



MERIT WINNER ANNOUNCED — Babs Brown, a junior has been declared a Merit Winner in the annual Peace College Emerging Voices competition in poetry. (Photo by F.

Babs Honored

Babs Brown, a junior at RMSH, was named a Merit winner in the annual Peace College Emerging Voices competition for her poem, "I Said I Am." "I Said I Am" will be published in the college's yearly poetry book, *Emerging Voices*. In addition to this honor, Babs has been invited to Peace for a poetry workshop to be held April 10.

Mrs. Hardy, Babs's English teacher, told her about the contest. Babs didn't think about the contest until it was the day

to turn in her poem. A strange feeling came over her that she couldn't explain, and that morning during her breakfast, she produced her award-winning poem.

I Said I Am

I said I AM
And at that they rushed from
their houses
and clambered up the hillside.
Time waited till a voice asked,
"What did you say?"

I said, I AM
And at that they clambered
down the hillside
and rushed to their houses
"But what are you?"

I said I AM
"But what?"
I said I AM
"But can you be more
specific?"

To be more specific, I said
turning
My face to the wind, would only
tell you what I am not.
I would rather be what I am.
And at that they shut their
windows.

Two Named Finalists

Sandy Wilgus and Terri Gardner have been named National Merit Finalists. Merit scholarships have been offered for the past 20 years. The total Merit Scholarships to be offered this year is about seven times greater than the first in 1956. The semi-finalists are the

highest scoring students in each state. They represent the top half of the nations most talented young people.

The semi-finalists advance to finalist standing after meeting requirements that include being recommended by their school

principals, having high academic standing, and having high SAT scores. Ninety percent of the semi-finalists qualify as finalists and receive certificates of merit in February. The finalists compete for one of 1,000 National Merit \$1,000 scholarships.



FINALISTS SELECTED — Terri Gardner and Sandy Wilgus, who have been named National Merit Finalists, discuss Journalism tactics with Mrs. Barbour. (Photo by C. Bulluck)

Awards Received

Two excited winners returned from the State Fine Arts Convention sponsored by the North Carolina Federation of Women's Club in Winston-Salem, March 27. Berthina Deans and Gary Carter were first place recipients in the competition.

Berthina won the female vocalist scholarship of \$100.00. According to Mr. Larry Gupton, she beat out a field of very stiff competitors from throughout the state by singing four recitations from Handel's Messiah.

Gary Carter won a first place certificate and a \$100.00 scholarship for performing a monologue of "The Great Train Robbery."

"The Rocky Mount Junior Women's Club which sponsored the students, is very proud of their success," stated Mrs. Robbie Maxwell, president of the club.

The other known participants in the contest from RMSH were: Danny McDonald, Debbie Gray, Bill Hudson, Cynthia Dew, John Gilmore, Melody Morgan, Mary Sue Cummings, Martha Harris, and Richard Oxedine.

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