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State Highlights 3/30/1949

Western State High School

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Laughter Increases As Father Eludes Baptism

This scene from Life With Father is typical of the many hilarious episodes which come in rapid-fire succession from the time the curtain goes up at 8:20 P.M. Thursday, March 31, until it comes down Saturday, April 2, at the end of its 3-night run at the Little Theatre.

The central plot revolves around Mother's (Betsy Davis) efforts to get Father (Howard Morrison) baptized. But "having a minister splash water on him at his age" is just too much for father, and so the conflict ensues and develops to the end. Father's attempts to reform Vinnie into an efficient bookkeeper also adds much entertainment.

The repeated visits of Cousin Cora (Dawn Birch) and her young friend Mary Skinner (Jackie Slaughter), raise Father's ire, but Mary's relationships with Clarence Jr. (Bob Wood) lend romantic interest.

The production is directed by Mr. William Sack, assisted by student director, Mr. Harry Hoyt.

Tom Murray is the student business manager assisted by Julia Strong, Gaylord Kitchen, and the Masquers club. Miss Elinor Thorne is the student-teacher advisor.

In charge of costumes are student-teacher Mrs. Rice, and Shirley Gary, student chairman. Their committee is composed of Zelma Albert, Harriett Logan, Cleora Fletcher, and Bette French. Sue Ralston is acting as chairman of the props committee. Her helpers are Carolyn McLaughlin, Jane Smith, Jane Williams, Joe Spicketts, Winston Wessels, Ann Eldridge, Marilyn Morris and Nancy Strome.

The art classes have given a great deal of support by making posters and painting the set. Stage-crew chief is Steve Davis, assisted by Barb Hughes, Roger Mills, Pat Bloom, Clare Mische, Clinton Drummond, Jim Hockje, and Ruthmary Persons.

Electricians for the production are Art West, Clinton Drummond, and Jim Hockje. Mr. Keigly, student-teacher in the mechanical arts department, is helping with the carpentry.

S H Instrumentals Place Second in Annual Festival

Under the direction of Ralph Wells and Clarence Williams, the band and orchestra both received a two rating at the Southwestern Michigan Band and Orchestra Festival Friday, March 25, held at Western Michigan and Kalamazoo College. Forty bands and orchestras gathered here from all over southwestern Michigan.

Bands and orchestras are classified as one, two, three, four, or five, a one rating giving permission to go to the state contests. After having received a three rating two years in a row, the band was pleased to gain a two rating this year. They were also pleased to have good weather this year, contrary to most years.

The band and orchestra played four pieces, one sightreading, one which was required from everyone, a march for the band and a string number for the orchestra, and one selected number.
Better Dances Are Possible!

Two weeks ago, the canteen board reported that a raise of ten cents to the admission charge was being considered, for the reason that, inspite of the seemingly large crowd and Community Chest subsidy of $2,000, attendance has fallen off to such an extent that the $60 cost for armory rental, the 80-dollar orchestra fee, and the maintenance liabilities are scraping the bottom of canteen funds.

Pat Mitchell, Student Council social committee chairman, discloses that State High rarely reaps profits from a school-sponsored party, but plans to end up in the red anywhere from twenty to one-hundred and some dollars on a dance.

Looking more closely at the situation, we see that both the school and the canteen dances are suffering for lack of support. We listen enviously as parents and other teenagers tell of school parties which no-one would miss for the world—dances which are FUN BECAUSE EVERYONE COMES!

Competition with the canteen, games, and so forth is so keen, that it is practically impossible to plan a school dance. The difficulties of trying to find a free date for our annual turnabout is evidence of this situation.

Perhaps, if the canteen were held every other week—and GOOD SCHOOL DANCES were to fill in the gaps—there would still be the same amount of dances only there would then be enough support for both organizations to operate more efficiently and put on bigger and better parties. Anyway, it’s something the Inter-school Council, and the rest of us, might be thinking about.

The Red Cross dance, “Buttons and Bows” will be held in the women’s gym on April 9th from 8:30 to 11:30. Music will be furnished by the swing band.

A committee from the student council, together with Mr. Deur and Mr. Fleiss, is planning to explain to students of the 211A lunchroom what problems are present and what is necessary to remedy the trouble.

On May 2, 3, and 4th, the National Company will bring the well-known stage success Oklahoma, to the Central Auditorium here in Kalamazoo. Mail orders will be accepted starting April 14th, and the box office will open on the 18th. Prices will be $1.20 to $4.20 for all night performances and the matinee on Wednesday afternoon ranges from $1.20 to $3.00.

Tentative plans are now being formed by the “Who’s New Club” to sponsor a Vocational program for all State High Seniors. This meeting is set for the evening of April 13 in one of the campus buildings.

State Painters Rate High in Art Show

Never let it be said that Michelangelo was the only great painter in the world. State High students have put some claim to that title.

Recently Miss Paden’s art class had their water-color paintings sent to Detroit to be judged in the yearly art competition of high school students, and the Blue and Gold entries are doing pretty well. Five paintings have been accepted and will be on exhibition in the Seventh Michigan Regional Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition from February 28th through March 12th. William Page, Ruth Plonke, Suzanne Gilbert, Dorothy Jabcon, and Fred Meek are the artists whose paintings have been accepted.

After the exhibit, all selected works will be forwarded for the National High School Art Exhibition in the Fine Arts Galleries, Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa. All of the above entries have the opportunity of selection.

The paintings are water colorings consisting of trees, nature, and so forth. Nice going, kids, let’s hope your paintings go all the way. * * *

Annual Luncheon Scheduled May 19

On Thursday, May 19, the Student Council will again sponsor the annual Monitor-Highlights luncheon. It will be held from 12:30 until 2:00 in the recreation room of the First Presbyterian Church. All monitors, student council members of both semesters, and the Highlander and Highlights staffs are invited to attend. These people will be excused from their 12:30 classes and should go to the church as soon after their 11:00 classes as possible. The recreation room is in the basement of the Church School house.

Plans are now being formulated under the supervision of the following committee heads:

Jackie Kingsscott, Program chairman;
Julia Strome, Food chairman;
Joyce Perry, Decorations chairman.

Further plans will be announced by the Student Council at a later date.

Literary Highlights

Ann Eldridge

How would you react if you discovered by chance that you were part Negro? In Sinclair Lewis’ book “Kingsblood Royal” Neil Kingsblood, a thirty-two year old veteran of World War II, lost his job, was forced from his home along with his wife and little daughter, was scorned and avoided by former friends and associates because he by chance discovered that he was 1-32 part Negro.

Sinclair Lewis has presented an example of racial intolerance in a highly interesting and informative way in this recent novel. Each character has been made to exemplify one of the various points of view on the racial problem. The slightly improbable plot moves along quickly and makes good reading, although the book is not considered to be the highest grade literature.
Previous Honors Revealed in Past
—Jim Russel—

I year ago —
State Hi bowed to the powerful Fort Wayne track team in an indoor meet.
Tom Woodworth was put on the All-City team.
The Cubs opened the baseball season. Vandenberg hurled a six-hitter.

* * *

3 years ago —
Prospects for spring sports are good. Baseball and tennis teams look like championship teams.

* * *

7 years ago —
Dave Arnold takes over as coach after Frank Noble joined the Army.
Arnold will guide the Cubs spring sports.
Schedules for spring sports were announced.

* * *

9 years ago —
State high placed two men on the All-City team. They were Allen Mulder and Ken Stillwell.
Spring sports open. The Cubs looked forward to the all-sports trophy. If they do well the rest of this year they should get it.

STATE HIGHLIGHTS

Spring Sports
Begin Practice And Await Season Opening

Golf prospects are in good shape this year. All but one of last year's All-City squad which finished second in the Big Seven and third in the regional are returning. The lone absentee is Don Hendricks who has moved to Chicago.

Heading the list are co-captains, Phil Fast and Jack Hill. Fast was the regional medalist last year with a 78. and Hill consistently picked up points for the Cubs. Other returnees are Jack Rowe and Joe Zitney. An outstanding prospect is John Gelder, much improved over last year.

ON THE CINDER TRACK . . .

Track men also share the spring sports spotlight. While it is still too early to judge to a great extent, last year's five returning lettermen are expected to form a nucleus for this season. Bill Page is reporting back for the dashes, Bob Smith for the 440. Al Ryan for the hurdles, Roger Burns for the shotput and John Smith for the hurdles and both the high and broad jumps. Promising newcomers seem to be Hadley Osborn, Marshall Brenner, Ken Sherman, and Barney Fowler, the latter to divide his time between baseball and track.

Coach Richmond reports the team is awaiting the arrival of warmer weather since indoor activities are necessarily limited.

ON THE TENNIS COURT . . .

Everything looks bright on the tennis front however. Six of last year's Class A state championship teams return to help the Cubs defend their title this spring. Jim Orwin, Steve Fast, and Bob Dunbar, all state finalists, will be aided by lettermen Bob Russel, Bob Dalm, and Bob Van Beck, while Bob Pyne, Garrett Kruizenga, and Paul Deal won minor letters last year.

Much is expected of Conrad Fischer, present Michigan boys' champion, who is seeking a singles berth, and Jim Russel, sophomore tryout.

I wonder how a tennis match between Bob Russel and Sue Ralston would turn out. Personally, I'd place my bets on Sue.

* * *

Gardenias and garlic—Gardenias to Jim Orwin and Tom Woodworth for making the all-city team. Garlic to the person's who picked the class C all-state team for not including Dave Scott.

* * *

This year the baseball team will hold their annual game with the track team. Last year the cinder-men went down to defeat, 11 to 3. I think the baseball team should have a track meet against the track team.

Spring To Meet Allegan
On Diamond April 7

The State High baseball team will meet the Allegan High School nine at Allegan on Friday, April 7, in the curtain raiser for both teams. The Cubs topped last year's contest on the Allegan diamond by a 4 to 1 score as Len Vandenberg bested Allegan's Jerry Gilpon in a pitching dual. With Gilpon gone, State High will be favored but the potent Allegan hitting power could turn the tables, Coach Fred Stevens' main worry is in filling two vacant outfield posts, but Chuck Malthby and John Smith have shown enough hitting power and fielding ability to rate the starting assignments along with Bob Dunbar, only returning outfielder from last year's team.

The infield is no problem for Coach Stevens: all are veterans, Bob Wood at third, Larry Moran at short, Martin Braden at second, and Barney Fowler at first. The Cubs have shown a real batting punch in practice sessions and could develop into quite a hitting club. Either Vandenberg or Clair Kirkipatrick will start on the mound for the Cubs with Tom Woodworth behind the plate.

A return game will be played in Kalamazoo later in the season. The game at Allegan will get under way at 3:30 and it is hoped that as many students as possible will make the trip.

How Well Do You Know Your Sports?

Here's a short quiz. If you can get them all right, you know your State High sports very well. The answers are upside down for your inconvenience.

1. How many know when our first baseball game is?
2. Who is captain of this year's tennis team?
3. Ten to one you can't remember the record of our basketball team this past season.
4. Can you name the four head coaches we've had in the last six years?

ANSWERS —

1. It's in the All-Odern, 12th issue, April 7.
2. It's God and Alan Rudolph.
3. It's 9-6.
4. They are Frank Noble, Dave Hey, Bob Scott, and Bob Miller.

Sport Notations
by Bob Wood

Here is a chance for all you sport fiends who think you know it all, to test your brains. Babe Ruth has the homerun record with 60. Now can you tell me what player came closest to that mark? Do you know what major league holds the distinction of winning the batting crown with the highest average? Answers will be in next issue.

* * *

Ralph Miller and Don Brown, grads from State High, will soon leave for the minor leagues to begin spring training.

* * *

This year the baseball team will hold their annual game with the track team. Last year the cinder-men went down to defeat, 11 to 3. I think the baseball team should have a track meet against the track team.

* * *

It is rumored that Sue Ralston will play on State's tennis team this spring. She might improve the Cubs' chances.
April and Antics
To Astound All

Hey, Gang! It won't be long until our crazy antics of all year will be legally accepted. That's right—it's April Fool's Day! All the usual goofing around in the halls will be right in style, and I'm sure with all the practice we've had all year, we ought to be able to out-do the college.

Can't you just see Mr. Sebaly and Dr. French playing ball in the halls at noon? Or maybe Mrs. Britton roller skating around the track. Mr. Cooper might be seen sliding down the banisters and Mrs. McKinney reading a cheap novel and Miss Burns a funny book. We probably won't see Miss Steketee, for she'll be skipping, but Dr. Bryan will be here with his hounds, no doubt. Mr. Snow and Mr. Hackney will be conducting a raffle with Mrs. Armitage selling root beer and pretzels.

You don't believe it? Just hear her April one and you will see!

Frightened Seniors Flee
As Tape-Measure Follows

"I've got ya!"
"Leave me alone, Virginia!"
"I want to show you something . . ."
"No! I don't want to go! Virginia, let go of my head!"
"I'm the victim!"
"Stop pushing me, Virginia!"
"Virginia, what are you doing? You're counting backwards."
"Who's doing this, you or me?"
"But I'm the victim!"
"So What? ? ?"

Does this make sense to you? NO! But just ask the nearest senior. He's bound to understand. Come June 18th you'll know too. Yes, this is the week for the annual "Cap and Gown" confusion, so if you see Virginia Jarmen, be nice. She's almost a Cunningham after eighty—some measurements.

Help! State High invaded by crows!
At least that is what it sounds like within any near vicinity of these "Aarpi" freshmen.

My how we enjoyed Bob's fire extinguisher demonstration! That CO2 really has power—enough to knock a dish of burning paper into the waste paper basket.

Does Al Ryan have a fatal fascination to Betty?

Ann Wise must be in a nervous state lately. But then spring does affect one—especially in the cafeteria!

Quite a slumber party at Lynn's the other night. Nothing like "staying up" til 7:30 in the morning. Surprised you, girls, made it to school Monday!

Dick Curry and Jim Hoekje certainly have fun with the tape recorder. Barbara Hughes might be shocked if she ever heard it played back.

Theme Songs:
Graydon Meints and Jim Russel—"Cigarettes, Whiskey, and Wild Wild women.

Herta Payson—"I'm forever blowing bubbles."
Mollie to Shirley—"I don't want him, you can have him, he's too fast for me."
Jill Gannaway—"Pennies from Heaven" (Hi-Y Carnival Sweetheart contest).
Mrs. McKinney—"If you aren't quiet, I'll make you paraphrase that poem."
Bette French—"Two loves Have I."
...Marilyn Carlsen—"Who's Sorry Now."
Pat and Pat—"This is always."
John R.—"Gotta Be this or That."
John Gelder—"Don't Be That Way."
Fred Hubbell—"Feels too big for de Bed."

Whilst thumbing through page after page of Biology terms I stumbled on this little gem of wisdom. An XY-LEBORUS! So I went around asking various people the following question: What would you do if you were introduced to an XYLEBORUS?

Following is what some people replied:

Fred Hoyt—Kill it and have it for a Sunday dinner.
John R. Smith—Find out what its musical range was.
Paul Deal—Ask it for a date.
Mr. Wells—Have it set them up for the house.
Ted Klinger—Hug it.
Franilyn Cooley—Stand and stare with my mouth open.
Pete Lindquist—Tell it to DROP DEAD TWICE.
Mrs. Vincent—Kiss it on both cheeks. (Tut,tut, Mrs. Vincent—Ed. Note).
Harriet Logan—I'd scream.
Barbara Hughes—I'd take it home with me.
Ken Lewis—Ask it for its record of Old Mother Hubbard by Lewis and Louis.
Pats Paahalek & Coffield—I'd ask it what school it came from.
Pat Mitchell—Ask it if it would care to go to the turnabout.
Tom Woodworth—I'd leave.
Gaylord Kitchen—Ask it if it was going with anybody.

For the enchantment of those who don't know what that is, an xyleborus is nothing more than a common wood beetle.

State Highlights

FACE VALUE
All men are alike; they must have different faces so we can tell them apart.

NICE TRY
An alibi is something a boy hopes his girl will believe anyway.

SAME DIFFERENCE
Love affairs are all alike; it is only the people who are different.

If it wasn't for the optimist the pessimist would never know how happy he isn't.

THE PHILOSOPHER
If you tickle yourself, you can laugh when you like!