

Sister Kathleen Winters

Side 1:

[1/1] Introduction. Born in 1911, County Galway, Ireland. At 19 she decided to join a religious order. Interested in traveling and teaching.

[1/20] Joined the order of Religious in Christian Education in Tournai, Belgium. Wanted to teach Black students. Many years later when schools were integrated she had Black students in the Asheville Catholic High School. Studied at St. Genevieve and graduated from Chapel Hill.

[1/51] Taught grammar school at St. Genevieve's from 1933-1945. All classes, except college classes were in the Victoria Inn (photos enclosed). Transferred to Waltham, MA for 5 years. (Taught high school at St. Genevieve's 1965-1972).

[1/59] Was principal of St. Genevieve's Grammar School 1950-1956. Again transferred and returned in three years for another year at St. Genevieve's.

[1/64] Taught at Asheville Catholic High for 12 years and was transferred to South Carolina, then Ireland for a year. She wanted to return because of the weather.

[1/82] She taught at St. Eugene's on Merrimon Ave. for nine years, (behind the location of Ingles Store), and returned to Madonna Hall at night.

[1/99] She tutored at Carolina Day School and is writing for children. [Joseph M. Lalley, Jr.]

[1/122] Over the years she took summer courses and was certified to teach history and physics.

[1/140] In 1967 a group of local people joined to try to dispel prejudice by buying a house for a Black family in a white area. She referred to this as "open housing" and said that neighbors were contacted in an effort to make this agreeable. They accepted this but due to his drinking the man lost the house. [Alan Butterworth]

[1/188] Prejudice was a surprise to her. A nun at St. Genevieve's [Mother Delamare - taught French and drama] taught Black children in the basement [laundry] of the Victoria Inn. [Her classes with Black employees and their families in the 1920's led to the founding of St. Anthony's School on Walton St.: see St. Genevieve's Remembered, p. 22] [Mother Delamare]

[1/224] The Black and Tan (English) occupation in Ireland and the IRA was discussed.

[1/251] The Asheville Catholic High School was the first integrated school in the diocese.

[1/266] At St. Genevieve's the prejudice against Catholics was broken down by including non-Catholics and Jews. [Mother Suzanne Deplank]

[1/273] Before integration the Catholic Schools could not admit Blacks. After integration few could afford the tuition and there was not money for scholarships.

[1/302] Following Vatican II there has been a diminishment in recruitment of nuns and priests.

[1/331] Changing habit in 1968 was not difficult.

[1/365] There are two orders of nuns living in Madonna Hill. There were three at one time.

[1/385] The vow of poverty has been modified (\$60 a month allowance) but any money earned goes to the church.

[1/445] Nuns and lay teachers worked together. In the beginning only nuns taught. She knew the original group (see enclosure). [Mother Margaret McSwiney, Terrence McSwiney, Mother Suzanne Deplank]

[1/501] She reads the history of the Victoria Inn.

The Inn and 28 acres was bought for \$46,000 (tower had cost \$110,000 to build originally). St. Genevieve of the Pines was made up of a grammar school, high school and college from 1912. In 1949 Gibbons Hall (a grammar school for boys) was added. Many students were boarders and every state in the union was represented. From 1911 to 1971 St. Genevieve dominated the educational scene in Asheville.

Side 2:

[2/1] She reads the blessing she gave when school closed (enclosed).

[2/25] The Smith-McDowell house was purchased by Franciscan Fathers in 1947 and Gibbons Hall was opened there in 1949. Men teachers and priests lived in the second story. Glen Eden (a white building owned by meat packing family, now torn down) was used for classes until 1959. From 1957-1959 students from Asheville Catholic High lived in Smith-McDowell house. [John Andrew Baker, Herman A. Gudger, Miss Elizabeth Nettles, Reverend Vincent Waters]

[2/67] Internal structure of house and decoration described. [Rabbi Sidney Unger]

[2/82] She always lived on campus and moved to the Madonna Hall when it was completed. The Sisters of Mercy (see enclosed) who worked at St. Joseph's lived at the Smith-McDowell house for several years.

[2/133] The Asheville Catholic and St. Francis School for Boys had a direct connection with the Smith-McDowell house - St. Genevieve's never did.

[2/151] She describes the interior and exterior of the Smith-McDowell house. Students used to unearth parts of the former formal garden. Fresh vegetables were grown by the French gardener where the present parking lot was placed (see enclosure). [Mr. Eudore Artus]

[2/289] The Asheville Catholic High School used the Smith-McDowell house for overflow classes in history. Typing classes were always there. She supervised all teachers. [Mrs. Clark]

[2/304] Typing was taught at the Harvest House in Kenilworth to active elderly. [Mrs. Clark]

[2/321] There were 250 students in the grammar school. Math, history, geography and English were taught. [Eileen McCabe]

[2/328] She took 8th grade students on field trips (see enclosure). [Mother Margaret Potts]

[2/348] Eighty of the 600 students (maximum number) were residents.

[2/387] She discusses the value of Head Start.

[2/416] Changes in Asheville over the years discussed (see enclosure). [Mother Potts]

[2/446] The Order owned land in Skyland with a camp, pool and chapel. Vegetables were grown but during the war, because of gas rationing, it was closed.

We went for a walk around the Smith-McDowell house so she could refresh her memory.

[2/533] The smokehouse was used for storage for school (see photos). The gym on A-B Tech covered the formal garden where the children studied. The ionic columns on the porte cochere have been restored.

[1/574] A grandson of the Smith family came back to the house and told her of his experience playing on the porch as a child. (For Smith see Daniel Smith, #573, Old Buncombe Genealogy #1).