

A Voice in a Silent World

To Teach Deaf Is Ambition

James Engle, a Chowan College sophomore who is known as "Tiny," is a very active member of the "hearing world" but is vitally interested in those less fortunate individuals who live in a world of silence. Even though "Tiny" is completing his work for the Associate Degree in Graphic Arts, he is preparing himself for a life's work in helping deaf people, and has already accumulated a vast amount of experience in this area.

The future teacher of the deaf became interested in studying the sign language when he was thirteen years old and at his parents' home in Morganton, North Carolina. He states that he had always been fascinated by those persons who "talked with their hands," and as fate would have it, a totally deaf young boy moved into James' neighborhood. The two quickly became friends and the neighbor's mother took time from her busy schedule to teach James the basic alphabet, and enabled him to talk with her son by the very slow method of "spelling" every word.

Very slowly, James began to learn the "signs" and was able to talk more and quicker with his new-found friend. Soon

afterwards, he began to make frequent trips to the nearby North Carolina School for the Deaf, where he enjoyed talking with deaf students, and learning more sign language.

Still Learning

James is quick to testify that he is not proficient in "signing." He states, "I still can't speak the entire language, but I spend every available minute in study and practice."

The summer months, between school terms, is a rewarding experience for the likeable young student. He looks forward to his time off from academic studies, and spends his vacation time in a Cultural Heritage Program and acts as an interpreter for the teachers of the program. He hopes to receive his State Interpreter's License under the new universal sign language which is being introduced in the United States during the coming summer months.

James recently spoke in student assembly for Chowan College students, and explained his interest and work with deaf persons. While speaking, he "signed" the same message to



James "signs" a message

demonstrate conversational methods with the deaf.

The North Carolina native is a popular student on Chowan's campus, and serves as manager of the college basketball team. He carries a full academic load with courses in graphic arts, as well as the usual liberal arts subjects.

To Work at NCS

After graduation from Chowan next May, "Tiny" will become a Dormitory Teacher at the North Carolina School for the Deaf. He also hopes to work with the deaf students in the NCS Graphic Arts Department, which is headed by another former Chowan College student, Harold Brown. Brown was an instructor in Chowan's printing school prior to accepting the position at Morganton.

Quite frequently, deaf students are accepted for summer instruction in the Chowan College School of Graphic Arts. James states "it is a dream of mine to return to this college and serve as an interpreter for those deaf persons who wish to further education in graphic arts. I can think of no better way to spend a lifetime, than to help those who live in a world of silence."

James has hopes and plans to receive his Bachelor's Degree in Special Education for the Deaf at either Atlantic Christian College, Lenoir-Rhyne College, or Appalachian State University. Whichever institution he chooses, he will do well and rank as an outstanding student, because of his determination to succeed. He states that "after working closely with deaf people, who have lost so much . . . my small handicaps and problems become obscure."



The future teacher for the deaf operates a photocomposition machine in graphic arts to complete class project.