

Gift and Release Agreement

We Louise Winsor and Pollie Goodman  
Interviewee (print) Interviewer (print)

do hereby give and grant Jacksonville State University, Oral History Archive, all literary and property rights, title, and interest which we may possess to the audio or video recording(s) and transcript(s) of the interview(s) conducted at

Jacksonville State University Library

on the date(s) of March 1, 1996 @ 1:30 p.m.

for the oral history collection being compiled by Dr. Marshall.

Louise Winsor  
Interviewee's Signature

Date March 1, 1996

Address P. O. Box 385

Jacksonville, AL 36265

Phone 435-9782

Pollie Goodman  
Interviewer's Signature

Date March 1, 1996

Address 2001 Duncan Avenue

Ariston, AL 36201

Phone 237-5234

INTERVIEWEE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Name: Louise H. Winsor M/F: Female

Address: P. O. Box 385; Jacksonville, AL 36265

Phone number(s): 435-9782

Approximate age or date of birth: Adult

Mothersname: Kate Weatherly, Harmon

Father'sname: Joseph Wilson Harmon

Placeslivedandwhen: Anniston, AL; Mississippi; Georgia; Texas; Vienna; Austria; Guangdong, China; Taiwan.

Education: Masters in Education/Library Media

Religion: Protestant: Baptist

Business, political and social memberships (past and present): Honorary History and Education Societies

Present occupation: Retired Teacher/Adjunct Librarian JSU

Former occupations: Teacher

Special Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

Major Accomplishments: Going to Mainland China as a teacher in a Chinese College.

National Events in which interviewee has participated: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Events in which interviewee has participated: \_\_\_\_\_

National born U.S. citizen?  Yes  No Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No

Country from which he/she emigrated: \_\_\_\_\_

Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in the possession of the interviewee: \_\_\_\_\_

Individuals recommended by the interviewee who might be candidates for an oral history interview: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

**MRS. LOUISE H. WINSOR**

**EXPERIENCES**

**IN**

**MAINLAND CHINA**

**&**

**TAIWAN**

*"We went with a mission -- to serve.... We lived like the Chinese, and it was a most gratifying experience."*



**Mrs. Winsor**

**By**

**POLLIE GOODMAN**

**DR S. MARSHALL**

**MARCH 1, 1996**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Louise Winsor

I. Life History

II. Education Experiences

III. Occupation

IV. Experiences in Mainland China

V. Librarian in Taiwan

Librarian at JSU

## **Mrs. Winsor knows China as an insider**

By Susan Johnson  
News Bureau

Mrs. Louise Winsor of Anniston, a JSU librarian, knows China as an insider after serving two years as an instructor at Guangdong College in Guangzhou, a city of five million people.

Mrs. Winsor taught English language and grammar to Chinese high school English teachers during her stay sponsored by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board from 1985 - 87.

Mrs. Winsor said she found the Chinese to be quite different from Americans, who tend to be more individualistic and competitive.

"In China their long authoritarian society and longer cultural and agricultural history have made them a more regulated society," she said.

The children are well behaved. Rarely will you hear a Chinese child cry. They run, play, and sing, but seldom are naughty in public. Teachers emphasize group effort over individual activities. The Chinese are very family oriented. I was quite touched with the closeness of the family. Family ties are very deep

*Continued Page 10.*

and very strong."

She was also impressed by the attitude of her students. She explained, "They are very intense about their academic work and are determined to excel. There is no privacy in China, and final grades are all sent back to their work unit or commune. If they do not excel, students feel ostracized by their contemporaries.

"Our most important subject was expository teaching, which is senior level intensive reading. The college supplied all of our textbooks, and the very first lesson I was given to teach was 'The Scopes Monkey Trial of Tennessee.' Sometimes two hours would be spent on one paragraph of the text covering spelling, grammar, punctuation, vocabulary words, literary devices, and idioms. Thankfully, however, things improved with time, and later on I was given other texts including Oscar Wilde's 'The Ballad of Reading Goal,' which was a delight to teach.

She said the college dormitory rooms were small, and furnishings consisted of tiny study tables and double-decker cots for eight people.

"There were no screens on the windows to keep out flies and mosquitoes, which are abundant. And, there was no heat at all in the winter-time — and it does get very cold," she said.

Apartments assigned to American educators were the best the college had to offer. Though modest by American standards, there were screens on the windows, mosquito nets over the beds, and adequate furnishings.

"We went with a mission — to serve. Tourists stay in beautiful, modern hotels with all of the amenities and conveniences anyone could want. But this is not the way we lived. We lived like the Chinese, and it was a most gratifying experience."

According to Mrs. Winsor, education is important to Chinese students because academic achievement largely determines their future occupation. She said life in China is very structured, and students are assigned jobs upon graduation which they expect to keep until retirement. Most of her students re-

*"We went with a mission -- to serve.... We lived like the Chinese, and it was a most gratifying experience."*



Mrs. Winsor

turned to their units as high school teachers of English. Her better students expected to be assigned jobs as translators in factories and for the government. A few of the very best were allowed to go on to graduate school or to study abroad.

"Teachers are paid about \$100 a month, so I never knew a single Chinese able to afford an automobile — not even the president of our college. There are lots of vehicles on the streets but no privately owned ones, only those belonging to the work units or the government," she said.

The Cultural Revolution of 1966 through 1976 was the most serious crisis in recent Chinese history. Chairman Mao Tse-tung and his wife felt that educated people, like teachers, students, doctors, writers, and actors, were not revolutionary enough. Professional people were sent to the countryside to work in rice paddies, shovel manure and do other menial tasks. Many thousands died. Most schools and all churches were closed. At the time hardly anyone outside of China knew what was going on because the nation was closed off from the rest of the world during those ten years.

Mrs. Winsor learned from her students just how severe life was during that period.

"Many of my students told me they would sneak in a book and read it at night under the covers where no one would know. But that was very difficult as they were so tired from the back-breaking toil," she said.

Chinese leaders have recently placed a high priority on helping their people acquire English. While the Winsors were in China, foreign teachers were all called "foreign

experts" and were made to feel welcome by college officials and the students.

Mrs. Winsor has shifted her work from China to the JSU library. She has spoken to several classes about teaching culturally different students.

Her mission now is to encourage American students to become more aware of the facilities at JSU, such as the library with its over 500,000 bound volumes.

"All of us at the Houston Cole Library are here to help the students, and we want all of them to take advantage of these excellent learning resources which simply do not exist for students of China," she said.

Chinese government policy has drastically changed in recent months, but those wanting to learn more about possible opportunities for teaching or travel in China can contact Mrs. Winsor for additional information.