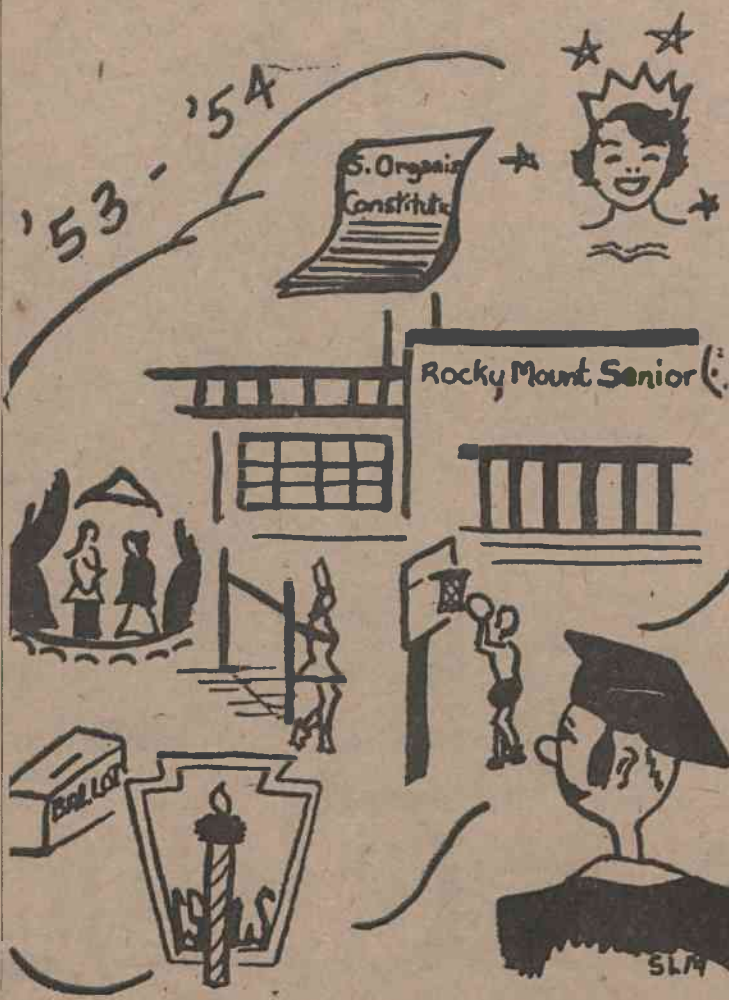


Backward Glances

The years will always come and go—and many there will be,
 But many a one will pass before our school will chance to see
 A year that's so eventful, or one so filled with joy
 As the one that we've experienced for '54 and '4.
 A lot of things have happened of which we may be proud;
 We've had some good dramatics and a band that's fine and
 loud.
 We've walked these hallowed corridors and, strange as it may
 seem,
 The floors and desks and "green blackboards still have a shining
 gleam.
 We've seen some tribulations—goodness knows we've had our
 share.
 But the good things have outshone them and have helped make
 our school fair.
 Let's see row just what have we done to establish precedents.
 The students have been honored—equal share for gals and
 gents.
 We chose our Campus Sweetheart and Azalea Princess too,
 And just this month we met our Queen (She stood so proud and
 true).
 The Eastern District SCC has honor to us lent,
 By electing from our number their next year's vice-president.
 The NHS brought fame and honor to our brand new school
 By holding the Convention—and a good one it was, too.
 For two weeks one would hardly know that they were in a
 school,
 The courteous way we acted had most everybody fooled.
 But sure it didn't stop right there—it continued (May we
 boast),
 And we elected one of us as the gentleman with the most.
 That's not the only election we have had in the recent past—
 We chose our S. O. officers (They're good ones that will last).
 Now Jupiter knows that this ain't all, but, really, it must end.
 I'm giving out of paper and the ink has left my pen.
 Still I know you all are quite aware that '54 is done—
 But listen and neighbors—ain't it been a heap of fun!
 By George Knight



The Last Word

As the close of another school year draws near and the year's work on THE BLACKBIRD is through, each member of the staff takes this opportunity to leave with you a few parting words.

Patsy Pearce and Valentine McMillan, co-editors of the paper, say thanks to all the teachers who have put up with our endless "rushes" on the paper.....Kay Sanders says she has had a wonderful time writing "Around the Campus"....."To all the teachers and students, to the advertisers, I say an inadequate but sincere thank you," came from George Knight....."Even though we didn't receive a medalist rating," says Sarah Moore, "we feel that this year's paper has been the best in the history of our school.".....All Peggy Searcy can say is "Gosh, we've had fun working with the paper, the students and the staff this year.".....Anne Proctor thanks everyone for all the fun she has had working with you and for you on the staff.....Gerry Gardner extends deepest appreciation to all his loyal friends who did so much to help the paper this year.....Betty Sue Cash says she would like to thank everyone who has helped THE BLACKBIRD staff in anyway.".....

Thanks for your support, we've enjoyed writing for you," says Carole Morgan and Jean Stephenson.....Charles Bateman thanks those who contributed the news.....Joy Ann Hayes says thanks to all who have had a part in making this year's paper a success.....As next year's editor, Julian Aldridge hopes that all will continue to give the paper wholehearted support.....Mary Lee Fountain says she has enjoyed working on THE BLACKBIRD because it has given her a chance to work closely with others.....As literary editor, Woodrow West says, "I've enjoyed my work and I hope you have enjoyed my reviews.".....Newspapers depend on the subscribers, so thanks for that subscription," says Martha Bradley.....Eddie Felts and Myrna Bell thank everyone for his cooperation and they are looking forward to next year.....Flaye Hammond gives just a short line of thanks to the "number one" people who make this paper possible.....Lucinda Oliver hopes you have enjoyed the paper and that you will remember next year."To the subscribers, the advertisers, the faculty, other readers and the staff, I say a deeply felt thank you for your loyal support and kind cooperation in making THE BLACKBIRD the paper that it is," says Mrs. Young, the adviser.

Have a wonderful vacation,
 The Staff

Congrats, Mr. Black And Band

Rocky Mount now has a band of which it can be justly proud.

Everyone remembers how the band sounded during the football season. There was a considerable amount of criticism during that time. Now after six months of concentrated work the band sounds wonderful. Although the band is small in member (only 54 pieces), the music it makes can fill any large building in this area. It takes a lot of hard work to build up a band that can be a credit to the city, and Rocky Mount now has such a band.

Of course, the band isn't perfect, but just give it time. It's going to be one of the best bands in the state. However, a band has to have members to be a good band. There are plenty of talented students in high school who could learn to play an instrument in a short time with interested study. It is their duty to themselves, their school and community to do so.

Nothing can be done without discipline. The local group has had plenty this year. It is pleasing to know there are people who can work under it. These people will be able to go far in later life.

The school congratulates the band and the band director under whose guidance the band has made so much progress!

Popularity? My Eye!!

We have come to the conclusion that if you want to get along with your fellow students and if you want to be popular, you have to do the following things:

Throw all your trash on the floor and outside on the lawn. The janitors and maids will pick it up. Be sure to write on the nice clean walls! Somebody else will put in hours of hard scrubbing to get it off.

By all means, don't forget to write or scratch your name on your desk. The teachers have to have something to remember their former students by even if it does ruin the desks.

Leave your lockers in a big mess too. It looks so pretty when you enter the halls and see paper of all colors sticking out of them.

In the bathroom, be sure to throw your cigarette ashes and stubs on the floor. The cigarette can is there only for looks, nothing else!

During class periods, be sure to sprawl all over your desks or tilt your chairs back and make rocking chairs out of them. You look so much more comfortable and it helps your posture so much. Visitors will then know how much comfort and fun you have in the new school.

All these make for popularity,—my eye!

Thumbs Down On Such Disputes

What's all this fuss about the McCarthy-Army dispute that has dominated newspaper headlines, television screens and radio sets? How does it concern those of student age and what can be done about it?

On the other hand the army maintains that the McCarthy committee goes about military posts. The committee is doing a job that is necessary and essential to U. S. security.

On the other hand the army maintains that the McCarthy committee goes about its investigations in an abusive way. A more serious charge made by Army Secretary Stevens is that McCarthy has been using his influence on the committee to "high pressure" the army to obtain favors for Private David Schine, at one time an aide to the Wisconsin senator.

The nation is suffering a tremendous loss of dignity in this affair. The idea of stirring up the entire Army for one unimportant G. I. is absurd. These facts bear out the need for deep thinking by today's students. The knowledge and lessons absorbed now will be necessary to good government when the present generation gets the reins.

Indian Lyrics

Gerry like flower
 Gerry grow flower
 Gerry Gardner

Butch want basket
 Butch no have basket
 Butch Weaver

Barbara like dress
 Barbara make dress
 Barbara Taylor

Jim sees girl
 Jim no like girl
 Jim Crumpler

Bobby like girl
 Girl like Bobby
 Bobby Gay

Kenneth go to beach
 Kenneth get sunburned
 Kenneth Peele

Lee drive car
 Lee wreck car
 Lee Parker

Kenneth be hungry
 Kenneth get food
 Kenneth Cooke

THE BLACKBIRD

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