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Interview with Gray Taylor Grady

Gray Taylor Grady

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

**Interview OH #012
GRADY, Margaret Gray**

GRADY, Margaret Gray

Class of 1939

Interviewed: August 22, 1974

Interviewer: Freida Todd

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 01:15:03

Abstract: In her August 22, 1974 with Freida Todd, Margaret Gray Grady recalls her time at Winthrop from 1935-1939. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Dorm life, clubs, student organizations, rules and regulations, physical education

Interview Session (August 22, 1974): Digital File

Time Keywords

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

00:00:30 *Question:* Your mother went to Winthrop? *Answer:* Yes. GG's mother's sister went to Winthrop too. GG's mother took business courses. GG's mother graduated in 1912 and became a teacher.

00:02:22 *Question:* Why Winthrop? *Answer:* GG went to Winthrop, because her mother went to Winthrop. GG didn't even consider that it was an all-girls school.

00:03:08 *Question:* Where did you go to high school? *Answer:* Lexington High School in Lexington, SC. Life after Winthrop.

00:03:50 *Question:* How did you arrive? *Answer:* GG's father took her. Lived in Roddey dormitory. Homesickness during senior year. Students didn't go home on weekends. Exams after Christmas holiday.

00:07:10 *Question:* When did classes start? *Answer:* September. Term ended after Christmas. Second semester ended last of May.

00:07:40 *Question:* Dorm rivalries? *Answer:* No rivalries. Students assigned dorms. Lived in Roddey first two years, then Margaret Nance last two years.

- 00:08:39 *Question:* Dorms? *Answer:* Roddey, Breazeale, Old South, and North.
- 00:09:00 *Question:* Rules? *Answer:* “Very strict.” Three-hour study period. Hall monitor.
- 00:10:27 *Question:* Fire drills? *Answer:* Slides. Students were apprehensive at first. Fire drills happened at night.
- 00:11:29 *Question:* Check in or out of dorm? *Answer:* Students checked out. Students could go anywhere during the day. If students wanted to go leave campus, parents had to write a note to the dean.
- 00:12:35 *Question:* Restrictions? *Answer:* Doesn’t recall. Girls getting “shipped.”
- 00:13:45 *Question:* Cards or smoke? *Answer:* No. Radios not allowed either. Students were supposed to study. Not much for entertainment. Dates took place on campus.
- 00:14:39 *Question:* Men? *Answer:* Students could have dates on the weekend for a few hours. Students had to stay in the parlor. Gates shut on the weekends
- 00:15:38 *Question:* Cars? *Answer:* No. GG can’t recall a girl owning a car. Trains were available. Buses too.
- 00:16:25 *Question:* Out-of-state students? *Answer:* Some.
- 00:16:38 *Question:* Girls there for education? *Answer:* Strictly.
- 00:17:15 *Question:* How did the Great Depression influence Winthrop? *Answer:* Tuition was reasonable. GG wishes she had studied harder.
- 00:18:45 *Question:* Winthrop’s reputation? *Answer:* Winthrop had a great reputation. GG’s instructors. GG started off teaching, but preferred office work. Spanish, education, economics, physical education classes, etc.
- 00:24:20 *Question:* Ratio of students to faculty? *Answer:* Faculty was accessible. Suitable class size.
- 00:25:05 *Question:* Registration? *Answer:* Done by class. Registration happened in the basement of the library. GG shares a dream she had about having to go back to Winthrop.
- 00:26:10 *Question:* Uniforms? *Answer:* GG’s mother made her clothes. Students allowed to wear pastel blouses. Blue Line. “No competition.”
- 00:27:55 *Question:* Gym uniforms? *Answer:* Made out of cotton. “We even had a very tacky swimming suit.”

- 00:28:28 *Question:* Swimming required? *Answer:* It was required to graduate. Tap dancing. Hockey. Basketball.
- 00:29:45 *Question:* Cleaning uniforms? *Answer:* Uniforms dry cleaned. Laundry on campus. Hand washed underwear in dorms. Eleanor Roosevelt came to campus. Vienna Choir came to Winthrop.
- 00:33:20 [no question] Campus expansion. GG compares Winthrop's growth to Clemson.
- 00:33:50 *Question:* Clemson boys came to Winthrop? *Answer:* Every weekend. "Clemson boys were very prevalent on campus." Clemson boys did not eat in the dining hall.
- 00:35:25 *Question:* Seniors have privileges in the dining hall? *Answer:* GG cannot remember.
- 00:36:00 *Question:* What food was served? *Answer:* Winthrop farm. Vegetables, meats, and ice cream all came from the farm. Referring to McBryde, "She used a lot of congealed salads, which was good."
- 00:38:09 *Question:* Thanksgiving dinner? *Answer:* GG recalls that Mrs. McBryde had a turkey dinner before students went home.
- 00:39:00 *Question:* Assemblies? *Answer:* Once a week.
- 00:40:12 *Question:* May queen? *Answer:* Yes. GG talks about the daisy chain. May court.
- 00:41:10 *Question:* Clubs? *Answer:* Social clubs. Not nationally affiliated, e.g. sororities.
- 00:42:20 *Question:* Service clubs? *Answer:* No. There were academic clubs. Chemistry club.
- 00:43:55 *Question:* Club prestige? *Answer:* There wasn't a lot of emphasis of being involved in clubs.
- 00:44:33 *Question:* Church affiliated organizations? *Answer:* Wesley Methodist Church.
- 00:45:55 *Question:* Classroom buildings? *Answer:* Commerce classes held in Main Building. Home Economics Building. Johnson Hall. Library.
- 00:48:55 *Question:* Teaching courses? *Answer:* Prominent field, as well as Home Economics. Practice taught at the Winthrop Training School.
- 00:51:45 *Question:* Afraid to speak out in class? *Answer:* Yes. GG talks about being brought up in a strict household.
- 00:52:35 *Question:* Term papers? *Answer:* Doesn't recall.

- 00:53:26 *Question:* Student caught cheating? *Answer:* GG never witnessed or heard of students cheating.
- 00:54:25 *Question:* Which department had the best reputation? *Answer:* “Music department was fantastic.” Walter Roberts. “All of it was good.”
- 00:55:30 *Question:* Science department? *Answer:* GG took biology.
- 00:56:55 *Question:* Besides swimming, were any other P.E. courses required? *Answer:* No. Students had to take a P.E. course every semester, though.
- 00:57:34 *Question:* General education courses? *Answer:* English, foreign language, math. Freshmen and sophomore years were the same.
- 00:58:35 *Question:* Could you substitute a general education course for another? *Answer:* No.
- 00:58:55 *Question:* Entrance exams? *Answer:* No. SATs.
- 00:59:35 *Question:* Weekends? *Answer:* Stayed on campus. Students could go home on two weekends.
- 01:00:55 *Question:* Dating rules? *Answer:* Men did not object to the rules. “Saved them a lot of money.”
- 01:01:40 *Question:* Evening classes? *Answer:* Most classes ended around 4pm. There were Saturday classes.
- 01:02:55 *Question:* What happened if students exceeded cut limit? *Answer:* GG unsure. GG doesn’t recall using cuts.
- 01:03:45 *Question:* McBryde open continuously? *Answer:* Just during meal times. No classes during meal time.
- 01:05:40 *Question:* House counselors? *Answer:* There were elected.
- 01:06:45 *Question:* President Phelps? *Answer:* Good educator. Mai Rutledge Smith was still working in the library. Accessible to the students. Dr. Kinard was the President Emeritus.
- 01:08:10 *Question:* Good contact between administration and students? *Answer:* Yes. Dean of Women especially.
- 01:09:25 *Question:* Relationship between Winthrop and Rock Hill? *Answer:* Rock Hill was always proud of Winthrop.
- 01:10:45 *Question:* Image of Winthrop in hometown? *Answer:* It was the school girls attended.

- 01:11:23 *Question:* Did a degree from Winthrop carry weight? *Answer:* Yes. GG speculates about Winthrop's national reputation.
- 01:11:55 *Question:* Has Winthrop's image changed? *Answer:* GG says a Winthrop degree is highly ranked. Coeducation did not bother GG.
- 01:13:05 *Question:* Is there a need for an all-girls school today? *Answer:* Smaller schools can still stay all female.
- 01:14:15 *Question:* Anything else? *Answer:* GG happy to have gone to Winthrop.
- 01:15:03 *End of interview*