

# Congratulations, Eastern AAA Conference Champs!

# The Blackbird

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## Sorrell School Of Dance, Senior III Choral Groups Present 'Nutmcracker Suite'

Tchaikovsky's "Nutmcracker Suite," long a favorite in the music world, was presented to a near-capacity audience in the high school auditorium, February 12. It was sponsored by the senior high school PTSA and featured the Valerie Sorrell School of Dance and the high school choir.

As storyteller, Miss Winkie Harris told the story which concerns a girl, Claire, who received a nutcracker for Christmas and dreamed that it became a prince. The prince took her to fairy land where they visited the kingdom of the Sugar Plum Fairy, who shows them the different people and dances shown in the "Suite." The nutcracker is the only thing left of her adventure when Claire wakes up.

One of the most colorful dances was that of the Sugar Plum Fairy. A select choir of sixteen girls and four boys were in a powder puff arrangement in formal clothes at the left side of the stages. While they sang "Dance of the Sugar Plums," Eleanor Bulluck performed a solo ballet.

Featured dance soloists were Judy Carr as Claire, Mimi Brewer, Eleanor Bulluck and Barbara Ann Moore.

The program included the Overture, March, Dance of the Sugar Plum, Fairies, Russian Trepak, Arabian Dance, Chinese dance, Dance of the Flutes and Waltz of the Flowers. Dancers wore costumes appropriate for their individual dances. The choir was dressed in robes for the first two numbers and formal dress for the others.

### Practice Takes Time

The choir, under the direction of Mr. H. T. Parry, had been preparing the music since December and Mrs. Sorrell's students had been studying since last fall. The choir was accompanied by Carolyn Lowder and Myrna Koonce and the dancers by Carolyn Ellis. Twin pianos were placed on the stage for Myrna and Carolyn's use.

PTSA committees included production, Mrs. L. O. Gupton; patron tickets, Mrs. G. G. Atkins and Mrs. Gordon Waters; general admission, Mesdames J. G. Lancaster, W. G. Cherry and Bart Ritter; props, Mrs. Guy Barnes; costumes, Mrs. Meyers Ivey; publicity, Mr. W. G. Cherry, Jr.; and program, Mrs. W. J. Whitehurst.

## Wheless Stars In EDO Play

Phil Wheelless, a first year dramatics student, has the male lead in "The Enchanted Cottage" by Arthur Pinero, a fantasy in three acts. This is the Edsonians second major production of the year and it will be presented March 5 at 8:15.

Phil plays Oliver Bashforth, a war casualty, who has gone into seclusion because of battle scars. Christine Hufman, a Black Masquer, plays Laura Pennington, a young but ugly girl of the village. Christine has been active in dramatics the past two years.

Mrs. Minnett, a hideous witch-like person, is played by Valentine McMillan. Val is a Black Masquer and has participated in several productions. Major Hillgrove, played by Eddie Booth, is another war casualty. Hillgrove lost his

sight in the war and is assisted by Rigg, a man-servant, played by Bobby Chesson.

Edith Ann Johnson plays Mrs. Smallwood, flighty mother of Oliver. Jimmy Lancaster plays Mr. Smallwood, Oliver's step-father. Jimmy Selby plays Mr. Corcellis, rector of Pittlehurst church. Wilma Campbell plays his wife. Incidentally, Mrs. Corcellis is expecting her eighth child.

Barbara Ann Moore, Mimi Brewer, Patsy McAuley, Newsome Maples, Gordon Wilkinson, Garland Chick, Sue Yelverton, Sis Livenood, Mollie Spruill, Mary Jo Mcars, Peggy Pettitt, Janice Gray, and Brooks Hinson are members of the dramatics department who participate in the dramatic scene at the end of the second act.



Pictured above are new members of the National Honor Society tapped last Friday. They are, from left to right, Vivian Williams, Betty Ivey, Elizabeth Thompson, Kay Williford, Erwin Robbins, Joan Mixon; second row, Audrey Kennedy, Mary Lee Fountain, Penn Strandberg, Mimi Brewer, Jane Hatchett, Theo Pitt; third row, Carter Hedrick, Bobby Savage, Bill Kincheloe, and Julian Aldridge.

## Romonoca Taps 16 New Members

In an impressive candlelight ceremony the Romonoca Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 16 new members, 7 seniors and 9 juniors, into the organization Friday, February 19. This tapping marks the last chance for '54 seniors and the first chance for the juniors.

Reverend Ellis Oakes, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, delivered the address which exemplified the importance of character, scholarship, leadership and service—qualifications on which election to the organization depends.

### Ideals Explained

Representing the four basic ideals of the national organization were Patsy Pearce, character; Jimmy Davis, scholarship; Jimmy Selby, leadership; and Ruth Sides, service. George Knight, president of the local society, presided over the service and Elise Williams, vice-president, and Larry Gupton, a sophomore presented the devotion.

In the picture above seniors tapped were Carter Hedrick, Betty Ivey, Joan Mixon, Theo Pitt,

Penn Strandberg, Elizabeth Thompson and Vivian Williams.

Juniors inducted were Julian Aldridge, Mimi Brewer, Mary Lee Fountain, Jane Hatchett, Audrey Kennedy, Bill Kincheloe, Erwin Robbins, Bobby Savage and Kay Williford.

Other members of the society are Gordon Wilkinson, secretary, John Marriott, treasurer, Emily Ryals, Anne Proctor, Stanley Still, Sue Gregory, Pat Pittman, Margaret Daughtridge, Kay Congleton, Elizabeth Vann, Janet Spain, Jean Thorpe, Lloyd Hedgepeth, Jimmy Davis, Billy Colston and Jimmy Daughtridge.

### State Convention Here

The local club is host to the annual National Honor Society convention, April 1-2. Approximately three hundred delegates are expected to attend and they will come from the four corners of North Carolina.

At the present time members of

## Visitors Rate

### RMSHS Favorably

Mr. Otha Holland, in comparing the schools of Rocky Mount with those of Duplin County, said that one outstanding difference was in the machine shop. "While the local shop has six metal lathes, there is not even one such machine in all of Duplin County," he said. He stated further that the difference is about the same as this in all departments.

Mr. Holland was one of fifty Duplin County citizens who visited the high school in order to obtain ideas for establishing new consolidated schools similar to Rocky Mount's.

Arriving at 11 A. M. on Friday, February 12, and remaining until the close of school, the guests were conducted to the different classes by student hosts and hostesses. They were Vivian Williams, Jean Stephenson, Lenore Brown, Betty Ivey, and Marvin Ward, of the social committee.

## Bayar Visits Rocky Mount, Receives Hearty Welcome From Citizens and Students

Waving small flags and shouting greetings, local students helped to welcome President Celal Bayar, President of the Republic of Turkey, to Rocky Mount last Friday morning. The motorcade containing the official party, led by the high school band, traveled down Main Street to Hammond Street. Then unescorted the Presidential party continued up Hammond Street to Tillery Street where they turned North and passed the Senior high school. Students were dismissed so they could greet this celebrity as he passed the school.

After parading by Braswell and Wilkinson grammar schools, the official presidential party continued to the Caromount Division of Sidney Blumenthal Incorporation. Here the large party was divided and led on a tour of the plant, where they met the workers and personnel. They also visited the Rocky Mount Cotton Mills, the oldest textile mill in Eastern North Carolina.

Turkish flags were placed throughout the city in recognition of the important visit. Many of the students of the schools along the parade route waved small Turkish and American flags and held welcome posters with pictures of the president on them.

The visit to Rocky Mount concluded a tour of America by the President and his party. This was the smallest community visited while in America, and North Carolina was the only Southern state in which he stopped.

### Schells Give Reception

Friday evening at Dormelihy House, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Schell entertained at a reception honoring President and Madame Bayar. Dromelihy was the only private home in which the couple was entertained.

Mrs. Schell presented two large teddy bears to Madame Bayar to give to her two granddaughters. The bears are red and white, the Turkish National colors, and have the name of each child on the ribbon.

Sunday morning, February 14, Mr. Nizih Manyas, the assistant director of the Turkish Information Office in New York, held a press conference. At this time all arrangements concerning the visit of the President were discussed.

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the society are busy with several projects connected with the convention. Foremost is the campaign to obtain homes for lodging the delegates. "So far response has been rather slow from the student body," stated Sue Gregory, chairman of the housing committee. She continued, "If offers do not increase, we shall approach the PTSA for aid."

Working on the scrapbook for the local organization are Anne Proctor and Patsy Pearce. They are preparing the book for judging in the state contest, which will be held during the convention.

### Gregory, Knight State Officers

This convention was held last year at Winston-Salem, N. C. At that time Sue Gregory was elected vice-president of the state organization. Other state officers are president, Bob Hankins, Winston-Salem; secretary, Jean Stanback, Salisbury; and treasurer, George Knight.

This is the first time Rocky Mount has ever entertained the state convention and the Rocky Mount club hopes that "it will be a most successful one."

## 'Newsees' Show Busy School

Katherine Batten, Linwood Pittman, Harry Gray and George Knight represented Rocky Mount Senior high school in the Eastern Division All-State Band Clinic held in Greenville, February 6-7.

The band, in excess of one hundred pieces, was conducted by Mr. Herbert L. Carter, director of the East Carolina College band.

Among the selections played in the concert were "Americans We," "Suite in F" by Holst, "Largetto," "Broadcast From Brazil," "Voice of the Guns," and a medley of Gershwin selections.

New faces now are seen at the traffic committee posts. Freddy Turnage, Stan Leggett, Berry Lamm, L. M. Barnes, Bill Toler, and John Marriott, with James Chand-

ler, chairman, are serving as hall monitors this semester.

Worship services sponsored by the Interdenominational Youth Fellowship to observe Youth Week were held in the General Purpose room at 8:15, February 8, 10, and 12.

Hot chocolate and doughnuts were served by one of the churches each morning before the services at 8:00 in the cafeteria. The programs were conducted each morning before the services at 8:00 in the cafeteria. The programs were conducted each morning by various church fellowships.

"Even though the attendance was very small," said Elise Williams, president of the organization, "I am sure that those who did come received a blessing."