

## People Making News



MRS. JANE FREEMAN, director of the library accepts a recent book donation. Mrs. Freeman is the subject of "Spotlight," by Fr. James Solari, O.S.B., below.

### "A Southern Belle"

# Engineering the Abbey Library

## SPOTLIGHT

By FR. JAMES SOLARI, O.S.B.

A Southern 'Belle' from peach country, Jane Land Freeman, has for the past two years had responsibility for the order and operation of the Abbot Vincent Taylor library on campus. She comes from York, South Carolina where she grew up on a farm with a large peach orchard. Accustomed to hard work, she soon learned to handle the big tractor and assorted pieces of equipment needed to work the farm and helped with the chores which are an essential part of daily life close to the soil. She reminisces about her first year in school when at the age of five she attended kindergarten in a small rural school which conducted all eight grades in the same classroom! "They fed us pinto beans and grapefruit juice for lunch every single day," she laughed -- amazingly though, she still is fond of that simple fare. The next year her parents placed her in one of the York schools and so began a career of studies which would eventually lead her to college at North Carolina State University for a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. Slightly ahead of the feminist movement, she found to her chagrin that there were few women in this field. She had also chosen a school which at that time enrolled only a handful of females. In retrospect, she concedes, this made it a little more difficult both in classes and in the summer job search. She stuck it out, however, and was awarded her degree. During these undergraduate years she had little time for leisure activities but did manage to take some interesting trips to scenic parts of the state from the wind-swept summit of Mt. Mitchell to the drifting dunes of Cape Hatteras. She was able to earn a bit of spending money by tutoring students at the university. After graduation an opportunity to chauffeur a family to Mexico presented itself which she eagerly took and spent weeks touring the sights south of the border.

Returning to North Carolina after this vacation she found a job in Charlotte with a water treatment company as a chemist. She vividly recalls some rather unusual experiences such as clambering about inside huge boilers and inspecting the innards of machinery in industrial plants. After a year of this she decided to return to school for graduate work, applied for and received an Assistantship at Penn State University where she would spend the next fourteen months obtaining her Master's degree in chemical engineering. She relished the challenge of the courses and found the students lots of fun to be with -- particularly one student named Larry Freeman whom she would marry in 1960! Larry was completing studies in accounting and preparing to take his C.P.A. exam. With the Master's in her possession, she and Larry then settled in Pittsburgh. She was employed as an engineer by Consolidated Coal Company and among other duties she collaborated on a number of American Chemical Society projects and presented a paper at their annual meeting in

Washington, D.C. One of the more intriguing tasks was her participation in the company's effort to convert coal into gasoline -- drawing upon information and technology provided in captured German World War II documents.

In 1962 Larry and she moved down to Atlanta where the first of her three children was born. They bought a house in Decatur and quickly grew attached to this area and their new neighbors. "We watched with fascination this city mushroom into the metropolis of today," she observed, "it was an exciting place to live." Six years and two children later she once more felt the powerful attraction of academic life ("Partly to keep my sanity!" she smiled.) In the spirit of the old adage "Nothing ventured nothing gained," she applied for and was granted a scholarship at nearby Emory University. This time she embarked on a graduate program in library science. A second Master's degree was conferred upon her in August of 1969, and without delay she went to work for Coca Cola Company in Atlanta as a senior information specialist in the company's Technical Information Center. She remained in this position for three years. Then she did some part-time lecturing at Emory U. for three semesters and a little consulting work on the side. In 1974 she was again with Coca Cola U.S.A. as head of their Marketing Information Center. Within a year she was at the threshold of an important promotion when Larry accepted a new job in Gastonia. "It was a very difficult move at that particular moment," admits Jane. "The family had to say goodbye to many close friends but we knew that there would be new opportunities ahead in North Carolina."

Thus, this sequence of events made it possible for Jane Freeman to become associated with Belmont Abbey College as librarian -- something that all of her colleagues here are happy about. Since taking the reins of our academic resource center she has introduced many new ideas to make the library of greater service to the campus community. More concretely she has brought a remarkable combination of efficiency and graciousness to it. The recent survey for the college self-study has revealed the overwhelming satisfaction of both the faculty and the student body with her management of the library. One of the truly astounding achievements in her relatively short time here has been the recovery of the rare book collection. No one believed it possible to put this into order in so brief a time but she has succeeded with the help of her able staff.

Indefatigable in her efforts to help students, she generously contributes many extra hours each week to keep the library open during the weekdays from eight o'clock in the morning until eleven at night! Ever energetic in seeking grants and funding, she has also contrived a variety of ingenious gimmicks to stimulate interest and support of college community in the library.

Such a hectic schedule dictated for her as wife, mother, homemaker and librarian scarcely affords much time for hobbies. She would like to be able to do some gardening, cycling, and above all traveling. Fortunately, she will be taking a well-deserved vacation to Hawaii in June. To Jane Freeman her friends at the Abbey wish bon voyage and 'aloha!'

## County Alumni Elect Officers

Mecklenburg County alumni have elected interim officers who will organize a fall social.

The interim alumni officers are charged with coordinating and organizing a fall social for as many of the Mecklenburg County alumni as possible.

Interim officers are Bob Healy ('68), president; Ted Hawley ('68), vice president; Richard Vitolo ('70), secretary; Tom Amann ('74), treasurer; and standing committee chairmen are Richard Guicheteau ('72), fall social; Lee Fazzi ('74), recruiting, and Bob Cranford ('71), budget.

The interim officers were elected February 12. College officials in attendance were Fr. John Bradley, president, who gave a review of recent activities at the college; Warren Clark, vice president for development, who reported on the success of the Centennial Fund Campaign; and Harry Creemers, public relations and

alumni affairs director, who led the nominating and election of officers procedure.

Anyone interested in aiding the interim officers are urged to contact the Alumni Affairs Office at Belmont Abbey College, 825-3711.

### NSF Pick

### Dr. Stuart

Dr. Jeanne Stuart, chairman of the Biology Department at Belmont Abbey College, has been selected by the National Science Foundation to serve as a reviewer of grant proposals.

The selection was competitive among scientists of all fields, depending upon their publications and research backgrounds. The prospective reviewers were also asked to serve on a panel in March before final selections were made.

As a reviewer, Dr. Stuart helps to disperse \$3 million annually among numerous undergraduate institutions across the nation. These federal funds are used to purchase scientific equipment.

During her term at the Abbey, Dr. Stuart has served as Assistant Professor and Department Head. She is currently under contract with United States E.R.D.A. (formerly Atomic Energy Commission) doing summer research. The topic of her research concerns the physiology of fish in thermally and radioactively affected waters.

Her extensive research, numerous publications, and teaching experience have earned her the distinction of being an Outstanding Educator of America.

Dr. Stuart did her doctorate and post-doctorate studies at Auburn University and served there on the faculty before accepting a position at B.A.C.

### Dr. Farley

### Honored

A certificate of recognition has been awarded to Dr. Gilbert J. Farley, moderator of Belmont Abbey College's Rotaract Club, by District 767 of Rotary International.

The award was presented during the recent annual meeting in Hickory of District 767, which comprises the western half of North Carolina, for Farley's sponsorship of the Belmont Abbey College club. The B.A.C. club is the only Rotaract Club in a senior college in District 767.

The club was founded in 1973. Farley, a resident of Belmont, is chairman of the Department of Business and Economics at the college.