

SCA Plans Medieval Demonstration

Knights To Have A Day

By COLLEEN PARKER

Have you ever wished that you had lived in an earlier, more romantic era? Have you dreamed of stepping into a time machine and traveling back to the days of knights and chivalry? Or are you simply interested in discovering what life was like for your ancestors in Europe, Asia or South America long before this nation existed?

The Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) will provide the opportunity for area history buffs and the curious alike to catch a glimpse of medieval life when they hold a day-long event this Saturday at City Lake Park in Rocky Mount. Beginning at 11 a.m. SCA members, in full medieval garb, will demonstrate the arts, crafts, dances, costuming and warfare methods of the Middle Ages.

Members of the audience

will be invited to participate in games and in learning the dances and crafts. There will even be a chance to suit up in armor and wield a weapon in mock combat. (In accordance with SCA rules, no live steel will be used. All weapons are safely blunted rattan reproductions, fashioned as closely as possible to the weight and design of actual weapons of the period.)

"We will be demonstrating the techniques of wielding the great sword (a two-handed, six-foot sword), axe, pike, spear, shield and bow," Gary W. Quillen, autocrat for the event, said in an interview last week. Quillen's SCA title is Lord Valdemar Wendale Bayard.

"The Society re-creates medieval life in order to educate. It gives its members the chance to have fun while learning about history," Quillen said.

"We might dress in a manner that seems unusual to modern day life, but we are not associated with any strange cult or even the gaming groups such as Dungeons and Dragons.

"We centralize on the chivalrous aspects of the Middle Ages, leaving out the bad aspects, such as plagues, pestilence and actual mayhem. We strive to bring back the honor and glory of the age of knighthood. The women in the Society are treated like ladies to the full extent of chivalry.

"The SCA officially deals with the time period between 600-1600 A.D. though we have some members who have centralized on earlier periods. Upon becoming a member, one chooses the time and place in which he would like to have lived. He then chooses a name for the person he would like to have been — a

merchant or nobleman or even a barbarian. It is a chance to recreate one's own life as it might have been 500 or 1,000 years ago.

"This is where the educational aspect comes in. While researching your chosen time period and the clothing and customs, one can't help but learn a lot about history. The events, in turn, provide the opportunity to share this knowledge with others in a way that is much more fun than just learning it in school."

The SCA's membership is world-wide, with active groups in Europe, the Middle East, the Orient and Australia. In the U. S. alone, there are more than 20,000 full members, with an additional 50,000 participating.

The United States is divided into nine "kingdoms." North Carolina is part of the

Kingdom of Atlantia. The Nash County area is in the barony of Windmaster's Hill, composed of the cantons of Kapellenberg (the Chapel Hill area), Attilium (the Fayetteville area) and Elvegast (Raleigh east).

Kingdoms and baronies hold many small events during the year but, according to Quillen, the main gathering is the annual Pennsic Wars, held in Pennsylvania. This huge, week-long event,

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REVERSE CHIVALRY — A lady of the Society for Creative Anachronism brings a cool drink for a thirsty knight at the fighters' practice held last week in preparation for Saturday's event at City Lake Park in Rocky Mount. (Graphic photo by Parker.)

Jarvis Knights

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which 5,000-10,000 SCA members attend, gives the folk of the nine kingdoms a chance to meet and mingle, compare costumes and crafts and fight for the glory of their kings.

"Pennisic is set up as the equivalent of a medieval town. There are merchants selling everything from armor to jewelry — anything you might have expected to buy in a bazaar in 13th century London. It is a place to see old friends, show off the elaborate costumery, and meet people who share

your interests.

"The site is divided into encampments. At one camp, there might be a Middle East bazaar. Another might have medieval European story-telling and the music of troubadors. Others have a Viking flavor of the mystery of the court of Atila the Hun. It's the only place where you can see

nine kings and queens, along with their attendants, holding royal court with all the pageantry of the days of knighthood.

"But as in all SCA

events, one of the most popular activities is the fighting. Knights in armor clash swords with barbarians in furs and leather. Archers fire arrows into the melee, as bridges are captured or lost. Champions and heroes are cheered on by their ladies and the on-lookers.

"The fighting is fierce and in earnest, but the rules of chivalry are strictly observed. Often you'll see a knight throw down one of his swords if his opponent loses a sword. This is not mandatory, but it is the honorable way. The society rests on the honor that each individual can bring into the group. This is the only way that we can function and remain true to the ideals of medieval chivalry.

"Those who attend Saturday's festivities may expect to see much of the same sort of activities, but on a smaller scale than Pennsic," Quillian said. "This allows more room for interacting with non-members in explaining and demonstrating the skills and customs of medieval times. Where else could you watch knights in battle while learning weaving and calligraphy?"

The event is free to the public. Activities will begin at 11 a.m. and end around 6

p.m. Those attending are invited to bring a picnic lunch. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the site.

More information may be obtained from Ron Alexander at the Rocky Mount City Parks and Recreation Department, or by calling 459-7101, Extension 8.

Schedule of activities:

□ 11 a.m. — Welcome to the public. SCA 101 (An explanation of the Society for Creative Anachronism, its functions, and the various activities involved.)

□ 11:30 a.m. — Costume procession. (A fashion show covering clothing from 300 A.D. Celtic to 1600 Tudor and Italian Renaissance.)

□ 12 noon — Dances. (The Maltese, a lively dance brought back from the Holy Land by the Crusaders; Hole in the Wall, a 13th century "flirtation" dance; and Earl of Salisbury, one of the more courtly dances — once the favorite pastime of the nobility.)

□ 12:30-2 p.m. — Arts and crafts. (Includes demonstrations of the spinning wheel, gaming, heraldry, calligraphy, the making of armor and

weaponry.) Ballad singing. (The centuries-old music of Scotland, Ireland and England.)

□ 2 p.m.-closing — The Tournament. (Fighting in full armor, demonstrating field, bridge, circle and melee tactics.)

Firm

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the plant is located in a low area that causes problems for septic tanks. "We want to keep them here, and this is one way of doing it," he said.

Superlock Manufacturing Co. now employs more than 200 people at its 55,000-square foot plant in Rocky Mount. Company officials have told Rose they want to more than double the plant size and eventually add another 50 to 100 employees.

Of the \$4 million expansion budget, \$2 million would be spent on building renovations and \$2 million for new equipment. Lack of a tie-in for sewer service is the major holdback in the expansion plans, according to the officials.

Reality

finally that if Nash would assume a certain indebtedness of the area, then they would agree to the line being moved to its present location. That agreement was ratified by both parties.

Soon much improvement was made on the main street bordering both sides of the railroad. One report has it that one candidate for mayor pledged that if elected, he would have the stumps removed from main street. Now little is left of the original site of Rocky Mount except a park, a Confederate monument and old Bennett Bunn place, now known as Stonewall. The bridge figured in another experience during the Civil War, which will be told about later.

Marine Private Reports For Duty

Marine Pfc. Reginald L. Terrell has reported for duty with 3rd Force Service Support Group on Okinawa. He is the son of Rachel B. Terrell of Spring Hope.

Gryphs

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sideline. Evans put his hand on the ground to keep his balance and sprinted into the end zone just four minutes into the season.

The second score was set up by an interception by Lynch at the Warrior 39. That drive was highlighted by a 10-yard blast by Mercer. On the next play, Mercer went over from the 1 for a 13-0 lead.

The Gryphons didn't score again until Harris hit Otis Sanders for a 36-yard TD pass with 35 seconds left in the third quarter for a 20-7 lead.

Rocky Mount got the ball back a minute later on a

Neil Avent fumble recovery at their 31. Seven plays later Terrance Dickens bounced off two defenders and went in from four yards out for a 26-7 lead.

Another Warrior fumble set up a short run by Mercer for a 33-7 margin. With less than two minutes left, the Warriors picked up most of their yards on a 29-yard TD run by Kenny Casper.

Rocky Mount (1-0) ran and passed for 281 yards. Harris was 7 of 13 for 110 yards. The Gryphons host Tarboro (0-1) Friday night.