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The Blackbirds

THE BLACKBIRD

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VOLUME XXVII

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Photolith Features 1955 Hi-Noc-Ar,

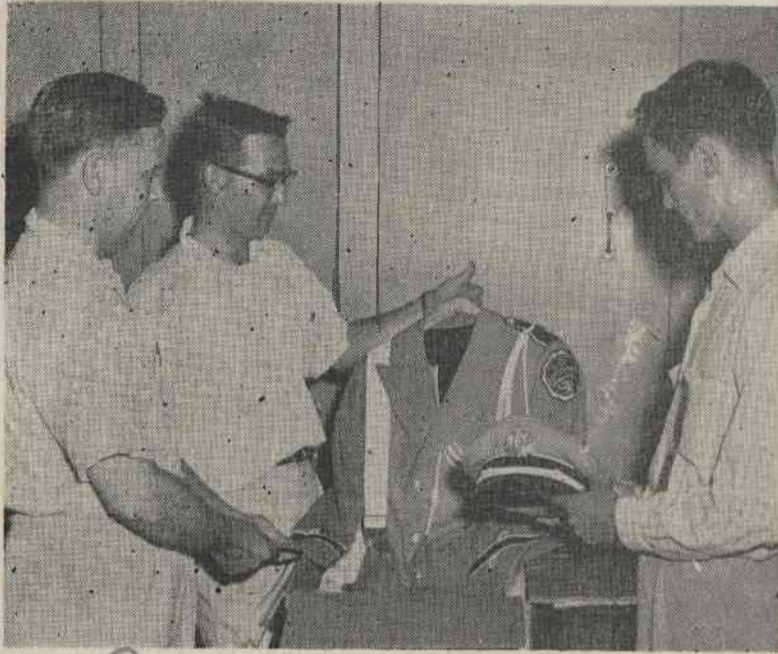
According to Fred Harris, editor, of the Hi-Noc-Ar, last year's annual has been submitted to three different groups for judging and is to be featured by Photolith, a national magazine.

Copies of the Hi-Noc-Ar have been sent to the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, New York, N. Y.; the National Press Association, Houston, Texas; and The Southern Intercollegiate Press Association, Lexington, Virginia; for rating. The mark actually received is yet to be known.

Last year's accomplishments offer a challenge to the present staff, but Miss Alma Murchison and Miss Frankie Sharpe, co-advisors, predict that this year's book will be the best ever.

Fred said that this year's annual will be priced the same as last year's (\$3.50) and that the support of every student will be needed of its quota is to be raised. The class plans to use the same printer, Delmar of Charlotte.

Staff members are Fred Harris, editor; Charles Sanders, business manager; Fay Batts, circulation manager. Other senior members are Judy Kabo, Tony Turner, Tommy Vaughn and Cathy Atkins. Junior members are Adam Maples, Larry Warner, Lee Newby, Bettie Ann Whitehurst, Jean Edwards and Luanne Hobbs.



Mr. Ernest Black, Bruce Miller and E. M. Delamar admire new uniforms purchased by Band Boosters. Photo by Barringer.

Boosters Secure Suits

Two-toned gold coats, gold hats, amount will be raised.

and black pants . . . all trimmed in white make the new band uniforms quite stylish and outstanding and will give the band the "new look" when they wear them for the first time at the Rocky Mount-Wilmington game this coming Friday, September 30.

Seventy-five uniforms were ordered for the band at a cost of approximately fifty dollars each. Mr. Ernest Black, band director, asked school-spirited citizens of Rocky Mount to help raise money to obtain these uniforms. Civic-minded groups formed the Band Boosters and began their campaigning last spring. Though the uniforms still are not completely paid for, Mr. Black and everyone who has helped him have done a tremendous job for RMSHS. With the determination and the aggressiveness the Band Boosters have already shown, it shouldn't be too long before the needed

Uniforms From 1927

During half-time at the Rocky Mount-Salisbury game, Mr. Black displayed the different band uniforms of the Rocky Mount bands from 1927 until the present. The first band uniform was merely a black coat and a black hat. That year Mr. Spud Parker was the band leader. For almost twelve

Two Changes Made

Twenty years after the first uniforms were adopted another change was made in 1947 by Mr. H. T. Parry. This time the color of the uniforms changed to the familiar solid black with gold trim. Now in 1955, with Mr. Black as director, the band again has a change. Certainly these new band uniforms place the local band members among the well-dressed group.

C. H. Doak Urges Positive Approach

"We should use a positive approach and not leave out a single angle if we hope to increase our magazine campaign sales over last year's," said Mr. C. H. Doak to the student body in his speech initiating the magazine drive Thursday.

The students listened with interest as he expressed his ideas for the campaign. He refreshed their minds with the proper approach and explained how the money would help the school.

Mr. Doak drew a loud cheer from the audience as he spoke of the football team in comparison to the coming rival Goldsboro. As he, a former coach of the "Earthquake Eleven" put it, "Goldsboro has lost a coach and Rocky Mount should gain a victim."

Goldsboro doubled the magazine sales of Rocky Mount last year, according to Mr. Doak, but he offered encouragement that the school would improve. Leaving this note he offered a prize of a hundred and fifty dollars if the school would double last year's sales.

Apply Now!

New Rules In Effect

Regulations regarding clubs for the new school year have been announced by Mr. C. M. Edson, principal, and are now in effect.

Application blanks have been placed at the disposal of all students who desire to join the group heretofore considered "closed clubs." Unlike previous years any student is now eligible for membership in these organizations and thus he or she may have his name placed on a list for consideration by applying.

Enrollment Of 654 Surpasses Record

With 654 names so far on the rolls for this year, the school has the largest membership in its history.

Of course, the sophomores, with an enrollment of 240 pupils, leads the school with the junior class and its 216 members running second. The seniors have the smallest number with a total membership of 198 students.

If no one fails to meet the graduating requirements, however, the class of '56 will be the largest to graduate in the history of Rocky Mount High School. Last year there were 188 and until then it was the all-time largest class.

Due to membership limitations the adviser and former members compose a committee to consider the applications and vote on those who have applied. If applications for any one club so far exceeds the number the club can accommodate, a similar group may be organized to take care of the overflow. Students may be a member of only one activity club. This is to provide a greater distribution of activities for more students. Membership in honor groups, however, is based on the individual achievement. There will be no pledging or initiating of any kind in any club as was found in various groups last year. These regulations were set up by the school board to provide a more democratic system and to eliminate social organizations.

Three Join RMSH Faculty One New, Two Return Here

Three figures, one new and two returning after a short absence, are seen on the teaching staff, replacing those who resigned after last year's work.

Mrs. Bettisue Hunt of Magnolia, N. C., DE coordinator, replaces Miss Charlotte Reid who accepted a position at Averett Junior College. Mrs. Hunt received her education at RPI of William and Mary, Richmond, Virginia; East Carolina College, Greenville, N. C.; and Woman's College, Greensboro, N. C. With the exception of her practice teaching at Princess Anne High School, situated between Norfolk and Virginia Beach, Mrs. Hunt has had no actual teaching experience. However, she has done retail work at Miller and Rhodes, Richmond, Virginia; Cramer's Dept. Store, Wallace, N. C.; and Hunt's Dept. Store in Magnolia, N. C.

Mrs. Hunt Praises Department
"I am very pleased with the size of the DE department and hope to see it grow larger," says Mrs. Hunt. "I like the school system and admire the enthusiasm and

willingness to work that my students have shown thus far," she continues.

Coach Lundy Returns
After two years at Junior High School, Mr. C. V. Lundy rejoins the faculty, this time as Athletic Director, assuming the duties of Coach "Knocker" Adkins, who resigned to accept a position with the YMCA.

Mr. Lundy is by no means a stranger to students or faculty. He is loved and well-known for his affable manner and good basketball teams. His duties as Athletic Director will take much of his time, so he will not have a home-room. He has however, several gym classes.

Mrs. Cuthrell's Back
Mrs. Hiram Cuthrell, Spanish and English teacher, returns to classroom here after only one year's absence, during which time Mrs. Opal Ross taught these classes. Mrs. Cuthrell is known to the seniors but is new to sophomores and juniors. However, her friendly manner and happy smile will soon become familiar, and she will then be a stranger no longer to any student.

'Get Your Sweets'

Since homemade candy sold so well last year, the Musettes have picked this as a money making project again this year.

Sales will begin in the middle of October. Kathryn Batten suggested that a permanent candy booth be set up, because the cafeteria no longer sells candy. However, the administration will have to approve this.

'A Wee Bit Of Scotland' Here For Pd. Assembly

Trampoline acts, variety show, pets on parade and a "wee bit 'o Scotland" are the types of entertainment students may expect for the quarters they brought for paid assemblies this year.

The Lenpatricks with little Penny Sue are the trampoline performers, and their program promises a thrill a minute. Their acrobatics are the best and Penny Sue, a darling little girl, will present clever tricks on the trampoline.

Dorothy and Fred Smythe are a piano duo who give a performance including popular music, semi-classics, light opera, grand opera, Latin American music, and musical novelties. They usually captivate their audience with their excellence, variety, and uniqueness. Requests from the audience will also be given. Reports say the per-

formances provide top flight music, top-flight entertainment and are definitely in a class by themselves.

"A Wee Bit of Bonnie Scotland" comes with Hamish and Catherine MacGregor. Their folk songs, ballads, dances, and bagpipes are direct from Scotland, and these famous Scottish Artists appear in their native costume of the Scottish Highlands. They will swing you onto the spirit of their native land as the bagpipes add a tangy 'breadth o' heather' to their unusual program.

"Valentine's Pet Parade," the greatest novelty performance of them all, has already been seen in part on Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town" by those TV addicts among the student body.

Exact dates for each of the above performances will be set later, according to Mr. C. M. Edson.