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6-26-2013

## Interview with Regina Varnadore

Regina Varnadore

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LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS  
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview #277  
VARNADORE, Regina

**VARNADORE, Regina**

Elementary education major from 1986-1989

*At Winthrop:* 1986-1989

*Interviewed:* June 26, 2013

*Interviewer:* Martha Manning

*Index by:* Breion James

*Length:* 37 minutes

Abstract: In her June 26, 2013 interview with Martha Manning, Regina Varnadore details her time at Winthrop from 1986-1989 as an Elementary Education major. In particular, Varnadore describes the process of earning a degree in Elementary Education. Varnadore discusses her experience student teaching and her career as a teacher. Varnadore mentions her opinions on education in Rock Hill and employees in the school district. Provided is information on Varnadore's family, the story of Varnadore earning her Master's degree, and her future in the teaching profession. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Education, student teaching, Alumni, York, Rock Hill, favorite classes, 1980s, Tech College

**Interview Session (June 26, 2013): Digital File**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Keywords</b>
00:00:00	<i>Start of Interview</i> /Interviewer's Introduction
00:00:30	RV: Regina Varnadore.
00:00:31	<b>MM: From?</b>
00:00:33	RV: Rock Hill, South Carolina
00:00:35	<b>MM: Very good. Now, I want you to be very aware that what you say will be recorded. Do I have your permission?</b>
00:00:44	RV: Yes ma'am.

- 00:00:46 **MM: Good. The first question I want to ask you is what years were you here as a student at Winthrop?**
- 00:00:54 RV: 1986 through 1989.
- 00:00:57 **MM: '86 through '89. Three years?**
- 00:01:00 RV: Yes ma'am.
- 00:01:01 **MM: You did it in three years?**
- 00:01:02 RV: Well, my first year—I graduated in 1985 from Rock Hill High School and then I went to York Tech for one year just to get basic courses out of the way and then I started at Winthrop at 1986 and finished in 1989.
- 00:01:19 **MM: '86 through '89. Why did you choose Winthrop?**
- 00:01:22 RV: Because I knew I wanted to be an elementary teacher and I knew that Winthrop was one of the best if not the best around this vicinity in the Eastern part of the United States.
- 00:01:36 **MM: And it was in your travels. Did you live on campus?**
- 00:01:39 RV: No ma'am, I did not live on campus. It takes me about 15 minutes to get here so I decided to save some money for my mom and dad so I decided to stay at home.
- 00:01:52 **MM: So it was very convenient for you to be coming here?**
- 00:01:56 RV: Absolutely.
- 00:01:57 **MM: Did you have to take an entrance exam or anything kind of placement exams?**
- 00:02:04 RV: I did. In order to get into education you had to take what was called the triple E exam and you had three chances to pass it and luckily I passed it the first time.
- 00:02:16 **MM: good for you. You worked hard in high school?**
- 00:02:20 RV: I did.
- 00:02:23 **MM: Because you knew what you wanted to do?**

- 00:02:24 RV: Yes, I knew I wanted to be a teacher since I was a little girl.
- 00:02:30 **MM: You use to play teaching with your dolls?**
- 00:02:31 RV: I did and I had a chalk board with an eraser and—
- 00:02:36 **MM: So you're now living your dreams?**
- 00:02:37 RV: I am.
- 00:02:41 **MM: So you drove to Winthrop every day?**
- 00:02:43 RV: I did.
- 00:02:46 **MM: Well I'll skip the next one, you didn't have a roommate, you didn't get home sick, and you didn't have inspections. Let's see, did you ever read about or look in the annuals to learn about the history of Winthrop?**
- 00:03:02 RV: Well not really but my aunt Betty graduated from Winthrop and so I learned a lot about the history from her.
- 00:03:13 **MM: Do you know what year she graduated?**
- 00:03:16 RV: I believe it was in the 1950s. Somewhere in that area.
- 00:03:21 **MM: What I'm interested in is if she knew anything about the uniforms and the blue line. Got inspections and all that, do you know?**
- 00:03:30 RV: They did have to wear uniforms and she did tell me it was an all-girls school at the time that she went here.
- 00:03:35 **MM: I want to get her over here.**
- 00:03:39 RV: Yes, you would learn a lot of history plus she worked here too.
- 00:03:43 **MM: Yes that would be good. I'm going to do that. Were there any rules that you had to go by? Like parking your car?**
- 00:03:54 RV: Parking was difficult when I was here at Winthrop and luckily I worked for public safety so if I got a ticket I was able to get out of it.
- 00:04:02 **MM: Oh, how lucky you were.**

- 00:04:04 RV: Yes I was.
- 00:04:05 **MM: Parking spaces were hard to find.**
- 00:04:07 RV: They were, the parking is much better today because my dad works here now as a parking attendant. I guess he gives tickets and I know that the fairgrounds is now part of Winthrop and that's been designated for commuters and I know when I went to Winthrop there was not enough parking for me or other people that were commuting. And it was just hard to find parking spaces
- 00:04:40 **MM: That was my only complaint too. It was hard to find parking spaces. Can you tell me any kind of dress code that you had to go by when you were here?**
- 00:04:53 RV: I don't recall a dress code.
- 00:04:55 **MM: Nothing?**
- 00:04:56 RV: No. I just made sure I always ask myself before I leave the house if I have to question what I have on then I take it off and put on something else so I always try to dress appropriately anyway but I can't remember any dress codes that we had to go by.
- 00:05:19 **MM: Good. Did you take PE?**
- 00:05:22 RV: Here at Winthrop?
- 00:05:23 **MM: Yes.**
- 00:05:24 RV: No.
- 00:05:24 **MM: You didn't have to take a PE classes?**
- 00:05:26 RV: I did take a dance class as an elective and I knew right quick I was not meant to be a dancer.
- 00:05:34 **MM: So you didn't like that one?**
- 00:05:36 RV: It was ok, I wouldn't say I didn't like it; I was just not as coordinated as some of the other girls.
- 00:05:42 **MM: And you didn't have to take swimming?**

- 00:05:45 RV: No.
- 00:05:46 **MM: Can you swim?**
- 00:05:47 RV: I can swim.
- 00:05:49 **MM: You know you had to in the earlier part.**
- 00:05:53 RV: Really?
- 00:05:54 **MM: We had to swim to get a diploma.**
- 00:05:57 RV: Well I know being a teacher in the Rock Hill school district our third and fourth graders learn to swim now and that's been going on for I guess the past six years maybe a little bit longer.
- 00:06:08 **MM: Where do they go?**
- 00:06:08 RV: They go to the aquatic center near old point elementary school but they take swimming lessons in third and fourth grade.
- 00:06:18 **MM: That is wonderful.**
- 00:06:19 RV: Yes.
- 00:06:20 **MM: You take them from school on the bus?**
- 00:06:22 RV: Right.
- 00:06:24 **MM: That's good.**
- 00:06:25 RV: I've never experienced it because I taught fifth grade but I know in third and fourth they do have to learn to swim.
- 00:06:31 **MM: That is good. That's something new I've learned. Did you ever eat any food here on campus?**
- 00:06:41 RV: I did occasionally at Dinkins student center. They have like a little fast food place in there, I can't remember the name of it but every once in a while between classes I would grab something.
- 00:06:52 **MM: You never went to the cafeteria?**

- 00:06:54 RV: No ma'am but as I said my dad works here and he brags about the cafeteria and how good the food is here so he really enjoys it.
- 00:07:04 **MM: Good. That's a good recommendation. Since you didn't live on campus were you required to go to any of the extracurricular things like guest speakers?**
- 00:07:19 RV: Yes ma'am. we had to attend a certain number of cultural events, back then they were called cultural events and you had to attend I can't remember how many a semester but I believe it was like 15 or 12 you had to attend. Maybe in the year but I'm thinking it was a good many you had to attend which I think is a good thing because it is part of your education and you learn new things and it expands your mind and I didn't mind doing it.
- 00:07:53 **MM: Did you remember any of them?**
- 00:07:57 RV: I went to a lot of plays; I went to a lot of symphony, productions in Brynes auditorium.
- 00:08:07 **MM: Were they students from here or invited?**
- 00:08:10 RV: Both but I enjoyed going to the plays best of all.
- 00:08:15 **MM: I use to come to those too.**
- 00:08:17 RV: And I did go to some of the dance performances that they had here too.
- 00:08:27 **MM: Did you have assembly that you had to go to like once a week? To learn the different rules of the campus or anything like that?**
- 00:08:40 RV: I think if you lived on campus you were required at the beginning of each year to go to assembly in Brynes auditorium but since I commuted I can't remember any assembly that I had to attend.
- 00:08:52 **MM: Did you use any of the health faculties? The health sick room or anything like that?**
- 00:08:57 RV: I did use the infirmary.
- 00:09:00 **MM: You had to pay extra when you registered?**
- 00:09:04 RV: Not that I remember, I just remember that if you went to the infirmary I just showed my insurance card and I would have to pay. I don't think it was as

expensive as the regular doctor's office.

00:09:19 **MM: When you were here you weren't married then right?**

00:09:21 RV: No ma'am.

00:09:21 **MM: You were coming right out of high school?**

00:09:23 RV: Yes ma'am.

00:09:25 **MM: Were you a member of any clubs?**

00:09:30 RV: No ma'am. I worked three jobs while I was.... mostly during the three years I was here, I worked three jobs off and on so I was busy. I worked at the public safety here so...

00:09:46 **MM: What was one of your favorite classes?**

00:09:51 RV: Well I loved all of my education classes because I learned so much but I would have to say any class taught by Dr. Land. Her name was Betty Lu Land.

00:10:03 **MM: Dr. Land, Betty Land.**

00:10:05 RV: Yes, I really enjoyed her classes; she was such a personable professor.

00:10:12 **MM: She's a graduate from here.**

00:10:14 RV: And after I graduated I got married and I remember I was a teacher assistant at Mount Garment and she had cut out my picture in the paper and sent me the nicest note with my picture. Had it laminated.

00:10:28 **MM: Isn't that beautiful?**

00:10:29 RV: Personal and I mean you could talk to her and she was definitely here for her students, she wanted her students to be successful.

00:10:39 **MM: So you could see her at any time?**

00:10:40 RV: Yes.

00:10:41 **MM: Almost any time.**

00:10:42 RV: She was not my advisor.

- 00:10:45 **MM: Who was your advisor?**
- 00:10:46 RV: Betsy Moody and I enjoyed her too. I did she was a very good advisor and we both had a good report with one another.
- 00:10:54 **MM: I worked with Betsy here at the school.**
- 00:10:56 RV: I know she's passed away; yes, I was sad to hear that.
- 00:11:01 **MM: She was real good. What other classes besides education did you enjoy?**
- 00:11:09 RV: I had to take... well like I said most of my basic courses were taken at tech. York technical college but I did have some science classes here that I enjoyed and I can't remember right off hand the name of the professor but—and I'm not a science person but he made it very interesting
- 00:11:31 **MM: Was it labs? Did you have labs?**
- 00:11:33 RV: Yes, we did have labs.
- 00:11:35 **MM: What kind of science was it?**
- 00:11:37 RV: I believe it was.
- 00:11:39 **MM: Animal or plant?**
- 00:11:41 RV: Physical science.
- 00:11:42 **MM: Physical science.**
- 00:11:43 RV: It was physical science and I took it in the summer so it was more laid back. Your summer classes are more laid back. I won't say not as serious but you had a little bit more freedom.
- 00:12:00 **MM: Less students.**
- 00:12:01 RV: Less stressful.
- 00:12:03 **MM: You didn't have those bigger classes.**
- 00:12:04 RV: Right, there were less students.

- 00:12:06 **MM: And the teaching professor could give you more attention.**
- 00:12:09 RV: Yes.
- 00:12:11 **MM: So you enjoyed that?**
- 00:12:15 RV: Yes, and Dr. Braswold, Neal Braswold, I enjoyed her class.
- 00:12:18 **MM: How about her husband?**
- 00:12:19 RV: I had him I think for one or two classes but I remember her, she taught....she was teaching us handing writing. We had to practice handwriting and I remember her telling me I had one of the most beautiful handwritings she had ever seen so I just remember her saying that. That just made my day.
- 00:12:38 **MM: It did, when you get compliments it makes you do better.**
- 00:12:41 RV: It does.
- 00:12:43 **MM: And sometimes teachers just don't know that.**
- 00:12:46 RV: Yes, and you get bared down trying to make students behave and sometimes you have to.
- 00:12:54 **MM: You didn't have discipline? You didn't have any problems in your classes here at Winthrop did you?**
- 00:12:59 RV: No.
- 00:13:00 **MM: Everybody was serious.**
- 00:13:01 RV: Right.
- 00:13:02 **MM: They were paying out money to prepare for their future.**
- 00:13:05 RV: Or their parents were paying out money right? But as a teacher sometimes I have to go back and just remember that students work best when praised so I try and praise my students as much as I try and correct them.
- 00:13:20 **MM: And you have fifth grade?**
- 00:13:20 RV: I teach fifth grade at Mount Holley elementary school.

- 00:13:25 **MM: And how long have you been teaching?**
- 00:13:27 RV: This upcoming year will be my twenty-fourth year.
- 00:13:31 **MM: Twenty four years.**
- 00:13:33 RV: I started out in Chester and I taught at Dor Jones Gale which is now the location of the Chester YMCA but it was fifth and sixth grade then and I taught there for three years and then we moved to Chester park, which was...they built a new school in Chester and I taught there for about eight years.
- 00:13:53 **MM: You traveled? How long did it take?**
- 00:13:56 RV: About thirty minutes. Twenty-five to thirty minutes and then I was hired in Rock Hill by Debbie Cato who was the principle at North side elementary and I taught there for eight years and then this will be my sixth year at Mount Holley.
- 00:14:14 **MM: It's been opened six years?**
- 00:14:15 RV: This will be the sixth year.
- 00:14:17 **MM: That is unreal.**
- 00:14:18 RV: It's really gone by fast. It's been a fast five years.
- 00:14:24 **MM: I've watched it, yes it has been. Ok who was the president when you were here?**
- 00:14:39 RV: I believe DiGiorgio.
- 00:14:42 **MM: I think it was he's been here...**
- 00:14:44 RV: Started with Mrs. Piper, Dr. Piper.
- 00:14:50 **MM: For a short while.**
- 00:14:51 RV: And then DiGiorgio came along.
- 00:14:54 **MM: And he's been there twenty something years.**
- 00:14:56 RV: He retired this past year, correct?
- 00:14:59 **MM: And we have another woman.**

- 00:15:00 RV: Right.
- 00:15:02 **MM: Did you ever meet him?**
- 00:15:04 RV: I did not.
- 00:15:05 **MM: He didn't come to your classes?**
- 00:15:08 RV: No, not that I'm aware of.
- 00:15:11 **MM: You saw him at graduation?**
- 00:15:13 RV: I did.
- 00:15:14 **MM: He shook your hand?**
- 00:15:15 RV: He probably did, I can't remember it was so long ago but yea I'm sure he did.
- 00:15:26 **MM: Did your classes here at Winthrop help you pass the NTE?**
- 00:15:31 RV: Absolutely and that's the teacher test we have to take in order to get certified in south Carolina and the day I took that I had to float but I made myself come and I took it and I was so sick and I left here thinking I know I didn't pass but luckily I did so.
- 00:15:55 **MM: That was good.**
- 00:15:55 RV: But yes the classes here I've learned so much from, they've helped me but I would say the most important thing I think that helped me I think was Winthrop letting me go into a classroom and actually have that experience for one year.. [crosstalk] student teaching right or your internship.
- 00:16:20 **MM: That's six weeks.**
- 00:16:20 RV: Well then we had to... then it was a whole year because you had to do one semester at...they would sign you.
- 00:16:31 **MM: Participation mark.**
- 00:16:31 RV: Right, you would just go and observe and help out a little bit but not do actual teaching, but the second semester you were so different and ironically

second semester I was assigned to Rosen McWaters who taught at Harold C. Johnson in York and I knew her because she played softball and my mom and dad played softball so they knew her very well so it was just funny that I was assigned—

00:16:59 **MM: So you didn't feel any pressure?**

00:17:01 RV: Oh yes, I felt some pressure, we were supposed to observe the first few weeks and she pretty much just gave me everything after the first few days and said here, your gone start teaching next week, she said your either going to sink or swim so she just threw me in full blast

00:17:19 **MM: What professor from Winthrop came and observed you?**

00:17:20 RV: Dr. Moody.

00:17:23 **MM: Moody?**

00:17:23 RV: Yes, Dr. Moody.

00:17:27 **MM: That was good, I know she was a good leader; I worked with her in student teachers.**

00:17:33 RV: Really? Yes, she would come and observe and she would come unannounced and she would observe. I always got goo feedback from her and she would always give me good ways to improve, positive criticism.

00:17:50 **MM: How about did you know anything about the APT? Aptitude Performance Teaching?**

00:17:57 RV: I do recall hearing about that; they've changed so many names now.

00:18:03 **MM: That one you took knowledge from your head and applied it to the classroom.**

00:18:09 RV: Right.

00:18:09 **MM: That's what I worked with here at Winthrop.**

00:18:13 RV: And I probably did that but I can't remember but that name sounds so familiar APT.

00:18:19 **MM: And you did student teaching at which school?**

- 00:18:21 RV: Herald C. Johnson in York, South Carolina.
- 00:18:26 **MM: I did some evaluations in York. I don't remember though when you were there and what grade?**
- 00:18:33 RV: Fifth.
- 00:18:33 **MM: I didn't do fifth.**
- 00:18:35 RV: I did fifth grade.
- 00:18:36 **MM: I did lower.**
- 00:18:38 RV: Had an excellent class and then I went on to do maternity leave and another leave, not at maternity leave but it was a maternity leave and then another leave there too.
- 00:18:52 **MM: Who was your teacher there? Class room teacher?**
- 00:18:55 RV: Mrs. Rosen McWaters.
- 00:18:57 **MM: Oh you told me, Mrs. McWaters, you did. You told me that. So you don't think you could have held a class without having instruction from Winthrop?**
- 00:19:12 RV: Definitely not, no.
- 00:19:16 **MM: Did you get everything you needed?**
- 00:19:20 RV: I feel like I did, I mean anytime you go into a new job there's always things you have difficulty with and being a new teacher I had to learn. It was different than being with Mrs. McWaters because she was always there to hold my hand whereas when you get your own classroom nobody's holding your hand, you're in there and you're in charge of all these little people. It's stressful.
- 00:19:48 **MM: You're building their future.**
- 00:19:49 RV: It's stressful, it's a stressful but as you go year after year after year, you see things that your good at and you start to see things you need to improve and you try to become a better teacher year after year and even though I've been teaching 24 years like I said this will be my 24<sup>th</sup> coming up, I'm always learning new things to do and new ways to do things and I believe in order to be a good teacher

and to be an effective teacher you have to be open to new ideas and new things like one of the new things we're starting in rock hill this year is all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will have an iPad.

00:20:25 **MM: Tell me about it.**

00:20:26 RV: So I'm going through training this summer on ways to use the iPad in my classroom and it's really helped me be more comfortable with the iPad I guess the hardest thing is, as being a teacher you're supposed to teach the children and you're supposed to know more than they know and with technology they know more than you do so I'm going to have to rely on my students to help me.

00:20:54 **MM: One problem sometimes teachers find is parent teacher conferences. Did you learn anything here at Winthrop that would help you with that?**

00:21:04 RV: I can't recall learning anything in my classes, but I do recall when I did my student teaching I had to sit in on conferences and my collaborating teacher taught me or modeled for me how to conduct yourself in a parent teacher conference. She always said start off with something positive before you go into the negatives.

00:21:36 **MM: You got it, that's the first way you do it. Tell me what you think about Winthrop now. What do you think about the name change? From college to university?**

00:21:48 RV: Well I wish it had been university when I went here because it just sounds so much more, I don't know, just going from college to university just sounds more—

00:22:04 **MM: Prestigious.**

00:22:04 RV: Yes, prestigious. But it was college when I attended so but I think it's a well-deserved name change.

00:22:13 **MM: Thank you.**

00:22:14 RV: I think it is.

00:22:17 **MM: Did you get a letter saying did you want your diploma changed? From college to university?**

00:22:22 RV: I do not recall getting a letter.

00:22:25 **MM: Some of the ones that graduated 2 or 3 years before that got.**

- 00:22:30 RV: I probably would not have gotten the name changed because it was a college when I graduated and I kind of want to stick to history. I don't want to change that.
- 00:22:42 **MM: I would have been that way too. Do you ever hear your daddy talking about some of the changes he sees here?**
- 00:22:51 RV: Absolutely. He in fact, we go walking every day and he talks about how, he always talks about the new gym and the pool and he has taken me. Like when we've been out on cherry road we've come through the campus and he has pointed out new buildings and new things that have been added and he showed me when the new public safety is and just from looking it has gone through major changes but that historical part is still there too. Withers is still were it is.
- 00:23:30 **MM: The main building.**
- 00:23:30 RV: The main building, Tillman.
- 00:23:31 **MM: Where Betty worked.**
- 00:23:32 RV: Right. I know they're getting a new library.
- 00:23:37 **MM: How do you feel when you enter that main building over there? I feel special.**
- 00:23:43 RV: I feel honored.
- 00:23:45 **MM: Honored?**
- 00:23:45 RV: Yes, and special that I came here and just to know that I wanted to be a teacher and that the college in my hometown was one of the best ones.
- 00:23:57 **MM: That was a miracle.**
- 00:23:58 RV: And there were people who came from all over the United States to come here for education.
- 00:24:05 **MM: And foreign countries too.**
- 00:24:05 RV: Right because they had heard that Winthrop was one of the best, one of the top best colleges in the nation.

- 00:24:15 **MM: Have you ever studied about Winthrop's history? It started in Columbia.**
- 00:24:20 RV: Really?
- 00:24:21 **MM: And they already had Carolina there so they went out sightseeing to see where they could find a place it would be better profitable and they chose Rock Hill.**
- 00:24:34 RV: I didn't know that.
- 00:24:35 **MM: And compared to what your parents paid and what you're paying for Taylor, the first students that came here paid \$129 dollars a year.**
- 00:24:48 RV: A year? That's... I wish that's what it was today.
- 00:24:51 **MM: That was a lot then though.**
- 00:24:53 RV: Yes, back then, I'm paying almost 26 thousand a year today and I have a friend who just had a baby about a year ago and she said that she was doing some research on the internet and by the time he enters college it's going to be 80 something thousand.
- 00:25:11 **MM: A year?**
- 00:25:12 RV: Yes. That's amazing. I just cannot believe that.
- 00:25:15 **MM: Did you say Ian? What's the baby's name?**
- 00:25:18 RV: Henry.
- 00:25:18 **MM: Henry, oh.**
- 00:25:20 RV: And she also came to Winthrop too and majored in education so most of the people I teach with or have taught with did get there education from Winthrop.
- 00:25:39 **MM: Have you ever thought that the people in Rock Hill should have more of an education or more of a developed mind because of Winthrop being here? Because of the teachers that go out and teach the students?**
- 00:25:47 RV: One thing I can say is that really keeps me into teaching is one of my students I had in 2005, 2006 and that was a special group of students that I had that year at North side. They graduated as seniors this year and one of my students

I had shadowed me at Mount Holly but she's coming here to Winthrop to major in elementary education so.

00:26:14 **MM: How do you feel about that?**

00:26:16 RV: I feel wonderful so I told her I would help her in any way.

00:26:19 **MM: Do you know Missy? That works at the district office?**

00:26:22 RV: Yes.

00:26:23 **MM: She was one of my students and she wanted to be a teacher.**

00:26:28 RV: Missy Bravefield?

00:26:29 **MM: She was Millie.**

00:26:30 RV: Millie yes, I...

00:26:31 **MM: She lived on Mount Holly Road.**

00:26:33 RV: Right I do know her and so you taught her? It just makes you feel so good inside even if it's just one student.

00:26:45 **MM: That helps accomplish something.**

00:26:47 RV: Right and so she...

00:26:48 **MM: You know it's been more than one, they just don't show up.**

00:26:51 RV: Right, I've had a couple more come and shadow me and middle school has started this job shadowing a few years ago and so a lot of my past students that are in middle school they want to come shadow to see what it's like to be a teacher and at the end of the day, even my daughter came to shadow me one time and she said "mama you won't have to worry about me ever wanting to be a teacher". You have to love what you do.

00:27:23 **MM: You do. Do you think it's innate?**

00:27:26 RV: I do, I think you know, I knew when I was a little girl. now my fourth grade teacher played a major part in that, Mrs. Pierson, she taught at O'Dell and she taught fourth grade and she was such a fabulous teacher and I knew, I had known I wanted to be a teacher before fourth grade but once I had her I knew definitely

that's what I wanted to do. She came to my classroom one day in Chester and spent the day with my class so that was pretty special.

00:27:58 **MM: You really love it don't you?**

00:27:59 RV: Yes, I do. I still love going to work every day. It has a lot to do with people you work with too and I work with a great bunch of people.

00:28:10 **MM: I enjoyed every day I worked too.**

00:28:12 RV: Like I said I think it has to be inside of you.

00:28:18 **MM: Well some of these, I know you see some of these teachers that aren't really teachers. What could you do about it? Would you want your child in their room?**

00:28:31 RV: No, I want my child in a teachers room who loves his or her job, and children, who will go to whatever length possible to help that child succeed and to be honest I can't remember myself having a bad teacher. I don't remember any bad teacher that I had but I do remember really really good ones like Mrs. Pierson, Mrs. Peeler at Rock hill high school, Mr. White at rock hill high school, he was my English teacher and I will never forget...

00:29:06 **MM: Did any of those go to Winthrop?**

00:29:08 RV: You know I don't know.

00:29:09 **MM: Most likely they came to get...**

00:29:10 RV: Most likely they did.

00:29:12 **MM: Reaccredited.**

00:29:13 RV: Right but my daughter has had a few bad teachers. That I would say bad teachers during her career going through rock hill school district but I think it's a learning process and I told her you know.

00:29:33 **MM: It's hard to wing them out.**

00:29:33 RV: Right and I told her, you're not going to like every teacher that you have and I'm sure with me teaching 23 years there are children out there that probably felt the same way about me. I do think as a teacher though you try to have a positive report with all your children but I do think there are certain children in your

classroom that your drawn more towards.

00:30:00 **MM: And you learned some of that through taking child behavior classes at Winthrop?**

00:30:06 RV: Yes, and just working with them, just working with the child and it helps to know some background information about the children you're working with too. that's why I try and find out and I always tell my parents if there's anything going on at home that you think I need to know about let me know because it helps me better understand that child.

00:30:26 **MM: Have you ever visited your children's homes?**

00:30:30 RV: No.

00:30:30 **MM: When I first started teaching that was the requirement.**

00:30:34 RV: Really? No, what my principal did a few years ago is we got on a bus and we toured the neighborhoods of the children that come to our school so we could see where they were coming from and where they lived. But as far as going to the child's home for...

00:30:52 **MM: We had to visit every class.**

00:30:53 RV: Really?

00:30:56 **MM: I don't think that lasted but two years.**

00:30:58 RV: Well and I think it's a bit idea, it's just some of these neighborhoods are unsafe and I wouldn't feel secure or safe enough to go into that neighborhood by myself. I do know two of the children I taught this past year, their 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, and when I say teachers they team taught, their 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and the principal did go to their two houses to have a conference. But as far as this year I just called if I needed to get in touch with them I would just use the telephone.

00:31:36 **MM: So your time here at Winthrop was mainly academic?**

00:31:41 RV: Yes ma'am and I did work here at public safety.

00:31:46 **MM: Preparing for your future.**

00:31:47 RV: Right, that was my....

- 00:31:51 **MM: Main objective.**
- 00:31:52 RV: And I did go to summer school, almost every summer here too.
- 00:31:56 **MM: So you could graduate.**
- 00:31:57 RV: So I could graduate early.
- 00:32:01 **MM: Tell me how you would recommend Winthrop to other people.**
- 00:32:06 RV: Well, when people talk about wanting to go into teaching or consider teaching as a profession I always tell them that Winthrop was probably the best school around here that they'll find for that and I tell them what a good job Winthrop did educating me and letting me have those experiences that I needed to actually get out into the real work force but I always highly encourage people to come to Winthrop.
- 00:32:42 **MM: Have you taught any students whose parents were coming to Winthrop?**
- 00:32:50 RV: I probably have, maybe I'm just not aware of it but I probably have. I know I have taught children whose parents were going to school at night to try and further their education.
- 00:33:01 **MM: Probably at tech.**
- 00:33:02 RV: Tech, maybe here.
- 00:33:04 **MM: You don't know.**
- 00:33:06 RV: I'm not quite sure.
- 00:33:08 **MM: Anything else you'd like to add to this experience here?**
- 00:33:12 RV: No, I just had a great three years from 1986 to 1989 and now that I look back on it I wished that I had lived on campus because I feel like I probably would have felt more part of the college whereas because I commuted I just felt like I really didn't belong.
- 00:33:32 **MM: Did you ever study in groups?**
- 00:33:34 RV: Yes, we did have study groups with friends and we would meet in the library

or we would go to somebody's dorm room and study, several times. We did that so that was good.

00:33:47 **MM: Would you rather work on your own on a project or have other people working together on the final grade?**

00:33:57 RV: It depends on the project. I'm one of those that if I work in a group I want everybody to do their fair share.

00:34:06 **MM: Same word, everybody else has used. Fair share.**

00:34:10 RV: I don't think it's always... being a teacher when I assign a project I have to sit back and decide if I want to assign the project as a group project or as an individual and I have to decided what do I want them to get out of it and if it's something that I think they need to work by themselves with then I will make it an individual project but if I think it's something they need to learn cooperation and team work then I'll have them work with a group.

00:34:40 **MM: That's beautiful.**

00:34:42 RV: Just depends.

00:34:43 **MM: And you learned that different technique from Winthrop?**

00:34:47 RV: Right.

00:34:48 **MM: And classes you participated in?**

00:34:49 RV: Right and even now getting recertified sometimes you take classes that reinforce that for you.

00:34:58 **MM: Have you worked on your masters?**

00:35:00 RV: I do have my masters, I got it through Columbia College, they were offering a—It wasn't even a year; it took me less than a year to get my masters. It was in divergent learning and we have a cohort in York so we would go every weekend to York and that was in 2007 2008.

00:35:23 **MM: So you went right to it?**

00:35:27 RV: I graduated in '98 and now that I look back at it I probably should have gone ahead and gotten my masters right off but I waited a while. Well, I waited a long time.

- 00:35:36 **MM: You haven't gotten 30 hours?**
- 00:35:38 RV: No ma'am.
- 00:35:39 **MM: it's too late now?**
- 00:35:41 RV: Well, I don't know.
- 00:35:42 **MM: With your profession coming to an end.**
- 00:35:45 RV: Well, I don't know if it's coming to an end when I've got college tuition to pay. I got at least 14 more years.
- 00:35:52 **MM: What does she want to be?**
- 00:35:53 RV: Well, she's international business and then she wants to try and go to law school so...and you know I want to help her in any way I can and because I still enjoy my job I don't mind.
- 00:36:07 **MM: And you like being a student.**
- 00:36:08 RV: I don't like staying at home, I get bored. I just get lazy.
- 00:36:14 **MM: It sounds like you like being a student too.**
- 00:36:17 RV: I do and I guess my daughter gets that from me because she made the comment several times that she could just go to school for the rest of her life and learn. She loves to learn.
- 00:36:27 **MM: I was like that.**
- 00:36:28 RV: And I said well that's fine but you got to stop it at some point and earn a living and then you can pay for it to further your education if you want to but she loves to learn and I've always loved to learn and I guess that's one reason I wanted to be a teacher. I've always loved to learn and I can remember in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade my mom and dad for Christmas one year gave me a set of encyclopedias and I thought that was the best gift ever and then I had Mrs. Pierce in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and I remember going to her every day and saying I did a report on such and such or something I would look up.
- 00:37:05 **MM: You did it on your own?**

- 00:37:05 RV: Right. Do you mind if I share it with the class? And she would just let me get up and share whatever everyday she would set aside a little time for me to share something that I learned from my encyclopedias. I thought that was the best gift ever.
- 00:37:20 **MM: That is wonderful.**
- 00:37:21 RV: I still have them.
- 00:37:22 **MM: I glad I asked you if you had anything else to share.**
- 00:37:27 RV: That's it.
- 00:37:28 **MM: Well, I appreciate you coming.**
- 00:37:30 RV: And I appreciate you having me.
- 00:37:33 **MM: It's been a treat, a real treat and I wish you the best.**
- 00:37:39 RV: Well, thank you.
- 00:37:40 ***End of interview***