



# THE BLACKBIRD

Official Publication of

## Rocky Mount High School

Member of the  
Columbia Scholastic Press Association

### EDITORIAL STAFF

- Editor-in-Chief ..... Fred Patton
- Assistant Editor ..... Jo Ann Windham
- News Editor ..... Sonny Hallford
- Sports Editors ..... George Pearce, Marland Reid
- Feature Editor ..... Donna Clark
- Exchange Editor ..... Wilton Holliday
- Literary Editor ..... Marcia Milne
- Columnists & Club Reporters ..... Bobbitt Clay, Barbara Coley
- Alumni Reporter ..... Beryl Peters

### BUSINESS STAFF

- Business Manager ..... Tam Holliday
- Assistant Business Manager ..... Donald Bryan
- Circulation Manager ..... Marilyn Ezzelle
- Assistant Circulation Manager ..... Sonny Hallford
- Advertising Manager ..... Claranda Mangum
- Assistant Advertising Manager & Typist ..... Jane Edwards

### 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

## Thanks From The Staff

Most every student in our high school knows, as well as many adults around town, that a most successful "Miss Print" campaign has just been held.

Without the support of each student of the high school and our local supporters from hometown, this campaign would have been a complete flop. Everyone was very school spirited and jumped knee deep into working for his own candidate. The campaign managers worked long and hard as did the candidates themselves.

The Blackbird staff, under the direction of Mrs. T. D. Young, wishes to express its deep appreciation to everyone contributing services and finances to the campaign. The contest was the greatest yet and we are sure that everyone is proud of the way it was carried on.

Business Manager

## Father, We Thank Thee

"Father, we thank thee", is a phrase which is uttered time and time again. It may not be out loud. We may say it to ourselves, or it may be just a feeling in our hearts. There are so many things that make our hearts almost burst with happiness, and this is usually the first thing people say.

How lucky we are that we can be so happy and have so many things to be thankful for! It may be for our homes, our family, our friends, our school, our church, our country, our way of life, or it may be for our food like the Pilgrims who gave thanks for it that time so long ago. We don't say it just in our prayers at night, or at mealtime, or at church and Sunday School, but anytime when God's gifts please us, however large or small.

There is one blessing that we should be thankful for that maybe some of us forget. It is the most important of all, for without it we wouldn't have a Thanksgiving. The great blessing is God's love. For that great blessing, Father, we thank thee.

## Blood, The Meaning Of Life

Blood, the very meaning of life itself. Blood with which to save a life. That is what the blood banks need.

For a great many weeks we have been reading articles on how low our blood banks have been and still are, both on plasma and pure blood. Then came the call for Americans to give one pint of blood and ten minutes of their time.

In Korea, because of this donated blood, the death rate among the wounded has been cut down from six deaths out of every 100 to 2.6 out of every 100. But it takes on the average of eight pints of blood to treat every wounded man. There are some in Korea younger than we who are dying.

Here in Rocky Mount the goal of 200 pints of blood was reached and passed. This showed very good spirit, but we could have done even better.

After all, the pint of blood may save someone very close to you.

The next time the Bloodmobile comes to Rocky Mount, you will give that pint of blood, won't you?

The Editor

## We're On Our Heads!

more interesting.  
Rocky Mount high school paper  
contributions to help make the  
would appreciate suggestions and  
Seriously, though, the staff  
to think of them.  
paper different, but we can't seem  
things we could do to make our  
I guess there are all sorts of  
and our entire effort was wasted.  
side-down and read it that way  
everyone just turned the paper up-  
paper upside down. But I guess  
noticed it. We printed the whole  
bird, but don't think anyone even  
stunt in publishing the last Black-  
We pulled a VERY original  
thing."  
will be other than "the same old  
new and different so the Blackbird  
heads trying to think of something  
Yes, we are absolutely on our

## November Song

Sing a song of drear November,  
Sing of birds and blossoms last,  
Sing of leafless branches tossed;  
Sing a song of chill November,  
Snapping, sparkling with the frost.  
Sing of grapes and apples sweet,  
Sing of sheaves of golden wheat;  
Don't forget the pumpkins yellow,  
With their pulpy hearts so mellow.  
Sing a song of dear November,  
To music glad and gay;  
'Tis the merriest month — remember!  
For it brings Thanksgiving Day.  
By Marcia Milne

## Turkey Day!

Turkey with dressing and giblet  
gravy.  
That fowl died, but not by bravery.  
Pumpkin pies and chocolate cakes  
too,  
Sure make me hungry, how  
about you?  
Cranberry sauce and collards so  
green,  
The prettiest table you've ever  
seen.  
There is grandma and grandpa and  
children galore,  
There's the baby playing ball on  
the floor.  
There's so much confusion I forgot  
to say,  
Hope you have fun on Thank-  
sgiving Day.  
By Jane Edwards

## Attention, All Girls! Wanted - 3 Mermaids

"Eh, What's that—Oh, drat this hearing aid! Hasn't worked since I got water in it coming up here!" All this Davy Jones muttered in one fast sentence.

Davy is visiting here in search of talented girls who can swim. He says that fishermen are pulling in all his best mermaids and he needs some replacements, and he thinks Rocky Mount has just the girls he needs.

Jones says all the people in his locker are "Drips" and that things are "all wet" down there.

All girls interested in getting in to this mermaid swimcapade are asked to answer the following ad:

"Attention, all girls! have three openings for mermaids. You will be furnished two sets of fins per month and will have your choice of sunken treasure. All interested girls apply at Pier 6."

## LITERARY LAIR

### Modern Cinderella

Wonder what would happen if Cinderella should come back and relive that wonderful fairy tale that has been woven around her? No one can be sure, but it might go something like this.

Cinderella (Cindy is her name now) is a household drudge who has to make up her bed and straighten her room every single day. The cruel step-mother roll is played by her own mother who only tries to enforce these few duties. There would be no stepsisters, but there would be two best girl friends who are always ready with advice. They talk about their boy-friends, about other girls, and about each other when one of the girls is not around.

Cindy's "prince charming" is captain of the football team. Her golden coach is a '51 Buick. The ball to which she is going is the big Thanksgiving Dance. Cindy, unlike the other Cinderella, does not have to be home at twelve. The party is just getting started then.

Around three Cindy and her date would be through making the rounds at different teen-age hang-outs. Warily they would say good night and each would be dead until the next afternoon when their parents decide that they just must get up and eat dinner.

### Thankful! What For?

"Thankful! What for? I can't even have the car for the game and I should be thankful! Well, what if it is Thanksgiving; it's the day of the big game too and I have to take a bus, I guess, or walk!

I was good and mad and I guess I was talking entirely too loud, for an old man paused and turned slowly toward the porch where I stood bemoaning loudly my hard state of affairs. One sad look was all it took, for in that look I saw his pity for me. He, ragged and old, felt sorry for me; with my comforts and youth.

Remorse swept over me as the tide sweeps over the sands. In the brief interval of his look I saw clearly the things for which to be thankful; the fact that we even have a car, the fact that even though what I said was often wrong, I had the right to say it; and that we can have football games and not have to work continually. We may assemble to discuss our needs and wishes, and may petition to put our decisions in effect.

Most important, we have a God whom we may worship and who is understanding and will forgive our sins and our unthinking remarks such as, "What have I to be thankful for!?"

## Do You Want To Learn Football?

Football is going out of season now and I have just about caught on to it. I have had all the terms and everything explained to me, so will spread my worldly knowledge on to you who do not understand the game.

First, there are eleven men on each team (sometimes twelve or thirteen, depending on the honesty of the referees). These twenty-two players line up, call some numbers, and then charge into each other like twenty-two wild bulls. One man takes the pigskin (a football-wonder what happened to the pig?) and runs for the end zone (the end of the football field—it's usually striped) but before he gets there somebody tackles him. Some people run down the side of the field with some sticks and a chain to

where the player was tackled. Every time the ball gets past the last stick, the people move them again.

After they carry the players off the field and send more on, then they give you a repeat performance. This continues for one hour playing time-about two and one half hours altogether. The team of eleven, twelve, or thirteen men who get the pigskin across the goal line the greater number of times wins, and nearly the whole team gets to put casts on their legs.

In case you are wondering where the name "football" comes from, it is because the players run with their feet.

I am sure my explanation has helped you in understanding the game of football.

## Thanks Again Fer Everything

Deere Lawd, naow dat dis day uv Thanksgiving' is hyah, ah jest gotta thank yuh fer ma gud dinnah terday. Ah nose hit warn't no king's feast but hit wuz enuf ter fill mah lil tummy, an ah nose bout uh lot uv chilluns what didn't git hawdly nuffin ter eat. Ah wud be glad ter share mine wid sum lul kid.

Nah, ma dinnah won't fine, but yuh gotta admit, Lawd, dat ma mammy kin sho' cook sum uv de bestest dumplins yuh eber sunk you teef in—An dat pumpkin' war-n't so bad neither. We ain so rich but wes happy dat we's live espec-hully at uh time lak Thangsgivin' wen dere's so much ter hab.

Ah just cain't unerstan' do why dere's sum folkses what don hab nuffin ter eat an why dere's sum not thankful fer sumpin—Dere's so much everwhar ah sees. Naow ah's jest thankful ter be uhlive and kickin.

Bless't Lawd, ah hopes yuh don min ma not usin' all dat etikat at

de table 'caze ah jest ain't use teh such ways ez sum folkses is.

Well, Lawd, ah's gotta go noah fer ah's getting sleepy—Thanks again fer eberting.

### ARRANGEMENTS STUDIED

Room 200 has chosen to make dried flower arrangements. Each class will be judged on its arrangements and the class having the best will have a party. Mrs. Daughtride, Margaret Daughtride's mother, gave a talk on dried arrangements and the grading system used nationally by judges and the history of dried flower arrangements.

### PRINCIPAL GIVES TALK

Mr. Cy Edson, principal of RMHS, gave homeroom two an interesting talk about dramatics and a funny interpretation of his life which was enjoyed by all. Miss Riddle is the homeroom teacher.

Be careful—prevent forest fires