

## Introductions, The Order

### What's An Exchange Editor?

By Jane Palmagren

With a new school year comes a new *Blackbird* staff, announcing a new exchange editor and I'm it!

You may be saying, "What in the world is an exchange editor?" I told you, "I'm it! That doesn't say much, does it, The exchange editor sends *The Blackbird* to the schools that request it. In return they send us a copy of their school papers. The exchange editor reads these papers, and then writes about happenings in those schools that are unusual. We can compare our school life with campus life elsewhere, in and out of our state.

Education offers a wonderful opportunity that every child should have. Some women in Davidson county have set up a school especially for handicapped children. A specialized teacher, his as-

sistants and some church women conduct this school from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. in three rooms of the educational building.

I take off my hat to these citizens that are making the dreams of handicapped children a reality, don't you?

Boys at the Florida Industrial School have a new gym plus something extra. This something extra refers to rooms in the gym reserved for the band. Here, the band members practice and have lockers for their instruments and uniforms. (We're lucky, too, in having a band room for these things.)

This is all now, since our exchanges have just started coming in. Look for this column in the next issue. See you then.

## 27 Transfers Enroll Here

Twenty-seven transfer students have enrolled here this year, some new to the system and others returning after a year or more in another school.

Freddy Gardner returns to Rocky Mount after a year at Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana; and O. L. Harris comes back from Georgia Military Academy, Georgia.

Benvenue's loss is Rocky Mount's gain of ten students. They are Frances Drake, Jean Dale Watson, Harold Martin, Samuel Meyer, Donnie Bland, William Earl Cooke, Jo Ann Jackson, Edna Louise Tyson, Ray Walker and Christine Boone.

West Edgecomb lost three to the local school — Celia Brake, Alice Faye Crickmore and Jimmy Perry. Elm City sends Jimmy Lindsey and New Hanover High, Wilmington, lost Ted Tilghman to RMSHS.

Three pupils enrolled from Virginia schools and one from the neighboring state of West Virginia — Arthur Thomas Armstrong and Joyce Ann Jones come from Newport News, Julia Ann Viverette from Portsmouth, and Cathy Howard from Morgantown, West Virginia.

Love Byrne comes to RMSHS from Waycross, Georgia; Sue Lawrence from Manchester, Connecticut; and Diane Forde from Texas.

South Carolina contributes two students — Kelsey McGee from Chester and John Henry Hughes from Florence.

## Summer Full Of Thrills



### Girls Attend Conventions; Bring Honors To RMSHS

RMSHS delegates to the various summer conventions, both national and state, walked off with honors there and brought back helpful hints to their school.

Girls State was attended by Fay Batts, Kathern Batten, and Cacky Atkins. Fay was elected governor of Girls' State and was thereby awarded the opportunity to go to Girls Nation in Washington, D. C.

At the capital she was met by leading government officials and American Legion Auxiliary leaders. While there they stayed at The American University, which was the headquarters of the delegates.

Fay said she was fascinated at the way the "politicking" went on at the election of Girl's Nation officers, the Federalist won and that is the party to which Fay belonged.

When she returned to Rocky Mount, Fay was guest at several luncheons at which she told of her trip.

#### RELIGIOUS CONVENTION

Jean Edwards was a delegate to The Sixth National Convocation of Methodist Youth at Purdue University, August 22-26. More than 5,000 young people and their leaders from all parts of America met for a vast meeting week of worship, study, and fellowship.

"Our Christian Witness in the World of Struggle" was discussed at great lengths by Dr. Henry Hiet Crane, Bishop G. Bromley

Oxnan, Dr. James Thomas and Bishop GERAL KENNEDY.

When asked what she considered the highlight of her trip, Jean said that the way that the programs were planned and executed impressed her. The train trip to Indiana with delegates from South Carolina and Georgia also stands out in her mind.

### Want A Prize? Try This Test!

In co-operation with two of the local theatres, the *BLACKBIRD* is sponsoring a movie contest this issue.

To the first six with the most correct answers will go one pass to either the Center or Tower Theatre, Rocky Mount's most modern and up-to-date theatres, bring you the best in movie entertainment.

Turn in all entries to Foy Bradshaw before the end of school tomorrow!

1. What actor and actress have been married three different times in as many pictures?
2. What recent picture has won the most academy awards since "Gone With The Wind"?
3. Whose is the voice of each of the following: Francis the Mule, Porky Pig, and Mickey Mouse?
4. Name the movies from which the following "pop" tunes came: "Unchained Melody", "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White", and "Hearts".
5. Who is the most recent actor from Rocky Mount and name one picture he has played in.
6. What actor is having a picture made about his life? Why is this picture being made?
7. What famous musician is now starring in his own movie? (He plays the piano)
8. What actor does Bruce Etridge favor most.
9. Name a picture that had the most to do with the following branches of service: Army, Air Force, Navy, and Marines.
10. Who was voted last year's best actor?

## EDO Considers

### 'Family Upstairs

"The Family Upstairs" may be considered for production by the Edsonians this year, but it is still too early for plans to be definite, Mrs. Hathcock announced.

Perhaps the biggest news in this department to date is the appointment of Graham Adams as permanent stage manager; Foy Bradshaw, curtain man; and Henry Thompson, sound manager.

Another news item of importance is that Francis Gay attended the Ninth Summer Session in Dramatic Art for High School Students in Chapel Hill, July 18-August 24.

From reports Frances had a wonderful time, taking short courses in acting, diction, and stagecraft. She also attended three one-act plays put on by the Carolina Playmakers and heard a speech by Paul Green, the N. C. dramatist.

While there Frances' class produced a play in which she played a minor part as a "Can-Can" girl. Frances was also assistant stage manager and prompter in the same production.

## Heavy Rains Warp New Gym Floor

Something surely played havoc with the new gym floor this summer, causing a large hump to appear on the court, marring the surface and making it dangerous for basketball.

Moisture from heavy rains at that time possibly could have caused the boards to swell, resulting in the bulge. Fortunately, the contractors will make the floor good. When it has been repaired, the court will again be suitable for ball practice.

In the summer of 1954, while still under construction, the back wall was blown in by heavy winds and had to be rebuilt.

## Back For More

Can you believe that graduates would return for more??

Well, two have. Connie Taylor and Graham Adams, 1955 graduates, are doing post graduate work this year. Connie is back to get her language credits and commercial work. Graham found that to enter North Carolina State required more math and science than he had, so he's back to get those credits.

Graham was active in dramatics during his under graduate work and is now president of the Black Masquers and permanent stage manager.

At State he plans to study plant breeding, mainly that of corn. Already he has done much work in plant breeding out at Watson's Farms.

Connie has not yet decided which college she will attend, mainly because she hasn't made up her mind which she prefers — work in the art or the commercial field.

## Choir Plans Light Opera

Mr. Harold Perry, choir director, is enthusiastic about the plans for the year, even though they are still in a tentative state.

First, Mr. Parry is thinking of organizing two choirs instead of one as he has in the past. If these plans materialize, there will be a "general" choir and a "special" choir, which may be named later.

"Perhaps the choir will present a light opera, something like "Sweetheart" by Victor Herbert," said the director. It would be difficult but interesting, he added.

One thing is definite — a selected group of fifteen or twenty choir members will sing for the state teachers' meeting in Greenville, October 20. Another program planned is scheduled for the "Junior Frolics," sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. This event is planned for November. The exact date will be given later.

## Cars — All Types Still Pride, Joy

No matter the age or the looks of the car, if it still runs students are proudly parking them in or near the school parking lot.

Some of the newer Oldsmobiles are driven by Cacky Atkins, Martha Sutton, and Mary Elizabeth Whitehead. General Motors is also represented by the many new Buicks and Chevrolets at school. Chrysler, De Soto and Plymouth autos of the Chrysler Corporation are being fashioned respectively by Lyle Crumpler, Henry Thompson, and Dot Ricks.

New cars are neat but we give a salute to the older cars, especially John Gorham's Chevrolet and Johnny Hughes' model-A Ford, which is believed to be the oldest auto driven by a senior high student.

## 'Stardusters' Sparkle

### Boys Form 'Cool Combo'

Have you heard the Stardusters, that "real cool combo", composed of five senior high boys whose theme song is the old favorite, "Stardust"?

This talented quintet, which plays both jazz and dance music but leans toward the "jivy" type, was organized last year. Juniors Buddy Cockrell, Marshall Deans, and Herman Harsey, and sophomores Bobby Fisher and Lee Bulluck were interested in music, and used to get together for jam sessions. Then, as Buddy Cockrell put it, they "just went downtown and bought some popular sheet music to play."

As to future dates — —? Well, to

Marshall Deans tickles the ivories (plays the piano to you), Lee Bulluck thumps the bass, Buddy Cockrell toots the cornet, Herman Harsey gives the drum a rhythmic beating, and Bobby Fisher handles the trombone and the vocal department. (With these popular musicians and the brand of music they produce, the question is "How can the "Stardusters" keep from being tops?")

Engagements of the group so far have been limited. They have played for an assembly at the R. M. Wilson Junior High School and for a club dance. quote Buddy Cockrell again, "Man, we want (to make) some real gone music!"

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