



crossroads

CROSSROADS

Belmont Abbey College

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Not unlike the famous statue of IwoJima, the Boy Scouts claim their land.

Abbey Host To 750 Boy Scouts

By H. Allen Morris

"I will do my best to do my duty to God and my Country ..." so goes the oath of the Boy Scouts, and that oath resounded over the campus of Belmont Abbey College as 750 scouts from Gaston county participated in the 1972 District Camporee April 28, 29, and 30, 1972.

The campsite laid out in Jamboree style became a lake of green tents punctuated by electric colors. Rising above the canvas "homes" were flags bearing troop insignia and colorful ribbons of cloth attesting to their proficiency in various fields.

Red clay clouds drifted from the access road Friday afternoon as the troops checked in and prepared their individual campsite. That evening the aroma of wood fires mingled with the appetizing smell of stew, burgers and steaks cooked over hot coals.

Six-thirty Saturday morning, first call was sounded, followed by reveille at 6:45 and the flag raising ceremonies. After a hearty breakfast the Merit Badge events began. These included Signaling - Semaphore or Horse Wigwag; Water Boiling by flint and steel; Lashings - Tripod, X and T; Compass - a measured distance on a given compass direction; Obstacle Course; First Aid Relay; Map Reading; Knot Tying Relay; Flag Pole Raising and Bob Saw Relay.

Belmont Abbey students manned each event and served as judges. Of these events probably the most frustrating was the Water Boiling by Flint and Steel. You could hear the sharp clink, clink of hard steel

against rock as the scouts huddled around in expectation of the spark that would fill them with the feeling of accomplishment. Three minutes were allowed to build the fire and to boil water. One troop achieved this monumental task in 1 minute, 24 seconds. (If you are not impressed, try it)

That evening under a sky filled with heavy clouds the troops gathered around the big campfire for the Order of the Arrow Tap Out ceremony. Down through the dark woods the path wound, lighted softly by candles concealed in paper bags. Reaching the clearing one could imagine a pow-wow or ancient Indian ceremony was about to start. And it did. Short Indians, tall Indians, thin Indians and portly Indians filed around the huge stacked fires as shadows danced on the faces of those watching in this hidden place. The distant thud, thud of a tom-tom drifted through the forest as stars pin-pricked the dark sky towering above the new leafed trees.

The Order of the Arrow rites were conducted with dignity, initiating more "Indians" into the order, another exciting phase in the life of the Boy Scout. The crowd snaked quietly back along the narrow trail to the campsite. Visiting parents and friends said good-bye and the troops gathered around their individual campfires to discuss the success of the Camporee, offer advice, sing songs and pray.

It was my honor to join Troop No. 56 from Belmont who won the award for the best campsite.

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Survey Shows Freshman Vacancies At Private Colleges

A survey by the American Council on Education's Higher Education Panel shows that entering freshman classes at private colleges and universities reached only about 82 percent capacity last fall. Under-enrollment was greatest in the two-year and nonselective private colleges, and lowest in the private universities and selective private colleges.

The survey was based on information from 409 institutions, or 86.5 percent of the 473 colleges and universities included in the panel of more than 500 institutions.

The report states that although first-time, full-time freshman enrollments increased by an estimated 12 percent between 1970 and 1971, nearly 85 percent of this total increase was accounted for by public two-year colleges. Increases at other types of institutions were well below ten percent, and public four-year colleges showed a slight decrease.

In reporting on black and other minority enrollments, the study states that the absolute number grew between 1970 and 1971, but that proportions of blacks and other minorities among all first-time freshmen declined slightly during the same interval. "This proportionate decline was accounted for entirely by the public two-year colleges," the report states. "All other types of institutions show increases in the proportions of both black and other minority freshmen."

The Higher Education Panel was established by the Council last year as a means of obtaining information rapidly on matters of interest in the higher education community. Initial funding is provided by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Office of Education (See Vol. XX, No. 32) Single copies of the survey of freshman class vacancies are available without charge from Higher Education Panel, American Council on Education, One Dupont Circle, Washington, D.C. 20036.

(Higher Education and National Affairs, Vol. 21, No. 14, April 7, 1972.)

Focus



MR. DON SHULL,

DIRECTOR GUIDANCE

On the college scene there is one person who really gets to know the current student population -- that person is the guidance counsellor. In Mr. Don Shull, Director of Guidance, Belmont Abbey College has a very personable and professional man to feel the pulse of the campus.

Don approaches counselling in a low-keyed manner which enables him to establish a solid rapport with students. His success is perhaps due as much to his quiet charm as it is to his training in guidance. In the tension filled atmosphere of today's society, which spills over onto the campus, the students find his relaxed informality a refreshing change.

He commutes to the Abbey from his home in Shelby, N.C. where he was born and grew up. He married his childhood sweetheart, Barbara Moore. They now have two children, Libby and Susan, ages twelve and ten. Barbara teaches the sixth grade at Cleveland elementary school in Shelby.

Don attended Gardner-Webb College and then went on to Wake Forest to earn the bachelor's degree in biology. His graduate study was done in several universities: Duke, Appalachian State, and the University of Florida, where he received a Master of Education in earth science. His work in the field of guidance was at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Along the way to his present position, Don tried his hand in the business world as an automobile underwriter for Allstate Insurance and as a chemical analyst for Celanese Corporation. However, his

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