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8-13-1974

## Interview with Leslye Fleniken

Leslye Fleniken

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

**Interview OH #013  
FLENIKEN, Leslye**

**FLENIKEN, Leslye**

Home economics major, 1936-1940

*Interviewed:* August 13, 1974

*Interviewer:* Ann Yarborough Evans

*Index by:* Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

*Length:* 00:40:37

Abstract: In her August 13, 1974 interview with Ann Yarborough Evans, Leslye Fleniken recalls life at Winthrop from 1936-1940. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Rules and regulations, dorm life, dining hall, Tillman Science Building, Home Economics, Winthrop traditions

**Interview Session (August 13, 1974): Digital File**

**Time      Keywords**

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

00:00:17    *Question:* When were you at Winthrop? *Answer:* 1936-1940.

00:00:23    *Question:* Why Winthrop? *Answer:* That was the only state school for girls. LF needed to go to a school she could afford.

00:01:00    *Question:* Winthrop's standing? *Answer:* Top-rated school.

00:01:10    *Question:* Did that help you get a job when you graduated? *Answer:* Most Winthrop graduates didn't have any trouble getting a job.

00:01:25    *Question:* Dorm activities? *Answer:* Did away with social clubs a year before LF started. LF bonded with people in her dorm and classes.

00:02:45    *Question:* Dorm rivalry? *Answer:* LF recalls intramural sports and that rivalry. Little dorm rivalry.

00:03:20    *Question:* Physical education? *Answer:* Required. LF enjoyed.

- 00:03:40 *Question:* Services in the dorm? *Answer:* Laundry collected for students. Maid service. Students kept their own rooms. Dining room instead of a cafeteria. Closes knit groups in the dining room.
- 00:05:54 *Question:* Required lunch time? *Answer:* When the bell rang.
- 00:06:10 *Question:* Graduating class? *Answer:* 200 approximately. LF enjoyed the food. LF, in particular, enjoyed the ice cream. "I remember getting fooled on tongue thinking it was ham." LF describes the food that was served.
- 00:07:55 *Question:* Mail? *Answer:* One post office in Main building.
- 00:08:20 *Question:* Dorm rules? *Answer:* "They were ridiculous." LF was homesick freshman year. Assistant Dean was "ill-tempered." LF recalls Assistant Dean "herding" students into Winthrop. Tells story about getting permission to go to supper with her brother. LF's roommate broke rules. "Campused" one time. Rule book given to every student.
- 00:13:10 *Question:* Girls sent home? *Answer:* A girl was sent or "shipped" home if they snuck out for a date. Students suspended for smoking or drinking. Students went before the student governing body.
- 00:14:45 *Question:* Rooms? *Answer:* Bare necessities. Uniforms. LF never minded the uniforms.
- 00:15:40 *Question:* How did you get uniforms? *Answer:* Students were measured in their first week. Wore white dress to "artist course." Joseph Hoffman came to Winthrop. Student paid \$5 a year to attend the "artist courses."
- 00:17:15 [no question] In chapel, students sat in assigned seats.
- 00:17:55 *Question:* Other activities? *Answer:* Movie on Saturday nights. LF spent most of her time studying. LF talks about girls getting teased for going on dates. Girls dated in the parlors.
- 00:19:40 *Question:* Snack machines? *Answer:* Canteen. Girls could go there between 10pm and 10:30pm.
- 00:20:50 *Question:* What were your classes like? *Answer:* Class size was large. LF felt like there wasn't enough contact between students and professors.
- 00:21:40 *Question:* Homework? *Answer:* LF thought homework was heavy at the time.
- 00:22:10 *Question:* Required to use library? *Answer:* Yes. LF did all of her studying in the library one year.

- 00:22:40 *Question:* Extra help from professors? *Answer:* No.
- 00:22:50 *Question:* Exams? *Answer:* Twice a year. In LF's freshman year, Winthrop sent home pink and blue slips home.
- 00:23:25 *Question:* Cheating? *Answer:* Girls would be shipped.
- 00:23:35 *Question:* Cutting? *Answer:* Students allowed to cut classes so many times a semester. LF saved her cuts for emergencies.
- 00:24:50 *Question:* Infirmary? *Answer:* Students given "soda pills." LF went to infirmary once. There were a few registered nurses and a doctor.
- 00:26:05 *Question:* Science classes? *Answer:* In Tillman Hall. "The stairs creaked and all that, and it smelled of everything."
- 00:26:50 *Question:* Favorite class? *Answer:* Biology.
- 00:27:30 *Question:* Were your professors mostly female or male? *Answer:* Professors were mostly female.
- 00:28:05 *Question:* Day students on campus? *Answer:* Yes.
- 00:28:15 *Question:* Entrance exam? *Answer:* No.
- 00:28:29 *Question:* Academic advisors? *Answer:* No.
- 00:28:40 *Question:* Black students on campus? *Answer:* No.
- 00:28:50 *Question:* Foreign students? *Answer:* Few.
- 00:29:20 *Question:* Training School? *Answer:* Practice taught in Fort Mill.
- 00:29:50 *Question:* Initiation? *Answer:* Winthrop outlawed "rat week." Recalls a sophomore trying to "rat" freshman.
- 00:31:05 *Question:* Academic societies? *Answer:* Societies for specific courses. YWCA. Involved in May Day. Roman theme for LF's senior year May Day.
- 00:32:10 *Question:* Amphitheater? *Answer:* Yes. No drama department at the time.
- 00:33:00 *Question:* Commencement? *Answer:* Had a speaker.
- 00:33:30 *Question:* Traditions? *Answer:* Daisy chain. Students went out to a field.

00:34:00 *Question:* What did you have to do in your Home Ec. major? *Answer:* "Not enough."  
LF describes first teaching after graduating.

00:35:55 *Question:* Keep an apartment? *Answer:* Had to take care of the "little house" for a semester. Describes this work.

00:37:38 *Question:* Member of Home Ec. club? *Answer:* No.

00:37:55 *Question:* Home Ec. courses? *Answer:* Foods course. Sewing.

00:39:05 *Question:* Friends or experiences that stand out? *Answer:* Close group of friends.  
Students not allowed to have a car.

00:40:37 *End of interview*