

Exchanges Show 'Dragnet' Popular With Teen-agers

Hello, come in and sit down, I'll have this article typed in just a minute. We have a deadline to meet at the printer's and I'm swamped with typing. Every time I think the work is almost caught up, someone brings a stack of papers and says "Hey, type these for my page—and try to rush it!" Whew! If this keeps up, my fingernails will be worn off.

No, I don't mind if you glance at some papers while I work. I've finished with these over on the bottom shelf.

No matter which paper you pick up. You'll probably see "Dragnet" staring at you. Nearly every school has come up with its own version of the popular record. The sophomores of Pocatello High in Idaho even used the tune for the theme of their annual party.

Cut For Knee Socks

All the students who have complained about the girls wearing turned-up socks must be glad that they don't attend Maury High in Norfolk, Virginia. There, the girls go all out and wear full-length knee socks!

Thank goodness I've finished one more story. One down—and how many more to go?

Oh, isn't this a cute idea! Chapel Hill held a Twirp Dance, for which the girls furnished their dates with corsages. Prizes were awarded for the most original creations.

Our new NHS members had it easy compared to what Beta Club members in Williamston and Norwood had to go through. How would you NHS'ers have liked to walk around school with your dog (a hot dog) on a leash, or swallow chewing tobacco topped off with a raw oyster, or interrupt assembly by singing "Pine Trees"?

Melinda Markey Interviewed

Two staff members of the Winston-Salem Gray Light received a real thrill recently when they interviewed Melinda Markey, daughter of the famous actress, Joan Bennett.

How do you like this "pome" from Wilson's Radiogram?

Boys

I think that I shall never see
A boy that quite appeals to me.
A boy who doesn't always wear
A slab of grease upon his hair,
A boy who wears his shirttail in
And doesn't have a stupid grin.
But boys are loved by fools like me,
And who on earth would date a
tree?"

That covers it for this time. Don't forget to come by next month to read about what's happening in other schools. Bye, now.

80 Units Show Off Schools-On-Parade

Approximately eighty floats representing groups from RMSHS, each of the other schools in the system, various civic organizations composed the long parade that moved down main street on Friday, November 13, at 2:00.

This parade was the climax of National Education Week observance in Rocky Mount. During this week parents were invited to come to the school to see how their children were taught and to meet the teachers.

Floats representing Physical Education, Discipline, Goodness, Knowledge, and Service were only a few of the entries in the mammoth parade. A float representing a peaceful solution to the world's problems through better education and one that exemplified the Elk's Club's pledge to "build tomorrow's citizens" through the medium of today's youth were outstanding.

Booker T and Rocky Mount High School Choirs and Bands performed and the Art students of the Rocky Mount Senior High featured a float emphasizing "Building Future Citizens."

Other organizations of the school who entered floats were Musettes, Typing Service Club, Edsonians, Junior Red Cross, Bafos, Machine Shop, and others were represented.

School was dismissed at 12:30 on Friday so this project could be carried out.



In the above picture, Mr. William Cherry, editor of the 1923-'24 Edgemont Eko, and Valentine McMillan, co-editor of the 1953-'54 Blackbird, compare papers at the PTSA Open House.

Photo by Barringer

'Eko' Child Grows Up

"There've been some changes made." Paraphrasing the old popular song, changes certainly have been made in the thirty years between the Edgemont Eko of 1923-'24 and The Blackbird of 1953-'54.

The Eko, forerunner of the Blackbird, was 12 inches by 8 1/2 inches in size. Printed in magazine form (with eight pages and three columns a page) the paper sold for two cents a copy. Today's paper is 16 inches by 12 inches in size, has five columns to the page, and six pages.

Reading through some of the papers, one finds many interesting articles about parents of students in school to day. To wit:

"Frank Wilkinson, class of '23, is now attending Davidson. No, he hasn't got his 20-inch pants yet." (A style of pants for young men in that era.)

"Helen Cochran (Peggy Whitehurst's mother), valedictorian of

'23, is attending Randolph-Macon in Lynchburg, Va."

"The Rocky Mount students at Carolina have organized a Rocky Mount Club. There are about thirty-two members, all of whom are very active on the campus."

Everyone knows of the success of Kay Kyser. This appeared in the 1923-'24 Eko.

"Mike Kyser of the class of '23, who is now attending Carolina, is a member of the Carolina Playmakers, and, according to critics, he has a bright future ahead of him." Prophetic.

High school days don't seem to have changed very much in thirty years though. Classes are still having meetings, the school still has a Junior-Senior Banquet, seniors still get class rings, and the Hi-Y Clubs are still going strong.

One thing that has changed—the basketball opponents! Rocky Mount used to play Nashville, Washington, Henderson, Smithfield, Greenville, Fayetteville, and Wilson.

Mr. William Cherry, editor of the first Eko, is the father of Sonny Cherry, who is a sophomore in school now.

Calendar Cues

November 26-30

Thanksgiving Holidays

December 1

Carolina Playmakers to present "On Borrowed Time" in the Auditorium at 8:15 P. M.

December 8

General Motors Show for assembly program.

December 11

Preview in assembly of "Lost Horizon" by Edsonians. "Lost Horizon" presented by Edsonians in the auditorium at 8:15 P. M.

December 16

PTSA meeting at 8:00. Panel and open forum discussion on teenage organizations.

December 18

Annual Christmas program by the high school Choir for the assembly. The public is invited.

Knit One, Purl One;

Click, Type, Click

School has been underway for three months now and the clubs are well advanced in their year's program. Here's a peek at the activities of a few of them.

There is a busy clicking of needles in room 110 at activity period on Tuesdays. If one were to pass by this room, such remarks as these might be heard...."Oh, I dropped a stitch"...."Look, mine isn't like your's"...."I've taken mine out about four times"...."Mrs. Young, what do I do now?"....The eleven girls who form the Knitting Club are now in the process of knitting scarves.

Each person in the Typing Service Club has two teachers for whom they type. Members of this club are second year typing students.

Members of the Musettes Club are considering making a Thanksgiving basket for a needy family.

These are but a few of the many school clubs. More club news is to come out in the next issue of the paper.

Seniors Get Walk As One Privilege

"Wonder what kind of privileges we'll get this year?" "I don't know, but I wish we'd hurry up and get them" are two of the most common remarks heard from the seniors nowadays. They have been looking forward to the meeting when these privileges would be presented to the faculty for its O. K.

A list of privileges which the senior class wanted was made out and sent to Mr. Edson. He called a teachers' meeting Monday, November 16, and the following things were brought up, discussed and voted on:

It was passed that the seniors have the privilege of leaving the auditorium first. They will leave through the side door next to the main part of the building with a line on each side of the rail.

Senior Walk Designated

The front walk with the flag pole on it has been designated as "Senior Walk." Of course any faculty member may use this walk also. The seniors will be allowed to put benches wherever they want them on this walk.

The request to leave class meetings and group guidance as soon as the meeting or business was over was turned down. Last year's activity period was one hour and the students had plenty of time to get in the auditorium and have their business. Sometimes they had only one subject to discuss, therefore were allowed to leave early. This year, they have only thirty minutes and by the time they all get in and seated, a considerable amount of time has passed and they have just enough time for the business. For this reason this request was not granted.

Others To Be Decided

Seniors want a special place for seniors only to congregate. This will not be decided until they select the spot. They also want certain privileges in the cafeteria when it opens. Mr. Edson says that this will be passed on later.

Yes, the senior class is working hard to get their much-wanted privileges.

Journalists Plan TB Essays

Students of Mrs. Young's fourth period journalism class are writing essays on one of America's most deadly enemies—Tuberculosis. This contest is sponsored by the National T. B. Association, the National Press, and the Rocky Mount Kiwanis Tuberculosis Committee.

Mrs. Calena N. Brothers, Executive secretary of the Rocky Mount Kiwanis Committee, talked to the class and gave them the essays needed facts on recognition, care, and cure for this dreadful disease.

The essays must be original and must have as many of the facts concerning tuberculosis as possible. Mrs. Brothers stressed the fact most people do not know enough

about T. B. and that they should know so that all can work together to fight and prevent the disease. "In this way, a definite cure for T. B. can be found more easily and quickly," she said.

Two winners will be picked from the papers. These two papers will be published in the December issue of the Blackbird and the winners will be honored at a Kiwanis luncheon.

Then the winning papers will be entered in the state contest. The state winners will be entered into the national contest.

This work launches the annual sale of the Christmas Sale and all are urged to purchase their share of health in this way.

Students Get Smoking Rules

Students were pleasantly surprised when a new regulation permitting smoking went into effect at Rocky Mount Senior High, three weeks ago. At a special assembly for the boys, Mr. Edson, the principal, outlined the conditions of this regulation.

They are (1) every student who wishes to smoke at the school must register with the office. (2) smoking is permitted only in the appointed places between classes and before and after school, (3) these places must be kept clean and the students should behave in an orderly manner. Every precaution should be taken to prevent fires.

The places where smoking is permitted are in the shop building,

and in the rest rooms. Special emphasis was placed on the fact that no smoking will be permitted on the parking lot or any other place on the school grounds. The school grounds extend to the curb of each bordering street.

Punishment for violators of these rules are for first offense, offense, one week suspension from three hours detention; for second school; and for the third offense, a student will be expelled for the year.

This method of controlled smoking is being adopted by many schools, and senior high is one of the first in this area to recognize it.