3-22-1940

State Highlights 3/22/1940

Western State High School
MRS. HARRISON TO TALK IN ASSEMBLY ON ARABIAN LIFE

Living in Arabia Is Like Going Back a Thousand Years; It Hasn’t Changed

“Living in Arabia is like going back a thousand years, for it has not changed for centuries, and the Arabs are proud of that,” declared Mrs. Paul Harrison, whose two sons, a daughter, and a sister are stationed in Arabia. Mrs. Harrison, who was a teacher before the war, has lived in Arabia for five years.

Mrs. Harrison will speak to the State High student body on the subject of “Life in Arabia Today,” March 26.

Mrs. Paul Harrison first went to Arabia in the fall of 1917 and remained there for twenty years. She has been stationed at five cities along the Persian Gulf Coast, including Bagdad, Basra, and Muscat. She worked mainly among the Arabian women and also aided her husband, Dr. Harrison, in his hospital work. In order to perform these acts, it was necessary for them to learn the language and customs of the people.

Dr. Harrison is known throughout the world for his work in Spinal Asthma.

N.B.C. Plans Program

Pilgrimage of Poetry N. B. Club

March 24 Eugene Field
March 31 Joquin Miller
Great Plays N.B.C. 2:00-3:30 p.m.
March 24 Pritch’s “Captain Jinks”
March 31 Chekhov’s “Three Sisters”
March 20 Charles Reade.

WINCENT LOPEZ INTERVIEWED; POPULAR “MUSIC-MAKER”

Discloses Interesting Side Lights of Band-Leading

“Highlights” Interview Finds Lopez Amiable, and Clever

By Bill Canine

When Vincent Lopez and his band appeared at the State Theatre recently, Kalamazoo had an opportunity to see and hear a truly unusual organization with an equally remarkable leader.

Vincent organized his first band twenty years ago when he was just entering the field of popular music; he has led one ever since, never, as he himself declares, put it “having any boss but himself.” He can play almost any musical instrument, but as everyone knows, he is particularly adept at the piano. Where he is the master of the keys, his proficiency at the keyboard has interested in it. They then publicize by means of the newspaper, radio, and other mediums where he is the master of the keys. Around it so the public will become interested in him. They then attend to a story and write the music for it. Lopez finds a song music and sometimes attends concerts thereby being the common bond.

An interesting thing about this band is their avoidance of war songs in their repertoires. According to Lopez, the band tries away from them because “music stirs some of the strongest human emotions and can play havoc with the imagination.” Therefore, he believes an intensely patriotic tune can help people fight a war when ordinarily their common sense would forbid it.

When Vincent Lopez finds a song which he likes and which in his opinion deserves public recognition, the band tries to help it become popular by several methods. First of all, the publicity department builds a story around it so the public will become interested in it. They then “plug” it, that is, they play and sing it over the air, feature it in the places where they are playing and in general, make the people conscious of it. From then on, it is up to the song. If it has what it takes, it’s usually a hit.

To a young person aspiring to leading a band, Vincent Lopez gives this advice. “If you like music and think you can be a success in it it’s well worth trying. The work is not too difficult, in fact, is not work at all if your heart is in it. Be sure that you have a good knowledge of what you are doing.”

Several faithfully followed hobbies take much of Lopez’s spare time. One of these diversions is the very unusual and undoubtedly interesting study of astrology and numerology, upon which subject he has become somewhat of an expert. Several articles devoted to this topic and written by him have appeared in various magazines. Lopez also has a fine collection of books. He enjoys classical music and sometimes attends concerts thereby helping the common bond.

If popular musicians don’t appreciate the masters.

With twenty years of band-leading to his credit, Vincent Lopez should be well qualified to pick out from among the thousands of songs he has seen come and go, “the cream of the crop.” Of his band he named some of his favorites as “Star Dust,” “Alexander’s Rag-Time Band,” “Nola,” “Who,” “Whispering,” “Melancholy Baby,” and “Indian Summer.” His favorite is “Star Dust” and his choice of the current season is “All the Things You Are.”

When interviewed Mr. Lopez was as friendly and kind as though his interrogator was from the New York Times, rather then “The Highlights.” Kalamazoo appreciated his art and will welcome him any time he chooses to return.

Plans for Novel Party for Past Two Years’ Casts Are Being Completed

Committees for the annual spring play have been named by the Masquers Club. The production “Little Women” will be presented April 5 at the Civic Auditorium. It is under the direction of Miss Barbara Smith and Miss Louise Maher and supervised by Mr. Albert Becker.

Committees include: Betty Dykstra, Jackie Miller, Ruby White, Dorothy Bender, Jervis Rosenbaums, William Kane, Bob Craig, Mary Lou Harris, Art Weston, Larrick Glendingen, Don Bertch, Dick Hickmott, Barbara Canine, Betsy Lang, Bill DeFano, Mary Eldridge, Jack Dalm, George Williams, Edna Jessee, Ilan Craig, Richard Simon, Daley Martin, Emily Matthews, Barbara Dertich, Rose Harrison, Bikkenga, Norren Gatby, Marilyn Rose, Joan Carter, Jean Strother, Joanne Thompson, Elizabeth Poley, Jerry Matthews, Larry Lange, Calvin Carr, Dick Neeb, and Edward Matthews.

DE CLARATION WILL BE AN ASSEMBLY FEATURE

A Declamation Contest to determine State High’s representative to the sub-district contest will be held before the student body, April 2. Speakers for this assembly were chosen by an elimination contest which was held, March 15. The winner will receive the Michigan High School Forensic Association’s Howard Corbus, State High’s representative of last year, will preside as chairman. Mr. Becker states that student teachers of the Speech department will act as judges.

CALENDAR

March 19 — Assembly (Address) by Maurice Boyajan
March 19 — Program by Speech Class over WKZO
March 20 — Radio Debate over WKAR at East Lansing
March 22 — Good Friday Recess at 12:00
March 26 — Oratory contest for all students
March 26 — Assembly (In Arimba) by Mrs. Paul Harrison
March 26 — Whiting Visit 
March 26 — Extemporaneous Speaking Contest
March 30 — Girls Intra-Mural Basketball Games
April 2 — Final Declamation Contest
April 5 — Masquers present “Little Women” at the Civic Theatre
April 5 — Party after play
April 5– Spring Vacation Begins
April 15 — End of Spring Vacation.
Mary, about it, shall we? absorbs. interested her in her hobby, and who used monopoly, and then when we do now living.

She probably could not have a better helper since it was Mrs. Sargent who planned the house in which they are now living. Do your Radio Manners Pass the Courtesy Test? Courtesy is one of our greatest assets and one which we should use as a means to all ends. Of course, everyone is taught the fundamentals of courtesy at an early age, but just to know the rules is not enough. Our knowledge must be recognized in our actions. We are constantly being judged by our attention or lack of attention to these seemingly small matters.

Do you find it necessary to keep freshmen and install new card files?

System Introduced at Library

Say, have you heard about the new card-system going on over at Western's library just across the way? No, it's not a new way of winning at poker or setting your opponent three tricks, or even making your worst enemy forget the shirt off his back, so just relax. What we really mean is the new method of checking books in and out of the library. In fact, it's got the old system whipped in all ways, both from the point of view of students and from the librarian's. Under the old plan, our intrepid freshmen were obliged to painstakingly record their names and addresses on filing cards each time they took out a book. This led to great difficulties. In the first place, expert translators at a premium and secondly borrowing pencils leads to mental conflicts and awkward personalities. You wouldn't want your child to grow up with a nasty mental conflict? Or to walk around with a leer on his face (Shakespearean and a "Lear" too) and to snap at people's feet as they go by? (Silly isn't it?). The school fathers (Of course, it is assembled behind (we love it though) locked doors and, after long tedious deliberation, decided that either the fresh- men or the card files had to go. Some how they retained the fresh men. (Capitalists!)

"Time out while we repair our toes."

Girl Reserves to Give Tea

On March 29 a tea will be given for mothers and faculty by the State High Girl Reserves. An Easter party for little children will be held March 23 at the W.Y.C.A. Wisma Miller is in charge of planning the party.

She Prims to Conquer—But Her Grades Are Low

By Robert Malaney

She, through her beauty; Betty Schultz, through her beauty; she surely did carry it too far. Now bear with us while we give the new system a go-

ing over. Under this innovation, met- al-lagged cards similar to those met- od out by the Public Library are given to all corners, college students, ex- tension students, high school students and even freshmen. A person choosing to take out a book over night presents his card and receives the book with- out further ado. Cards may be ob- tained without cost by inquiring at the desk. (Still with us?) Accuracy, simplicity, and speed are thus gained for the benefit of all. (To complete for you?) There's one annoying draw- back, however, to this Utopia. The res- pendent metal clips on the cards seem to fascinate students; they just sit and look at them with a wistful gleam in their eyes and naively mut- ter, "Goody!" and "Oh, joy!" And they're so young! But it matters lit- tle, age, race, or creed—all suffer, all are victims of "Clipsomania." Where shall we turn? (Where shall we go?) We suggest that you visit the library and see the new cards and the shiny metal clips as they really are. But take heed, lest you become a "Clipsomaniac."

So come and succumb Every last one.

Pax vobiscum.

This has been a Blue Nutwork feature article. Do you want more? If so, tell us; if not, read the "Tales and Grapevine Special." So there! Want a drag on this before we throw it away?

Joe: What would happen if a colored waiter dropped a platter with a turkey on it?

Tom: It would be the humiliation of Africa, the fall of Turkey, the de- struction of China, and the overthrow of Greece. "Holmespun"
STATE HIGHLIGHTS

The Concentration of Chessmen

It’s genuine concentration that’s registered on the faces of these young people. They’re members of the new Chess Clubs which have been organized for the first time at State High school. Barbara McNamara, Dick Shilling, Joan Gehrds, and Ted Parfet, left to right, are the ones trying to figure out the right move.—Gazette Photo.

PROSPECTS FOR SPRING SPORTS SEEM GOOD

The State High basketball team had a little difficulty getting to sleep over in St. Joe. It seems that there were too many cats and garbage men. Tennis prospects are very good for this season. Except for John Koffel, everyone is back from last year’s team. This team was the runner-up in the class B tournament. There is a strong possibility that the team may enter into class A tennis tournament.

Prospects for baseball are also very good. Only three boys, Russ Elliot, pitcher, Dick Lister, catcher, and Pat Cavanaugh, outfielder, are not eligible from last year’s undefeated team. If these three boys can be replaced, State High’s nine ought to have another very successful season.

In golf there will be a great improvement over last year’s team. Everyone except Harold Pihlkaart is still eligible to swing the clubs for State High.

The track prospects, while not so good as in the other spots, still have the possibility of a good team if some of the newer boys can replace last year’s graduates.

State High has an excellent chance of coping the Big Seven All-Sports Trophy this year. Up to date, the Cubs have won the football title and placed second in the basketball league.

State High placed two boys on the Kalamazoo Gazette’s annual all-city basketball selection. This year six players were chosen and two of them, Ken Stillwell and Allen Mulder, were from State High.

Allen Mulder was captain of State High’s team. He plays a guard position and was immensely valuable in taking the ball off the backboard. His height and strength made him very useful in getting the ball. He is the hard-working type of ball-player, steady and rugged enough for all action. Toward the end of the season he also became one of State High’s leading scorers.

REVIVED CUBS UPSET ST. JOE TEAM, 39-32

A red-hot State High ball club rolled over a strong St. Joe aggregation, 39-32, Friday night, to move into the finals of the 1940 regional tournament. The Cubs rose to great heights and undoubtedly played their best game of the season. After a first round by, the State High boys snapped into action with a sizling offensive that bewildered the St. Joe cagers and set up an early 9-2 lead which was never broken.

Ken Stillwell opened the scoring with a one-handed put shot and before the Bears could find their footing they were 7 points on the deficit side of the scoring. At this time they began to click, however, and brought the score up to 9-7 at the end of the first quarter which was the closest they came to the flying Cubs although in the last period they again threatened to break State’s lead by virtue of splendid work under the basket by Parrett and Boetchter.

The scoring was evenly divided among the first five of the State High team. High point honors of the evening, however, fell to Lee Wibutake of St. Joe who piled up 12 points, his nearest rival being Gary Koopen with 10. In the last 4 minutes, the Cubs tallied up extra points and as the gun sounded, the score stood at 39-32 in favor of State High.

Ken Stillwell was most unusual basketball player. He never saw a basketball game, much less played in one, until he came to State High. He had a natural ability for the game, however, and quickly picked up the fundamentals of the game. This year Stillwell became State High’s leading scorer. He was a constant threat to all opposition. Because of his speed he got numerous short shots.

Butler: Your car is at the door, sir.
Guest: I know, I heard it knocking.

"Tomahawk"

STATE HIGH DEFEATED IN FINALS AT ST. JOE

Coach Tommy Slaughter’s South Haven basketball team successfully defended the regional Class B title by defeating the State High Cubs, 25-20.

The upset of St. Joseph took too much out of the Noblemen and South Haven took a 12-2 lead at the end of the first quarter. South Haven’s long shots proved too much for the Cubs during this period.

Both teams seemed tired after the half except for a spurt by the Cub substitutes. The Noblemen never were closer than four points throughout the ball game and were six points behind at the half.

Hoekje was high man for State High with seven points. Stillwell and Mulder, who starred in the first quarter, last game were off form in the finals. Stillwell was held without a point and Mulder had but four points.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL COURSES!

High school graduates expecting to take professional courses may find it to their advantage to investigate the pre-professional courses at Western State Teachers College, the very moderate expenses, and other advantages that Western offers.

Western State Teachers College
Dr. Paul V. Sangren, President
John C. Hoekje, Registrar

TWO GROUPS ENJOY NEW CLUB FEATURES

Homer Waters and Ted Parfet Head Groups

Another new club that is being offered this semester at State High to which State High students are the Chess Club.

One group meets every Monday under the direction of Victor Beattin, The people who play chess on Thursdays are supervised by Bruce Moore. The purpose of the club is to help the members to acquire and to improve in their chess playing.

The members of the Monday Club are: president, Ted Parfet; vice president, Dick Slusser; secretary, Jack Rogers; treasurer, Barbara McLaughlin. The other members are: Louis Caron, Joe Cox, Joan Gehrds, Martha Gilmore, Hugh Travis, Bob Kedrowski, and Billy Menge.

The officers of the Thursday club are: president, Tom Parfet; vice president, William Kane; secretary, Barbara McLaughlin. The other members are: Louis Caron, Joe Cox, Joan Gehrds, Martha Gilmore, Hugh Travis, Robert Babcock, and Billy Menge.

STATE HIGH BOYS ARE OFFICERS OF CLUB

The "Aeronuts Club" is an organization of twenty-five boys who, as the name implies, are intensely interested in airplanes. The members meet every other Friday night for the purpose of promoting model building. Two State High juniors, Sam Folsom and George Gerhards, perform the duties of president and secretary respectively. Various activities keep them busy the year round. They have an annual gas-model contest. Members have often won awards in the state competitions. In fact, they have national records for gas model credit. The "Aeronuts Club" is open to all boys interested in this sort of activity, and new members will be very welcome.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

March 26 — Warren Hiecker
March 26 — Harold Miller
March 27 — Robert Baxter
March 30 — Max Edgerton
March 30 — Sue Hickmott
March 30 — Robert Hickmott
April 1 — Esther Brown
April 1 — William Hone
April 2 — Ann Hanselman
April 3 — James Cook
April 3 — Ervil Alford

Final Contest April 2

On Friday, March 15, the eliminations for the declamation contest were held, from three to five. The four winners, Mary Carol Martin, Dorothy Bender, Connie Sargent, and Peggy Van Haffen, were picked by the judges. Mr. Albert Beattin, sponsor, chose the students. These final contestants will be in the State High assembly at Watwood Hall on April 2. The other participants were Grace Boerner, Larry Burdick, David Gauss, Eugene Grashorn, Marilyn Hagerman, Davie Martin, Sally Morgan, Ronald Meyers, Robert Northrup, Jack Woods, Phyllis Ralston, Allen Ray, and Morris Stimson.
Thursday, March 14, P.D.Q. Club was extremely fortunate in having as its guest, Mrs. Robert C. Mosley of Chicago, who discussed the European situation. Mrs. Mosley has spent the past twenty years in England and consequently is well qualified to talk on the subject.

She recently appeared on a radio program to answer questions about this topic. She began the discussion with the facts and answers.

Later the students had an opportunity to ask questions of particular interest to them personally.

The discussion was carried on relatively to the present war and possible future alliances. She stated in her opinion that in all probability it was probable these facts about the Russian plane squadrons, the feeling toward the Russians and Fins, the economic and diplomatic causes of war and the morale of soldiers and of the civilians, are profitable as well as enjoyable.

Later the students had an opportunity with these questions and answers.

Mrs. Mosley was interested in her opinion that in all probability it was probable possible future alliances. She stated that the diplomatic causes of war and the provocative and interesting facts about the Russian plane squadrons, the feeling toward the Russians and Fins, the economic and diplomatic causes of war and the morale of soldiers and of the civilians, are profitable as well as enjoyable.

Inquiring Reporter Gets Students’ Opinions on Honors’ Day Assembly

Students Offer Suggestions for Newly Instituted Program

Are you in favor of having the same kind of Honors Day Assembly as we had last year? Why?

Barbara Espie: Yes, because I think it’s a little nice to have it in the evening. For mothers and fathers can come in the evening.

Bob Pierce: The Honors Day Assembly last year was good, and I hope we can have another like it this year.

Adrie Ver Meulen: Yes, because it gives the parents a chance to see what kind of work their children do.

Bob McCallister: No, I think the students and the people who see the programs will enjoy it more if the program could be arranged by the students. Let the faculty supervise, but have the students write the program and make all the plans. I think that this would be a great success.

Barbara Rausmann: Yes, because it was quite effective last year, and it is a fine way in which to recognize the people who are deserving of honors.

New Latin Club Plans Interesting Programs

The members of the nine o’clock Latin class have organized a Latin club. The members believe that this kind of Latin does not have to be drudgery, but affords opportunities for lots of fun. The students are divided into three main divisions for contesting. These contests feature Latin spelling, questions on Roman history, and the material that come from interesting stories in students’ textbooks.

When the teams are not contesting, the members read letters, diaries, radio reports and radio announcements which they have written. An interesting feature of a recent meeting was the account of the burial of Pompeii written in the style of a modern newspaper.

The members are enthusiastic about this club because the programs are profitable as well as enjoyable.

In the opinion of Mrs. Robert C. Mosley of Chicago, who discussed the European situation, it was probable that in all probability it was probable possible future alliances. She stated that the economic and diplomatic causes of war and the morale of soldiers and civilians are profitable as well as enjoyable.

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Eugene Grasshorn puts the finishing touch on his prize-winning poster announcing the State High school assembly of “Little Women,” April 6. His poster was given first place in a contest conducted in Miss Hazel Paden’s Art classes. Left to right are Eugene Grasshorn, Betty Dykstra, third place winner, and Eileen Kellong, second place winner.

Eugene Grasshorn, a State High sophomore, won first prize in a poster contest conducted, during the last few weeks in the art classes in charge of Miss Hazel Paden.

Eileen Kellong won second prize and Betty Dykstra, third, Honorable Mention was given Joanne Morton- Alem and Rayna Edwards.

The posters were designed to announce the production of “Little Women” to be presented by State High Masquers at 8:15 Friday night, April 5, in the Civic Auditorium.

Judges of the posters were Miss Lydia Sedinich and Miss Elma Stevenson of the faculty of the art department and members of Western State Teachers College class in supervision.

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ALUMNI NEWS

Floyd Miller Jr., a graduate of State High in 1931, wrote the radio drama, “Her Husband’s Career” that was given on Sunday, March 9 over the Columbia Broadcasting System on the Grand Hotel Hour. Affiliated with the Columbia Broadcasting System, Floyd has devoted a good share of his time to writing for programs.

Don Nibbelink, a graduate of State High in 1934, has won national recognition from the Journal of the International Photographic Salon for his photographic work. Don has been working in the photographic technology department at the Eastman School of Photography in Rochester, New York.

Leonie Young a State High graduate in 1936 made the scholastic honor roll at Wooster College, Ohio last year.

The engagement of Miss Dorothy Sipman, a State High graduate of 1932, to John Palmer of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania has recently been announced. No date for the wedding has been set.

If anyone had dropped in at about 4:30 on Friday, March 8 in 12A, he would have observed a wedding taking place without the knowledge of the school officials! Jo, Beth, and Amy March, the three sisters of the bride, could be heard chatting little magpies as they helped their sister Meg with her gown, giving her much well-meant but impractical advice. “Downstairs,” chairs were broken haphazardly, and rickety tables, were being shoved in place, and the organ was being carried all over the room, as Father and “Marmee” March and Laurie beautified the living-room for the ceremony. Their imaginations quickly spread avelvet carpet over the cement floor, and changed ugly pipes into beautiful wallpapers. Beth and Amy March, who, having just arrived, wondered what everyone was doing and what everyone was waiting for. Upon arrival, John Brooke, the handsome groom, was asked to see his bride, but was hastily chased away by Jo, who quoted superstitious which he failed to hear.

Finally, Beth went to her organ, and at the first strain of the wedding march and the entrance of Meg attended by Jo and Amy, a reverent and solemn silence fell over the little group. Laurie gave the bride away as the father removed the service. When it was over, congratulations were showered on all the happy couple and Louis Carson and Frank Baumann (rather, Mr. Brooke, and Mr. March) took advantage of the situation by signing Joanne Weaver’s (oh, I mean Meg March). The party then proceeded to the garden for refreshments, and with various feelings portrayed on their faces—Jo feeling rather weepy but rebelling against droopy scenes; Beth, wishing all the happiness in the world to her beloved sister; Amy, wondering whether to laugh or cry; Laurie, hoping that someday he will be as happy as Meg and John; Aunt March, trying in vain to hide her sentimental feelings; and Marmee and Father, losing a daughter but happy over gaining a son. And there we leave our “Little Women” and their realistic “improvised” scene from the book.

Wildred Rosenbaum, State High Class of 1938, will be one of 25 ushers for the Associated Students’ spring play, Mills College, California, March 15-16. Tryouts for the honor were held before a committee of three students. Ushers for the play are as important as models for show. They are chosen for posture and their ability to wear formal dress. The play to be performed is, “Brief Music” by Emmet Lavery.

Club Notes

The State High Girl Reserves are planning a candy sale immediately following spring vacation. This is a part of a project to test the skill of its members.