

# Focus



Mr. J.P. Smith

A visitor to the college recently passed classroom 115 of the Administration building and heard the valuable advice: "Keep your debits and credits straight!" This message came from one of our native 'Tar Heels' on the faculty of Belmont Abbey College, Mr. J.P. (John Parks) Smith. "Smitty" was born in Mecklenburg county and attended Paw Creek high school. He entered Belmont Abbey Junior College in 1932 in the difficult years of the depression. He was forced to drop out for a year to work in order to save

tuition money. After finishing his two-year program at the Abbey, he transferred to Davidson College to complete his undergraduate work and in 1940 was awarded the bachelor's degree in geography.

The military draft plucked him together with his brand new diploma in the very first call up from Mecklenburg in the fall of 1940. He was inducted into the Army at Ft. Jackson, S.C. as a buck private at \$21.00 a month. With basic training behind him, he then began Officer Training School in Carlisle, Pa. As a newly commissioned lieutenant he was assigned to a medical unit at a base near Little Rock, Arkansas to train new troops. This tour of duty was to last for two years. It was at this time that his sister introduced him to her friend and fellow student at Sacred Heart College in Belmont, Amy Holland. They saw each other whenever he could get leave and were married in July of 1943.

Returning to Arkansas from his honeymoon, he found orders awaiting him for duty in the European theatre. When the Allies invaded Germany he served as Operations Officer with the 67th Medical Group. He was in charge of moving hospitals, the evaluation of wounded, and finally the operation of hospitals for German prisoners of war. During the long and dreary evenings in the officers' quarters, he decided to use his off-duty time constructively by taking

correspondence courses. Eventually he completed the entire program in accounting. Over these years he was promoted to the rank of major which he held at the war's end in 1945.

Upon resumption of civilian life he decided to continue graduate study in the field of accounting, to which he had taken a great liking. He enrolled at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His competence in the field won him an instructional job during his two years at the university--this, in addition to the G.I. benefits, gave an important boost to the family's finances.

In 1948 J.P. returned to his Piedmont home to accept a position with Eck & Eck Certified Public Accountants. During the ensuing two years he instructed in the department of accounting on a part-time basis at Belmont Abbey. Amy now presented him with a daughter, Caroline is, of course, the pride and joy of her parents. She is grown up, has her A.B. from Winthrop College and her Master's in elementary education. She married Larry Hartsell, an Abbey graduate, who now has a law degree from Emory University.

In 1953 the Cary Boshamer Enterprises offered him the position of Comptroller, which he accepted. A year or so later, at the insistence of Fr. Cuthbert Allen, the president of the College, he again agreed to teach part-time at his alma mater. His

talents and dedication to his work were not lost on the Administration of the college -- in 1959 the Abbey persuaded him to accept a full-time appointment as instructor and also comptroller. He has proven to be one of the 'blue chip' acquisitions of the school.

J.P. is active in the Methodist Church in Mt. Holly. He headed the building fund drive which successfully raised \$225,000. He is chairman of the church's Board of Stewards and serves on the building council, which is planning the new church construction. He has taught Sunday School for twenty years. Amy is also an educator -- she teaches in the new open space public elementary school in Mt. Holly. Her charming personality and feminine intuition make her a splendid complement to their team. According to "Smittys" Amy does the talking for the family while he does the meditating!

J.P. enjoys sports and is quite knowledgeable about baseball. During the summers he makes regular pilgrimages to Atlanta to watch the Braves play. His secret ambition is to restore baseball as a varsity sport to the Abbey and to be coach of the team. He also likes to build things. Somehow he found the time to design, contract, and actually construct his own home in Mt. Holly.

Since becoming the chairman of the department of accounting, he has developed this con-

(See FOCUS, Page 9)

## Eleven Named To Who's Who



Seated from left to right is: John Briody, Willard McGinn and John Keaton. Not pictured is Lee Doscher, Chris Ritzert, Harry Creemers, and Henri Fazzl, H. Allen Morris and Virgil Steele. Tetreault. Standing is: Brian Murphy, Andy

Eleven students were elected to this year's edition of **Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges**. The eleven were elected by a select Faculty-Student Committee, and the announcement of the Abbey

election was made public by Mr. Warren L. Clark, Dean of Students.

### Award Based On Excellence

Election to **Who's Who** is always based on excellence and sincerity in scholarship, plus the

student's leadership, participation and support in the campus community, extracurricular and other activities, and his service to the college, all of which tend to reflect his future promise as a leader in American society and

business.

To be selected for this honor by the college and to be elected by the National Committee is one of the highest honors to be earned in American colleges.

The eleven seniors elected, who are candidates for the Bachelor's degree at the Abbey, are John P. Briody of Fairhaven, New Jersey, an accounting major; Harry P. Creemers of Lynchburg, Virginia, an English major; Willard J. Doscher of New York, New York, a political science major, E. Lee Fazzi of Charlotte, North Carolina, an English major, John C. Keaton of Lynchburg, Virginia, an economics major; Andrew G. McGinn of Parlin, New Jersey, an accounting major; Brian T. Murphy, of Wantagh, New York, a history major, H. Allen Morris of Charleston, South Carolina, an English major; Christopher D. Ritzert of Fairfax, Virginia, a political science major; Virgil S. Steele of Spartanburg, South Carolina, a biology major, and Henri L. Tetreault of Richmond, Virginia, a political science major.

### (MINISTRY, From Page 3)

scheduling athletic events between students and prisoners.

In addition Fr. Oscar has enlisted the help of campus social and service groups to work with special projects.

Fr. Oscar noted that with flexible goals and leadership the Campus Ministry hopes to achieve a happy impact on the total Abbey-Sacred Heart Community.