



# THE BLACKBIRD

Official Publication of  
**Rocky Mount High School**

Member of the  
Columbia Scholastic Press Association

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Published fourteen times during the year by the Journalism Class of Rocky Mount High School.

Subscription Rate ..... \$1.00

## Volunteer For Death

Lee Wilkins had been a fine young man. Everybody agreed on that. He had lived all his life in Elmsdale where his father was a lawyer. By the time he graduated from high school he was recognized as one of the town's most popular and outstanding young men. Because of his high average, he was able to go to Bryon College. Here again he was an outstanding student. When he was a senior, war broke out. Lee passed a test which deferred him from the service, thus allowing him to complete his education.

Lee came home one week-end for a short visit. On the return trip he drove faster than usual to make up for a late start. Lee saw the lights of the approaching train and heard its warning whistle as he neared the crossing. He knew that it was a freight and would take about ten minutes to pass. That time was needed for getting back to school. Lee's body was removed from his smashed car late the next day.

Like Lee, many people forget the power they have in their control when they get behind the wheel. Cars are made to get people places safely.

Accidents take a heavier toll of the population than war does. Unless people learn to obey traffic rules and regulations, this little epitaph may be found on many tombstones.

He stepped on the gas,  
As a fast train appeared.  
Death didn't draft him,  
He volunteered.

## Hallo, Ween

Hi, Jim  
Hello, Betty  
Hay, Bill  
Hallo, Ween  
?? Hallo, Ween???

Above are the words of a person speaking to his friends. Do you wonder why this person said, "Hallo, Ween!" Can Halloween be a friend?

Halloween is an annual affair. Every year on the 31st of October everyone celebrates by having a "good time." But many of these so-called "good times" wind up regretful. Someone might have brought some unnecessary shame upon themselves because they thought too late about the effects of their "fun."

A much better time can be had on Halloween without causing anyone shame or without getting into mischief. A person using some of these many harmful ways of having fun on Halloween may keep out of trouble have more fun than ever, and may make Halloween a friend.

## Corner Cleanup

In the schools of today, young people are in training for life's work. Some of these people are going to further their education by going to college and others are going to start work as soon as they graduate.

Maybe these come about by lack of training, but in some cases stubbornness is the main cause. Wrong impressions are made of well-behaved students through the unmannerly conduct of others. A good cleanup of the "corners" that were missed in the last Good Sports campaign might help matters to a certain extent but a good inside cleanup would be more effective.

## Sh! Quiet, Please!

Hello there! How are you today? I'm feeling fine and fit as a fiddle. Of course, I usually do. That is, I usually feel fine in the morning; but towards the end of the day my spirits are very low.

People visit my home by the thousands. They go in the door and out the door. Most people usually notice me but there are a few who are so downcast and forlorn looking that they never quite get their heads up high enough to see me.

I am home all of the time. I know you have seen me, but why do you never stop to say hello. Some people stop and even put their names upon my face. Of course, this is very rude, but you know I can't be too choise in my selection of friends, so the rude and the kind are always on my list.

I have to be going now. Important business is waiting for me at home. Please drop in and see me real soon. And please pay your respects to your old friend. For I am your friend, you know. I'm the "Quiet, Please!" sign that hangs on the library wall.

## What Day Is It?

One day of the year is set aside which young and old enjoy,  
From the oldster living on the farm to each young girl and boy.

The youngsters dress in costume while the old folks shout with glee;

Remembering the time when they themselves were naughty as could be.

Of course, you can guess which day it is, as it wouldn't be very hard.

For on that night old gates and trash are strewn in every yard.

A parade is held on Main street and goblins and witches are seen—  
You guessed it right the first time—yes, it's Halloween.

By Marcia Milne

## Some Are Mean!

Witches on broomsticks riding around,  
Everything quiet; you don't hear a sound.

On the fence you see an old black cat,

Then from the alley flies a bat.

Pumpkins in windows with their faces so bright;

Here comes little Johnny,

He's dressed up in white.

There are ghosts, skeletons, and devils in red.

What is this? It has no head!

Some are good; some are mean.

Let's do the right things on Halloween.

By Jane Edwards

## Fishes Are Birds

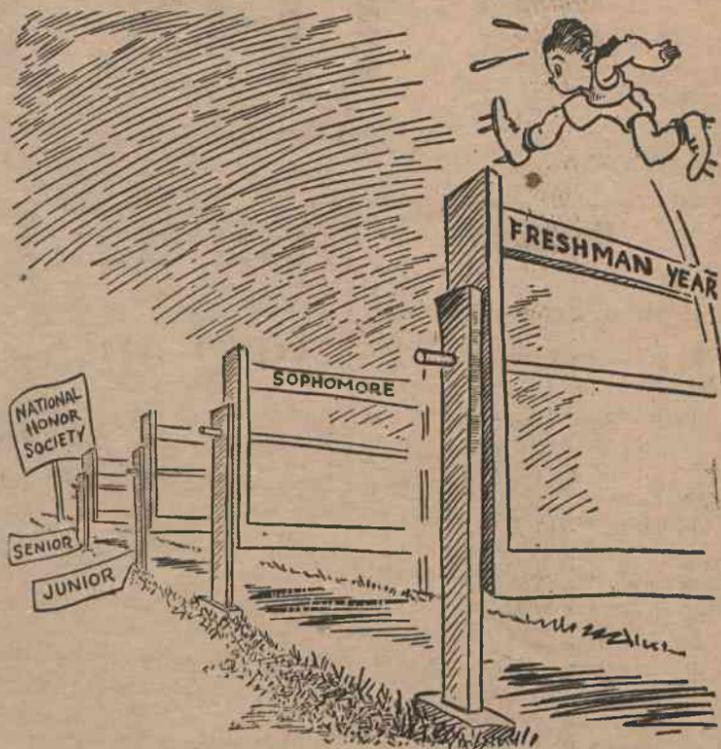
What a strange bird the fish are. He ain't got no hands or a tail hardly. When he swims he swims with what he ain't got—hardly.

The fish ain't got no legs neither. When he stands up he lays down almost.

There is all kinds of fishes, big fishes, little fishes, cat fishes, horse fishes, gold fishes, and whales. (Whales is not fishes, they is whales.)

I don't think there is as many big fishes as there is little fishes. 'cause the big fishes eats the little ones before they get big! Then people catches the big fishes. But the

## Can You Clear The Hurdles?



## Want A Date?

### FOR GIRLS

1. Always be late getting dressed. Boys may pretend to be annoyed but they really enjoy waiting, especially if they don't know your family.
2. Be sure to talk about your other dates—a boy likes to know you can drop him any time you feel like it.
3. It is an unpardonable mistake not to spend as much money as possible. A boy likes for a girl to spend his week's salary or allowance in one night.

### FOR BOYS

1. Never be definite about where you are going—girls think it's fun to go skating in an evening dress.
2. If a girl says she looks awful, agree with her and avoid an argument.
3. Use as many 'cuss' words as possible. Your date will really think you are a man about town!
4. Don't open the door for your date or anything like that. Do you want her to think you're a sissy?

I personal guarantee you that if you follow these tips, you will have no dating worries, in fact, you will have no dates.

## I Made It That Time

John screeched around the corner, his car leaning like a Tilt-a-Whirl. As the car became upright again and careened down the road, he looked back and laughingly said, "Well, we made it that time, boys."

The boys continued their merry ride, up hill and down hill, around curves, passing on the wrong side, not bothering to stop for signs or lights.

Each time they were successful in their fun John would say, "We made it that time."

Suddenly there was a car turning out of a side road where no car was expected, a thunderous sound, a flash of light, and sudden stillness.

"I made it that time," said death.

biggest one always gets away, which is a good thing. 'Cause if the biggest one didn't get away, there wouldn't be no big fishes to eat the little fishes, and then all the little fishes would get to big and starve to death, 'cause there wouldn't be no little fishes to eat.

## Wanna Win

Everyone wants to win—win honors, win prizes, just win in general. United States is an entire nation which wants to win. The students of Rocky Mount high school are no different and there are some winners here of whom the school is proud.

Winner number one is the Hi-Noc-Ar of 1950-1951 with a one rating. The honor was well deserved and the staff, under the editorship of John Page, and the advisers rate a pat on the back. The goal is another one rating for 1951-52 and, of course, the staff wants to win.

Johnny Johnson, representative to the national Red Cross Convention also is a credit to Rocky Mount high school. By accepting this honor he also accepted the responsibility of representation.

Speaking of representation the student council has winners in that field. These three students will see to it that Rocky Mount high school is well represented at the Student Council Congress in Greensboro.

Characters in the dramatic department's production of "Jo's Boys" are winners. Their glory will not shine until much hard work is put in and the play is presented. Responsibility to do their best goes with their winning of the roles in the play.

Another honor, but also a large undertaking, came to pledges of the Good Sports Club. It took work to get those bids and, as we can see by the results of their projects, the work does not end there.

Sports! That brings up the football team. Those boys are winners if there ever were any. Win, or lose, or draw, the Blackbirds are always winners in sportsmanship and in the eyes of their Rocky Mount high fans.

The most recent winners are those taken into the National Honor Society. The honor is theirs because they deserve it through their grades, and qualities of leadership, character and service. It's a well known fact around here that good grades don't merely exist; study is the supporting beam and those seniors must have realized it.

Winning work, and responsibility go hand in glove and it looks like Rocky Mount high school has a big hand in that glove.

Still 'wanna win'? Of course!