

# Rocky Mount . . .

(Continued from page four)

The main street is filled with people—twenty to a pack. Jolly farmers' wives, their arms filled with packages and babies, plod along the store-lined street. They stop to gawk at the slim lines of cocktail dresses and the furs arrogantly arranged in the window of Rosenbloom-Levy, Incorporated. They brush past sophisticated business women in tailored suits who hurry along, unaware of their own unimportance. They pass well-to-do widows in bright reds and blues who scurry towards beauty parlors and jewelry stores. They go by housewives whose stringy hair is "enkerchiefed" and whose wrinkled stockings make their legs look withered. The wives walk the streets and pick at their sparsely scattered teeth with limp toothpicks soaked in thick brown plug juice. They wait for their husbands to go and return from the sales.

Roll along, tobacco wagon . . .

Farmers in well-worn overalls and hats walk with deliberate steps from cluttered drug stores and dingy pool halls to the warehouses clustered around the railroad. Edgecombe County is severed by the tracks of the Atlantic Coast Line, and so is Rocky Mount's business district. Main Street is on both sides of the tracks. Train lowered gates, traffic jams, clenched fists and cuss words, wheels rumble past to the steel platform. Its cement floor is carpeted with wooden hogsheads and rickety tobacco baskets.

Roll, . . . tobacco . . .

Behind the platform corners of the warehouse floors are also covered with empty baskets and hogsheads. In the center, columns of burnt golden leaves reach almost to the rafters—leaves of gold that turn to silver in the farmers' pockets. The musty toasted smell of tobacco mingles with the rank odor of the farmers. Short, fat men large, skinny men—all auctioneers—chant at one time in an undistinguishable jargon. Outside, a lone man sits in a chipped wooden chair as a watchdog, to keep an eye on the tobacco. He scans the newspaper headlines of a rape case and

intermittently spits, leaving a new dark spot on the white cement walk. Day and night . . .

Soot floats down from the tall smoke stack above the export house next to the warehouse. Here hefty-busted colored women in worn down heelless shoes, their hair crimped from the heat of the curling iron, pack the golden leaf. Men in grimy trousers and dirt-splattered shirts push carts of tobacco across the rickety floor and wipe their ebony foreheads—from dusk to dawn and dusk again—and dawn.

We'll be here both day and night Rocky Mount will treat you right.

Another patch of warehouses looms a block away. The red brick Public Library stands awkwardly in the midst of them. Farmers cross the shaded library lawn as a short cut to the city hospital just across the street. Houses are sprinkled in and out between the warehouses, the library, and the hospital. Early in the morning lawns are covered with sparkling dew and hazy-eyed drunks . . .

Here both day and night . . .

Then suddenly, tobacco trucks screech to a halt, the sliding doors in the empty warehouses stand half closed. Withered leaves flutter outside the warehouse. Late October across the chipped wooden chair her merges into November, December, and a new year. Soon, new seeds and short stubby shoots and sprouts will be planted, and the town will once again rumble with the sounds of trucks.

Roll on tobacco wagon, roll.  
—Erwin Robbins

# James Farrell Will Speak This Monday

On Monday, December 16, James Farrell, author, essayist, and short story writer, will meet with Salem College students in foreign affairs and English courses.

Mr. Farrell, who has traveled widely in the Middle East, will give his impressions to Dr. Africa's U. S. in World Affairs class at 11:55 on Monday. Interested students may attend this meeting in the Day Student Center.

He will speak to the English majors and other invited guests during the two class periods after lunch. Mr. Farrell is author of the Studs Lonigan and Danny O'Neill series and has recently published a basketball diary. He is being brought to the campus by the English and History Departments.

# Committees To Evaluate A. A. Program

The A. A. Council now has three committees to evaluate several phases of the A. A. program: the fall sport, the intramural activities, and the awards system.

The fall sport committee is making a detailed study of the possible replacement of hockey as a fall sport. Due to the lack of participation, hockey has become practically inactive.

The intramural activities committee is making study of the intramural programs on other campuses and our own to try to find ways to improve participation and interest in the intramural program.

The awards system committee is studying the validity of our present system. It is felt that in spite of the awards system presented in the handbook, there are many who do not understand it. Records from these committees are due next month.

Don't forget the faculty-student volleyball game Monday night at 7:30 in the Gym.

The result of the volleyball tournament: champions of Salem, the Junior class team.

# Student Opinion Favors Continued Nuclear Tests

Information from Associated Collegiate Opinion Polls.

Every so often a new controversy arises over the subject of radioactive fallout from tests of nuclear weapons, and at such times, there are usually two sides expressing views—those who believe all testing should be stopped and those who feel it should continue. Do you think testing of nuclear weapons should be ended, or do you think it should be continued? Why?

The question was asked of a representative cross section of college students in the United States. How do you feel about the issue? How do your views compare to those others?

The results of this national poll of student opinion showed students to be overwhelmingly in favor of continued testing. The statistics on a percentage basis were:

	Men	Women	Total
Continue tests	94%	78%	88%
Stop tests	3%	17%	8%
Undecided	3%	5%	4%

The reasons for continuing tests ranged from national security to progress. Many students felt that radioactive fallout should be carefully regulated if tests were to continue. Students who favor stopping tests believe we should do so if Russia and other countries will do the same.

In the light of recent scientific developments by the Soviet Union the problem of nuclear weapons, missiles, and other defense projects

rests heavily on the minds of Americans. Today, this seems to be a matter of survival. We must continue to test weapons and must begin an intensified plan to train more young people in the fields of science. We must remain a strong nation if peace is to exist in the world.

Last fall when a group of American students attended a youth festival in Moscow there was much discussion as to the wisdom of this trip. In an effort to find out how college students felt about the activities of this group they were asked if they felt that the World Youth Festival had (a) much value (b) some value or (c) little value in promoting understanding between Communist countries and free countries. Most of the students shyed away from the extremes of much or little value and settled on the middle ground of some value. The results:

	Men	Women	Total
Much value	15%	22%	18%
Some value	53%	58%	55%
Little value	29%	15%	23%
Undecided	3%	5%	4%

Students who said the festival had much value based their opinions on the benefits of direct contact toward helping people understand one another. Those who felt little value could be gained from the festival dwelled on the fact that little could be discussed or exchanged in a Communist country under Communist rule.

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