

THE BLACKBIRD

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OUTSTANDING SENIORS—Shown above are the 12 outstanding seniors for this year. From left are (FRONT ROW) Doug Bradham, Bobby Thompson, Stephen Draper, Benjie Smith,

Stephen Battle, Hatcher Kincheloe; (SECOND ROW) Charlotte Looney, Woody Bobbitt, Mary Jo Sheridan, Penny Hicks, Margaret Winstead and Fran Warren. (Photo by Killebrew.)

Hi-Noc-Ar Announces Outstanding Seniors

Last week the Hi-Noc-Ar staff announced the selection of twelve outstanding seniors, six girls and six boys, voted on by the senior class on the basis of outstanding service and contribution to the school. They are:

Mary Wood Bobbitt is a varsity cheerleader. Treasurer of her junior class and a member of the Junior-Senior Invitation Committee, Woody was runner-up in this year's Homecoming Queen contest.

Marian Elizabeth Hicks is head varsity cheerleader and a member of the president's cabinet. She is the 1967 homecoming queen. Penny was chosen Rotary Girl of the Month and was a member of the beauty court.

Charlotte Anne Looney is the Student Organization treasurer. She was a nominee for the Governor's School and a commencement marshal. Charlotte was a Miss Print runner-up and a member of the Beauty Court.

Mary Jo Sheridan is the president of the National Honor Society and a National Merit semi-finalist. She was a Governor's School nominee and an Elk's Leadership Contest nominee.

Frances Adelle Warren is a member of the National Honor Society and the Varsity cheerleader squad. Fran is frequently listed on the A and B honor rolls.

Margaret Bell Winstead, is co-editor of the Hi-Noc-Ar and a member of the president's cabinet. She is a member of the National Honor Society and was selected D.A.R. Good citizen and Rotary Girl of the Month.

Stephen Shackelford Battle is Field Service Student committee chairman. Last summer he traveled abroad to Germany as the AFS foreign exchange student. He has played junior varsity and varsity basketball and was president of his sophomore class and vice-president of his junior class.

Douglas Donaldson Bradham, is co-editor of the Hi-Noc-Ar. He is a member of the National Honor Society and has been on the A and B honor rolls. He was a Morehead alternate and winner of the Civitan Citizenship Award.

Stephen Brantley Draper is president of the senior class. He is a member of the National Honor Society and is an Eagle Scout. He has played junior varsity and varsity football and has been on the golf team. Stephen is president of the Monogram Club.

Hatcher Byrd Kincheloe, Jr., is a member of the National Honor Society. Hatcher was chosen as a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist and was named Optimist Typical Youth. He was president of his junior class.

William Benjamin Smith is the president of the Student Organization. He was the junior class president and the chairman of the fire drill committee. He was a Morehead nominee and was chosen Kiwanis Boy of the Month.

Robert Fletcher Thompson, Jr. is the vice-president of the Student Organization and secretary of the Radio Broadcasters Club. He was co-chairman of the Junior-Senior entertainment committee and was chosen as Rotary Boy of the Month.

RMSH Welcomes New Exchange Student, Jorge Jose Ortiz Of Medellin, Colombia

Jorge Jose Ortiz, exchange student under the International Fellowship Inc. program, arrived November 30 and will be here until July.

Jorge is from Medellin, Colombia, the same city from which Luis Fernando Suarez came last year. For the next

seven months, he will stay with the family of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Langley.

Jorge's father is general manager of a clothing manufacturing industry in Colombia. Jorge, who is 18, is one of five boys and seven girls.

While he is here, he will take

English, Modern Algebra II, technical drawing, physics, U.S. history, public speaking, and gym. In Colombia, physics, chemistry, geometry, trigonometry, English, Spanish, French, philosophy, psychology, religion, democracy, physical education, and economics are only a few of the subjects taught.

Jorge's future occupation is architecture. He hopes to continue his education in Bogota, Colombia.

Jorge is interested in all sports. He plays basketball and soccer and enjoys dancing.

The Rocky Mount Adult leaders of the International Fellowship program are Mrs. C. E. Deans of Red Oak, and Mrs. Russell Sorrell of Rocky Mount.

Class Of '68 Adopts Child To Follow Senior Tradition

RMSH's Senior Class has adopted a little boy from Vietnam for the school year 1967-68 under the Foster Parents Plan.

Past senior classes have been foster parents for many years now, and the Class of '68 will continue the tradition. To adopt a child under the PLAN, the class donates \$180, which is sent to the child's family in monthly installments; each payment is worth \$1300 in Vietnamese money. The money is used to help educate the child, to buy his clothes, and to help pay the medical expenses of his family.

Pham Van Hieu

The little boy is Pham Van Hieu, a fourth grader whose mother peddles to earn a living for her family. Both his parents are ill much of the time, for Hieu writes in his March 15, 1967 letter, "My father has got seriously ill and has taken many injections but he doesn't feel better yet . . . If my mother had not to look after us she would have been in the hospital for some time —" His June letter lends a note of encouragement: "My father's condition is 30 percent improved, and my mother is feeling better." He is very grateful to the Senior Class.

Vietnamese children usually have three names — the last name, which is given first, followed by Van for males and Thi for females, and the first

name. Their age is calculated by the lunar calendar: at birth, a child is 1 year old, and he adds a year at each lunar new year regardless of his actual birth date. Birthdays are not as important as in the U.S., and many Vietnamese children never celebrate a birthday.

Education

Schooling is not compulsory in Vietnam. Education in most institutions is based on rote learning. The government is trying to modernize methods, train teachers, and build new schools as quickly as possible, for the demand far exceeds available facilities. For this reason there are many private institutions — Hieu is now attending one of these. Public schools are more desirable, however, because their training helps the student pass government exams.

Elementary school consists of five grades. To enter public secondary school, one must pass a highly competitive examination. Usually only 10-20 percent succeed — there is not room for more. Most Foster Children are not within this group and must attend private schools. To go on to high school, the child must again pass a highly competitive national exam; it is rare that a Foster Child passes this test. If he should succeed, he attends high school for 3 years and receives a Baccalaureate Degree upon graduation.

Board Honors Mr. D. S. Johnson

The Rocky Mount School Board, at its monthly meeting Monday, November 27, paid the greatest tribute in its power to Mr. D. S. Johnson, retired superintendent of city schools, by renaming Fairview Elementary School D. S. Johnson School in his honor.

Commenting on the decision, Mr. Johnson said, "I feel highly honored that the School Board named a school in my honor. I am delighted that my name will be perpetuated within the school system because the schools of Rocky Mount are my first love and will continue to be. There will be a special spot reserved in my heart for the D. S. Johnson School."

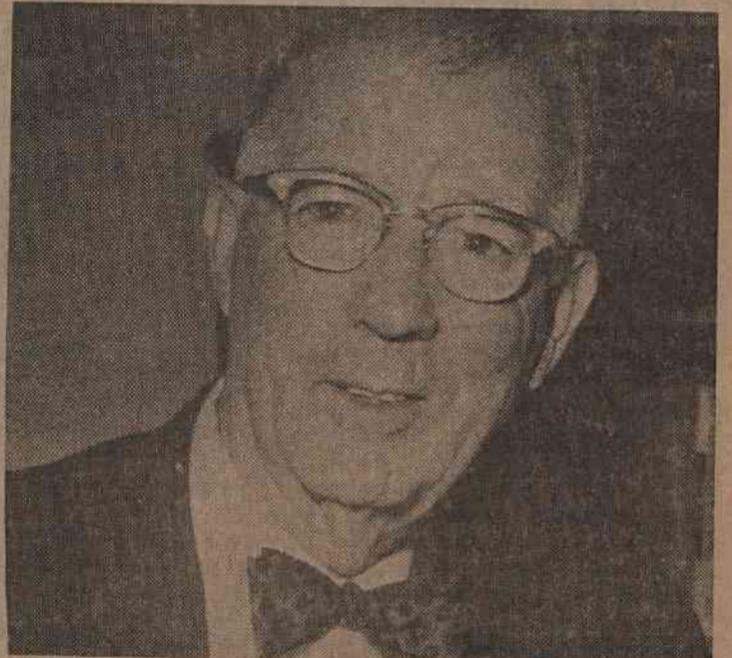
Fairview School is one of the newest elementary schools in Rocky Mount and is located near the new School Administrative Building.

Mr. Johnson is a native of Burgaw. He was educated at Trinity College (now Duke University). He taught at Thomasville High School and in Durham and was principal of the Masonic Oxford Orphanage School and of Oxford High

School before he came to Rocky Mount in 1944 to be principal of Rocky Mount High School.

He served in this capacity until April 1, 1949, when he was appointed superintendent of city schools following Superintendent

R. M. Wilson's death. He served as superintendent for 17 years before his retirement July 1, 1966. He is now serving as part-time administrative assistant to the dean of students at N.C. Wesleyan College.



MR. D. S. JOHNSON, retired superintendent of Rocky Mount City Schools, has elementary school named after him.