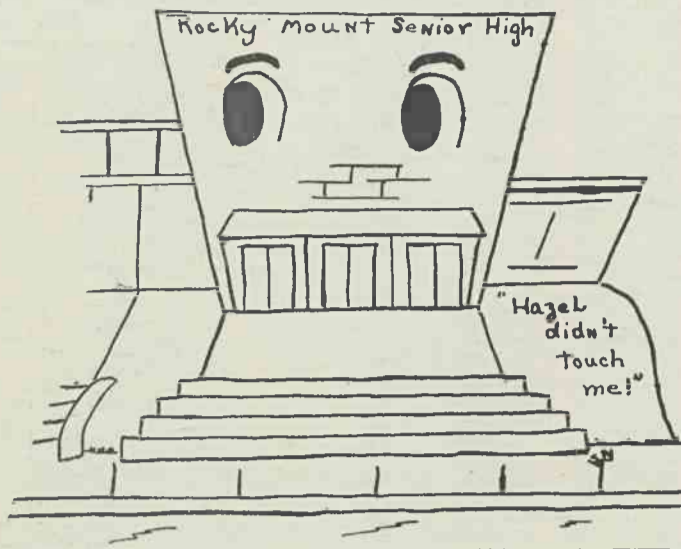


On First Birthday, School Clean, Unmarred

In 1953, you came to me — a new building —
 New desks, new books, my face unmarred.
 You swarmed my halls, students and teachers
 All with one goal, and you left me as I was found.
 I thank you.

When students returned this fall,
 You saw me just as I was when new.
 I am a year older now and I miss the old faces,
 But the new ones take their place with the same goal.
 I thank you.

So far, no marks have ruined my face;
 You have treated me as the friend I am.
 I add to your educational environment so,
 If you will always respect me,
 I thank you.



Meet October's 'Gay Goblin'— Peggy Whitehurst

P
 is for perfection on which she relies,
 E
 is for the energy which she supplies
 R
 is for the right from which she can't be shaken,
 S
 is for her service, which many students have taken.
 O
 is for originality at which she excels,
 N
 is for the news which the Blackbird sells.
 A
 is for artistic ability as shown in the Homecoming Parade,
 L
 is for the lovely spirit in which she renders aid.
 I
 is for industriousness which for the school is spent,
 T
 is for her talents that are readily lent.
 Y
 is for her young and useful life.
 P
 is for her purposeful feeling towards others without strife.
 L
 is for the lively way in which she has her fun,
 U
 is for the untiring Good Sports Club Pledge who is always on the run
 S

Where Are The Answers? What's Your Rating?

How can I let the teacher know I don't have any materials at home with which to do my homework? How can I tell Joe without hurting him I don't care to go steady? Where shall I go to college? What type of career do I want?

These are only a few of the many questions that are lying in the minds of almost all high school students and the answers to all of them are right here in our own high school if we but ferret them out.

Students are often afraid to bring their problems out into the open and try to solve them. Such people suffer from repression, a harmful disease lying within one and constantly reminding him of all his bad experiences and tough problems. Repressionists never learn the value of openly discussing one's problems with someone who can help. Instead of taking their burdens "off their chests," they leave them on. The weight of these problems holds them down the rest of their lives.

Rocky Mount is fortunate in having one of the finest guidance programs in the state — one that is equal to a college program — equipped with different books, pamphlets, and references that are written to help youth solve their problems.

Miss Kate Parks Kitchen, the guidance counselor, is an indispensable part of the program. With her you can talk over in an informal way your problems, not necessarily those about school, but also about your home or extra-curricular activities. Together you can discuss and search for answers.

The person who makes use of this opportunity is helping himself immensely. Many students seem to feel no one is interested in their particular problems, but in the school the faculty is as interested in the problem of one student as another. Remember the teachers were once our age and had then many of the same problems we are faced with today.

When a student uses guidance aids, all that is discussed is done confidentially, unless his particular problem requires outside help. Everything is done to help, not hurt the individual.

Be smart, investigate your guidance opportunities!

Girls Discuss The Ideal Boy

Boys, would you like to know what your date thinks of you and why she dates you?

Miss Grant's senior homemaking class has been discussing such things as dating, going steady, marriage, and getting along with other people. The girls talk these things over and help each other with their problems.

So far the most interesting discussion has been on dating. It has brought forth the following traits that girls like in boys on dates:

Promptness seems to mean a lot. The girls prefer in their dates the personal traits of character; a good sense of humor, consideration, sincerity, good sport, good disposition and high ideals.

Girls also like for their dates to be well groomed, to have plans before they come, to use good language, not to talk or boast about other dates or conquests, to be good conversationists, not to be possessive, to be willing to meet the girls parents, and to take the girls home on time.

Boys must also have many interests, good manners, respect for their dates, ability to get along well with others, and a good reputation, say the girls.



The annual American Junior Red Cross Enrollment Poster, 1955, painted by Joseph Binder, well known artist, emphasizes the willingness of boys and girls in schools to serve others as volunteers by joining the American Junior Red Cross.

Congratulations Hi-Noc-Ar For First Place Float In Homecoming Parade

Little Scholarship

I'm a little scholarship
 Waiting to be won;
 And if you should happen to win me,
 Your job will be well done.

You may be in societies
 And considered the best of all;
 But if you should happen to win me,
 It'll shine out bright and tall.

No, my dear seniors,
 This isn't just for you,
 For next year I'll be here again
 For this year's juniors, too.
 By James Ezzelle

Buy Candy Here

Musettes began selling candy yesterday as one of their money-making projects of the year. Representatives of this organization will sell homemade candy each day for the next two weeks. Students, buy your candy from them. Support the Musettes!

is for the superior student whom everyone knows as PEGGY WHITEHURST, Personality - of the - Month. Chosen by the Blackbird and the Hi-Noc-Ar Staffs, Peggy was unanimous selection. The Blackbird salutes one of its members as the Personality - of - the - Month!

Unexpected Guest

Squeals of delight at a surprised holiday turned to expressions of fear when the unexpected guest Hazel came up the coast to Rocky Mount, October 15.

Students, at first, didn't realize the danger involved in such a storm, since very few had ever witnessed the savage fury of a hurricane. Since "shaking hands" with Hazel, however, everyone is unanimous in saying that no such unruly guest is ever again welcome, holiday or no holiday.

Seriously the students know that this section of the country is indeed blessed. The property damage is slight in comparison to other sections and this locality suffered no personal injuries. We are humbly thankful.

Student Views On 'Going Steady'

What are your views on going steady? This article is written to present different views of students that may or may not go steady.

Joyce Harris says, "I'm impartial because there are good and bad points in going steady. If a boy really loves a girl and vice-versa, then I think going steady is all right, but you can also have fun by not going steady."

"I think, if the girl really liked the boy she is going steady with and if he liked her, going steady would be all right. If the

problem of being jealous of one another comes up, I think it would be best not to go steady," says Joane Batchelor.

"Going steady," says Lucinda Oliver, "is the first step to engagement. Unless you are sure that your "steady" is the one you want to marry, I think it should be avoided."

Consulting other students in school the same answer is given again and again. What is your view on this ever present question?

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