

## Richard Chase Is A Collector Of Old Tales To Be Told

Parents are constantly telling their children about the good old days and family traditions. The children of today are so caught up in the make-believe world of movies, television, and dime novels that they never seem to notice the rich family heritage that is theirs for the asking. This family heritage is an oral one passed down from generation to generation like a rare vase which is handed down. The vase, a material object, can be broken, stolen, or sold at a flea market; on the other hand, an oral family heritage is a tale, a nonmaterial object, which can not be broken, stolen, or sold; only preserved in the minds of those who tell the tales and those who listen. Richard Chase is a listener and collector of tales.

Mr. Chase began collecting tales fifty years ago when he heard a group of children start to sing a ballad without being told to at the Pine Mountain School in Pine Mountain, Kentucky. Here he heard of the death of folklorist Cecil Sharp in the year 1924. Eleven years later, Mr. Chase was invited to lead the singing at a meeting of 700 teachers in Raleigh, North Carolina. While at the teachers meeting, he contacted an old woman he knew near there who knew the traditional ballads; so he brought her before the group of teachers to sing. Afterwards, a young man came up and said that his people knew tales that had been passed down from generation to generation like the ballads the woman sang. The tales the young fellow told about were mostly about a boy named Jack; not Jack of "Jack and the Bean-

stalk" like in the library books because the young fellow's family did not tell tales that way. Mr. Chase collected and compiled the tales about Jack into a book called *The Jack Tales* which came out in the early 1940s.

For seven years Mr. Chase collected tales from North Carolina, the Virginia mountains and Eastern Kentucky and his own experience. Many of the tales Richard Chase has collected have a foreign ancestry. An example of this is Chaucer's "Miller's Tale" which has an oral tradition in North Carolina. In his other collection of tales *Grandfather Tales*, The tale of "Wicked John and the Devil" has two versions in Uncle Remus. Through his books Richard Chase has given the people of American living uses of their cultural heritage.

According to Webster's Dictionary, folklore is traditional handed down orally and unreflective by kinfolk. When one thinks of folklore, he thinks of log cabins and pioneer tools, the material things like in Foxfire. According to Chase, "These things cannot break-in and steal or moth nor rust corrupt; these are the lasting things in our cultural heritage."

The tales in Richard Chase's books have lasted for centuries. Concerning ballads the late Cecil Sharp says: "Small demand these things make: that of being known-to be loved." Mr. Chase wrote these tales and ballads down as he heard them in their native dialect. The tales will continue as long as people have the opportunity to know life;

Linda Cain tales are for the telling, according to Chase, and they exist only when they are told.

The telling of tales has always been an important part of family life until the media created a make-believe world with eternal happy endings. In the words of Granny London: "Law! This generation comming along don't know how to have a good really good time. But, if these younguns, this generation commin', only had the chance to know these old tales and songs and all that. Law! Wouldn't it delight 'em."

### 1st Honors Day

### To Be Held

### In April

If you are a person who loves to be recognized for his achievements — or even if you are not — then April 19 is for you. If you are a person who likes to acknowledge your friends' great deeds, then April 19 is also for you.

Remember the date, for it marks the first official Honors Day at Brevard College.

Formerly, the awards for outstanding work in various fields were presented at Commencement in May. But this year, the administration has decided that the merits are to be distinguished by a day all its own.

Aside from the recognition of the Phi Theta Kappa members, the tapping of Big Sisters, and the esteem of being on the Dean's list, campus organizations will be awarding those students who have shown any number of superior qualities. Not just those who have the highest scholastic averages, but people who have been the friendliest, work the hardest, or simply have been of great service to others will receive recognition on the campus of Brevard College.

In addition, the top five sophomores with the highest grade-point averages will be acknowledged. The apex of the freshmen will also be recognized.

The day will begin at ten o'clock when classes officially cease for the remainder of the afternoon. At that hour, the ceremony will commence in Dunham auditorium as the faculty, garbed in academic regalia, present the honors.

Following this affair, students are free to relax for the day or attend a picnic on the campus grounds. Parents will be invited.



## Students Celebrate Valentine's Day

Bobbi Bullock was crowned Valentine Queen Monday, February 13 in Dunham Auditorium as Brevard College students celebrated Valentine's Day with a dance featuring the Nantucket Band. Pend Armistead was crowned King by Dean Houk with Jane Vocelle and Bobby Kivett being titled Princess and Prince respectively. The dance lasted from 9 p.m. until 12 midnight with refreshments served in the lobby.

## Will Wood Replace Gas At Brevard?

Representatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority met recently with several Brevard College staff administrators to discuss the possibility that Brevard College's heating method could be transferred from gas to wood. Brunner Hunt, Brevard College Business manager, and TVA Representative Dr. Larry Klein both agree that the project will take several months to complete.

In actual practice, the system called "pyrolysis" would utilize wood chips, sawdust, and other excess lumber products. Pyrolysis, the TVA representatives explained, burns the wood without the waste of burning the oxygen, unlike other conventional heating methods.

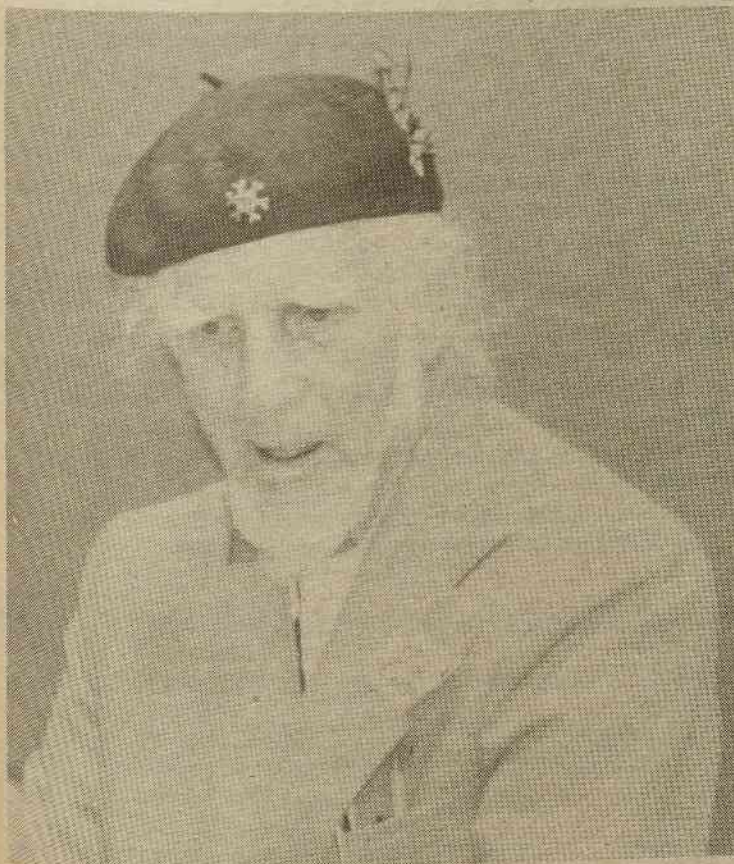
Dr. Klein suggested that there are such systems for individual homes and very large institutions, but none for the boiler units such as those in use at Brevard College. If the conversion from gas to wood proves itself as a safe, efficient heating method, the new system would feasibly serve as an exemplary pattern for other smaller institutions.

The system would burn wood residues such as sawdust and chips, trimmings from trees, etc. Officials pointed out that every effort would be made to purchase the residues here in Transylvania County.

Well aware of the past heating problems Brevard College has experienced, Brunner Hunt has expressed optimism for the heating conversion and mentioned last year's shortage of natural gas as a reason for the college's need to save energy. Last year, natural gas rates were up 20 per cent.

Vital questions still must be answered before an absolute conversion will take place. Will the price of wood residue increase? Will Maryville College, now in the process of changing from gas to wood, be successful in its attempt to save money?

Mr. Brunner Hunt has already sent the consumption data from Brevard's ten year gas heating history to Maryville. "They have assured their interest in helping study the project and at that time will ask some trustees about the propositions," Mr. Hunt said, "its a large undertaking."



RICHARD CHASE speaks to students. (Photo by Steve Gaul)