



Winthrop University
Digital Commons @ Winthrop
University

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

Dacus Library Publications

8-2023

August 2023, Volume 19, Number 2

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections

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



Part of the Archival Science Commons

Retrospect

[News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University](#)

August 2023

Volume 19, Number 2



Winthrop Alumni Stories

WINTHROP'S MISS MINNIE MACFEAT

By Louise Pettus



"Every child is everybody's child" was a conviction acted upon, over and over, by Miss Minnie Macfeat. Macfeat's notion of "child rights" went beyond warm clothing, proper diet, and caring parents. She tirelessly fought for laws to protect children, and she taught by example.

After graduating in Winthrop's second class (1888), Miss Macfeat taught in the city schools of Columbia in the mornings. In the afternoons, for no pay, she taught in the Richland Mill Kindergarten, which she organized. Her plan for mill kindergartens was adopted by a number of mills in upstate South Carolina.

In 1899 Winthrop College, in its fourth year in Rock Hill, chose Macfeat to become head teacher-trainer of its kindergarten department. By 1901, she had persuaded the owners of Arcade-Victoria Mill in Rock Hill to lend her a house and to pay her \$25 a month for expenses for a kindergarten for the mill children. D. B. Johnson, president of

Winthrop, gave permission for Winthrop students to assist in the mill kindergarten and to do any other welfare work Miss Macfeat had in mind.

How much she had in mind must have surprised even Dr. Johnson, who always expected much. Surviving correspondence between Macfeat and Johnson shows that Dr. Johnson wholeheartedly supported the idea that Winthrop students should have as much practical experience as possible but the letters also reveal his exasperation with Macfeat's priorities. Single teachers lived in the dormitories and ate their meals with the students. There is more than one note from Dr. Johnson chiding her for tardiness at meals.



"Miss Minnie" always needed money for her projects. When children could not attend kindergarten because they had no clothes to wear, she went from door to door until she had enough. She planned ice cream suppers and oyster stews, frequently borrowing Mrs. W. J. Roddey's carriage horse to collect the donated foodstuffs. She produced plays, charging a small admission. The plays became so popular in the town that once she raised \$100 with her rendition of Mother Goose. Everyone agreed that she was a master storyteller.

When Rock Hill failed to adequately fund Miss Minnie's dreams, she turned to Columbia, her hometown. In Columbia she raised the money for the Little Neighbor Kindergarten that she

organized in 1900 on Winthrop's back campus. Years later she traded her piano for needed dishes.

It was long an annual event for the Winthrop kindergarten children to decorate and host Thanksgiving dinner for as many as 150 mill children. The same was done at Christmas with a tree and gifts. Eventually the mills took over this custom, a practice carried on until the 1980s. In the spring there were Easter egg hunts and May Pole dances, always with ice cream from the college farm for all.

At night, Miss Macfeat taught adult classes at Wymojo and Helen Mill villages. She started training clubs for mothers, parent-teacher associations, and community clubs in the mill villages. She organized mill village Sunday Schools before there were churches.



A long-held dream of Macfeat's came to fruition when Winthrop helped finance her study at the Montessori School in Rome in 1912. The clinical psychiatrists and pedagogical anthropologists confirmed her ideas about children and how they learn. Macfeat brought Montessori materials back to Winthrop and expanded her local work to cover the state. She served on numerous education committees and chaired the Child Welfare Department of the S. C. Federation of Women's Clubs.

In April 1931, Minnie Macfeat's oil portrait was unveiled in the Main Building of Winthrop. President James P. Kinard termed her "the dream mother of all the little children of the world," and the mill children of the Little Neighbor Kindergarten sang her praises.

The Macfeat Nursery and Kindergarten at Winthrop University is the legacy of a most remarkable woman – a gifted teacher and dogged fighter for children's rights.



Quote of the Quarter



Dr. Martha Kime Piper served as Winthrop's 8th and first female president from 1986 to 1988. During her tenure, Winthrop became the nation's first college to sign a NAACP fair share agreement encouraging the promotion of minorities and the use of minority businesses. Dr. Piper also introduced the Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) Program, implemented the state's first Master of Liberal Arts (MLA) degree, and had 20 campus buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Her tenure was tragically cut short at her death of colon cancer on April 24, 1988. Dr. Piper was the first sitting Winthrop president to pass away while in office since Dr. David Bancroft Johnson in 1928.

In a speech Dr. Piper gave at the Winthrop Convocation on September 2, 1987, she said:

My challenge to each of us here today is to strive to be “Somebody” –to take advantage of the opportunities afforded us, to stand up for our beliefs and values, to be compassionate and responsible toward others, and to pursue knowledge because knowledge is vital to fulfillment and happiness. But remember, the time each of us has to be Somebody is not infinite. Time is our most precious commodity. Those who have accomplished great things in the world have been those who valued time in their lives. Think about the time you have. Think about how to prepare yourself to be ready at any moment in time to sacrifice what you are for what you could become—“Somebody.”



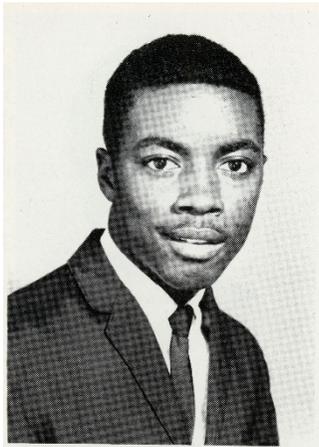
From the Echo Chamber

By Andrew Johnston, Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections



Emmett Scott School Oral History Project

The Louise Pettus Archives received a grant from the South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) in September 2022 to transcribe and annotate 3 to 5 interviews concerning Emmett Scott School in Rock Hill. Emmett Scott School was the African American school in Rock Hill from 1920 to 1970.



Dr. George Garrison 1966

Over a period of about 10 years, Dr. George Garrison, a retired Kent State University professor, who is a native of Rock Hill and an Emmett Scott alumnus, conducted 49 interviews with alumni, former teachers and administrators of Emmett Scott. He gave them to Pettus Archives to preserve and transcribe. The interviews were on mini cassettes which we digitized a couple of years ago. Dr. Garrison conducted the interviews as part of his research to write a history of the school. He did not conduct them as formal oral history interviews and Pettus Archives felt that in addition to transcription, annotation was needed to provide the best comprehension of the recordings. The grant provided for a student assistant to accomplish the goal. Pettus Archives exceeded the goal with 4 annotated transcriptions and 7 transcriptions awaiting annotation. The project is ongoing and we hope to have all 49 completed in the next several years. The interviews and transcriptions are available online. Below is a list with links to the completed interviews.

Interviews with annotated transcriptions:

Interviewee	Accession Number	Links
Josephine Jordan and Bleaker Blake	711	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/553/
Henrietta Moore	674	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/561/
Eliza Walker Mills	671	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/558/
Nathaniel Jagers	704	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/594/

Interviews with transcriptions:

Interviewee	Accession Number	Links
George Land and Samuel Foster	694	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/581/
McGirt, Jacquelyn	707	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/590/
Carl Knighton	673	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/560/
Carrie Colns	672	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/559/
Emily Richardson Ivory	663	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/549/
Emily Richardson Ivory	664	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/550/
James Barnes	708	https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/oralhistoryprogram/591/

For more information on this collection or other collections in the Louise Pettus Archives, please contact us (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu, or take a look at the website <http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/archives/home>



Manuscript Collection Spotlight

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

The Robert E. Bryant Papers—Accession 1745



Bob Bryant in Volkswagen ca late 1950s

Robert “Bob” Edmiston Bryant (1903-1977) was a Rock Hill theatre-owner, photographer, and a world record holding airplane pilot. Bryant owned and operated the Pix Theatre which was built in the 1940s and was located on Oakland Avenue in Rock Hill, SC. On August 1, 1938 he set a world record for a non-stop flight in a light airplane (two-cylinder Aeronca) from Miami, FL to Camden, NJ in 13 hours, 20 minutes, using 40 gallons of fuel. He reportedly learned to fly from famed WWI Flying Ace, Col. Elliott White Springs who Bryant, in turn, taught to ride a motorcycle. The Rock Hill Airport was named in his honor in 1969 and Bryant was inducted into the South Carolina Aviation Hall of Fame in 1993.

The Robert E. Bryant Papers consist of papers of and memorabilia belonging to Bryant. The collection includes mainly photographs, negatives, slides, scrapbooks, pilot logs, and newspaper articles relating to his flying career and to the Pix Theatre, but also includes correspondence, books,



Main St Rock Hill 1920s

memorabilia (including a key to the City of Camden from Mayor James L. Anderson), awards, and certificates relating to his life. There are materials concerning the Apollo 16 mission including a scrapbook, photographs, and memorabilia. Former Astronaut and Lancaster, SC resident, Charles M. Duke (b. 1935) was a member of the Apollo 16 mission. Also included are some material related to the Carolina Aero Club and to Rock Hill's Come-See-Me festival. The photograph collection includes photographs taken of and by both Robert Bryant and Wayne J. Gordon. These include aerial photographs of the building of Carowinds Amusement Park, Carolina Bowater Plant, the I-77 Bridge and Highway 5 Bridge over the Catawba River, and the Celanese Plant, among many others. The papers are housed in six boxes and are dated 1919 to 1990.

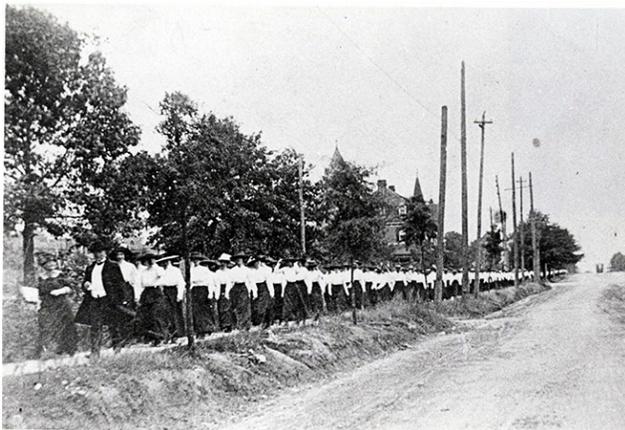
For more information on the Manuscript Collection, contact Pettus Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



Photographs of the Quarter

By Brittany S. Pigford, Archivist

On the first Sunday of each academic year from 1895 to the early 1970s, Winthrop students' semester began with a procession led by the current college president down Oakland Avenue. The students would walk to the church of their choice. Through the 1950s, it was customary for Winthrop, then an all-female college, to have students wear blue-and-white uniforms for the procession...hence the name, "The Blue Line." After a 22 year-long hiatus, the Blue Line tradition (with a few changes) was revived in 1983 to coincide with the opening Convocation, and continues to this day.



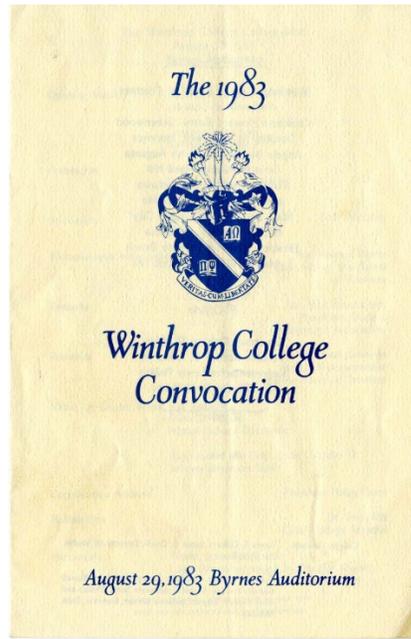
1912 Blue Line Oakland Ave



1940 Blue Line



1945 Blue Line



1983 Blue Line Program

For more information on the Photograph Collection, contact Brittany Pigford, Archivist at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



Archives Staff Spotlight

By Cody Cook, Archivist



Cody at Notre Dame de Paris

I had the privilege of studying abroad in Dijon, France during the spring of 2023, my last semester at Winthrop. Situated in the heart of Burgundy, the wine and culinary capital of France, Dijon is a charming city known for its medieval architecture, rich wine, and famous *moutarde* [mustard]. While there, I took courses on French language, culture, and history at the Université de Bourgogne. Beyond school, I had the opportunity to reside with a French host family and to travel across Europe—allowing me to



Dijon

experience a true cultural immersion!

As a French major, one of my main focuses was developing my French language skills through a variety of courses. These included daily oral expression and comprehension classes as well as humanities courses surveying French existentialist literature and French film. One of my favorite classes, however, was the history of French civilization thanks to the many excursions it entailed. For instance, one day we took a trip to a picturesque vineyard in the nearby village of Nuits-Saint-Georges for a *dégustation de vin* [wine tasting]. My time outside the classroom was truly invaluable because I witnessed the real France. My time spent with my host family, whether at the dinner table or in the backyard, also taught me more about the French language and people than any academic lesson could ever do. I especially loved learning French slang—what one doesn't learn from a textbook. My host

parents, Valérie and Pascal, introduced me to the world of French cuisine like the savory delight of *boeuf bourguignon*. And so, I owe a great thank you to the kind people of Dijon.



Cody in Brussels

Beyond Dijon, I took advantage of Europe’s high-speed trains to travel to eight different countries. One of my favorite stops was in the beautiful city of Brussels Known for its gastronomic delights (waffles and fries), political significance (NATO and EU headquarters) and fused culture (Francophone and Flemish), Brussels is a culturally rich city that offers so much to see and taste, especially the Belgian waffle! I cannot forget my time spent biking along Amsterdam’s countless canals and surrounding tulip fields in the Netherlands. The Dutch biking culture within itself is a staple of Holland, so much so that the biking lanes are wider than vehicle routes. One of the most sentimental visits was, of course, Paris. After all, it was the first place I said “*bonjour*” after landing in France and the last place I explored before departing from a country I called home for five months. Although the Notre-Dame de Paris is still under restoration, I was able to admire the historic cathedral from nearby along the Seine River—while sporting my Winthrop gear.

I’m so glad I had the opportunity to see some of Europe’s many treasures while studying abroad. It is truly something I will cherish for the rest of my life. I am already looking forward to my next trip to France and reuniting with my French family and Dijon classmates. France, *à très bientôt!*

Cody Cook ‘23 began working at the Pettus Archives as a student in May 2021. A recent August graduate, he received a B.A. in History and French, *summa cum laude*. Now back from France, Cody rejoined the Archives as a staff member to work on various collections like the Emmett Scott Oral History Project. He is currently applying to history graduate programs.



News Flash from the Past

By Gina Price White, Dir. of Archives and Special Collections

[From The Johnsonian February 21, 1936](#)

Miss Ida J. Dacus Feeds Starving Birds



Are you interested in birds? Then you simply must see the sanctuary Miss Dacus has been providing for them all this winter in her flower garden between McLaurin Hall and the library. There are several bright-colored birdhouses on the arches. Miss Dacus is hoping that aw the roses begin to bloom on the trellises, the birds will make their homes there.

For the shy birds, such as the hermit thrush, Miss Dacus scatters crumbs upon the ground. The bolder birds, however, receive their portion upon the feeding boards scattered about the garden. It is interesting to note that during the snow, more than a gallon of crumbs was consumed each day by the

starving birds.

Miss Dacus tells us that she has attracted to her garden many kinds of birds—some of them unfamiliar in this part of the state. Some of the birds she has been caring for are the blue jay, the mockingbird, the wood thrush, the brown thrasher, the robin, the starling, the red crossbill, the towhee, the junco, the hermit thrush, the redheaded woodpecker, and the various sparrows.



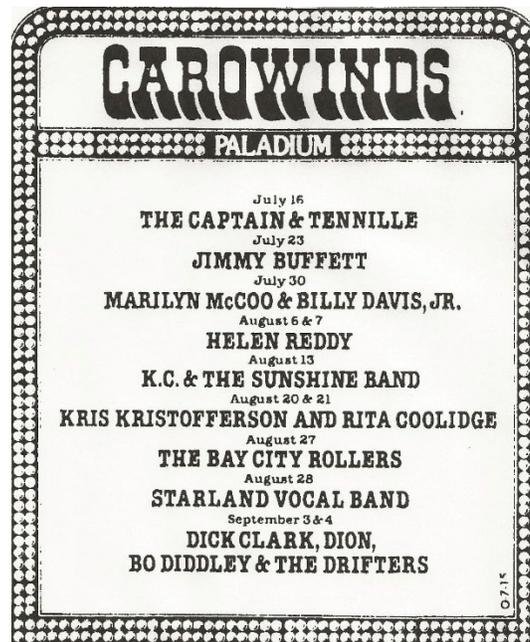
Current Exhibitions

By Kaitlin Burdette, Archivist

CAROWINDS

Through 50 Years

To mark Carowinds 50th anniversary, Pettus Archives has created an exhibit with photographs through the years, memorabilia, advertisements, and even a working model roller coaster that we call the Eagle Express. Visitors may view the exhibit during Archives operating hours through the end of September. Our hours are 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday. We hope to see you soon!





For more information, contact the Pettus Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.



Collegiate Contemplations

By Gina Price White, Dir., Archives and Special Collections

Judith Beebe Inabinet of Charlotte, N.C. was a 1953 graduate of Winthrop with a B.A. in English. According to the yearbook she had a “magnetic personality, distinctive poetry, was an unquenchable optimist, and a friend to all.” She had this poem published in the Fall 1952 issue of *The Journal of Winthrop College*:

Cinquain

When one
Shall come to whom
You may say everything,
There will no longer be a need
For words.

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

Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections

Telephone: (803) 323-2334

E-Mail: archives@winthrop.edu

Website: <http://libguides.library.winthrop.edu/archives/home>

Click here for previous issues of [Retrospect](#)