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## State Highlights 12/2/1953

Western State High School

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# State Highlights

Volume XV

Kalamazoo, Michigan, December 2, 1953

Number 4

## Choir To Welcome Santa Claus Tonight

### Allen Voted D.A.R. Pilgrim

Every year the senior girls along with the faculty select the girl they want to represent State High as a D.A.R. Pilgrim. This year's choice is Polly Allen. Polly was chosen on the basis of four qualities: character, citizenship, personality, and service. The senior girls first vote for the three girls they consider to have the above stated qualities, and from the top ten girls the faculty votes to determine the winner.

Polly is a friendly, kind, well-rounded girl with a great deal of charm and grace that comes from within. She has been very active throughout her high school years. In the ninth grade she was class treasurer, hall monitor, member of the Y Teens, of the Student Council, and of the Methodist Church Choir, served on the Social Committee, and was on the Honor Roll. In the tenth grade she was the president and treasurer of her home room, member of her church choir, monitor, an officer of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, acted on the Social Committee, was in Bridge Club, and on the Honor Roll. Last year she was president of French Club, vice-president of monitors, an officer of the local Methodist and District Youth Fellowship, secretary of the church choir, member of the Friendship Committee, on the Highlights Staff, and on the Honor Roll.

### Collect Gifts For Christmas Stockings

Christmas is near and with it comes another season when State High students help provide gifts for veterans hospitals. The Red Cross is again sponsoring Christmas stockings to brighten some veteran's holiday. The Service Committee will handle the project. Each homeroom will decide how many stockings it wishes to fill and report its decision to the Service Committee.

Students are requested to bring candy, cigarettes and other similar items to fill the stockings. A small article such as a pocket-sized book will cheer some hospitalized veteran's life, make him feel wanted and appreciated.



"You'd better watch out, you'd better not cry; you'd better not pout, I'm telling you why—Santa Claus is coming to town!" Yes, and the State High choir, under the direction of Jack Frey, is going to be there tonight to welcome him.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Santa is being flown in to Kalamazoo by helicopter. Beginning at 6:30 in Bronson Park, there will be a half-hour program during which Santa will light the Christmas tree in the park. On the steps of the City Hall, he will receive an official welcome along with the key to the city. The choir will sing Christmas carols and the audience will be urged to join in a community sing with them.

Santa will then proceed to the corner of Main and Burdick Streets, where Boy Scouts, donned as his helpers, will distribute little gifts to the children.

The stores downtown will be open this evening until 9:00.

## First Honor Roll Awards Announced

The honor roll awards for outstanding work in scholarship have been awarded for the first marking period. The Alpha award is given to students achieving four A's with no mark lower than a B; the Beta award to students with three A's and no mark lower than a B; and the Gamma award to those having two A's and no mark lower than a B.

Recipients of the Alpha award are: Polly Allen, Margaret Borton, Martha Braden, Darlene Chapin, Thomas Elias, Penny Farr, Dean Griffith, Jean Hoag, Phyllis Kievit, Alice Osterberg, Mary Lou Spitters, David Swoap, Ronald Tanis, Robert Van-Peenan, Victoria Wenner, and Cail Wruble.

Those awarded the Beta award are: David Britigan, Ann Burgderfer, Julie Davis, Lois Fuller, Roberta Gleason, Clarke Godfrey, Alan Howard, Thomas Howson, Mary Louise Kaercher, Tamsin Malone, Merton Norman, John Simcox, Alfred Snow, Joan Stimson, Catherine VanRiper, Shirley VanValkenburg, Nancy Waterworth, Ruthmary Werly, Karen Wilkins, and Alfred Wise.

Receiving the Gamma award are: Mary Lou Allen, Susan Ashley, Bruce Berg, Barbara Born, Marilyn Brink,

Carolynn Buder, James Elsmann, Dona Endsley, Brooks Godfrey, Millicent Hafer, Janet Hughes, Carolyn Kaercher, Donald Kilgore, Joan Kohrman, Fritz LaCrone, Barbara McBride, Jean Morris, Catharine Myers, Donald Neal, David Platt, Peter Platt, Carole Rice, James Scott, Jon Sebaly, Linnea Taylor, Helen Thorpe, and Larry Weisman.

### COMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 3: Driver Training Conference  
Monday, December 7: Christmas customs and history - Station WMCR, FM-7:00 p.m.  
Friday, December 11: Basketball-South Haven, here  
Monday, December 14: Christmas carols and origin-Station WMCR, FM-7:00 p.m.  
Thursday, December 17: Christmas assembly, 2:00 p.m., Kanley Chapel  
Friday, December 18: Pep assembly; Christmas vacation begins at 3:00 p.m.; Basketball-Portage, there.



# Casing The Corridor

How is your Christmas shopping coming along? What! You haven't started? Well, maybe I'm an early bird but I have mine all done. Want to hear the results?

For the senior English classes I purchased a dozen cases of coffee, not to keep them awake in class, but since they have been studying Latin American literature, I thought the gift would be appropriate. The classes have recently had South American college students talk to them on the Latin American way of life.

Don't fret, Freshmen, you are not omitted from my list. For every one of you I have a package, especially wrapped, containing a pair of roller skates. I hope this will enable you to clear the halls faster for the upper-classmen to pass.

The next two gifts on my list are "goodies" and "garbage." Tim Light will be the receiver of the "goodies" for his excellent theme entitled "I Speak for Democracy." Tim took first place in the Kalamazoo contest and is now eligible to compete in the state contest. Also receiving "goodies" will be the assembly committee and participants in the Thanksgiving assembly for their excellent planning and presentation of an inspiring program. The four pounds of "garbage" I bought will be sent to the "chilluns" who leave milk bottles, paper and food lying around the band room after the noon hour dancing.

A tape recorder will be my gift to the "exclamatory, declamatory" sophomores. This will enable them to preserve the orations they have been giving in speech class for future generations to marvel at.

All students who received Alpha, Beta or Gamma honors for scholarship will find a photostatic copy of their report card under their Christmas tree. This will be useful to show doubting friends and relatives.

Perhaps I have given you a few suggestions for your Christmas list. No? Well, here are several things that guys and gals usually like to receive from their favorite date or steady.

## GIRLS

jewelry (pearls or silver matching necklace and bracelet are always good)  
sweater  
compact  
cologne  
jewelry box

## BOYS

gloves and scarf to match  
sweater  
billfold  
I. D. bracelet  
shirt

## Do You Choose to Chew?

There is an idiom in our English vocabulary that some of you have had applied to you. This complimentary term, "Bully for you!," we think should be changed to read, "Bully not for you!." Perhaps you didn't know that the bully tree produces chicle, the substance from which our chewing gum is made.

The innocent appearing habit of chewing gum does nothing to beautify anyone so we don't quite know how the bully tree is working for us.

It would do some of us good to do enough research to find out how very few people can be quoted as having received a favorable impression of jaws in perpetual motion. We also might be rather surprised if we were to have a dentist's opinion on what the sugar in gum can do to our teeth.

There is a well-known Spanish author, Julio Camba, who has nicknamed us the "Engummed States." In other words, he thinks we are as much "stuck together" with gum as we are united by common ideals.

Gum-chewing may have its advantages, but unlike the cow, we have other ways to soothe our nerves, so why not see ourselves as others see us, and give the bully tree a rest?

## Dedicated To You

"In the Mood"—Bob Beisel and Carol Schutz

"Cheek To Cheek"—Larry Weisman and Linnea Taylor

"Ruby"—Blaine Burlington

"I Guess It Was You All The Time"—Carole Edgerton and Joe Gillis

"C'est Magnifique"—Ann Burgdener and Pat Ryan

"Keep It Gay"—Libby Davis and Dick Wilsey

"To Each His Own"—Senior Girls

"You, You, You"—Ann Carleton and Bob Mabie

"Love Walked In"—Zoe Gideon and Gary Forsleff

"I Believe"—Dona Endsley and Al Hackman

"Hand in Hand"—Barb Stuart and Don DeVries

"My Love, My Love"—Gail Hubbell

"The Kangaroo"—Fritz LaCrone

"Dancing in the Dark"—Connie Kuizenga and Marv Balch

"Johnny is the Boy for Me"—Judy Scott

"Love Is So Terrific"—Janet Hughes

"I've Got The World On a String"—Barb McBride

"P.S. I Love You"—Judy Bree

"Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better"—Matt Peelen

"No Other Love"—Carolyn Buder

"Hey Joe"—Mary Roberts

## Chin Up!

Twice a week, 36 weeks a year, all boys not out for athletics are required to take gym. However, a small minority, through some cunning, escape both.

Yet the majority serve their term faithfully. While many students feel that a solid such as "Underwater Basketweaving" would be more useful, nevertheless they comply.

According to the coaches' muttered opinions, the majority of gym students are a wreck. To watch a gym class on the high bar is a sad sight. Out of a class of thirty, perhaps ten can chin themselves. (To the rest of the class, these ten are a bunch of eager beavers). They strut to the bar, reach up, emit "Oh's" and "ah's" and flex their brawny muscles. The rest walk up laughing nervously and saying, "I'll never make it anyway" and they don't; but to make it look good, the men (?) take a leap and bounce half way up, thus appearing to try at least. The coaches shout some encouragement with faint hope of salvaging these wrecks, but success eludes them.

Still the students plod on time after time, secure in the knowledge that the showers will be cold and out of soap. Once the class thought they had really built firm muscles, but when they found out that the heat was off, they discovered their muscles to be merely goose bumps.

## Did You Know . . .

That Mr. Jerse hears so many sad tales and is so moved that he uses over three boxes of Kleenex a day? That the Kleenex Company is planning on building a huge advertising idea around this?

That Tom Elias is being tested for a Broadway show after his success in the school play?

That none of the senior girls believe in going steady?

That Mr. Leonardelli is really socially maladjusted and teaches his senior class just to have an outlet for his emotions?

That Fritz has custom made tennis shoes for cheerleading with built-in springs?

That the Juniors have over \$1,000 left for the prom after advancing the price Ray Anthony demands to play for one evening?

The Sandra Hicks wasn't always so small? That she was once five feet ten and weighed in at 195, but thinks to Ayds, she shrunk?

That Dona E. and Red G. both dye their hair?

That none of this is fact?



## Jim's and Gem's Gems

Congratulations to Al Glendening who is replacing Don Kilgore, '54, as football captain for next year. Don did a great job and we know Al will too . . . State High placed four boys on the All-city Football Team: Captain Don Kilgore at halfback, quarterback Brooks Godfrey, top pass receiver, John Warfield, at end, and the only four year letterman on our team, guard Jim Hawkins. We feel they all deserve this honor and think that State High was well-represented on this year's All-city squad . . . This year's football team will be entertained at a banquet in the Columbia Hotel where the Gazette Plaque will be awarded to them for being the outstanding Class B team in the district. Among the notables attending will be our coach Roy Walters, athletic director Fred Stevens, the Gazette sports staff: Jack Moss, Bob Wagner, and Jerry Hagen, and the two local sports-casters; Joe Wright and Len Colby . . . For the first time, to our knowledge, it has been necessary to cut the basketball squad. Although it was hard for the boys involved, it is a good sign, for it shows increased interest in the current sport . . . Our humble apologies to John Warfield for not including in an earlier edition, his name among the last year's letter winners and to make matters even more embarrassing for us, he's captain of the team!

## Out of Bounds

Concerning the game of high school basketball, the novice spectators should be enlightened in regard to the numerous new rules and changes which will affect the 1953-54 season.

1. Players will be searched before the game for concealed bludgeons, dum dum shells, knives, and other non-harmful weapons.

2. Obscene language is strictly forbidden between players; however, certain words which are not found in the dictionary may be directed against the referees, who incidentally, are parolees from Jackson prison as indicated by their striped shirts. Bifocals are furnished without charge to officials who have "irritated irises."

3. Participants are not permitted to shove, tackle, kick, scratch, or bite each other, but it is stipulated in the new rules that time will be called every five minutes for treatment of scratches, gashes, abrasions, and broken bones, plus extra time for the removal of blood, bodies, and rubbish from the floor.

Sounds like an interesting season this year, doesn't it? See you at the game adorned with shin guards, shoulder pads, helmet, and cleats and armed with various instruments of destruction, a first-aid kit, and a "revised rule book."

# Cubs Lose Initial Tilt

## Coaching This Year . .

Not many members of the student body have become acquainted yet with our basketball coach, Mr. Barney Chance. Mr. Chance teaches two typing classes, shorthand and general business and he has made numerous friends with his winning smile and friendly personality.

Mr. Chance came to State High from Berrien Springs, where he coached for five years. During his stint at Berrien Springs, his basketball teams fared very well, once going to the state quarter finals.

His family includes two boys, ages 4 and 6. Often, Mr. Chance can be found on the weekends partaking in his favorite hobby, hunting.

Best wishes for a big season go from the entire student body to our new cage mentor, Mr. Chance.

## Introducing Captain Alan Glendening . . .

Don Kilgore, standing up on the stage, slowly opened the small white envelope. He glanced down at the paper. Then began a long suspense-filled moment climaxed by the words, "and so the team has elected as next year's captain, Alan Glendening."

Astonishment and disbelief could be seen on Alan's face, and as he walked up in front of the school, he was escorted by resounding applause.

Upon asking a few questions, your reporter found these statistics: age-15 years; birthday - January 28; height and weight-5' 11", 185 pounds; favorite food - ham and apple pie; favorite color - blue; most interesting T.V. program - "Dragnet;" and favorite song - "Ebb Tide." Alan has one pet peeve - "real fast dances."

After learning these facts, your writer became a little bit more curious and found out even more about him. Al would like to be a pharmaceutical manufacturer, but doesn't know for sure where he will go to college.

When asked where would he go if he could go anywhere in the world, he said, "I'd like to go to New York and see the series."

What is his idea of fun? "I like to play football and baseball best of all; then come hunting and sailing."

To anyone who may be interested, this is what he thinks of going steady, "It's okay by me, and as far as other people go, it's none of my business. They can do anything they want to so long as it's their personal business."

Al is a wonderful guy and State High is proud to have him.

## Look Forward to League Debut with South Haven

Unable to overcome a decided height disadvantage, the State High cagers were decisively beaten 58-39, by a strong Holland Christian quintet at the Holland Armory.

The game, however, served one good purpose for our coach, Mr. Chance. It gave him an excellent opportunity to experiment with different Cub ballplayers and combinations of ball players, after the disastrous second quarter when all hope of a victory seemed lost.

Leading the Cubs in scoring were John Warfield, Matt Peelen, and Bob Miles, who each threw in nine points. Miles, who did not start the game, looked very impressive at a guard position along with Dallas Weybright.

The starting line-up for the Cubs was Mindeman and Wise at the forwards, Peelen at the center slot, with Warfield and Britigan playing the guard positions. Every player on the 12 man Cub aggregation played in the ball game.

With the continued fine play of Warfield, Peelen, Miles, and Neal and aided by the recovery of Al Howard from a bad cold, the Cubs can pose as serious threats in the Wolverine League, defending their conference co-championship. The opening league game for State High is December 11, when the Cubs play South Haven on the home floor.

In last year's two games with the Rams, State defeated them in the first game, a close one, 53-50. The second of the season proved easier for the Cubs, as they downed South Haven once again, 57-45.

The Cubs will play South Haven on January 29, there.

The State High reserves struck a good note to the Cub cause last Friday night when they defeated the Holland Christian reserves 34-30, in the waning minutes of the game. Pete Parker sparked the Cub reserves with 11 points.

Boylan-"What makes you look so worried?"

Gillis-"Just lost \$500 in a poker game."

Boylan-"Five hundred!"

Gillis-"Yes, and the worst of it is, \$15 was in cash."

Peelen was dancing with a haughty and statuesque young woman, and not making a very good job of it.

Presently he said, "I'm afraid I'm not dancing well this evening. As a matter of fact, I'm a little stiff from polo."

And the young woman answered icily, "It's a matter of indifference to me where you are from."



## Pedestrians On the Move

Continuing our study of peculiar postural positions popular at State High we have witnessed the following wiggling walkers.

Very prevalent and perhaps the most ghastly are those who drag along as if pushing a weight with their stomachs, heads, and knees. Their knees are bent like drawn bows with backs swayed and chins forward and dagging on their collarbones. These are the **slouchers**.

The direct opposite of the first group are the haughty **swivel-hippers**. These young ladies (there are very few gentlemen in this category, are proud of their figures and would like others to notice them, too.

Many people past forty fall into the **plodders** group. These are the worriers of the world, who seem literally weighted down by their cares and as result, can scarcely lift their feet.

The **bouncers** make up a very amusing group. These jovial souls move in a vertical plane as well as the usual horizontal one. With each springy step they roll up on the ball of their foot and come down again with a quick, swooping motion. They walk with shoulders squared away and often have their hands in their pockets. This is the whistling group. (The slouchers and plodders seldom whistle and the swivel-hippers are usually on the receiving end of the whistle.)

The nuisances of the pedestrian world are the **mind-changers**. These are the people who stroll along the aisles—aimlessly. They pause and look; but that's not what they are looking for, so they turn and crowd their way in the other direction—against traffic, of course. Pushing, pummelling, and foot-crushing are all listed in their code of ethics. They can't ever decide what to do in a hurry. They're undecided now, so what are they gonna' do if they start across a street against the light?

The **gop-sloppers** are pathetic creatures. They give the impression of having suction cups attached to their feet. They make a mighty effort, hoist one foot up about two feet and plunk it down again; then the procedure is repeated until the gop-slopper reaches his destination.

The next creature might well be heralded by the Finale to the William Tell Vverture. **Galloping Gertie** will never call retreat and never slow up. She generally hasn't any place to go, but she still wants to get there fast. Last, but not least, we have the **measured steppers**. These are the exacting, well-balanced people who maintain the spirit of humility and are always polite. These are the folks who aren't always noticed because they are unobtrusive, but their absence would be quickly observed.

These are the walkers, classified into eight groups. Which are you in?

## State High Grads Analyze, Suggest

A meeting was held recently in which last year's senior girls and boys who are now enrolled at Western discussed with Miss Crisman and Mr. Jerse their strengths, weaknesses and recommendations for improvements at school. Here are the results:

**Strengths:** Good background for writing essay tests, ability to outline, ability to take notes, experience in theme writing, ability to enter into class discussion, excellent preparation in math, and appreciation of social problems.

**Weaknesses:** Inability to skim intelligently, inexperience with long assignments, lack of sound counseling on military opportunities, and inability to budget study time.

**Recommendations:** Longer assignments in reading, move biology from 9th to 10th grade and increase lab work and drawings, make social problems compulsory, unit in Greek mythology (English classes) should be taught, teachers refuse late work and increase essay tests, term papers, and theme writing.

## Tim Light Speech Winner

Representing State High in the local speech contest sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Tim Light was the winner of the city-wide contest on the topic "I Speak for Democracy." Tim was feted at a banquet, November 19, given by the JCC and was also on WKZO-TV, November 23. On both of these occasions he presented his winning speech. The speech has now been sent to Lansing for competition in the state contest, and the winning speech there will be entered in the national contest. Grand prize in the national competition will be \$500 and a trip to Washington, D.C.

## Artists Make Posters

The Kalamazoo Exchange Club's annual newspaper day, which took place yesterday, December 1, was advertised with posters made by Central and State High School students.

Hilltoppers who contributed to the advertising campaign were Vicki Wenner, Thurman Bryant, Jerry Green, Sandra Shreve, John Curren, Henry Roodbergen, Andy Walton, Joanne Puotinen, Gail Hubbell, Judy Scott, Dona Endsley, Bob Woody, Sherla Jennings and Liliane Malone.

## EDGEin' Around

Your roving reporter has been looking around again and once more, here's the news . . .

The first nite that Jerry Hawkins got his car . . . it collapsed on West-nedge. Quite a party!

Polly Allen and Don Moss really get along well together. It's a real surprise!

Why was Bill Patmos carrying Joanne Survilla around at the dance? What was the trouble ? ? ?

Who were the noisy bunch that congregated in the middle of the floor, yelling and telling jokes? Enjoy yourselves, kiddies ? ?

Diane Sabo hooked big Don DeVries for a date. What happened to Carol ? ?

It's getting pretty cold for Jim Boylan to race his boat, isn't it? What could be the reason?

The underclassmen still keep in the social light. Suzanne Lennartson and Jim Brown are dating. More power to ya!

Congratulations to Dona and Al! They've been going together a whole year now. Al wasn't even home to celebrate the event, deer hunting being the reason.

Miriam Leimer and Don Marshall were seen together recently—new maybe ? ? ?

Mary Joy Sawyer just doesn't stick to the home front. Now it's an import from Central.

Thanksgiving vacation was really jumping! First there was the game Friday nite. Quite a few of the kids went to Holland to cheer our team on. Congratulations to Gary Forsleff who did a great job at his first game.

Saturday nite Liliane Malone and Ellie Clark had a big shindig with turkey and all the trimmings. Fran Miller give them competition by throwing a party right across the street. Soooooo many cars around, some people almost got lost.

Did Rob Graff's girl get rough? He has his arm in a sling.

Martha Braden showed her talents by really beating it out on the piano.

Best of luck and happiness to Carolyn Buder, who got her diamond at last.

Quotation of the week . . . "A kiss is the shortest distance between two!"

The posters advertised the day that Exchange Club members sold small-sized editions of the **Gazette** in the shopping section of Kalamazoo to pay for the party they give at Christmas time for the benefit of the city's underprivileged children.

Prizes were given to the students who, in the opinion of the judges, had made the best posters. State High winners were L. Malone and V. Wenner.