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State Highlights 3/22/1940

Western State High School

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**State Highlights**

**VOLUME II**

**KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN, MARCH 22, 1940**

**Number 11**

**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, widow of Dr. Harrison, who in his book "An Arab in Arabia" has related his experiences 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 Muscul. She worked mainly among the Arabian women and also aided her husband, Dr. Harrison, in his 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 Anesthesia, as long as people like rhythm in their life, he has a good knowledge of what music can be classified under one difficult, in fact, is not work at all, but a hobby.

**N.B.C. Plans Program**

By Bill Canine

Pilgrimage of Poetry N. B. C. Blue

March 24 - Eugene Field
March 31 - Joaquim Miller
Great Plays N.B.C. 2:00-3:00 p.m.
March 24 - W. Fitch's "Captain Jinks"
March 31 - Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
March 25 - Charles Reade.

**VINCENT LOPEZ INTERVIEWED; POPULAR "MUSIC-MAKER" DISCLOSES INTERESTING SIDELIGHTS 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 puts 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 been attained only after long hours of serious practice; when a small boy, Lopez used to practice, at least, six hours every day and although he is now an expert, he still spends much time in practice.

During his twenty years of "music making," Vincent Lopez has seen three styles of music hold down the public's fancy. All three, "crude jazz," "refined music," "swing," he believes can be classified under one heading, "rhythm." He maintains that as long as people like rhythm in their music there will be swing.

An interesting thing about this band is its avoidance of war songs in their repertoire. According to Lopez, the band strives 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 make 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. Then they "plug" it; 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're 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 commoner be informed that 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 all the songs he has seen come and gone 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 interlocutor was from the New York Times, rather than "The Highlights." Kalamazoo appreciated his art and will welcome him any time he chooses to return.

**CHOIR MEMBERS WENT TO SEE "THE GONDOLIERS"**

On March 14, thirty-five of the choir members went to Kalamazoo to see the opera, "The Gondoliers," which was presented by the Senior High School of that city, under the direction of Mrs. Verna H. Luther.

Mrs. Leoti Britton and Miss John Hoke spearheaded the group.

**FISHERS' CLUB HEARS TALK**

Mr. J. A. Tooley from Miller and Boerman's Shop talked to the Fishers' Club on Monday, March 11. Mr. Tooley is an expert fly caster.

**SYNOPSIS OF THE PEP RALLY PROGRAM**

March 26 - Assembly (In Arabia)
March 21 - Good Friday recess
March 22 - Radio Debate over WKZO
March 19 - Program by Speech Class over WKZO
March 22 - 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 Arabia) by Mrs. Paul Harrison
March 26 - Whirling Dervish Visitng Day
March 29 - Extemporaneous Speaking Contest
March 30 - Girls' Intra-Mural Basketball Games
April 2 - Final Declamation Contest
April 3 - Masquers present "Little Women" at the Civic Theatre
April 5 - Play after play
April 5 - Spring Vacation Begins
April 15 - End of Spring Vacation.
Mary Lou Stephenson
Betty Schultz, George Hilliard, Jean Strother, Martha Williams, and Mary Stanley.

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.

Let us take, for instance, our radios. Are you courteous in the use of this vital part of our worldly contact? Do you find it necessary to listen to your favorite program just when someone else is striving to read, rest, or study? Do you let it blare to the household at all hours of the night? Someone may be trying to sleep, you know. Does your family enter into a nightly row over who's going to listen to his favorite program?

If these questions sort of hit close to home, let's stop a minute and consider just how discourteous we may be trying to sleep, you know, get out of school. Courtesy, one of the greatest assets, can be gained in: high school.

“Wouldn’t your Radio Manners”, one of the radio programs of the Boys’ Business Association, is designed to help you observe the guidelines of courtesy in using radio.

ENGLISHMAN WRITES AN AMUSING SATIRE

Maxine Barger, a junior, has a hobby which seems an unusual one for a girl, but one which is certainly absorbing. She often spends her Saturday drawing plans for houses. This fact alone might not seem so unusual, except that Maxine really does it very painstakingly.

Last year, in a class of architectural drawing in which she was the only girl, she learned about the signs used for windows, doors, and outlets for electricity. She is careful to plan all these correctly, and even goes so far as to plan the heating and plumbing as well as the exterior of the house. She has 10 or 12 floor plans which she has drawn, including the plans for a two-story garage. Maxine says it was her mother who first interested her in her hobby, and who helped her get started.

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. 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 initiated 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 are at a premium and secondly borrowing pencils leads to mental conflicts and discarded 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), or a "Learn" too much 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 freshmen or the card files had to go. Some how they retained the freshmen. (Capitalists!)

The time out while we repair our libraries, we've eliminated the old system (we just know you're bored) for you. Now bear with us while we give the new system a going over. Under this innovation, metal tags and similar to those meted out by the Public Library are given to all corners, college students, extension students, high school students and even freshmen. A person choosing to take a book over night presents his card and receives the book without further ado. Cards may be obtained 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 drawback, however, to this Utopia. We keep metal clips on the cards the seem to fascinate students; they just sit and look at them with a wistful gleam in their eyes and naively mutter, "And they're so young! But it matters little. Age, race, or creed—all suffer, all are victims of "Citlomaniac". 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 they look, take heed you become a "Citlomo- nian".

So come and succumb every last one of you... Pax voles.

This has been a Blue Network feature article. Do you want more?

If so, tell us; if not, read the "Tater 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 destruction of China, and the overthrow of Greece.

"Holmespin"

Girls Reserve 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.C.A. Winma Miller is in charge of planning the party.

She Prims to Conquer—But Her Grades Are Low

By Robert Malaney

She talks like her brother LeMar. She surely did carry it too far. She powdered her nose and painted her lips, and even freshmen. A person choosing to take a book over night presents his card and receives the book without further ado. Cards may be obtained 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?)

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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 McLaughlin, Dick Slusser, Joan Gerpheide, and Ted Parfet, left to right, are the ones trying to figure 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 class A tennis tournament.

Prospects for baseball are also very good. Only three boys, Russ Elliot, pitcher, Dick Leiter, 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 the year’s team. Everyone except Harold Pilkkaart is still eligible to swing the clubs for State High.

The track prospects, while not as good as in the other sports, still has 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 getting 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, ready and rugged enough for all action.

Towards 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 romped 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 bye, the State High boys snapped into action with a sizing offensive that bewildered the St. Joe cagers and set up an early 9-2 lead which never was broken.

Ken Stillwell opened the scoring with a one-handed push 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 Boettcher.

The scoring was evenly divided among the five boys of the State High team. High point honors of the evening, however, fell to Lee Witbanks of St. Joe who pipped up 12 points, his nearest rival being Gary Koopmans with 10. In the last four 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 a most unusual basketball player. He never saw a baseball 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

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 St. Joseph game, were off form in the finals. Stillwell was held without a point and Mulder had but four points.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADS EXPECTING TO TAKE 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 students is 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 more proficiency 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 Gerpheide, Martha Gillmore, Hugh Travis, Robert Dormott, Robert Travis, Louis Porter, Paul Staake, Barbara Blason, and Tommy Todd.

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 Thursday for the purpose of promoting model building. Two State High juniors, Sam Pols and George Gerpheide, 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 to their 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 Hacklok
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 — Evrl Alford

Final Contest April 2

On Friday, March 15, the eliminations for the declaration contest were held, from three to five. The four winners, Mary Carol Martin, Dorothy S. Bender, Connie Sargent, and Peggy Van Haften, were picked by the judges, Mr. Albert Boettcher, who is the student teachers' advisor. These finalists will be in the State High assembly at Watwood Hall on April 2. The other participants were Grace Boermeyer, Larry Burdick, David Gaus, Eugene Grasshorn, Marilyn Hagerman, Davie Martin, Sally Mongrov, Ronald Meyers, Robert Northrup, Jack Woods, Phyllis Rakfit, Allen Ray, and Morris Stimson.
Mrs. Robert C. Mosley
Discussed the European Situation at P.D.Q. Club

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

The discussion was carried on relative to the present wars and possible future alliances. She stated that in her opinion that in all probability there would be a United States of Europe. Mrs. Mosley gave some very interesting facts about the Russian plane squadrons, the feeling toward the Russians and Fins, the economic and diplomatic situation of war and the morale of soldiers and of the civilians.

During the discussion Mrs. Mosley also talked of the European radio program in which she appeared. She recently appeared on a radio program to answer questions about the situation. She began the discussion with illuminating questions and answers. Later the students had an opportunity to ask questions of particular interest to them personally.

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