

Abbey History To Be Published

(Continued From Pg. 1.)

within -- rather frigid as to the temperature -- was heated by stoves. Nevertheless the health of the students was good.

"The next year, 1881-1882, Father Stephen Lyons was succeeded by Father Alban.

"Father Placidus Pilz, stout and bearded, was Prior of the community during 1881-1882, and was busy during the entire year before, building the first section of the new Abbey, which in those

days was our College Building.

"Things were physically poor at Belmont, but the teaching and care were all that could be desired, and the food appetizing, plentiful and good. We had little musicals, dialogues and small entertainments in the refectory, both in the original wooden college and in the first brick section of the New Abbey.

"The commencement exercises were held in the wooden dormitory

building on the outside, which was torn down later. The customs were largely the same as they were later about everything. There has been a strict continuity of Benedictine thought and life. The German language was largely used in those days and I took great delight in learning to speak and write it.

"One of the institutions at the college in those days was Dr. Jeremiah J. O'Connell, who lived in a little house in the front yard of the college. He

was then about sixty-five years of age, very corpulent and afflicted with a trembling palsy in his head, the result, I believe of his sufferings in South Carolina on account of the evils of the Civil War. He preached in the Church about once a month, and was extra confessor of the college. Many of the boys went to him regularly, I went quite often. He spent his time praying, writing and walking out. He was a man of learning, and was very eloquent and very kind and indulgent to all. He was highly esteemed by the Community.

"In those days Catholic parents were as a class rather poor and struggling, students were fewer and in humbler circumstances - but the impression has always remained with me that a good school can exist without fine buildings and show. Times have changed, but it is doubtful if students study as hard now as they did then, when parents had to make so many sacrifices to send their children off. We understand well what humility and poverty meant in those days. The brothers, and even some of the fathers, wore underneath their habits trousers made from the commonest cotton cloth of the country, and patched clothes were often seen. The brothers were gnarled, knotty, and brown from the labor with the earth, but they

were men of God, most faithful and edifying in the discharge of all their duties. I treasure the memory of St. Mary's College in the days of its poverty, and am glad that I witnessed such purity and zeal and labors and holiness and order and learning amid so many obstacles. I would prefer to go back and begin again as I did, rather than be placed in the midst of luxury and convenience. Poverty and humility, united with holiness, order and learning are the producers of the finest and the most valiant characters. The old orders produced great and noble men - gigantes in diebus illis.

"We have sadly departed from the idealism and spiritual force of former times, and are attempting to slake our thirst for advancement in materialism, professional athletics and outward show. My memory of early Belmont is rich in recalling the spiritual values of life there. I am glad that my footsteps were directed thither. I can understand all beginnings and foundations on account of experience there and read with sympathetic insight the news of our holy foundations in their beginnings. Nearness to God was the note that I felt in my early days at Belmont."

A.P.O. Celebrates Tenth Anniversary Of Founding

"Here's to Alpha Phi Omega Loyal Brothers we True to self and to each other Firm in loyalty."

A. P. O. Toast Song.

A big toast is in order for the Rho Mu chapter of Alpha Phi Omega as preparations continue for the celebration of the 10th anniversary of their founding at Belmont Abbey and ten years of loyal, dedicated service to the College and community.

The chapter was founded February 15, 1967, by Don Turner. The well-deserved celebration will be held the weekend preceding the date, on February 11, 12, and 13th.

Plans including present brothers and alumni brothers have been announced. Friday night, there will be a "Welcome Back Party" in the A.P.O. lodge located in the Old Science Building. On Saturday, after an afternoon of recreation, there will be a Mass, dinner and dance in the Haid. A special guest speaker is being arranged. The weekend will be capped off with Sunday Brunch.

A.P.O. has worked for this past decade to serve the campus and the local communities. Among their recent projects have been painting a widow's house in Belmont; raising money for the Cerebral Palsy Center in Charlotte in order to buy a tape recorder for speech therapy; building a park, picnic area, bar-be-cue

pit & nature trails on campus in the wooded area between Raphael Arthur Hall and the Old Science Building. The chapter also sponsors a bloodmobile twice a year.

This fall they raised a record 163 pints for Gaston County Red Cross. An annual Halloween party is given for the children at Holy Angels Nursery. In addition, many brothers serve the community in scouting troops, the Big Brothers Program, and volunteer tutoring at a local junior high school. On campus, the brothers are active in many

campus activities, including student government, publications, and athletics.

The chapter is currently 17 brothers strong with alumni rolls numbering 103. Advisors are Fr. Jerome Dollard, O.S.B., an original charter brother, and Dr. Bill Kirk.

All alumni brothers are invited. The cost of the weekend is only \$20.00, not including hotel accommodations. For further information contact Tony DeCristofaro, Box 241, Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, N. C., 28012.

A.P.O. Alumni Brothers!

Alpha Phi Omega, Rho Mu chapter will celebrate its tenth anniversary in February 1977. Preparations are underway for a banquet. All alumni brothers are requested to send their current address:

Alpha Phi Omega, PM Chapter
Care of P.O. Box 135
Belmont Abbey College
Belmont, North Carolina 28012

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Send resume with salary requirements to: P.O. Drawer 1752, Wilmington, Delaware, 19899, to the attention of PRESIDENT.

Faculty And Staff Participate In A Poetry Reading

Mrs. Jane Freeman, who has made the campus library come alive this year with exciting projects and displays, invited the faculty and staff to participate in a Poetry Reading one recent Friday evening. With help from her staff, she prepared a program of poetry, prose, and plays to be read informally to the gathering. After a social hour around the punch bowl and a table of delicious party food prepared by Brother Wayne, the program began with the reading of

a short, and very funny, play by Ionesco. There followed selections chosen from literature, some serious and some humorous, and the entertainment concluded with a fine rendition of a portion of "American Hurrah" by John Claude von Itallie, almost unrehearsed.

The participants comprised nearly half the audience, and it is agreed that Mrs. Freeman has started something everyone hopes will become a habit at the Abbey.