

THE BLACKBIRD

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Students Plan Trip To Fayetteville

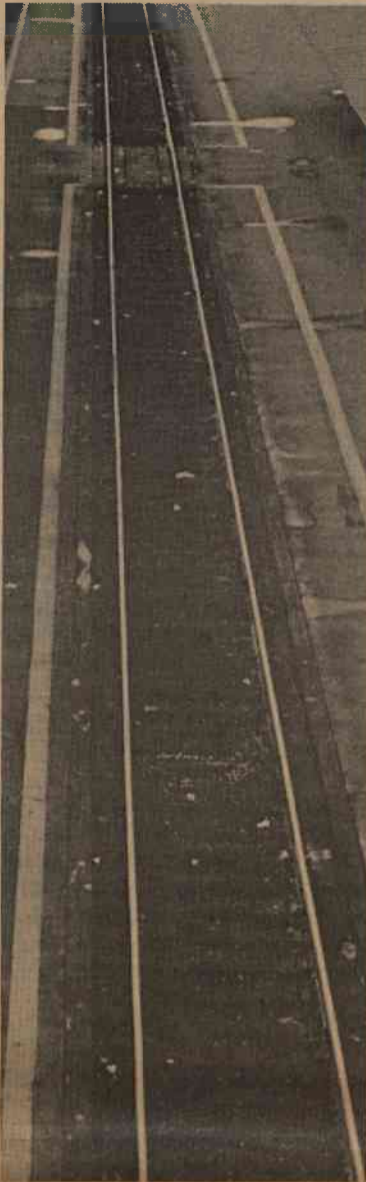
As is annual tradition, a chartered train will carry Blackbird fans to the football game between Fayetteville Bulldogs and Rocky Mount Blackbirds. This year the train will depart from the station at 5:45.

Tickets may be purchased at any time this week at the Atlantic Coast Line Depot and tomorrow afternoon after school two representatives of the Atlantic Coast Line Railway will be in the lobby of the auditorium to sell tickets. The cost of the round-trip ticket is \$3.50. This price will not include the price of the game ticket.

A refreshment car will again be operated by the Social Committee of the Student Organization. Becky Edwards, Chairman of the Social Committee, has announced that sandwiches, candy, drinks, chewing gum, do-nuts, peanuts, and apples

will be sold by the members of the committee. They are A. G. Smith, Linda Dickson, Darryl Daniel, Mickey Southerland, Lillie Royall, Margaret Doherty, Jean Hayworth, Camilla Reid, Billy Spence, Stanley Daughtridge, Carol Jean Sexton, Keen Gravely, Bruce Lea, Cassandra Martin, and Randy Griffin.

Mr. Edson had this to say about the trip: "On the many train trips that we have sponsored, students have conducted themselves in a very favorable manner. Railroad officials have been very complimentary of our students. So long as we maintain this good reputation, we will continue to charter special trains. Students should bear this in mind and not indulge in any activities which might bring unfavorable criticism on our student body. I'm looking forward to a most enjoyable trip."



Ninety-six miles down this track is Fayetteville. An expected ten train cars loaded with Blackbird boosters will begin their journey from the point pictured above. (Photo by Killebrew)

Three Senior High Students Qualify As Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists

Jim McClesney, Pat Williams and Greg Low were recently notified by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation that they had been selected as semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation is a non-profit organization and administers the nation's largest independently supported college scholarship program for high school seniors and also assists in other scholarship programs.

Three Rocky Mount Senior High School seniors are among 11,000 semi-finalists selected solely on the basis of their scores on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which was given in the spring of 1962 to secondary school juniors throughout the United States.

Constituting about two-thirds of one per cent of the nation's graduating secondary school seniors, the 11,000 semi-finalists must do four things to become finalists. Each semi-finalist is asked (a) to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test of the College Entrance Examination Board; (b) to submit an information form filled out by himself and his school; (c) to fill out a financial statement; and (d) to take a second test, only to substantiate his high NMSQT scores. Almost all semi-finalists become finalists.

The selection board in choosing scholarship winners will consider high school record, school recommendations, unusual accomplishments or abilities, participation in school and community activities, character, leadership, and test scores.

In the past, about ten per cent of the finalists have received Merit Scholarships. Merit scholars are selected on the basis of merit, without regard to financial need, although the stipend of a Merit Scholarship is based on financial

need. One hundred dollars is the minimum annual stipend while 1,500 dollars is the maximum per year.



Jim McClesney



Greg Low



Pat Williams

"Cheerios" Established To Promote Cheering, Spirit At Football Games

A new organization, a cheering section called the "Cheerios" has been formed at Rocky Mount Senior High under the direction of the Student Organization.

The "Cheerios" is a select group of students from the student body who will boost school spirit and participate at pep rallies and games. Twenty- (See "Cheerios", Page Two)

The Blackbird Wins First Place At National Scholastic Press

THE BLACKBIRD, the school newspaper, was awarded first place rating for the second semester of 1962 by the National Scholastic Press Association at the University of Minnesota, School of Journalism.

The staff sent last semester's issues to the NSPA judges in June. During the summer this judging team criticized and rate THE BLACKBIRD.

The NSPA Critical Service judges are professional men and women who have active

parts in the journalism field. High school newspapers throughout the United States are judged by this team of journalists. Many different types of papers are judged including the weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly paper. Also junior high school papers are judged.

The results of this judging let the staff and advisor know how their paper compares with other papers. Helpful information and specific criticism are sent to the staff of newspaper.

Senior Homeroom Officers Elected; Installation Held In Group Guidance

Senior homeroom officers for first semester took the oath of office Thursday, September 13, in group guidance. President of the Senior class, Eddie Allen gave the oath of office to the students.

The following were elected: Mrs. Thelma Lundy, homeroom 112; President, Becky Walker; Vice-President, Anne Nelson; Secretary, Mooney Ann Stotesbury; Treasurer, Jimmy Williams; Student Organization, Tom Parrish, Barbara Swinson.

Miss Alma Murchison, homeroom 106; President, Judy Council; Vice-President, Suzanne Ford; Secretary, Nancy Dunn; Treasurer, Bernie Capps; Student Organization, Carlton Edwards, Cameron Hunt.

Miss Ruby Vause, homeroom 110; President, Theresa Haggerty; Vice-President, Dawana Gay; Secretary, Nancy Bradham; Treasurer, Eryan Daley; Student Organization, Judi Felton, Mike Hux.

Mrs. Evelyn Walston, homeroom 120; President, Gloria

SO Cabinet Meets To Discuss Plans

The first cabinet meeting of the year was called to order after school September 19, in room 101 by Student Organization President, Greg Low.

After Miss Kitchin pointed out the responsibilities of the cabinet as a whole, Greg gave committee chairmen some pointers which he learned at the Student Council Workshop at Mars Hill. Reports were given by the chairmen of the School Spirit Committee, Fire Drill Committee, Publicity Committee, and Finance Committee. The President, Greg Low and Vice-President, David Williams gave an account of various activities carried on during the week.

Plans were made concerning the magazine drive and the next meeting. After discussing the budget, all chairmen were asked to turn in an approximate figure for the year.

McDonald; Vice - President, Kathy Jackson; Secretary, Dot Williamson; Treasurer, Charles Fate; Student Organization, Don Harris, Annie Justa.

Mrs. Sue Hayworth, homeroom 128; President, David Lamm; Vice-President, Pat Lane; Secretary, Linda Dickson; Treasurer, Nancy Helms; Student Organization, Carolyn Feiton, Tom McAuley.

Mr. Ralph Gorham, homeroom 211; President, Butch Ferguson; Vice-President, Stephanie Matthews; Secretary, Gwen Joyner; Treasurer, Andy Davenport; Student Organization, Terry Britt, Mickey Southerland.

Mr. Earl Privott, homeroom 216; President, Ginger Jackson; Vice-President, Billie Mae Royall; Secretary, Sue Shearin; Treasurer, Tony Batchelor; Student Organization, Danny Talbott, Dianne Tanner.

Mrs. Ora Van Buskirk, homeroom 219; President, Dell Lamm; Vice - President, Joe Williams; Secretary, Jane Rose; Treasurer, Mary Anne Harrell; Student Organization, Steve Wright, Marilyn Spencer.

Blackbird Drive Successfully Ended; Record Of Over 800 Subscriptions

THE BLACKBIRD staff successfully ended its two-week subscription drive Friday with approximately 800 subscriptions being sold. This total eclipsed last year's record of 666 subscriptions.

Circulation Manager Mike Floyd was high in individual sales with a record 100 subscriptions. This breaks his own record of 69 last year. Runner-up in sales was Ellie Watson with 80.

The campaign began with the annual kick-off assembly, Friday, September 14. The program began with the journalism class presenting a short skit consisting of a trial of a country yokel, John Imbecile, who had not bought a BLACKBIRD subscription. Presiding

Magazine Drive

The total amount of money turned in last week for magazine subscriptions as of last Friday was \$2,559.47.

The sophomore class is leading in sales with a total of \$1,052.07. Next in line are the Junior class and Senior class, who turned in totals of \$959.20 and \$548.20 respectively.

as judge of the court was the honorable David Lamm.

Immediately following this short skit, Dwight Thomas, editor of THE BLACKBIRD, introduced the members of the paper staff. Mike Floyd then discussed the changes made in the paper and the plans for the subscription drive.

The Center Theater donated passes to each member of the first homeroom in which everyone subscribed to THE BLACKBIRD. Mrs. Carolyn Bailey's homeroom received this honor. Mrs. Evelyn Walston's and Mrs. Margaret Williams' homerooms also had one hundred per cent subscribing and each room will receive five passes to the Center to be distributed in the room.