

# TATTLE-TALE



DECEMBER 1943

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

# TATTLE-TALE

Blacksburg High School, Blacksburg, Virginia

## Staff

Editor-in-Chief- Anne Elcan  
Assist. Editors- Janice McCann  
                    Sunner Tilson  
Business Mgr.- Penny Whitsett  
Business Staff- Helen Connelly  
                    Warren Johnson  
                    Shirley Joyner  
Circulation Mgr.- Mary Pettinger  
Assistant Mgr.- Anne Herring  
Art Editor- Mary Ellen Smith  
Art Staff- Anne Herring  
                    Elizabeth Montgomery  
                    Mildred Price  
                    Barbara Moore  
Lit. Editor- Lucile Castleman  
Lit. Staff- Jean McCormack  
                    Honorita Wilson  
                    Mary K. Apperson  
                    Katherine Reynolds  
                    Marie Smith  
Joke Editor- Arthur Riffenburgh  
Joke Staff- Randy Lucas  
                    Billy Pace  
                    Bobby Richards  
Censored Ed.- Mary J. Montgomery  
Censored Staff- Robert Richards  
                    Nancy McCoy  
                    Margarette Slusher  
                    Betsy Cregger  
Sports Editor- Ronny Dietrick  
Sports Staff- Billy Blair  
                    John Wall  
                    Jimmy Dobbins  
                    Rudolph Grisson  
                    Jim Wall  
Chief Printer- Tom Hutcheson  
Printers- Willis Webb  
                    Alfred Perdue  
Typists- Ruth Dobyms, Susie Belle  
                    Forest Wells, Albert  
                    Elizabeth Dove  
                    Eloise Nolan  
Sponsors- Mrs. Kinnear  
                    Miss. Mae Kipps

## Our Kind of Christmas

With the approach of our second war time Christmas, our thoughts are all turning to our boys fighting in India, China, and so many other places. We wonder what kind of Christmas they are going to have.

Some may be lucky enough to witness an English Christmas. There it is the custom to throw a huge log called the Christmas Clog on the hearth. After this, the favorite pastimes enjoyed are music, conjuring, dipping for nuts and apples, and dancing. Houses and churches are decked with beautiful evergreens, especially mistletoe.

What of our fighters in Italy? There the houses are not decorated with evergreens, for this custom which came from pagan times was not encouraged in connection with a religious celebration. The decorations, instead, represent the birth of Christ with lambs feeding peacefully on green grass. Under an humble thatched porch are the figures of Mary and the Child. Beautiful religious processions form a part of the festivities also.

However, some of our boys may be less fortunate. When we sit down to a turkey dinner, they may be fighting in swamps and fox holes. What kind of a Christmas is this for them?

When we are opening our presents, they may be mending a turrent or crawling through barbed wire. What kind of a Christmas is this for them?

Come on, kids! Let's buy more War Bonds and Stamps so we can help bring our boys back to have our kind of Christmas very soon.

# NEWS



The... in E. H. S.

be able to give them a good recommendation when the opportunity arises.

Mrs. Snow, who comes from McCoy Virginia, has taken the place of Mrs. Deemer.

E. C. Shortt, Principal

Before she came here, she was a dietitian in the public schools in Richmond, Virginia; and she is a graduate of Madison College.

## Honor Roll for First and Second Terms

### Senior

Mrs. Seamon comes from Chicago, Illinois. She received her B. S. Degree at Northwestern University. Before coming to Blacksburg, she taught in Evanston, Illinois. Mrs. Seamon's husband is in Blacksburg in the army ASTI.

Albert, Hazel	2
Albert, Rowena	2
Altic, Robert	2
Castlemán, Lucile	1 and 2
Dietrick, Ronny	1 and 2
Elcan, Anne	1 and 2
Gray, Lois Ann	2
Hutcheson, Tom	1 and 2
Lester, Mary Virginia	2
McCoy, Nancy	1 and 2
Minter, Lewis	1 and 2
Montgomery, Mary J.	1 and 2
Moore, Charles	1 and 2
Wilson, Louise	1 and 2
Whitsett, Penny	1 and 2

### Importance of a Good Record

Your principal wishes to call your attention to the increasing importance of making a good record for yourself while you are here in high school. Hardly a day goes by without our receiving a request for confidential information about someone. The information we give goes a long way toward influencing the person who makes the inquiry.

### Juniors

These inquiries not only seek information about the student's scholastic record, but usually ask for our opinion on such character traits as honesty, dependability, co-operation, punctuality, personality, politeness, truthfulness, conduct, attitude, popularity, personal appearance, consideration, thoroughness, and the like.

Albert, Daphne	1
Caldwell, Marie	1 and 2
Flanagan, Jack	1 and 2
Handley, Robert	1 and 2
McCann Janice	1 and 2
McCormick, Jean	2
McCoy, Joyce	1 and 2
Reaves, Mary H.	1 and 2
Tilson, Sumner	1

### Sophomores

Many of our students who hope to qualify for such opportunities as the Army or Navy College Training Program, Naval Aviation Cadet Corps, U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps, etc. should give more attention to their high school record so that we will

Bunker, Barbara	2
Chestnutt, Bobby	2
Crouch, Marian	1 and 2
Dickerson, Jewell	1 and 2
Dove, Elsie	1 and 2
Gray, Curtis	2
Harris, Charlotte	1 and 2
Herring, Anne	1 and 2
Pettinger, Mary	1 and 2

Con't on News page 2

# COLLEGE BOOK STORE

FOR

## FOUNTAIN SERVICE



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES



SERVICE IS  
NOT RATIONED  
AT THE  
CORNER DRUG  
STORE



# CLUBS



## The Beta Club

The Beta Club held a meeting in the library during club period on December 8. The main discussion during the meeting was about what day the new members should be inducted. It was finally decided by the club and agreed upon by Mr. Shortt that we induct the new members at a special assembly held on December 21. A committee was decided upon to plan the assembly program. There was also some discussion on a few of the new members and the secretary read several points on the organization to the club. The meeting was then adjourned.

## Commerical Club

The commerical club met on Wednesday, December 1, 1943, at which time the constitution was written and ratified by the club members. The officers for the year are: President, Rowena Albert; vice president, Wanda Groves; secretary, Susie Belle Albert; treasure, Forest Wells.

The club sponsor, Mrs. Joyner, was present.

## Dramatic Club Play a Success

On Friday, December 17, and again on Saturday, December 18, the Blacksburg High School Dramatic Club presented its first play of the year, a three-act rural farce entitled "Look Out, Lizzie". The play, enacting two evenings and a morning in the life of a backwoods Indiana farm family, had been written with an eye to comedy, and was thoroughly successful. Mrs. Alva M. Barr, the sponsor of the Dramatic Club and producer and director of the play, chose the cast well and produced a play which was for an amateur organization, an admirable

presentation, as evidenced by its success.

Silas Long, a common-sense, kindly old farmer and head of the Long family was admirably depicted by Lewis Hinter, while Martha Bishop as his wife was the ideal industrialist's farmer's wife, a stranger to society and the city, but always anxious for the welfare of her daughter. even when it necessitated society. The daughter in question, an enthusiastic young girl named Hazel, who longed for the society and city ways which she found in her avid reading of books, was played by Peggy Alford. Arthur Hiffenburgh played well the part of the struggling young author from the city who turns out to be something entirely different; and Lizzie, the slow, laughable hired girl who scorns the love of the hired man to fall in love with the young author (in competition with Hazel) was played by Louis Wilson. The hired man himself, an individual almost as slow in thought and speech as Lizzie, was nicely pictured by Frank Gass, while Billy Blair became for the evening the grasping miser who holds a mortgage on the Long Farm. His intended wife, the nosey town gossip, was well played by Mary Jean Montgomery, who completed the cast.

This group of eight, who played to one school and two adult audiences, performed admirably, strengthened by a stage which was an authentic and effective reproduction of a farm home of the early 1900's, being the work of stage manager Embra Noblin and his assistants.

Judging from the applause and comment of three appreciative audiences, the play was one of our (Continued on Literary, Page 1)

# JOKES



Joe- "That man is a good photo-grapher."

Friend- "How do you know?"

Joe- "He always gets his picture or dies."

"The lace on this dress", bragged the beautiful steno. "is over sixty years old."

"Gee", said cousin Maisie, "did you make it your self?"

Cousin Roger (P.F.C.) thinks they ought to call the Lady Marines "Feathernecks" because they're cute little chicks.

Uncle Willie says, "A tangerine is a loose leaf orange."

Wally Butterworth defines a snuff manufacturer as a man who goes around poking his business in other people noses.

Grandpa Whittaker doesn't mind giving credit to good customers in his general store, but some people carry it too far. Not long ago a little girl came in and said, "Not-her sent me to change for a dollar. She'll send you the dollar to-morrow."

A balky mule has four-wheel brakes; a billy goat has bumpers; the firefly has a bright spotlight; Rabbits are puddle-jumpers; Camels have ballon-tired feet, and carry spare of what they eat; But I still think that nothing beats, the Kangaroos with rumble seats.

Said the salmon as he took the hook: "I'll likely get canned for this."

Prof- "Name two pronouns."

Student- "Who? He?"

Tom- " A fellow told me I looked like you."

Harry- "What did you say?"

Tom- "Nothing. He was a lot bigger then I was."

Tim- " What's worse than to find a worm when you bite into an apple?"

Jim- " I know. Half a worm!"

Bobby- "Dad, what are those holes in the board for?"

Dad- "Those are knot holes."

Bobby- "Well, if they are not holes, what are they?"

" How are you getting along in college?"

" Oh, I'm as famous as Napoleon."

" How come?"

" I went down in history."

Cpl. Sholy: "That rookie is six feet tall, and he is our champion lazy-bones and sleepyhead."

Cpl. Moses: "How come? He's longer in bed than anyone."

She: "You say that you were a diamond-cutter before you joined the army?"

Yardbird? "Yeh! I ran the lawn mower at the Polo Grounds."

Yardbird: "You say your sweetie is helping to keep the home fires burning, huh?"

P.F.C.: "Yes, back home my gal helps her father who is in charge of the city incinerator plant."



# LITERARY



Blacksburg High School's  
Unsung Heroes

by- Mary Jean Montgomery

It is an established custom of mankind to recognize and award merit, and certainly most of the great personages of our nation who have rendered some outstanding service to others have been duly acclaimed. There is not one of us, indeed, who will not think of goodness when we hear such names as John D. Rockefeller, Jane Adams, and Abraham Lincoln; and, yet, we find in our very midst, in Blacksburg High School, in fact many unsung heroes.

It is observed in our school that in every class room immediately after roll call there is a general migration toward certain parts of the room where may be found these neglected students. These are boys and girls who have dedicated their lives to distributing paper among their schoolmates. Without fail, a throng of students drift toward these few in their midst who kindly go to great trouble and expense to carry a notebook and paper. They form in "paper" lines to secure their daily donations of one, two, or three sheets.

This in itself is indeed a service of boundless merit, but this charity is not confined to the distribution of paper alone. Since paper is useless in itself, many pencils, too, are donated daily. A ridiculously unreasonable custom of returning these pencils to their donors after class period has, of course, long since been abandoned by sensible people.

There should certainly be no criticism of this convenient manner of borrowing. After all, it is unreasonable to expect everybody to carry his own paper and pencil. Indeed, some credit is due to the students who take the trouble daily to get up from their seats and go in search of their supplies. A profitable project for some school organization might be to figure out some plan by which these materials might be distributed among the students without such inconvenience to them.

We are all aware of the kindness and generosity of these philanthropists in our midst, yet we have never made any public recognition of these outstanding people. It has been suggested that a large medal inscribed "For outstanding Service and Generosity to Mankind," might be awarded them each year. Another idea is that everyone might give each of them a package or two of paper and perhaps a dozen pencils each Christmas. This, of course, would not make up their loss, but it would at least be a step in that direction.

The least we can do certainly is not to "borrow" any more paper each day, and, if possible to use the same pencil two or even three days. If everyone of us were careful to borrow no more than this, Blacksburg High School would be outstanding in this respect.

(Continued from Clubs)  
standing merit, and a bright future is predicted for the next production of the Blacksburg High School Dramatic Club, which is tentatively scheduled for late spring.

# LITERARY

## Warfare as Practiced in Blacksburg High School

By R.B. Dietrick

The methods of real and mock warfare have reached a high state of perfection in Blacksburg High School. Even while this article is being written the mighty soldier pupils of Blacksburg High School are at home, recuperating; and the janitors are busily engaged in cleaning the damage of today's battle from the high school building.

The mass struggle which takes place everyday is entered into by both boys and girls; in fact, the boys and girls vie with each other in trying to show that one is superior to the other when it comes to disturbing and disrupting any short-lived period of quiet.

Beginning in the early morning, a group ranging from ten to twenty boys gather in the south basement of the high school, which is their stronghold. Here, by an ingenious method which they themselves have contrived, they send into the uppermost reaches of the high school a dense and malodorous smoke screen. Also, at regulated periods throughout the day just when the smoke screen is thickest, they charge madly up from their stronghold at some imaginary and invincible enemy.

Leaving our valiant smoke screen grenadiers threshing wildly inside the building, we proceed outside to watch the intricate maneuvers of the First Ulan Lancers, now mounted on many bright and multi-colored bicycles. These dauntless and intrepid cavalymen have the self-delegated power and privilege of guarding the high school. This they do with cavalryman's natural disregard for human

life and property, whether it be his own or that of the enemy. With spectacular dash and vigor they career unceasingly after an elusive but ever-present foe, often injuring those of their own country.

Next we observe the First Brigade of Royal Hussars whose job it is to keep the enemy out of the halls. Armed with pencil-like rapiers, they pin our imaginary invaders to the walls in hordes. As a result the walls of the building are badly pock-marked, and great general repairs are often necessary.

After the Royal Hussars in importance comes the Department of Camouflage. This highly important group has taken upon itself the job of camouflaging the building. There are, consequently, around and on the building all sorts and types of signs and symbols. Though this group has not as yet succeeded in its prime objective, they bid fair to succeed if the paint supply of the nation holds out long enough.

Next if we watch closely, we may catch the Lipstick Smearers Union at work. It is their job to give the building a battle-worn and gory effect. This they most ably and efficiently do by smearing their lipstick on every wall, paper, book, or other suitable object, which then admirably resembles the gore of warfare.

Every year with clocklike regularity the researchers of the Chemical Warfare Department declare that they have discovered a new gas and they quickly distribute it over the high school. Any amateur chemist can, of course, discern that this gas is hydrogen sulfide; nevertheless, for some days prior to the depletion of supplies this gas is prevalent throughout the high school.

Thus every day in the school year this titanic struggle goes on

(Continued on ~~Literary~~, Page 3)



# LITERARY

Con't from News page 1

Price, Margaret	2
Richards, Robert	1 & 2
Smith, Tommy	1 & 2

## Freshmen

Barnett, Stella	1 & 2
Bradford, Bobby	1 & 2
Bresnahan, Rosemary	1 & 2
Bryson, Iris	2
Copenhaver, Fern	1 & 2
Cregger, Betsy	1 & 2
Cromer, Hester	2
Davis, Earthel	2
Gates, Cordelia	1 & 2
Gates, Cornelia	1 & 2
Hodge, Hilda	1
Hubbard, Dayton	1 & 2
Mabry, Edward	2
Miller, Donald	2
Miller, Harlan	2
Morehead, Claudine	1
Montgomery, Elizabeth	1 & 2
Mullins, Faye	2
Reynolds, Kathryne	1 & 2
Richards, Bobby	1 & 2
Robinson, Thelma	2
Rowland, Patsy	1 & 2
Sarver, Wesley	2
Shrowsberry, Dorothy	1 & 2
Slusher, Cleve	2
Smith, Elaine	2
Smith, Kenneth	2
Smith, Marie	1 & 2
Stowers, Earnestine	1 & 2
Tait, Bobby	1 & 2
Walker, James	1
Wilson, Honoria	1 & 2

## Murder's Mansion

By Janice McCann '45

There have been many tales about this house and what happened in it. It is a large forbidding mansion surrounded by pines that reach up for the stormy sky. This house has many queer angles and strange curves and some persons say that dark dungeons and secret passages exist within, but they are wrong, I know.

As one sees the house, one is impressed with a feeling of distaste because of its ugliness; but as one enters the exquisite chambers, a feeling of fear and premonition seizes one's soul.

The house stands deserted, for no one wishes to dwell in its finely furnished rooms. Some brave people have attempted to remain there for a night; but all have fearfully departed long before morn, returning with weird tales.

Some say an ugly girl was murdered there by her father because he could no longer endure her hideous countenance. This horrible creature's spirit moans pitifully as it wanders through the house, compelled to remain there forever.

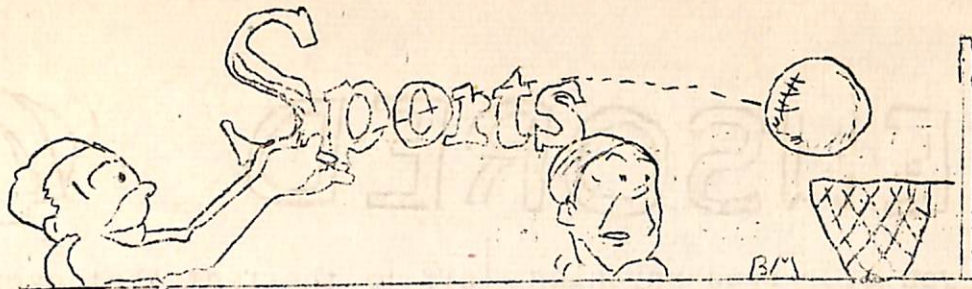
Some people tell that two men killed each other in the elaborate tapestried hall and that every night the two fight again their bloody battle, and screams and shouts issue from the house.

None of these stories is true, however. To know the true story you must come with me to the house. See how really lovely it is. There are no horrible creatures, no secret passages.

(Continued from Literary, Page 2)

interminably. All these forces are united for the fray in which many will fall by the wayside. But still it goes on. Tomorrow, another day, another battle.

(Continued on Sports)



### Basketball Season to Start Soon

The boys and the girls of BHS are expected to have a basketball team this year despite difficulties in travel. Practice will begin in a couple of weeks, and many are expected to come out. The boys will be lead by captain "Pete" Ellison, Jack Albert, and Tex Tilson who were on last years team. Coach Ben Judy has already had a meeting with the boys, and twenty-five have shown up. There ought to be many prospects for a good team, and Ben Judy believes we will have a successful season.

The girls, who will be coached by the physical ed. teacher, Mrs. Jonah, will be lead by captain Penny Whitsett, who was an outstanding player last year. There are also a few girls who played last year.

These girls proved themselves very capable. Blacksburg will probably play the same teams as last year which were Christiansburg, Shawsville, Radford, Liner, Narrows, Pulaski, Newport, and a few others. There is some talk about the boys playing the high schools in Roanoke which are Jefferson, William Fleming, William Byrd, and Andrew Lewis. We all hope that every person in high school will help and back up the team as much as possible.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Christiansburg Game Ends Blacksburg's Football Season

The opening whistle of the sixth game of the football season, played with the Christiansburg eleven at Christiansburg, blew at 3:30 on November 12, and the teams fought it out for one touchdown in the first half. This was scored by Jones, of Christiansburg, in the second, quarter on a long broken-field run, done very prettily with little interference. Neither side offered a serious threat otherwise,

and Blacksburg left the field at the half with amply justified hopes of a win.

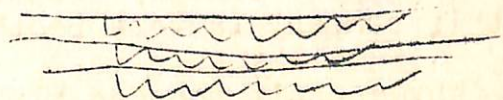
The first part of the second half was played with no score on either side, but late in the third quarter Roop of Christiansburg rolled over another six points on a trick reverse to tackle, the try for extra point being blocked. Blacksburg then held the ball and advanced on some pretty teamwork and a lucky break to the five yard line, where four attempts failed to penetrate the fighting Christiansburg team. The remaining minutes of the game were spent in the middle of the field, and the game ended with a score of 12-0 in favor of Christiansburg.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Murder's Mansion, Continued

Let us go up the stairs. As we do so, pray let me tell you of the lovers, Iris and Charles. But alas. Iris betrayed Charles for another. It was in this room that Iris was strangled on a satin-covered bed. At night her spirit roams the house, waiting for the lover of her choice to return. But he comes not, nor will he ever, for his body lies at the bottom of a well and he had no soul; so, my friend, how could he have a spirit?

The time has arrived when you will ask me how I know all this to be true. Come closer, for my breath fails me. It is because I am Charles, her betrayed lover. It is because I am their murderer.



# CENSORED



Don't you ever read anything but the Censored?

Well, here it is almost Christmas again, and everyone should have a feeling of friendliness and goodwill. However, many of us seem to be over doing this "goodwill" idea; for instance, Penny Whitsett and Bill Vernon. But, then, Penny has had this "Christmas spirit" for some time now, hasn't she?

It should be clear sailing ahead for Embra with "Lala" Harris if Ronny can get on the Teske line between long distance calls from Miami.

Well, Betsy Heavener is back from Mexico, and that old tropical charm is sizzling. Some of you high school wolves better pick up the scent in a hurry, for Sumner's same old charm may soon begin working.

Why is Patricia Toriaca always talking about going on a diet and losing weight? It couldn't be for Frank Sinatra, but could Bobby "Black" Richards have anything to do with it?

It seems that the little bug has bitten Mary Kent Apperson. Did you start it by having names and pictures written all over the sidewalk, Tommy Rutledge?

We wonder what happened to the Kathryn Reynolds-John Birchfield case. Is Honoria Wilson cutting in?

Gas rationing doesn't bother Frank Cass. It's fun to walk to school in good company--especially if this company is Vera Boothe.

Why doesn't someone tip Blair

off to the fact that over a year and a half on the Cunningham front is almost impossible?

Billy Pace really goes "all in" for physical "ed." He has taken up winking as an eye exercise. However, science class is not the place for it, Billy.

Anne Elcan and Lewis Minter seem to have a common interest in duo-pianists' music. (One excuse is as good as another)

Martha Bishop has requested that her name be inserted in the Censored. We strive to please--  
MARTHA BISHOP (Old gag, ain't it?)

Riffenburgh insists that he gets the car only every other weekend. This evidently doesn't cramp his style. It's fun to walk, too.

Wonder what great attraction Betty Mae Olinger has that Robert Taylor likes so much.

It seems that "Fatso" Sites never cared for red hair, but "that's his weakness now!" (Or is it the name "Peggy"?)

Gerald Mabry seems to have found that the nearest distance between two dates is a good line in the case of Georgia Linkous.

We wonder why Ruth Dobyns plays dumb when it comes to chemistry problems. Maybe it's because the result is always the efficient aid of Carlisle Simmons.

Now that Daphna Albert is staying in town maybe she and Fred Royal can catch up on "lost time." Or is Mary Stone in the race?

Wonder why Nancy McCoy is so devoted to the V.P.I. airport.