

Active in Scouts, 4-H Clubs

Freshman logs thousands of miles in 48 states, 2 foreign countries

Although he is only 18 years old, Chowan freshman Chris Robbins has already visited 48 states, many with a pack on his back as an Eagle Scout and 4-H member and counselor.

For good measure, he has also traveled in two foreign countries, Canada and Mexico. He has visited every state except Hawaii and Maine. "I'd like to have a nickel for every mile I've traveled," the good-looking youth explained.

Helped Shape His Life

Most of his travel and many of his activities have been associated with the Boy Scouts and 4-H. He said these organizations have helped to shape his life.

Robbins reported that an Eagle remains active in scouting until he is 18. He will be able to remain in the Order of the Arrow until he is 21, when he plans to become a Boy Scout leader.

Robbins began his summer travel in 1982 at 13 when he toured Colorado as a member of a 4-H study group.

In 1983 he spent six weeks involved in a trip to Philmont, N.M. "We camped out most of the nights. We covered most of the state and hiked 57 miles in the mountains," the friendly, athletic youth exclaimed.

In 1984 as an Eagle Scout, he served as a counselor for a group of 12 boys who traveled throughout Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming. He said he enjoyed serving as a counselor.

Visits Alaska

During the summer of 1985, Chris visited Alaska. Although he had been exposed to many beautiful sights, he said he was still taken back by the "spectacular scenery" in Alaska.

He said 12 "mostly older" 4-Hers flew to Anchorage and then hiked southwest to the Pacific coast learning about the Eskimo culture and the history of Alaska on the way.

"It was a great experience," Robbins said. "We saw hundreds of bald eagles on one river." He said the vastness of Alaska impressed him. "You can go forever—without seeing anybody. "Any chance I get I'll go back," he stated.

Throughout his scouting career, Robbins has shown his proficiency in performing Indian dances. In 1986, he engaged in native dance competition sponsored by the Order of the Arrow. After capturing the state title, he traveled to Mt. Pleasant, Mich. to represent North Carolina scouts in the national Indian dance competition. Chris placed 15th in the nation among 76 scouts.

Learns New Business

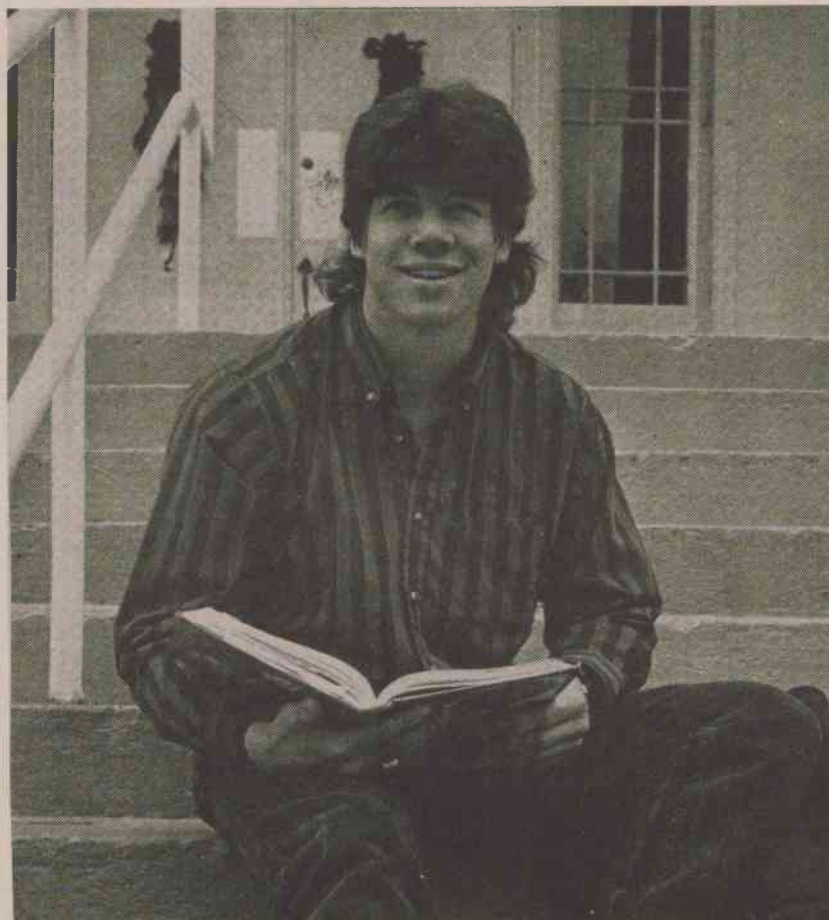
Last summer, the traveling fever once again hit Chris, but this time he embarked on a solo trip to visit his uncle in Kansas City, Kan.

He said his purpose was to become familiar with the credit business from his uncle who is co-owner of a credit corporation. He said this was an experience he could not have learned from books and enjoyed his association with the business.

During his free time—you guessed it—he traveled and visited western states with two friends he met. He used his dancing knowledge to compete on the Pow Wow Circuit in Indiana, Wyoming, Kansas, and Nebraska performing native Indian dances.

Dances with Indians

He said some of the competitors were Indians and this put the pressure on him to be



Active freshman

Freshman Chris Robbins, of Fairfield, pictured reading a text book on the steps of McDowell Columns, has logged thousands of miles hiking and traveling through 48 states and two foreign countries.

as authentic as possible in his dancing. "The Indians would let non-Indian dancers know if their dances were not done properly. I must have done all right because they didn't complain to me."

Robbins has used his scouting and 4-H interests as a springboard to help others in his community. He has served as a leader and counselor in both the Boy Scouts and 4-H.

He organized and led a camp to help the area mentally handicapped to be comfortable in the water and learn how to swim in Lake Mattamuskeet, the largest natural lake in North Carolina. He said 17 people between the ages of 8-40 attended the three-day camp.

Rewarding Work

He said it was very satisfying to work with the mentally handicapped. "Usually people don't show the mentally handicapped much attention or affection. They were so filled with emotion over the attention and learning how to swim they just couldn't stand it," Robbins said smiling.

Another project involved clearing a space that had grown up with bushes and underbrush for a viewing area for bird watchers on Highway 94 on Lake Mattamuskeet. He said several Boy Scouts joined him in clearing a 50-yard area. He said he has already enjoyed the fruits of his voluntary labors. "I have seen three pictures in Ducks Unlimited that have been taken from this cleared area. It really gives me a lot of satisfaction."

Active in High School

Robbins was also active in Mattamuskeet High School, playing saxophone in the band

for two years, baseball for three years, and football for four years. He led his conference in interceptions his senior year.

He was also a member of the French Club and annual photographer, heading up the darkroom for four years. He is a volunteer fireman and joined other area citizens to construct a building for the Fairfield fire department. At Fairfield Christian Church, he was a choir member.

Robbins said he is enjoying life at Chowan and in the Murfreesboro community. His part-time job at Sports Mart and his studies are keeping him busy. He said he would like to have more time for campus clubs and activities. For relaxation, he plays his guitar in Squirrel Park. He plans to find time to help the local Boy Scout troop.

He said he misses hearing the waterfowl on Lake Mattamuskeet. "The lake is a hot spot for ducks and geese. I live only a mile from the lake and can hear them at my home at night." Last fall, 7,000 Canadian geese were counted on the federal refuge, he reported.

Robbins, the son of Homer and Jacqueline Robbins, said that he is currently interested in a career as a psychologist. "I'd like to help adolescents. That's the hardest period of growing up. A lot of people helped me when I was a member of the Boy Scouts and 4-H. I'd like to help adolescents like I've been helped by others."

After completing his studies at Chowan, Robbins plans to transfer to either Western Carolina or Appalachian State. He admits one reason is to be close to the mountains.



DAVID A. PARKER

Bank official appointed to Board

David A. Parker, of Rocky Mount, has been appointed to the Chowan Board of Advisors, according to an announcement by Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, President.

Parker is area executive for Nash and Edgecombe Counties with management responsibility for Planters Bank offices in Rocky Mount, Nashville and Tarboro. He also serves as senior vice president and city executive in Rocky Mount.

Murfreesboro Native

Parker joined Planters in 1972 as commercial loan officer and was elected city executive in Rocky Mount in 1982.

A Murfreesboro native, Parker graduated from Murfreesboro High School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1966 with a B.S. in business administration. He also is a graduate of the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University.

He is currently enrolled in the Executive Program at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Active in Community

Parker is a member of the board of the Rocky Mount United Way, a director of the Rocky Mount Area Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Rocky Mount Rotary Club and past director of the Rocky Mount Human Relations Commission. He also is a member of the Board of Finance at Lakeside Baptist Church.

Parker is married to the former Nancy H. Craig of Windsor, and they have two children.

Planters Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Planters Corporation, is the 10th largest bank in North Carolina with 59 full-service offices in 26 North Carolina communities.

"Strong Interest in Chowan"

Parker said he is "looking forward" to serving on the Board of Advisors. He said being a Murfreesboro native, he has "a very strong interest in Chowan, having known the important role it has played in this community."

Dr. Whitaker said he was pleased that Parker had accepted the invitation to serve as an advisor. He said that among other duties advisors serve as interpreters of the college in their communities.

Whitaker noted, "Despite a heavy demand on their time from their work and other civic and community service, advisors find time to devote their interest and energies to Chowan. Their suggestions and ideas serve to strengthen all phases of the operations and programs of the college."