8-22-1974

Interview with Gray Taylor Grady

Gray Taylor Grady

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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

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Keywords</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00:00:00</td>
<td>Start of Interview/Interviewer’s Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:00:30</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:02:22</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>00:03:08</td>
<td>Question: Where did you go to high school? Answer: Lexington High School in Lexington, SC. Life after Winthrop.</td>
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<td>00:03:50</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:07:10</td>
<td>Question: When did classes start? Answer: September. Term ended after Christmas. Second semester ended last of May.</td>
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<td>00:07:40</td>
<td>Question: Dorm rivalries? Answer: No rivalries. Students assigned dorms. Lived in Roddey first two years, then Margaret Nance last two years.</td>
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</table>
00:08:39 Question: Dorms? Answer: Roddey, Breazeale, Old South, and North.


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.


00:16:38 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.”
Question: Swimming required?  
Answer: It was required to graduate. Tap dancing. Hockey. Basketball.

Question: Cleaning uniforms?  

[no question]  
Campus expansion. GG compares Winthrop’s growth to Clemson.

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.

Question: Seniors have privileges in the dining hall?  
Answer: GG cannot remember.

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.”

Question: Thanksgiving dinner?  
Answer: GG recalls that Mrs. McBryde had a turkey dinner before students went home.

Question: Assemblies?  
Answer: Once a week.

Question: May queen?  
Answer: Yes. GG talks about the daisy chain. May court.

Question: Clubs?  
Answer: Social clubs. Not nationally affiliated, e.g. sororities.

Question: Service clubs?  
Answer: No. There were academic clubs. Chemistry club.

Question: Club prestige?  
Answer: There wasn’t a lot of emphasis of being involved in clubs.

Question: Church affiliated organizations?  
Answer: Wesley Methodist Church.

Question: Classroom buildings?  
Answer: Commerce classes held in Main Building. Home Economics Building. Johnson Hall. Library.

Question: Teaching courses?  
Answer: Prominent field, as well as Home Economics. Practice taught at the Winthrop Training School.

Question: Afraid to speak out in class?  
Answer: Yes. GG talks about being brought up in a strict household.

Question: Term papers?  
Answer: Doesn’t recall.
Question: Student caught cheating? Answer: GG never witnessed or heard of students cheating.

Question: Which department had the best reputation? Answer: “Music department was fantastic.” Walter Roberts. “All of it was good.”


Question: Besides swimming, were any other P.E. courses required? Answer: No. Students had to take a P.E. course every semester, though.

Question: General education courses? Answer: English, foreign language, math. Freshmen and sophomore years were the same.

Question: Could you substitute a general education course for another? Answer: No.

Question: Entrance exams? Answer: No. SATs.

Question: Weekends? Answer: Stayed on campus. Students could go home on two weekends.

Question: Dating rules? Answer: Men did not object to the rules. “Saved them a lot of money.”

Question: Evening classes? Answer: Most classes ended around 4pm. There were Saturday classes.


Question: McBryde open continuously? Answer: Just during meal times. No classes during meal time.

Question: House counselors? Answer: There were elected.

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.

Question: Good contact between administration and students? Answer: Yes. Dean of Women especially.

Question: Relationship between Winthrop and Rock Hill? Answer: Rock Hill was always proud of Winthrop.

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*