

'We Love You, Mrs. Jeffreys'

By Boon McGee

She epitomizes the southern lady of culture. Her soft, gentle manner, her innate kindness and compassion mark her as unique. The love for all people and concern for them is as evident as the warmth of her brown eyes. More than a record keeper, card stamper, shelf stacker, book selector, fund raiser, she is a friend to each of us, stranger or acquaintance. Because of all she has done for the community and young people, we affectionately dedicate this HI-NOC-AR to Mrs. Ruth Oliver Jeffreys.

Those words were chosen by the HI-NOC-AR staff of '68. Each of the words is true and little can be added to deepen the respect and love

of students throughout the twin-county area.

Mrs. Jeffreys, now associate librarian of Thomas Hackney Braswell Memorial Library, has been with the library since 1929. Her only absence from the corridors of Braswell Library since its organization were the six years between this beginning in 1923 and the time she was hired. She has worked under only two people in her book-filled career. The first being Mrs. Nell G. Battle, a lady obviously close to Mrs. Jeffreys' heart, this being shown by the tilt of her head and a misty glow in her eyes. The other is Mr. Walter Grey, who took Mrs. Jeffreys' position when she stepped down in 1970.

A Caswell county native, she became associated with Rocky Mount by visiting her



MRS. JEFFREYS IS ALWAYS HELPING — Mrs. Jeffreys, local city librarian, gives Kim Thornell her ever present helping hand.

(Photo by Woodley)

sister. The cupid's arrow also struck her heart, for it is here that she met the late Rocky Mount native Richard T. Jeffreys. They married and decided to keep Rocky Mount as their home.

Mrs. Jeffreys has always been interested in learning and books. "Being a librarian," she affirms, "seemed to be my choice profession." Indeed it was for it combines her love for people and her passion for books. "They needed help in 1929. I was available and wanted to do it," says Mrs. Jeffreys.

Remembering the past library, Mrs. Jeffreys reminisced "It used to be one main room, the one we're in now, Boon, and the back hall and offices." The library, as the one room structure, was given to Rocky Mount by Dr. M. R. Braswell in memory of his son, Thomas Hackney. Dr. Braswell's son died at the age of 12.

Mrs. Jeffreys, herself a graduate of Averette

tricks. Cheers to the Class of '76."

A selection of hors-d'oeuvres followed before the actual meal began. French onion soup was served as the second course. The entree was chicken prepared with butter and wine and potatoes.

In the usual French manner, vegetables were served next. The students had a choice of squash or green beans, or both. Unaccustomed to the French custom of eating each dish separately, and feeling a little bit full, the students found it necessary to wait a few minutes before the next course. A home-grown salad, the "McLawhorn Special," was served with a vinegar dressing. The food finale was a selection of desserts, including fruits, cheese cake, and an apple specialty.

Mrs. Barbara Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McLawhorn, who offered their home for the affair, were special guests.

Batts Acts As Page

Among other honors received this year, Sophomore Kaye Batts recently served as a page for the North Carolina House of Representatives. While in Raleigh, Kaye said she really had a good time. The part of her weekly stay she enjoyed the most was while the House was in session. She was interested in observing how the House operates and being in on the action. Kaye says, "I learned how the Legislature works and how laws are made."

While Kaye worked as a page, the representatives approved the state budget for the up coming year, discussed malpractice and the teacher's raise. Her duties consisted of running errands for the representatives, taking bills up to the speaker, and bringing the members coffee and doughnuts.

Four outside activities, Kaye and other pages went on a tour, on which they visited several museums and the Governor's Mansion. A big surprise for Ms. Batts was the \$55.00 she was paid for serving as a page.

of the Children's Wing to the revered North Carolina book shelves, Mrs. Jeffreys has grown with the Braswell Memorial Library. She begged, "Play up the library, Boon, it's my life and means everything to me."

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