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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Keywords</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00:00:00</td>
<td><strong>Start of Interview/Interviewer’s Introduction</strong></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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Question: Dorms? Answer: Roddey, Breazeale, Old South, and North.


Question: Fire drills? Answer: Slides. Students were apprehensive at first. Fire drills happened at night.

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.


Question: Cards or smoke? Answer: No. Radios not allowed either. Students were supposed to study. Not much for entertainment. Dates took place on campus.

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.

Question: Cars? Answer: No. GG can’t recall a girl owning a car. Trains were available. Buses too.


Question: Girls there for education? Answer: Strictly.

Question: How did the Great Depression influence Winthrop? Answer: Tuition was reasonable. GG wishes she had studied harder.

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.

Question: Ratio of students to faculty? Answer: Faculty was accessible. Suitable class size.

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.

Question: Uniforms? Answer: GG’s mother made her clothes. Students allowed to wear pastel blouses. Blue Line. “No competition.”

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.


00:33:50  *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.


00:48:55  *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.
Question: Did a degree from Winthrop carry weight? Answer: Yes. GG speculates about Winthrop’s national reputation.

Question: Has Winthrop’s image changed? Answer: GG says a Winthrop degree is highly ranked. Coeducation did not bother GG.

Question: Is there a need for an all-girls school today? Answer: Smaller schools can still stay all female.

Question: Anything else? Answer: GG happy to have gone to Winthrop.

End of interview