

Christmas Should Be Special



Christmas is a special time. Doesn't the very mention of the word cause a person to gasp in his breath and look forward eagerly to the holiday season? This is caused by the ever-present Christmas spirit. Throughout most of the year it remains locked in each person's heart, but as Thanksgiving passes and December begins, the spirit is unlocked. This Christmas spirit is very contagious. One day Christmas is not even thought of, and the next day eyes begin to sparkle, hearts begin to rejoice, and minds begin to plan surprises.

Christmas is a special time. It is full of merriment, happiness, and joy. Love

for fellow man spreads, making everyone friendly and cheerful. The art of giving from the heart, not to receive, dominates. Christmas songs are sung in gaiety, and Christmas carols in adoration of the Savior. Not a place can be seen without decorations—mistletoe, holly, or Christmas trees—of some type.

Christmas is a very special time. It is a memorial for the birth of Christ Jesus. This makes it a holy and sacred time—a silent and holy night indeed. Thanks are given for the birthday.

Yes, Christmas is a very special time! Don't you agree?



The Blackbird

VOL. XXXVI—No. 4

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17, 1965

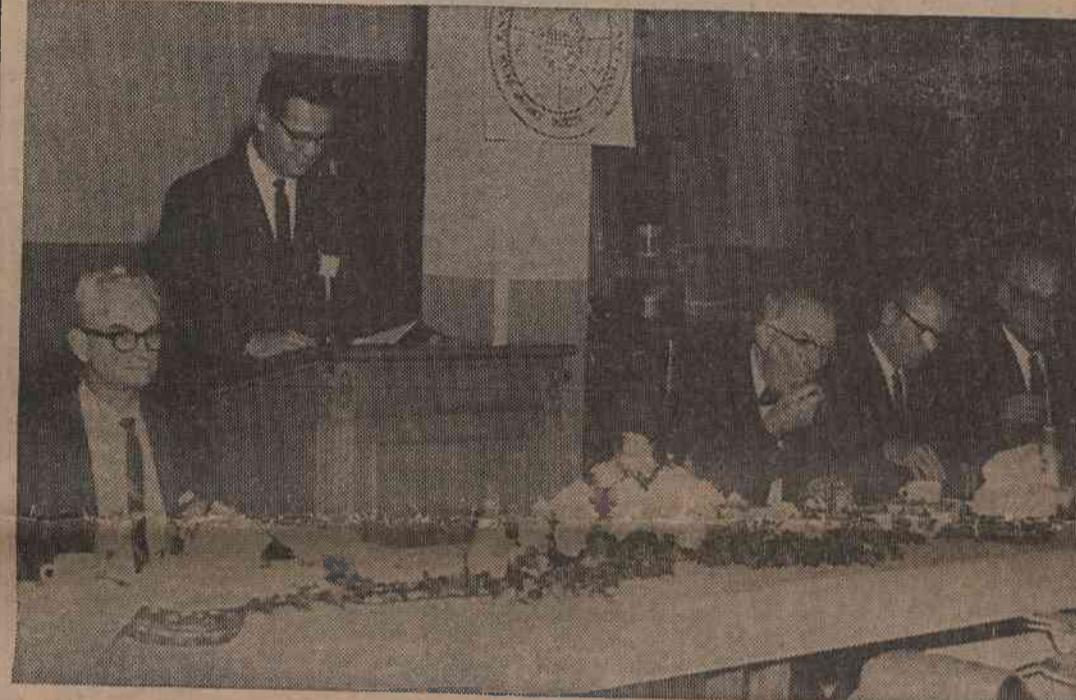
Students Vote Twelve Seniors As Superlatives

Twelve seniors have been chosen by their classmates as those of the Class of 1966 who are outstanding.

Each year the Hi-Noc-Ar sponsors the vote as a feature for a section in the annual.

Six boys and six girls were chosen by each member of the class in homeroom period Monday and Tuesday. The boys are Eddie Baysden, SO president; Clay Couch, senior class treasurer; Johnny Hartness, SO treasurer; Scott McCullough, SO vice president; Hugh Shearin, National Honor Society president; and Johnny Williams, senior class president.

Girls chosen by their classmates are Brenda Allen, Hi-Noc-Ar editor; Martha Chambliss, Homecoming Sweetheart; Blair Frobose, SO secretary; Martha Kincheloe, head cheerleader; Mary Ann Pregnall, Hi-Noc-Ar business manager; and Josephine Vann, cheerleader and past class secretary.



MEMBERS of the accreditation team dine in the cafeteria. (Photo by Killebrew)

Accreditors Visit RMSH

Eighteen months ago Rocky Mount Senior High School began a comprehensive self study of all aspects of its program. Last week all the effects of the mem-

bers of the faculty, the Rocky Mount City School administration and several citizens of the community came to an end.

Twenty-eight evaluation experts from the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools visited our school to rate it to see if we should continue to be members of the accreditation organization.

Members of the committee which evaluated the school received copies of the school objectives and philosophy to study before they make their visit. Did they find RMSH suitable for reaccreditation? That question will be answered in a few weeks based on what they saw here and learned from the booklet prepared for them.

Along with the statements of school objectives and philosophy prepared for the committee was information concerning the education of every member of the faculty and self-evaluation of all departments of the school and the programs in which the school engages.

Mr. Colombo served as the Steering Committee for the Re-evaluation program. Miss Kitchin headed the Objectives and Philosophy Committee. Other Committees worked under the supervision of faculty members to prepare information for the committee.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools is one of the six regional associations which accredit the schools of the United States and American Schools abroad. Founded in 1895, its territory

embraces the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. By agreement with other associations, it also accredits American schools in Latin America except for those in the Panama Canal Zone.

Service Club Keeps Christ In Christmas

Today at activity period the Service Club will present its annual Christmas assembly. After a devotion by Bunny Plummer students will witness the traditional program featuring Miss Murchison of the English department and the Rocky Mount Senior High Choir.

Unfortunately, "Cynthia Claus", C. M. Edson, will not be a part of the program this year. Because of business he is unable to attend. Students will miss his impression of Santa Claus and his helpers, Pinky and Pudgy, who are featured on radio station WEED during the Christmas season.

Miss Murchison will present her traditional dramatic narration leaving the students with mixed emotions about Christmas.

Ending the program will be the RSHS Choir singing several religious and classical Christmas pieces. The music presented by the choir will include "The Birthday of a King", "Sleigh Ride", "Winter Wonderland", "Desert Noel", "Adore-mus Te" and "Ave Maria".

With the seniors leaving first the assembly will be dismissed by SO Vice President Scott McCullough.

IN THE BLACKBIRD

Hunting is a popular sport in this area. Many students at RSHS enjoy hunting on weekends and during the holidays. Sports writers Butch Thompson and Lyn Joyner present an interesting story about the many different kinds of game found in the area and several types of hunting which students enjoy. For the story read pages six and seven.

Distributive Education students are preparing now for a future when they graduate. See page ten for the story telling what the DE students do during and after school.

Last year Billy Joe Quinn and his shop instructor, Mr. Neal Adkins, received a free trip to the New York World's Fair to exhibit Quinn's prize winning metal project, a mechanical gauge used to measure small holes. Since then he has received national recognition for the shop project. Read Chuck Coley's story about our alumnus on page nine.

Rocky Mount Senior High has a sharpshooter. For an interesting story about Lee Simrell see Lynda Harrell's story on page twelve.

RMSH Seniors Compete In Annual Elks Contest

Six Rocky Mount Senior High Seniors will compete with other Nash County and Rocky Mount students for the local Elks Leadership Award. Eddie Baysden, Mike Colombo, Scott McCullough, Johnny Williams, Brenda Allen, and Blair Frobose were recently named by a small faculty committee and approved by Mr. Colombo to enter the competition.

The award consists of a \$100 award for the winner of the local contest and the chance to compete on the state level for \$100. The winner of the state contest will receive the opportunity to compete in the national contest for a first place award of \$500 and a third place prize, \$300. All awards are made to both a boy and a girl in U. S. Defense Bonds. The awards total \$15,000.

Each contestant completes a personal brochure containing a picture of himself; a statement of not more than 300 words prepared by himself summarizing his activities, accomplishments, and objective in promoting the welfare of the youth

of the community; a letter, less than 200 words, by a parent or other person familiar with the student and his family background; newspaper clippings about the student and letters of endorsement from responsible persons not related to the student, but who have had the opportunity to observe him.

An outstanding boy and girl will be picked by each lodge based upon the following formula; leadership-initiative, organizational ability and influence on others-40 points; citizenship under our government, and participant in community and Americanization programs, 20 points; perseverance, resourcefulness and sense of honor exemplified by records in school, church, community, etc. - 20 points; neatness and arrangement of the brochure-20 points; compliance with instructions given in the application-10 points.

In 1963 Doris Joyner and Neal Adkins were winners at the local lodge. Louis Dozier won last year and proceeded to the state contest.