



Guy Payne checks out basketball to student Chuck Miner.

Guy Payne: A Part Of It All

By Tom Snyder

Guy Payne's trademark is his smile. It's a quick, bright, recognizable smile that distinguishes and sets him apart, much the same as a matador's cape or the top hat of a magician. Easily aroused, it serves as evidence that Guy Payne, general manager of Boshamer Gymnasium and staple of Brevard College, is quite content with life.

Born and raised on a farm in Henderson County, Guy graduated from 9th Avenue School in the spring of 1957, and entered the Air Force as a heavy equipment operator that fall. Upon the completion of his military service some 3½ years later, he returned to Henderson County where he found a job operating heavy equipment for a private company. Buy Guy's roots beckoned him, and in January of 1961 he began working for the Skybrook Farm in Etowah; Skybrook proved the springboard which catapulted him to his present position: "I was working at Skybrook and Quentin Cantrell, (the Athletic Director at Brevard College at that time) came by the farm and told me he had a job for me at the school. You see, Mr. Cantrell was a former foreman of the farm. I came to Brevard in August of 1961, and I've been here ever since."

Upon his arrival, Guy immediately showed he hadn't come here to go unnoticed. "I ran track when I first came here; I ran the two-mile. And I used to scrimmage with the varsity basketball team — that was the team of '64, that went to the Nationals.

"There have been so many changes since I've been here. The first year I was here we were still in the old gym. It was located beside the Science building, with its entrance where the little pools are now, and it ran back toward French Broad Street. It only had 3 dressing rooms — men and women's P.E., and a varsity basketball dressing room.

"The new gym was built in 1962. I can remember (Coach) Chick Margin and Mr. Cary Boshamer sitting out under the tree in front of Dunham and talking. They met there on Trustee's day and decided to build it. Mr. Boshamer's nephew, Wilson, is Chairman of the Athletic Committee now. He's a great man and person and very respected.

"The new gym received an addition in 1969 with the installment of the auxiliary gym, classrooms and offices. And the sport's program benefitted from the move. We picked up soccer, women's basketball and women's volleyball with the move in '62, whereas we'd only had tennis, track, baseball, and men's basketball before.

"I feel like a part of it all. I've grown up with the gym, and I feel like we're old friends."

Guy acts as the general manager for Boshamer gymnasium, and his skills and duties require versatility. Besides serving as a sort of "all encompassing co-ordinator" for Boshamer, he also manages and maintains the pool and is an experienced trainer, having worked at that position for twelve years under Coach Chick Martin, and two summers under Fred Hoover, the head trainer for Clemson University. Never one to take his work lightly, Guy even lived in the training room for two years:

"I had me a bed, a television, a lounge chair and a hot-plate. I was doin' alright."

"I've known personally every Brevard All-American who has been here since I've arrived - twenty-nine of them. And I can remember when the freshmen weren't allowed to have cars and I drove one of the two buses we had to take to athletic events. We had some good times on those bus trips. That's what I enjoy most about my job — the students. The students today are more co-operative and easy to get along with than they used to be."

Guy's love for people is rivaled only by his love for his favorite pastime — trading. "I'll trade anything. I got started one winter sitting around a service station with a bunch of traders and I've been hooked ever since. You make some good trades and you make some bad trades — but it seems like it's on the unusual trades that I always get burned. Once I traded a battery, a car, and a piece of wire for a lawnmower. I used to grade guns all the time before the prices went up so bad, and I've traded for every car I've owned since 1970."

Perhaps the most interesting item which arose in interviewing Guy was his reaction to the seemingly innocent enough question, "When were you married?"

"Let's see," he said, grinning. "I wrecked my car in 1964 ... hold on for a minute."

He then proceeded to call his wife, who didn't know exactly either, and a business friend, who unfortunately was away at the time. Guy believes it to be around 1965 — I never did find out for sure. He is positive though, that he has two sons and a daughter.

I asked him somewhat hesitantly then, about his plans for the future. "Well, I've bought 6 acres of land and have a small farm (his present residence). I have pigs, chickens, a horse and a goat, and I'm comfortable there for now."

I asked him what had happened to the little T.V. set I sometimes saw him with.

"It broke ... buy hey, you're gonna get me in trouble. They're gonna think I'm sittin' down here doing nothing," and then he chuckled.

For Guy Payne, nothing could be farther from the truth. The likeable man who's been a pillar of friendship and service to Brevard students and staff for almost two decades is never idle for long — and perhaps that's just what keeps him smiling.

Coming Events at B.C.

- WED., OCT. 4
10 a.m., Urgent Day Students Meeting, SU Conference Room
9 p.m., Student Association, MG 118
- MON., OCT. 9
5:30 p.m., Phi Theta Kappa, Rutherford Room
- TUES., OCT. 10
6-8 p.m., Art Series - Secret Sharer, Library Seminar Room
- WED., OCT. 11
9 p.m., Student Association, MG 118
- FRI., OCT. 13
8 a.m., Trustee's Meeting
- SAT., OCT. 14
2 p.m., Soccer Game With Abraham Baldwin College, here
8:30 p.m., Homecoming Dance, Cafeteria
- MON., OCT. 16
5:30 p.m., Phi Theta Kappa, Rutherford Room
7-8 p.m., Spanish Club, Library Seminar Room
- TUES., OCT. 17
6-8 p.m., Art Series: Bernie Casey, John Autorbridge-Black Artists
8:15 p.m., Life And Culture Series Presents Franklin Conley On Andrew Jackson, Dunham Aud.
- WED., OCT. 18
2:30 p.m., Fall Break Begins

Claire Cope: Needle and Thread Magic

By Jon Young

In a small room cozily situated almost directly beneath the big stage in Dunham Auditorium lives a lady who works eighty-five hours a week during the theater season at Brevard College. And in a sense this really is her home, if you realize that she arrives at BC by 8:15 every morning and doesn't retire until almost half past midnight, only to start again early the next day.

"I take home a bag of homework every night," laughs Mrs. Claire Cope, referring to the materials she designs and sews herself in the creation of almost 100-odd costumes this year for the musical production, "Finian's Rainbow."

As the wife of Sam Cope, Professor of Music and Theater Arts at Brevard, Mrs. Cope has been making costumes for plays since before her marriage. She began by making her own clothes at age 14 in Hampton, Virginia, and then transferring her skill at the sewing machine to the theater program at Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C. There she met her husband as a member of the Blue Masque Club, when he portrayed Teddy Roosevelt in the black comedy, "Arsenic and Old Lace."

The rest is "Copian" history. Brevard College has enjoyed the wondrous ballroom gowns and the early-century attire of Mrs. Cope since about 1969 in such productions as "The King and I," "The Miracle Worker," and "L'il Abner."

One problem that often arises is that there are no patterns or imitable designs automatically provided for use in the creation of pre-20th century apparel. So Mrs. Cope skims through many books and magazines searching for the appropriate-style dress.

Mrs. Cope, of course, has a favorite kind of costume that she prefers overall to compose. "I love the antebellum-style hoopskirts like in "The King and I," she confesses. Mrs. Cope had a difficulty in that musical, however, with a below-the-shoulder gown the character of Anna was to wear. "Everytime she (the actress) moved, the dress would tend to creep down her shoulders and it could have been very embarrassing for her."

One of the more difficult pieces to make was that of the lion in last semester's "Androcles and the Lion." Brushed nylon (bathrobe material) was used in the creation of this masterpiece. It had to be seen to be believed, as Mike Capps growled his way through the play.

Costumes are bound to get dirty from constant use in two or three performances, so how does this collection of almost 1200 uniforms, gowns, tuxedos and the like get cleaned? As a sampler, the 200 costumes used in "Showboat" cost \$600 to be purified by a drycleaner who offers the Copes a discount price of half off.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Cope will not be designing costumes at Brevard College forever. The creation of over a hundred costumes in two months is a very hectic and demanding job. She says that a musical probably will not be done every year and that will be the time for her to retire as the theater program expands and more people are added to the department. She will miss knowing the students on a first name basis as she has done each school year.

But one thing is for certain. No one who has been connected with theater at Brevard College can ever forget the electric thrill communicated by Mrs. Cope when she sits down at her sewing machine in preparation for another glorious theater season.


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