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UA94/6/1 Memories from Western Kentucky State Teachers College

Martha Strawn Iley

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MARTHA STRAWN ILEY MEMORIES FROM WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

September 1946 - May 1947

In the fall of 1946 I left my home in Concord NC to travel by train to Atlanta to connection to Bowling Green KY. My trunk had been sent ahead and I traveled with my suitcase and portable typewriter. Seventy years ago! That was a wonderful year. My room-mate, Virginia Hundley, was delightful, and we lived in Potter Hall, 2nd floor. She and I joined the Student Class at the First Baptist Church and we found wonderful friends there. One of the young men, named Bob, became my steady date. He and I sang in the Choir. He visited me and my family at Ocean Drive Beach SC in August of 1947.

The weather was much colder than I experienced in North Carolina. It snowed every day in February. We looked forward to the steaming bowls of Chili often served at lunch during the cold days.

Dr. Weldon Hart was the Music Department Head. One day he brought in the newest thing in recordings - plastic (unbreakable) records! My favorite teachers were Mrs. Nellie Gouch Travelstead (Music Ed - what a delightful woman who had a world of practical information), Dr. Bert Smith (Ed.), and Dr. Hugh Gunderson (Band Director, I played flute, and my Research Chairman). My least favorite course was 16th Century Counterpoint.

In looking at my Yearbook, I notice that girls wore sweaters and skirts. No slacks or blue jeans! On Sundays we "dressed up" for church, including heels.

My voice teacher was Mr. Richard Shiel. I was a Messiah soloist at Christmastime.

Spring Quarter brought in teachers from the mountain areas. They filled up 3rd floor of Potter Hall. Every night after dinner they tuned up fiddles, guitars and other folk instruments and played wonderful Bluegrass music for about an hour.

Although I have out-lived many of my friends from Western, I am thankful for the memory of those friendships, for the fine teachers I had, and for the gracious, hospitable people in Bowling Green. THANKS BE TO GOD!

Martha Strawn Iley

November 4, 2016

Harrisburg NC

At age 91, I still teach a few piano students, direct choirs, and give music programs at sheltered places.