

(BP)**-- FEATURES**
produced by Baptist PressSBC Executive Committee
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
(615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Robert J. O'Brien, News Editor
James Lee Young, Feature Editor

March 28, 1975

75-50

**Artist Captures Bicentennial
Memories During Celebrations**

By David W. Forman

CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Artists have a unique contribution to make to the United States' bicentennial celebration, says a Baptist artist who has dusted off his portrait painting abilities and now heads for the streets whenever there is a festival to attend.

"Before the camera was invented, artists went around making portraits for a living," says Robert Stapp, an art professor at Campbellville Baptist College here.

"Of course, they also ended up painting signs and coach decorations," Stapp added.

Possible financial problems notwithstanding, festivals in Louisville, Jeffersontown, Midway and other Kentucky cities have featured Stapp, and sometimes other artists, who draw or paint folks in historic dress, or whatever happens to be the uniform of the day.

Wearing a white bow tie, black beret cocked over his left ear, black jeans with six pockets, and with his wife Charlotte beside him in a long dress and bonnet, Stapp looks like an artist out of the early days.

In fact, Stapp says he "feels like an antique." Maybe that's why he seems to fit in so well at the celebrations.

He first drew portraits for the passing public in 1948, at the Texas State Fair in Beaumont, and though he has done it off and on since then, the real beginnings of Stapp's bicentennial drawing began in Campbellville.

At a 125th year town celebration there two years ago, he drew nearly thirty portraits in two afternoons. At times pedestrians had the sidewalks and part of the street blocked, watching the painter and his subjects.

He has since asked for space in as many street celebrations as he could attend, and hasn't been turned down yet.

Though he charges for his charcoal or color portraits, Stapp admits he rarely makes much more than expenses, but "it's all worth it anyway."

"I have an awful lot of fun," he explains. "If I get bored I can just watch the crowds, but the customers come often and are interesting enough that I don't often have that problem."

Many subjects from the celebrations stand out in Stapp's mind.

He recalls an octogenarian in antique white lace costume at Midway, Ky., and a man with a weather-beaten face "only a mother dog could love" in another town. And there was the baby girl held by her mother who ended up looking too much like the mother for daddy's taste.

But besides the fun of meeting people, Stapp has another purpose in his trips around the state.

When he packs his easel, paints, and canvas, he also packs information about Campbellville College.

"As I begin to do portraits, I spend a lot of time finding out who my subjects are, who their 'kin' are, and where they're from.

"That usually gives me a chance to tell what I really do for a living, so I can talk about the college."

"I think a Christian college has some important extras that students can't get elsewhere."

-more-

DANGEROUS TO THE LIBRARY
S. B. C. INFORMATION COMMISSION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

"In my classes I can explain creativity as one of our likenesses to God, which I believe it is, yet I couldn't do that everywhere I might teach."

Stapp, who formerly worked 18 years as a mechanical engineer and draftsman, basically teaches a "representational approach" to art. He admits, though, to using some symbolism, in his own religious paintings.

"In painting, Stapp says, "getting a good likeness is important but the best part" he says, "is that an artist can make things appear as we would like them to be, rather than as they really are."

Stapp advises--don't trust all your memories to the camera at bicentennial celebrations, let an artist capture a few for you.

-30-

(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state editors.

#

Promotion, Rates, Program
Duties Shift for Centers

Baptist Press
3/28/75

NASHVILLE (BP)--The responsibility for programming conferences, promoting attendance and recommending rates at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers has been placed with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church services and materials division, according to Allen B. Comish, division director.

Authorized by the board's trustees, the shift in responsibility from each conference center to the division will become effective Oct. 1, 1975. The change will not affect the centers' operations this summer.

Comish said a new section to be established for conference center programming and promotion will be assigned to the division's church program services group which is supervised by James H. Daniel.

"In scheduling and programming the centers, this section will deal particularly with fall, winter and spring activities and events," Comish continued.

"The section will seek," he said, "to solicit the use of the facilities by more SBC agencies and commissions, various Baptist groups and other religious bodies during the fall, winter and spring months."

The church services and materials division also will have responsibility for recommending conference center rates to the board's trustees, who determine the rates charged by the centers.

"Our purpose will be to make the facilities available to groups as economically as possible," Comish said.

"We are presently studying ways to maintain the lowest possible rates and are looking at the possibility of having lower rates for families and special groups.

The new section will also handle promotion and programming of the board's Church Program Training Center.

Comish said the training center will offer more and varied opportunities to Baptist groups using the facility. The center's major emphasis will be on enlarging the content of seminars for church staff, denominational workers and lay people, he noted.

-30-

**New Baptist Hospital
Opens in Kentucky**

LOUISVILLE (BP)--A new hospital to cost more than \$16.5 million, being built by Kentucky Baptists, is ready to accept its first patients (on March 31), the Western Recorder reports.

The six-story Baptist Hospital East, to eventually house 253 patients, is starting with 121 beds and will add units until September when the hospital is expected to be operating at full capacity, the Recorder noted.

The new hospital is part of The Louisville Baptist Hospitals (LBH) and is one of four owned and operated by Kentucky Baptists through Baptist Hospitals, Inc (BHI).

The other LBH facility, Kentucky Baptist Hospital, is being renovated over the next five years. It is the original institution in the state's Baptist hospital system.

BHI last year ranked 10th in terms of patient admissions among not-for-profit hospital systems in the United States, the Recorder said.

-30-

**Tornado Hits
Texas Church**

**Baptist Press
3/28/75**

LEFORS, Tex. (BP)--A tornado left hundreds homeless here as it sucked out a wall at First Baptist Church and damaged the air conditioning system but left the auditorium intact.

Damages to the church property were estimated at \$35,000-\$40,000, spokesmen said.

The twister hit the town March 27, killing one person and injuring about 50 others, according to reports.

Charles P. McLaughlin, secretary of Texas Baptists' state missions commission, told the Baptist Standard that a member of the Texas convention's disaster task force drove a pickup load of food to Lefors for distribution to storm victims.

-30-

**Richard L. Hester Named
To Southeastern Faculty**

**Baptist Press
3/28/75**

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Richard L. Hester has been elected professor of pastoral care and psychology of religion at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, effective August 1.

Hester is presently on the faculty of the Graduate Seminary at Phillips University in Enid, Okla., where he has served as professor of pastoral care since 1970.

A native of Texas, Hester is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Tex., where he worked as assistant and acting director in the public relations office.

He received the bachelor of divinity and doctor of theology degrees from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

While a seminary student, Hester was a graduate teaching fellow in New Testament and Christian preaching, and from 1964-67 he served as a supervisor of undergraduate students in basic pastoral care.

Formerly clinical pastoral education supervisor in training at Louisville General Hospital, Hester served also as Protestant Chaplain at Silvercrest Tuberculosis Hospital in New Albany, Ind.

-more-

He has been a marriage counselor for the Louisville Area Council of Churches and was the pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Gainesville, Fla., prior to joining the Graduate Seminary faculty.

Hester is President of the Board of Trustees of the Northwest Oklahoma Pastoral Care Association and is a consultant for that organization. He has been director of training for CONTACT, a 24-hour crisis telephone service in Enid. He is the author of "God's Reconciling Love," Broadman Press, November, 1974.

-30-

CORRECTION

In the BP mailing, dated 3/25/75, headlined, "Court Agrees to Hear Two Higher Education Cases," delete the last paragraph in the story.

Thanks--

Baptist Press

(BP)

BAPTIST PRESS

*460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219*

MAR 31 1975

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 9TH AVE. NO.
NASHVILLE TN 37203