



THE BLACKBIRD

Official Publication of
Rocky Mount High School
Member of the
Columbia Scholastic Press Association
EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief Alva Wallace
Assistant Editor Fred Patton
News Editor Janet Mellor
Sports Editors Johnnie Shelton, James Johnson
Feature Editor Carolyn Ellis
Literary Editor Margaret Eason
Exchange Editor Velna Motley
P. T. S. A. Reporter Virginia Gray
Columnist Jean Cooper

BUSINESS STAFF
Business Manager Emily Baker
Circulation Manager Tam Holliday
Advertising Manager Shirley Robbins
Assistant Advertising Manager Sue Franks
Typists Second Year Typing Class

FACULTY ADVISER
MRS. T. D. YOUNG
Published fourteen times during the year by the Journalism Class of Rocky Mount High School.
Subscription Rate \$1.00

What Peace Means To Me

Peace means that I will no longer live in dread of war, war in which my friends and kin get killed. It means that boys and girls, men and women, all over the earth will be safe from evil men, spurred on by greed and desire for power.

Peace means that each one is free to do what he wishes. There are no hungry and dirty people, lying about in streets and gutters. No buildings are demolished, but clean, cheerful homes for everyone. No sad-faced displaced persons are wandering about. Church bells peel out on Sunday morning and streams of families walk together, although they enter different churches. No juvenile delinquents but adequate recreation facilities are provided to keep everyone contented.

Peace comes when God takes away all suffering, brought about by war or other means, and when men can live together like true brothers.

Armistice Day

At one minute before eleven o'clock on November 11, 1918, the battlefield in France shook with the roar of cannons. One minute later, at exactly eleven; a cry of joy resounded around the earth. World War I was over! The Armistice had been signed with Germany.

Since then November 11 has been commemorated as Armistice Day, the day of peace on which to pay tribute to the dead World War heroes.

Since the Armistice Day of 1918, the world has been thrown into a second great war and this too has been closed with peace treaties signed on certain days, creating other Peace Days to be noted.

Now once again after World War II, we are faced with another crisis and it has become even more important and necessary to participate in these services, all of which emphasize the need for peace and unity in the world. For without these dead, the whole world would be as unstable as part of it is today. Let's get together and fight communistic aggression. Let's become once more the confident and self-assured Americans.

What Price—Popularity?

It is nice to be popular, called up every evening, and swamped with invitations. But if one has to pay too high a price for this, it is better to pass it by. Sticking to what one believes in, doing what conscience says is right, and keeping friendly and happy will bring one's share of real friends.

It's hard to say, "I'm sorry I cannot go," or "I have to be in early," especially when most of the others are going along.

But the girl who refuses to compromise principles, the boy who stands by his convictions and holds to what is good, are certain of being respected, honored, and loved.

Popularity is cheap and easy and short lived, but the way of happiness takes more, costs more, and rewards more rapidly.

Concerning Smoking

A girl should breathe perfume wherever she goes, but today it is cigarette smoke that lingers in her hair and clothes. Boys have enough of that of their own.

A girl's mouth should be one of her best features. It's smile is more expressive and more powerful than any words or glances. A cigarette in it destroys its lines and robs it of its expression.

Girls of high school age could do better than make a habit of smoking. It reduces their vitality and sometimes endangers their health.

They do not need to smoke for recreation nor do they need a sedative. When they're old and tired that should be time enough for it—if then. Until then, it would be just fine if they left it for the old folks!

I Thank Thee

Dear God, my teacher in school today told me to write you all the things I was thankful for, but you know, Dear God, it would take me a long time to write down on paper all the things for which I am thankful. I am thankful for my mother and father, who are so wonderful to me.

I thank thee for a warm, happy home full of love and companionship.

One thing I'm thankful for is the privilege to live in America. For the chance of getting an education I'm most thankful!

I am thankful for the air I breathe and for all my limbs, and, too, I'm thankful I've had no disease to overcome me.

I am thankful for my many friends.

Above all, Dear God, I thank Thee for the church I attend and if it were not for You, I couldn't be thankful at all.

There are many more things I have to be thankful for, but how long will these things exist unless everyone unites in World Peace.

Life In Autumn

October is waning — when nights are drenched with dew and we wake to the cool breath of autumn.

Darkness falls sooner, swallowing up each day a little more light. Jack frost lays his white mantle over hill and vale. Beauty stalks through the sunlit woods like Joseph in his coat of many colors. Multi-colored leaves drift to earth, forming mosaic patterns on the ground. Birds are migrating to a warmer climate, and soon certain animals and insects will hibernate into dreamless sleep.

Farmers have harvested their wheat and tobacco. corn stands brown and sere, soon to be gathered profit from their labor. Some folks think farm life drab and full of hard work, but most of us love it. It gives us an insight into the mysteries of the universe — life in the large and in the small, for the nearer we are to nature, the nearer we are to God.

Life is like the seasons—spring, summer, autumn and winter. For the afternoon follows the morning, and twilight signifies night is near. The youth of today is the man of tomorrow, and day after tomorrow, so to speak, he will begin traveling toward the sunset.

This autumn we are at war... overseas our boys are fighting and dying, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

We live in deed, not years, in thought, not breath... in feeling, not in shadows on dial. But when it gets dark enough, the stars will shine. God created the heaven and earth, the mountains and the seas and all the beauty thereof, but one of the most wonderful things he made was man. Yet all the sins of the world lie in the heart of man!

Mrs. Florence Young
October — 1950

Don't Race On Cars

Jack and John were at the wheels

Of two high powered automobiles.

As they were racing,

The police were chasing,

And they were not looking where they were going.

Soon the sirens really started roaring.

For they had a wreck which caused a death,

And it all happened before a deep breath.

By Douglas Newton

'Dear Principal'

The band was playing;
Our cheerleaders were shouting;

The team was rocking;
Our opponents were pouting;

Mr. Edson was smiling
From ear to ear;

Students were brimming over with good cheer.

Could it be, dear Cyrus
Because the team won that trophy this year?

Sue Franks

How Thanksgiving Day Came About

With Indians as guests of honor or about tables loaded with game and fish, wild fruits from the forest, and corn bread and vegetables from their new gardens, the Pilgrim Fathers celebrated their first American harvest in October, 1621. This harvest festival has come to be known today as Thanksgiving.

During the Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress appointed December 18, 1777, to be observed as a "Thanksgiving Day" in consequence of the surfender of Burgoyne. In the first year of his office, President Washington issued a proclamation recommending that No-

vember 26, 1789, be kept as a day of "National Thanksgiving" for the establishment of a form of government that made for safety and happiness.

In 1864 President Lincoln issued a proclamation in which he "appointed and set aside" the last Thursday in November as a day of National Thanksgiving.

In 1939 Franklin D. Roosevelt, desiring to lengthen the interval between Thanksgiving and Christmas, named the third Thursday as the date of celebration, but in December 1941, Congress passed a resolution making the fourth Thursday a legal holiday, and so it has since stood and still stands today.

Prayers For Thanksgiving

Let all of us in full accord
Give grateful thanks unto the Lord —

A very kind and gracious Lord,
Who gives us more than our reward.
From an Old New England Primer

...ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place Jer. 14:13

Help me, dear God, to keep my promises "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Dear God, when of my country,

Land of Liberty I sing,
Where mountain side,
Once Pilgrim's pride,
With Freedom's echoes ring—
I know it is a noble land,
A proud land, and a free,
With rocks and hills
and templed hills

Because, dear God, of thee
Long may our skies and anthems ring.

For country, home, and God,
our Kind

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!

God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood

From Sea to shining sea!
Katherine Lee Bates

In Their Way

On one cold day, many years ago.

Pilgrims sailed from Holland so slow;

They knew not where their ship would lock

When all hope was gone, they saw Plymouth Rock.

After day of hard work and toil

And raising food and tilling soil,

The Pilgrims and Indians in their way,

Gave a big feast, thanking God that day.

Since the day on we've done the same,

Giving thanks and praising His name.

We know that He gives all His love..

And all good gifts come from above.

Carolyn Ellis

A portable plow unit has been developed for quick clearing of forest fire lines.

A comet tail is away from the sun and thus may be traveling ahead of the comet.

Let's Read

This week, November 12 - 18, has been set aside as National Book Week. People are urged to take advantage of the public libraries and read good books.

Not too long ago books were as precious as gold. People treasured them and took perfect care of them.

Today people throw books around as if they were balls. They tear them, write in them, cut them and never think anything about it. Are you guilty of these crimes?

Better Understanding

While we are living at a critical period of our modern day life, we should have and seek a better understanding and viewpoint of the problems each of us face from day to day.

We should fear nothing, for if we fear, we lose our faith; and to lose our faith we lose hope and trust of ourselves and our leaders.

If we are to prosper and make good our country, it is of utmost importance that we uphold our rights, regardless of the prejudices that confront us.

Our land, America, has many things which make our possibilities great. If used right, these possibilities can prepare the way for a living condition that is very progressive.

We should discover the secrets to success in any field we might enter.

To find, examine, and to reason out is to know more about our surroundings and our people and other peoples and their surroundings as well.

We can accomplish much now that we have the ways in which to use our resources for the best of our country.

Let us start today to live and learn the way to make a nation, of which our children's children will be proud.

Song Of The Open Road

I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.

Indeed unless the billboards fall

I'll never see a tree at all.

Guayule, a shrub that grows wild on the dry table lands of Mexico and Texas, has been known for centuries as a rubber producer. Indian made bouncing balls from the elastic substance in the plant. Guayule was first suggested as a possible source of domestic rubber about 1900.

Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph, also was an artist.

Americans eat about nine pounds of beans apiece per year.

Why Buy Savings Stamps And Bonds?

Buying saving stamps and bonds is the duty of every American girl or boy, man or woman, who can sacrifice at least one pleasure out of each week. There are many citizens who can't afford this way of saving for the future, therefore those who can afford it must strive harder to do so. It is each person's responsibility to preserve a better future for himself and his children, as well as helping America to preserve its future, by building up a greater National defense there has ever been known before in American history.

Help our country and your individual self by taking part in this drive for security.