

# Mid Westerner Finds Home At Belmont Abbey

## SPOTLIGHT

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

When one thinks of St. Louis, Mo., several things immediately come to mind: the great new arch, the Anheuser-Busch brewery, the Cardinals, and, as far as the political science department of Belmont Abbey College is concerned, Dr. Robert E. Jones. Bob was born and grew up there, the second of eight children. He is a product of the parochial school and St. Louis University Prep which prepared him well for undergraduate work at the highly regarded Jesuit University. There he followed the Honors Program and took a bachelor of science degree in political science cum laude.

As a youth Bob had the typical interests of his contemporaries: scouting, sports, girls, glee club singing (not necessarily in this order of preference). He was beset with a powerful itch to see the U.S.A. and to this date has managed with a variety of conveyances ranging from horse and bicycle to the Boeing 707 to visit all of the forty-eight continental states. He still aspires to journey someday to Hawaii and Alaska, but allows that this will have to wait until his two children, Marcus and Marshall, have added a few more years.

After the completion of his St. Louis studies, he was awarded a fellowship for graduate work in political science at the University of Notre Dame. All together he would spend four years at South Bend and become addicted to the "Fighting Irish" teams. His primary interests were diplomatic history and Soviet studies. He acquired a modest fluency with Russian which will come in handy if he is able to obtain a grant for research studies at the University of Moscow.

Armed with his newly-earned Master's degree, he wanted to try his hand at teaching to determine whether he might make this his life profession. In September of 1964 Bob became an Instructor at Gonzaga University out in Washington state. He found teaching to be both a challenging and rewarding enterprise and so he returned to Notre Dame the following year to continue coursework for the Ph.D. His doctoral thesis deals with anti-colonialism in the United Nations.

Bob's first contact with a Benedictine school came in 1967 when he was appointed Assistant Professor at St. Anselm's College in Manchester, N. H. For the next three years he absorbed much of Yankee life and culture and learned how to cope with lots of snow. Teaching at

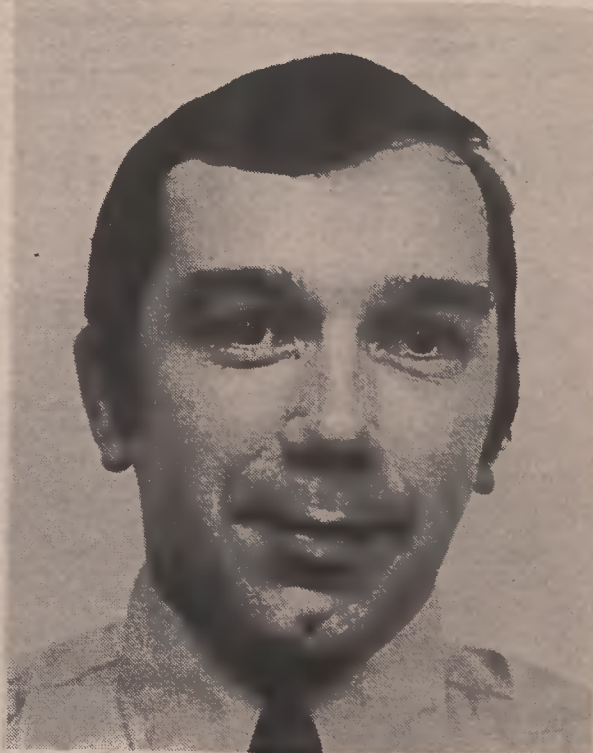
and learned how to cope with lots of snow. Teaching at St. A's also afforded him numerous opportunities for skiing trips to Stowe, Vt. and other nearby winter resorts. On one weekend down in New York City, he had his first date with a lovely redhead named Carolyn whose older sister he had met at St. Louis University. They began a long-distance courtship and eventually were married.

Bob arrived on the scene at Belmont Abbey College in September of 1972 and was named acting Chairman of the political science department. Since then he has become quite active in the Social Science Division, participated in the Honors Colloquium for academically promising Freshman students, and has been granted tenure by the college. He attended the curriculum renewal Institute at Boone, N. C. and in the summer of 1975 he received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to be a part of a seminar held at Sarah Lawrence College. In addition to his instructional duties in political science, academic advisement of majors, and guidance of students planning to take the Law Board examination, Bob served on the Steering Committee of the institutional self-study which Belmont Abbey has recently completed.

For his avocation Bob has rigged a "do-it-yourself" greenhouse onto his home in Charlotte and has taken up horticulture. As proof of his success in raising a variety of orchids and exotic ferns, Carolyn wore a beautiful corsage of home-grown orchids to the New Year's banquet at the Abbey.

Bob has been instrumental in directing gifted students toward graduate schools as well as into full-time internships in the offices of U. S. representatives in Washington, D. C. He believes in the liberal arts philosophy and seeks to encourage his students to obtain a broad humanistic foundation during their undergraduate years, which he considers a truly unique period in the life of the young person, a time of leisure for the expansion of their horizons without the responsibilities of the adult world.

Bob's ultimate quest is to become not merely a professor of political science, but an educator whose influence will transcend the boundaries of his chosen discipline. Crossroads joins all of his colleagues and friends in wishing him well in this praiseworthy endeavor.



DR. ROBERT E. JONES

### Recollection Day Planned For Alumni

A Day of Recollection will be sponsored by Father Oscar for all area alumni. It will be held at Lake Norman April 1, 1978. For more information contact Fr. Oscar 825-3711 ext. 247 or 218.

## Charlotte Alumni Sponsors Reception

The Star Light Lounge of Ovens Auditorium was the site of an alumni reception following the Belmont Abbey-Gardner Webb basketball game Jan. 4. Although the Abbey didn't fare well, losing by three points, it didn't dampen the spirits of the alumni. Bob Healy, president of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Alumni Chapter updated the group of about 60 people of the future events for the local alumni. A tennis tournament and picnic is planned for the spring. Fr. Bradley spoke to the group concerning the role of the alumni and commended the chapter on the work it has been doing. Other officers present were Vice President Ted Hawley, Treasurer Tom Amann and Bob Cranford. Congratulations to all who made that a very enjoyable evening.

## Alumnus Adjust To New Lifestyle

Belmont Abbey College alumnus Flynn W. Warren, Jr. (class of '62) recently made his home many miles from Mt. Holly, N.C., his home while a student at the Abbey. His life style also changed a great deal.

Flynn, his wife Varion and their two sons live in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia where Flynn is a pharmacist at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre. According to Flynn, the hospital is quite modern, even by U.S. standards, and is the referral center for all of Saudi Arabia. He goes on to say that the hospital's "220 beds stay full and the outpatient load is quite heavy. For someone who has been teaching for ten years, the workload is rough but I have gotten back into the swing of things pretty well."

Along with four others from the hospital, Flynn recently made a trip to the Yemen Arab Republic (northern Yemen). As Flynn was quick to point out, this was the type of adventure no travel agent would arrange for you. Traveling chiefly in Toyotas driven by guides, the group spent one week traveling through deserts and mountains, sleeping on the ground beside their car, eating whatever they could manage to buy or find and prepare themselves. Many of

the roads they traveled were more like paths, and they sometimes had to use stars and mountains as landmarks.

In a letter to Mr. Jack Hanahan, chairman - Physical Science Division and Associate Professor of Spanish and Geology at Belmont Abbey College, Flynn said, "You really should try this trip out someday. It is a geologist's paradise. In one fell swoop you get to see all the desert you can stand and lava mountains that are so recent they are still in large boulders and virtually free of vegetation." However, he did finally admit that "all in all, it was the kind of trip you might not have taken if you had known all the problems in advance, but the experience was well worth it."

Flynn and his family have adjusted fairly well to living in Saudi Arabia. In his own words, "our housing is like a typical U.S. apartment complex; we drink the water right out of tap, the electricity is on 99 per cent of the time, and we have a closed circuit TV channel that shows U.S. and British programs ten hours a day. The local stations also broadcast five or six hours of English TV a day - mostly movies, Jacques Costeau and similar specials,

and Walt Disney stuff."

The weather seems to be quite pleasant. It has only rained two times since Flynn moved there early last summer. However, the temperature did reach 140 degrees F. a couple of times during the summer - a little on the warm side.

Communicating on the problems of communication with the natives of Riyadh, Flynn says, "my spoken Arabic (can't read anything except the numbers) has progressed to the point that with words and pantomime, I can get most conversations over to the other party."

"You have to learn the numbers in order to shop downtown. We do not have a hospital commissary, and there is no 'western' stopping district; we use the same stores as everyone else. Some grocery stores have built western-like sections and get most of the trade for good items. Our grocery bill is roughly twice what it was in the States, and we get packaged food items from every country in the world."

This is life in Saudi Arabia for Flynn Warren and family. Though missing some of the conveniences of the U.S., all seems to be going well for the Warrens in their new home.

## Spring Weekend Set For April 21-22

When "spring fever" hits many alumni, they usually think of Belmont Abbey. It was those lazy early spring afternoons that made going to class a little difficult. It is also the time for Spring Weekend. Many alumni seem to drop in during that extravaganza, so the alumni office decided to inform you of the dates. The main event is the Saturday afternoon outing scheduled for April 22. A circus tent is erected to house the band and refreshments and to shade those involved in card games or other "games of chance". Outside those not participating in volleyball, softball or other "games of skill" are soaking up the warm Carolina sun. A meal will also be served under the tent.

Friday night, a semi-formal dance will be held in the Haid. If you wish to attend the Saturday outing, you must send your \$5 check to the College Union Director before April 7.