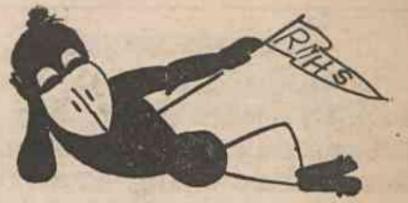




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The Blackbird

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Contestants Chosen For Jr-Sr Honors; Judge Unannounced

"The time has come," the Walrus said, "to speak of many things." Yes, the time has come and there are many things to talk about. One of the biggest is the Junior-Senior dance. Of course the highlight of the program is the crowning of the queen and the selection of her court.

Contestants for the honors have already been chosen. The queen must come from the senior class but the rest of the court may be from either junior or senior. The judge has not been announced.

Here are the lucky girls. Seniors are Sally Adams, Sylvia Crocker, Mary Ruth Divine, Janet Fulcher, Barbara Futch, Elva Griffin, Joyce Thomas, and Marie Tyler. Juniors are Sally Ann Bartholomew, Mary Jo Mears, Patsy McAuley, Ruth Sides, Penn Strandberg, Elizabeth Thompson, Elizabeth Vann, and Gordon Wilkinson.

Gregory Elected

Sue Gregory was elected vice president of the North Carolina National Honor Society at the NHS convention last weekend in Winston-Salem.

Sue, was among the three official delegates that attended from Rocky Mount. The other official delegates were John Marriott and Sonny Hallford. Mary Wilkinson, Beryl Peters attended as non-official delegates along with the chapter adviser, Miss Wita Bond.

Mary did an excellent job of leading a discussion group entitled "Our Responsibilities to God." Another honor came to the locals when their scrapbook won second place only to Reynolds high in Winston-Salem.

Plans are being made to hold the next NHS convention in the new high school in Rocky Mount next year.

NEWSEES

"All together one" is the motto of the 1953 graduating class Green and white are the selected colors, and the white carnation is the choice of flowers. These were announced by Donald Bryan, chairman of the committee at the senior class meeting held March 12.

Many students in the past months have had the honor of appearing on Margy Staton's program. Billy Knowles, La Verne Fleming, Carolyn Gardner Janet Fulcher, and George Knight are among these who have been so honored.

Band students are in the process of giving their spring concerts. Already they have played at Red Oak and Edgemont school.

The high school Y-Teen club presented a skit at West Edgemont school, March 20. Groups sponsored by different clubs and organizations gave skits. The Y-Teens presented "Bungling Burglars."

Minnie Branch is the newest addition to Rocky Mount high school. This black haired sophomore has been assigned to Miss Craighill's homeroom 18. The First Baptist students will recognize her as the daughter of their new pastor.

Fay Batts, a local talented Freshman, represented the Nash County 4-H club in speaking before the Kiwanis Club last Thursday. As president of the Nash Senior 4-H group she told or some accomplishments which gave them first place over the Edgemont 4-H club.

For the first spring concert, the RMHS choir presented a program of varying kinds of music before the Lion's Club, March 12. Under the direction of Mr. H. T. Parry they sang "All the Things You Are," "Country Style," "Alleluia" and others.

Journalists Receive One Rating After Attending CSPA Convention

Editor Deans Now

Bobby Deans was recently elected on the Hi-Noc-Ar Staff to edit next year's annual. Other senior members of the staff are to be elected soon.

Congratulations are in order for Bobby, who has worked as a junior member this year and promises to make a number one editor. Bobby is also an outstanding sports figure on the campus.

Local Boy Receives Angier Duke Award

Billy Knowles, a senior who came to Rocky Mount high school at the beginning of this year, brought an honor to RMHS and to himself when he came away with the Angier B. Duke scholarship given in the eastern district.

News of his success came suddenly in a special delivery letter last Wednesday morning. Bill said, "Boy, was I suprised. Couldn't believe my eyes at first."

Worth \$3,000 the scholarship will pay most of his expense through the four year period. Such a scholarship was no easy job to win. It took two elimination exams and three interviews before Bill was chosen top man.

Billy, who was recently tapped into the National Honor Society, is planning to study electrical engineering.

"No, I'm not kidding! We really did!" was the exclamation heard in the Lowe Library of Columbia University when members of The Blackbird staff learned that the paper had received first rating among the nation's printed high school newspapers.

When seven Blackbird staff members and eleven Hi-Noc-Ar members and their advisers set out for New York City to attend the Columbia Scholastic Press Convention, they hoped to win such a rating. Still, when they learned of their good fortune, they could hardly believe it.

RM Classification

The classification in which Rocky Mount competed was for printed newspapers in Senior high schools with 751 to 1000 students.

Papers are judged on the basis of several important characteristics. Among them are the content of the paper, writing and editing, makeup of layout, advertising and general considerations, which take in the character and personality of the paper as a whole. So many points are credited to each division. To receive a one rating a paper must get between 850 and 1000 points credit.

Other First Ratings

In 1949 and in 1950 The Blackbird received first ratings. The following year found the paper with a high second place rating, having received 815 points out of the 850 needed for a one placing.

Official score books of this year's judging have not yet been mailed out to the adviser. The score will show how much The Blackbird won on content of the paper, writing and editing, makeup, and advertising and general considerations.

"Medalist" rating is awarded publications especially selected from the first-place group for outstanding qualities; however, it is accorded to not more than ten per cent of all the entries in the class concerned. Members of The Blackbird staff returned from their trip with determination "to get a medalist rating next year."

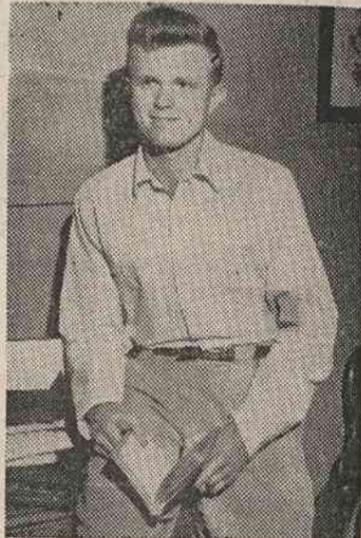


Photo by Barringer

RM Student Wins Oratorical Contest

"Will each of you join me in an imaginary situation for a while? For the sake of illustration, try to picture the city of Washington the day after an atomic bombing....." begins La Verne Fleming's winning essay in the American Legion's national high school oratorical contest held at Liberty, March 13.

This state championship brought La Verne along with honor for herself and her school, a \$500 scholarship. She previously won the county, district, and divisional contests which makes her eligible for the regional contest. If successful among entrants from several states, La Verne will be eligible to go to the national contest.

Third Victory For RMHS

La Verne's feat marked the third year in a row that a Rocky Mount girl has been victorious in the state event. Kay Finch broke a record by winning the two previous years in succession.

Mrs. Mildred Kramer, dramatics and speech teacher, coached both the girls and assisted them in their composition and delivery of essays.

The new state champion is a transfer student from Enfield where her family formerly lived. She has been unusually active in school, church, and civic affairs, having served as president of the Tri-Hy-Y and now of the Y-teen Club. She also represented RMHS at Girl's State this past summer. Other activities have included outstanding work in music dramatics, and speech.

Career Day Presented

Under the joint sponsorship of the Student organization of Rocky Mount high school and the Rocky Mount Junior Chamber of Commerce, the fourth annual Career Day was held in RMHS, March 16.

With the purpose of aiding students in selecting occupations in preparation for the future, the Career Day program was divided into three periods, an opening session, discussion periods, and a final general session. With the exception of freshmen, who attended the opening session only, the whole school participated in the events of the day.

Dr. Edward Adams, senior counselor of the Bureau of Guidance and Testing at Duke University, was the key speaker of the day. He spoke on "Your Major Career. To Know Yourself." Under this topic he discussed three freedoms—"Freedom to be

yourself, Freedom to explore your environment and test your capacities in relationship to that environment, and Freedom to make your own decisions and to abide by the consequences."

During the discussion period forty-two groups met in different classrooms to discuss individual occupations in full. The largest of these groups concerned commercial work. This was divided into three sub-groups. Other interesting groups were engineering, medicine, nursing, music, home-making, and radio.

In the final session a panel discussion was held on the topic "The World of Work in Review." Mr. W. L. Thorp, Jr., Mr. John Smith, and Mr. John Scott spoke on different professional fields. Mr. Neal A. Adkins was the moderator and Dr. Adams was the consultant.

Grads, Seniors Receive Honors

Honors have been piling in on both seniors and grads of Rocky Mount high school during the past month. Both scholarships and high office positions have been won by many.

Billy Knowles came away with the eastern district Angier B. Duke \$3000 prize taking the biggest award honor so far this year by a local student.

Mary Wilkinson and Edward Hallford were chosen as candidates for the scholarship given by the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. They will also enter national contests. Former grad Phyllis Leggett was elected president of the student body at

Flora McDonald. Bobby Gorham, another RM graduate, is running for president of the student body at the University of North Carolina.

Rocky Mount has produced some outstanding speakers. In the last three years a RMHS student has walked away with the top honors in the state American Legion oratorical contest. Kay Finch, who graduated last year, won last year and the year before. Recently Kay won a "Freedom Award" in a national oratorical contest.

La Verne Flemming was the state winner of the American

Legion contest this year. She is now a contestant for the national contest. Five-hundred dollars and a cup was the reward from the state.

Wilson Pitt was selected by the RMHS school faculty to represent the school in taking the Herbert Worth Jackson Memorial scholarship of Carolina. This provides a \$3,000 scholarship.

Six seniors were selected from the National Honor Society to take the NHS scholarship examination. They were Wilson Pitt, George Patseavouras, Billy Knowles, Edward Hallford, Mary Wilkinson, and Donald Edwards.