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## State Highlights 3/17/1954

Western State High School

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### WMU ScholarWorks Citation

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# State Highlights

Volume XV

Kalamazoo, Michigan, March 17, 1954

Number 9

## 'The Mikado' Presented in Japanese Motif



Several leading characters seen admiring a costume at rehearsal are Janyce Babcock, Nancy Watterworth, Barbara Stewart, Gordon Berkhausen, Tim Light, Adrian Vander Linde and George Peelen.

### Operetta at Civic Saturday

Gilbert and Sullivan's **The Mikado** will be presented Saturday, March 20, at 8:00 P.M. in the Civic Theater by the State High School Choir, under the direction of Mr. Jack Frey.

Before the action of the operetta begins, we find that Nanki-Poo (Adrian VanderLinde) has fled from the court of his father (John Warfield), the Mikado of Japan. He has fled to escape marrying Katisha (Janyce Babcock), an elderly lady. Disguised as a musician, Nanki-Poo has fallen in love with a fair maiden, Yum Yum (Barb Stewart). He has been prevented from marrying her, however, by her guardian, Ko-Ko (George Peelen), who wants to marry her himself. As the first act opens, Nanki-Poo is hurrying to the court of Ko-Ko to see if Yum Yum is now free to marry him.

As the plot grows, other characters are presented. Since Ko-Ko is the Lord High Executioner, Pooh-Bah (Tim Light) is given the title of Lord High Everything Else. He holds ten different offices at once which frequently overlap one another. Pish-Tush (Gordy Berkhausen) is a Noble Lord, who helps out Nanki-Poo, while Pitti-Sing (Nancy Watterworth) and Peep-Bo (Jean Hoag) are sisters of Yum Yum and also wards of Ko-Ko.

These main characters are aided by a chorus of School Girls, Nobles, Guards, and Coolies. Taking part in the chorus are: P. Allen, W. Andrus, J. Baden, G. Baker, R. Beisel, B. Born, M. Borton, J. Boudeman, J. Burger, R. Chapman, R. Clarke, E. Davis, J. DenBleyker, J. Forward, S. Gildea, B. Hosick, N. Hotneier, K. Johnson, R. Limpus, C. Myers, J. Morris, D. Moss, A. Osterberg, P. Paull, B. Peterson, T. Reid, C. Richardson, U. Rothfuss, B. Simpson, T. Skinner, A. Snow, M. Spitters, M. Stainton, J. Stimson, A. Taylor, H. Thorpe, and C. Warfield.

Authentic costumes are being worn. These have been rented from Boston at a cost of \$200.

An orchestra, accompanying the choir, is made up of: P. Kievit, G. Wruble, M. Bryant, C. Straub, D. Neal, C. Rice, D. Rousseau, M. LaPlante, Z. Gideon, J. Stimson, (piano), J. Baxter, G. Gould, M. Tappenden, J. Campbell, and I. Johnson.

### Eleven Participate in Forensics Contest

The local Forensics Contest was held at Walwood in the East-West Room Tuesday, March 16, at 3:00. The following students participated:

Dramatics: Mary Lou Spitters, Nancy Watterworth; Mary Smith.

Humorous Reading: Tim Light with "Burning To Sing," Charles Sweet, "The Treasurer's Report," and David Britigan, "The Flea Gang's First Cigar."

Declamation: Nancy Wagner with "Not Just Born" and Mary Jo Sawyer, "Defense of Teen-agers."

Extemporaneous: Mike Squires and Pete Platt.

Oratory: Charles Maloney.

Two winners were chosen from each division and they will represent State High in the district contest to be held in April.

One winner will be selected in each division to compete in the regionals, which will be held May 1.

Approximately 18 schools will compete in these contests.

#### COMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 20—Operetta, "Mikado," at Civic Auditorium at 8:00

Tuesday, March 23—Assembly at 10:00, Little Theater

Friday, March 26—Junior High Band at Central

Saturday, March 27—Carnival at Women's Gym 7:30 to 11:30

### "Sweethearts" to be Crowned at Carnival

State High's annual carnival will be held Saturday, March 27, in the Women's Gym, from 7:30 to 11:30. Feature attraction this year will be the expensive door prize to be given away.

The traditional crowning of "Sweethearts of State High" will take place during the evening.

New this year will be a basketball game at intermission. One team will be made up of faculty members and parents while the other will consist of senior boys not on the varsity.



# Tidbits

by Fritz

"FAITH AND BEGORRA" IT'S ST PATRICK'S DAY. A rowdy time and the luck of the Irish to all of you: Pat Ryan, Chuck Maloney, Danny Bryan, and Stevie Malone. A special greeting to Sandy O'Hicks and Don DeVries (little), two good Irishman! And this is no blarney!

A LITTLE TIN MEDAL to the first person who makes Ed Enz stop saying, "You hate my body!"

ALICE OSTERBERG felt ambitious so she built an Eiffel Tower and set it in room 206. She has now decided to build a life-size copy of the Empire State Building. That takes a lot of balsa wood, Alice.

They had SMILES THAT MAKE US HAPPY, Miss Cleveland's Junior English Classes, i. e., after they saw the Art Exhibit called "The Face of Humor," Friday, at MacCracken Hall.

The social and pep committees will get together soon to clean out the \*\*!??-!\*&% !-! debris in the storage room in IE. WORTHY PROJECT.

"Edge"—"Oh, this sweater of mine just picks up everything." ENOUGH SAID—

Mrs. Rogers' eight o'clock English class has been working on Shakespearean plays. Now what's this we hear about the tape recording with Charles Maloney playing the part of Katherine in *The Taming of the Shrew*? SOME SHREW !!!

ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS, fork over those overdue library books. Chief Lowrie is closing in fast!

A ROMAN HOLIDAY — That's what all the Latin students enjoyed last night at their Roman dinner—King Jupiter and Queen Juno (Palmer and La Plante to you) called a council meeting of all the gods and goddesses . . . gladiators' swords clashed . . . wrestlers moaned and groaned . . . that FAST god of speed, "Mercury" Littig, with a well-practiced roving eye, conducted a contest to select Venus (and we don't mean de Milo)! "Apollo" Simcox prophesied the future, for some lucky people . . . and Olympic games spelled FINIS for the evening.

Deserving a big hand is JOAN KOHRMAN, head of the Safety Council and State High's loyal, active representative at several meetings.

STRIKE UP THE BAND—All the melodious noises in the basement at 12:30 mean the band, practicing for the Blue and Gold Revue. Band-aide, anyone?

# The Key - It's Yours

Now that spring is preparing to oust winter as the dictator of weather, these last school months will vanish as quickly as the snow will melt. As June steps up and taps all of us on the shoulder, we will realize that another year of high school is gone and will start thinking in terms of the next.

In doing so, we reminisce a little bit as to how much we have gained from the school's activities. We might be completely satisfied with our participation in extra-curricular activities, but for the most part, we wish we could have joined that club or been on this committee. Then we resolve to do it next year. If the promise is kept, we have opened the door to having the most fun and enjoyment out of high school. For until you actually get to the heart of clubs, committees, teams, or other extra-curricular activities, you just don't realize how much you miss by not joining something. Of course, some of the freshmen are at a loss as many of the activities, such as HIGHLIGHTS or HIGHLANDER, are not open to them until later years. But if they only set their sights on such organizations for future participation, they, too, have the key to the door.

Interests are varied. That, perhaps, is the largest reason why one receives so much from joining and being active in an extra-curricular activity; for you not only get a chance to meet people; you get an opportunity to know and work with them. Sure, a lot of it is work. But after the job has been completed, you know that you have done something that was not required, that was work, but still was fun. You have a deep-rooted feeling of accomplishment. And when you have this feeling, you have the key to the door.

So in your remaining years in high school, if you haven't done so already, be active in some school activity. Join and work—and possess the key to the door of fun.

—Dave Swoap

## The Name's

## The Same

It is extremely doubtful whether the student body at State High realizes the vast number of students in their midst who are descendants of famous ancestors. Upon asking countless questions and tracing back 325 family trees, we compiled these interesting and startling facts.

Nancy Wagner claims to be the great, great, great, great granddaughter of Wilhelm Wagner, the revolutionizer of operatic methods. He is best known for his "*The Nibelungen Ring*." That's an opera? When she lets her hair grow down to her waist, we'll believe it. Get it? "Long hair."

Did you ever wonder where Joe Scott noted scientist and Antarctic tions? That's very simple, heredity. His ancestors include Robert Falcon Scott, noted scientist and Antarctic explorer. On one of his explorations the deceased Scott was frozen to death, along with four companions. Let's hope such a fate does not befall Joe.

Attention, junior Senator from Wisconsin! State High's Lewis Owen is a direct descendant of Robert Owen, the British social reformer and author, and a man noted for his semi-communistic convictions. However, we have found no copies of the *Daily Worker* on Lewis.

Shirley VanValkenburg tried to make us believe that her father is Wade VanValkenburg, speaker of the House in the Michigan legislature. It seems there is one in every group that attempts to create a fantastic story thinking that some gullible individual will believe her.

Who is your claim to fame?

## Rhythm at Random

The Blue and Gold Revue committee is pleased with the way the student body has co-operated with them to make this year's show the best ever.

The program will open with movies of candid shots around school giving an inkling of the theme for the rest of this talent show.

Congrats to the band on their performance at Allegan and on the fine job at the last pep assembly.

The junior high band just voted \$100 to the high school band fund. The money will be used for awards given at the end of the year and also for buying a saxophone.

On Tuesday, March 23, at 10 o'clock, there will be an assembly in the Little Theater. At that time, Mr. Stevens and Mr. Chance will distribute the awards for the basketball season.



# Start Drive For League All-Sports Trophy



As  
We  
See  
It

A question has arisen concerning the present school colors. The problem is, briefly, that at the present time in the Wolverine League three schools are using blue and gold, one using blue and white, and one purple and gold. This makes it necessary for carefully planning uniform variations that will not conflict. Also it presents the possibility of a mistaken identity during a contest as was the case last year in a track meet.

Something had to be done immediately in order that next year's uniforms would be ready in time, so a chance was taken and a new color scheme of silver and scarlet was selected for football. These colors were selected with several things in mind: first, we did not want to imitate any of the city schools; secondly, red has a psychological effect urging better performance; and lastly, no one else is using them.

It should be understood a color change in uniforms does not mean a change in school colors. However, in view of the fact that five teams in the Wolverine Conference have almost identical color combinations, each student should consider the possibility and merits of a change. It should also be made clear that this is not necessarily a permanent color scheme, but rather a test. The track uniforms this year are to be scarlet and silver, also. Thus judgment can be based on actual appearance on the field. A gradual, carefully planned change-over would not seriously affect any school group such as the band, cheerleaders, or lettermen who have sweaters.

We should not be afraid of a change even if it means the disregarding of sentimental attachments which are common to all of us who are bonded by tradition. Students should carefully weigh all facts that arise before passing any judgment on such a move, for naturally they will be the ones who finally decide which colors there shall be. — S.O.S.! S.O.S.! All freshmen boys! The tennis team has sent out a plea for players. With the new regulation, which requires a freshmen singles and doubles match in each contest, the team is found lacking and might have to forfeit these matches so here is a chance for any freshman boy.

## Racquetees Train For 14 Game Slate

State High's tennis coach, Miss Stephanie Prychitko, will have a group of seven returning lettermen to bolster her 1954 net squad. These boys are Larry Littig, Don Neal, Al Wise, Pete Platt, Pat Ryan, Jon Sebaly, and Don Flower.

Indoor practice sessions have already begun and among the newcomers are Jon Scott, Jim Hightower, Mike Palmer, and Dave Bair. Fourteen matches are scheduled so far with the initial one being on April 16 against Holland Christian here.

Jon Sebaly will captain this year's squad, which barreled the rough Wolverine Conference opponents last year without losing a single match. Besides meets with all the Conference teams, State High will face Holland Christian, Dowagiac, Vicksburg, Central, Lakeview, and St. Joseph.

## Thinclad Season Opens April 9

Friday, April 9, marks the beginning of this year's track season. Among the boys who will jump to the starter's gun and churn up the cinders on the oval are returning lettermen Jim Van Tassel, John Warfield, Dave VandeWalker, Jim Hawkins, Al Gemrich, Al Wise, Larry Miller, Chuck Warfield, Bob Miles, Dick Redden, Jerry Olvitt, Jack Copeland, and Al Shand.

Coach Walters is directing the preliminary conditioning of the thinclads who are working out every night after school in the gym.

## Pre-Season Tune-up Raises Linksters' Hopes

With four returning lettermen and a host of promising newcomers, the State High golf team is certain to improve last year's winless record.

Veteran Brooks Godfrey, who finished second in last year's J.C.C. city meet, will probably fight it out with Jim Rock, brilliant sophomore prospect, who shot a dazzling 69 on the rough Kalamazoo Country Club course, for the number one position.

Three more sophomores, letter winner Joel Shepherd, Dave Britigan, and Jack DeKreek along with senior returnees Don Kilgore, Charles Straub, and junior Dan Ward will compete for the remaining two playing spots.

The boys have been outdoors a little and have done quite a bit of pre-season tuning up in the driving range in the Men's Gym. The linkmen will be aided by basketball coach, Barney Chance.

## Veterans, Newcomers Vie for Diamond Positions

Coach Fred Stevens greets 12 lettermen this year to open defense of the Wolverine league baseball title. Co-captains Bob Britigan and Gordon Berkhausen, first base and center-field respectively, will lead a promising diamond squad sprinkled with veterans and newcomers.

Last year's starting pitchers, Ray Harbour and Guy Hess, will top a capable staff of moundsmen. Tom Manning and Don DeVries also may do some hurling for the Blue and Gold. Gerry Hawkins, letterman catcher, will probably lead the catchers with Al Glendening as his number one replacement.

Britigan and Bob Miles will be the only regular infield holdovers. Newcomers Ted Garneau and Pete Parker plus lettermen Jack Burke and Bob Mindeman will be after the remaining infield positions.

Miles also can play the outfield. Tom Harding and Berkhausen are the other potential starters in the outer garden. Dallas Weybright and Chuck Ocverik will be first line replacements.

Beb Beisel, Nate Taylor, Jim Brown, and Vern Wade will also be under careful scrutinization by Coach Stevens before his final lineup is announced.

## Vicksburg Admitted to Wolverine Conference

Recently the coaches and athletic directors of the entire Wolverine Conference met at Portage High School. Besides inspecting the new gym, which has a seating capacity of over 3,000, the coaches officially admitted Vicksburg as a member of the league as of September, 1954.

Also, they voted to change the tennis matches from a three singles and two doubles lineup to four singles and three doubles. However, the final singles and doubles must be freshmen.

The spring sports schedule for the league also was worked out. Coaches Walters, Stevens and Chance represented State High at the meeting.

## N. A. A. Plaque to Walters

The National Aeronautics Association has just awarded a plaque to Roy G. Walters for his leadership in the teaching of aeronautics.

This plaque is given as a follow-up of Mr. Walters' being awarded a trip to Washington, D.C. last December in a national contest.



## Be a Good Skate — Just Roll Along

Ever been to a school roller skating party? What fun!

The Seniors, per usual, were trying to show off their fancy styles. Carole and Gordy did a few balancing acts, but Jim Hawkins persisted in unbalancing them. Ruthmary and Danee with their pro tap act, charged admission in the corner.

Fleck, Chuck, Tyler, Pete, and Garneau, complete with pillows, had a speed race, but the winner could never be determined. They all rushed to pick Dot Neiboer off the floor. Such sweet young things!

Among the most serious of students, there are always a few clowns. Tom Bell, Don Alguire, and John Baxter spent the evening cutting in on Harriet and Bob, Ann and Jack and a few other couples.

Vern, Dallas, Don D., and Howard insisted on showing off for a very attractive freshie audience.

Benny, Mindeman, Chuck S., and Blaine brought their Dixie band to furnish the music. Carol H. and Fritz did a cute Charleston, but had to be carried out.

Ann B., Susan, and Ellen caused quite a riot when they appeared in knee socks and shorts. Result? Pat, Matt, Gerry and Joe had to be locked outside for awhile.

Ron Drummond, in those bright leopard pants, insisted on skating on his knees—at least, you can't fall so far that way.

Jim Burger, Pat Squires, Jim Boylan, and Tom Harding started on a new version of "Crack the Whip." Ray LeZotte insisted upon being the end, that is, until the wall got in the way.

The party was finally broken up when the coaches arrived to carry their star players home to bed.

## IE: Hectic Variety

One of the most interesting rooms at State High is IE, where most of the school activities are planned. IE is known as the committee room, for it is populated almost every noon by one of the six council committees, which always seem to leave in a shambles of overturned chairs and banana peels.

The student council also meets in this room to discuss the problems of the student body such as the perennial question, Should we have more social events? What about the hall problem? Should we continue the magazine sale? The council also keeps its own files and those of the committees in IE.

At two o'clock, Miss Giedeman's **Highlights** class meets to discuss the school paper. The walls of IE then echo to many bits of human interest (never called gossip here) and news which appear in the paper. The ancient, battered typewriters via Judy Bree and Carole Edgerton usually beat out a tattoo for a good many minutes after school has ended.

Indeed IE seems to come to life after the 2:50 bell has sounded. If it is Monday, the **Highlights** staff will be working overtime. If it should happen to be Tuesday or Wednesday, some of the Committees may be sloshing paint about, endeavoring to put on posters to advertise the latest dance or the big game-such slogans as "Ostracize Otsego," "Plaster Plainwell," and "Pulverize Portage" are the Pep Committee's delight when they are done by Helen Alman, Annette Douglas, Sue Locke, and Nancy Woodworth; while the Social Committee sticks to more gentle things like "Tiptoe Twirl," "Moonlight Minuet," and "Fabulous Foxtrot," thanks to the overworked imaginations of Joan Puotinen, Sally Clark, Ann Malotte, and Joan Peelen.

## Ode to My Alarm Clock

Each morning I wake up to your clear and happy (?) ring.

I only wish you wouldn't go off with such a jolting zing!

When I slowly turn me over to put you in your place

I stare into that horrible, monotonous face!

My dreams are always going nicely until I hear your call

And after that I feel like throwing you hard against the wall!

I realize your duty is one I should commend,

But I'd rather send you to a place where you would be condemned !!!

To add to the buzz of activities during basketball season, there may be a long line of students pounding at the door so that they might buy a ticket for the week's game. The crowd, headed by Clarke Godfrey and Sharon Spann, rushes into the room and demands tickets from Dick Wilsey, who is frantically trying to keep track of all the greenbacks and wooden nickels.

All of these activities have a certain effect on the furniture and fixtures about the room. The place is practically falling down. The door frame is coming away from the wall and every time the door is opened, a generous portion of plaster falls to the floor or to some unlucky person's head. That isn't bleach Stevie Malone and Sandra Hicks use on their beautiful bangs; it's plaster dust! The furniture, too, is falling apart and is full of splinters. Many a person has sat in one of those chairs and got up mortally wounded. Many a table, also, has fallen apart when an unusually heavy fly happened to sit on it! In fact, one day a weighty teacher (and we refer to the slender Mr. Snow) crashed into the **Highlights** headlines that way!

## EDGEin' Around

Get out the dustpans, kiddies . . . here comes some more dirt! !

Congratulations to senior Donna Burlington! She's one more lucky gal to have her diamond as of last Friday.

What's this we hear about Tim Otis and Janet Jarman ? ? ? Pretty cagey! Dick McCrumb has been around with one Joan Stimpson. Way to go, kids!

Bob Beisel is quite the popular boy. Both Carol Schutz and Jan Correll are very much interested in him.

Which town is Bill Andrus going to settle down in ? ? ? He keeps traveling around . . . Gal in every port, huh Bill? Ruthmary Werly and Jeanne Forward are always waiting to welcome him home.

Ellie Cark had quite the brawl after the tournament game. She didn't make it to the door, tho, to greet the gang. Busy, busy!

Bob Mindeman has been seeing Mary Fran Miller lately. Thought you could keep it a secret, didn't ya?

Tim Light and Zoe Gideon are really buddy-buddy! And by the way, who's this girl that Chuck Sweet doesn't want his name linked with?

A couple of females at Lincoln are keeping Jan Ahlrich quite busy. Doesn't anybody have interests on the homefront? Everybody's got extra-curricular activities.

Two of Paw Paw's males attracted Carole Rice and Cathy Myers. Oh those musicians! Speaking of music . . . Ed Enz has been playing quite a tune with Joanne Survilla.

Never knew this but . . . Mary Lou Atherton is going steady and has been for sometime. Penny Lyons and John Garside are breaking the record as they still are thick as ever. Give 'em a medal!

Question to Bob Britigan and Jane Haney; How did your card game come out at Annette's party ? ? ? More fun, no doubt! That Douglas gal . . . she's the one who stated that she's having more trouble keeping her guys straight. There's so darn many ! !

Heard tell Pat Borgman and Bruce Marshall have broken up but are still going together. Figure that one out! . . . I can't, can you, Clarke ? ?

Woodworth and Tyler are once more hitting it off well. It's about time, don't you think???

Say, what have those college gals got anyway? Now Don Neal is making eyes at them out at Chicken Charlies.

Rob Graff and his Central gal have been having little fights lately. More fun to make up afterwards, tho, isn't it, Rob ? ? ?

Quotation of the week: "She gave him an icy stare, but he didn't mind . . . he loved to fish through the ice." Know anybody like that ???