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State Highlights 2/1/1950

Western State High School

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New Senior Study

A new course, called "Social Problems", has been functioning for the past semester at two periods, 9 and 11 o'clock. It is open only to seniors and is equal to one credit in history when combined with Government. A class of this type is unusual in that it does not have a definite textbook, but several books have been suggested for use next semester. The purpose of the class is to aid the individual in his growth and attitude in living and in getting along with people. The methods used are planned in accordance with the size of the group, individual need, and group reaction.

Mrs. Saur, the instructor, has had a wide background in working with this type of class, and at present she is also teaching a similar course. The course next semester will have two new groups of Seniors and has decided upon the following as the probable units for study: Getting acquainted with each other (not a full unit, but as an introduction to the subject); Dating; Understanding Yourself and Others (including personality, juvenile delinquency, and reproductive organs); Marriage (including going steady, engagements, budgeting, etc.); and the Family.

Operetta Cast Chosen
Opening Night, Mar. 16th

Gianette ............ Mary Ann Tinkham* 
                Alene Waterworth* 
                Casilda ............ Alda Marie Seaver* 
                Duchess .......... Bernadine Paull* 
                Marco ............ Fred Hoyt 
                Guisepi ........... Dave Roth 
                Luiz ............... Steve Davis 
                Duke ............. Vern Ver Hage* 
                Antonio .......... Brad Smith* 
                Don Alhambra ....... Jim Brossreau* 
                Gilbert and Sullivan's gay and colorful operetta, "The Gondoliers," is now in full progress under the direction of Mrs. Leoti C. Britton, and the choir plans to give the operetta the 16th and 17th of March and has chosen the casts for the two different nights. The starred names are for the leads who perform on March 16th, since there is a double cast for the leads.

Seniors Lay Plans For Last Semester

This year, for the first time in the history of State High School, the senior class is planning its own graduation ceremony. Ann Elridge has been elected chairman of the graduation committee, which is trying to arrange a ceremony that will include more student participation. This committee has set up other committees which are in charge of the reception, flowers, music, and speakers.

Early in the year the senior class elected their officers: Jack Hill, president; Bob Smith, vice-president; Jane Smith, secretary; and Roger Mills, treasurer. These officers with the help of Mr. A. L. Sebaly and Miss Golda A. Crisman, faculty advisers, appointed the graduation committee and the following committees with their temporary chairmen:

- Class cards - Linda Howard, chairman.
- Farewell gift - Dick Curry, chairman.
- Assembly - Ted Klinger, chairman.
- Extra activities - Pat Mable, chairman.
- Band - Jerry Knowlton, chairman.

This committee hopes to arrange a toboggan party at Echo Valley some time in January or February. The cost would be $1.00 per person. The purpose of this party would be to raise the class spirit, rather than to make money.

Skip-Day - Frances Frey, chairman. It was originally hoped that the class could go on an excursion, but there is no chance of that, for the price is prohibitive. There were suggestions that the class go to Lake Michigan again, as has been done in previous years, or that the class take a trip to Detroit, Lansing, or Chicago.

At the last senior meeting, Roger Mills reported that there is $108 in the class treasury. The class made $25 earlier in the fall by selling the study hall desks.

"Revue" Date Set

On February sixteenth and eighteenth at 8:00 P.M., State High's third annual Blue and Gold Revue will be held at the Little Theater. This year's show is based on music throughout the last fifty years. Five acts containing a variety of talent will portray the decades between 1900 and 1950. The tickets for this show, which can be purchased from all band and orchestra members cost seventy-five cents.

An audition committee composed of band members and headed by Jim Brossreau has been selecting the performers for State High musical fantasy this year, as last year's modern dance club will have a part in the revue. Vocal and instrumental groups and dance soloists will also take part.

The band and orchestra under the direction of Mr. Elmer Bellof will play both novelty and semi-classical selections.

State High's dance band and also the "Pep" band, whose picture you saw in the last issue of Highlights, plan to take an active part.

"Double Feature" Billed

On Tuesday, February 14th, some students from State High will be on the roads to Niles and Dowagiac to present this year's exchange assembly. If you remember last year, both Niles and Dowagiac entertained us with programs, and now it is our turn to show them what we have to offer in the way of a good assembly.

Under the direction of Mr. Ray Deur and Mr. Alfred Hinkley, a show has been chosen from the try-outs which were held on the 14th and 15th of January. The show will be built around the theme of Winter Wonderland.

The main features will be the following:
1. Bradley Smith — singing "Because"
2. Carolyn Fox — dancing
3. Lorraine Hope and Claire Miehe — piano duet
4. Joanie Harbour — acrobatics
5. Mary Ann Tinkham — singing
6. Bill Persons — trumpet solo
7. Jill Gannaway and Shirley Loughead — singing "Ain't She Sweet"
8. Alene Waterworth — singing
10. Girls trio — "Londonderry Air"
11. Joan Biljum — dancing
12. Jack Hill and Jerry Knowlton — tonettes
Could somebody please teach me how to play canasta? I've tried so hard, but I can't learn. I've read the rules twenty times, but I still don't know what they mean. Dozens of people have tried to explain it to me, but I find myself holding a natural, while my opponent goes out. It's really awful.

The first time I played, I got taken in by a joker who told me the game was supposed to be played for a penny a point. You can imagine how much I lost. I had beginner's luck or I'd be in the poor house now.

I have the knack of forgetting how to play a card game as soon as I learn. If I could remember how to play rummy, I might have a foundation on which to learn canasta. The only card game I can remember is War. It'll beat anybody at that.

The game's making all my friends into enemies. My partners get mad when I give my opponents the pack with a natural canasta in it. I get all mixed up over scoring and the points needed to get on the board. I've lost loads of points because I threw down cards that I should've kept and kept cards I should have thrown down. It's pathetic, I'm telling ya.

As for the rules of the sport (for it is a sport the way they pick on me) I am completely and totally blank. Could somebody tell me how to freeze the pile? And what a meld is, I haven't the slightest idea.

I guess my salvation would be to have the game go back to where it came from, way down south in Argentina.

But it should be easier just to learn how to play. Won't somebody teach me? A cute blond with blue eyes maybe. Then I would learn.

From Under the Bench
By JIM RUSSELL

Congratulations are in order for me. I finally got a prediction correct. Yes, it was the Holland Christian game. I'm really happy. While I'm on the subject I'll stick'em in right here. I predict that the Cubs will knock over Allegan Friday, and Holland Christian next week. Allegan's just lucky and hasn't played any competition, and as for Holland, we beat 'em before and we can do it again.

The team got back on the ball after lapses in the St. Joe and Three Rivers games. In the Holland Christian thriller, the Cubs were sharp. Friday's game with Allegan will be a toughie. So far as I know the Tigers are undefeated.

The Reserve Team is coming along. They have some good boys who will help the varsity a lot next year. With better shooting they should win some more games this season. Their ball handling is very good.

Although there are no indoor meets, several of the track candidates have already started working out in the Men's Gym. Although John Smith, who earned most of our points, is gone, prospects are good. Al Ryan, Bill Page, and Mel Copeland are back to form the nucleus of the year's squad. Frank Nugent, transfer student, will help, too.

In case you're interested, the high scorer of the team, in the first eight games, is Jerry Knowlton with 65 points. He's followed closely by Steve Fast and Joe Zitney.

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Cagers Cut Up On Bus Trips

The bus trips out of town are sometimes very interesting. Haven't you always wondered if the other school teams behave as the State High lads do? It doesn't seem as if they could, but, then again, maybe their trips are very similar to ours.

The trip to Holland for instance. Jerry and Al were just as loud as ever, but everyone got a big kick out of their "Love-aily Bunch of Coconuts." It was plenty windy with his tall tales that always keeps everyone in good humor. One thing I've noticed, though, a few of the varsity boys always look up a drug store where they can send a post card home to a girl. There are about five girls who have cards postmarked from about four different towns.

There is plenty of good harmony on all the trips, especially if we win. After edging the "Dutchmen" 38-37, the bus rang all the way back with deep voices and numerous uncertain tenors and baritones. We ate lunches in the bus, put up by the cafeteria. All in all, the team certainly seems to have a lot of fun.
The STATE HIGHLIGHTS is published bi-weekly by the students of Western State High School.

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Feature Editor ......................................... Joyce Perry
Exchange Editor ....................................... Graydon Meints
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Last Wednesday we saw a sneak preview of the Exchange Assembly. Let's hope Niles and Dowagiac enjoy it as much as we did.

Some time next month there will be a dance at which the students will have a chance to vote between using the amplifier and the juke box. Be sure and attend so that you can vote for the future music at the dances.

We don't want to clutter our halls with the remains of our lunches. Please try and use the wastebaskets so that all of us don't go "Slippin' Around" on orange peels, etc.

The dance program that has been set up in 217A isn't going along too successfully. The records have to be furnished by the dancers. However, there are decks of cards. You can play Canasta.

If you would like any informal snaps you have to be used in this year's Highlander, please hand them to Billie Forbes or any other member of the Highlander staff. Childhood pictures of Seniors are also needed for the book.

We now have a doctor teaching band. Mr. Elmer Belof received his Doctor's degree recently from Columbia University.

Thanks to Mr. Hugh Hoebeke, Miss Crieman's 12:30 English class had a showing of war souvenirs. He demonstrated a grass skirt and compared some Japanese weapons with the American type.

Thanks for the new paint job! It's certainly an improvement. Pastel shades are very flattering.

Look What You're Missin'

How friendly are you? Seniors and Juniors, how many of the new students do you know? Freshmen and Sophomores, do you know all your fellow classmates and also the upper classmen? Or are you too busy with your own secluded group of friends to bother with anyone else?

We are striving for better school spirit at State. A smile and a friendly "hello" can go a long way toward this goal. If everyone feels he is an important part of State High, we'll soon have better co-operation and school spirit for all our games and dances.

Let's get the whole school participating in and working for school activities. You'd be surprised how well most of the kids are if you only take the time to find out. Let's make State High's a friendly policy.

Frances Frey

Dot Jabcon's Poem
To Be Printed in Annual High School Anthology

STELLAE NIVIS
Golden and Silvery
Pink
Jocund—
The sweeping air was intricate with such flight,
Twirling and Twisting
Spinning
Dancing—
This broad swift radiance dazzled
earth and air with lacy delight.
Blanketing each twig,
Coming with vast wings—
Leaving each swelling place glistening
To the lamenting music that Winter
sings.
No more stars are now in the air—
Just hushed and heaping pearliness everywhere.
Even the pine, fir, and hemlock—
The birch, elm, and oak were beautiful;
For their barks wore a cloak of ermine.
And yet—
There is no gold, no pink, no disguise to ruin or mar—
No more twirling, spinning, no more joyous dancing—
Just peaceful and the intricate winter
architect that has built—
This city of numerous ice stars.

Overall Dances Lead

A poll is easily taken, and the results often prove very interesting. Take dancing for instance—I've found that among the students of State High, overall dances lead three-to-one.

In the Senior class, the girls like all kinds of dances except Sadie Hawkins Day and Overall. This presents a problem, because the Senior boys prefer overall dances to anything else. Of course, the Senior boys could always get together with the Freshmen girls! For among these young misses, overall and Sadie Hawkins are tied for top honors.

Sock hops, Sadie Hawkins Day, and overall dances, lead the Sophomore class, while square dancing brings up the rear. Interesting to note, Sophomores like Sock hops. But the Seniors, Juniors, and Freshmen were very vehemently against them.

In the "new idea" department, several people mentioned a Movie Dance. For the benefit of those who don't know what this is, (including me), a motion picture of a big name band, complete with the actual sound track, is shown on the stage. Sounds as if it would be fun. At least, it would certainly be dark.

One "anonymous" Junior boy expresses the wish for an overall dance that was "strictly stag." Maybe I'm old fashioned, but it doesn't appeal to me in the least.

Littig Boosts Net Hopes

State High's tennis team will get a big boost this spring in the services of sophomore John Littig. John, a transfer student, has been ineligible for sports in his fall term, but will be on hand, as he modestly puts it, "to make the tennis team." Don't let him fool you, though, for he's no slouch on the court.

Last year he teamed up with former Cub Conrad Fischer to win the boys' doubles' crown in the River Forest, Illinois, tournament and to reach the doubles' finals in the rugged national meet held here in Kaza. John does all right in singles too, as he was a semifinalist in the Michigan State Tournament and got through several rounds of play in the nationals.

John went to the Training School, and to high schools in Connecticut, Santa Monica, and Los Angeles before coming back to State High. He doesn't have definite plans for the future yet, thinks State High is the best school he's been in, and wants to go to college out west.
Exan Daze
By DOT CARTLAND

The twenty-ninth now rolls along,
Tomorrow are exams!
I gather all the books I own,
And then my locker slams.

I, with dismal countenance,
Sit down before my battered books,
Prepared for careful study.

Well, girls, start polishing up
on how to act like a perfect gentleman,
for in a couple of weeks you will be
required to do just that.

Prepared for careful study.

Ladies Become Gentlemen

Do you know anyone who has a birthday in early February? Have you ever wondered what their fortunes were like? We did — so we consulted Zizi, mistress of the crystal ball. Here are her observations.

Feb. 3 - (Fred Hoyt, Jim Toornman) - You should be married early in life to someone born in January, June or October. You are kind, generous, good-natured and have excellent self-control. You love pets and animals.

Feb. 4 - (Joe Zitney) - You are very frank and scrupulously honest. You have a strong personality and command respect from all with whom you come in contact. You are fond of children.

Feb. 9 - (Jackie Taylor, Ann Wise) - You have great possibilities which may attain high spiritual order. Study yourself and find your inclinations; then practice and apply yourself to them. You are loyal.

Feb. 10 - (Kay Lougehd, Pat Sprouse, John Weber) - Practice self-reliance and you will be successful and prosperous. You make and break engagements easily, if they interfere with your convenience. You are energetic and affectionate.

Feb. 11 - (Doris Bell) - You have a keen sense of humor, are witty and fond of fun. You are inclined toward sensitiveness. You should practice poise. You are demonstrative and lovable.

Feb. 12 - (Sally Schrier) - You are apt to be impractical. Speculation would be dangerous for you. You have ability in music and art. You prefer company of the opposite sex and are quite popular.

Feb. 13 - (Skip Sterner) - You like refinement and culture, have good taste, and are ambitious to learn. In disposition, yours is a happy, exuberant one. You do not like to stick to one person in your love affairs.

Feb. 14 - (Dawn Williams) - One of your outstanding characteristics is independence. You enjoy praise when it is justly yours and dislike admitting error. You are masterful with men; indifferent towards women.

Don’t take this uncovering of your inner self too seriously. Madam Zizi is just an amateur. Her crystal ball is only on overturned fishbowl.

The Crystal Ball

The Crystal Ball goes to the papers, and her news is a mystery. She never has to cram before the 2 o’clock class holds an attraction for the View.