

# The Owl

PUBLISHED EACH SCHOOL MONTH BY THE STUDENTS OF THE OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Volume XVI

Oxford, N. C., May, 1953

Number 1

## Commencement Exercises To Be Held June 5

### Dean Leo Jenkins to Address Seniors

Plans for graduating exercises of the class of 1953 have been completed, as announced by Dr. Budd Smith, superintendent of Oxford City Schools, and Mr. M. R. Vickers, principal of Oxford High School. The annual Baccalaureate sermon, which will begin the exercises, will be held at the First Baptist Church at eight o'clock on May 31. Dr. George Griffin, Professor of Religion at Wake Forest College, will deliver the commencement sermon.

#### CLASS NIGHT

Class Night for the class of '53 will be held on June 4 at eight-fifteen o'clock in the high school auditorium.

The valedictory and salutatory will be delivered at this time by Sarah Hall and Janet Hicks, respectively. Also at this time, Henry Saye will deliver the Class Prophecy; Sarah Baker, the Class Poem; Billy Crews, the Last Will and Testament; Jo-Anne Knott, the Class History; and Anne Wallace, Class Giftorian, will distribute gifts. Various awards and medals will be presented, and the class gift to the school will be presented by the seniors.

#### GRADUATION NIGHT

On the night of June 5th at eight-fifteen o'clock members of the Senior Class of the Oxford High School and the John Nichols School, will receive their diplomas. Leo H. Jenkins, Dean of East Carolina College, will address the seniors of both schools.

Those who will receive diplomas are:

Julia Ann Adcock, Christine Marie Allen, James J. Averett, Louis Elliott Averette, Betty Brown Baird, Frank Hartwell Baker, Sarah Elizabeth Baker, Mary Elizabeth Beasley, Mildred Frances Blair, Thomas Lyon Blalock, Jr., Robert Sutton Bradsher, Jr., Ambrose Harrison Brooks, Jr., Margaret Hayes Burwell, Mildred Louise Caron, Phyllis Ann Coley, Sara Alice Crews, William Barker Crews, III, John Harris Crumpler, Pella Carroll Daniel, Samuel Wright Daniel, Dora Lee Dickerson, Younger Blanton Dickerson, Ernestine Parham Doshier, Shirley Ann Ellington, Billy Herbert Ellis, Ruth Jones Ellis, James E. Evans, Herbert Braxton Finch, William E. Fleming, Judith Lambert Gholson, Sarah Hall, Joseph Carr Hamme, Sallie Louise Hamme, Francis Eugene Hart, Goldie Janet Hicks, Mary Ann Howard, Bobby L. Hughes, Marilyn Elizabeth Hughes, Sadie Florence Jackson, Maude Jenette Jones, Iddie Suretha Knott, Jo-Anne Knott, Jane Hunt Mangum, Jaxie Leigh Morton, Roy Lee Noblin, Jr., Hallie Rue Oakley, James Eldridge O'Brien, Floyd Carson Parker, Jr., Doris Lee Preddy, Michael Ferry Powell, Mary Katherine Quicke, Ronald McDuffie Ragland, Peggie Anne Reynolds, Ellen Marie Riggan, Henry Arthur Saye, Donald Lawrence Sizemore, Mary Elizabeth Suitt, Daniel Crawford Tippet, Lawrence Meredith Tippet, Otha Anne Wallace, David D. Watkins, James Thomas Watkins, Jr., Blanche Thomas Wilkins, Sylvia Ann Winters, Thomas Duwall Wright, Jr.

### M. R. Vickers Resigns

Next year Oxford High School will begin the school year without the services of one of Oxford's hardest working school men. For more than twenty years Mr. Vickers has been in association with the Oxford School. In 1931 Mr. Vickers came to Oxford after beginning his career in Columbus in 1929. He taught science and coached sports at Oxford until he became an officer in the army. His coaching and his teaching were of superior quality. Oxford had some of its greatest years in football while Mr. Vickers was coaching. At one time O. H. S. beat Henderson eleven straight years. At the present Mr. Vickers plans to complete work at the University of North Carolina for his master's degree in education.

Good luck, Mr. Vickers, and we want to say we are sorry you are leaving.

### Taylor To Head Council

At the student council elections held during the latter part of May, Dick Taylor was elected President by the majority of student voters. Dick has just successfully completed the vice-presidential duties of this year's student council.

Sam Royster was elected to serve as vice-president. Sam was unopposed and gained his office by acclamation.

The office of Secretary was filled by Haldane Doshier. Haldane is a newcomer to the student council as she is an upcoming sophomore.

Another freshman, Nancy O'Brien, will take over the office of treasurer.

A lot of enthusiasm was evident in the election. Posters, campaign speeches and gags were very original. The Student Council is expected to do the fine job next year that it has in the past.

### "Farewell, Dr. Smith"

Farewell, Dr. Smith. We regret your departure; however, we realize that a better opportunity prevails for you in your recent appointment as President of Wingate Junior College. We know that you're the top flight man for Wingate and that you will make a fine President. We, the "Owl" Staff, should like to express, for the student body, our sincere thanks for the kindness and sincerity which you and Mrs. Smith have shown us since you first came to Oxford. We should also like to say, "Thanks Very Much" for the vast improvements in our curriculum and activities. Had it not been for some of your wise and just decisions, we would not have made steadfast progress on problems that troubled us. We hope for you a successful term of office and that God may be with you always. We invite you to come back to Oxford whenever you feel the desire. We hope that it will be very often.



SARAH HALL  
Valedictorian



JANET HICKS  
Salutatorian

### Hall, Hicks Are Honor Students

This year our valedictorian is Sarah Hall. This five feet three inch body, packed with brain and spunk, is one of the youngest students of the Senior Class. Sarah started her school career at the Oxford Orphanage. She skipped the second grade and completed her last ten years at the Oxford City Schools. Sarah plans to attend W. C. next fall where she will study to be a primary school teacher. There have been many clubs in which Sarah has taken part. Her average is in the upper nineties.

Janet Hicks follows Sarah in her scholastic records and claims the honor of Salutatorian. Janet is a very quiet girl with golden blond hair. At the present Janet has a wonderful job working at the bank. Janet is always ready to help you with a helping hand.

Both of these honor students have an older brother or sister that has taken the honor of Salutatorian at Oxford. Helen Hall, who graduates from W. C. this year was Salutatorian in 1949; and Buck Hicks, a student at Carolina, was Salutatorian in 1950.

### Knott Is Editor Of "Oxonian"

Betty Sue Knott was elected without opposition to edit the 1954 "Oxonian." It was the choice of the Junior Class that she be the only candidate for this office. Betty Sue is a member of the Girl's Athletic Association, Dramatics Club and was past Associate Editor on the annual staff. She has excelled in basketball these past two years.

#### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Serving with Betty Sue will be Harvey Horowitz, associate editor. Harvey, a rising Junior, is a member of the Student Council and the Public Speaking Class.

#### BUSINESS MANAGER

Ronald Sneed, Class of '54, was elected business manager of the "Oxonian". Ronald drives a school bus and had a nice part in the Junior Play this year.

#### ART EDITOR

Doug Bradsher, a freshman transfer student from Stem will serve as art editor of the annual. We offer congratulations to the Staff of '54 and know they will work together to create a fine "Oxonian" for next year.

### Junior-Senior

Members of the senior class of Oxford High School, fast approaching the realization of graduation, spent an evening Friday as guests of members of the junior class on their Old Plantation.

Old Plantation, made realistic with rose bowers and trellis and garden scenes, was set up for the evening in the cafeteria of the College Street School. The nightcap of the delightful evening was a dance in the plantation ballroom, the library of the same building.

Ellie Mitchell, president of the junior class, gave the welcome. As the waiters and waitresses, members of the freshman class with their faces black and in attire befitting their role in the evening's entertainment, served their guests, an interesting program of toasts and entertainment was presented.

Betty Sue Knott gave the toast to the seniors and the president of the graduating group, James Watkins, made the response. Warren Stephenson gave the toast to the high school principal, M. R. Vickers, who responded. Dick Taylor addressed Dr. Budd Smith and the Oxford school superintendent responded. There was special music by a quartet consisting of Charles Jones, Bunny Ragland, Ollie Barker and Talton Hughes, alumni of the school and entertainment by the waiters and the waitresses before the program continued.

Ben Averett addressed his remarks to the faculty and R. C. Culton responded. Ellie Mitchell toasted the school committee and Chairman J. P. Hall responded. Jackie Shaw did the honors to the mothers of the juniors for their assistance in preparing and making the banquet possible and Mrs. Nat Burwell spoke for the mothers.

At the close of the course dinner, a group of members of the junior class presented a minuet.

Mrs. Tom Harmon arranged the entertainment for the intermission.

The menu consisted of grapefruit halves with cherry center, southern fried chicken, brown gravy, lima beans, new potatoes, tossed salad, hot buttered rolls, home made ice cream and cake and iced tea.