

# THE BLACKBIRD

Published by the Journalism Class of Rocky Mount Senior High School

VOL. XXXVII—No. 8

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24, 1967

## Jane Ferrell Is Chosen As Miss Print In Traditional Blackbird Competition

Friday, February 17, Jane Ferrell was crowned Miss Print of 1967 by George Clack, Editor of The Blackbird, during the assembly sponsored by The Blackbird each year. She was chosen from a field of 20 candidates judged on the basis of personality, beauty, wit, and poise.

Presented in alphabetical order, the contestants were Mary Elizabeth Bradley, sponsored by the Kudos Club and escorted by Bill Griffin; Carolyn Davis, sponsored by the Student Organization and escorted by Bobby Thompson; June Ellis, sponsored by the Phalanx Club and escorted by Sidney Johnston; Judy Farris, sponsored by homeroom 221 and escorted by Sandy Easley; Jane Ferrell, sponsored by homeroom 122 and escorted by Jim Middleton; Betsy Gatling, sponsored by the Booster Club and escorted by Michael Easley; Genie Harden, sponsored by the SOS Club and escorted by Larry Smiley; Shebe Harris, sponsored by homeroom 118 and escorted by Dan Balance.

Elsebeth Kamstrup, sponsored by the Good Sports Club and escorted by Benjie Smith; Susie Lamm, sponsored by the Black Masquers, escorted by Scott Ryals; Charlotte Looney, sponsored by the Good Sports Club, escorted by Tommy Mingos; Donna Ostercamp, sponsored by the Black Masquers and escorted by Dickie Seaton; Cheryl Pollard, sponsored by

the Radio Broadcasters' Club and escorted by Andy Parker; Priscilla Roderick, sponsored by the Varsity Cheerleaders and escorted by Stephen Battle;

Mary Jo Sheridan, sponsored by the Black Masquers and escorted by David Walker; Sandra Tharrington, sponsored by homeroom 219 and escorted by Bryan Tuttle; Marilyn Whitfield, sponsored by the National Honor Society and escorted by Johnny Gower; Ellen Winstead, sponsored by the Hi-Noc-Ar staff and escorted by Frank Bradley; Rhonda Fleming, sponsored by the D. E. Club and Nancy Wilson, sponsored by the Hi-Noc-Ar staff.

To judge the girls, three judges were chosen by the combined junior and senior Blackbird staff. They were Mrs. Mary Alice Dunn, Coach Bobby Dunn's wife and a former RMSH Homecoming Queen; Mr. Aubrey Almand, an outstanding young citizen in the community and owner of Almand's Drug Store; and Al Denson, coach of the local American Legion baseball team and

manager of Bunting, Hardy and Minges.

Wednesday evening, February 15, the girls were interviewed by the three judges on serious as well as humorous topics designed to make them think. Friday they were presented to the student body and judges in evening dress. The rating of this presentation was added to that made Wednesday night.

Lynda Harrell, managing editor of The Blackbird, was Mistress of Ceremonies during the assembly. Following the girls' presentation, the judges left the auditorium for a brief consultation on the final decision. During the intermission the "Sunnyside" — David Walker, Chip Penick, and Millard Woodward entertained the student body. Their performance was followed by the announcement of the new queen.

Second runner-up was June Ellis and first runner-up was Charlotte Looney. Mack Pridgen, circulation manager of The Blackbird, presented the queen and her two princesses with roses as they were announced.



—STAFF PHOTO  
EDITOR GEORGE CLACK crowns Jane Ferrell during the annual Miss Print Contest. Runners up were Charlotte Looney and June Ellis.

## Tropics And Robinson Bros. Engaged For Junior-Senior

The Music Committee of the Junior Class, under the leadership of Harry Harles and Bobby Thompson, have secured the Tropics and the Robinson Brothers for the Junior-Senior to be held May 12. This fabulous group has been booked through Marshall Henry, a former Senior High graduate, and The Jokers Three of Greensboro.

The Tropics began their career as a small group playing in Reidsville. They were often seen performing at the local American Legion Hut or at private parties. In 1964 they were joined by two other boys from the area who were rapidly becoming known for their singing ability. These boys, known as the Robinson Brothers, soon began to live up to their reputation as "soul singers." Since that time the popularity of the Tropics and the Robinson Brothers has grown immensely and they have quickly become established as one of the better groups in the Carolinas. The Tropics have recently played at a local club and were acclaimed by all who saw them. They also have made numer-

ous appearances at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and have performed in Virginia, Georgia, and other spots throughout the South. Their performances are filled with action and the modern music of today. The highlight of the show is the appearance of the Robinson Brothers and anyone who has seen this group can assure you that there is never a dull minute. Their recording of "It's Growing" and "The Happy Hour" is a classic example of the showmanship and musical talent of this swinging group.

## Assembly Presented On NASA Space Move

The students and faculty of Senior High were given a special treat last Monday when Mr. William A. Lockhard, II, presented a demonstration concerning the space mobile. This is one of the many educational phases of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Mr. Lockhard informed the students about the space sciences and activities of NASA. He traced the history of rocketry and problems encountered in space launching and space flights. This included the recent tragedy of the three astronauts at Cape Kennedy. He also gave an insight into the "Whys" and "Hows" of America's Venture into Outer Space.

## Genie Harden Selected As Betty Crocker Homemaker

Lillar Eugenia Harden, by finishing first in a written homemaking knowledge and attitude examination, became Rocky Mount Senior High School's 1967 Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow. The examination was given to senior girls on December 6. As a local winner, Genie is now eligible to compete on the state and national level for cash scholarships. Her test also earned her a specially designed silver charm from General Mills, sponsor of the Betty Crocker Search for the American Homemaker of Tomorrow. The award was presented to Genie during the assembly period on December 27.

A state Homemaker of Tomorrow and a runner-up will be chosen from the winners of all schools in the state, with the former receiving a \$1,500.00 college scholarship. Her school will be given a complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica. The runner-up will be awarded a \$500.00 educational grant.

The Betty Crocker Homemaker of Tomorrow from this state, together with those from all other states and the District of Columbia, will join in an expense-paid educational tour



GENIE HARDEN

of Colonial Williamsburg, Va., and Washington, D. C. next spring. Each winner will be accompanied by her school advisor and if Genie becomes the state winner she will go with her home economics teacher, Miss Josephine Grant.

The National winner—the 1967 All-American Homemaker of Tomorrow—will be announced at a dinner in Williamsburg. She (Continued on page 8)

### BULLETIN

The National Merit Scholarship Exam will be given on Saturday, February 25, at 9 a. m. A fee of \$1.25 will be collected from each student who takes the test to cover the cost of the tests, reports of scores, and other materials.

## Mrs. Hobbs Leads Invasion Of Edsonians To New York

Thirty-six Edsonians will leave Rocky Mount on Wednesday, March 15 for their annual trip to New York. This trip, for dramatics I and II students who have at least a "C" average, is a reward for those who have worked hard in dramatics and for its educational value.

The students will meet at the ACL Station at 6:50 where they will board the train. All students will ride together in reserved seats on a private car. Upon their arrival in New York, they will take a private bus to the Hotel Chesterfield where they will stay.

Thursday they will take a walking tour of Rockefeller Center. Also that morning they will visit NBC studios for the taping of a T.V. show. After lunch, Mrs. Hobbs will lead a lawking tour of Fifth Avenue, including Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Sak's, Taffany's and other places of interest. After dinner, they will attend "Star Spangled Girl" and it has been arranged for them to meet Tony Perkins, Connie Stevens, and Richard Benjamin backstage for a question and answer period. After the play, the students are allowed to get food before being checked back into the hotel by Mrs. Hobbs.

Friday is concerned mostly with an all day tour which covers many places of interest in New York. That night they will see "Don't Drink the Water" and visit with Tony Roberts. Saturday morning will be for doing anything in New York except for catching up on sleep. That afternoon they will see a matinee performance of "Hello Dolly," one of the biggest hits on Broadway. After the matinee, there will be free time until the show that night, "Cactus Flower." The students hope to meet Barry Nelson, the male lead in "Cactus Flower."

Sunday morning the students may sleep late. Mrs. Hobbs does not require the students to attend church because she

feels they need the rest after being up late three nights. However, she will go to the church with them or see to it that they get in the taxis headed for the church they wish to attend.

After eating lunch, they will pack, then the same bus takes them to the Pennsylvania Station where they board the train for Rocky Mount. The next morning, bright and early, all these students will "rise and shine" for another Monday at RMHS.

## Finalists Affirmed In Merit Program

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation, in a special release to the Blackbird, has announced the finalists from Rocky Mount Senior High School in the 1966-67 Merit Program. This year the finalists are Linda Harrell, Bill Meakin, Mack Pridgen, Rebecca Sheriff, Roger Stancil, Chris Stanley, and Ellen Winstead. These seven students were also the semifinalists from RMSH announced earlier this year.

From a group of about 14,200 national finalists, approximately 2300 Merit Scholars will be selected in 1967. All Finalists will be notified of their status in the competition by April 20. The winners of Merit Scholarships will be notified by March 27. They are then requested to keep this information confidential until the public announcement of Merit Scholars scheduled for May 3.

A certificate of merit and a letter will be awarded to the finalists during an assembly program.

They became finalists due to an endorsement from their school, completing and returning of the Semifinalists Information Form, and confirming their high scores on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test by their performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test.