college; it belongs to the people of the state. . . And the sentiment about the full family circle at Christmas time should have consideration.”

The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 20 to 17. On February 17, 1906 it became South Carolina law that all South Carolina college students must get 10 days of holiday at Christmas. So, all South Carolina college and university students of today, owe a note of thanks for their holiday to those bold Winthrop girls of 1906.

### Two New Digitized Collections



In the past couple of months we have added two more digitized collections to our offerings online. They are both collections of negatives that would otherwise be difficult to use without creating digital images of them. They are the Winthrop University Photograph Negative Collection Campus Scenes 1927 and the Winthrop University Photograph Negative Collection James F. Byrnes’ Inauguration as Governor of South Carolina.

The Campus Scenes 1927 consists of 10 images of the Winthrop campus that were taken about 1927. In the Spring of 1927 or 1928, a Mr. Townend came through Rock Hill on his way north from Florida and made several photographs of the Winthrop campus. He brought them to the President’s office and offered them for sale. At that time, the college did not have a photographer and most of the photographs taken by professional photographers were for the *Tatler*. President D. B. Johnson bought the photographs from Mr. Townend and we have those negatives in the Archives today. The photographs are of the southern end of campus and offer a nice view of the school in the late 1920s. The photograph above is of the front of McLaurin Hall facing south.

The James F. Byrnes’ Inauguration as Governor of South Carolina consists of 7 images of Gov. Byrnes’ Inauguration which took place in Columbia, S.C. on January 16, 1951. Gov. Byrnes asked Winthrop students to participate in the inaugural parade. The Winthrop Marching Band and members of the Student Body marched in the parade. The photographs include images of Gov. Byrnes, Lt. Governor George Bell Timmerman, Strom Thurmond, Jean Crouch Thurmond, State Senator Edgar A. Brown, a view of Main Street in Columbia from the State House steps, and Winthrop students marching in the inaugural parade. The image to the left is of Gov. James F. Byrnes, Strom Thurmond, and Lt. Gov. George Bell Timmerman.



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

Gina Price White, Director  
Archives and Special Collections  
Rock Hill, S.C. 29733  
(803) 323-2334

or  
Andrew Johnston  
Assistant Archivist  
Rock Hill, S.C. 29733  
(803) 323-2302

e-mail: [archives@winthrop.edu](mailto:archives@winthrop.edu)

Web site: [www.winthrop.edu/dacus/About/Archives/archivesdept.htm](http://www.winthrop.edu/dacus/About/Archives/archivesdept.htm)