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Retrospect

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

July, 2009

Volume 5, Number 2

Jessie Huey Laurence Papers-Latest Finding Aid Available Online



Please visit our web site to see the latest finding aid available online. The Jessie Huey Laurence Papers dating from 1894 to 1967 (Accession no. 5) covers a number of interesting topics that will be helpful to researchers of women's history, Catawba Indian history, the history of the Catawba Region as well as the history of South Carolina. Jessie Huey Laurence was a club woman, civic leader, native of Union County, SC, and a 1907 Winthrop graduate. The collection primarily consists of correspondence but also included are speeches, program notes, minutes, financial records, photographs, clippings, and scrapbooks relating to her role in the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs (1928-1937); her promotion of a compulsory school attendance bill for South Carolina (1934-1936); the formation of the South Carolina Council for the Common Good (1935); Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Public

Works Administration (PWA) projects in South Carolina; and her interest in the Catawba Indians of York County, as chairman of Indian Affairs Committee for the Catawba Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Topics include literacy, Santee-Cooper Dam, Winthrop College, World War II, York County Historical Society, York, Chester, and Lancaster Counties and family history material including: Adams, Craig, Jackson, Lesslie, Lessly, Mull, Muehl, Robinson, Taylor, Weidner, Witherspoon, and Wylie families. To view the finding aid just click here [Jessie Huey Laurence Papers](#).

Quote of the Quarter

From his opening speech to the student body September 21, 1910:

... nothing worth having, intellectually or otherwise, can be secured without hard, persistent, earnest, faithful work. If you fail, it will be your fault, not somebody else's fault. Others may explain, but, unless you apply yourself properly, you can accomplish nothing worthy." *David Bancroft Johnson, Winthrop founder and first president.*

One Hundred Years Ago at Winthrop

While researching another topic, we came across the following interesting article about Winthrop in the July 22, 1909 issue of the *Rock Hill Record*. We have added some explanatory notes in brackets. The photographs are from the Archives collection and are not part of the original article:

Improvements At The College: President Johnson Making Ready for Increased Number of Pupils



Since school closed, June 1st, there have been many improvements at Winthrop College. The new water tank, holding 75,000 gallons, has been completed and is now in use, being carefully tested before the opening of next session. The water mains which supply the fire plugs have been inspected and found in good condition and additional fire plugs have been

put in on all sides of the new dormitory [Bancroft Hall].

Electric fire bells like those in the old building have been installed on each floor of the new dormitory. [Bancroft Hall was known as Johnson Hall from 1909 until 1920. The current Johnson Hall was completed in 1920 as the YWCA building. The student body wanted to honor Pres. Johnson by naming this student building for him. Consequently the Johnson Hall dormitory was renamed Bancroft Hall.] A new bath room and lavatory has been put in the infirmary on the ground floor, adding to the convenience of this already convenient and well equipped building.

The roof and windows of the library have been carefully inspected and all leaks repaired. The roofs of all the buildings have also been inspected and repaired. New hard wood floors have been laid on the first floors in both north [Margaret Nance] and south [McLaurin] dormitories and on the third floor hall and millinery room of the main building.

[Tillman Administration Building] The sewer system has been overhauled and put in most excellent condition. Nothing is being left undone that can add to the purity of the water supply and the safety of the sanitary conditions of the college and the grounds.



The new dining room and kitchen to accommodate 200 more students are progressing rapidly and promise to add much to the comfort and convenience of the housekeeping department. [Later the dining room and kitchen were named McBryde Hall] The ceiling of the old dining room was very low, the room dark and badly ventilated, as well as overcrowded. [The old dining room was located in the basement of Main Building]

The new dining room will be light, well ventilated, and will have a high ceiling. Although it will have a very much greater seating capacity than the old, it is said by the architects that the noise in the new dining room will be less than the old because of this high ceiling. In the old dining room neither the housekeeper nor her assistants had offices, but kept their desks in the serving room. The new dining room will have all such conveniences as the housekeeper and her assistants may need in the way of offices, lock pantries, elevators from the supply room to the bakery and kitchen, and good serving and dish washing rooms. The kitchen and bakery will be well equipped with electrical machinery in order to expedite the catering for 700 people.

A refrigerating plant to be run by electric power is to be installed in connection with the new dining room. In order to supply milk and butter in sufficient quantities for the increased number of students, the barn enlarged, a new refrigerator has been put in the dairy, more cows are to be bought, and in all probability an electric milking machine will be installed. All is being done that is possible with the funds in hand to add to the completeness and efficiency of the various departments.

President Johnson has just returned from the meeting of the N.E.A. in Denver, where he delivered an address on "Teacher Training in Great Britain." On his way home, President Johnson visited the Normal School at Cedar Falls, Iowa, where they have 2,400 students. He also visited the University of Chicago Summer School and the Summer School of the South at Knoxville, Tenn., looking for any new methods which may be of benefit to Winthrop College.

Through the Casement—Window on Winthrop's Past

The first Summer School at Winthrop was held in 1898. Men were always allowed to attend the summer school because there were few if any regular students on campus. The majority of the attendees were educators who were continuing their education. The following are a few images of the early summer schools:



Male Students at first Summer School 1898



Female Students at first Summer School 1898



Summer School 1900

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