

**ABSTRACT - Dorothy Casey, faculty member at Wake Forest for thirty-nine years.
Retired in 1988 as Head of Women's Athletics Program**

**Dorothy Casey Interviewed on June 23 and June 25, 2008, at Salemtowne in
Winston-Salem by Anne R. Phillips
Audiotapes to Z. Smith Reynolds Library
Abstract by Anne R. Phillips**

Dorothy (Dot) Casey grew up on a farm near Dudley in Wayne County, North Carolina. Her grandfather owned a big sawmill, and her father grew small grains and also furnished beef to a state hospital in Goldsboro. Casey had a sister and seven brothers. One brother, Warren Casey, attended Wake Forest for his undergraduate and law degrees.

Casey said that on the farm her "parents encouraged us to play, even though we worked hard. . . . that's how I developed skills in sports." Her brothers allowed her to play at boys' games if she were skillful enough; if not, she was banished to the house to play dolls, which she didn't like to do.

Casey followed her sister to Louisburg Junior College, where Marjorie Crisp was teaching physical education. Dot said, "This country girl didn't know you could be paid to teach people to play. You just played . . . you grew up knowing that."

Crisp encouraged Casey to attend Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, now UNCG, where Casey continued her studies in physical education and graduated in 1948. She won a teaching fellowship to Chapel Hill that fall and completed her master's degree. Her major professors were Frances Hogan, Miss Ruth Whitefink, Bill Peacock, Walt Rabb, Bo Shepherd, and Dr. Cornwell, head of the department. Casey was one of two women in her program at Chapel Hill for the teaching assistantship year. The other woman was Billie Crawford, who went to James Madison and retired from the faculty there.

Marjorie Crisp had joined the Wake Forest faculty in 1947. Crisp encouraged Casey to come to Wake Forest to teach, beginning in September 1949. Casey related that she and Crisp, Mrs. Beulah Raynor, Mary Pascal, and Mary Frances McFeeters Robinson were among first women faculty on the old Wake Forest campus.

Crisp and Casey were respected by the men's coaches and physical education instructors: Jim Weaver, Harold Barrow, Coach Jim Long, Coach Phil Utley, Douglas C. "Peahead" Walker, Murray Greason, and Jesse Haddock. In Gore Gymnasium they all shared one office about 15 x 15 feet, with space for a desk and a chair. "We were all one family." At 10 a.m. daily they met at the Coke machine in Gore and would "gamble." Each person put in ten cents, a "big piece of money." The place where the bottle was made was stamped on the bottom of each bottle. The

faculty member who guessed the greatest distance from Wake Forest won the pot. Atlas at hand, coaches and physical education faculty took the sport seriously. "If you couldn't come, you missed the highlight of the day."

Dot Casey described walks from campus to Holding Drug in downtown Wake Forest and Shorty's, where co-eds were not allowed to enter--probably because of pool tables in the back. Casey described the faculty quarters in Splinter Village, spartan barracks which rented for \$ 25.00 per month.

Marjorie Crisp was hired to organize and direct the women's physical education programs. She was sensitive to "what was best for Wake Forest." Crisp also instituted a major in physical education. Part of that curriculum was a required course in Dance, as mandated by national requirements. But such a course called "Dance" clashed with Southern Baptist rules for No Dancing on campus. Crisp went to Dean D. B. Bryan, and they named the new, required course "Rhythms."

A least favorite activity for Casey on the old campus was directing the spring Magnolia Festival, but she pressed her students into service for the pageants and did well. Casey preferred teaching classes and directing intramurals.

Dr. Jim Long, chair of Physical Education, was a "very aggressive department head."

The 1956 campus move to Winston-Salem was "total disruption," Casey explained. Casey and Crisp regretted leaving the town of Wake Forest because they had set up on campus some athletic activities for women from the town. "Everybody loved the town" of Wake Forest.

At the time of the move Casey was playing in a state golf tournament at Asheville. Marjorie Crisp went to Southern California to take a course. Gradually, faculty settled in to living quarters and to offices.

Casey told about her summer work for nineteen years as head counselor of Camp Merrie-wood, an all-girls' camp west of Brevard, considered one of the top camps in North Carolina.

On the old campus, and even on the new campus after 1956, men and women had separate physical education classes. Reynolds Gymnasium on the new campus was home base for men and women physical education faculty and students. Casey directed the intramural athletic program for women; teams were organized by classes and dorms for basketball, volleyball, softball, field hockey as team sports and also individual sports: tennis, badminton, archery, and golf. Crisp and Casey "prided ourselves on the high percentage of women in intramurals"—over 75% of women on campus.

Crisp and Casey also directed the Wake Forest women's teams to play against Meredith, Duke, Carolina, Catawba, Greensboro College, UNCG, and Appalachian State. There was no budget to cover these trips; Marge and Dot used their individual cars and received no reimbursement. In the 1970s, intercollegiate athletics for women at Wake Forest was an outgrowth of Title IX. Women faculty directing women's athletics were "pioneers, of which Marge was one."

At one point Marjorie Crisp asked Gene Lucas, Dr. Scales' Vice President in charge of Finances, for money for the women's athletics program. Lucas told Crisp, "I've done studies. Interest in women's athletics does not warrant [a budget for your programs.]" Crisp calmly asked if she could approach Dr. Scales; Lucas agreed. Dr. Scales gave Crisp \$ 500.00 for the academic year, or \$ 100.00 for each of the five major women's sports. He eventually increased the budget.

Dr. Gene Hooks became Director of Athletics. Marjorie Crisp started the Women's Athletics Program and was the director for three years. Casey followed Crisp as Director of the Women's Athletics Program. Neither Crisp nor Casey demanded, for example, women's scholarships, but their diplomacy worked well. They were respected; the different programs grew. Casey described Crisp as "my mentor, teacher, and guidance person."

Programs grew; budgets grew. In 1978, the women's athletic programs were under the direction of Gene Hooks. Crisp and Casey were always aware that state colleges and universities had more money than Wake Forest and that men's sports on the Wake Forest campus brought in greater monies than women's sports. Casey said she was "not jealous, not envious"—just motivated to do good programs.

Comments on Ron Wellman, named national Athletic Director of the Year in 2007. Casey said they she, Crisp, and Gene Hooks established a firm foundation for Wellman. "We have a quality program now." Casey retired from the faculty in 1988; Hooks retired in 1995.

Some discussion here re: African American women in sports at Wake Forest, mainly in basketball. Mention of international students, specifically women tennis and golf players. Scholarships provided.

Casey, when asked about her greatest accomplishment, responded, "I feel I made a definite contribution to the Physical Education program. Returning students invariably have something good to say about their experiences in physical education. I feel I've made an impression and left an impression on a lot of people. . . I was patient and waited. . . . I feel very fortunate that Wake Forest saw fit to keep me on—to stay on the faculty. . . . I guess they saw my contributions."

Casey commented on "the many, many extra hours, nights, and week ends she gave. Her work was steady, but she was not resentful. She talked about coaches and

players at other major schools: Meredith, Duke, and Chapel Hill. I asked her about Coach Yow at North Carolina State University, whom she described as “very brave and very genuine—highly admired.”

Casey worked under Wake Forest presidents: Dr. Kitchin, Dr. Tribble, Dr. Scales, and Dr. Hearn, “who really put us on the map internationally. . . .made it all come to be.”

Her advice for us women, as faculty, as institutions: “Remember what Wake Forest did for you in your background, your training, and [what it] prepared you for—the experiences you’ve had. Just keep it up and represent Wake Forest with pride. I think most Wake Forest graduates do that.”