

Student's Desire to Conquest Leads to Sky Diving Hobby

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If you are planning to attend college, you had better do a lot of thinking about the roommate you choose.

You could end up like Tom Treesh, 22 of Norfolk, Virginia.

Treesh is a freshman student at Chowan College and rooms with Jim Wells, 23, of Gaston. Wells is a veteran sky diver.

Prior to meeting Wells, Treesh was an adventure seeker but had never explored the thrills of jumping from a flying airplane.

After a little urging and a "final push" from Wells, Treesh made his first jump two weeks ago at Roanoke Rapids.

He made his second leap into the airways Saturday during Chowan College homecoming festivities.

Both Wells and Treesh are what you might call thrill seekers.

Prior to meeting and becoming roommates at Chowan, Treesh and Wells both engaged in skin and scuba diving and both have piloted hydro planes in competition.

Jim has also raced motorcycles and says Tom, "I guess he'll have me doing that next."

Just why does a young man decide he wants to jump out of an airplane, when most sky jockies today just hope they stay airborne until completing a trip from one air strip to another.

Says Tom, "Man's desire for conquest."

"At least," adds Tom, "that's the story Jim told me."

Jim has been leaping from airplanes and praying for his chute to open for three years.

He first jumped while serving with the Marine Corps in Okinawa "about three years ago."

Since that time Jim has jumped 79 times and has accumulated 21 minutes and 20 seconds of free-fall time.

Countable free-fall time is earned from the time a jumper leaves the aircraft until he pulls his rip cord to open the chute.

During a pre-game show at the Chowan-Lees-McRae football game, Jim registered a free fall of 40 seconds during which he did a 360 degree right, left, right turn and was anticipating a back flip.

"I was wearing a flare to time my free fall," noted Wells, "and was afraid I would burn myself."

Free-fall time and other records related to jump are kept in a log book and determine a sky diver's license classification.

Free-fall time is the prime data for determining a jumper's classification.

A jumper with 1-10 seconds of free-fall time obtains an "A" license classification.

The license classification changes as the jumper logs more free-fall time.

For example, 10-25 seconds earns the jumper a "B" license, 25-75

seconds acting like a wingless bird gets you a "C" rating and for 75-200 seconds you earn a "D" license.

Other than free-fall time, the number of the jump, type parachute and emergency chute used, altitude of jump, nearness to target and maneuvers in the air are kept in a log book, according to Wells.

"The more the merrier," commented Jim when asked how many feet from the ground he liked to leave the plane. "Usually over 7,200," added Wells.

When in the service, Jim was a member of a sky diving club and says, "I jumped about 10 times a week."

He now gets to jump "about once every two weeks."

Treesh, who is a student sky diver under Wells' direction, says he plans to jump "as much as possible." Like most college students,

Tom says, "When the money allows."

Teaching a sky diver, according to Wells, is a slow process.

First, says Jim, "You let him jump with a static line five times.

"A static line," explains Wells, "automatically opens the chute after the jumper falls 15 feet from the plane.

"On the last two static line jumps," says Wells, "Tom will pull a dummy rip cord just to get the feel of it."

The learning jumper then graduates by three's from a "clear and pull" jump and steadily adds to his free-fall time.

"On a clear and pull jump," notes Wells, "the jumper just clears the airplane and pulls his rip cord."

Next come three five-second jumps, three 10-second jumps, three 20-second jumps and on and on as the jumper masters each level.

In the interest of safety, explains Wells, a jumper is often held back at a certain level.

"If a jumper is rolling before opening his chute at five seconds, you don't advance him to 10 seconds. You wait until he has mastered that height and is controlling himself adequately," says Wells.



FLYING LIKE A BIRD—Veteran sky diver Jim Wells goes through some sky diving maneuvers prior to opening his parachute. Wells left the plane at 10,000 feet—and opened the parachute when he was 2,500 off the ground.



HOMECOMING DAY VISITOR—Tom Treesh made a parachute jump prior to the Homecoming football game recently. He landed in the baseball field at the rear of the stadium.

Book Collection Donated to Library

More than a hundred volumes from the personal library of a former Acting President of Chowan College, the late Rev. J. M. Duncan, have been contributed to Chowan College's library.

Widow Contributes Books

His widow contributed the collection, including valuable volumes by contemporary theologians and philosophers, as well as outstanding historians and sociologists. During his lifetime, the Reverend Mr. Duncan served for 18 years on Chowan College's Board of Trustees and was a long-time pastor of churches in the West Chowan Baptist Association.

Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker said of the collection, "Chowan College is grateful to Mrs. Duncan for making possible this gift of books from the library of her late husband. All of us knew him as a faithful servant of God and a friend of Christian higher education. The quality of that portion of his library which has been given to Chowan College serves to remind us that he 'gave heed to reading'—and to good reading—throughout the years of his ministry."

Former Professor In South Carolina

Mrs. Rose Goodwin Pool, former Chowan College professor who served as Chairman of the college's Department of Music, teacher of voice and Director of the Glee Club, has moved from Hickory, N. C., to 7 Woodfin Avenue, Greenville, S. C.

Her son, Kenneth, who was former Chairman of the Organ Department at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., is church organist for the First Baptist Church at Hickory.