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State Highlights 11/23/1949

Western State High School

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State Highlights

VOLUME XI

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 23, 1949

NUMBER 4

"Lou" Woodworth, D.A.R. Pilgrim

By vote of the girls of the senior class and the faculty, Mary Lou Woodworth has been elected as this year's D. A. R. Pilgrim.

The qualifications set for the candidates include integrity, leadership, patriotism, and character. With these in mind, each girl and faculty member chose three girls whom they felt possessed these characteristics. As a result of these votes, Mary Lou was placed first, while Jill Gannaway and Mary Fopeano were second and third choices.

Mary Lou, representing State High, will go to Flint, Michigan, to compete in the state finals.

Staff Listens for Vox of the People

Beginning with the next issue of the Highlights, anyone who wishes, may submit an article they have written for printing. It may be a feature, that is, fourth page material, your opinion on the latest school controversy, that theme you're proud of, or anything in which you think the rest of the school might be interested.

Articles should be put in the Highlights box by the first Monday following the Wednesday the paper comes out. This is necessary so that we may meet the deadline with the print shop.

In case more than one article is submitted for each issue of the paper, the one that is considered the best written and of widest interest will be printed.

Debators Open Season

The State High debate squad opened its season against Niles on Friday, Nov. 11 and came through with one win and one loss. The affirmative team of Dick Curry and Hadley Osborn was successful in dropping the Niles negative team. However, the State High negative team of Carol Cessna and Dorothy Jabcon fell before the arguments of the Niles affirmative.

In order to qualify for the state tournaments, a debate squad has to win six out of eight debates. This means that State High has to win five out of the remaining six debates and the teams will really be on their toes and talking when they meet Battle Creek on November 29.

Thermometer Rises

The enthusiasm of State High students for a magazine sale was sparked by Mr. Byron West's speech launched in the assembly Tuesday. Some of the high points of the talk are listed below.

A Mills Constellation Juke Box can be purchased at half price, if the school earns enough money to buy it. However, a part of the profit will be used for the Junior-Senior Prom. Part of the money earned by seventh and eighth graders will help pay for more band uniforms.

Here are a few suggestions that can be used to pep up your sales talks: Subscriptions may be given as gifts, and they may be renewed. A new short news magazine that is proving popular is "Quick." For families with six to eight year olds, you might mention "Jack and Jill." Don't forget to tell them the time they'll save from going to the newsstand every month or two weeks.

If you sell seven dollars or more, you have a chance at a Bulova wrist watch, and a Philco radio. There's a Parker Pen and Pencil set for the highest salesman, and a magazine subscription for the second highest.

A choice of pearls, a compact, a bill-fold, a hunting knife, and a handbag are waiting for the high homeroom salesmen. The free bus trip to a basketball game and Hershey bars for high homerooms aren't to be forgotten either.

The latest results:

Highest homerooms have been:

201A, 203A.

Highest salesmen:

Polly Allen, Matt Peelen.

The total so far is:

\$2100

Don't forget those prizes, kids! Get your feet inside those doors and start selling!

Christmas Cards Come to Life

The next meeting of the PTSO will be Thursday, December 8, at Walwood Hall.

Entertainment will be furnished by the Modern Dance Club, under the direction of Mrs. Helen Brown. The dancers will carry out a Christmas theme by depicting pictures on Christmas cards. Some of the skits will be humorous, others serious.

Dancers taking part in the presentation are Lola Bennet, Lynn Tuberty, Jane Williams, Eve Aube, and Jackie Slaughter.

All students are invited to come and bring their parents.

Nov. 28, You Tell Who Will Yell

This year a definite procedure for electing cheerleaders was used. Those who wished to go out practiced with the veteran leaders on Tuesday and Thursday. They then tried out before the Pep Committee on Friday, and were narrowed to 13 candidates. These will perform at the assembly Monday, November 28, with the entire school voting for eight. Everyone could try out, including seniors, because these leaders are for the duration of this school year only. Next fall, the same plan will be followed and cheerleaders will be elected for the 1950-51 season.

To guide you in making the wisest choices, these rules have been prepared.

1. The cheerleaders must know all the yells and be able to lead them well. No standard actions and motions are necessary if those used fit the cheer.

2. All uniforms must be alike. The Pep Committee is trying to raise money to purchase them.

3. The elected cheerleaders must practice at least twice a week, together.

Freshmen Elect Defreese

The Freshmen have started their school year off in style by electing their class officers for this year. The masculine vote is very much evident in the following: President, Dick Defreese, Vice-President, Ken Fricke, and Secretary, Gerald Minton. The treasurer had not been elected at the time of printing.

Dick Defreese came to State High from the Training School. There he held the position of Student Council President and thus is qualified for the high position to which he was elected.

The "Veep," Ken Fricke, attended Grand Prairie School before coming to State High. His duties there included being president of a school club.

Proving that boys, too, make capable secretaries, Gerald Minton was chosen to fulfill the duties of that office. He also came here from the Training School.

CALENDAR

Nov. 23—Pep assembly

Nov. 24-25—Thanksgiving holiday

Nov. 30—Clubs

Dec. 10—Monitor dance.

How're We Doing?

Don't worry. Nothing is wrong. In fact, I think generally our school is doing fine this year.

So our football season wasn't what the boys might have hoped. Does anyone remember when the support of our team was better? We've had some swell pep rallies and attendance at the games, though not as great as it could have been, wasn't too bad.

Our Student Council has worked smoothly and efficiently. Gaylord, Frank, Jill, and Paul should be commended for the hours spent performing the dozens of jobs, the results of which we just take for granted.

Committees, especially the Pep and Social, are bigger and more representative. We have made a profit on each of our dances, except, of course, the "Get Acquainted" party.

And there is Mr. Beloof and his Marching Band! Now the magazine sale is giving us the opportunity to buy the band uniforms, and a juke box of our very own. You don't have to be told what advantages these would have. Of course, they say that opportunity knocks but once, and raising that much money will take some labor on the part of everyone.

But I think that tomorrow when we are counting our blessings, we can be thankful for a pretty swell school, and be willing to put out quite a little for her.



If some member of the Highlights hands you a slip of paper with a lot of questions on it, don't be too surprised! We aren't trying to use your signature on one of our Highlights bills, but we are trying out a new system for the Inquiring Reporter. We hope by this method, used by many other schools, to have a more representative response.

Featuring Pat

A busy lass who came to us in the tenth grade is Pat Bloom. Music is her main interest. She is active in the band, orchestra, and has contributed generously to the choir. She is a member of the Junior Symphony. Pat plays marimba at various public gatherings such as the Grange meetings and also has played at the Masonic Temple. As a matter of fact, she has given lessons on the marimba! Pat says she credits all of her musical success to her mother who has given her many inspirations.



She is vice-president of Band home room and serves on the Citizenship committee. Pat is taking five subjects and is maintaining a B-average. Horses are her hobby, but she also swims, bowls, and enjoys all winter sports. She took part in the "Showboat Revue" on November 19, which entertained the soldiers at Fort Custer.

She has a great deal of school spirit and feels satisfied with the band's marching for Homecoming. She looks forward to even a better performance next year.

Pat plans to take four years of college at Western and then do graduate work in Tennessee in preparation for a veterinary career. — And that's Pat.

Just a gentle reminder that while the grades you received on Monday, November 14, don't matter too much to anyone but you, (and your parents), the grades you get next marking period go down on your record in the office and are really quite important.

Staff Selection System Set

If you would like to be on the Highlights staff next year, drop your name in the Highlights box over the trophy case in the main hall. This is the first step in new procedure of choosing new names of the staff.

The names found in the Highlights box will be submitted for faculty approval. From this group of faculty approved, the staff replacements for next year will be selected.

The final group chosen will be instructed in journalism by Miss Cleveland of the English Department, Mr. Cooper, sponsor of the Highlights and by some members of the Highlights staff. All of the group so instructed will become members of the staff.

Mermaids Aim, Lifesaving

The aquatic antics of the girls swimming classes seem to have caused a ripple of interest here on the hill-top. Miss Margaret Large, the instructor of these classes, and Miss Bernice Blackwell, her assistant, reported that the girls are all getting along well, and that there are hopes for completion of some Red Cross swimming tests in the future.

When Debbie Parker, a freshman, was asked what she thought of her eleven o'clock swim class, she said, "The water is cold, my hair gets straight, but I like it, and I'm learning a lot."

"The Long Christmas Dinner," by Thornton Wilder, is the Christmas play being put on this year. A cast of twelve people will portray the history of a family at Christmas time over a period of ninety years. Characteristic of the Wilder style, there will be no stage properties. Tryouts for the play, which is being sponsored by Masquers, were held on the 17th and 18th of this month.

If you have any clever pictures of either your classmates or of yourself that you would like printed in the "Highlander," please sign your name on the back of the pictures and give them to any Annual staff member. The pictures that are used will not be returned, but you will share the benefit of them with the rest of the school.

Remember the wonderful job the choir did in giving "The Pirates of Penzance" last year? Well, they've started work on this year's operetta, "The Gondoliers," which promises to be equally as good. Tryouts have not been scheduled as yet, but are expected to come up soon. Again this year, there will be student-help with the staging and lighting. The operetta, another Gilbert and Sullivan production, will be given on March 17 and 18, in the Little Theatre.

State Highlights

The STATE HIGHLIGHTS is published bi-weekly by the students of Western State High School.

Editor-in-chief	Mary Fopeano
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Art Editor	Pat Mable
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Oddities of '49" Football

By Dale Crawford

Looking back over the football season, we have memories other than those of the games. For instance, the referee stepping off one of the many penalties which John E. Smith was to receive and that innocent look on John's face.

Then there was Buchanan. How the boys worked that week. Coffield, Lindquist, Gelder, and Hubbell even went so far as to break up their tea parties to block the dummies. Speaking of conferences, Meek, Page, and Zitney found it awfully hard to break up their various ones and go to practice.

Who can forget Hill's passing? Why, it can be said he looked like Old Man Baugh. Don't forget "Steam engine" Knowlton with his scat back-speed. Remember how Sterner and Hoyt loved those pre-practice warm-up drills? It seems Hager has known quite a few players on other teams, 'cause he would say "Don't hit him too hard, He's my friend."

Along towards the end of the season the boys thought 'Bronco' Rhodes was going to take one of the dummies home with him. How can we forget Spitters. After 8 weeks of practice on the defense and offense assignments, he would go to Crawford just before the game and ask what he was to do. Then there was Ryan, who would come back in the huddle after each play yelling for the Hill to call 41.

McCrumb and some of the boys, mainly Seelye and Sterner, would go to the Little Mich every night after practice and try to decide how they were going to spend the weekend. Larry Smith even had an admirer at each practice.

Fred Meek sure did know the plays—the ones he made up. You have to hand it to John Smith, the way he waltzed around with the ball carriers that came around his end. As for the last game with Lakeview, I don't remember.

Athletes Work for Letters

Some friend of yours probably was or will be out there trying for his letter. Do you know what he has to do to get it?

To earn a varsity letter in football and basketball, the athlete must play 1-3 of the quarters the team plays; in baseball, 1-3 of the innings. In track, he must place in two meets (that was true last year, but Coach Bush may change that requirement this year). In tennis, he must play in six matches; in golf, two matches.

Participation in a varsity event, but not the required amount of time, gives the athlete a minor. No participation in a varsity event, but playing on a reserve team or remaining out for practice the rest of the year, results in a reserve letter.

All-Conference Team Chosen in Advance

With all attention focused on the arrival of basketball, the sports editors of the HIGHLIGHTS have chosen an all opponent team from the Big Seven Conference. It consists of five of the better players returning from last year's teams.

At center, we have Foster of Niles. In the forward positions, Ritter of Dowagiac and Pratt from South Haven seem to be the best. At the guards, we have picked Dorow from St. Joseph, and Topash of Buchanan.

After the season gets under way, we hope some of State High's players will exceed the performances of these players and earn a berth on the all-conference basketball team.

From Under the Bench

The basketball season will soon be upon us. Coach Allen Bush says, "We'll use the fast break style of play most of the time." The Cub prospects have been practicing hard every afternoon in the annex. The boys have been working vigorously to get in condition and learn the plays before the first game with Dowagiac on December 2.

The Cubs are out to improve on their mediocre record of last year. The boys feel that by better spirit and hard work, they can do better than last year's team.

Speedy Al Ryan was the leading scorer on the football team in the season just past. He crossed the goal line for 36 points. Jack Hill with his strong passing arm led the total offense.

Dick Cain is a former State High star who has been doing a wonderful job in college ball. He starred as quarterback on the Kalamazoo football team last fall and now is on the basketball team. He also is a top-notch racket wielder on "K's" fine tennis team. Dick won letters in all three sports while at State High. He was ranked nationally as a tennis player while he was in the Juniors.

Sixteen Game Cage Schedule Announced

December 2—Dowagiac, Here.
December 9—South Haven, Here.
December 13—Niles, There.
December 17—East Grand Rapids, There.
January 6—Buchanan, Here.
January 10—Three Rivers, There.
January 13—St. Joseph, Here.
January 20—Holland Christian, There.
January 27—Dowagiac, There.
January 31—Niles, Here.
February 3—Allegan, Here.
February 7—Holland Christian, Here.
February 10—Buchanan, There.
February 14—Three Rivers, Here.
February 17—St. Joseph, There.
February 24—South Haven, There.

Cubs Open Cage Season Dec. 2nd

The grand sport of football has passed out of the limelight with basketball rushing right in. Drills under our new cage mentor, Coach Allen Bush, began on November 16 with plenty of spirit shown by the candidates. The players and coaches alike are all looking forward to a season that will exceed that of past years' teams, so far as wins and losses are concerned.

The Cubs lost four of the starting five players by graduation, but the players lost were individualists, and their shoes will capably be filled with players of less ability, but with the desire for teamwork and a good attitude. Big "Red" Knowlton is the only regular returning from last year and he will be captain of this year's team. He will hold down the center position which he played last year. Joe Zitney, who saw a great deal of action when he became eligible at the change of semesters, will doubtless be a big help to Coach Bush. Frank Spitters and Steve Fast were also members of the varsity and will be among the leading candidates. Jim Pore, who isn't eligible until the second semester, will be of great use. Coach Bush can expect plenty of help from players coming up from the reserves. Among these will be Fred Hubbell, John Gelder, Pat Coffield, Jack Mindeman, and Jack Hill.

A sixteen-game schedule is on the card for the Cubs, with eight games home and eight away. The season opener will be played against Dowagiac at home on December 2, in Western's Gym. We hope the school will follow the team as well or better than football. The whole school extends to the basketball team of '49-50' their best wishes.

Seniors Play in Last Game

The last whistle of the pigskin season has blown an end to the football careers of fifteen of the Cub players. The losses include the whole starting backfield and three from the starting line.

The bucks that played their last Cub football game are Jack Hill and Fred Meek, quarterbacks; Al Ryan, Frank Spitters, and Bill Page, halfbacks; and Joe Zitney and Dick Seelye, fullbacks.

The linemen that depart are ends, Jerry Knowlton, John Smith, and Jim McCrumb; guards, Captain Dale Crawford, Skip Sterner, Bill Rhodes, and Larry Smith; and center Fred Hoyt.

These boys have been mainstays of the team all year long. There are several fine players who will come up from the reserves next year. Let's hope that they can do as well as several of the boys on this year's team.

Student Selects "Best Seller"

In my eager quest for knowledge, I have run briefly across a book called "Chemistry and You." The word "You" in the title at once attracted my attention, for anything concerning myself in print sets me aglow with renewed interest. But having skimmed through all the pages, I have found no mention of my name.

Still from a literary standpoint, the work is an interesting specimen.

The authors—a Mr. Hopkins, a Mr. Smith, a Mr. McGill, and a Mr. Bradbury—write with a fluent graceful style that leaves the reader lost in a world of confusion.

As in "Anna Karenina" by Count Leo Tolstoy, the characters have long seemingly foreign names. One of the authors, probably Mr. Smith, has attempted to ease this situation by the use of nick names, or, as he prefers to call them, formulas.

The main character, a Mr. Oxygen, is one of those individuals who can't seem to keep his nose clean. He has a very interesting psychological impulse to mess in the business of others. Although, as all people do, he has some good points, in the course of the story he brings complete ruin to several other characters by inducing them to take part in a sinister plot involving oxidation.

I do not recommend this book to people who shy away from looking at the unpleasant side of life, for the book contains several references to "big stinks" in the laboratory.

"Chemistry and You" was copyrighted in 1949 by Lyons & Carnahan. The printing is quite well done.

We Give Thanks...

T is for the turkey.
The biggest in the town.
H is for the heartiness
That helps to get it down.
A is for the apples
That fill the autumn store,
Now plentiful and ripe again.
Thank you God, once more.
K is for the kindness
That each of us has shared.
S is for the stomach-aches
That some of us must bear.
G is for the gravy
That everyone does take.
I is for the ice cream
That comes right with the cake.
V is for vacation
That comes with Thanksgiving, too.
I is for the interest
That holds the whole day through.
N is for the notice
For all these things we do.
G is for the Grace of God
That brings them right to you.

Highlights Hunt Heads

On Monday, the day dawned gray and sullen, and it proved later to be even more so. For each State High student was handed a blue card blocked off in squares. Each square contained a small ominous letter.

"How lucky," I thought, "were the people with large heads. Certainly they must have a lot of brains!"

In the Freshman class **Kay Peelen** is the smartest, for she has a head measurement of 23 1-2 inches.

Most people in our poll have brains measuring 22 inches in circumference. Among the Frosh, those who measure up to average mentality are **Al Hackman**, **Nanette Slavin** and **Ken Storey**.

Joe McCarthy's brains are the biggest in the sophomore class; they measure 24 inches. **Maynard Nieboer** ran a close second with 23. **Eva Aube** and **Dorothy Cartland** have 22 inches of report card material.

According to the results of our poll, the juniors are discovered to be the smartest class. **Shirley Gary** has 24 inches of grey matter, to tie with **Irene Emerson** for first place.

Ronny Chipps is almost as smart, possessing 23 inches of intellect.

Dale Crawford is the only smart senior around State High having a 24-inch skull. **Jane Smith** and **Fred Meek** both have 22-inch craniums. **Fred Meek** reached for his football helmet, but we managed to get the cold bare facts. **Joan Harbour** joins the possessors of 22-inch skulls.

As for me I rent my partial vacuum out to a family of moths. We are all aware of the fact that report cards aren't fair. In conclusion I must state that the largest and heaviest brain ever weighed and measured was that of an idiot.

On The Cob

He: "We certainly had a good time last night for ten cents."

She: "Yes, wonder what my little brother did with it."

* * *

Pa: "It's two o'clock. About time Jean's boyfriend went home."

Ma: "Now Pa, remember when we used to court."

Pa: "That settles it. Out he goes."

* * *

"Is your girl spoiled?"

"No, it's just the perfume she's wearing."

* * *

A little freshie cut in on a senior girl at a dance.

"Why did you cut in on me so abruptly?" she demanded.

"Well," he replied, "I'm working my way through college and your partner waved a five dollar bill at me."

Birthday Greetings



The 24th is a big day on Waverly Avenue, as it was just 17 years ago that "Brad" contributed his vote to raise the number of "Smith's" to 3. That same day in "34" Bill Persons was honored with the arrival of a little sister, Ruthmary. On the 25th the Pore family was increased by another little "Ford," commonly called "Jim." The Worden total was raised to 5 as Jackie made her appearance on the 25th of November.

Alberta Renbarger, a senior, celebrates on the 28th; while Coach Gill's hopes of a football star were answered on the 30th, when Don arrived. Jackie Andrus also made the last day of November an important one, 15 years ago.

The third of December, Louis Johnson weighed in at a mere 7 pounds. 17 years ago on the 4th of December, Minnie Myland was the center of attention on Fields St. Junior, Chuck Marble, celebrates his big day on the 5th, and last but not least 6 foot 2 inch Jack Mindeman appeared on the 5th, measuring exactly "12 inches."

Thus State High sports eleven students who made the calendar, from November 24 to December 5, all red letter days, a few years back.

Highways Menaced

Reports of screeching brakes and grinding gears, originating from the general direction of U. S. 12, give evidence of the progress made by the pupils enrolled in our Driver's Training Course.

If we could fortify ourselves securely with heavy, durable armor and invest in plenty of accident insurance, some of us brave and inquisitive individuals might venture down behind the stadium to catch a fleeting glimpse of our up-and-coming drivers.

We might see **Bill Hoyt** backing absent-mindedly into an unobtrusive stop sign, or **Nancy Doubleday** desperately attempting to move the stalled "Chevy" from the middle of the highway. Over there, **Joyce Dean** is busily counting up her hours spent behind the wheel, before she could move it, that is, and that couldn't be **Marlene Smith** changing the front tire! She claims it's just practice, but I'm still looking for the hole in that spare!