5-2015

May 2015, Volume 11, Number 1

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/retrospect

Part of the Archival Science Commons

Recommended Citation

Winthrop University Archives and Special Collections, "May 2015, Volume 11, Number 1" (2015). Retrospect: News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University. 30.
https://digitalcommons.winthrop.edu/retrospect/30

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Dacus Library Publications at Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Retrospect: News from the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Winthrop University. For more information, please contact bramed@winthrop.edu.
Archives Announces New Way To Access Collections

In January 2015 the Pettus Archives began using a new digital access management system known as Digital Commons. It is an institutional repository that serves as a space to showcase all scholarship Winthrop produces including faculty papers, publications, undergraduate research, theses, newsletters and more. For Archives users Digital Commons will eventually offer access to all of the finding aids and inventories of the collection as well as digital access to portions of the Archives holdings, i.e. digital images, recordings, objects and other material. This system allows collections to be searched by keyword, author, title, etc. Oral History recordings may be listened to online and documents and photographs are being added weekly. On the Archives homepage there is a yellow button that reads Digital Commons @ Winthrop. Click on the button on the page or on the button to the left and you will be able to access the Pettus Archives Digital Commons page.

The Archives Staff members are adding finding aids and digital files to Digital Commons daily. Please look at the site often to keep up with what is being added. You may also keep up with the newest content by subscribing to the RSS feed or to receive e-mail alerts on content that fits your research interest—see the Email or RSS Notifications page.

For more information on the Archives Digital Commons site contact Gina White, Director of Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.

Manuscript Collection Spotlight

By Andrew Johnston, Asst. Dir. Of Archives and Special Collections

Thomson Family Papers

The Thomson Family Papers is a valuable source of information concerning family life in Rock Hill, S.C. during the period from 1920-1945. The collection includes Diaries, Thomas Tours brochures, newspaper clippings, speeches, financial and estate records, family histories, menus, photographs, and an extensive body of correspondence comprises the bulk of the collection.

Dr. Roy Zachariah Thomas brought the family to Rock Hill, South Carolina when he assumed the position of professor of chemistry at Winthrop College in 1914. The correspondence pertains to the activities of the Thomas family and traces the growth of the family tour business, Thomas Tours, Inc., which Dr. Thomas founded in the 1920s.

In addition, letters exchanged by family members provide keen insight into the life of Winthrop College and Winthrop Training School in the 1920s and early 1930s; special events offered by Duke University during the mid1930s; life during the Depression; the rigorous training of ROTC cadets at Clemson University during the early 1940s; the accelerated training of officers and enlisted men of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II; and the effects of the U.S. atomic bomb on Japan.

For more information on the Thomas Family papers, contact Gina White, Director of Archives and Special Collections at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.
The Louise Pettus Archives is now on Facebook. If you are on Facebook please search for us under, Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University, and then please like and follow our page. Please suggest our page to any friends or family who you think might find it of interest. If there is anything you would like to see on the facebook page we would love the input. We hope to be joining other social media outlets very soon and will let you know when we do.

Contact Brittany Pigford at archives@winthrop.edu for more information.

---

**News Flash from Winthrop’s Past**

By Charlene Drummond, Archivist

In 2006, Winthrop was the location for a film titled *Asylum*. The campus became the setting for a university that had once been the home of an institution for the criminally insane. Movie making is an interesting business. Local columnist Andrew Dys of the *Herald* wrote the following column concerning the shooting of the movie on campus.

**Turning Winthrop into an ‘Asylum’: Welcome to Hollywood . . .er, Tagert Hall**

By Andrew Dys September 19, 2006

Making movies sure is different from watching movies. Shooting for the horror movie "Asylum" began Monday on Winthrop University's campus and will continue all week. It took more than two hours in the morning to film a single scene of heroine Sarah Roemer registering for college classes. Then another two-plus hours in the hot afternoon to rehearse and film a single scene where a less-than-savory character in horn-rimmed glasses and sweat shirt jumps out at Roemer from behind some bushes. "Asylum," is about college kids who find out their dormitory was once home to the criminally insane. Parents who hear of some of their kids' wilder exploits at college may not think too much has changed. Yet seriously this week, Winthrop has been turned into Richard Miller University, the fake name of the school in the movie. Tillman Hall had a banner draped across the front Monday saying "Welcome to Tagert Hall." Dozens of extras playing college students walked back and forth countless times.

More than 85 people are involved in filming at Winthrop, from the director through the crew. When Director David R. Ellis, who directed the recent film "Snakes on a Plane," or the assistant director said the shot wasn't right, cast and crew did it over. Again and again and again. Every detail of each scene, from lighting to sound, had to be right. Crew members like Leslie Gordon of Charlotte had to lay tracks for rolling cameras and
maneuver all kinds of equipment needed for the right picture and sound. Making movies is a physical miracle. The crew members wear earpieces like Secret Service agents, constantly hustling from place to place to do what seems like four things at once. Cranes have to be built to carry aerial cameras. Sound men slither around with microphones on long gaffs. Video people take footage for the eventual DVD release that requires behind-the-scenes material. Action fills the screen when watching a movie, as heads are lopped off or the hunk gets the blonde. But movie making creation is a brutal set of hiccups and false starts and retakes. When the directors wanted the same registration scene from a different angle, all the camera equipment was moved, the extras corralled and instructed and the set turned around.

Parts of Oakland Avenue fronting the school will be closed to through traffic again today. Yet what "Asylum" mostly means for Winthrop students this week is skirting the campus areas around the cameras. There are signs up that tell people all the areas being filmed. Ryan Drumwright, a sophomore from Fort Mill, made the mistake of wandering over for a look in front of shooting near Byrnes Auditorium while talking on his cell phone. Production staffers swooped in to tell him to find another place to talk. "But this is pretty neat, that this movie would come to Winthrop and give the university some publicity," Drumwright said.

Movies aren't new to the area: Rock Hill has become the second-largest movie production spot in the state. "The Patriot" was filmed here in 1999, and other movies have followed. "Patriotville" is now filming in Chester, and another movie is scheduled to start in Rock Hill later this month. The movies "Carrie 2" and "Shake, Rattle and Roll" and many commercials have used Winthrop's campus before, said DeeAnna Brooks, assistant to the President for University Events. More than 20 theater students are extras or members of the crew.

But not Rustam Seyunov, an exchange student from Kyrgyzstan in Asia. He was stunned to find the grass in front of Byrnes filled with movie sets as he walked to class. "In my country, we like action movies," he said. "Arnold Schwarzenegger. Van Damme." Seyunov thought long and hard. "I would like to be in this movie," he said. Too bad. The extra parts were filled at a casting call here in Rock Hill a couple of weeks ago. Like most of the rest on campus, all he can do is watch the movie being made. Slowly.

For more information on the Winthrop newspaper files in the Archives contact Charlene Drummond at archives@winthrop.edu.

---

From the Echo Chamber

By Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard, A-V Archivist

The Anatomy of the Oral History Program Page: Or How to Find Oral History Interviews

The Oral History Collection featured in Winthrop University’s Digital Commons finally allows users to listen to the Louise Pettus Archives’ recorded sound holdings. This is a step-by-step guide of how to search our oral history collection.

1. Not all oral history interviews have been digitized, described, and uploaded to our Digital Commons. Click the “List of All Oral History Interviews” link to browse our Oral History Collection guide, which lists almost every interview in our collection (recent interviews have not been added to this list but instead immediately uploaded to
Digital Commons). Interviews in this guide are arranged by interviewee’s last name, but you can also “ctrl + f” the pdf and browse by keyword.

2. The “Browse All Oral History Interviews” link allows users to browse all of the interviews uploaded to Digital Commons. Through this link, you can search alphabetically by the interviewee’s last name by utilizing our A-Z toolbar.

3. If you don’t have a particular interviewee in mind, browse our list of common topics.

4. Perhaps the list of topics provided is not specific enough for your research needs. Click on our “Advanced Search” link and search by keywords or specific dates.

Interviews are being digitized and described weekly by staff. Check back for more updates on the Oral History Program page.

For more information concerning the audio-visual collections in the Archives contact Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.
Winthrop Farm Excavation

A fascinating and interesting addition to the Manuscript Collection is a collection of artifacts excavated from the old Winthrop farm. Prior to the farm’s existence, the land provided housing for Aragon Textile Mill workers. The Aragon Mill was one of many mills that helped shape Rock Hill’s history in the early 20th Century.

Students from Winthrop’s Archeology class hoped to find a little piece of that history and peek into the lives of the people who worked so diligently in the mill. The excavation was part of a semester long project for the students, which culminated in an exhibit housed here in the Archives. The students found household items like a cup and a pan, several bottles, metal pieces, and several ceramic items. Along with their discoveries, the students wrote and exhibited a paper about the Aragon Mill and the lives of its workers.

For more information, contact Kaitlin Burdette at archives@winthrop.edu.

Current Exhibitions

The Art of the Book Class, taught by Drs. Laura Dufresne and Laura Gardner, has created a beautiful display of their artwork. The works were inspired by their semester long study of the creation and artistic rendering of books throughout history. The class met in the Pettus Archives earlier in the semester to look at the myriad types of books contained in the Archives collections. After an intent survey of these and other works, the class crafted delightful, charming, clever, and exquisite designs. Among the works are included illuminated manuscripts, creative bindings, beautiful end papers, a botanical survey, illustrated stories, accordion fold books, handmade papers, wheel charts and zines. The exhibition will be available during regular archives operating hours from May 18 through July 18. The Archives Summer hours are 8:00-5:30 Monday-Thursday and 8:00-Noon Friday. The Archives will be open 9:00-1:00 on Saturday June 20 and Saturday July 18.

For more information, contact the Pettus Archives at (803) 323-2334 or archives@winthrop.edu.
Winthrop Founder and First President, David Bancroft Johnson, was fiercely proud of his institution of higher learning and its students and alumnae. The students and alumnae were equally proud of their leader whom they called “Debe.” Because the alumnae were so successful and well-traveled in their careers, Johnson was fond of saying that “the sun never sets” on Winthrop graduates. The following article found in an issue of the Johnsonian in 1939 relates a few anecdotes of missionary Martha Franks, Class of 1922, that illustrate and corroborate Dr. Johnson’s assertions.

**Alumna Brings Proof that “Sun Never Sets” on Winthrop Grads**

By Sylvia Ness—The Johnsonian; November 17, 1939 p. 5

“The sun never sets on Winthrop daughters” Debe used to say. Miss Martha Franks, Student Government president in 1922, back on campus for alumnae weekend, brings this home with emphasis.

In China for fourteen years doing mission work, Miss Franks, who is from Laurens and how home on furlough for the first time in eight years, tells of her fantastic experiences in meeting up with fellow Winthropians.

On a train going from Peking to the Great Wall, Monie (that’s what Winthrop called her for four years) was traveling third class, and the conditions were none too pleasant. So she stepped into an adjoining car. There in a gloomy box car, on a rickety railroad, in the depths of China sat a Winthrop graduate—Christine South [Class of 1903], who had also been connected with the home demonstration department [at Winthrop] after graduation.

Incident number two occurred while Monie was spending a few hours in Shanghai. She headed straight for a chocolate shop. (Chocolate is her pet weakness.) Scarcely had she seated herself when in switched Sarah Glenn [Class of 1922], Dean [Kate Glenn] Hardin’s sister, who smartly clothed in American style, had just begun her furlough with a shopping spree.

Resembling the beginning of a mystery novel, Miss Frank’s third encounter with a College classmate was at midnight—a dark, dreary midnight, on a railroad platform in South China. Suddenly, out of the darkness loomed Olive Lawton [Class of 1922], Miss Frank’s best friend who had been president of the YWCA the year Miss Franks was president of the student body.

Together the two other Winthrop daughters, Jane [Class of 1901] and Florence [Class of 1904] Lide of Florence, S.C., Miss Franks is teaching in North China Baptist Theological Seminary in Hiwangshni, Shantung province.

Monie has met graduates of her Alma Mater, not only in her field, but some who are stenographers, teachers, and others whose husbands are stationed in China.

Another time, while traveling, Miss Franks got off a train in Kansas City, and bumped into a Winthrop girl who was on her way home from several years teaching in the Phillipine islands.

Miss Franks pride and joy is an autographed picture of Debe that he gave her when she graduated. There, in the study of a Winthrop daughter in North China, sits the picture of Dr. Johnson beneath a Winthrop seal.

For information on the Archives’ collections and holdings, how to donate historical material, or how you can help, contact:

Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections  
Telephone: (803) 323-2334  
E-Mail: archives@winthrop.edu  
Website: www.winthrop.edu/dacus/archives/  
Click here for previous issues of Retrospect