

Western Michigan University
Alumni Magazine (1938-1942)

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Western State Teachers College
Western Michigan University

The Alumni Magazine

Western State Teachers College

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Volume 3

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Number 1

Alumnus to Give Commencement Address

**Frederick Middlebush, '11,
First Graduate to Speak at
Comencement Time**

Program, Monday, June 17

The first graduate of Western State Teachers College to complete the work of the Ph. D. is to be the first alumnus to deliver a commencement address on the campus. Fred Middlebush, '11, is to be the speaker at the 1940 graduating exercises in June.

With a high-school life certificate in 1911, Dr. Middlebush went to the University of Michigan where he received his A. B. in 1913, the degree of Master of Arts in 1914, and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1916. From 1915 to 1922 he was a member of the faculty at Knox College where he served as instructor, assistant professor, and professor of political science.

From Knox College, Dr. Middlebush went to the University of Missouri as a professor of political science and public law. Later he became dean of the school of business and public administration. In 1934 he was made Acting President of the University and later President.

Dr. Middlebush's return to the campus at Western State Teachers College will afford him much additional observation. When he was a student here, campus buildings included only those which have been designated many times in story and picture as "The Columns." There was no library building, no science building, no men's gymnasium, stadium, or baseball grandstand, no union building, and no dormitories.

Baccalaureate Sunday

Dr. Henry Hitt Crane, minister at the Central Methodist Church in Detroit, will deliver the baccalaureate address.



**Dr. Frederick Middlebush
President, U. of Missouri**

Francis Pellegrom Radio Speaker Tuesday, May 21

Francis Pellegrom, B. S. '32, is to appear on Western's Radio Hour over WKZO in May. His subject, "Play Days Are Pay Days" is within the experience of his position as Director of Physical Education in the Three Rivers public schools. Francis is the fourth graduate of Western State Teachers College to speak for Western's radio committee this year.

Last October 17, Louisa Durham, B. S. '31, presented the program and used for her subject, "The Program of the Michigan Education Association." January 30, Russell Doney, A. B. '26, spoke on the subject, "Your Children and the Schools." Archie Nevins, B. S. '38, was the next alumnus to be scheduled for April 9. As supervisor of Industrial Arts in the Kalamazoo schools, he used "Industrial Arts in the Public Schools" as his subject.

In the Day's Mail

In the day's mail is a letter from Fred R. Niles, B. S. '39. He is now employed by the Ethel Dow Chemical Company at Wilmington, North Carolina.

* * *

Vivian Lane, A. B. '31, who came to Western State Teachers College from Harbor Springs is now Case Supervisor in the Social Service Department of the Presbyterian Hospital, Medical Center, New York City.

* * *

Leslie M. Spoor, of the class of '23, opened offices in Grand Rapids recently, and sent along an announcement of open house. The announcement cites him as manager of the Grand Rapids office of the Union Central Life Insurance Company.

* * *

Appointed to the Alma College faculty recently was Marvin Volpel, A. B. '29. Following his graduation Marvin was a teacher in the Sturgis public schools. Other Western graduates appointed to the Alma faculty within the last two years are Henry Howe, A. B. '31, who taught and coached in the St. Joe public schools, and C. Carney Smith, A. B. '33, from the Flint public schools.

* * *

News from Arizona says that Richard de Pont, B. S. '35, who has been teaching music at Clarkdale for

(Continued on Page 4)

Alumni News Notes

Arthur Secord, A. B. '28, returned to the campus recently with some of his debaters from the University of Michigan. Assisted by some Western students in the Department of Speech, the young men presented a program for the Kalamazoo Peace Action Coordinating Committee. Presiding at this program was John Pikkart, a graduate of both Western State and the University of Michigan.

(Continued on Page 3)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Alumnus to Give Commencement Address	1
Francis Pellegrom to Speak Over Radio	1
Henry Hitt Crane Here for Baccalaureate	1
In the Day's Mail	1
Alumni News Notes	1
Editorial	2
Democracy: A Way of Life	2
WSTC Spring Sports Schedule ...	3
Baseball, Tennis, Track, Golf	

WSTC Alumni Magazine Committee
Carl Cooper, '21, Editor and Committee Chairman
Elaine Stevenson, '13, Homer Dunham, '37, Don Pullin, '12, Prof. John E. Fox

This is a quarterly publication printed in January, April, July, and October.

The subscription rate is \$1.00 per year; single copy, twenty-five cents.

Notification of change of address will be very much appreciated at any time. Notice of changes arriving ten days before mailing will insure prompt arrival of the magazine.

An Alumni Magazine Or—

Is there any better way for the graduates of a college to continue their affiliation with the campus than through the support of an Alumni Magazine? We do not know of a better way.

If magazine support on the part of Western graduates should compare favorably with the experience of colleges and universities in the country at large, we should be able to plan on approximately 3000 subscribers. With 3000 subscriptions to a quarterly publication, a very good product would be possible.

For financial reasons the present issue is only four pages in number. There is an abundance of news material, campus developments continue, and the activities of the alumni are numerous and varied, but the costs of printing, paper stock, etc. are the determining factors.

Comments, criticisms, and suggestions are welcome.

Democracy: A Way of Life

By Leonard Kercher, '24

The purpose of this article is to direct attention to the character of democracy as a way of life. The democratic idea is a complex one which has wide application. It has significance as a way of living in the home, in the community, in the nation and in the world. Moreover, it has implications in the economic, the political and the social relationships of men. As a way of life in all these spheres democracy may be thought of in terms of its values—i. e. the democratic goals—and also it may be conceived in terms of its techniques of achieving these goals—i. e. the methods or processes of democracy. In other words the democratic ideal encompasses both the ends and the means of life.

Since our space is very limited we can scarcely hope to clarify the idea of democracy in the abstract or analyze it in all its manifestations. It seems best, therefore, simply to suggest its principal features as evidenced in a limited number of typical life situations, since democracy, like charity, might well begin at home we will examine it first in a way of life in the domestic sphere.

The democratic ideal in family life implies respect for the individuality of each person in the family circle. It also recognizes the diversity of interest and talent of every member and upholds those human values and fosters those activities that contribute most to the total development of all. The values fostered by democracy, however, are not imposed from without. Rather, they develop from within as the person becomes a sharing member of the family group. The spirit of voluntary but responsible cooperation in family decisions and enterprise is essential. The wife has a voice equal with that of the husband, and the children also find a place in the family's councils. Little Betty and young Jim seek growth in the family which is in reality their world, and they must share in its activities with a growing sense of security and satisfaction. In this manner they come to feel that they really belong to the family circle. They are allowed to make decisions on the level of their experience and to share in equivalent responsibilities. They come thereby to identify themselves with the family group and in

turn to identify the group's ideals and welfare with their own.

Democracy as a way of life in the home may be said, therefore, to hold the well-developed personality of each family member as the supreme value and, further, it seeks to realize this end through the cooperative sharing of family experience and responsibility.

In the social relationships of persons and groups in the community the democratic ideal stresses the worth of men as human beings. It forbids the lumping of people into convenient categories of race or class that often leads to intolerance and the denial of opportunities. The drawing of the color line in many instances and much of the snobbery of class-mindedness for example run counter to the ways of a true democracy.

In the inevitable conflict of interests that arises between groups in the community democracy appears also as a method of reconciliation. Motivated by a spirit of live-and-let-live this method seeks through open discussion an understanding of the problems involved and then through compromise an amicable and just solution of them. The democratic ideal, of course, is not achieved in community relationships until the loyalties of its citizens extend beyond their interest groups and include the community as a whole. This identification of themselves with the larger group and its welfare is an essential.

It is perhaps in the economic relationships of life that the democratic ideal encounters the stiffest resistance in our society. On the farm, in the factory, and at the market place we are often so intent in making a living that we lose sight of the nobler ways to live. Democracy in the economic realm implies that work itself should be something of a satisfying experience, not one of self denial and degradation. It implies, moreover, that human values such as freedom, security, intellectual development, good health, happiness, fellowship and the like should underlie the motives that drive the men and through them the machines of our economic order. And finally, the ideal of democracy in economic relations implies that the fundamental relationships of worker to worker, of employer to employee and of pro-

ducer to consumer should be characterized by mutual understanding and by intelligent cooperation in the interest of all.

Where men are denied the privilege of satisfying work, where conditions under which they destroy their health or debase their morals and tastes, where the pursuit of money turns to avarice and greed, and the game of accumulation turns to gambling in the lives as well as the fortunes of men, and finally, where the right to share in the decisions which so vitally affect their lives and those of their families are denied—in these conditions—in all these conditions, democracy lags.

Poverty in the midst of plenty, children at handicapping labor, the millions of unemployed, city slums, share croppers and the unattended ill are all sinister economic challenges to democracy for they are a denial in practice of its very faith and substance.

No doubt, the preservation and extension of democracy in the civic or political aspect of life offers the most striking, if not the most significant, challenge of our time to its friends and champions. Political organization arises primarily to exercise control over people in a given area. The people themselves with their common cultural heritage are spoken of customarily as the nation. The general organization of the people for purposes of social control is referred to as the state, while the specific machinery of the state, that is the men and institutions that actually exercise control, constitute the government.

The spread of democracy as a way of life into these related realms — nation, state, and government—has been a slow growth covering centuries. This growth, above all else, has elevated the position of the common people. It has placed them above the state and in turn has put the state above its temporary instruments, the government. Democracy has thereby dignified, if not at times almost died, the common man. Besides making him the ultimate source of political authority, it has made his interests and his welfare the primary justification for the existence of the institutions of state and government. In a word, democracy confers citizenship upon the common man. Theoretically it makes him a free citizen

(Continued on Page 4)

WSTC Spring Sports Schedule Presented



Baseball Schedule

April 8—Western 5, Ohio State 0
 April 9—Western 5, Ohio State 6
 April 10—Western 8, Ball State 1
 April 15—Western 7, Wisconsin 4
 April 16—Western 1, Wisconsin 0
 April 20—Western 9, Notre Dame 6
 April 25—Notre Dame, Kalamazoo
 April 27—Michigan State, E. Lansing
 May 3—Ohio University, Athens, O.
 May 4—Xavier, Cincinnati, O.
 May 7—Michigan, Ann Arbor
 May 14—Northwestern, Evanston, Ill.
 May 18—Xavier, Kalamazoo
 May 21—Michigan, Kalamazoo
 May 24-25—Iowa, Iowa City, Ia.
 May 31-June 1—Iowa Teachers, Kalamazoo
 June 15—Alumni, Kalamazoo

Tennis Schedule

April 9—Western 5, Appalachian Teachers 0
 April 11—Western 8, Loyola College Baltimore, 1
 April 13—Western 4, Western Maryland 1
 April 19—Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
 April 20—Purdue, Lafayette, Ind.
 April 27—Notre Dame, Kalamazoo
 April 30—Grand Rapids Junior, Kalamazoo
 May 3—Toledo, Toledo, Ohio
 May 7—Loyola U., Kalamazoo
 May 10—Indiana, Kalamazoo
 May 14—Michigan, Ann Arbor
 May 16—Marquette, Kalamazoo
 May 17—Toledo, Kalamazoo
 May 21—Northwestern, Evanston, Ill.
 May 23—Detroit, Detroit
 May 24—Wayne, Detroit
 May 25—Michigan State, Kalamazoo

Track Schedule

April 20—Chicago, Kalamazoo
 April 24—Illinois Normal U., Kalamazoo
 April 27—Drake or Penn Relays
 May 4—Butler, Kalamazoo
 May 11—Ohio Wesleyan, Kalamazoo
 May 18—State Intercollegiate, East

Lansing

June 1—Michigan A. A. U., Kalamazoo
 June 7—C. C. C. Meet, Milwaukee

Golf Schedule

April 6—Western 9, Kentucky 9
 April 8—Western 5, Vanderbilt 13
 April 10—Western 12½, South Carolina 5½
 April 26—Wayne, Kalamazoo
 May 3—De Sales, Toledo, Ohio
 May 4—Toledo, Toledo, Ohio
 May 7—Armour Tech., Kalamazoo
 May 24—Wayne, Detroit
 —Detroit, Kalamazoo
 —Detroit, Detroit
 —Loyola, Kalamazoo
 —Manchester, N. Manchester, Ind.

Alumni News Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

Vera Moss, A. B. '30, was a caller on the campus recently. She is now teaching English in a teachers college at River Falls, Wisconsin. Immediately after graduation at Western, Miss Moss remained on campus and taught English for a year.

* * *

Adeline Blakeslee Nelthorpe, Early El '28, has written an operetta to be presented on the occasion of Blossom Week Festival in Benton Harbor the week of May 6. The operetta is to be presented at Benton Harbor High School auditorium Tuesday, May 7. Plans are being considered by the members of the Pi Delta Phi sorority of Benton Harbor to arrange a reception for Western State Teachers College alumni and faculty members the same evening.

* * *

Fred Huff, faculty member and a graduate of WSTC in one of the early classes, is most proud these days. His daughter, Treva—also a graduate of Western in the Class of 1926—who is Mrs. Donald Scott, has a daughter born March 16.

* * *

Dedicatory dates have been set for the Lavina Spindler Residence Hall for Women. The time chosen for this occasion coincides with Homecoming, and the Michigan Education Association meeting in Kalamazoo, October 17, 18, and 19. Among the guests to be invited are Louise Sprau O'Dell, (Continued on Page 4)

Democracy: A Way of Life

(Continued from Page 3)

in a free common wealth. Just what does this imply?

To be a citizen in a political democracy is to take part in the activities and decisions that regulate his life and that of his neighbors. By use of the ballot he may call his government to account or even make basic changes in the institutions of the state. His position stands out in sharp contrast to the status of a subject of a non-democratic state. The subject owes unquestioned allegiance to his rulers, the government. He takes little part in regulating the larger aspects of his own life—he takes orders instead. Duty is his by-word and obedience his greatest virtue. While the citizen has obligations to the state he also has fundamental rights and duties which the government is bound to respect. The subject on the other hand is placed at the mercy of his governors, for his rights are merely extended privileges and his personal welfare is conceived to be secondary to that of the impersonal state. The citizen, much more than the subject can live, work and play, read or write, praise or blame according to his own choices. He lives much more in a world of his own making. It is thus true that if democracy gave way to dictatorship here we would, in a large measure, find ourselves aliens in our own homeland.

The full rights and privileges of free citizenship is the priceless heritage of political democracy. The preservation of this heritage as a way of life implies persistent guarding of the free mind. Specifically, it calls for an honest defense of the four great freedoms set forth in the bill of rights of our national constitution: the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press and the freedom of assembly. Any serious denial of these basic civil rights and civil liberties is a denial of democracy itself.

Of course, even with these freedoms reasonably assured democracy as a way of life may fall victim of their abuse. Employing all the instruments of persuasion, selfish individuals or groups may seek to dominate men's minds for ulterior purposes. With propaganda and mass excitement they swamp individuality and destroy group intelligence. When molded to the pattern of the crowd

in this manner men become the tools of many petty dictators. Democracy fades from the picture.

In conclusion certain features of democracy stand out in relief. In the first place, the democratic idea holds strong faith in the essential decency and teachability of the common run of men. The well-developed and socially-responsible person is at once, therefore, the greatest value, the best justification and the strongest pillar of democracy.

Democracy, moreover, is a process of growth; essentially an educational process which develops the individual through his participation in personal and group experiences that require initiative understanding, voluntary cooperation and self-control. It is a slower process, to be sure, than the compulsory methods of the dictator or demagogue, but the believer in democracy has faith in its long-run validity.

And finally it is well to emphasize that democracy as a way of life is no suddenly-achieved or static condition. It is like Christianity—a kind of perpetual pursuit of an ideal goal. At any particular time or place its practical achievement is likely to be only a rough approximation of the ideal.

But so much the greater is the challenge to the believer in this way of life. Its achievement always remains to him an appealing and an unfinished task.

In the Day's Mail

(Continued from Page 1)

the past several years, was recently re-elected to the office of secretary-treasurer of the Northern Arizona Music Teachers Association.

* * *

Betty Heathcote Conner, A. B. '39, and Ivan Conner, B. S. '38, announce the birth of a daughter, Katherine Elisabeth, whose birthday is March 3.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. James Hansen of Battle Creek recently announced the marriage of their daughter, Edith, who graduated from Western State Teachers College with an A. B. degree in '34, to Mr. Viggo Nelson, also of Battle Creek.

* * *

In the last issue of **Western's Speech**, the official publication of the Western Association of Teachers of Speech, page 18 is given to a letter from a president of the organization. At the last convention of this organi-

zation, J. Richard Bietry, A. B. '26, was elected to the presidency.

* * *

Rural School Messenger, a house organ coming to the desk of the Alumni Secretary from the office of the Cass County Commissioner of Schools, is always very welcome. Commissioner Frank Flagg, its author, obtained a Bachelor of Science degree at Western State Teachers College in 1932.

Alumni News Notes

(Continued from Page 3)

A. B. '29, and her husband, Richard O'Dell, who is a nephew of Miss Spindler. Jack Spindler, another nephew, married Edith Mullen, who was a member of the faculty of Western State Teachers College from 1924 to 1929. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Spindler are also to be invited.

* * *

Harold Gordon Odgers, of the class in Industrial Arts in 1926, is returning to the campus for the summer session to teach Safety Education.

* * *

To every alumnus of Western State Teachers College the feature of Alumni Day, Saturday, June 15, 1940, will be a most fitting and historic occasion as this issue of the Alumni Magazine announces to them the plans which are being made to place the ashes of the first president of Western State Teachers College, Dwight Bryant Waldo, in their final resting place on the campus. The place is to be within the south cornerstone of the Administration Building by the east window of the office which was occupied by him during his presidency of more than thirty years. This south cornerstone is to be fittingly marked with a bronze plaque on which will be appropriately placed such copy as is being prepared by the committee in charge. The occasion will be at 11 o'clock, Saturday morning, June 15. Alumni and their friends are cordially invited to be present.

* * *

Because 108 alumni availed themselves of the WSTC-train-to-Chicago privileges on the last semester trip the magazine is announcing the next date which is to be Saturday, May 18. Graduates of Western are welcome. Remember the train leaves early in the morning and returns to Kalamazoo about midnight.