



Miss Dorothy Craighill reminisces on her forty-two years as French teacher at Senior High.

After 42 Years

Miss Dorothy Craighill Retires; Says 'Time To Kick Up Heels'

By TIM BRINN

It has been said that a preacher's kids are always the wildest of all. And, while she admits that she might be starting a bit later than most, Miss Dorothy Craighill says that, "It's time to kick up my heels a little." For, after 42 years of teaching here at RMSH, she has decided to retire.

Miss Craighill, who is, by the way, the daughter of a minister, graduated from Chatham Hall. She earned her A.B. degree at George Washington University and received her masters at the University of North Carolina.

Varied Interests

During her career at RMSH, she has not only been a French teacher, but just about everything else. She has served as the head of the Service Club, the S.O.S. Club, the Bridge Club, and the Music Club, as well as serving as the advisor for numerous classes.

Her interests, both in French and her students, have carried her across the Atlantic twice. Miss Craighill has chaperoned two tours of excited Rocky Mount students all over the European continent. She has studied with them while abroad at the University of La Rochelle and also at the University of Poitiers, both in France. As a matter of fact, Miss Craighill has managed to spend almost all of her "time off" doing something to aid in her teaching. Several summers ago she attended Middleboro College, Vermont, for a six weeks seminar session in which no one was allowed to speak any English. Her quest for knowledge has taken her almost everywhere—from the glamorous Vardell Hall in Red Springs, N. C., for a course in lab techniques.

But saying that Miss Craighill is just an excellent and

interesting teacher would be like saying that the French are known only for their cooking.

Her students find her class more than just a dry study of irregular verbs. Each day in French is a new mixture of humanities studies, Amy Vanderbilt's etiquette, informal chit-chat, a lot of good horse sense, and a journey into the world of Impressionist painting. Quotes by Dorothy Craighill and Charles de Gaulle add up to a very interesting outlook on life. Despite all of this seemingly extracurricular activity, however, her students still receive one of the finest French courses in the state of North Carolina.

To get an idea of what makes this course so successful, one must first take a good look at Miss Craighill. "My father and grandfather were both preachers", she says. "And I just grew up learning to like people. As a matter of fact, one of the hardest things about my job is seeing my pupils graduate and go on." Then quoting St. Exupery's Little Prince, she noted, a little bit sadly, "It's true--partir c'est mourir un peu." We die just a little bit every time we have to say goodbye."

Her students have returned

her interest in them. Miss Craighill's classes have become used to tearful reunions at the front of the classroom as a long-lost former pupil returns home for a visit. Over the years, Christmas parties in the French department have become gala events. The best of Tar Heeled French cooking is on display, from Danny Sawyer's first cake to elaborate "bouches de Noel", or Christmas logs. And it wasn't too long ago that one whole day was set aside as an observance of the death of Napoleon, with all French students dutifully wearing the now-traditional black armbands.

However, Miss Craighill is now looking forward to working in the yard around her new home, sampling gourmet French cooking (the real thing), going to parties, and as she puts it, "Just kicking up my heels full time."

After the Van Goghs come down off the walls of room 129 this June, it just won't be the same. For when Miss Craighill leaves, a lot of warmth and personality does also. Miss Craighill has devoted her life to teaching and her thousands of pupils will all tell you that its been a good life.

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Clubs Announce Scholars As Recipients Of Awards

Each year the Rotary and Kiwanis Club helps a student meet his college expenses by granting him a scholarship to the institution of his choice. The two deserving pupils picked this year are Alfreda Hines (Rotary) and Errol Warren (Kiwanis).

Alfreda Hines

A total sum of \$300 was awarded to Alfreda. She was selected for this scholarship by a committee composed of the principal, guidance counselors and several faculty members who teach seniors at Rocky Mount Senior High. The person receiving this award must rank in the upper 25% of her class. She must also possess outstanding integrity and char-

acter. Alfreda has not made up her mind yet as to whether she will attend Hampton Institute or UNC-Chapel Hill.

Errol Warren

The recipient of the \$500 scholarship from the Kiwanis Club is Errol Warren. He has proved his worthiness for the award by the many contributions he has made to the school this year. Being editor of the yearbook is quite a load, but he still finds time to serve in the the Student Representative Assembly and participate in different sports. An important fact about the Kiwanis Scholarship is that it isn't based on financial need . . . it is given to one of the top young men in the Senior Class most likely to succeed.

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