



MISS RICKS

Miss Margaret Ricks Retires After Many Years Of Service

"I'm going to retire and enjoy reading, gardening, traveling, and things that I love to do," said Miss Margaret Ricks as she prepared to leave the school room in which she has taught mathematics for thirty years.

Miss Ricks graduated from Converse college with a B A and during her senior year there she taught mathematics. She holds an M A from Georgetown where she also taught and an M A in secondary education from Peabody.

Whiteville, one of the oldest schools established in North Carolina, was where she began really teaching secondary schools. Since that time she has taught in Tennessee, St. Mary's School in Raleigh, worked for the government for two years during World War I, and finally came to RMHS where she has taught three generations of students.

Bill Murray, present coach at Duke; Kay Kyser, Famous TV and radio star; and Dan Lacy, who had the

highest average ever made at Carolina, are only a few of the outstanding pupils she has taught.

While Miss Ricks expressed some sorrow at retiring, she said she thought that after she got used to it, she might enjoy having time to take things easy and do some of the things she's always wanted to do without having a schedule to follow.

Miss Ricks said many nice things had been done for her. Last Wednesday afternoon she was honored with a "diploma" and a money certificate at the annual faculty picnic held at the home of Miss Eleanor Pearsall. The week before a tea was given in her honor.

As this master teacher prepares to close the door on her teaching career, we, the Blackbird staff, wish to dedicate this issue to Miss Margaret Ricks, a beloved teacher of Rocky Mount High who has served her school and her community so well for so long.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

THE BLACKBIRD

MISS
RICKS

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Two Awards Days Set To Recognize Students

Awards day, the day when awards are presented to students who have attained goals in certain fields, is due to arrive at RMHS on May 25.

The various types of awards are the Civitan award for citizenship in each of the four classes, the Baush and Lamb science award, the American Legion Boy's and Girls State representatives, the Business and Professional Women's club commercial award, the Exchange's club's scholarship award, the Kiwanis award presented to the student most likely to succeed, and the Chamber of Commerce Band Award.

Among the awards sponsored by the school are: biology, D. E., debating, public speaking, drama, school publications, music department, athletic department, cheerleaders and G A A.

Awards will also be made to the winners of the Babe Ruth award for sportsmanship and the R. M. Wilson Service Award.

Publications Choose Editors For '51-'52

Officers for next year's publications have been chosen.

Albert Rabil is the editor of the Hi-Noc-Ar staff while Fred Patton is editor of the Blackbird.

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To The Barringers

For the past several years the Barringers have rendered service to the "Blackbird" staff. It would be impossible to count the dozens of "Photos by Barringer" which have gone into our paper—photos not only by Bugs but also by Dot Barringer and James Reid.

As is the usual custom Mrs. Barringer was responsible for making pictures of the beauty contestants from which the queen and her court were chosen. Through an oversight the "Photo by Dot Barringer" was omitted under the picture of the queen and her court.

It is from the bottom of our hearts that we express our deepest appreciation to the Barringers—Dot and Bugs—for all that they've done for us.

—The Blackbird Staff

Eure, Commencement Speaker

Billy Cooper To Serve As President Of NHS

Billy Cooper will serve as president of the National Honor Society in Rocky Mount high school next fall. Albert Rabil will serve as vice-president, Margaret Moore Eason, secretary and Peggy Ward, treasurer.

One of next year's projects was discussed. This club will sponsor a pencil vender containing R M H S pencils which will be black with gold lettering. It was also agreed upon to keep a scrapbook of all members of the National Honor Society. Each member would have a page with a picture and such information as likes and dislikes, description of person, and high school activities.

Reynolds Has Lead In Senior Comedy

Exactly how are men like streetcars? This was the question around R M H S until the seniors presented the annual senior play, "Men are Like Streetcars" last Friday night.

A three-act comedy by Graeme and Sarah Lorimer features Faye Reynolds as Maude who plays the role of a modern "Dorothy Dix" who settles anybody's and everybody's love problems.

Supporting Faye were Carol Wiggins as Joy, Robert Burgess as Maude's father; Barbara Rowland as Sylvia, her sister; Joe Beard, her steady; Jimmy Carter as Jerry; Margaret Boone as Mrs. Mason; Blanche Wilkins, Sarah Joyner and Betsy Carr, three girls with one interest; Frances Bunn, Hazel Rawls and Barbara Land, mothers of the girls; John Page as the "handsome young man," Pete Winstead as Ted; and Barbara Fulghum as the housekeeper.

During intermission prizes were given through the courtesy of local firms.

The comedy was under the direction of Mrs. Mildred Kramer.

Many of the students have appeared in previous plays given by (Continued on page 4)

West To Deliver Class Sermon

Thad Eure, North Carolina's Secretary of State, has been selected by the commencement committee to speak at commencement. Dr. Fred West of the Raleigh Christian church will deliver the Baccalaureate sermon.

Dr. J. A. Hobbs, superintendent of the Rocky Mount Methodist district will give the invocation and benediction at commencement. At the Baccalaureate Service Reverend Gray Temple of the local Episcopal church will give the invocation and benediction, Reverend Clinton P. Campbell of the local Christian church will read the scripture and deliver a prayer. During the service the high school choir will sing "The Angelus" and "Gloria In Excelsis."

The commencement committee are also responsible for the decoration and roping off of seats reserved for seniors and their parents. Members of this committee are Ellen Williams, chairman, Frank Livesay, Bobby Chandler, Bob Marriot, and faculty adviser, Mrs. T. D. Young.

Members of the Baccalaureate committee are Frances Dunn, chairman, Herbert Slater, Betsy Carr, Tommy Bass, and faculty adviser, Mr. C. V. Lundy.

Breakfast Starts 'Senior Day'

Senior Day will be celebrated by the class of '51 on next Monday. At that time seniors will don their caps and gowns and enjoy a day of fun from sunrise till sunset.

First in the schedule will be a breakfast from 8:00 until 9:00 at Rick's Hotel. At this time "Mr. Senior" and "Miss Senior" will be selected. The judges are to be Mayor Duke, Mr. Stone, and another member to be announced

later. After breakfast the seniors will return to school. A few of the special privileges during the school hours are ignoring traffic rules, senior acting as teacher in class, being excused from study hall and activity period. Seniors may also break in line at the cafeteria and their lunch period will be extended to two o'clock. Underclassmen will (Continued on page 4)

Student Organization And Publication Leaders For Next Year



Reading from left to right are Gene Williams, President of the Student Organization; Preston Bradshaw, Vice President; Kay Finch, Secretary. The next two pictures are of publication officers. From left to right Fred Patton, Blackbird Editor; and Albert Rabil, Editor of the Hi-Nor-Ar.

—Photo by Dot Barringer