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Interview with Anna Heriot Dixon

Anna Heriot Dixon

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**LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Interview #008
DIXON, Anna**

DIXON, Anna

“Normal” music student during WWI

At Winthrop: 1917

Interviewed: July 25, 1974

Interviewer: Ann Yarborough

Index by: Katy Holder

Length: 00:37:42

Abstract: Anna Dixon, in her July 1974 interview with Ann Yarborough, described the lifestyle and traditions she experienced during her years as a student at what is now Winthrop University (then Winthrop Normal and Industrial College). Dixon graduated in 1917 and covered topics such as being campused, the train station, education for women, uniforms, curriculum, and the training school. She also touched on what might get a girl expelled and how the students were graded. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Winthrop history, Class of 1917, Campused, Higher Education for Women, Train station, Sally Lunn bread, training school, uniforms, Student organizations, Grading, the Blue Line, Permission to Date, Room Inspections, Matron

Interview Session (July 25, 1974): Digital File

Time Keywords

00:00:00 *Start of Interview*/Interviewer’s Introduction

00:00:21 *Question:* Miss Dixon, why did you choose to attend Winthrop? *Answer:* It was the best college due to cost and family concerns. Parents were interested in higher education for women.

00:00:43 *Question:* Did the high standing of Winthrop help you get job when you graduated? *Answer:* Not a concern because was married when graduated. Sent daughter to Winthrop and she no difficulty gaining employment as a teacher.

00:01:09 *Question:* What was it like to live in the dorms on campus? *Answer:* She loved it. It was strict. They had uniforms. They had a church line a matron policing their clothing.

- 00:02:13 *Question:* Were there any other dorm regulations? *Answer:* They had to be in bed at 10, lights out and had to attend meals. Every Sunday night a different denomination hosted services on campus and a monitor checked to see if everyone attended, although Catholics and others were able to stay in their rooms.
- 00:03:16 *Question:* You mention having to attend meals, you had to be there at a certain time? *Answer:* Yes, different dorms had to be there at certain times.
- 00:03:31 *Question:* What was the typical food that was served? *Answer:* It wasn't bad. Sunday had traditional ice cream and fish on Friday's.
- 00:04:18 *Question:* This ice cream, did it come from the College farms? *Answer:* Yes, it was. Made in the basement. The syrup was out of this world and for breakfast Sally Lunn bread was eaten.
- 00:05:04 *Question:* What did being campused mean? *Answer:* It meant that students couldn't leave the campus for a certain time period as punishment. The punishment could be for breaking a minor rule. Also, freshman could not walk around campus except to classes.
- 00:06:015 *Question:* What were some of the shipping home offenses? *Answer:* Smoking, cheating, any little thing could campus someone, no cutting class. Parents could always contact students.
- 00:06:51 *Question:* You said they were campused for cheating on examinations? *Answer:* No, that was an offense for going home.
- 00:07:02 **[No Question]** AD goes on to provide an example of being campused relating to the dress code. She mentions the old train depot where students would catch the train home.
- 00:07::50 *Question:* So you rode the train back and forth from home to? *Answer:* Yes, until senior year AD had a friend with an automobile who brought her. Most used the train. The roads were bad. Most usually went home at Christmas and June.
- 00:08:41 *Question:* What did you do on those weekends to keep yourselves busy; amuse yourselves? *Answer:* Enjoyed each other. Stock courses: outstanding musicians and lectures that were also attended by Rock Hill community members. While there was no picture show in AD's time by the era of her daughter there was one.
- 00:09:27 **[No Question]** AD mentions two girls getting sent home for smoking when she was attending Winthrop.

- 00:09:34 *Question:* Did they get to come back after a certain amount of time? *Answer:* Yes, they weren't expelled but suspended.
- 00:09:41 *Question:* And you say that you had the Star Chorus? *Answer:* Yes and Glee club.
- 00:10:25 **[No Question]** It's been discontinued but senior's had "Practice Home", where they were maids for a week while attending classes for faculty. But the highlight was Teaching and training school.
- 00:11:07 *Question:* What was it like being in training school? *Answer:* There was a supervisor teacher, afterschool there was a consultation with the teacher. Each class was very small made up of local children.
- 00:13:28 *Question:* What were some of the other classes that you took while you were there? Sciences? *Answer:* Curriculum they had to follow such as voice, sewing, cooking, math, library methods, French, and English.
- 00:15:04 *Question:* How about your Physical Education classes? *Answer:* Senior year they'd just finished the pool, already knew how to swim so was checked off. Also had to garden Sophomore year but hated it, always prayed for rain.
- 00:17:17 *Question:* Do you remember who your roommate was? *Answer:* One was Esther, one was my cousin, and one was my sister.
- 00:17:36 *Question:* And you were a music major? *Answer:* No, it was called a Normal Music course with a credit to teach but not a major
- 00:17:53 *Question:* What were some of the other departments like? The English Department? The History Department? Were they having good standings? *Answer:* From what she knew yes. They had three literary clubs: Winthrop, Curry, and Wade Hampton (to which AD belonged).
- 00:19:30 *Question:* What were some of the other clubs you had? *Answer:* They did not go for things such as that when AD was there.
- 00:20:01 *Question:* What were some of the examinations like? *Answer:* There were a week of exams.
- 00:20:26 *Question:* How were you graded? *Answer:* Double star, star, 1,2, 3, with a warning slip if your grades were starting to slip.
- 00:20:53 *Question:* How was the year divided? Two semesters or three terms? *Answer:* Three semesters with no breaks.

- 00:21:35 *Question:* Do you remember any particular professors that you thought were outstanding at the time? *Answer:* Two English professors and an Education professor.
- 00:23:16 *Question:* Were there any foreign students on campus? *Answer:* Yes, they were from Brazil and Peru. They could speak English and they stayed in the dorms.
- 00:23:27 *Question:* Where did they stay? *Answer:* In the Dorm.
- 00:23:37 *Question:* Which dormitory was that? *Answer:* At that time there were only three dorms: South, North, and Johnson Hall. They were in Johnson Hall. They weren't segregated.
- 00:24:01 *Question:* Did you do any student teaching outside of the training school? *Answer:* No.
- 00:24:07 *Question:* How about other assemblies, activities, assemblies? *Answer:* Can't think of any.
- 00:24:19 *Question:* Like programs, your chapel programs. *Answer:* Had chapel every morning. A very active YWCA with a morning watch.
- 00:25:05 *Question:* What was that? *Answer:* 15 minutes before breakfast one of the girls would lead a prayer meeting. Also every Weds. Night there was a meeting of the YWCA and there were also Student Government meetings.
- 00:25:50 *Question:* Were you active in the Student Government? *Answer:* Yes, AD was a junior representative and a house president. She was also on the board every year but one year due to other responsibilities.
- 00:26:28 *Question:* What were some of your duties as a junior/senior representative? *Answer:* Interacted with the board, tried girls for infractions. As house president, dealt with two requests.
- 00:27:39 *Question:* Was there any initiation like a Rat week? *Answer:* No.
- 00:28:13 *Question:* Did you have to register for classes? Sign up for certain courses? *Answer:* It was hectic, having to wait in long lines to be told the class was full.
- 00:29:00 *Question:* Did you have Academic Advisors to help you plan you schedules? *Answer:* Yes.

- 00:29:10 *Question:* Do you remember who yours was? *Answer:* Yes.
- 00:29:30 *Question:* Were there any other traditions that you engaged in at Winthrop other than the Blue line? *Answer?* The Blue line, the uniform, visitors, and permission to date.
- 00:30:18 *Question:* Was it just certain nights of the week that you could have your dates?
Answer: Yes, only on Sunday or Saturday nights were dates allowed.
- 00:30:30 *Question:* Could they stay till a certain hour? *Answer:* Yes. Before 10.
- 00:31:05 *Question:* How about the Daisy chain. Did you have a daisy chain? *Answer:* Yes.
- 00:32:02 *Question:* You graduated from there in... *Answer:* 1917.
- 00:32:31 *Question:* Whenever you had your date did you do anything in particular, like maybe curl your hair, one lady said she stayed up late to curl her hair? *Answer:* Had to be in bed by 10 but yes.
- 00:33:04 *Question:* How did you take care of your clothes and your linens? *Answer:* Once a week someone from the laundry would pick it up and a few days later they would bring it back.
- 00:33:29 *Question:* Did you have room inspections? *Answers:* Everyday matron would inspect the rooms.
- 00:33:43 *Question:* And you got graded on that? *Answers:* No on your report no.
- 00:34:05 *Question:* If something was broken or misplaced out of a room, what did they do? Did they hold you responsible for it? *Answer:* There was very little to get broken, just a bed, dresser, wardrobe, and a washstand.
- 00:34:33 *Question:* Were you allowed to hang pictures on the walls? *Answer:* Yes, but holes couldn't be made in the walls so people used chewing gum to hang pictures or pennants of boys' schools such as Davidson.
- 00:35:05 *Question:* Did they ever have dances on the weekends or on special holidays?
Answer: No, not with boys. The girls would have dances with each other. They had a German Dance club amongst the girls but no boys.
- 00:35:56 *Question:* The German Club, did they do traditional dances? *Answer:* No, it was just Ballroom dancing.
- 00:37:42 *End of interview*