

### Farewells By Student Leaders Of '56-'57

As we come to the end of another year, I would like to say to each of you "au revoir." The successes which we as student body have enjoyed have come from the cooperative efforts of each of you, and you should gain satisfaction according to your individual contribution to your school life.

It has been a real pleasure to work with you, and I thank you for the cooperation exhibited to your Student Organization and myself.

Don Harris  
S. O. President  
\* \* \* \*

It has been a wonderful experience to have attended RMSHS this year. I have enjoyed it very much, and I hope I some day can come back again to see all of you. I hope that next year's American Field Service student's stay will be as pleasant as mine has been.

See you again!  
Ole Askholm  
Exchange Student  
\* \* \* \*

Being editor of the Hi-Noc-Ar has been the highlight of my high school career. Throughout these few months it has given me a deep feeling of service, pride, and accomplishment.

Tomorrow your Hi-Noc-Ar will be presented to you at activity period. The staff members feel that this is an exceptionally good book. We hope that you will agree with us.

Bettie Ann Whitehurst  
Hi-Noc-Ar Editor  
\* \* \* \*

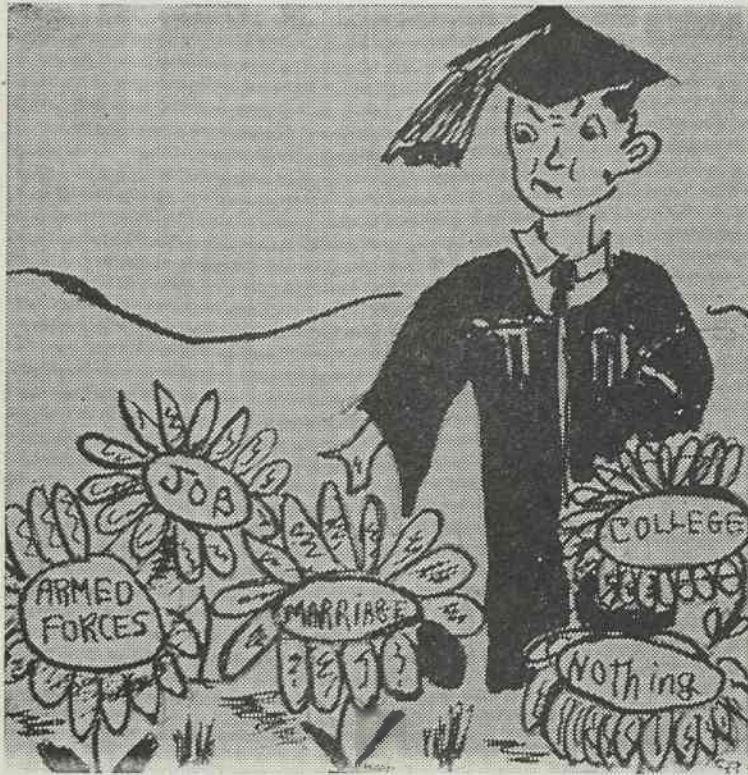
As another year passes, another editor leaves THE BLACKBIRD nest to fly away from Senior High.

Being the editor of this paper has been one of the most honored and happiest experiences in my high school career. I am pleased to have worked with the adviser, the fine people of the staff and the student body.

I hope the newspaper has improved this year and will continue to grow bigger, stronger, and greater, only to represent the students and teachers of Senior High.

Edward Riner  
THE BLACKBIRD Editor

### Commencement - Just Field of Dazes



### Graduation Is Spring Harvest

Cap!  
Gown!  
Diploma!

Yes, these are the last of achievements awarded to students who have satisfactorily completed a regular course at a school.

Someone's word of advice might have given the desire to succeed. Maybe a teacher's concern for teaching reading with ease way back in the second grade brought encouragement to push on until reading became as easy as talking. Perhaps a preacher's sermon on accomplishment made one realize the importance of an education. Again, it could have been an adored coach, who with a few words of encouragement, made not only an athlete but a scholar.

These are the ways many seniors reached that long awaited graduation, an experience which is more than just a cap and gown or a moment of high satisfaction when called to receive the hard-earned diploma.

Graduation is the result of a seed that was planted long before the senior year. Its development has come about according to the way it was cared for. If the seed were enriched and given plenty of growing space, it flourished with satisfaction. However, if it were planted and then forgotten, it failed to burst fourth and grow of its own strength.

Some have struggled to maturity with little care in poor soil. Some have had rich soil and loving daily care. For both there is graduation, time for harvest. The gardener reaps what he sows and cultivates — and so will the graduate.

### The Blackbird File

#### Pictures of Year's Events

Looking back at the old issues of THE BLACKBIRD reminds one of the various important topics that have come up in school during the past year.

Articles show that school spirit was grand at the beginning of the year as was evident at athletic games and in assemblies. Former Coach Johnny Guiton's speech in assembly helped increase school spirit even more. But now it has fallen so that hardly anyone attends baseball games.

Strong emphasis on honor brought about Honor Week and speeches by dignitaries from different fields.

Caring for property and keeping the school clean were a couple of other campaigns that came up because too much trash was carelessly dropped on the floor instead of placed in the trash cans and because of the unnecessary destruction of school property and that of Rocky Mount citizens.

Wonderful improvement has been made in these fields. Now one seldom sees paper in the halls and students are taking much better care of the property at school and elsewhere.

In general the school has improved much in every field, but for perfection individuals must set their own goals.

THE BLACKBIRD is proud to have recorded these events of importance for the future and the present for what they are worth.

### Poet Recalls Dislikes, Likes Of School

By Ann Dove

I never cared too much for school; I'm not the studious type; In fact there have been times, when I would almost give my life,

To walk right out of school and run straight home and say, "I'll never go back to school again a-nother single day!"

But then, somehow my mother never would agree —

"Ann, you've got to go to school," That's what she said to me.

"You know you have to go to school to get an education,

Or you'll turn out to be a fool and there'll be no graduation."

And now I'm glad she made me go;

I'm as grateful as can be, Because my little mother is so very proud of me.

And when I get my wings and fly, These memories of Senior High will live within my heart.

\$25 to \$5000

### Scholarships Await Rule-Followers

Money may be the root of all evil (as the old adage goes), but it is the seed of many good things, one of which is education.

One form of the intriguing green stuff known as scholarships helps the advance of mankind in that it pays—partially or wholly—the expenses of an education above that of the public school system of twelve grades. This year as in the past some local seniors have been granted scholarships to aid in further study, which in turn will not only benefit them but all mankind.

These awards range from \$25 to \$5,000, in terms of value—two weeks' lunch cost in the college cafeteria to four years expense of college education complete. Two major variables are involved in this process of giving financial aid: interested colleges, organizations and individuals; and a worth while recipient.

Such benefactors named may be national, state or local concerns with the sole interest of helping someone increase his knowledge to help others do the same. One scholarship may help produce a teacher, a doctor, a lawyer or an engineer—all vitally needed in the world of today and tomorrow.

THE BLACKBIRD has carried the names of all known winners from time to time. Some of these students have EARNED one or more grants. One senior girl has received four scholarships.

Money of this sort is going to be given to deserving seniors each year and it is not too late for sophomores and juniors to set their eyes on the contests. Four traits embodied in the call letters of the National Honor Society help prepare a student for scholarship material:

1. Strive for high grades and EARN each one of them. Academic record is first considered.
2. LEAD fellow students in the direction of right and also be a trustworthy follower.
3. SERVE school, community, and classmates as a privilege of being a member of mankind.
4. Keep CHARACTER at the peak of goodness with never a degenerating action, word, or deed.

Scholarship in its broadest meaning belongs to those who follow these rules.

### Eyeing RMSHS:

#### Graft Tans, What of Spirits?

By Edward Riner

After 27 months in Senior High, I have found a true definition of the ever-talked-about School Spirit.

No dictionary records this definition, but as I see it, the only answer is Exchange Student Day!

That day when Jo Hamilton (of Denmark) spoke to the student body, the applause was sincere. Judging from the volume of the clapping, spirits must have felt that this was a great day for the school. Again at the banquet for Ole the applause grew with devotion.

If this is what it takes to make students love their fellowman and country, may the American Field Service program last in Rocky Mount forever.

#### Ideas Bring Tan

Being one of those unfortunate people who turn blood-red at the

appearance of the sun on a winter-white body, I have a few ideas for people in similar predicaments.

If one freckles easily, he might grow of those brown skin spots to pass for that ever-loving tan. (Try your local drug store for the freckle-growing mash.)

By using a body make-up used to produce skin color for South Sea Islanders in movies, one might apply a tan to the body daily. (Caution: Such a make-up has a tendency to irritate the skin and cause a burning sensation similar to that of hot coffee in the mouth)

#### Skin Exchanging

Skin grafting is the least desirable method. This plan calls for exchanging one's skin for that of another person who has a tan and does not want it (Who?). Because of the pain involved to carry out this idea, I suggest a sunburn.



## THE BLACKBIRD

### Rocky Mount Senior High



Member of the  
Columbia Scholastic Press Association

Editor ..... Edward Riner  
Business Manager ..... Clare Davenport  
Advertising Manager ..... Barbara Davis  
Circulation Manager ..... Ellen Joyner  
Adviser ..... Mrs. T. D. Young

Published nine times during the year by the Senior High School Journalism class of Rocky Mount.

Subscription Rate ..... \$1.10