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State Highlights 12/17/1952

Western State High School

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Weatherman Foresees 'Snowfall' for December 22

Mr. Frey and Mr. Sack are presenting an inspiring program for our annual Christmas assembly. Something new in the way of Christmas assemblies was tried this year. In former years it had been the tradition for the Masquers Club to produce a Christmas play for the assembly. This year the traditional play was replaced by the choir singing, recitations, and group Carol singing.

This was also the first time that an assembly of ours has been held on the new campus. Students walked over to Kanley Chapel for the eight o'clock assembly on Tuesday, December 16.

The choir, under the direction of Mr. Frey, sang the numbers, "Go Tell It On the Mountain," "Fanfare for Christmas," Bach Chorale," "Cantique de Noel," Lullaby on Christmas Eve," and "I Wonder as I Wander." Annaliese Frey read "Keeping Christmas" and John Weber read excerpts from "The Christmas Story," and "The Little Town of Bethlehem." A fitting closing was the whole student body singing Carols.

I.S.C. Gives Party

For their Christmas project, the Inter-School Council sponsored a party for the children of the Kalamazoo Juvenile home on Gull Road. Ann Frey, Chairman of the Council's Social Service Committee, was general chairman of the project.

Talent from all four of the Inter-School Council schools entertained the children. Mary Ellen Walenta Nazareth acted as Master of Ceremonies. Penny Farr, who read a selection from Alice in Wonderland, and the State High Trio composed of Joyce Babcock, Nancy Watterworth, and Jean Hoag, who led the group singing, represented State High.

Christmas Formal Plans Completed

Aqua and gold, accented by white will be the color scheme for the Social Committee's Christmas Formal, "Snowfall." They have planned on having various decorations associated with Christmas, which will center around three large bells in the center of the room. As usual, the westroom and the stairs leading up to the ballroom will be attired in Christmas decorations.

Music for the dance will be provided by Bobby Davidson's orchestra, and during intermission entertainment will be supplied by the Barberettes, a local girl's trio.

Chaperoning "Snowfall" will be: Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Pullan, Mr. and Mrs. Lee M. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Doubleday, Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Scott, Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Leonardelli, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Rowe, Dr. and Mrs. Roy C. Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Schoenhals, and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Sack.

Committees who planned the formal are: Gail Hubbell, Shirle Jennings-Decorations, Sally Reeves - Refreshments, Bob Herman-Tickets, Nancy Magas-Programs, Lois Fuller-Music, Joan Stiles-Entertainment, and Carol Neff-Chaperones.

Tickets are on sale in the upper hall for $2.00 per couple.

Newsletter Being Sent to Servicemen

The Hi-Y club has a very novel project for this year. The boys, sponsored by Mr. Weber are writing to all former members of State High who are in the armed forces. They already have many of the graduates' addresses however if any readers know of any boys in the service please contact one of the clubs members so that their names may be added to the list.

In their letters the boys tell them about State High, their friends, and the general news of the town. This is one of the most worthwhile projects of this year and the whole student body should co-operate to make it a success.
Where Is Santa?

Somewhere amid all the tinsel and festivities, the spirit of Christmas is receding into the background. All too often the unselfishness of Christ and the sentiments of the wise men are pushed aside because Christmas like most of the rest of the world is becoming “big-business.” A business carefully planned to begin the day after Thanksgiving with a succession of bargain sales and department store “Santas.”

And what has happened to the jolly old beneficent man we call Santa? Where is he today? He's grinning happily from the Christmas cartons of leading cigarettes. Good Old St. Nick... a man children are taught to respect, but what happens if kids try what Santa is so cheerfully recommending? The answer is obvious and somewhat tragic too... they’re sent tearfully to bed without their presents. Is Christmas spirit, or big-business.

It is high time we rediscovered the values behind Christmas so that we can help put the words of “peace on earth, good will toward men” into meaningful ideals and worthwhile goals. Its time we re-established Santa Claus as more than a fat man in a red suit, and started carrying the spirit of Christmas in our hearts 365 days a year. Its all there behind the tinsel. Take time out and look for it!

Christmas Spirit Invades State Hi

Plans are rapidly developing around school for many Christmas activities. The plans this year are being handled by the Friendship and Service Committees, under the leadership of Ann Frey and Carol Smith respectively. The plans include Christmas caroling, playing records in the hall between classes, and decorating the halls with pine and holly.

The Friendship Committee has planned for Christmas caroling on Thursday evening, December 18. The students wishing to participate will meet at school and be divided into two groups. If plans are not changed one group will carol at the State Hospital and then proceed to Bronson while the other group will carol at the Aged and Fairmont Sanitarium. The groups will meet back at the Education building where refreshments will be served, and more caroling for fun.

Miss Lowrie has agreed to play Christmas carols in the halls to add a festive tone to blend with the pine boughs in the halls.

Masquers Presents 'Little Women'

“Little Women,” a play adapted by Sara Spencer from Louisa Alcott’s famous book, will be presented Saturday, December 20, at 2:00 in the Little Theatre.

Children of all ages and older people, too, find entertainment in this familiar story of four girls who grow into young ladies amid laughter, fun, and tears.

Bill Andrus and Ronald Drummond will handle all backstage work with the help of Bob Herman, Mary Lou Spitters, Carol Hackman, and Nadine Stace.

The cast includes:

Jo ........ Mary Lou Spitters
Beth ... Mary Lou Spitters
Meg ... Mary Joy Sawyer
Amy .... Penny Farr
Marmee ... Shirley Standish
Aunt March ... Barbara Rock
Mr. March ... John Gibson
Laurie ... Harper Atherton
Hannah ... Carol Hackman
First Girl ... Diane Doubleday
Second Girl ... Harriet Howe
Third Girl ... Dorothy Smith

Tickets are 25c and will be sold at a table in the hall during the week of December 15, or may be purchased from any member of the cast.

Choir Plans
Two Programs

Christmas is truly the time for music and fun. And keeping right in the spirit of things is our own State High Choir. Perhaps if you happen to be in the basement at 2:15 on December 13, or may be in the basement at 2:15 on December 15, you will hear our choir rehearsing for their Christmas appointments.

The Choir has two main appointments this year. The first is at Kanley Chapel where they will sing before the entire school. The other appointment is a combined program with Central’s, Paw Paw’s, and Western’s choir. This program is on Friday night, the 18th.

The choir will be singing such well knowns as “Oh Holy Night,” “Gloria,” and some of Bach’s works. So once more on Christmas, State High's choir will be singing with voices on high.

State Highlights

The debate squad of State High won two victories over the visiting teams from Otsego on Thursday, December 11.

The Otsego squad, coached by Miss Barbara Baily, was composed of Wanda Horton and Joyce Kitsmiller, affirmative and Carol Leitch and Bill Wiswell, negative.

Glacie Wiers and Janet Snow debated affirmative for State High, and Nanette Slavin and Lyn Cassady composed the negative team. The squad is coached by Miss Betty De-Young and is under the sponsorship of Mr. William Sack.

The squad will debate Ottawa Hills High School in Grand Rapids in Grand Rapids.
The all-city football team which was chosen a few weeks ago was made up of two men from State High, four men from Central, and five men from St. Augustine.

The first team line was: Jim Caswell—St. Augustine, and Ken Kelly—Central at the end positions, tackles Terry Perk—Central, and Don Hursh—St. Augustine, Guards Bob Bowen—Central, and Roman Juzwiak—St. Augustine, and Bob Turdler—Central from Central. The backfield consisted of Tom Cronert, Quarterback from St. Augustine, Halfbacks: Ken Fricke—State High, and Bud Hauschild from St. Augustine, and Fullback Dick Defreese from State High.

Ken Fricke was the only man to make this years allcity selection who also made last years team.

The All-Southwestern area team placed six men from Kalamazoo. On the first team from Kalamazoo were Bud Hauschild, Halfback from St. Augustine and Terry Perk, tackle from Central. On the second team were Ken Fricke, from State High.

**State Higher’s Bag Deer**

This year, some the State of Michigan’s unlucky deer found themselves being whisked down the highway, tied to some hunter’s car. A few of these luckless animals were in the possession of State High students.

The last Saturday of the season, Dick Teugh brought down a 76 pound doe with a .22. Al Glendening, one of the growing bow-and-arrow-hunting faction, went to Allegan for deer, but unfortunately came back with none.

Fifteen minutes after leaving camp on the second day of the season, Jud Baldwin got his buck, a 5 point animal weighing 143 pounds. He was 90 miles north of Grand Rapids.

Although he saw lots of tracks, Jim Sanderson didn’t get his buck. But as a compromise, he shot a rabbit with number 1 buckshot he had planned to use on the deer.

On the last weekend of the season, Vern Ver Hage shot a small buck at Lewiston.

Marvin Balch almost got an 8 point buck at 3 feet within the general vicinity of Freeport, but it somehow got away.

At Fife Lake, Jerry Olevtt killed an 8 point buck with a 30-30.

During Thanksgiving vacation, Ken Fricke knocked down an 8 point buck in Manastee with a 16 gauge slug. But the deer hopped up and left before Ken could do anything about it.

who was placed at the Full-Back position, Bob Fuller, center from Central, Roman Judwisk, Guard from St. Augustine, and from St. Augustine also was Don Hursh playing tackle.

In the class “B” All-State Honorable mention team was given to Ken Fricke.

**Reserves Expect Winning Season**

In the first game of the season, our reserve basketball squad was beaten 35 to 40 by Holland Christian. In spite of being beaten the first game of the season, Coach Fred Stevens expects a good season.

The team this year is much younger than last years. There are 10 freshmen and 6 sophomores on the team—just the reverse of last year. The fact that the team is much younger will cause a little difficulty, but Coach Steve feels that the team has a good potential and will overcome such difficulty.

The Coach plans to uniform 12 men at “away” games and 15 men at home games. So far there have been few dropouts at practice and 28 men attend practice regularly.

**Mustangs Play Cubs Friday**

On Friday, December 19, Portage High will invade the Men’s Gym for a basketball game with our cage team. It looks to be a real knockdown and drag out affair.

Portage has a new coach who will be eager for a second home town win. Portage also has a lot of height which they use to great advantage in controlling the backboards. So far Portage has a 64-49 victory over Kalamazoo Christian.

Coach Arden Detert’s boys have been drilling hard for this one and really will be out there trying. To match Portage’s win State High in the Berrien Springs game set a new school scoring record in highest scoring games in the state.

The probable starting line up for State High’s Cubs is Alan Howard or Al Wise at center, Ernie Kirkman’s mustang quintet probably will be Kramer at center, Triensenberg, forward, Fletcher, guard and Vanderveen, guard. Elzinga, forward.
State Hi Requests
Puzzle Santa

Dear State Highers:

Year after year you're letter of requests are published in this wonderful newsheet so this year I decided to send my own little letter in so that I might be able to figure some of the requests you made.

First may I ask why does Joe Gillis want a one way ticket to Evanston, and why does he want one every week? Is college that desirable Joe? Oh well, you probably can’t make any sense out of these requests then I can but still I want to show you what these letters look like when I get them. Here are some samples.—“Jolly old fellow, please give Sandra Shreve something of Tom’s that Peg Yntema hasn’t had. Libby Davis would like that handsome brown robin that keeps Bob Bobbin around. Dave Goudeward and Marty Ball want a postage stamp so they can send in for that wonderful news sheet so this year I decided to send my own little letter in so that I might be able to figure some of the requests you made.

So please Santa before they all become embarrassed solve that situation. (Egads I cannot even decipher that much less solve it) Then there are girls like sue and Joan B. who are more interested in chemical formulas like H2 O2 (that’s peroxide for those of you who don’t know) than men. The two Judies, Scott and Bree are hunting for a copy of the new record hit “TAKES ONE TO TANG-O.”

If you tear apart the baby’s rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man nor even the strongest man can see. Did you ever see faeries dancing on the lawns? Of course not, but that’s no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

Faith in Santa Still Lives

The following letter was addressed to and answered by New York Sun:

Faith in Santa Still Lives

Jobs, Parties, Trips
To Fill Holidays

With Christmas holidays almost here State High students are planning various parties, trips and what have you. After closely checking on a few of these plans you reporter came up with following:

Barbara Oakland plans to party and play night and day (hmm—this sounds interesting) while Lyn Cassady is going to crowd trips to Grand Rapids in with working at Mahoneys. Other industrious students who plan to work and earn some of that green stuff are Donna Endsay and Judy Scott at Leo’s, Julie Davis, Ann Carlton at Mahoney’s, and Ann Frey, Rosemary Buckham, Norma Wheeler and Janet Van Hoeve at Gilmore’s.

Then there are the more fortunate (or less industrious) who plan to journey around. John Keyser, Joe Gillis, Al Hackman plan to go to Chicago, and we also hear that some of the senior girls may possibly visit the windy city too. Dick Wilsey plans to visit in Detroit and Nan Slavin is going to Hawaii for a vacation. Must be nice, huh?

Of course there are always the clever students like Carol Edgerton who when asked replied “Oh...nothing much (?)” and Bob Britigan who says “Everyone is going on trips but me. I’m going to the dogs.” And with that we close hoping Bob and everyone has a Merry Christmas.

So please Santa before they all become embarrassed solve that situation. (Egads I cannot even decipher that much less solve it) Then there are girls like Sue and Joan B. who are more interested in chemical formulas like H2 O2 (that’s peroxide for those of you who don’t know) than men. The two Judies, Scott and Bree are hunting for a copy of the new record hit “TAKES ONE TO TANG-O.”

And so my children now that you see my problem why don’t you write clearly and distinctly next years so I can read your letters. I’m closing I have a little riddle...what did I say to Mrs. Claus when she heard a noise on the roof?? (you couldn’t guess what I said could you?) Well I said “It’s only the reign dear.” HO, HO, HO, HO... Be seeing you, kiddies S. Claus
Their Anniversary Song

Now that 1952 is rapidly fading away we decided to take a peek in old Father Time's log book and see who the "steadies" were this past year.

"Champeen" record holders are: Carolyn Buder and Clair Kirkpatrick—1 year, 9 months
Rosemary Buckham and Wayne Carr—1 year, 2 months
Sue Anderson and John Keyser—1 year, 8 days
The other half of Mrs. Buder's daughters, Marilyn and Dave Balcomb 1 year
Sally Reeves and Vern VerHage—11 months
Sandy Shreve and Tom Terry—11 months
Judy Bree and Tom Ware—9 months
Lois Fuller and Matt Peelen—3 months, 15 days
Janet Hughes and Red Gernrich—1 month, 8 days
Congrats kids! ! !

Christmas Formal Prospectives

Next Monday you will expect to hear, "Remember only three more shopping days till Christmas," but in the homes of State High kids you're more likely to hear "Mother, what color corsage shall I get her?" or "Dad, I just had to have a new formal!" Now what could these children be talking about? That's right—you guessed it—they're going to a formal. But you're smart.

There are many different groups of people going to this dance. Among them will be returning alumni, the steady couples, the S. H. girls with outside interests, and the S. H. boys with their outside interests (why not get together on this deal?) and then there are those, like us, who just ask someone in order to go.

The steady couples like Sue and John, Matt and Lois you'd expect to find. But we found some that might surprise you all. There is going to be Mrs. Gibson's son John with Barb Rock, and St. A's all-city end Jim Caswell with our fair haired Joan Biljum. Barb Oakland will be with her Portage mate, Don Johnson. The senior couples like Joanie and Bill Al Hackman, and Donna Endesley will spruce the party up a little bit. The juniors will be there in their usual strength with Red Gemrich and Janet Hughes, Dick and Catherine, Jean Moris and Ron White, and John Warner, and his girl Sue Casy (best not to disappoint us now John). A couple of cute junior frosh combinations will be seen on the floor. Namely, Pat and Mary R. and Brooks Godfrey and Mary Joy Sawyer. Among the underclassmen you'll see Dave Britigan with Nancy Evertion while Dave's brother Bob sits home dateless. Jack Burke and Mary Joy Sawyer and Bob Beisel and Libby Davis will be there to full out the fash class, and if you look hard enough you might see Al Wise and Carol Hartman doing a cute foxtrot.

Now that you've read this little bit of gossip you may all quietly go back to what your Xmas presents suggest to your fellow car moochers . . . use this column as a guide and you might find someone to double with at the big dance.

A Mystery

This little reporter gets rather nosy every Christmas concerning a certain little man. You guessed it! He's Santa Claus. This year I decided to do something about my curiosity so the question of the week was: How old were you when you found out there wasn't a Santa? How did you find out? My answers were many and varied.

Ron Kilgor-Aw, some little kid told me. I guess I was in 3rd or fourth grade.
Jon Selby—I read it out of a book.
Al Hackman—I was eight and came downstairs and started giving my folks the devil for putting out presents when Santa Claus was suppose to. They finally told me.
Jim Easton—I was 7. My sister told me.
Jim Elsman—I don't know about me, but we had to tell Gordy Berkhousen in 6th grade!
Barb Rock—I kept asking who ate all the food we put out so my folks finally told me.
Larry Weisman—says I figured it out by the time I was in the 7th grade because I didn't think Santa could reach so many guys—I was an ardent supporter of the Easter bunny though.

A New Leaf

Once again State Highers are voting to reform for the new year. Realizing that their resolutions will probably never last longer than January 2 this group of students were quizzed about their resolutions.

Don DeVries "I resolve to spend more time on school work and less time with the women."
Shirley Van Valkenburg: "I resolve not to have to go to the office so often."
Bob Graff: "I resolve to get a new car, a wad of money, and give up girls."
Joan Biljum: "I resolve to stay away from the bottle (of tintair)."
Carol Hackman: "I resolve to keep my shoes on in all classes."
Char Pellowe: "I resolve never to break a date again."
Jack Burke: "I resolve never to break up with a cute freshman."
Service Committee Working With Friendship Group

Taking the place of the Red Cross Committee this year, a new committee, the Service Committee, was organized. Carol Ann Smith was elected chairman of this committee last spring when the heads of the other committees were chosen.

The Service Committee still works in affiliation with the Red Cross, but it also plans projects of its own and often teams up with other committees such as Friendship Committee to carry out school and welfare projects.

At Thanksgiving they were able with the help of the student body and the “Errands of Mercy” drive to send large boxes of canned goods to eleven needy families in Kalamazoo. Six chickens were donated by Kiefer’s Poultry Market and six more were purchased from student’s donations so that every family had a Thanksgiving chicken.

The Service and Friendship Committees, working together, are sponsoring Christmas, Carol singing at Bronson Hospital, the State Hospital, and the Old Folks’ Home. Students will sing at the hospitals on Thursday, December 18.

Congratulations

Congratulations to: the administration for installing the new drinking fountain in the lower hall; Vickie Wenner and Ann Mallette for their winning posters in the Exchange Club’s poster contest; Collette Curtonius for drawing the Christmas Assembly program covers; the Service and Friendship committees for the hall decorations.

Junior High Plans Cooperative Program

Mr. Jerse’s and Miss Ebert’s eighth grade homerooms will combine with Miss Gish’s and Mr. Detert’s seventh grade homerooms to present a Christmas program in front of the fireplace in the Rotunda of the Training School on Friday afternoon, the nineteenth of December.

The co-operative program will consist of a dramatization and a choral reading as well as the music which is to be furnished by the junior high school band and the carols sung by the students.

Further entertainment will be provided by Miss Betty DeYoung, who will read, “The Littlest Angel” to the assembled students.

French Club Organizes Activities

The French Club planned a Christmas party for their last club meeting. There were refreshments and the exchange of gifts in the French style, of course. The gifts were laid under their Christmas tree by a real père Noel, Santa to a non-French student.

Heading this active club are Polly Allen, president; Colette Curtonius, vice-president; Julie Davis, secretary; Martha Braden, treasurer. Their treasury, by the way, is being helped along by the selling of candy at noon in room 206E. They plan to use this money to have a French Luncheon sometime in the Spring. During the club period they have a variety of entertainment, such as; slides, movies, contests and games planned by committees. If any one wishes to join this club next semester, a knowledge of French is a great asset.

Christmas Carols From Many Lands

Following the restoration of Christmas in England, there were numerous songs in praise of the Feast, but very few religious carols. One of the few, however, that has become a favorite, among English-speaking nations is the ballad, “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night” (1715).

The hymn, “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing,” (1844) was first only sung in the Methodist Church and then gradually became adapted by others.

Another English carol of the last century is the song “Good King Wenceslaus,” (1886). This is not a Christmas carol in the strict sense of the word, but rather the poetic story of a famous miracle ascribed to Saint Wenceslaus, Duke of Bohemia.

“Joy to the World!” came from the pen of an English poet in 1748.

The Lutherans in Germany wrote new hymns for their own use, “Away in the Manger” is usually accredited to Martin Luther, although he wrote neither the words or music. It was very likely written in one of the German Lutheran settlements in Pennsylvania. (1856)

Some of the most famous American carols are “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (1893), “We Three Kings of Orient Are” (1857). Another famous American carol is from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s poem entitled “Christmas Bells.” He wrote this for Christmas in 1863, and the poem reflects the horrors of the Civil War. Another of ours is “Angels We Have Heard on High” (1857).

The well known Christmas song “O Holy Night” is of French origin. Despite the devoted research of musical scholars, the origin of the beloved Christmas hymn “Adeste Fideles,” is still shrouded in mystery. The original Latin poem has been accredited to a Franciscan priest, an English Catholic music dealer, and chapel master to the King of Portugal.

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The Austrian are prided with the most beloved of all carols, a truly international Christmas anthem, “Silent Night, Holy Night,” written in 1818.

Coming Events

Dec. 16th—Assembly, 8:00, Kanley Chapel
Dec. 18th—Carol Sing, 6:45
Dec. 19th—Carols in lower hall
Dec. 20th—Game, 7:00, Portage, here
Dec. 22nd—Christmas Formal, 9 to 12 in Walwood Ballroom
Jan. 2nd—Game St. Joe — here
Jan. 5th—School re-opens