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Interview with Barbara Haigler

Barbara Haigler

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Abstract: In this interview on December 3, 2012, Robert Ryals speaks to Barbara Haigler, an alumnus of Winthrop University, about her memories of campus life. This interview covers Haigler’s time at Winthrop until her graduation in 1957. Among other things, Haigler discusses her memories of dorm life, classes, and social events. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Winthrop, alumni, alumnus, Haigler, Ryals, oral history, interview, 1950s

Interview Session (December 3, 2012): Digital File

Time          Keywords
00:00:00      Start of Interview/Interviewer’s Introduction
00:00:26      Question: Permission to record voice? Answer: Yes
00:00:37      [no question] continues with introduction
00:00:58      Question: Why attend Winthrop? Answer: Majored in instrumental music, wanted to teach band, Winthrop was one of the best schools for music
00:01:44      Question: Where was hometown at the time? Answer: Dillon, SC
00:01:51      Question: Did you take an entrance exam? Answer: No; transferred from another school
00:02:07 *Question:* How did you arrive at Winthrop? *Answer:* Parents brought her

00:02:15 *Question:* Feelings about arrival at Winthrop for the first time *Answer:* Lost, bigger school than she was used to; however, had some friends from Dillon; changed roommates

00:03:02 *Question:* How did you get along with assigned roommate? *Answer:* Didn’t get along; requested a roommate change after two days

00:03:23 *Question:* What were new roommates’ names? *Answer:* Ginger Martin, Judy Dozier, Parthea Thompson, JoAnn Hardy

00:03:39 *Question:* How did you feel at recent reunion when you saw old roommates? *Answer:* Did not see at reunion, roommates were a year older than her

00:04:01 [no question] continues talking about reunion

00:04:24 *Question:* Were you homesick at Winthrop? *Answer:* No, too busy

00:04:38 *Question:* You were very focused on studies? *Answer:* Yes

00:05:00 *Question:* Was your new roommate a music major? *Answer:* No

00:05:10 *Question:* What do you remember about dorm room inspections/checks? *Answer:* Was a hall monitor for a year, does not remember checks

00:05:35 *Question:* What time was “lights out?” *Answer:* 11 PM on weekdays and 12 AM on weekends

00:05:45 *Question:* Did you have fire drills? *Answer:* Yes; happy she was on the first floor of dorm

00:06:26 [no question] speaking about reunion; speaking about using fire escapes to sneak into dorms

00:06:40 *Question:* As a hall monitor, ever report anyone? *Answer:* Yes, but not often; room close to infirmary, had to let people into infirmary often

00:07:04 *Question:* What were some infractions? *Answer:* Breaking detention

00:07:35 *Question:* Requirements for checking in and out of dorms? *Answer:* Sign in and out; “buzzer system” to communicate

00:08:22 *Question:* Remember house mother? *Answer:* Yes, but can’t remember name; did not
Haigler (#295)

have much contact with her

00:08:50 [no question] Haigler speaking about mailboxes

00:08:56 Question: Where were post office boxes? Answer: Tillman Hall

00:09:01 Question: Memories of dorm? Did Haigler stay in more than one room? Answer: 3 different rooms; high ceilings, small closets, no A/C

00:09:40 Question: What building were dorms in? Answer: Margaret Nance; moved to senior hall her senior year; another dorm building during summer school, cannot remember which one

00:10:10 Question: Did you participate in Blue Line? Answer: Yes; did not wear uniforms, but wore navy blue to walk to church first Sunday of school year

00:10:37 [no question] interviewer talks about Blue Line, uniforms, churches; Haigler gets glass of water

00:11:43 Question: Rules of conduct? Answer: No touching dates, no holding hands; no jeans or pants on campus

00:12:27 Question: Did you ever take gym classes? Answer: Yes; had to swim length of pool to graduate; took badminton, archery

00:13:03 Question: Do you remember what gym outfits looked like? Answer: One piece jumpsuit, short and flared bottom

00:13:22 [no question] Haigler discusses gym teacher Ms. Sturgess

00:13:51 Question: Memories of dining hall? Food? Answer: Food was good; no one went out to eat.

00:14:15 [no question] Haigler discusses milk products made at Winthrop, ice cream

00:14:50 [no question] Haigler discusses walking off campus, hitchhiking

00:15:08 Question: Any parts of Rock Hill you weren’t allowed to go? Answer: No

00:15:30 Question: Was “canteen” permanent part of a building? Answer: Yes, downstairs in Tillman Hall; sold sandwiches, sodas, also books

00:15:56 Question: Remember any social events? Answer: Yes, had many dances; none
officially organized by Winthrop

00:16:31  Question: Any boyfriends?  Answer: Yes, dated a boy at Wofford for 3 years

00:16:45  Question: What about concerts? Speakers?  Answer: Had guest speakers for educational assemblies once a month, went to many recitals

00:17:24  Question: Participate in concerts?  Answer: Yes, required to as a music major

00:17:35  Question: Played piano?  Answer: Yes; then had to learn to play strings, percussion, and brass when majored in band

00:17:53  [no question] discussion about marching band

00:18:07  Question: Shriner’s bowl parade was in Charlotte?  Answer: Yes

00:18:12  Question: Remember marching band uniforms?  Answer: Maroon and gold, skirts and jackets, hat

00:18:30  Question: What instrument did you play in marching band?  Answer: Drums

00:18:47  Question: Involved in campus clubs or activities?  Answer: No

00:19:03  Question: Memorable professors?  Answer: Yes, Florence Smyth; piano teacher

00:19:21  Question: What did she teach?  Answer: Piano

00:19:26  Question: Favorite classes in music program?  Answer: Music theory and history; really liked theory teacher John Baker

00:20:05  Question: Did you “practice teach” at Winthrop?  Answer: Yes, was only band major; had to practice teach all year

00:20:29  Question: You practice taught at Winthrop’s training school?  Answer: Yes

00:20:34  Question: Experiences with practice teaching?  Answer: 1 hour every morning, practiced as group, so did not have too much involvement with students

00:20:56  Question: What did you do on the weekends?  Answer: Went to the movies, caught up with school work

00:21:20  Question: Who was president of Winthrop at this time?  Answer: Henry Sims
00:21:33  Question: Any impressions of Henry Sims? Answer: Not good; embarrassing, not well spoken.

00:21:55  Question: What did it mean to be a Winthrop student? Answer: Meant you were receiving an excellent education, especially for education majors/teachers

00:22:11  Question: Did you pursue a career as a teacher? Answer: Yes, been a music teacher most of her life

00:22:24  Question: Do you teach piano? Answer: Right now only involved in choral groups, church groups, Christmas cantatas for 10 years

00:22:57  Question: Did you teach high school or middle school? Answer: Taught elementary, middle and high school; after marriage, switched to private tutoring, then taught music at a Bible college in Orangeburg for 28 years

00:23:28  Question: How did you meet your husband? Answer: In a friend’s wedding, husband was groomsman; married 2 years later

00:23:54  Question: Did you have any kids? Answer: 2 children, 9 grandchildren

00:24:04  Question: Any kids go to Winthrop? Answer: No, one is at Clemson; oldest grandson at Tech; Rest live in Colorado

00:24:30  Question: Do you think that Winthrop’s image has changed? Answer: Yes, co-ed, positive change; athletics have gotten better

00:24:56  Question: Anything else to add about Winthrop experience? Answer: Never needed to know anything that wasn’t taught at Winthrop

00:25:13  [no question] Thanking Haigler for participating, discusses recording and transcribing interview, contact info, next steps.

00:25:50  End of interview