



12-11-2014

Interview with Louise "Lou" Trucks

Lou Trucks

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

Recommended Citation

Trucks, Lou, "Interview with Louise "Lou" Trucks" (2014). *Browse All Oral History Interviews*. OH 046.
<https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/6>

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the Oral History Program at Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Browse All Oral History Interviews by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. For more information, please contact bramed@winthrop.edu.

**LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Interview #046
TRUCKS, Lou**

TRUCKS, Lou

Class of 1964. Music and music education major.

At Winthrop: 1960-1964

Interviewed: December 11, 2014

Interviewer: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 1 hour, 12 minutes

Abstract: In her December 2014 interview with Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard, Louise “Lou” Trucks detailed her thoughts and memories of her time at Winthrop. Trucks spoke of the time period from 1960-1964 as a music and music education double major. Trucks shared the benefits of being a music major, her involvement in campus traditions and organizations, and the rigor of her studies. Trucks concludes her interview detailing her life after Winthrop in Bloomington, IN and Rochester, NY. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Piano, arts, 1960s, chimes scholarship, classes night, class pianist, music, music education, Aesthetic Education Institute

Interview Session (December 11, 2014): Digital File

Time Keywords

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

00:00:21 *Question:* Where are you from and why Winthrop? *Answer:* Living in Hampton, SC. Had a good music department. Jack Tait – piano teacher. High school music teacher suggested Winthrop.

00:02:14 *Question:* Process of applying? *Answer:* Two separate entrances: Winthrop and music department. Winthrop was host for State Music Competitions, LT had participated in them since the 7th grade – had a good understanding of what Winthrop was like.

00:03:44 *Question:* Feeling of auditioning? *Answer:* Nervous. LT had a lot of experience of auditioning.

00:04:15 *Question:* Chimes scholarship? *Answer:* Chimes had to be played three times a day.

- Keyboard for chimes in McLaurin. Seven days a week. Moved bed to where the keyboard was so LT wouldn't have to get out of bed. Students had to play hymns.
- 00:06:40 *Question:* Roommate? *Answer:* Had the same roommate for 3.5 years. Could hear chimes outside.
- 00:07:34 *Question:* Application process for chimes? *Answer:* Not sure.
- 00:08:00 *Question:* First few weeks at Winthrop? *Answer:* Hadn't lived anywhere else. Parents drove LT up. LT got to the room first – chose her bed. LT had a different major than her roommate – didn't spend all day together. Roommate was a psychology major. Both knew lots of people.
- 00:09:50 *Question:* Any negative incident with your roommate? *Answer:* Playing bridge with her roommate. Roommate kept trumping everyone, but she wasn't following the rules.
- 00:11:25 *Question:* Major? *Answer:* Music, specialization in piano with a double major in Music Education.
- 00:11:50 *Question:* A typical class? *Answer:* Had lessons once a week for an hour. Mr. Tait gave immediate feedback and suggestions – he paid careful attention. Not composing music.
- 00:14:45 *Question:* Internships? *Answer:* Practice teaching at Winthrop Training School – actually taught piano lessons rather than teaching a class: one-on-one. LT felt prepared to be a teacher.
- 00:16:20 *Question:* Recitals? *Answer:* There were regular recitals and different students would perform one piece when they were ready. LT played in those. As a junior and senior, LT gave solo recitals. LT remembers her junior recital.
- 00:17:55 *Question:* How would you describe yourself as a student? *Answer:* Dedicated, but that was not unusual for music students. LT says she was an interested learner. LT remembers an art appreciation class – first time she did anything with art at all. LT says, "it was an eye opener." The music history and theory were "great courses." There were approximately 10-12 music students; these students spent a lot of time together.
- 00:20:20 *Question:* Have you been in touch with fellow alumni? *Answer:* Somewhat.
- 00:20:47 *Question:* Did you incorporate lessons from the art appreciation course into your music. *Answer:* This class helped LT in a job from 1987-2000. LT has never made

art, but she has a good eye, because of that class.

- 00:22:15 *Question:* Can you describe dorm life? *Answer:* All girls. Fun and casual. LT liked McLaurin. Study hours were from 7pm-9pm or 10pm. Music majors could get out of study hours.
- 00:23:35 *Question:* Is the RA the same as the House Mother? *Answer:* No. The RA was responsible for 10-12 dorms. RA ran hall meetings and was a confidante.
- 00:24:45 *Question:* Rules and regulations? *Answer:* Students had to follow building hours. LT remembers the fire escape. Students would grab pillows and ride the silo down. LT looked for the fire escapes when she came back for the Alumni Reunion. LT says she was, "well behaved."
- 00:26:00 *Question:* What was expected of a Winthrop student? *Answer:* Students had to present themselves well. Students couldn't wear shorts in the front of the campus. Students were expected to be appropriate and have good manners. There were opportunities to dress up and students couldn't wear jeans. LT always felt proud of being a part of Winthrop.
- 00:27:25 *Question:* Did you have teas with Winthrop President? *Answer:* LT just remembers the affair of getting dressed up for teas.
- 00:27:50 *Question:* President? *Answer:* Dr. Davis. LT never met him. LT thought he was a nice person. Winthrop was a good school, so that set the tone. Winthrop was academically challenging.
- 00:28:45 *Question:* Traditions? *Answer:* LT talks about classes night. Every year in the spring, every class would create a skit and faculty would judge the skit. A theme was chosen by faculty. Every class at the time always had a cheerleader and a pianist. Usually seniors won. First and second place were given every year. LT's class won second place as freshman and sophomore, then first place as juniors and seniors. Because of LT's class win as freshman, LT played their winning song on the chimes.
- 00:32:40 *Question:* Anything else that sticks out from classes night? *Answer:* LT was pianist senior year. Students went into auditoriums for convocations. The senior class cheerleader met LT again many years later at a conference in San Diego for arts education. Cheerleader ran the same program as LT but in a different city. LT and cheerleader came to the Alumni Reunion together.
- 00:36:10 *Question:* Any other assemblies? *Answer:* Joe Sutherland. Jorge Bolet came to Winthrop. Bolet played a contemporary piece he did not memorize and LT was the page turner for him. The concert LT remembers the most was one with Janos Starker,

- cellist, and Gyorgy Sebok, pianist. LT remembers Mr. Sebok playing softly. LT was determined to learn how to do this. LT took Mr. Starker and Sebok to the Charlotte Airport and asked Mr. Sebok how he played so softly. Because of that concert, LT decided to go to Indiana University and get a Master's Degree and study with Mr. Sebok. In LT's senior year, LT thought she was going to get a job as a teacher, but after hearing that concert, LT changed her life's path.
- 00:39:25 *Question:* How rigorous was your Master's? *Answer:* It took two years, but Winthrop prepared LT for it. LT was able to pass out of music theory.
- 00:40:25 *Question:* What was it like telling people you were a Winthrop graduate? *Answer:* Music people knew about Winthrop and respected the degree. After Indiana University, LT moved to Rochester and people there knew about the degree and Winthrop. Jess Casey came to Winthrop in 1960 and graduated from Eastman School in Rochester, so people in Rochester were aware of Winthrop.
- 00:41:35 *Question:* Organizations at Winthrop? *Answer:* LT was a part of the music clubs. Fine Arts Association – LT was a committee chair her senior year. LT ran for president of the Fine Arts Association. LT was involved in anything that had to do with the arts. Students in the Fine Arts Association were allowed to revamp "the lounge". LT was busy practicing music.
- 00:44:53 *Question:* What did students do outside of organizations? *Answer:* LT didn't do much else. LT enjoyed practice. LT discusses how she felt like she was in a club with other music majors.
- 00:45:55 *Question:* Dating? *Answer:* No time. LT talks about why she enjoyed Winthrop being an all-girls school. LT says girls learned how to be leaders at Winthrop. LT reminisces about the Alumni Reunion. "None of my other friends had the advantage of going to an all-women institution."
- 00:48:40 *Question:* Were girls held to the same expectations as boys? *Answer:* Girls weren't compared to boys.
- 00:49:45 *Question:* Were you for or against coeducation? *Answer:* LT was not happy when she first heard about it. There was something lost for women. LT says students weren't competing socially; they were working together.
- 00:51:58 *Question:* Can you talk about the integration of Winthrop? *Answer:* Wasn't involved but supportive. LT left to go to Indiana and her parents moved out of the state. Spent very little time in Rock Hill.
- 00:55:05 *Question:* Any other social changes you witnessed? *Answer:* Kennedy assassination.

- Cuban Missile Crisis. LT was in Music Theory class when she found out about Kennedy assassination. Rock Hill was a conservative atmosphere, so people were scared of a potential attack
- 00:57:20 *Question:* Vietnam? *Answer:* Most of that was after LT graduated.
- 00:58:14 [no question] While at Indiana, LT taught. LT moved to Rochester, NY and taught in schools there briefly. After a number of years, LT taught at College. LT got her Doctorate at the Eastman School. After her Doctorate, LT started her arts administration position. LT was then an arts director in the school district. In the 1990s, a person from Winthrop wrote an article about Lou as an arts administrator.
- 01:01:05 *Question:* What one position did you love the most and why? *Answer:* The art administration position at the Aesthetic Education Institute. LT explains her work at the Aesthetic Education Institute. LT talks about how her experience at Winthrop and how it prepared her for her work at the Aesthetic Education Institute.
- 01:05:20 *Question:* How were you funded? *Answer:* Schools funded what happened in the schools. State funding. Grants.
- 01:07:30 *Question:* When did the position? *Answer:* 2000. LT persuaded to leave the Aesthetic Education Institute. LT is currently retired from the Greece School District.
- 01:08:50 *Question:* In what ways has Winthrop's image changed? *Answer:* LT stays up-to-date online and through the alumni magazine.
- 01:10:00 *Question:* What did it mean to be a Winthrop student? *Answer:* LT was proud.
- 01:11:24 [no question] LT was pleased to be at Winthrop. Students were focused on learning and building friendships and being the best they could.
- 01:12:18 *End of interview*