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## State Highlights 11/23/1954

Western State High School

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# State Highlights

Volume XVI

Kalamazoo, Michigan, November 23, 1954

Number 4

## 'Seven Sisters' Coming on December 10, 11



Getting the set ready at left are R. Light, M. LaPlante, D. Daggett, J. Wise, and M. Roth. F. Simonds says, "I kiss your hand Madam, but . . .", to M. L. Spitters while J. Neal, J. Malone, N. Hotneier, S. Rex, N. Gay, J. Weaver, S. Taylor, M. Smith, and P. Anderson look on.

### Students Honored

The mid-semester honor roll for scholarship has recently been announced. Students receiving four A's with no mark lower than a B are awarded an ALPHA, those with three A's and no mark lower than a B receive a BETA, and students receiving two A's with no mark lower than a B receive a GAMMA award.

Recipients of the honor roll awards are:

**ALPHA**—Mary Lou Allen, Mike Decker, Dean Griffith, Carolyn Kaercher, Mary Jane LaPlante, Larry Littig, Ann Malotte, Alice Osterberg, Judy Schenkel, Alfred Snow, Mary Stelma, Ronald Tanis, Victoria Wenner, and Karen Wilkins.

**BETA**—Patrica Anderson, Peggy Baker, Peggy Belooof, Marilyn Brink, David Britigan, Rosemary Burnett, Mary Carney, Darlene Chapin, Elizabeth Davis, Judith Dekema, Anne Doyle, Tom Elias, Elizabeth Hosick, Mary Luise Kaercher, Phyllis Kievit, Suzanne Lennartson, John Light, Barbara McBride, Robert Miles, Connie Monroe, Mike Palmer, Peter Pullon, Diane Sabo, Mary Margaret Stainton, David Swoap, and Robert Van Peenan.

**GAMMA**—Susan Ashley, Ruthann Bryan, Julie DenBleyker, Allen Elias, Gary Forsleff, Carol Hartman, Cullen Henshaw, Carole Lemon, JoAnn Moon, James Otis, Joan Parkes, Jan Perry, Mary Roberts, Richard Schrei-

"All right, if I win the bet, I get three kisses, providing that I can get the other sisters married off soon."

Who's having all this delightful trouble? Does he succeed? Why not come to the fall play and find out?

The story of the play, "Seven Sisters," is based upon the series of books, "The Gyurkovics Girls," which were popular in Hungary and are very much like Louisa Alcott's "Little Women."

Under the direction of Miss Cleveland, and Mr. Sack, the play will be presented on December 10 and 11 at 8 P.M. in the Little Theater. Tickets will sell for 75 cents.

The student assistant director will be Martha Roth, with student teachers, Jan Rivard and Dona Young also helping.

The entire plot revolves around the attempts of Mrs. Gyurkovics to marry off her seven daughters. The only complication is that according to tradition, they must be married off in order of their ages. Nancy Hotneier plays the overbearing mother while Larry Littig as the dashing, romantic hero, Ferenz Horkoy, complicates matters by trying to marry Mitzi, the fourth daughter, portrayed by Mary Lou Spitters. Larry tries desperately throughout the whole play to get rid of the other sisters.

Katrinka, the dignified eldest sister, as played by Pat Anderson, finally finds her true love in Colonel Radviany, a middle-aged man, James Malone.

Frank Simonds, in the role of Gida Radviany, is left holding the bag, but finally marries Ella, the happy-go-lucky third sister, portrayed by Sandra Taylor.

Mary Smith, cast as Sari, the second sister, finds herself quickly engaged to Michael Sandorffy, accurately portrayed by James Causey.

Nancy Gay, Sandra Rex and Karen

Wilkins are cast as the three younger sisters. James Neal is Janko, the butler of the family. George Peelen plays the godson, Toni Teleki.

Of course, a play couldn't be presented without the help of the many stage hands.

Those who are pounding and hammering away are J. Wise and J. Neal, mgrs., R. Light, P. Lyon, A. Osterberg, D. Davidson, M. Squires, B. Noyes, Dexter Jennings, R. Drummond and D. Longjohn.

Planning and collecting appropriate costumes and ably assisted by a large group of parents are co-chairmen N. Perry and J. Perry, D. Weybright, J. Dargitz, P. Belooof, P. Anderson, M. Carney and J. Rock.

In charge of make-up are M. Roth, J. Dekema, G. Buchanan, and W. Locke.

Advertising the play is occupying the attention of R. Light, chairman, L. Scott, J. Malone, J. Wise, and P. Anderson.

Technical details of programs are being taken care of by D. Herman as chairman, M. Roth, P. Belooof, C. Lemon, E. Gemrich, and P. Weber.



# Sugar 'n Spice

by Larry 'n Bryce

"It's a Woman's World!" Go to any gym class and you wouldn't think anyone else could survive. Girls, try to be a little quieter. Back in civilization, we menfolk are hard at work.

Hats off to our alumnae! Miriam Leimer was elected vice-president of the Western Michigan freshmen class, and Pat Lynch, named Frosh representative to the Student Council.

George P. tells us that Chuck S. missed two rabbits one day. Who says that rabbits' feet aren't lucky—for the rabbits, at least?

Old Mother Hubbard went to the freezer

To get her poor dog a steak  
He stuck his nose in  
Pulled it out frozen,  
If he sneezes too hard, it'll break.

Mr. Jerse finally had to subject his 11:00 government class to alphabetical seating. Seems that there was a bad epidemic of "vocal dysentery."

While Mike Palmer was battling for the band's attention, a certain columnist told him, "I'm trying." Just a bit too trying. Ergo—monitor report.

In room 1E there is a door problem. The journalism class tried to solve it the other day. When the good-natured Dr. fell from the band room walked in, a chair fell at his feet. To say the least, Miss Giedeman's face matched his red hair!

It's a little early to say, but we think that there will be room on the bench for Miss McNeil, French I student teacher, who made this "boo-boo" while explaining baseball: "... and from third you go to fourth base."

Those aren't beautifully colored cobwebs hanging down in your face, kids, they're mobiles advertising the play "Seven Sisters." Clever, unusual style!

Things are back to normal (?) in the cafeteria now that a certain drip has been fixed. From the pipes, we mean. Someone did try to sneak an extra dessert, though. Didn't do much good when the rest of his lunch took off for the floor.

Got any old flag poles you don't know what to do with? See Tom Elias; he's found a building 300 feet long and 3 feet wide to store them in.

Little Boy Blue come blow your horn  
The sheep's in the meadow, the cows  
in the corn,  
"I didn't know cows drank."  
"Of course, they do. Haven't you ever  
heard of beef-stew?"

## Three Centuries of Progress

Early in the seventeenth century a stalwart group of Englishmen, tired of British domination, escaped to the new country America where they could carry on as they pleased. On the anniversary of their landing they celebrated with a feast of thanksgiving for surviving the hard winter and having good crops.

It was a time of joy and a time of sincerity. The feast had a deep meaning for everyone there. They had struggled for what they wanted and finally achieved their goal.

Today, three hundred years later, we still celebrate this occasion. Those Pilgrims worked and suffered for what they wanted; ours has been given by birth. Are we willing to suffer and to work to keep our freedoms? Has our Thanksgiving Day fallen into merely a day to fill our stomachs to the top and then go back to the routine of before? Let's hope not!

Our meals today are often as near as the telephone. The Pilgrims' were as near as the musket that hung over the fireplace. Preparing the meals was no cinch either. The old log cabins have seen many a stuffed, smoky chimney and imagine how hard it was to carry those huge iron pots around even when empty. A modern push-button stove and a refrigerator solve those problems.

If someone was sick then, he had to "sweat it out," perhaps with the aid of a few herbs the Indians had shown them. We have the benefits of penicillin, sulfa and other drugs.

If we want to get word to a friend, we can drop a letter in a corner mailbox, confident that the note will be delivered within a few days. The Pilgrims' only means of communication was a young boy with strong legs.

Also, we have the privilege of the automobile and can drive across the state in a few hours. With the Pilgrims, travel took days and if the weather were bad, perhaps even weeks.

No, the Pilgrims didn't have much by way of material things, but they made use of what they had. Today we have many more conveniences and privileges. Who is the more thankful?

—Bryce Forester

## Downbeat

by "Mr. Howie"

Dr. Beloof said, after the band had really mixed up a good piece of music, "Playing the notes is one thing, but please try to play in the right key. You know, there have been men who were shot for being in the wrong flat."

Tuesday, December 7, at two o'clock the Blue and Gold committee will have a talent assembly. Other acts will be seen only in early February.

The Band Parent Organization is sponsoring a potluck supper for parents and members of both senior and junior high bands. This event will be held in the cafeteria at 6:30 p.m., November 30.

Said Auntie to her nephew,  
"You grew some, didn't you?"  
"Yes, Auntie," said her nephew,  
"And you're a bit gruesome, too."

## Honor Roll (Cont.)

ber, Linda Scott, Joel Shepherd, Mary Lou Spitters, Joan Stimson, Carol Sutton, Mary Thorpe, Catherine Van Riper, Shirley VanValkenburg, Nancy Watterworth, Dawn Weybright, Marilyn Wilsey, and Jean Yerden.

The past week, homerooms have been collecting money and food for the needy of Kalamazoo. Homerooms have given cans of food or money to buy a turkey or ham.

The baskets will be distributed tomorrow after school is out at noon with members of homerooms going to the needy families.

The State Highlights is published approximately every two weeks during the school year.

Members of the Journalism Class make up the following staff: Gary Birch, Jack Burke, Darlene Chapin, Anne Doyle, Bryce Forester, Ted Garneau, Jane Haney, Carol Hartman, Howard Jennings, Larry Littig, Tamsin Malone, John Schensul, and Danee Taylor.



## Free Throw by Ted Garneau

GAL. 5—HILITES  
Dec. 3—Holland Christian, There  
Dec. 10—South Haven, There  
Dec. 17—Portage—Here  
Dec. 18—Grand Rapids South, Plainwell  
Dec. 21—Vicksburg, Here  
Jan. 7—Otsego, There  
Jan. 14—Plainwell, Here  
Jan. 21—Allegan, There  
Jan. 26—Vicksburg, There  
Jan. 28—South Haven, Here  
Feb. 4—Portage, There  
Feb. 11—Otsego, Here  
Feb. 15—Plainwell, There  
Feb. 18—Holland Christian, Here  
Feb. 25—Allegan, Here  
Feb. 26—Buchanan, There

Holland Christian will serve the purpose of testing the Cubs when we travel to Holland on Dec. 3. Holland Christian is always a strong team. My prediction for that game is State 43, Holland Christian 67.

The reason for the guess (and it is only a guess) is that Holland has been practicing since school started and may be better prepared than the Cubs.

Around 20 boys went out for the varsity team and another 40 for the reserve and freshman teams. Good luck to all these fellows. Let's have a successful season!

We would like to congratulate the football team and Coach Walters on winning the conference championship. This is the first football title State High has won since 1942, when the Cubs took the Big Seven Title.

This season State won seven out of eight games. The first match was close, but the Cubs came through like future champions scoring two touchdowns in the last quarter to beat Buchanan 13-7. We then went on to defeat Dowagiac 19-7, and Plainwell 22-0 without any trouble.

The Cubs lost to Allegan 14-12 in a heartbreaking game. An inspired Allegan team stopped two State drives two and three yards short of the goal.

State then rebounded in championship form beating Portage 7-0, South Haven 19-0, Otsego 26-0, while Allegan had lost and tied one game. An upset-minded Vicksburg team scored first on State, but the Cubs came back and won easily 33-6.

Coach Walters has an All-State candidate in star-halfback Bob Miles.

Last night, there was a banquet at the Presbyterian Church at 6:00 P.M. in honor of all boys who went out for football and cross country and completed the season. These included varsity, reserve, and freshman team members. This event was sponsored by the Parent Booster Committee, and entertainment consisted of speakers, a Lions' (pro-football) film, and the announcement of next year's captain, Bob Miles.

## Proper Food, Rest, Cooperation Make Better Athletes

As the basketball season approaches, members of the athletic department staff have made suggestions for both players and followers of the team. Perhaps one might think that except for practice, there is nothing that an athletic team can do to improve. Practice is helpful, yes, but there are other things that go into making a successful team. Just as important is keeping in training. All the practice in the world won't help a player if he is full of food or so tired he can't stand up. If a player eats rolls, pies, and other pastries, his wind will be cut. Now, what can parents do to help the team?

At the start of each school year, a letter is sent to all athletes. This letter contains training rules, the schedule of games and information about the team. Although this letter is addressed to the player, the parents are asked to read it, too. Parents can watch what they put on the table for the boy to eat. Lots of meat, potatoes, green vegetables, fruit, and milk are very good. A healthful dessert consists of fruit, ice cream, or a pudding or custard that contains milk. Then after a boy eats these, he should get some rest to give the food a chance to digest. On the nights of a game, three hours before starting time, the meal should consist of

toast, eggs and tea or coffee. Remember, absolutely no milk. A boy should go to the game a little hungry, for if he plays on a full stomach, he will be slow and his senses won't be so alert.

Now comes something just as important as eating—sleep. All one can say about that is that an athlete should get from 8 to 10 hours of sleep a night. If the game is played on a day when there is no school, the player should get up before 10 o'clock. He should eat and take a good long walk. Two nights before the game a player should get the most sleep, for on the night before the game, he usually is too excited to get very much sleep.

A third important item and a definite morale builder is for parents to do their best to see the games. Parents can set the example for the rest of the students. If the parents start booing a player or the referee or if they criticize the coaches, the rest of the school may chime in with them. As a result the team may be hurt. After the game, one should not be a grandstand coach even though it's easier to be a coach after the game than while it is going on.

State High can't help but have a successful season if the players, coaches, and parents work together.

## On Making the Team

### AN ATHLETE'S PRAYER

"O God, I made the team today. I still can feel the thrill that came when I knew that my muscles and nerves, my skill and intelligence had been weighed in the scales of struggle and been found sufficient.

"I rejoice in these limbs of mine, for they are Thy gift.

"I am glad for these lungs, these hands, my keen eyes, the quick co-operation of nerve and muscle that make me what I am.

"I exult in the strong, steady heart, pumping away within me, and that in the time of test, it does not fail.

"I thank Thee for my parents and their long lines of ancestors who have lived the clean and active life.

"I thank Thee for all the opportunities that have been mine. Save me from pride and conceit. Grant that I never be so weak as to whine in defeat.

"May I be chivalrous to my opponents, generous to my comrades, modest in victory, steady in defeat.

"Save me from ever believing that my body is all there is to life. Grant that I may increasingly regard it as a temple of Thy divine Spirit. Amen"

### COMING EVENTS

November 24—Wednesday. Out of school at noon for Thanksgiving vacation.  
November 29—Monday. Back to school.  
December 3—Friday. Basketball, Holland Christian, There.  
December 7—Tuesday. Talent assembly in Little Theater at 2:00.  
December 9 — Parent Visitation Day.  
December 10—Friday. Basketball, South Haven, there. Pep Assembly at 12:30.  
December 10, 11—"Seven Sisters" at 8:00 P.M. in the Little Theater.

## Program Gives Thanks

This morning at 10:00, State High had its annual Thanksgiving assembly, given under the direction of Nancy Watterworth and Mr. Deur. The idea of an American Thanksgiving was used, with Joan Sisk narrating the program. Musical numbers were given by the choir, Patti Paul, and the Triple Trio. A dramatic skit, a reading by Mary L. Spitters, and a talk by Mr. D. Leonardelli completed the program.



## Buck Fever

This is a disease, not deadly, but catching and once a person has caught it, he's infected for life. I know, because I've had it every year.

November 15 was the first day hunters could take to the woods for their annual hunters versus deer convention. Your truly, George William Peelen, attended the convention once with Yutz, Bert, Charlie, and my brother Matt. On opening day we found ourselves located on the edge of a huge forest in Upper Michigan.

At 6:00 A.M. we started to load our guns, but alas and alack, I had brought the wrong shells for my gun! Alone, at 6:00 in the morning, I set out for town to try to secure some of those ever precious shells. Locating a sports store was easy, but as for its being open, well, I settled that. Walking up to the door of the proprietor, who lived over the store, I knocked; knock, knock . . . knock! knock! knock! . . . bang! bang! bang!

"Yes, who's there?" called the proprietor.

"I hope I didn't wake you up, but, er— I brought the wrong shells for my gun," I answered.

"Just a moment; I'll be right down."

It didn't take me long to secure the right shells and soon I was racing back to the happy hunting grounds to get my share of the deer. However, surprisingly enough I didn't see any deer, not that morning or that afternoon and still not the next day. Only then did I realize I was playing it wrong.

The third day we went to a different spot where there were plenty of hunters, plenty of woods, but again, no deer. Then about 2:00 P.M. I heard it—the noise in the brush. Rustle, rustle, (10 minutes), rustle, rustle, rustle. It was a deer; I knew it was a deer; it was my buck. Steady, Peelen, don't lose your composure. Quit shaking! In just a moment he'll break out of the brush and you'd better be ready.

Suddenly it was standing there before me. I didn't make a move, but a strange feeling started in my feet and moved slowly up through my body. Then pink spots appeared before my eyes while my jaw touched the ground. There before me stood my brother with his eyes popping out as though he, too, were expecting to see a buck.

—George Peelen

## Carol's Cubbyhole

Football season is over, and basketball is about to begin. This hasn't slowed up the romance department any; in fact, business is pretty good.

Have you heard the latest? GEORGE PEELEN is going steady—with a girl. George has been raiding some other schools and he seems to have hit the jack-pot.

While I was gasping for air in the halls the other noon, I learned that MARY SMITH, the quiet one, has been going out with JOHN SIMCOX.

State High has royalty in its midst. JOAN HARBACK was crowned queen of the Marines here in town. Congrats, Joan, that is really swell.

It seems as if the senior girls are always doing something scandalous. Now they have DAVE PLATT in their grasps. What's the attraction, Dave?

Observance of the week: CHARLENE SCHULTZ was sleeping with her head on MARV BALCH's shoulder during an assembly. Hmmm, what have we here?

Say, do you know what the sophomore boys have over the junior boys? . . . junior girls!

What's this? TOM MANNING and HARRIET HOWE! Wha hoppon to the Gibson brothers?

Combined class seems to be the center of an interdigitation period. We understand that JOEL SHEPHERD should have more assignments to keep him from holding hands with MARY ROBERTS.

According to all reports, last weekend was really a rare one, the turnabout being the reason for the turmoil. SANDY SPANN accompanied MATT PEELEN, and we understand they had a great time. Don't worry, PHIL, your gal still likes you.

The underclassmen didn't waste any time on the turnabout. ROSEMARY BURNETT escorted JOHN KIRSTEN, JOAN BLANCHETTE took BRUCE JENNINGS, and BILL NOYES went with GAIL BAKER.

How's for having three cheers for little RONNIE SCHUTZ? He did a terrific job as mascot of the games.

Just for fun, I happened to take heed of some of the little innocent freshies and sophomores. If PEGGY BELOOF, ALLEN ELIAS, CARL KIINO, SANDRA BURKE, or GAIL WRUBLE expect to get your names in the paper, you'll just have to be more rowdy. Speaking of names in the paper, we understand that MARY JANE LAPLANTE wants her name in. Well, here it is!

Gosh, kiddies, where has this paper gone to? Kind of looks like we'll have to close this bit of rubbish. I can't think of a better way than with a famous quotation.

Through the long, dark, jungle-like paths of lockers, comes the cry of the big cat, "GET OFF MY SUEDES!"

## From Attorney To Zoo

Perhaps you might be interested in several new books in the library. For example, **The Good Spirit of Laurel Ridge** by Jesse Stuart is a fine story of Tennessee mountain life. Some one might like to read the story of Elizabeth Browning as written by Waite in the book, **How Do I Love Thee**. Have you ever wondered what the mother of Henry VIII was like? **The Tudor Rose** by Barnes in this respect is very interesting. Jessamyn West publishes another fine book titled **The Friendly Persuasion**. It is the story of Indiana countryside life, and along the historical novel line **The Nazarene** by Sholem Asch, a story based on the life of Christ, will probably rate high on many reading lists.

Mr. Jerse recommends, especially to seniors, the story of **Clarence Darrow**, the famous defense attorney, who had the reputation of never losing a case. Irving Stone tells his story very well. John Dos Passos gives the life of Thomas Jefferson an entirely new treatment with his biography of this great American: **The Head and Heart of Thomas Jefferson**. Have you ever wondered about the life of Tom Thumb, the midget discovered by P. T. Barnum? Alice Desmond tells of his very interesting life in her new book **General Tom Thumb**.

For those interested in science the library has two books, one on **Nuclear Physics** by William Heisenberg for those brains in the physics class and others, and **Home-made Zoo** which tells how to catch, train, and keep animals.

## Grateful Because—

Thanksgiving is almost here again. In our wanderings around the halls of State High before the start of the Thanksgiving holidays, we decided to stop various students and teachers to ask them this question. "What are you thankful for on this Thanksgiving?"

Patti Paull replied that she was glad she lived in a democracy, that she's allowed to go to school, and that everyone has the right to vote.

Jo Ann Moon answered, "I am thankful for the fact that everyone can spend Thanksgiving as they choose and that it's up to us to determine what we believe."

Our language teacher, Mrs. Monroe, replied that she was thankful for her country, peace, her good health, and a few intelligent students.

Betsy Hosick, one of State High's new freshmen, remarked, "I am glad that I have a good home."

Peter Lloyd said that he was happy that the whole family is able to get together on Thanksgiving.

Joan Blanchette, a new sophomore, replied, "I'm glad we don't have a dictatorship in America."

Then there was Ann Malotte who said that she was thankful that we in America have all the rights and privileges of a free nation, and that we are not in a third world war.

George Schau smiled and said, "I'm glad I don't have to do all the dishes from the Thanksgiving dinner."

Nancy Gay replied wistfully, "It makes me think of my Uncle Kenny who died on Thanksgiving Day and how thankful I am that I'm alive today."