



The Blackbird



VOLUME XXV

Published by Journalism Class of Rocky Mount Senior High School
ROCKY MOUNT, N. C. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1953

NUMBER 4

214 Lists Outstanding Students In Many School Organizations

Homeroom 214 has 29 members and one teacher!

Nothing's unusual about that, you say, that's correct! But just listen to this. Of the 29 students 9 hold important offices in school groups and many more are members of outstanding organizations.

Valentine McMillan and Patsy Pearce are co-editors of *The Blackbird*. George Knight is business manager, Peggy Searcy is circulation manager, Ruth Farmer is advertising manager, and Anne Proctor is exchange editor—all on *The Blackbird* staff. Gordon Wilkinson is circulation manager of the *Hi Noc Ar*.

Carolyn Lowder is pianist for the choir. Elizabeth Vann is president of the Musettes. Lee Parker is the winner of the Billy Smith Trophy and is chairman of the Fire Drill Committee. Peggy Searcy is chairman of the Student Store. Kay Sanders writes *Hi-Lites* for the *Sunday Telegram*.

Gordon Wilkinson, Elizabeth Vann, and Kay Congleton are members of the Good Sports Club. Elizabeth and Kay are also members of the Service Club.

The National Honor Society has six members in this home room. They are George Knight, Gordon Wilkinson, Elizabeth Vann, Anne Proctor, Patsy Pearce, and Kay Congleton. George is president and Gordon is secretary of this organization.

Mrs. VanBuskirk, the teacher, also has an important position. She is president of the local Classroom Teachers' Association.

With so much talent and ability in one group, big things can always get done. What a challenge these people must offer to each other!

NEWSEES

Carolina Playmakers of the University of North Carolina presented "On Borrowed Time", Tuesday, December 1. This was the first play to be performed in the senior high school auditorium.

The Kiwanis club sponsored the play and all proceeds were turned over to their children's fund.

Registration has been held in preparation for the election of class officers. The voting is to take place soon after the Christmas holiday.

Mr. Charlie Still, the local F. B. I. agent, during a December 4 assembly told the students that the major causes of crime are the failure of people to recognize other people's rights to live, and the failure to live by the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments.

Dr. Chester Swor, an outstanding lecturer and noted educator, spoke to the senior high students on the different kinds of labels people have. This talk was given in assembly, December 1. He especially stressed the importance of everyone's trying to make for himself a label he would not be ashamed of and would be proud to have.

Sr. Class Elects Eight Boys, Girls For Superlatives

To give recognition to those students who are outstanding in their high school academic and extra-curricular activities, the *Hi-Noc-Ar* sponsors an election of a number of top seniors. This is the second year such has been done here. Seniors vote for these students.

Last year twelve seniors, six boys and six girls, were elected. This year, however, the *Hi-Noc-Ar* staff decided to have sixteen outstanding students picked. The staff said that since there are so many students in the present senior class who have done excellent work in high school, it was difficult to pick just twelve.

Girls chosen on the basis of individual accomplishments are Janet Spain, Elise Williams, Elizabeth Vann, Kay Congleton, Ruth Sides, Margaret Daughtridge, Gordon Wilkinson, and Sue Gregory. The boys are George Knight, Jimmy Daughtridge, Baxter Savage, Theo Pitt, Jimmy Selby, Eddie Booth, John Marriott, and Bobby Deans.

A special section in the *Hi-Noc-Ar* will be dedicated to these top students.

So Make Plans For Annual Dance

Starting the holidays with a bang, students will celebrate the closing of school and the beginning of the season with the annual Christmas dance in the senior high cafeteria, December 18, from 8 to 12 p. m.

Plans for the dance are being carried out now. About 600 invitations in the shape of Christmas tree ornaments with Santa in the middle are to be issued to those who plan to attend.

The cafeteria decorations will include a large Christmas tree around which decorations will be centered. Music is to be provided by a juke box.

The student organization has allowed the social committee fifty dollars to help defray expenses. As the dance is the first to be held in the cafeteria, a big turn out of former students as well as the present ones is expected.

Vivian Williams is chairman of the social committee with the help of Miss Jean Riddle, the advisor, is urging that all students attend even if they are unable to remain for the entire party. Anyone wanting to obtain guest bids may do so by seeing Miss Kitchen tomorrow

Oliver's Story First

First place winner of the T. B. essay contest, sponsored by the national T. B. association and the C. S. P. A., in which the *Blackbird* staff annually participated, was Lucinda Oliver with her article "A Christmas Story."

Julian Aldridge placed second with, "The Life of a Christmas Seal," and Peggy Searcy, third winner wrote "I Learned the Hard Way."

Mrs. Brothers, the executive secretary of the Rocky Mount Kiwanis T. B. Committee, came to the class during the latter part of November and gave facts about causes, symptoms, care, and cure of T. B. First year staff members then wrote articles which included as many of the facts about the disease as they could reasonably get in. Their articles could be in the form of essays, stories or poems.

Mrs. Brothers read all the articles and chose the winners on the bases of originality of presentation, fact, and correctness of journalistic form.

One's Loss, Other's Gain

Gardner Moves To Henderson

She hesitated a moment to make certain she had heard correctly as George Knight said, "Will Carolyn Gardner step forward, please?"

Carolyn was being given an invitation to the National Honor Society by its president in assembly that Friday, December 4.

The student body was delighted to see this happen to Carolyn since she was moving to Henderson the following week. She would have been tapped in the regular ceremony next semester but because of her moving, she was taken in early. This was the first time

anything of this sort has happened in the NHS.

Two important positions in student activities were vacated at her departure—those of business manager of *The Blackbird* and manager of the student store.

In a complicated election, George Knight was chosen to fill the business manager position of the paper, Peggy Searcy to take George's old place of circulation manager and Carole Morgan to resume Peggy's job of assistant business manager.

Baxter Savage, president of the



Edsonians Present 'Lost Horizon' Shangri-La Entrances Audience

From start to finish the play "Lost Horizon" held the audience spellbound last Friday night in the senior high auditorium. This was Edsonians' first production of the year.

The cast of characters was Myra, Gordon Wilkinson; Elizabeth, Edith Ann Johnson; Wyland, James Chandler; Rutnerford, Jimmy Lancaster; Chang, Robert Daughtridge; the Tibetan, Bobby Chesson; Conway, Newsome Maples; Mallison, Ken Brinson; Barnard, Bill House; Miss Brinklow, Christine H. ham; Ai-Ling, Kay Sanders; Helen, Patsy McAuley and LoSen, Nancy Leehane; Tashi, Rose Booth; and the High Lama, Eddie Booth.

Cast Gives Lighter To Director Harris

Miss Winkie Harris was presented a Ronson cigarette lighter and case at the party immediately following the production of "Lost Horizon" last Friday night.

This party held at the Teenage Club is an affair given after each play, by the cast, production staff and their dates.

At this party the group presents the director and Miss Lou Williams gifts of appreciation for their work.

Each member brings some type of food to make up the refreshments and each person brings his own drink.

Mollie Spruill and Brooks Hinson were in charge of the arrangements for the affair.

The hard work back stage was done by student director, Barbara Ann Moore; prompters, Mary Proctor and Myra Floyd; stage crew, Nicky Shine, E. L. Daughtridge, Phil Wheelless, Bart Ritner, and Eddie Pennington; properties, Janice Gray and Garland Chick; Make-up, Elizabeth Thompson, Mimi Brewer, and Connie Taylor; and costumes, Carolyn Lowder, Peggy Pettitt, and Sis Livengood.

"Lost Horizon" was written by James Hilton and dramatized from his novel by Anne Couter Martins and Christopher Sergel.

Miss Winkie Harris, a graduate of Rocky Mount High School, is the director. She received college training at Salem and taught a year in France before coming back to teach here this year.

"Lost Horizon" deals with the supernatural and superstitious. Its setting, Shangri-La, is a place where people never grow old.

This was originally a novel but has been cast as a movie as well as stage productions.

Booth Wins Contest

For the first time in three years, Rocky Mount High has produced a winner in the "I Speak for Democracy" contest sponsored by the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. Rose Booth, a popular senior girl, won over representatives from Benvenue, West Edgcombe and Booker T. Washington.

On December 23, a recording of her speech, made by radio station W. C. E. C., will be judged in the State contest. The State winner will receive a radio or T. V. receiver.

The purpose of this contest is to give youth an opportunity to consider seriously, and to speak on, the blessings, freedoms and opportunities of this nation.