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Interview with Jane Rawls

Jane Rawls

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

**Interview #301
RAWLS, Jane**

Rawls, Jane

Former Winthrop Training School student and “day student” at Winthrop College in 1974 who works as an administrative assistant in the College of Education.

Interviewed: August 1, 2013

Interviewer:

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 1 hour, 4 minutes

Abstract: In her August 1, 2013 interview, Jane Rawls shares stories of her life as a student at Winthrop Training School in the 1960s and as “day student” in 1974. In particular, Rawls discusses life as a child and student in the 1960s. Rawls shares her perspective of the counterculture in the 1960s and 1970s and how Winthrop and the community were affected. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Winthrop Training School, Winthrop College, kindergarten, May Day, Civil Rights, Segregation, Coeducation

Interview Session (August 1, 2013): Digital File

Time Keywords

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

00:00:32 *Question:* When were you born? *Answer:* July 7, 1956

00:00:44 *Question:* Where did you live when you were born? *Answer:* Rock Hill. JR moved to Hawaii when she married.

00:01:18 *Question:* Did you have any siblings? *Answer:* 4 brothers. 2 older brothers and 2 younger brothers. JR didn’t play with brothers much growing up – age difference, girls and boys didn’t play together.

00:02:20 *Question:* Where did you go to school? *Answer:* Winthrop training school. Sullivan Middle School. Eventually higher education at Winthrop College but did not finish, because JR married and moved away.

- 00:02:55 *Question:* What jobs did you have? *Answer:* Jobs have been clerical in nature. Discusses working in the private sector and public school district. Currently working at Winthrop in the College of Education.
- 00:04:12 *Question:* What was Winthrop Training School like in the 1960s? *Answer:* Great. There was one class of every grade (K-12). JR came here as a kindergartner. Everybody knew everybody. A lot of siblings. Students accustomed to having college students do class observations.
- 00:05:20 *Question:* Was it strange to not be observed when the Training School closed down? *Answer:* No.
- 00:05:30 *Question:* Did you miss Winthrop Training School? *Answer:* No. JR was young and she still saw the same students.
- 00:06:06 *Question:* What was the best day of school like? *Answer:* Exciting. Students had satchels and wore dresses. JR describes the layout of the Training School and other clothes students wore.
- 00:07:10 *Question:* Do you remember the first day? *Answer:* No. JR just remembers being excited.
- 00:07:30 *Question:* Finances? *Answer:* Parents had to pay but it was about \$20-\$25 per semester. JR's family was working class. Many students who went to Training School came from professional working families.
- 00:08:40 *Question:* What did you bring on your first day? *Answer:* A blue board and a book.
- 00:09:10 *Question:* What did the classroom look like? *Answer:* A typical classroom. In first grade, the class had a free-standing abacus. Kindergartners had a play area, but other grades did not.
- 00:10:15 *Question:* What was your teacher like? *Answer:* Students loved her. She was older. Mrs. Faulkner.
- 00:11:15 *Question:* Do you remember what you wore the first day? *Answer:* No. JR does recall other clothes she wore.
- 00:12:12 *Question:* Do you recall what you learned the first day? *Answer:* Students learned classroom rules. Students shared what they did over the summer.
- 00:12:55 *Question:* What did you do when you got home from school? *Answer:* Snacked. In 4th

- grade, JR started getting homework. When homework was done, JR went outside to play until dark. Parents didn't have to worry.
- 00:14:20 *Question:* Do you remember any movies you saw when you were young? *Answer:* Gone with the Wind. Batman movies. JR recalls going to the movies as a child in the 1960s.
- 00:15:35 *Question:* What did you do in your free-time? *Answer:* Barbies and play with horses. Hopscotch.
- 00:17:00 *Question:* Describe your childhood home? *Answer:* JR shares details of house. JR tells a story about cooling the house in the summer. JR's room was lavender, discusses sharing a room with her brother.
- 00:19:40 *Question:* Music? *Answer:* Beach music. The Drifters, the Beatles. In middle school, listened to teen pop music.
- 00:20:45 *Question:* Favorite foods? *Answer:* Pies, salmon patties, hash.
- 00:21:28 *Question:* Clothes mom wore? *Answer:* Skirts and blouses. Dad wore narrow neck ties. Mom wore hair short – went to beauty shop each week.
- 00:22:13 *Question:* Medicines or remedies? *Answer:* Baby aspirin and Coca Cola. For coughs – whiskey, honey, and lemon juice.
- 00:23:05 *Question:* Transportation? *Answer:* Feet or bicycle.
- 00:23:25 *Question:* Holidays? *Answer:* JR talks about Birthday cake. Easter – dyeing eggs, leaving out baskets. July 4th – fireworks. Christmas – decorating tree, presents.
- 00:26:30 *Question:* Friends at Training School? *Answer:* Still in contact with some.
- 00:27:19 *Question:* Anyone you didn't like? *Answer:* Mentions a boy that most people didn't like.
- 00:28:04 *Question:* Did boys and girls play together? *Answer:* Yes. Large playground and sandbox. May Day celebration.
- 00:29:40 *Question:* How long were you at Winthrop College? *Answer:* Year and a half. Married and moved away.
- 00:29:50 *Question:* Why Winthrop? *Answer:* All parents could afford.

- 00:30:15 *Question:* Roommate? *Answer:* Didn't live on campus. Day student.
- 00:30:37 *Question:* Uniforms? *Answer:* Long gone.
- 0:30:47 *Question:* Integrated? *Answer:* Winthrop had gone coed. JR doesn't recall seeing black students. Winthrop not as much of a melting pot as it is now.
- 00:31:48 *Question:* Coeducation? *Answer:* First boy's dorm started. Years before that boys could be day students. Since JR wasn't on campus it wasn't much of an issue. JR speculates that parents had more of an issue with it.
- 00:32:48 *Question:* Dining Hall? *Answer:* Didn't eat there. Ate off campus. Full-time student but had classes in the morning.
- 00:33:35 *Question:* Major? *Answer:* Education.
- 00:33:40 *Question:* Favorite professor/class? *Answer:* No. JR says it was "a blur" since she didn't go long enough to finish her degree.
- 00:34:00 *Question:* Clubs? *Answer:* Not a part of clubs. Day students didn't mix with other students.
- 00:34:40 *Question:* Were boys in classes with girls? *Answer:* Yes. Coed dorms didn't happen for a long time.
- 00:35:10 *Question:* Dress code? *Answer:* JR cannot remember. Remembers "finger-tip rule". Girls had to be careful how they sat in their clothes, so as not to be revealing with boys in the class.
- 00:36:40 *Question:* Involved in counterculture? *Answer:* No. No friends either. JR remembers public schools integrating. There was tension. Integration of Emmett Scott. Northwestern High School there was a riot. Painting of Confederate flag graffiti. Buses were an issue. Everybody stayed with their own race, because there was so much tension. In 5th grade, there was one black student – JR recalls how students got along with this student. JR was exposed to integration early on.
- 00:41:25 *Question:* Any classes that were specifically taught at Winthrop Training School? *Answer:* Same as others – reading, writing, and arithmetic. Recalls a favorite teacher.
- 00:42:49 *Question:* Did your parents keep you informed of current events in the 1960s. *Answer:* No. Remembers assassination of President Kennedy, because it was played over and over. Kennedy's assassination did not impact JR, because she was Baptist. Husband, who is catholic, was affected. Schools didn't announce these things on the

- PA. JR says her family just didn't talk about it.
- 00:44:40 *Question:* Vietnam? *Answer:* Married to a Vietnam veteran. JR tells story about her husband coming back from war the first time. JR discusses her husband's position in the army.
- 00:46:50 *Question:* Parents talk about Civil Rights? *Answer:* Remembers her father's perspective on the "hippie movement".
- 00:48:00 *Question:* Martin Luther King Jr.? *Answer:* Hard to remember. Recalls segregation. Family had a maid.
- 00:49:30 *Question:* Corporal punishment? *Answer:* Students spanked by the principal.
- 00:51:15 *Question:* Pageants or plays? *Answer:* High had plays. May Day celebration was the biggest event at Winthrop Training School. JR remembers watching a film strip in 3rd grade – a "what's wrong with this picture" film.
- 00:53:43 *Question:* What did other classes do? *Answer:* Prom used to be called "Junior/Senior". Prom planning was very secretive. Prom took place at The Shack.
- 00:55:15 *Question:* Field trip? *Answer:* Students went to Peabody pool. Chicken farm.
- 00:57:35 *Question:* Favorite activities? *Answer:* Recess. Remembers counting with the abacus.
- 00:58:55 *Question:* Anything else about Training School? *Answer:* Remembers cafeteria and fire escapes. Students had more respect for teachers and elders.
- 01:04:55 *End of interview*