

matters to gather, fight and celebrate

with different titles signifying different awards. "Lord" or "Lady" is the first title a person can receive; "Master," "Mistress" and "Sir" are higher titles. They are all earned by continuing service to the organization and awarded only by the king.

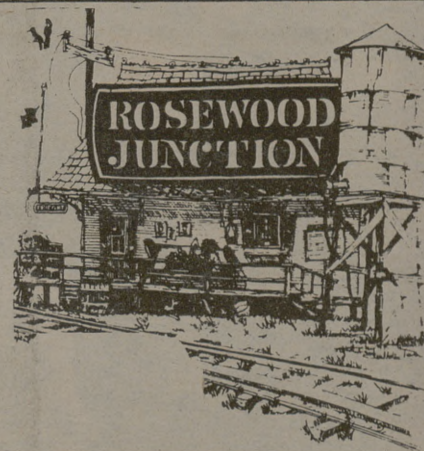
Kings and princes are selected in trial by combat. The reign of a king or prince is limited to four to six months, and a reigning king or prince cannot enter tournament to select his successor. Sir Simonn, Prince of Ansteorra, has been in the SCA for almost three years. He was first attracted to the society by the fighting.

"I'm a competitor," he said, "whether in chess, any other game or beating each other with sticks." The laws of Ansteorra are written such that the prince and princess have equal power in government, Sir Simonn said. "We discuss more SCA than our own mundane existence."

The revel ended with medieval dancing before the court. The dances, taught that afternoon by Lord Sigmund the Wingfooted (Ron Goforth), included a

slow, ceremonial dance called a pavanne and a fast and rowdy circle dance. There was recorded period music to dance to, which Lord Sigmund had found in his studies as a music major at Sam Houston State University. It was his interest in medieval music that brought him into the SCA, he said, but most people join to "regain something we've lost; courtesy, chivalry, honor."

Sunday at noon the college broke for lunch, and a large group was waiting for an elevator on the third floor of Rudder Tower. When an elevator stopped, it was full of "mundanes" from a conference on a higher floor. There was an uneasy silence, and it was obvious from the looks on their faces they didn't understand what the society members were doing. Mistress Tessa broke into a giggle, pointed, and said, "Look at those funny-looking people!" The group broke up laughing, but the faces on the elevator just got more puzzled. The elevator door closed. Those people will probably never understand.



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