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Interview with Nancy Hinson Cox

Nancy Hinson Cox

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

**Interview #006
COX, Nancy**

COX, Nancy

Home economics/education major

At Winthrop: 1930-1934

Interviewed: July 16, 1974

Interviewer: Ann Yarborough Evans

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 00:23:05

Abstract: In her July 16, 1974 interview with Ann Yarborough Evans, Nancy Cox recalls Winthrop customs from 1930-1934. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Home economics, teaching, dorm life, rules and regulations, daisy chain, blue line, McLaurin, Lancaster, swimming, religion

Interview Session (July 16, 1974): Digital File

Time Keywords

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

00:00:14 *Question:* Why Winthrop? *Answer:* Two sisters went to Winthrop – natural to go there. Winthrop teachers were recognized everywhere. Three sisters in college was \$500 a year.

00:01:03 *Question:* You arrived by train? *Answer:* Yes. It wasn't until you were a senior that the students had to stay. Families didn't have gas to get their kids. Cars were hard to get back then.

00:02:55 *Question:* When were you at Winthrop? *Answer:* 1930-1934. Hard to get a job in that time. Vouchers to purchase goods. NC got a job not far from home. NC worked in the Home Ec. Department.

00:04:34 *Question:* Dorm? *Answer:* McLaurin. Lived there because most of the Lancaster girls stayed there – tradition. The dorm was also central on campus. The Music Observatory was an extension of McLaurin – so girls were disturbed.

- 00:05:47 *Question:* Rules and regulations? *Answer:* NC understood restrictions – used to them from home. Had to hats and dark clothes everywhere.
- 00:06:45 *Question:* Dating? *Answer:* Had to sit in the sitting room. Not enough sofas for everyone – had to stand up. It was a custom back then for girls to not date. Girls didn't dare leave the dormitory for a date.
- 00:07:30 *Question:* Permission slips? *Answer:* If you didn't have one of these girls couldn't leave campus.
- 00:07:45 *Question:* Any other restrictions? *Answer:* NC talks about laundry services. Never knew when a house mother would inspect a room. House mother would grade rooms – the grade would show up on report cards under “housekeeping.”
- 00:09:35 *Question:* Classes? *Answer:* NC mentions a math teacher everyone had. NC enjoyed math and disliked English. In English, students had to hand in a theme every week – the topic was selected.
- 00:10:55 *Question:* Clubs? *Answer:* Doesn't recall any club activities.
- 00:11:25 *Question:* Student government? *Answer:* All students were involved in student gov.
- 00:12:12 *Question:* Swimming? *Answer:* A custom at Winthrop. NC didn't grow up around water – swimming was a challenge. Swimming teacher was sympathetic. NC has a fear of water – had to take swimming over again.
- 00:14:49 *Question:* Religious observances? *Answer:* Went to Oakland Ave. Presbyterian Church. Had to get up early to walk the distance.
- 00:15:49 *Question:* Blue Line? *Answer:* On the first Sunday. NC sorry that colleges today don't do this more. Services set aside for Winthrop.
- 00:17:35 *Question:* Assemblies? *Answer:* Picture shows/movies every Saturday in the auditorium. It cost a dime to attend and the students had to dress up. Room caught on fire one night. No one thought about having a fire drill until this happened.
- 00:18:58 *Question:* Dorm fire drills? *Answer:* Yes. Girls assigned duties during the fire drills. Lights out time. When girls went away for the weekend, they had to have their hair curled.
- 00:21:00 *Question:* Anything else? *Answer:* Can't think of anything else, but NC wishes she would have taken advantage of the things Winthrop offered. NC talks about the daisy chain. Juniors wore white and the seniors wore their robes. It introduced juniors to the

idea that they would be seniors.

00:23:05 *End of interview*