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Interview with Joyce Lineberger

Joyce Lineberger

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LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview #270
LINEBERGER, Joyce

LINEBERGER, Joyce

Undergraduate student from 1975-1977

At Winthrop: 1975-1977

Interviewed: May 21, 2013

Interviewer: Martha Manning

Index by: Cody Willis

Length: 26 minutes

Abstract: In her May 21, 2013 interview with Martha Manning, Joyce Lineberger details her life as a Winthrop undergraduate student from 1975-1977. Lineberger shares her experience with campus life: parking, dining, uniforms, and traditions. Lineberger also includes information on supportive teachers from her program but also an incident when she was accused of plagiarism. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keyword: Uniforms, parking, food, special education, support from special education professors, plagiarism incident, grades, campus growth, coeducation, alumni, 1970s

Interview Session (May 21, 2013): Digital File

Time	Keywords
00:00:00	<i>Start of Interview</i> /Interviewer's Introduction
00:00:48	MM: Do I have your permission to record your voice on this tape?
00:00:53	JL: Yes.
00:00:54	MM: Thank you very much. I understand you are a previous Winthrop graduate.
00:01:01	JL: Yes.
00:01:04	MM: What years were you a student here?
00:01:06	JL: '75 to '77.

- 00:01:10 **MM: And is this the only time that you were here at Winthrop?**
- 00:01:14 JL: Yes.¹
- 00:01:17 **MM: You were a student through what years?**
- 00:01:20 JL: January of '75 through December of '77.
- 00:01:36 **MM: Did you have to take an entrance exam to come into this school?**
- 00:01:41 JL: No, I did not.
- 00:01:43 **MM: So they depended upon your high school credits?**
- 00:01:47 JL: Yes.
- 00:01:51 **MM: Were you a day student or did you live on campus?**
- 00:01:53 JL: I was a day student.
- 00:01:55 **MM: What made you decide to come to Winthrop?**
- 00:01:58 JL: We had just moved to Rock Hill. It was convenient, and I had chosen Winthrop because I finished high school early and started Winthrop the second semester of the school year.
- 00:02:10 **MM: Did you find it difficult starting in the middle of the year instead of the fall of the year?**
- 00:02:18 JL: No.
- 00:02:19 **MM: Your courses were offered that you needed?**
- 00:02:22 JL: Yes.
- 00:02:25 **MM: Did you drive your own car?**
- 00:02:26 JL: Yes, I did.
- 00:02:28 **MM: Did you have to know any of the rules about driving a car on campus?**

¹ Joyce Lineberger also attended Winthrop for her master's degree from 1979-1981. Correction made on p. 10; 14 minutes, 15 seconds.

- 00:02:35 JL: Well, the parking rules. We had a booklet that we had to read. We had certain places we could park.
- 00:02:42 **MM: And you had a sticker?**
- 00:02:43 JL: Yes.
- 00:02:43 **MM: You had to buy that?**
- 00:02:44 JL: Yes.
- 00:02:47 **MM: So you don't know much about the rooms? Did you ever visit the rooms?**
- 00:02:53 JL: I stayed occasionally with friends in the dorm but it wasn't on a consistent basis.
- 00:02:58 **MM: Did you think they were efficient enough for a student to live there?**
- 00:03:02 JL: Yes. I liked the dorms with the suites that had the bathroom in between the rooms instead of the community bathroom down the hall.
- 00:03:15 **MM: How many students were using that bathroom in between?**
- 00:03:20 JL: Four.
- 00:03:21 **MM: Four. Two and two.**
- 00:03:23 JL: Yes.
- 00:03:24 **MM: That was a lot better than what I have heard other students talk about when you had to share one bathroom down the hall.**
- 00:03:30 JL: Yes.
- 00:03:32 **MM: So you don't know much about room inspection or the lights out time and stuff like that?**
- 00:03:35 JL: No.
- 00:03:39 **MM: When you spent the night were you free to have lights on?**

- 00:03:47 JL: Yes, because that was before my time, those rules.
- 00:03:55 **MM: Do you know anything about the original Winthrop students? Did you ever see the annual that showed them in the Blue Line?**
- 00:04:05 JL: Yes. I don't know a whole lot about that, but I do know that if you stayed in the dorm you had to sign out and then sign back in and that there was only one door you that could come back in and had a, uh...I forgot her title, but it was like a mother that took care of that floor in that dorm.
- [crosstalk]
- 00:04:30 **MM: Did she live there or just came in there—**
- 00:04:32 JL: She lived there.
- 00:04:38 **MM: Did you know of any other requirements, like did they have to go to special programs that Winthrop had on campus?**
- 00:04:48 JL: Not to my knowledge.
- 00:04:49 **MM: Like speakers that came? You don't know about that?**
- 00:04:51 JL: Nowadays they have to do so my cultural points. We didn't have to do that.
- 00:05:01 **MM: Are you glad that you went when you did and that you didn't have to wear the uniforms, or do you think you would have liked to have been all dressed alike?**
- 00:05:10 JL: No, I liked not wearing the uniforms.
- 00:05:16 **MM: Did they have any dress code, like could you wear mini-skirts or—**
- 00:05:22 JL: We could wear anything we wanted to.
- 00:05:22 **MM: Anything?**
- 00:05:23 JL: Some girls would come to class in their pajamas and hair curlers.
- 00:05:31 **MM: Looks like—**
- 00:05:32 JL: Especially if you had an eight o'clock class.

00:05:34 **MM: Looks like to me they needed some requirements.**

00:05:37 JL: Yes. We didn't have any.

00:05:39 **MM: Did you take P.E. on campus?**

00:05:42 JL: Yes, I did.

00:05:43 **MM: And you had to wear a certain uniform?**

00:05:46 JL: Yes. Shorts and a shirt.

00:05:48 **MM: That came through the school, or you wore your own?**

00:05:50 JL: We had to buy shirts and shorts—

00:05:51 **MM: That matched?**

00:05:51 JL: Yes.

00:05:53 **MM: Did you ever look in the annual to see what the early students wore?**

00:05:57 JL: Yes. They were funny looking.

00:05:59 **MM: Came down to the knees and they were made out of heavy material.**

00:06:03 JL: Yes, looked like it.

00:06:04 **MM: Well, what were yours made out of?**

00:06:07 JL: Just regular gym shorts that are made today and a regular t-shirt. They had Winthrop on them.

00:06:13 **MM: Were they shorts or did they have elastic bloomer legs and all that kind—**

00:06:17 JL: No, they were shorts. Came to about mid-thigh.

00:06:21 **MM: Did you ever eat in the dining room?**

00:06:26 JL: Mm...maybe once or twice, but most of the time I ate over in the Dinkins student center. They had a snack bar down in the basement.

- 00:06:35 **MM: And did they—**
- 00:06:35 JL: And of course it's changed. Nowadays they've got Taco Bell and all of these other restaurants—
- 00:06:40 **MM: You mean the commercial restaurants are what have come in on the campus now?**
- 00:06:45 JL: They're in there now. It wasn't when I was there.
- 00:06:48 **MM: You can walk down and decide if you want a McDonald burger or...**
- 00:06:52 JL: Yes.
- 00:06:53 **MM: a Taco Bell or whatever.**
- 00:06:55 JL: Yes.
- 00:06:56 **MM: And they're open there all day?**
- 00:07:01 JL: Yes, but they had a snack bar down in the basement and you ordered a hot dog, cheeseburger, grilled cheese, things like that and we took it back upstairs in the student center where the T.V.s were and that area there was sectioned off in sort of little rooms and there was a bunch of us that ate lunch together.
- 00:07:20 **MM: Like a little private section?**
- 00:07:22 JL: Sort of, yes. It had couches and chairs. Tables and chairs and T.V.s and there was a bunch of us that were day students that we'd eat lunch together every day.
- 00:07:32 **MM: And your food was good?**
- 00:07:34 JL: Yes, and we went down to the Baptist Student Union, um...Wed—no Thursdays I believe it was.
- 00:07:41 **MM: For lunch?**
- 00:07:42 JL: Yes. They would serve us for a dollar.
- 00:07:47 **MM: They have other denominational foods here too. Did you ever go to the Methodist at night?**
- 00:07:53 JL: They didn't have food then with the Methodist.

- 00:08:01 **MM: Do you remember any concerts or plays or distinguished visitors that came to speak here at Winthrop?**
- 00:08:09 JL: The only one I remember then was the Letterman, a musical band group.
- 00:08:15 **MM: What kind of music was that?**
- 00:08:17 JL: Like, '70s music—beach music.
- 0:08:20 **MM: And you knew their songs?**
- 00:08:22 JL: Yes.
- 00:08:25 **MM: Did you ever attend any group assemblies like the students went to like religious groups?**
- 00:08:35 JL: No, I don't think so.
- 00:08:37 **MM: Were you in any kind of clubs here on campus.**
- 00:08:39 JL: No.
- 00:08:42 **MM: No other activities that you participated in?**
- 00:08:45 JL: No...well, also in addition to being a day student and taking hours here I had a part-time job so I didn't have time for clubs.
- 00:08:57 **MM: Where did you work?**
- 00:08:58 JL: At Belk's.
- 00:09:00 **MM: I bet that was fun.**
- 00:09:01 JL: It was.
- 00:09:03 **MM: So you got to wear the most modern clothes that people were wearing?**
- 00:09:06 JL: Well I tried to save my money. [laughter]
- 00:09:13 **MM: Tell me about some of the classes you had attended. What degree did you get?**

- 00:09:21 JL: Well my undergraduate was a special ed. [education] degree. Of course the first year and a half or two years was the basics. The English, the math, the histories, and then about the second part of the second year you got into some of your special ed. classes where we got to go out into the schools and either observe or teach one lesson every few weeks.
- 00:09:46 **MM: Did you get a lot of basic information or education from that?**
- 00:09:51 JL: Yes.
- 00:09:52 **MM: Were the schools cooperative?**
- 00:09:54 JL: Oh, yes.
- 00:09:57 **MM: Do you remember the one class that you think gave you the most that you could do your profession with?**
- 00:10:07 JL: Hm...
- 00:10:10 **MM: A professor's name or someone that you really admired in your department?**
- 00:10:19 JL: There was a special ed. class on the basics on retardation, but I don't remember her name. She was a tall, thin lady, but I don't remember her name.
- 00:10:35 **MM: Something House wasn't it?**
- 00:10:37 JL: No, that was Althouse [spelling?]. I never had her until graduate school. I can't remember this Miss' name.
- 00:10:44 **MM: But you liked that?**
- 00:10:45 JL: Yes.
- 00:10:47 **MM: Did the students cooperate and did you work together on different projects?**
- 00:10:53 JL: Yes.
- 00:10:54 **MM: Would you rather work on your own thing or with someone else?**
- 00:10:58 JL: My own thing.

- 00:11:00 **MM: So you're an independent student?**
- 00:11:01 JL: Yes.
- 00:11:03 **MM: You liked to do it and get it done and no—**
[crosstalk]
- 00:11:06 **MM: It's just done right.**
- 00:11:08 JL: Yes. Know that all the parts would be done.
- 00:11:18 **MM: In the past there was a pool here, the Peabody Pool, and everybody had to get swimming instruction. Did you have to go through anything like that?**
- 00:11:29 JL: No, I didn't.
- 00:11:30 **MM: They didn't require it then?**
- 00:11:32 JL: No.
- 00:11:37 **MM: Did you participate in any kind of athletics?**
- 00:11:41 JL: No, but two P.E. classes that I took were badminton and first aid and then I took a—it was [a class] called P.E. for the special ed. department, but it was making things that we could use with the children at school. Like making badminton nets with a pair of stockings and a coat hanger. That type of thing.
- 00:12:08 **MM: Did you ever have to decide how to do something creative yourself?**
- 00:12:14 JL: Probably, but most of that was the teachers showed us how to do it. They had Abob [spelling?] was the teacher that—
- 00:12:22 **MM: Ok, your remembered her name!**
- 00:12:23 JL: I remembered her name. Yes.
- 00:12:23 **MM: She stuck in your mind then.**
- 00:12:25 JL: Yes.
- 00:12:31 **MM: When you were here on campus visiting some of the students did they ever communicate with you about what they did on the weekends since you**

weren't here on the weekends?

00:12:42 JL: Most of them went home or to either other colleges to see their boyfriends. If they stayed on campus they went across the road to Daddy's Money.

00:12:54 **MM: Daddy's Money, what was that?**

00:12:55 JL: It was a bar and dance place.

00:12:58 **MM: So you think that's where they got their amusement?**

00:13:01 JL: If they were here, but most of Winthrop was known as a weekend college...I mean a weekend college I guess you'd call it because most of them went home or either other colleges for the weekend, especially ones in the fall to see football games.

00:13:16 **MM: It was sort of dismal here on the weekends?**

00:13:27 JL: Yes. But you got a lot work done in the library on the weekend because nobody was there.

00:13:30 **MM: Well that was an asset wasn't it?**

00:13:31 JL: Yes.

00:13:35 **MM: Do you remember who the president was when you were here?**

00:13:39 JL: I think it was President Vail, but I can't be 100% sure.

00:13:43 **MM: Did you ever meet him?**

00:13:45 JL: No, I didn't.

00:13:46 **MM: He didn't visit your classes?**

00:13:47 JL: No.

00:13:53 **MM: What does it mean to you to be a Winthrop graduate?**

00:14:01 JL: That I accomplished four years of work—but really I finished in like two and half to three—got a degree, got a teaching job, came back to Winthrop for my master's degree.

00:14:16 **MM: Oh you did?**

00:14:17 JL: Yes.

00:14:19 **MM: When did you do that?**

00:14:21 JL: I stayed out of my undergraduate a year and a half I think it was and then started graduate school.

00:14:29 **MM: In '79?**

00:14:32 JL: Um...yes. Would teach all day and then come at night.

00:14:37 **MM: That was hard wasn't it?**

00:14:39 JL: Well, not then because I didn't have children then.

00:14:43 **MM: Oh, you got married in between?**

00:14:44 JL: I got married the day after I graduated.

00:14:46 **MM: Oh, you were working fast to get married.**

00:14:49 JL: Yes.

00:14:51 **MM: How were your grades?**

00:14:53 JL: They were good. A's and B's. One or two C's, but...

00:14:59 **MM: So '79 and '80 you came to get your master's.**

00:15:03 JL: and '81.

[crosstalk]

00:15:04 **MM: Through '81.**

00:15:05 JL: I finished in '81.

00:15:08 **MM: What did you get that degree with?**

00:15:10 JL: Elementary Ed. I've taught special ed. and elementary and high school. I've taught for 32 years.

- 00:15:19 **MM: Thirty-two years and where was your last job?**
- 00:15:23 JL: At Northwestern High School.
- 00:15:24 **MM: And what were you doing there?**
- 00:15:26 JL: Remediation class for the exit exam for the students to be able to pass the exit exam to get a diploma.
- 00:15:36 **MM: How many times could they take that test?**
- 00:15:39 JL: Up to...five times at school and if they still didn't pass it, they could get a certificate of attendance and then go to a tutoring class that summer after they finished graduation and try again.
- 00:15:59 **MM: Most of your students did pass the test?**
- 00:16:01 JL: Yes. Most of them passed it after the second try with me. Occasionally three tries but most of them second try.
- 00:16:14 **MM: Did you read the article in the paper about the exit exam?**
- 00:16:17 JL: Yes.
- 00:16:19 **MM: What do you think of that?**
- 00:16:21 JL: If they do it the way I interpreted it of still giving the test for progress data and not for graduation, the kids are not going to do well on it.
- 00:16:34 **MM: They don't care?**
- 00:16:34 JL: They don't care. They won't come to school that day, but if they know that they've got to pass that test to get a diploma they will try their very best to pass it.
- 00:16:44 **MM: So you're not working there anymore?**
- 00:16:46 JL: No. I've been retired three years.
- 00:16:50 **MM: I bet you miss it.**
- 00:16:52 JL: Not really. [laughter] After 32 years you don't.

- 00:16:59 **MM: Do you feel that you got what you needed in classes here at Winthrop to prepare you for your jobs?**
- 00:17:08 JL: To a certain extent yes, but you never learn 100% until you get on the job.
- 00:17:17 **MM: How was your practice teaching?**
- 00:17:20 JL: It was good. I had known the teacher and known the kids because it was in a special ed. self-contained class and I had done previous work in that from other classes where you just go in to observe or either teach every now and again, so I already knew the kids, I already knew the teacher. I came in for student teaching and the next day she gave it to me. It was mine for the semester.
- 00:17:47 **MM: Is that the way it should have been planned?**
- 00:17:48 JL: No. You have to work yourself up. It should take two to three weeks to get the class on everything.
- 00:17:56 **MM: How did you feel about this?**
- 00:17:58 JL: Well, it kind of upset me at first, but then when I got in there and I started teaching everything went great.
- 00:18:08 **MM: Did you have any trouble getting a job or on your interviews?**
- 00:18:11 JL: No. I had a job waiting on me before graduation. The way Winthrop set it up is you get three days to go interview towards the end of your student teaching and it wasn't supposed to be against you, but the principle at that particular school would not let me go, so I had to wait until after school hours to go—
- 00:18:35 **MM: And you didn't report that to Winthrop?**
- 00:18:35 JL: No, I did not.
- 00:18:38 **MM: You didn't want to mess up a positive attitude.**
- 00:18:41 JL: Well, that and I didn't want to mess my things up for me.
- 00:18:52 **MM: So do you have anything else you would like to add?**
- 00:19:06 JL: If you're going into education I think Winthrop is a great school to go and get your degree, more so than some of these other colleges. I think they emphasize education to be a teacher and if you live here it's real convenient, not only for

undergraduate, but graduate too. But I finished my graduate school right before my first child was born, so I'm glad I got that done before I started a family.

00:19:42 **MM: Do you feel your professors were always there for you when you would go by their office for anything you needed?**

00:19:50 JL: All but one in particular, an English teacher.

00:19:55 **MM: That wasn't in your profession.**

00:19:58 JL: Right, it was back—

00:19:59 **MM: So you feel that in your line of special ed., your teachers, your professors in that were right there with you?**

00:20:09 JL: Oh yes. Yes. They would help you with anything. Their office was always open. If you couldn't be there at their office hours they would reschedule to be there, but I had one problem with one particular English teacher. I think it was sophomore English.

00:20:28 **MM: Would you like to talk about it or not?**

00:20:30 JL: [sigh] We had to write a paper and I chose to write a paper on the symbolism of the *Scarlet Letter*, and I got it back— I spent a lot of time on that paper researching and I put all the sites in there, did the reference sheet, everything and she gave it back to me and told me no grade. That she accused me of plagiarism and it just really upset me.

00:20:56 **MM: It's still bothering you?**

00:20:57 JL: Oh yeah. I went to see the dean of the English department and he sat down with us and he kept asking me questions—

00:21:09 **MM: Who was that?**

00:21:10 JL: The professor, him, me and my dad. [pause] [voice shaken] He kept asking me questions about it and I could answer the questions. I could answer where I got the material from. He was satisfied with everything and he told the teacher that she had to grade the paper, but until this day I still do not have a grade on that paper, but she didn't count it against me on my final grade.

00:21:38 **MM: She didn't?**

- 00:21:38 JL: [voice normal] But I got a C in that class.
- 00:21:40 **MM: And you didn't usually get Cs?**
- 00:21:41 JL: No.
- 00:21:43 **MM: And that's been how many years ago? In '76?**
- 00:21:47 JL: Thirty...five, thirty-six years ago.
- 00:21:50 **MM: And it still brings tears to your eyes?**
- 00:21:55 JL: [sigh][voice shaken] Yes.
- 00:21:56 **MM: But you don't hold it against Winthrop?**
- 00:21:59 JL: [still shaken] No, [pause] but every time I would see that woman after that it brought back memories, but I'm just glad it happened in that class and not one of my education classes.
- 00:22:21 **MM: Well, did any other students have trouble there?**
- 00:22:25 JL: [voice normal] Yes. Several students had trouble with that woman and she would leave Winthrop and she'd come back, she'd leave Winthrop and she'd come back.
- 00:22:32 **MM: You mean as a professor?**
- 00:22:32 JL: Right. She spent time writing poems and publishing poetry books and I don't know if she's still here or not. I don't know, and I really don't remember her name, um...
- 00:22:49 **MM: It's good you don't.**
- 00:22:50 JL: Yes, just want to forget about her.
- 00:22:57 **MM: Well, I can tell it still upsets you. Anything else you'd like to tell about your experience here?**
- 00:23:08 JL: I just had a good experience at Winthrop.
- 00:23:16 **MM: Well, how did your dad feel about this?**

- 00:23:21 JL: What, about the paper?
- 00:23:22 **MM: Yes.**
- 00:23:23 JL: Oh, he got real upset. But I don't think she liked it because he went with me to the conference, but...
- 00:23:37 **MM: Do you think you were special that your parents stood behind you? Some parents wouldn't have done it.**
- 00:23:48 JL: [voice shaken] Yes, um...they always have stood behind me.
- 00:23:59 **MM: Well I'm glad that the positives outshine the negatives.**
- 00:24:02 JL: [still shaken] Oh yes...yes.
- 00:24:07 **MM: Would you recommend this school to any other students?**
- 00:24:10 JL: [voice normal] Yes, but it's much, much bigger now than when I was here.
- 00:24:20 **MM: They had already started men in the classes when you were here.**
- 00:24:23 JL: They were just starting men in classes, and then later of course the men in the dormitories, but now they have mixed dormitories.
- 00:24:35 **MM: Oh they do?**
- 00:24:36 JL: I think so.
- 00:24:38 **MM: Like [men and women] on different floors?**
- 00:24:39 JL: Yes.
- 00:24:44 **MM: So I'm glad to know that you would recommend this school to your friends or friends who have children that are coming. You have friends that you met here and you also had friends that you already knew that were here. That's what I gathered from what you were saying.**
- 00:25:01 JL: Yes.
- 00:25:03 **MM: Because you came to campus to study together.**
- 00:25:07 JL: Yes.

- 00:25:18 **MM: What do you think about the growth of Winthrop now?**
- 00:25:22 JL: It's getting huge. I don't think they'll ever be like Clemson [University] or [The University of South] Carolina but they're growing and they're huge and of course some of the sports probably has helped that.
- 00:25:39 **MM: Bringing the men's sports in too.**
- 00:25:40 JL: Yes.
- 00:25:44 **MM: I think we've covered most everything that you would have to say, unless you can think of something else?**
- 00:25:51 JL: I think I've covered everything. Yes.
- 00:25:58 **MM: Well, I appreciate you coming and tell some of your friends about Winthrop.**
- 00:26:07 JL: Ok.
- 00:26:13 *End of interview*