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Annual Christmas Assembly Features Several Students, Alumni 'Cy'anta, 'Murk's' Monologue, Choir Many In Band "Nightbeats"

For many years now the Service does she tell stories for Senior Club has sponsored the traditional Christmas Assembly.

For the past ten years Mr. C. M. Edson, principal has presented his "Cy" anta Claus act for both students and teachers at Senior High. His act first originated on radio WEED where he was a part-time announcer. The radio station needed a Christmas program so Mr. Edson devised one in which he reads letters from children of Rocky Mount. He has been doing so since 1935. Later, he began giving the same program at school. Mr. Edson portrays Santa Claus, two elfs; Pinky and Pudgy, and several of Santa's helpers from the chilly North Pole.

The request for gifts which "Cy" anta reads in school are from students of the creative writing classes. Mr. Edson said that he "changed them around some to make them more humorous."

Miss Alma Murchison, English teacher, is also a part of the traditional activities as she weaves a heart-warming monologue centered around the Christmas spirit.

Miss Murchison said that her stories have been received with much enthusiasm since she gave her first school performance in 1953.

Having bee n a professional actress at one time truly qualifies Miss Murchison for the "readings" she gives. Not only

High but she also has performed for almost every civic club in

Rocky Mount.

no r has she ever used another person or prop of any kind to aid mas Dance, December 14. her during her performance.

"I enjoy giving "readings" and hope the students enjoy them, too. They (the students) have always been a wonderful audience." Miss Murchison went further to say that she enjoyed do- at Senior High, received a set ing "readings" for students more than for any other group.

Along with Mr. Edson and Miss been on the agenda for the Christmas program. The choir, special assembly for about 25 years. Mr. Parry said that cussion. After much discussion, the choir, along with the other pro and con, they agreed to or-Christmas songs they sing, they always sing at least one reminding people to buy Christmas until they discovered that another Seals.

Tinsel Tinsel on the Christmas tree began, so legend says, when spiders covered with webs a tree that had been

her many children. To reward the woman for her goodness to her children, the Christ Child changed the spider webs to gleaming silver.

decorated by a mother for

What are they? They are the Fabulous Nighbeats that have Miss Murchison does not use, played for the Homecoming Dance and will be playing for the Christ-

> The Nighbeats, which is a jazz band composed of students and alumni from Senior High, was organized January 14, 1962 by Walter Jones.

Walter Jones, who is a junior of drums last Christmas and toyed around with the idea of starting a band. He discussed the Murchison, the choir has long idea with Wayne Smith, a former Senior High student, who played the lead guitar. Wayne invited under the direction of Mr. Harold Jimmy Drake, a graduate of Parry has been singing for the Senior High, who plays the saxophone to join them in the disganize. At first the name Trebletones was used by the boys

group had the same name. It was then changed to their present name--Nighbeats. Soon the three boys felt the need for a singer, so Dickie Pridgen, who is a junior at Senior High was asked to join them. Dickie found that singing with a band was quite a job and encountered some difficulty at first. But through practice and more practice he soon took the swing of things. Pretty soon, many more players were invited to join the band.

Those that were later added are Jay Daughtridge, who is a senior, playing the organ; Clifton Nelms, a graduate of Senior High, handling the bass guitar; and Ronnie Mitchell, a former Senior

High student, who joined the group as a singer.

Handling the many engagements each week is manager Jules Walker. Not only does Jules handle the engagements but he looks after the band's trailer, instruments, uniforms, and financial matters.

The Nightbeats have played for several clubs and civic organizations and have future engagements with some Rocky Mount firms, and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

Favorite Teacher

By Wanda Wise

I have a dedicated teacher As strict as she can be But I love her very much For all she's done for me.

Others, too, are thankful For this outstanding leader. If ever you get the chance I'd like for you to meet her.

The state reward that she received

Was credit that was due, When you complete a class of hers

You've really earned it, too!

Mrs. VanBuskirk we'll remember When we get to college, Because in the field of biology We'll be well equipped with knowledge.

Future plans include branching out and playing for other cities, cutting a record, and appearing on the T. V. March of Dimes Telethon.

When the band was first organized their uniforms consisted of a blue shirt and white pants but now have changed to white pants and a gold shirt.



ditional since early days of Yule merry-making, although roast peacock, the feature of the feast in mediaeval England, is rarely, if ever, seen today!

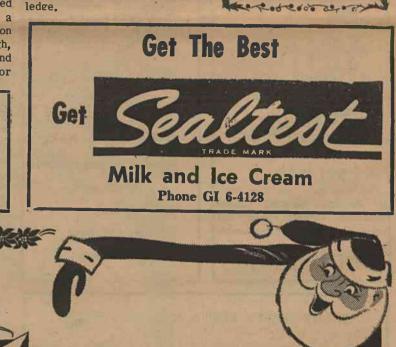
Mince pie, with its spices and fruits, is said to symbolize the riches of the o East, from which the wise men came.

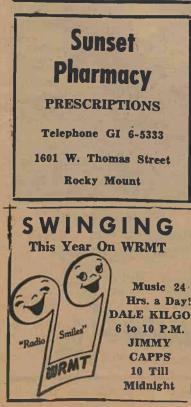
Legend says plum pudding began when an English king and his men were lost in a forest on Christmas Eve. The cook used foods he had on hand, including part of a stag. plums, eggs, flour, to make a single dish all could share.



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