



CROSSROADS

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Belmont Abbey College

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In response to some inquiries about the meaning of Crossroad's logo, it symbolizes the four fundamental areas in the universal education of man-intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual-with the basic Christian symbol (the cross) at the center. The very word "crossroads" has a special significance to an Abbey alumnus, the Belmont crossroads being a sort of weekend point-of-departure to thousands of former Abbey students. At graduation they left the Abbey and the crossroads to go each in his own direction and into various walks of life. If you look closely at this design you will see four arrows, each of them pointing to and from a central point. This two-way concept is vital to truly effective alumni activity. Private institutions of higher learning are approaching a **crossroads**--survival or oblivion! We at Belmont Abbey intend not only to survive but to progress. You, our friends and alumni, can help. We'll meet you at the . . . **crossroads**.

## Foster E. Goodrich, Stanley Home Products Chairman, Dies

*BAC Preparatory School Alumnus*



FOSTER E. GOODRICH

Belmont Abbey College counts itself among those who have suffered a grievous loss in the death on December 12 of Mr. Foster E. Goodrich of Westfield, Massachusetts. Mr. Goodrich, an alumnus of Belmont Abbey Preparatory School, was

Chairman of the Board of Stanley Home Products, Incorporated, a company which operates in a dozen countries and has a number of American subsidiaries engaged in manufacturing and marketing. He was Director of the Third National Bank of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Frank Stanley Beveridge Foundation, Inc., Stanley Park of Westfield, Inc., and the Westfield YMCA. A former member of the alumni boards of both Belmont Abbey College and Colgate University, he belonged to the Methodist Church, the Newcomen Society in North America, the New York Sales Executive Club, the Explorers' Club of New York City, and the Wisdom Society. He served as honorary chairman of the Noble Hospital building fund drive in Westfield, and in 1972 received the Outstanding Citizen Award of Greater Springfield.

Mr. Goodrich was a man of extraordinary creative powers -

professional, civic, and social. He was an innovative business leader of national stature, a force in civic affairs who effected real human improvement in the conditions around him, and an enthusiastic sportsman - a man who took the gift of life at its full value. He gave his ample talents to making the very best of life for himself and for everyone whom his influence could reach.

Among his commitments that marked him as one of those responsible men upon whom others depended, was his sustained devotion to this institution. He was long been a benefactor of Belmont Abbey College, and he is remembered with gratitude for his loyalty, as well as with pride in his achievement.

He is survived by his six children and five grandchildren and by his brother, Malcolm Goodrich, of London, Ontario, Canada.

## Belmont Abbey Historical Notes

by

*Jerome Oetgen, O.S.B.*

In four years Belmont Abbey will celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of its founding. Recently several noteworthy attempts have been made to outline the history of the Abbey (including Father Sebastian Doris's manuscript in the College Library and Brian Tisdall's and Tom McGrath's short article, "Abbey Tradition: From Whence Our College Came," in the first issue of *Agora* published in 1961). But a great deal of primary material remains to be studied and the definitive history of Belmont Abbey is yet to be written.

Some of the most important source material for a history of Belmont is to be found in the archives of St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. In August of 1875 Bishop James Gibbons of Richmond wrote Abbot Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B., of St. Vincent, offering 500 acres of land in Gaston County, North Carolina, to the Benedictines in Pennsylvania. During a visit to the missions in North Carolina, the Bishop said he had received from the Rev. Jeremiah J. O'Connell "the offer of his fine farm as a gift to a religious community who would cultivate it and who with God's blessing would make it a religious center around which Catholicity would grow." "This place," Bishop



This elysian scene shows BAC when the monks also farmed part of the property.

Gibbons continued, "would answer well for a college as we have no (Catholic) college between Washington and Mobile, except in Georgia." (Archives of St. Vincent Archabbey, Gibbons to Wimmer, Richmond, 1 August 1875).

Abbot Boniface Wimmer accepted the offer of the Bishop of Richmond, and in the spring of 1876 he sent Father Herman

Wolf, O.S.B., to Father O'Connell's estate in Gaston County. In the months that followed Abbot Boniface sent several priests and brothers from Pennsylvania to North Carolina, and their reports - amounting to several hundred letters written to the Abbot of St. Vincent between 1876 and 1887 - form the major portion of the source material on the history of Belmont Abbey to be found in the

archives of St. Vincent.

One of the most interesting of these letters was written by Brother Philip Cassidy, O.S.B., in the fall of 1876, six months after Father Herman had settled on the O'Connell estate. Brother Philip was a native of Bannacoola, Ireland, and had been sent to North Carolina by Abbot Boniface to teach English in the proposed Benedictine College near Garibaldi, N.C. (The town of Garibaldi's name was changed to Belmont in the nineteenth century. The monastery founded by Father Herman on the O'Connell estate was originally called *Marlstein* which Brother Philip anglicizes and calls "St. Mary's of the Stone." The name of the monastery was later changed to "Mary Help of Christians" which is still the official name of Belmont Abbey.)

Brother Philip's letter was written immediately after he arrived at the monastery. He had left St. Vincent during the third week of October 1876, and before going to North Carolina had stopped at the Benedictine Priory in Richmond, Virginia.

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