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Interview with Bessie Poag

Bessie Poag

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

**Interview OH #011
POAG, Bessie**

POAG, Bessie

Class of 1904

Interviewed: July 31, 1974

Interviewer: Louise Pettus

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 01:18:15

Abstract: In her July 31, 1974 interview with Louise Pettus, Bessie Poag details her memories as a student at Winthrop Training School and Winthrop College. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Winthrop Training School, Student Teaching, Winthrop Presidents, Great Depression, Artist Courses

Interview Session (July 31, 1974): Digital File

Time Keywords

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

00:00:20 [no question] BP describes how her family ended up in Rock Hill. Went to Winthrop Training School. BP speculates why Winthrop came to Rock Hill. BP's grandmother wanted her children to attend Winthrop.

00:05:55 *Question:* Born? *Answer:* 1885. Describes the organization of Winthrop Training School. Students didn't have to pay tuition at the time. Boys were allowed to attend WTS until the age of 12.

00:07:45 *Question:* What did you study? *Answer:* Art, music, social studies, geography, history of France and England, and students made maps.

00:10:35 *Question:* Student teachers at WTS? *Answer:* Yes. BP also taught at WTS. BP describes practice teaching.

00:12:30 *Question:* Entrance exam in WTS? *Answer:* Yes. Latin examination in high school.

00:15:50 *Question:* Dr. Johnson teach? *Answer:* No. Describes President Johnson.

- 00:17:40 *Question:* High school? *Answer:* School music.
- 00:18:55 *Question:* Tuition? *Answer:* No charge at first. BP's brothers went to downtown school - charged 60 cents a month. Class size growing.
- 00:22:10 *Question:* Admitted to Winthrop at the age of 15? *Answer:* Most girls were 16 or 17 when they went to college.
- 00:23:15 *Question:* Did most students of the training school go back to practice teach? *Answer:* BP lists off people who taught at WTS.
- 00:24:40 [no question] Describes the relationship of boys and girls at the time. BP taught at a country school for two years after Winthrop.
- 00:26:00 *Question:* What year did you graduate? *Answer:* 1904. Graduation was a three-day celebration. Daisy chain. Classes planted a tree on campus. Literary society. Bible classes. Roman Catholic girls were excused from bible classes.
- 00:31:45 [no question] Girls liked the uniforms. Describes the uniforms.
- 00:33:30 *Question:* How did you keep uniforms clean? *Answer:* There was a laundry on campus. Laundry fee included in tuition.
- 00:34:25 *Question:* When you started teaching at training school? *Answer:* 1920.
- 00:36:55 [no question] BP talks about when and why she came to the training school. President Johnson's involvement.
- 00:42:40 [no question] Lesson plans.
- 00:44:15 [no question] Problem student.
- 00:47:20 [no question] Dr. Kinard was BP's English teacher. Students had to write a one-page theme for every class. Describes how Dr. Kinard influenced BP's teaching. D.W. Daniel. Public schools.
- 00:54:15 *Question:* Summer school teachers? *Answer:* Describes. BP says students paid \$15 a year for textbooks. People flocked to Winthrop, according to BP.
- 01:00:00 [no question] Artist courses. Dr. Kinard.
- 01:02:35 *Question:* Artist who came to Winthrop who made an impression? *Answer:* Recalls Shakespeare plays. Operas and bands. WTS students could attend as well.
- 01:05:40 [no question] Great Depression. Faculty were paid half salary.

01:08:20 [no question] Public speaking contest at WTS.

01:12:20 *Question:* Did most WTS graduates go to college? *Answer:* Yes. Recalls students.

01:15:25 [no question] "Every place has ups and downs." Recalls everyone being upset with President Sims.

01:18:15 *End of interview*