Salve Regina College Brings Our Past to Life, December 1, 1973

Salve Regina College

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SALVE REGINA COLLEGE BRINGS OUR PAST TO LIFE

Beginning this January, Ben Franklin is going to come to life again. So will Thomas Jefferson, Paul Revere, John Leonard, James Warren and all the other famous and not so famous men who forged our country.

They're all part of a special lecture series on our national heritage sponsored by Salve Regina College in Newport, R. I. Called "Education for Our Bicentennial," the talks will trace America's birth and development and bring our country's past to life all over again. Not just in dry "founding Fathers" terms, but in terms of the real people and real issues involved.

According to Robert McKenna, director of college and community relations, the object of the program is to create renewed interest in our national heritage so all of us will be better able to participate in our nation's 200th birthday.

"We hope to give our students genuine enthusiasm for the Bicentennial by helping them to understand how our past relates to our present lives. This means taking the "history" out of our Bicentennial and looking at our past as an important force in American today. All of us need to understand where our country came from before we can truly appreciate where it is now," Mr. McKenna says.
The program is in three parts tracing various aspects of American independence. According to McKenna, students can enroll in just one series of lectures or all three. Part I, "The Spirit of '76" covers the events leading up to our break with Britain and runs January 3-23, 1974. Part II, "The Phenomena of a Revolution," looks at the Revolutionary War from Concord Bridge to Yorktown. This section will be held from June to July, 1974. Part III, "The Process of Nation Building," winds up the program during the summer of 1975 with a view of our nation from its first unsteady days to the present.

Each segment of the series is worth four college credits. For qualified high school seniors, McKenna says Salve will hold the credits in escrow or transfer them later to the college of their choice.

"The special feature of the program," McKenna adds, "is that students choose the academic area they want to receive their credits in. We'll grant credits in either philosophy, theology, history, sociology, political science or economics for completing the program.

"Our multi-disciplinary approach is the reason we're able to do this. The Revolution was the result of many forces that came together and caught fire, and we're going to recreate that flame by bringing in guest lecturers who'll view the Spirit of '76 from their own particular field. There will be talks on everything from the sociological make-up of the signers..."