In 1957, Maynard Parker joined 811 other delegates at the 18th National Junior Achievers Conference held for the first time at Indiana University. Sunday he returned to the same auditorium that delegation frequented to accept the Distinguished Graduate Achiever award.

Parker first joined JA in 1956 in Los Angeles, but his relationship with JA goes much farther back. Parker's father was involved with JA for many years prior to opening the program in Los Angeles and serving as its first executive director. Parker was vice-president of the JA company for two years and also served as sales manager and then editor-in-chief of the school newspaper and worked summers as a staff writer on the Burbank Daily Review. He graduated from Stanford University in 1962 and a year later from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. After graduation he was a public affairs reporter for Life magazine. He then served two years as an Army lieutenant in southeast Thailand, after which he returned to the Life staff.

Parker joined Newsweek in 1967 as a correspondent in the magazine’s Hong Kong bureau and in 1969 was named Saigon bureau chief. After a year and a half in Saigon he returned to Hong Kong as head of that bureau. He was named Managing Editor of Newsweek's International Edition in May 1973.

The Distinguished Graduate Achiever award was originated in the mid-1950’s by the National Graduate Achievers organization as a way for the conference to recognize former members of JA and particularly former NAJACers for their service to the community, their success in business, and their service to JA.
JA Boards receive more Achiever input

When Barb Baker was elected president of the Achievers Association in St. Paul, Minn., last October, she promised greater communication with the board of directors.

Today she's a member of that board.

"It's required that we both help each other," the third-year Achiever explained. "It's difficult to make policy concerning Achievers when there is no Achiever representative to give that point of view."

Much of Barb's success resulted from her perseverance.

Although the idea was received negatively in October, Barb personally appeared before the board in February to request that an Achiever be allowed to serve on the board. By the end of the meeting she had been elected by a unanimous vote to a board position.

"I SIMPLY EXPLAINED the functions and accomplishments of our Achievers Association," she explained. "The board had staffed serious we were -- that we were doing something worthwhile."

Barb's main duty is that of liaison between the board and the Achievers Association, she makes monthly presentations to the board and brings back pertinent information to the AA. Barb also enjoys full voting privileges during her one-year appointment.

"THE BOARD MEMBERS were very receptive to my ideas, and have asked my opinion often," continued Barb. "Of course, there were many issues such as fund raising where I didn't have the experience for informed input. But in areas like center location and program changes, I felt very involved in the outcome."

Barb felt she gained a great deal from the experience. "I discovered a completely different perspective by working with older and influential people," she explained. "But most important, I gained a real appreciation for these people. I had never imagined how much work business people put in for us -- usually on their own time."

"IT'S SO EASY for us to take the JA program for granted," Barb continued. "Everything is there for us and we never think about how the funds are obtained to run it."

Barb wasn't the only one who learned. George McFadden, St. Paul JA board member and marketing director of a St. Paul newspaper felt the learning experience worked two ways.

"WE ARE DELIGHTED with Barb and with the idea in general," McFadden commented. "We learned a great deal of first-hand knowledge we had never known before."

McFadden continued, "Barb was conversant with almost 100 percent of the companies in the center. She was full of ideas and shared the events of individual companies that we never see. In my mind, the communication gap was completely eliminated."

Ron Tschida, program director, agreed. "She was able to answer questions that the staff couldn't answer -- simply because we couldn't ask them as Achievers."

ST. PAUL is only one city in a growing trend toward more Achiever input on local JA boards. Connie Smith, a NAJAC delegate from Augusta, Ga., just completed a year as a board member. President of her Achievers Association, she served a one-year term on the board with the JA secretary, Pat London.

"The board members liked the idea," commented Bob Smith, executive director of Augusta JA. "They didn't always understand the teen-age point of view. The Achievers helped them relate their decisions to teens."

Connie, a four-year Achiever participating in her third conference, has problems too. Three counselors arrived for return as soon as possible. A COMMERCIAL BUSLINE lost an Achiever's luggage and has faithfully promised to trace it for return as soon as possible. The busline guarantees it will be there . . . by Friday! COUNSELORS have problems too. Three counselors arrived in Indianapolis later than scheduled Saturday night, to find that there was no one available to drive them to Bloomington.

Barb Baker

NAJAC, made her approach to the board in November. She has served for a year with full voting privileges.

"THEY WERE VERY INTERESTED in what we had to say," she commented. "The Achiever viewpoint was especially important when center modifications were discussed."

Another NAJAC delegate, Fred Kalais, has just been elected to a second year as a member of the New Bedford, Mass. board of directors. His executive director describes the general reaction as "very favorable."

Some have unusual experiences

Arrivals smooth, but . . .

Lost luggage? No room assignment? No name tag? A mile walk only to discover the person needed was back where you started? Although most activities at the conference are well planned and occur with little or no confusion, the arrival of over 1,400 delegates cannot be fully and exactly prepared for.

However, thanks to the staff's advance planning, many problems are handled immediately and others are solved.

Without the coordination of the registrar and travel staffs, the welcoming and orientation could have lasted longer than the conference itself.

If you had a long wait to register or to have some problem solved, relax! Most of your friends made it to their rooms and their groups with no difficulty at all. But there are always a few problems.

ONE DELEGATE flew into Indianapolis and neglected to transfer all of his luggage from the airport to the bus. He has enough toothpaste, but little else.

A COMMERCIAL BUSLINE lost an Achiever's luggage and has faithfully promised to trace it for return as soon as possible. The busline guarantees it will be there . . . by Friday!

COUNSELORS have problems too. Three counselors arrived in Indianapolis later than scheduled Saturday night, to find that there was no one available to drive them to Bloomington.

MANY DELEGATES in the excitement of arrival forgot to check the luggage racks and left overnight cases, valets and travel bags on chartered buses later discovering the buses weren't staying in Bloomington but returning to the home cities immediately after dropping off the Achievers.

A DELEGATION arrived with 30 per cent more people than conference records indicated. With rooms at a premium, the registration desk had to resort to a magic wand.

BUT OUR BEST BUS story gets down to basic comfortability -- or at least minimal. One Achiever traveling on a bus found out at departure time that the bus had one less seat than the delegation had members. She was assigned the best seat -- or at least the most private -- in the bus lavatory.

In Junior Achievement, you make decisions that count...
Arrival scenery . . .

Crowded around a bus, the hustle of unloading luggage is the chaotic beginning of a NAJAC week for many of the delegates.

If you don’t know what’s going on . . . look it up in the book. Two Achievers consult the NAJAC bible, the delegate manual, for the next step in their arrival schedule.

Two delegates take advantage of a lull in the registration activities to test the JA “flying saucers” new this year at the souvenir shop.

Making friends is a big part of the arrival process . . . even if your new friends turn out to be stuffed animals.

A smile is the best way to end a long bus ride and begin the best week of your life. Smiles were in abundance at arrival time this year.

. . . the new world of NAJAC ’74
Breezes buffaloe balloonist: NAJAC's first float foiled

Forbes, a management magazine, will be unusually represented at the fourth annual Business and Industry Day on Wednesday. Their Balloon Ascension Division will float a huge multi-colored balloon over the conference as soon as the wind dies down.

Dennis Fleck, the operator of the 1,000 square feet of material plus accessories, is waiting for a storm center to pass over the city and calm the weather down. Most likely this will happen tonight.

"The balloon is flying publicity for the magazine. It's an advertising promotional gimmick explains Fleck. "I'm staying here until Wednesday because we were invited for the Executive Fly-In. That's when we will get the most exposure."

When inflated, the hot air balloon stands 80 feet high and 55 feet in diameter. Propane gas heaters control the vertical movement of the balloon. Only the wind controls the horizontal movement.

The Forbes balloon, which cost the magazine over $5,000, has been demonstrated all around the country. A German-built bus that travels over 5,000 miles transporting and launching the balloon for two years it has operated.

Fleck, who has been a regular employee at Forbes, first became interested in balloons about three years ago. Both he and Malcolm Forbes, the president of the magazine, took balloon pilot training lessons at the same time.

"The training is similar to that which an airline pilot receives," said Fleck. "We learn navigation and Federal air regulations. A balloon is a registered aircraft, just like an airplane."

The Forbes balloon is one of the best products in the country. It is a registered aircraft and can carry up to 25 people. The balloon's engine is a 100-horsepower boat motor, which can take it 800 miles.

Forbes' two sons made a 45-minute documentary film of the trip. Fleck has a copy of that film with him at the conference.

The balloon is equipped with only three instruments, in addition to the communication devices. It has an altimeter to measure height, a pyrometer to measure the temperature at the top of the balloon and a gauge to measure the rate of vertical movement of the balloon.

"I have been up 2,500 feet in this balloon," said Fleck. "At that height, I had to use oxygen. The air temperature was 75 degrees below the ground temperature."

The specially equipped German-built bus that transports the Forbes balloon is unique. The brightly colored vehicle has a citizen's band radio and mobile telephone to communicate with the balloon and a spotlight to illuminate the balloon when it is tethered at night. It carries everything necessary to fly it.

"It takes about six people to raise the balloon, but I've had the balloon out of the truck and up in the air in less than an hour," says Fleck.

Fleck has never had a close call with the balloon. "They say that these things don't fall faster than a parachute, but I'm not about to find out," he noted.

So, if the weather grows calm, don't be surprised if the giant, colorful Forbes balloon lends its majestic presence to the 1974 NAJAC.

Two new contests sponsored

Products, banks compete

Continued from Page 1)

words "Kentucky Derby 100 Running -- 1974" accepted its wooden base. Region III's representative, the Sunshine Company of Danville, Ill., sold candle lanterns for $4 and $4.50. The company used a cork base and glass chimney to adorn a small, scented candle.

A glass chimney was used by Region IV's SEARCO as well. Creating a small terrarium, the Atlanta, Ga. company charged $2 to $4.50 for its product. Region IV's representative, Candelero Unlimited of Bellingham, Wash., produced a variety of products. Starting with a three-branched candle product selling for $4., the company expanded to a mini-candle of two branches for $2, and a wall-holder pair of candles for $7.

For its first year, the Commercial Product Development Contest is evaluating only tangible products. Future judging will add criteria on services, systems, and processes for special recognition.

BANKING BOON

The growing trend toward service companies made possible a new company contest, established to honor the

Robin Holdin, former president of a JA bank and currently program director for Junior Achievement of Canada.

Finalists in the bank of the year contest were selected in regional competitions. Winners were Liberty JA Company of San Francisco, Calif.; Penny Larceny and Trust Company of Omaha, Neb.; Achievers Banking Company of Pitts­burgh, Pa.; United Achievers Bank of Richmond, Va. and Citizens JA bank of Orlando, Fl.

Two new contests sponsored:

Products, banks compete

Product Contest entries

Pictured above are this year's five entries in the new "Best Product," or Commercial Product Development competition, which is sponsored by the Commercial Development Association.