

THE BLACKBIRD

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Honor Society Taps Eighteen Seniors Today

Wita A. Bond Chapter Doubles Its Membership

Eighteen Rocky Mount Senior High seniors were tapped into the Wita A. Bond Chapter of the National Honor Society in Assembly today. Mike Colombo, president of the Plymouth chapter of the society was also transferred to the organization.

New Members

Students inducted into the honor club were Uneeda Brewer, Tom Collins, Carol Coward, Charles Dice, Mary Fond Daughtridge, Becky Edwards, Beth Ezzelle, Bob (Robert) High, Susan Korvarco, Gay Lyles, Donna Manning, Sharon Parham, Kay Phillips, Virginia Ann Roberson, Tommy Smith, Claudia Tant, Elizabeth Wagner and David Williamson.

Membership Coveted

Membership in the National Honor Society is considered one of the highest honors a student can receive while in high school. To become a member a student must have a scholastic average of 90.5 and be rated by members of the faculty on service, leadership, character and growth. Five per cent of the class is selected from a list of eligible students.

A student has three opportunities to become a member while in high school. Members are inducted in the spring of the junior year, and in the fall and spring of the senior year. Five per cent of the class is named each time if eligible.

Members of the senior class who were tapped into the society last spring are Eddie Baysden, Ann Bell, Rusty Boleman, now in Walter Williams High School of Burlington, Jan Corn, Clay Couch, Joy Craig, Jimmy Delbridge, Blair Frohbose, Adrianna Grant, Tommy Gurley, Johnny Hartness, Dianne Mayo, Jo Ann Moore, David Petway, Theresa Pollard, Mary Ann Pregnall, Pam Robinson, Hugh Shearin and Jill Shearin.

Students Conduct Assembly

Members of the society were in charge of the assembly directed by Mrs. S. E. Van Buskirk and Mrs. Sue Hayworth, advisors to the organization. Hugh Shearin, president of the chapter, was master of ceremonies. Devotion was presented by Jimmy Delbridge.

Talks explaining the four cardinal principles of the National Honor Society were given by members. Speakers and their topics were Mary Ann Pregnall, character; Johnny Hartness, scholarship; Eddie Baysden, leadership, and Joy Craig, service.

Music was provided by soloist Peggy Daughtridge and piano accompanist Anne Worsley.

Society Entertains After the assembly new

NEW TEACHERS

Beginning in this issue the Blackbird will feature RMSHS's new teachers. Two will be presented every issue. For the story on Mrs. Elizabeth Hardy and Mr. Cecil Long by staff writer Margarette Alford see page three.



NATIONAL MERIT—High scorers on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test are semi-finalists (seated) Mary Ann Pregnall and Clay Couch, and those receiving

Letters of Commendation (standing l. to r.) Tommy Gurley, Johnny Hartness, Charles Dice and Hugh Shearin. (Photo by Killebrew.)

members and their parents were guests at a tea presented by the club. Blair Frohbose was chairman of the planning committee assisted by her mother, Mrs. W. J. Frohbose, and Mrs. H. G. Shearin.

The stage was elaborately decorated for the assembly by members of the society. The National Honor Society keystone with letters signifying the cardinal principles, character, scholarship, leadership and service, was the centerpiece. Other decorations included a small keystone and candelabra and baskets of flowers on either side.

Yearbook Staff Plans Annual New York Trip

Rocky Mount Senior High's yearbook staff will leave here Wednesday, October 13 for New York to attend the annual three-day Columbia Scholastic Press Association Convention.

Members of the staff make this trip each year to attend classes which are outlined to help them produce a better yearbook. Classes include instruction in photography, design, make-up, and advertising. The students also hear outstanding speakers in the field of publishing and journalism.

The results of the rating on the 1964-65 Hi-Noc-Ar will be announced Friday, October 15. The yearbook is judged on design, content, balance, editorial coverage, photography, distinctiveness, advertising, and financing. Last year the Hi-Noc-Ar received a first place rating at the convention.

While in New York, the students will visit sites of interest, which will include the World's Fair and several Broadway plays.

Staff members who will attend the convention are Carol Coward, circulation manager, Susan Vanderslice, Kathy Sprye, Eileen Winstead, Nancy Wilson, Hugh Shearin, Johnny Hartness,

Two Seniors Score High In National Competition

Two Rocky Mount Senior High seniors, Clay Couch and Mary Ann Pregnall, have been named as semi-finalists in the competition for National Merit Scholarships. They are among 14,000 high school seniors to receive top scores on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test taken last spring.

Letters Of Commendation Students who were not named as semi-finalists, but

received Letters of Commendation for high scores on the test are Hugh Shearin, Charles Dice, Johnny Hartness and Tommy Gurley. The four ranked with 38,000 others scoring high on the test.

The National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is given each spring to determine Merit Scholars. Students who evolve as Merit Scholars are recommended to receive scholarships from various national organizations. The top two percent of the nation's seniors are named as semi-finalists.

To become a Merit Scholar a student must first become a finalist by being named a semi-finalist, have a recommendation by his school and verify his score on another test. After being screened with other finalists the student may be chosen as a Merit Scholar.

Started In 1955

The program was begun in 1955 by grants from the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation. Each year more grants are added to the list of National Merit Scholarships. A Ford Foundation grant made in 1962 will enable the program to last through 1970.

Subscriptions Fall Short

Only 621 Students Buy Blackbird

Blackbirds subscriptions fell short of the expected quota of 900. Only 621 students purchased the student newspaper during the subscription drive lasting from September 17 through October 1. The subscriptions will provide \$776.25 toward the \$3,000 budget of the Blackbird.

The drive began in an assembly program presented Friday, September 17 by the journalism staff. James Bond, international secret agent portrayed by Hugh Shearin,

the star. Bond lost his last Blackbird when gangsters destroyed all the Blackbirds they could find.

Students then began a search for the paper looking all over the student lounge. Clues were given daily as to the whereabouts of the missing Blackbird.

David Jolley found the prize on the third day hidden under the round table. He received a refund on his \$1.25 and a free subscription to the Black-

Chevy Dealer Lends Seniors Corvair Monza

This year the Bel-Air Chevrolet Company will again lend a car each month to a student in the senior class. Don Bullock, manager of the new car dealership has made plans with Student Organization President Eddie Baysden to continue the program.

A committee of non-drivers, appointed by Baysden, selects each month a student from the senior class who is a safe and courteous driver and who has a high scholastic average. The student uses the car for a month and is supplied with 50 gallons of gasoline. This year the car will be a 1966 Corvair Monza.

The program is also carried on at Booker T. Washington Senior High School. Bel-Air Chevrolet lends the car to Student Organization presidents of each school for the first month. Baysden, who is now driving the auto, will keep it until November.

Student Program Will Feature Reptile Expert

An October 15 student body assembly will feature noted herpetologist, Chuck Naidl. He will present an authentic and scientific program illustrated with numerous live reptile specimens.

Since boyhood, Mr. Naidl has been fascinated by reptiles and has been hunting and capturing them. He and his wife operate a reptile farm in Wisconsin. There, they have extensive displays of snakes, turtles, alligators, tarantulas, and black widow spiders. To obtain these specimens, they traveled and hunted all over the United States.

Many myths and fallacies will be discussed and disproved. The assembly is one of many paid assembly programs offered by the Southeast School Assemblies of Greensboro.

DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATION

This year the Distributive Education Department has a new head. For an interesting feature on the work of the DE students see Ann Robertson's story on page four.