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Interview with Sally Todd Bethea

Sally Todd Bethea

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

**Interview #015
BETHEA, Sally Todd**

BETHEA, Sally Todd

Interviewed: September 7, 1974

Interviewer: Freida C. Todd

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 00:38:37

Abstract: Sally Todd Bethea's 1974 interview with Freida C. Todd focuses on life at Winthrop in the late 1930s and includes why Ms. Bethea attended Winthrop, teacher training, dorm life, uniforms, gym, the dining hall, assemblies, clubs, campus restrictions, entertainment, classes, Winthrop Training School, bible class, orientation, Shelton Phelps, the depression, the college farm and ice cream, and Saturday night dances. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Dorm Life, Rules and Regulations, Dating, Winthrop Training School

Interview Session (September 7, 1974): Digital File

Time Keywords

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

00:00:20 *Question:* Why Winthrop? *Answer:* SB always wanted to go to college, and her older sister attended Winthrop. There were no guidance counselors at the time, so the choice was narrow.

00:01:10 *Question:* Which sister? *Answer:* Mrs. Harry Fischer.

00:01:30 *Question:* Was Winthrop the most affordable? *Answer:* Winthrop had the best degree for teachers. SB wanted to be a teacher.

00:02:00 *Question:* When did classes start? *Answer:* September and went through June.

00:02:15 *Question:* How did you get to Winthrop? *Answer:* Car and train. SB from Florence, SC. Lived in Roddey Hall.

- 00:03:15 *Question:* Other dorms? *Answer:* Most of the freshmen lived in Roddey Hall.
- 00:03:38 *Question:* Roommates? *Answer:* First roomed with a Jewish student. SB wanted to live with a neighbor.
- 00:04:15 *Question:* How often were you allowed to go home? *Answer:* Can't recall. SB went home during Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- 00:04:40 *Question:* Rules and regulations? *Answer:* Students had to sign in and out. Students allowed to study in the library. All students had to be in their rooms at 10pm.
- 00:05:50 *Question:* House mother/counselors? *Answer:* Yes. They monitored the dorms. Rules with playing the radio.
- 00:06:20 *Question:* Room inspections? *Answer:* No.
- 00:06:40 *Question:* Fire drills? *Answer:* They occurred often. SB enjoyed using the fire escape.
- 00:07:10 *Question:* How did students get their uniforms? *Answer:* Students assigned times to go to the uniform room. Students expected to bring navy blue clothes for the first week. Blue Line. Uniforms for gym – bloomers.
- 00:08:22 *Question:* Enjoyed P.E.? *Answer:* "Most of it." SB took volleyball, clogging, and tennis.
- 00:09:08 *Question:* Dining Hall? *Answer:* Senior tables. "The only trouble I had was eating too much." Meals served "family style."
- 00:10:35 *Question:* Mealtime customs? *Answer:* Students would sing their blessings.
- 00:11:00 *Question:* Designated mealtimes? *Answer:* Yes. There was a bell.
- 00:11:20 *Question:* Assemblies? *Answer:* Students monitored. Lecturers.
- 00:11:50 *Question:* Special concerts/visitors? *Answer:* SB describes a concert her senior year. Metropolitan opera musicians.
- 00:13:10 *Question:* Clubs? *Answer:* Elementary Education Club. Glee Club. Beta Epsilon.
- 00:13:50 *Question:* Clubs on campus? *Answer:* Can't recall all of them. French Club. Key Club.
- 00:14:25 *Question:* Restrictions/Shipped? *Answer:* Girls would be campused for wearing a pink blouse.
- 00:15:05 *Question:* Leave campus at night? *Answer:* You could check out for a date on certain nights.

- 00:15:25 *Question:* Entertainment? *Answer:* Movies. Girls could check out in the afternoons, if they didn't have class.
- 00:16:05 *Question:* Classes? *Answer:* "Some of them were very interesting. Some of them were very boring." Classes weren't large. SB minored in psychology.
- 00:16:45 *Question:* Professors? *Answer:* Dr. Gerald.
- 00:17:40 *Question:* Most students education majors? *Answer:* Majority. There were business, language, home ec., and music majors.
- 00:18:05 *Question:* Winthrop Training School? *Answer:* Taught in a first-grade classroom. Frequent meetings with teacher supervisor.
- 00:20:00 *Question:* Teaching degree from Winthrop help you get a job? *Answer:* Teachers from Winthrop were expected to be well trained.
- 00:20:35 *Question:* Departments with the best reputation? *Answer:* Education and Music.
- 00:21:25 *Question:* Academic advisors? *Answer:* "No one like they do now."
- 00:21:55 [no question] Financial aid. Worked for an English teacher until junior year. SB describes the nature of this work. SB describes her relationship with this teacher.
- 00:25:12 *Question:* Other professors? *Answer:* Recalls bible course.
- 00:25:48 *Question:* Entrance exam? *Answer:* Not required. Students had a week of orientation exams.
- 00:26:45 *Question:* President? *Answer:* Phelps. He was accessible. SB thought Phelps had good rapport with students.
- 00:27:45 *Question:* Winthrop in the Depression? *Answer:* Very little spending money. Students didn't need a lot of clothes. Students carpooled. SB's sister gave her \$55 to spend in a year.
- 00:30:05 [no question] 35th class reunion. Coeducation. SB was supportive of coeducation. SB talks about changes in education.
- 00:32:55 *Question:* Has Winthrop's image changed? *Answer:* Yes. Winthrop still has a good reputation. SB speculates that other colleges meet the same teacher certification requirements.
- 00:33:40 *Question:* Professors? *Answer:* Cannot recall the names.

00:34:08 *Question:* College Farm? *Answer:* In use. Students used the shack to have parties.

00:34:45 [no question] Parties in the dorms on Saturday nights.

00:35:14 *Question:* Did you enjoy Winthrop? *Answer:* Yes. Years "flew by." SB made \$75 a month first year out of school. SB's father was in an accident and could no longer work. That accident motivated SB to go to school and work. SB's older sister found a job quickly too. SB encouraged her oldest daughter to attend Winthrop.

00:38:37 *End of interview*