

Odd 'Gifts' in 214



Elbert Robbins, Jane Palmgren, Beulah Wilkins, Jean Harris, Judy Cobb, Teddy Little, Pat Johnson, and Hulda Williams were officers of homeroom 214 during the year. (Photo by Barringer)

What Curious Sights!

Unusual Gifts Decorate 216

Students in Mrs. Ora Van Buskirk's homeroom 216 say they have many curious sights awaiting them on their arrival at school each morning, since their room is a biology lab and "Mrs. Van's" pupils often bring her unusual "gifts" such as a huge dead fly.

Members of this homeroom don't have to decorate for the season at Christmas. Other students, mostly sophomores obliged by making dried flower arrangements, wreaths, and centerpieces as biology projects. Even mistletoe rings are allowed.

Homeroom students appreciate the sophomores' efforts, for not only are they lovely, but the easiest way to have one of the best decorated homerooms in school.

THE BLACKBIRD editor, Edward Riner, is one of the members of this senior homeroom. Beauty and brains combined are here too with Betty Lou Savage and Jo Jo Cuthrell in the 1957 Beauty Court. Names of many National Honor Society leaders, club leaders, and athletic contestants also on this homeroom's roll.

'Squares' Fill 208 No, Not Students—Math Structures!

Upon entering room 208 the casual visitor may find it filled with strange, colorful objects — cubes, squares (no, not students), and other solid structures, for trigonometry, algebra, and solid geometry are subjects taught by the homeroom teacher, Miss Wita Bond.

Miss Bond literally "carries a torch" for scholarship, leadership, character, and service. For many years this teacher in addition to her regular duties has advised the Romonoca chapter of the National Honor Society. Encouraged by her, about a fourth of her room have been tapped into this organization.

Miss Bond's students for the past three years have exhibited many of these traits. Service Club president, Faye Kirkland; Cap and Gown chairman Carolyn Langley; Senior class president, Freddie Fulcher; Hi-Noc-Ar staff member, Jean Edwards; and last year's chief commencement marshal, Dan Woodruff, are just a few of Miss Bond's "biddies" graduating May 31.

Faculty Has Party

Frolickin' (with no pupils present) was the order of the evening at the annual RMSHS faculty picnic in the lovely garden of Miss Eleanor Pearsall's home, Thursday night, May 16.

Teachers brought homemade foods for the picnic — potato salad, sandwiches, deviled eggs, cakes, and cookies and fried chicken galore.

Outstanding Sr. Girls

Win New Title, Dancing Role

To Add to Honors

(Editor's note: Blackbird Staffers Ellen Joyner and Eleanor Bulluck are excited, and rightfully so — but read on to find out why.)

Ellen Joyner has won another title, and Eleanor Bulluck has her first professional dancing role.

Both these beautiful and talented girls have worked two years

on the staff of the BLACKBIRD and have contributed much to its improvement.

Ellen Is Rose Princess

Pretty, blonde, brown-eyed Ellen Joyner is now Rocky Mount Rose Society's 1957 Rose Princess. Ellen and her three attendants, Clare Davenport, Lee Newby, and Betty Lou Savage, greeted guests attending the Rose Society's annual Rose Show at the Ricks Hotel Friday, May 17.

Climaxing the day, Princess Ellen was crowned by Mayor P. K. Gravely at the banquet that night with a "diamond" tiara on a base of pale pink rosebuds. Ellen wore a full-length gown of pale pink chiffon, and her attendants wore waltz-length formals of green organdy, butter-cup yellow, and deep blue.

Ellen's other titles are 1957 Sweetheart of the Deux Pays Chapter of the Order of De Molay; RMSHS Campus Sweetheart, 1957; Rotary girl for December, 1956; and member of the RMSHS Beauty Court, 1956.

An outstanding senior, Ellen plans to continue her higher education in the field of art.

Asked about her plans after college, Ellen said, "I'll probably go into some phase of art."

What could a talented young girl like Eleanor Bulluck want more than a summer of valuable experiences, with pay, at Manteo, N. C.?

Eleanor has it, a summer of dancing. She was notified last week after her second audition for the part one of the eight dances in "The Lost Colony" that she had been accepted for a role.

She says that although she is a dancer, she will try out for a role as a dramatic understudy for one of the outdoor drama's actors — "because that's what most everyone does!"

While at Manteo, Eleanor says that she and the other dancers will pool talents with others in the drama and conduct and attend classes in speech, drama and modern dancing.

Her schedule after that will be busy, for rehearsals start June 10; the play starts July 1 and ends September 1.

McGoo's Kazoo

By Kelsey McGee



Oh, it's great to be a senior at graduation time — early exams; — early morning (ho-hum) commencement practices; — Senior Day (!) — guess who's running for dog catcher — no, not McGoo; rush, rush, rush; and graduation gifts (thank-you notes, too).

Some people aim rather high at what they hope Mom and Pop will give them as a reward for struggling mightily through twelve (it doesn't seem that long) years of borrowed notebook paper, library fines, lost fountain pens, and detention slips for chewing gum in class.

Grads List 'Wants'

Lee Newby, for instance, would especially like a hi-fi record player — "Like Frank Wilkinson has." Luanne Hobbs thinks a portable radio or clock radio would be nice.

Jane Palmgren says she "would like a car, but that's just a dream. I really would appreciate a radio or record player."

Larry Warner mentions a "stereotape player" — whatever that might be; Roger Gregory says his graduation gift is his trip to Europe — "le grand tour." Don Harris already has his gift — a set of new golf clubs.

Anna Smithson knows she's to receive a highboy-style cedar hope chest to go with her diamond. Annette Lee, Bobbi Pullen, and Margaret Ricks say luggage is "the thing" for them, and Betsy Avera and Linda Pittman think their gifts will be "probably a watch."

With Accompaniment Yet

"A Musical Instrument" — by Elizabeth Browning was the poem Faye Kirland was reading to Miss Kate Parks Kitchin's third period senior English class — when suddenly a resonant, blaring blast (seemingly from a giant instrument of some sort) drowned her voice. At the end of the echoes, Faye resumed only to find she again had competition.

What kind of competition? Nothing less than a rocket on the Command Decision Jet exhibit on the Nash Street side of RMSHS. These loud, mournful noises continued for most part of Thursday.

More Gifts They Get

Heiling Meyers gave all senior girls Lane miniature cedar chests. The Jewel Box presented each senior with a gold and black school key.

Annual Junior Guild tea for the senior class was at the home of Mrs. Julian Fenner, Wednesday, May 1. Many seniors enjoyed the lovely afternoon affair.



In this photo Annette Lee and Karen Proctor are shown on the bottom row, and Clayton Hurt, Charlette Carmichael, Linda Bulluck, and Freddie Fulcher are on the top row.

(Photo by Barringer)

HR 117 Has Brains, Height

Miss Rubie Vause of 117 boasts a variegated homeroom; that is, it includes people ranging from the tallest boy, Clarence Williams, to some of the 'brainest' students in the school.

This lively and sometimes exasperating (according to observers, not Miss Vause) homeroom at their recent presented their teacher with a white sweater as a 'graduation' gift. Originally the homeroom of Mrs. Jay Massey, this group 'adopted' Miss Vause, whose 1956 senior homeroom had graduated, after the departure of Mrs. Massey last year.

Student Organization president and a recipient of a Morehead Scholarship, Don Harris; editor of the Hi-Noc-Ar, Bettie Ann Whitehurst; advertising manager

of THE BLACKBIRD, Barbara Davis; and several choir members are only a few of the more outstanding people in homeroom 117.

Brains must go hand-in-hand with energy, because some of this group look back with sheepish grin and due repentance at some of the stunts they pulled, much to the consternation of poor 'little' Mrs. Massey, their sophomore teacher.

'Black John' Pearson once (?) was 'naughty', with the result that he was assigned to write a sentence a thousand times for his teacher. The next day a Tide box was found on the teacher's desk with thousands of pieces of paper inside — John's assignment! (Wouldn't it have served him right if he had to paste them all together in the correct order?!)



Senior homeroom officers of Miss Vause's 117 are, left to right, Shirley Pierce, Bobbi Pullen, John Pearson, Bill Waters, Richard Taylor, and Billy Merritt. (Photo by Barringer)