

# BABBS HOST MECK ALUMS

The home of Jim ('59) and Mary Lou Babb was the site for the beginning of a memorable evening for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg alumni. A buffet dinner was served for the alumni and their spouses. Over seventy Abbey supporters enjoyed a delicious meal and a few cocktails.

The group then boarded the double-decker "WBT Fun Bus" which transported them to the Wheeler Center for the Abbey basketball game against Atlantic Christian College. During half time a reception was held in the hospitality room. Several administrators and faculty met with the alumni, many of whom had not visited the Abbey in some time. Several Gaston County alumni also entered the reception to remind their Charlotte-Mecklenburg rivals about the basketball game between the two groups (see separate story).

During the second half of the basketball game, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg alumni group demonstrated their choral talent. Led by Rick Guicheteau and Ted Hawley, several "old" Abbey cheers puzzled the young BAC cheerleaders. When Larry Hartsell and Frank Zinke began their rendition of the cheers of yesterday, the BAC cheerleaders decided to join with the group.

Following the game won by BAC (see sports), the group boarded the "WBT Fun Bus" for the trip back to Charlotte.

Many thanks to Jim Babb and his family for their hospitality. A "tip of the hat" to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg alumni officers, Tom Amann, Rich Vitola, Rick Guicheteau, Tibbs Harris, and Bob Healy for a well planned event, and a thank you to the alumni and friends who made the evening one to remember.



Several of the Alumni enjoy the delicious buffet served by Babbs.

## DR. GILBERT J. FARLEY

### "Thirty Years of Teaching"

Dr. Gilbert J. Farley, an alumnus of the class of 1940 and a professor of business administration at Belmont Abbey College, was the speaker at the Jan. 24 meeting of the Belmont Rotary Club. His subject most fittingly, was "Thirty Years of Teaching." Dr. Farley will retire from the Abbey in May of this year, indeed after thirty years of teaching.

Following are selected excerpts from his talk.

"My teaching career began in 1948 at Sts. Peter and Paul High School in Miami, Florida. In 1952, I came to the Abbey to establish the department of Business Administration as the College entered a four-year degree granting program. In 1956, a leave of absence was granted to begin work on my doctorate at the University of Miami in a joint program with Indiana University. I taught at the University of Miami with



Dr. Gilbert J. Farley ('40)

the exception of my year of residence at Indiana University, where I was granted the Ed. D. in 1961. Continuing to teach at Miami, I remained there until 1966 when I returned to the Abbey, my original Alma Mater.

"Decade by decade I have seen a marked change in the kinds of students in our colleges. During the decade of the 50's they were generally veterans with a serious perception of their education—not always the brightest students, but the most industrious and most successful in the business world later. Then came the 60's with the draft evaders, not too serious and a group of somewhat mediocre workers—more difficult to work with than their predecessors. Finally we have the decade of the 70's, a freedom-seeking, love-seeking group, most of whom are not serious at all in their pursuit of an education—just a degree. However, I am eternally thankful for the roughly 20 percent who were serious and made my vocation such a joy.

"In my last five years at the University of Miami, I developed and directed a

program for junior college teachers. How did I guide them and teach them to be good teachers? First, and foremost, you must be fair - avoid prejudice, which is most difficult at times. Then and equally important, you must have a real love for your students, love to spread knowledge and love your discipline. This, of course, presupposes that you have a real love of God and yourself!

"How then can we describe the role of the teacher? Primarily, we can help the students develop intellectually, personally, and morally. All this can best be done by example.

"The greatest problem in teaching today? In my experience and judgment, it is the lack of discipline in all areas of campus life. This, I believe often begins in the home and the elementary and secondary

schools. And it is seen not only on the campus, but on the highways and in personal relationships off campus. What can the teacher do? Always with the admonition to exercise justice tempered with charity, to discipline yourself and your students in your classroom relationships.

"How do we teach for the future? By teaching the use of intelligence, developing a breadth of knowledge—an awareness of being renaissance people, using leisure time properly, and getting along with people. The simplest answer is to develop real love in your students."

Many alumni have sat in Dr. Farley's classes in his seventeen years of teaching at this College, and they are quick to agree that he does, indeed, "develop real love in (his) students." The Abbey is losing a gem.

## Escaping Materialism's Blinkers

A dozen or so years ago, while the monks of Belmont Abbey were having the interior of their church renovated, someone suggested that the large rock that had lain half buried in the grounds there for years should be dug up and fashioned into a Baptismal font.

This was done and the rock now stands in the church and makes a very handsome Baptismal font. Affixed to the font is a plaque that reads: "Upon this rock men once were sold into slavery. Now upon this rock, through the waters of Baptism, men become free children of God." The wording of this plaque refers to the fascinating fact that over a hundred years ago, prior to the monks' coming here, their land had been the Caldwell Plantation, and the large rock had once been a slave block.

The inscription on the Baptismal font reminds us that Christianity properly understood has much to do with freedom; freedom from the slavery of sin, freedom from prejudice and intolerance, freedom too from that narrowness of mind so common today which restricts reality to only those things we can reach with our senses. Christianity frees the mind from this narrow view and, to use Shakespeare's words, reminds the moderns that "there are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamed of in your philosophy."

Shakespeare's admonition is difficult for us in the modern age to



Fr. John P. Bradley, author of "Escaping Materialism's Blinkers," is currently writing a series of articles for The Charlotte News, of which this one is a part.

take. Proud of all our marvelous scientific and technological achievements we have tended to think that we know it all, that if we do not know it or cannot reach it with our scientific or technological tools then it does not exist. This materialism, our modern philosophy, has, however, been receiving some powerful jolts recently.

We are beginning to see that the great achievements of science and technology, while often beneficial, can also exact a fearful price. We are discovering also that the sheer material betterment of a society does not make people happy and contented. A recent study by a West German scholar, Professor Elizabeth Noelle-Neumann, for instance, shows that although material living conditions had improved enormously in West Germany between 1962 - 1972, people were less satisfied in 1972 than they were in 1962.

Perhaps some day we will learn, as the Southern novelist Flannery O'Connor put it, that "life is not a problem to be solved but a mystery to be endured." We must and should, of course, always strive to improve mankind's material living condition. But we must always remember that we human beings are more than a sophisticated bottle of chemicals. We have a spiritual dimension that we moderns too often overlook.