



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY



Billie Jean Cansler and Betty Willingham, daughters of two Ecusta employees, placed first and second in the Voice of Democracy contest held in Transylvania County in November. To be eligible for entry in the contest, high school students of the county had to submit original speeches, written for radio presentation, and based on the theme: "I Speak for Democracy". The contest was sponsored by the Brevard Junior Chamber of Commerce, Radio Station WPNF and the radio dealers of Brevard and Transylvania County.

Billie Jean, the first-place winner was awarded an Arvin radio. Her speech was recorded at the local radio station and sent to Raleigh as Transylvania's entry in the State contest. A senior at Brevard High School, she is the daughter of Furman Cansler (Replacement Crew).

Betty was awarded a Tru-tone radio as the second-place winner. She too is a senior at Brevard High School and is the daughter of Obie Willingham (Power Department, Cellophane Div.)

The Echo is proud to reproduce for its readers a written copy of their prize-winning speeches.

I SPEAK FOR DEMOCRACY

By Billie Jean Cansler *653 words*

"I see an America where rivers and valleys and lakes — hills and streams and plains — the mountains over our land and nature's wealth deep under the earth — are protected as rightful heritage of all the people." Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke these words and I wonder if you see what he saw in our American democracy?

I speak for democracy—not because democracy cannot speak for itself but in our fast moving atomic world it seems to be only a faint sound, sometimes not even heard by the leaders of our nation. Our ancestors bravely fought for what we today call our American heritage, but I ask you, does it rightfully belong to you and me? Have we really earned this great democracy which they bestowed upon us? "We owe it to our ancestors to preserve entirely those rights which they have delivered to our care. We owe it to posterity not to suffer its dearest inheritance to be destroyed." In those few words an unknown man laid claim and stated an obligation to you and me as American citizens.

As an immigrant watches for the Statue of Liberty as a stepping stone toward a new life, so do new countries look toward a model democracy that can survive. As a football player battles the line and comes through victorious, so does democracy as it battles a line of dictators, Communists, and Socialists.

Democracy has no marked beginning. The search for it has long been in the hearts of men even as the search for the Holy Grail burned in