

'Twas The Week Before Christmas'

By Martha Fountain

(Apologies to Clement Moore)

'Twas the week before Christmas
and all o'er the ground,
Not a Rocky Mount student on
campus to be found.
The buildings were closed;
the hallways were bare;
It is a known fact that
Santa was not there.
We find boys and girls with
naught in their heads
But visions of Christmas joys
in domes of lead.
And Jean in her dress and
"Brad" with no cap
Were settled in their chairs for
a fifteen-minute nap.
When out on the street there
arose such a clatter,
They sprang from their seats to
see what was the matter.
To the store window they flew
like a flash
To see Gail and Ruth come by
in a dash.
The look on the girls' faces
gave them to know,
That just like themselves
they'd be late at the sto'.
Then what to their wondering
eyes should appear,
John O'Donnell who gave them
a leer.
With him as the driver, his car
threw up dust,
And they could just see the
sign, "Florida or Bust!"
But back to work these new
clerks went,
Knowing well how holidays
were spent.
To the Yuletide parties
to all the balls,
They'd dash away, dash away,
dash away all!
So, up to the houses the
"Cats" flew,
With arms full of gifts,
and Christmas joys too.
They were dressed all in wool
from their heads to their feet,
And their clothes were all covered
with snow and sleet.
They were happy and gay
like jolly little elves;
And people, who saw them,
laughed
in spite of themselves.
It's time I was leaving and
saying "Good-bye."
But I want you to know
I leave with a sigh.
Remember I give (as I leave)
this cheer —
Merry Christmas to all! uh,
I'll be back for New Year!

Money Worries Here, Too



Pictured above are James Ezzell, treasurer of the senior class; Mrs. Gladys Robbins, advisor, and Banks Currin, president. These three are discussing the plans of the Sock Hop mentioned on page one. Photo by Barringer.

Honor Roll Attainment Places High, New Groups, Genius, Come Second

Honor Roll attainment and the forming of new classes and clubs make up the most important exchange news this month.

Congratulations to the Goldsboro High School students who have made the regular honor roll seven consecutive times! Pupils who make the honor roll receive silver stars in recognition of their outstanding grades and may be exempt from one exam if they carry four or five majors.

Music Masters At Work

"Modern Music Masters" is the name of one of the two new clubs organized at Statesville High this year. The music lovers in this club will study different types of music and buy pieces of music with money collected as dues.

Needham Broughton High's D. E. Club took as a project the training of students for Christmas selling jobs. Students were recommended by the dean and met for classes after school, November 14-30. Personality development, sales checks information, and fundamentals of salesmanship were topics discussed.

Genius At Eleven

Glenn Merringer, eleven-year old organist and a new genius sensation to the music world, gave a concert in the Central High auditorium in Minnesota and held his audience spell-bound. Glenn is on tour arranged by the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company and is sponsored there by the McGinnis

Piano Company.

Student artists in Statesville High School now have a chance to become famous. They are submitting their designs for the 1957 National Tuberculosis Association Christmas Seal. This design must have a double-bar cross with no more than four colors traditionally connected with Christmas and a saying appropriate for the season. The artist whose design is selected will be awarded \$500.

Honor 3 Seniors

Not surprising is the fact that seniors Banks Currin, Pat Parrish and Jimmy Moore are the outstanding students honored by the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs in December.

Banks Currin as Kiwanis boy, and Pat Parrish and Jimmy Moore as Rotary girl and boy, will be guests of these clubs at their weekly luncheons during the month.

Banks is president of the senior class and among other honors was a delegate to the American Legion Boys State.

Pat is the secretary of the student organization and is a cheerleader this year.

Jimmy is the editor of *The Blackbird*, he plays a trumpet in the band, was on the entertainment committee for the NCSCC, and was a delegate to the 1955 Columbia Scholastic Press Association convention.

Winning Feature

A Child Leads A Man

By James Ezzell

The article below is one of the two winners of the TB associations contest. The other winner appears on Page 2. Ed. Note.

Several weeks ago, on a cold, rainy day I arrived at my office only to find my desk covered with what I thought was the usual unimportant advertising circulars. I began to thumb through them hurriedly, talking to myself regretfully about the people who send such unimportant papers to busy men like myself.

I started to throw the entire batch in the wastebasket; but as I did, one of the envelopes separated itself from the rest. I picked it up and examined it more carefully. As I opened it, I was surprised to find one hundred brightly colored stamps — Christmas seals, I believe they are called — staring me in the face. I laid them aside.

That afternoon when I went down to the cafe for a coffee break, I began to feel a little dizzy. As I raised my coffee to my mouth, I thought I saw an object floating around in the bottom of the cup. I took a second look. It was there all right! The more I stared, the more it resembled the little boy on the Christmas seal. Much to my amazement, he swam around in the coffee for a little while, and suddenly bounced up on the rim of the cup.

The little fellow looked at me with a young but stern face and said, "Sir, those seals that you laid aside this morning, whether or not you realize it, are of great importance to everybody. They are sold every year to raise money for the fight against that unnecessary disease — tuberculosis.

"Mister, I'll bet that you didn't

'They're Good,' Say Observers Of Play

"I didn't know Joe and Roland had it in them! They were good!" exclaimed Puddle Gold when the curtain fell at the end of the third act, bringing the Edsonian's first major production to an end.

Such praises were plentiful as the patrons departed after the performance. This, of course, made the cast and director feel that their efforts and hard work were appreciated.

Following the play, the cast members, stage crew, and other committees had their traditional party. This year for the first time the party was in a more homey atmosphere, since it took place backstage right where the work had been done.

Refreshments at the party were cold drinks, sandwiches, and small snacks, which were plentiful.

even know that TB is caused by a germ, that TB is catching, that TB is not inherited, that you can have TB without feeling sick, that the doctor can tell if you have TB by x-rays and other tests, that TB can usually be cured if found early enough and treated properly, that a TB hospital is the best place to go to be treated and to protect others from the germs. Yes, sir, mister, I'll bet you didn't know these things, did ya?

"And, sir, did you know that the money received from the sale of the seals is used to aid in the fight of the disease?"

With that last remark the little fellow disappeared back into the coffee.

When I go back to the office, not only did I make out a check for the cost of the seals, but I also made a bigger contribution. From now on, you can bet this will be an annual privilege for me. How about you?

Club Plans Mean 'Merry Christmas'

"Merry Christmas" could well be the motto of the clubs at this season.

Needy families have been "adopted" by the Service and SOS clubs, and the FHA and the Musettes, all of which will play Santa Claus with food and gifts.

Mrs. W. H. Robbins is taking the Service Club to visit the county home, where they will present a Christmas program. They have made favors for the residents. As they do every Christmas, the members of the Service Club placed a poinsettia in the office.

The newest service organization, the Kudos Klub, under the sponsorship of Mrs. T. D. Young, prepared the postcard invitations for the PTA Christmas meeting last Wednesday night.

Mrs. Hiram Cuthrell and her Junior Red Cross Club made nut and candy cups to send to the hospitals at Fort Bragg.

Retired teachers will receive a bit of Christmas brightness when the festive table decorations from the Musettes reach them. Mrs. Ora Van Buskirk is the advisor for this group.

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