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## State Highlights 3/30/1955

Western State High School

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# State Highlights

Volume XVI

Kalamazoo, Michigan, March 30, 1955

Number 10

## Operetta To Depict Southern Folk Story



"I love you, too, Brack," says N. Watterworth to G. Peelen as C. Warfield, P. Platt, R. LeZotte, E. Davis, H. Jennings, P. DeKorte, T. Light, J. Wise, D. Tyler, B. Peterson look on.

### Easter Assembly Planned

State High's annual Easter program will take place on Good Friday, April 8, at 11 o'clock in Kanley Chapel. The program will revolve around the theme, "Walks of Jesus." The choir will begin with the selection, "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked" and will be followed by a student speaker. Chuck Warfield will then give a reading while the choir sings in the background.

### U. of M. Day Draws Seniors

The University of Michigan will beckon all high school seniors to University Day on Saturday, April 23. The program for the day will include campus tours, open house in all the schools and colleges, luncheon at residence halls, fraternities and sororities, and probably attendance at a spring sports event.

## Honoring-- Darlene Chapin

who recently received the **Kalamazoo Gazette's** four year full-tuition Journalism Scholarship to the University of Michigan.

### COMING EVENTS

April 1, 2—Choir Operetta, Civic Theater, 8:15  
April 2 — Latin Day in the Women's Gym, 9:30 A.M.  
April 8—Assembly at 11:00 in Kanley Chapel. School closes at noon for spring vacation  
April 18—Monday. School opens.  
April 19 — Tuesday. Assembly, 1:00, Little Theater  
April 23 — Saturday. Dance, Women's Gym, 8:30-11:30.  
University Day at Ann Arbor for Seniors

### Science Day To Include Scholarship Competition

The spotlight of this coming week-end's activities at Western Michigan College will be the Annual Science Day on Friday, April 1. High school students and teachers from all parts of the state will be on the local campus to participate in the various activities which will include science exhibits, demonstrations, displays, and motion pictures. Among the events will be the annual examination among interested high school students in competition for the two science and mathematics scholarships offered at Western.

### Double Cast Used

Mr. Jack Frey, director of the State High Choir, has announced that the operetta for this year will be "Down in the Valley" by Kurt Weill and Arnold Sungaard. The Southern folk story will be portrayed at the Civic Theater this Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2.

"Down in the Valley" takes place in Alabama in the early 1900's. The plot revolves around two sweethearts, Brack Weaver and Jennie Parsons, whose romance is hampered by Jennie's father and Thomas Bouche. While returning from a prayer meetin', Brack asks Jennie to a dance on Saturday night and she accepts, but when she gets home she finds Bouche sitting on the front porch with her father. He also asks her to the dance. She naturally refuses, but after Bouche leaves, her father tells her that she doesn't have to go with Bouche, but may not go with anyone else either. He does this, he says, because he doesn't want to make Bouche, who holds the mortgage on his farm, angry. But in spite of her father, Jennie goes with Brack Weaver.

At the dance Bouche comes in drunk and starts a fight with Brack over Jennie. Brack gets the better of him so Bouche pulls a knife, but gets stabbed with it himself. Brack is taken away, tried, and sentenced to hang. On the eve of his execution Brack anxiously awaits a letter from Jennie, but none comes because her father tries to prevent her from "moonin' over a murderer." Finally Brack gets in such a frenzy that he escapes to see Jennie for the last time. He finds her, and spends his last few hours with her before he gives himself up and is taken away and hanged.

Parts, almost all of which are double cast, will be played by the following persons: Brack Weaver: George Peelen and Paul DeKorte; Jennie Parsons: Nancy Watterworth and Ellen Davis; Thomas Bouche: Dick Tyler and Peter Platt; Father: Rick Light and Howard Jennings; Peters: Ray LeZotte; Guard: Bob Peterson and George Schau; Preacher: Tim Light; a man: Mike Decker; two women: Margaret Borton and Helen Thorpe.

Accompanist will be Julie DenBlyker and the student-teacher directors will be John Steward, Janet (Con't. on page 4)



# Sugar'n Spice

by Larry'n Bryce

Kids in the Physical Science class have been in a rather industrious mood lately. Bruce Jennings has been making regular barometer and temperature recordings, and when the class went to the airport to take rides in various types of planes, Jo Ann Moon practically sprouted wings by going up three times.

Linda Hawkins lost her slip the other day. It blew quite a ways before she put it back where it belonged. Please, Linda, we'll have no more of this! Those absence slips are valuable! (Fooled you, didn't we?)

John Fleckenstein and Chuck Ocverick have been muttering, "Down in the valley where the green grass grows. There sat . . ." Rope-skipping is fun, isn't it, fellas?

Have you seen the little door in 1E? Well, there is a little room behind it where one day six loving Latin students hid out to brighten up the class by scaring Miss Giedeman. She was even more appalled another day when the door swung open and nobody was there.

Romantic Rosemary Burnett fainted at the feet of an interne at Bronson Hospital the other night. "Oh tell me, doctor, what is my trouble?"

Good news for the senior girls! Did you know that there are five boys to every four girls in your class? Make hay while the sun shines, gals; this is open warfare, and don't count out the underclasswomen.

Nancy Gay has been going around school lately with a flat face. Miss Crisman, do you have any defense for this corporal punishment?

Heard tell that Ann Burgderfer has been nominated for "Miss Malted Milk of 1955." The Advanced Speech Class was delighted with the samples she presented in her demonstration speech.

A certain male member of the faculty really gets around. The other day he discovered a lovely show of affections between Carol Hartman and Dick Tyler. Nancy and Al will never know, will they, Mr. Taylor?

Signs of spring . . . Bill Loudon sluggishly forcing himself through the halls . . . The last snowstorm of March . . . Loren Bynum streaking ahead of an irate teacher after a gratis demonstration of a typical practical joke . . . Even the freshmen are beginning to pair off.

# Crossroad

It was very cold in my cell. The guards had left me no straw, and my body, lean with hunger, was trembling violently. I looked across at another man sitting quietly on the bare slabs of stone, which served as a floor for the dungeon. I could see fear in his eyes and I pitied him. The two of us were to be executed on the morrow for crimes that we had previously committed. I, too, was frightened at the thought of death, but as I had done wrong, I realized that I must pay for it and so was resigned to the fact. All of my life I had tried to lead a good, honest life, but poverty prompted me to turn to crime as a means of survival. It was for this reason that I was sentenced to die. I was trying to prepare myself for death, but it was a very difficult task.

After spending a sleepless night in our cell, we were awakened by the guards. They told us that another man was to be executed with us and laughed as they saw Jonah, my companion, begin to sweat as he thought of his approaching death. I tried to console him, but it was no use. Nothing could save him now.

It was about noon when we were taken to our place of execution, Mount Calvary, a hill outside Jerusalem. We then knew that we were to be crucified. A cold chill swept over me for I knew that crucifixion was a slow and painful death. I had little time, however, to think, for soon they had strapped me onto the cross and hoisted me into the air. As the foot of my cross was finally made fast in the ground, I realized that my feet would never trod upon earth again.

After we had been at Calvary for about half an hour, I noticed a huge procession coming towards the hill. In the midst of the crowd was a man carrying a cross, and so I decided that He was the other who was to be executed. His steps faltered under His heavy load, and many times He fell to the ground. His head was covered with thorns which had caused little streams of blood to run down His face.

Finally, He arrived at Calvary. He was nailed to the cross, and a sign was placed over His head: "This is the King of the Jews." I was puzzled at the meaning of this strange caption.

By this time, the hill was overflowing with people, many of them crying. Men and women knelt at the foot of His cross and begged forgiveness for their sins. Some even reached up to touch His nail-pierced feet. A few of the Roman soldiers had begun to feel uneasy about the execution and to fear the anger of the man's followers. However, the latter made no moves to rescue their "King" and acted as if they hardly recognized the soldiers.

The whole situation was now beginning to make sense to me. I had heard somewhere of a carpenter who had professed to be the savior of mankind, so I reasoned that this must be the same man, the man called Jesus Christ. The thought that perhaps He might save even such a man as I gave me a wonderful feeling that I had never before experienced. I looked towards Him with tears of supplication, and He gave me a loving smile which soothed my soul. I knew then that this man could have done no wrong and that He was the son of God. My only hope was that I could prove my belief in Him. My chance came.

It was about two-thirty in the afternoon, and we were becoming weary. Suddenly, my companion said to Jesus in a loud voice, "If Thou be Christ, save Thyself and us." Hardly realizing what I was saying, I looked steadily at him and replied, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss."

Knowing that my strength was ebbing fast, I turned to Jesus and softly whispered, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom." He turned to me and answered, "Verily I say unto thee, today thou shalt be with Me in paradise." The sound of these words, the most beautiful that I had ever heard, made the blood run through the veins of my tired body. With a smile on my lips, my head dropped suddenly, and I saw heaven open its gates to another sinner.

- - - Larry Littig



## Call Me Splinters

by Ted Garneau

In my columns in the past, I've written on the teams, such as football, basketball, and cross-country. Now before spring sports get started, let's take a look at the ping pong tournament.

If the Wolverine Conference ran ping pong as a sport, I believe State High would have a real powerhouse. Mike Palmer would probably be the first man, with other stars like Larry Littig, Pete Platt, George Peelen, and Larry Johnson rounding out the terrific team. Palmer won the 1955 championship with Platt the runner up. However, Mike had a tough time doing it. Peelen, Littig and Platt, in that order, all extended Palmer to three games before the winner could be decided. The only girl with enough gumption to enter the singles tournament was Jean Yerden. If you think she was a "soft touch," ask Jack DeKreek.

In doubles it ran the same, the team of Littig and Peelen winning out over the other great combination of Platt and Palmer.

Larry Littig, with the help of Mr. Ray Deur, should be patted on the back for running such a wonderful, exciting tournament. A grand total of about 53 boys and 6 girls entered.

There has been a baseball game added to the schedule. State High will play Sturgis on May 17. Also a Wayland game is being scheduled. In that game the Cubs might meet the Wildcat star pitcher, Phil Regan, who gave the Cubs only two hits last year.

There has been a request made to our athletic director, Coach Stevens. Ray LeZotte has suggested that marbles and badminton be played in the intramural program. Brilliant Ray, Boy !! Brilliant !!

Incidentally there has been a record number of boys out for spring sports: 39 in baseball, 51, track, 15, tennis, and 11, golf. That adds up to 116 boys. Not bad for a school with a total enrollment of about 330.

## Come One, Come All!

### Creep or Crawl!

Come on, kids, let's go, go, go! "Get hep" and get ready to "dig that cool dance" sponsored by the "crazy" Highlights April 23. Be "neat" and show "nifty" school spirit. Support the paper and its "cats." Your "moola" will help "jive" another "slick" issue of the paper that really "sends" you.

## Contest On For Used Books

"Bring books for Nigeria" will be the slogan for the textbook drive starting tomorrow, Thursday, March 31, and continuing until Friday, April 8. The Service Committee is sponsoring the project with teams of the boys against the girls, with Larry Littig and Mary Lou Spitters as captains.

## Basketball Banquet To Be Held Tonight; Coach Hoy To Speak

Honoring members of the varsity, reserve, and freshmen squads will be the annual dinner tonight at 6:30 P.M. at Schensul's cafeteria. An interesting program is in store for all attending. This includes anyone who wishes to come and who may buy tickets from the "S" Club for \$2.50 each.

The Reverend Eldon Watterworth will lead the invocation. Mr. Dan Parker will then give opening remarks, followed by Coaches Barney Fowler, Fred Stevens, and Barney Chance, who will review the high-points of the frosh, reserve, and varsity schedules. Joe Hoy, head basketball coach at Western, will be the guest speaker. Mr. Parker will give a few remarks to close the meeting.

## LETTERMEN ANNOUNCED

Twenty boys have earned varsity and reserve letters this year, 10 each. Reserve letter winners are Vern Wade, Dave Fuller, Rich Howson, Jim Kemerling, Clark Godfrey, Jim Brown, Andy Lenderink, Rod Wagonmaker, Ken Hartman and Randy Crockett.

Varsity award winners are Bob Miles, Pete Parker, Al Wise, Nate Taylor, Chuck Warfield, John Fleckenstein, Bob Beisel, Jack De Kreek, Dallas Weybright and Anthony Nieboer.

## Invasion Female:

### Your Serve

As athletics continue to grow in prominence, feminine participation is also increasing. Fifty years ago it was considered unladylike for women to show an active interest in sports. Today they play volleyball, tennis, basketball, golf, football, hockey, and many others. Still, the quality of their performances often cannot equal those made by a group of men. The main reason for this might well be a lack of co-ordination and the fact that they are women. Let us illustrate with an example.

It is an unbearably hot and sultry July day. There is no breeze whatsoever, and the muggy atmosphere makes you want to douse yourself with a bucket of ice cubes. Suppose that you and your best girl have been sitting in her backyard, wasting the afternoon away. You are just about to fall asleep, when a lovely kiss alights on your cheek from God knows where with the obvious intention of persuasion. You open your eyes and drowsily mutter, "All right, dear, how much do you want?"

"Honey, let's go over to the park and play tennis." After fifteen minutes of hopeless argument, you finally consent.

When you arrive at the park, the heat of the day has just about reached its peak for human endurance. Slowly, very slowly, you walk to one end of the court and hit a ball to her. Strike one! After countless strikes and numerous fouls, you decide that she needs some instruction. That proves to be your big mistake. You demonstrate the proper method of hitting a forehand and a backhand, but that isn't enough for her. She wants to learn to serve, to hit overheads, and to volley at the net. You start out bravely, but her continued "whys" finally bring you to say, "Mm boy, I'd like to smash you one." (You're that desperate!)

"Gee, honey, don't get mad. I was only asking," comes the innocent reply. Upon hearing this remark, you give up the idea of attempting to teach her anything and return to hit a few more balls with her.

## Str-r-r-ike Three

Now, in regard to the art of baseball, too, instructing some dainty lass has its moments.

Consider a certain incident which comes readily to one's mind. It was back in the early grade school days, during a gym period, when the class was outside enjoying all the newness of spring. The boys were asked to assist the girls with their difficulties in baseball. Your writer was teamed up with a very talkative and not bad looking little girl, who desired to learn how to throw a ball up in the air and then hit it with a bat. Hence I obligingly set about showing her how it was done.

"First, you throw the ball up into the air with your left hand, and then swing the bat and hit it," I said. "Before you throw the ball up, though, you're to take the bat . . . here, take it . . . and rest it on your shoulder. Then you throw the ball up with your left hand, grab the bat and swing."

"How do you throw the ball up?" she asked.

"Like this," I replied, thus making one of the fastest mistakes in my life.

Let me briefly re-paint the picture for you. Here standing opposite each other were an eager little girl and an unsuspecting little boy. The girl had a bat cocked, ready to fire, on her shoulder and the little boy threw the ball up between them. Needless to say, I was carried away by her sudden display of enthusiasm. In other words she swung, connected, and clobbered me—and hard!



## Scottish Lassie Charms State High

State High is happy to welcome to its "hallowed halls" pretty Sheila Douglas. Sheila comes from North Berwick, which is on the southeast coast of Scotland. She claims she hadn't ever seen so many buildings as in Kalamazoo. Her home town has buildings, not of brick like ours, but of stone and granite.

Sheila's school provides ten subjects the first three years of high school: English, French, science, mathematics, geography, art, music, gym, and home economics or woodwork for the boys. At her school there is no band or choir.

When Sheila was asked the comparison between America and Scotland, she explained she wouldn't compare them. She has noticed that our homes are more modern; but, on the other hand, she has revealed that Scotland has more coinage. When Sheila was questioned as to whether she would want to go back to Scotland or stay in America she answered, "I would rather stay here; I think this is a young peoples' country." She went on to explain that there is little opportunity for young people in Scotland. Most all the married women work and there are no jobs for the "younger set" of Scotland. Sheila continued with her season for choosing America to live, explaining that we are more friendly and sociable. She says when she walks down the halls of State High, everyone speaks to her, even many of the kids she does not know or has seen only once or twice. At her school many of the kids look right through you.

Sheila comments that the food and clothing are the same in both countries although the sports world differs a little. In the winter the girls play field hockey and the boys, rugby, similar to our football, and soccer. In the summer the girls swim and

play net ball while the fellows play cricket. Sheila enjoys swimming and tennis in the summer and sewing in the winter. Sheila makes many of her own clothes and when wearing them, she looks as if she stepped from a "band box." One can be proud of such talent.

We all hope Sheila enjoys being at State High because we enjoy having her!

## Speech Students Hope For District Awards

As a result of the local forensic contest held here recently, the nine winners listed below will compete at the district speech contest on Tuesday, April 5, in the Little Theater. Entered in the contest, which will begin at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, will be students from State High, Portage, and Hastings. Arrangements will be made so that students wishing to see part of the contest will be able to get out of study periods during the day. State High students who captured top honors in the local contest are Humorous Reading: S. Locke, G. Forsleff; Dramatic Reading: N. Watterworth, M. L. Spitters; Declamation: P. Paull, R. Burnett; Extempore: T. Light J. Sisk; Original Oratory: C. Schultz.

The winners of the district will then appear in the regional contest, which will be held in the Little Theater on April 27.

Miss Mary Lou Spitters and Mr. James Causey, accompanied by Mr. William Sack, attended the Radio and Television Conference at Michigan State College, Saturday, March 12. In a preliminary contest, in which students from Ohio, Indiana, Detroit, and Traverse City competed, Mary Lou was selected as one of the nine finalists. The latter then appeared on WKAR TV in an oral interpretation contest.

## On The Podium by John Schensul

The spotlight on April 19 will be the 1:00 assembly featuring the State High Band. The band will play various types of selections such as "Little Bob Riding Hood," "Get on Board," "Midnight in Paris" and "The Sandpaper Ballad" featuring the drum section. The members of this group are Marcia Howard, Diane Sabo, Ellen Davis, Judy Schenkel, John Baxter, and Tim Squires.

The people who arrived at the P.T.S.O. meeting last Thursday by 7:15 were lucky enough to hear the band play several numbers.

We would like to thank the Paw Paw high school band for being such wonderful hosts last weekend at the Tri-City Band Concert. They really showed the kids a wonderful time. The fun even included a morning of bowling.

## Carol's Cubbyhole

Back to woolen undies! What a wraunchy way to start this season of lovely flowers, beautiful birds, and romance. After this startling beginning, I'll crawl out of the Cubbyhole to attempt to prove the last little point carries on, despite—.

The shock of the week came as quite a wow when DALLAS WEYBRIGHT and BARB McBRIDE started going steady. Way to go, Kiddies. We can't forget to include JOHN SIMCOX and MARY SMITH, who also passed the rings, while KAREN WILKINS and TIM SHAW did the same. Everybody is trying to get into the act.

It seems that the St. Augustine prom is causing some sorrow among certain male members of our fair institution. Cotton pickin' rules.

The other week, an anonymous letter was delivered to the Cubbyhole marked personal. Its contents contained information concerning BERNANNE SIMPSON'S slight crush on HOWARD JENNINGS. How does that grab you?

Rumors have it that the older Platt boys are having a feud over privileges on the family bomb. DAVE won out a week ago, when he escorted SUE LENNARTSON to a movie and they doubled with MARILYN WILSEY and JIM BROWN.

Another senior has done it. JUDY HAYWARD is toting a bright gem on her third finger. Congrats, Judy!

These freshmen will have to get on the ball. BILL YATES and BERT COOPER do a lot of talking, but what you fellows need is action! Oh well, experience is still the best.

At the dance Saturday night, CAROL SCHUTZ was with a certain senior who really gets around. Looked like they were having a gay time. I can't say the same for DINNY LINTVEDT. She was trying, but receiving no cooperation from her man. That's those Central fellows for you. Only kidding! Everyone had a ball.

Poor GEORGE PEELEN. The woman outlook was nil last Saturday. He wandered in a fog most of the evening.

While walking to school the other day, I noticed that DAVE SCHROEDER doesn't walk alone anymore. HO HO, what have we here?

If you want to learn the inside and outside of a French menu, food, and atmosphere, make an inquiry with ROBERT LAMILES. Oui Oui!

With this slight look into the semi-private lives of some of our fellow citizens, I will alligator back to the Cubbyhole with the happy thought that perhaps with the warming up of the weather a few normal souls will also warm up to give me some more news. Bye Bye!

## Operetta (Con't. from page 1)

Shaffer and Carol Stocks.

Members of the chorus are: Patricia Anderson, Jackie Baden, Patricia Baker, Marilyn Beattie, John Boudeman, Ruthann Bryan, Gail Buchanan, Loren Bynum, Philip Causey, Jan Correll, Judy Dekema, Jeanne Forward, Burlene Gildea, Sharon Gildea, Jane Haney, Robert Hartman, Betsy Hosick, Karen Johnson, Wallace Kent, Robin Limpus, Gretchen Maus, Lee Mims, JoAnn Moon, Alice Osterberg, Julianna Peelen, Thomas Reid, Martha Roth, Ursula Rothfuss, Susan Schroeder, Bernanne Simpson, Terese Skinner, Mary Stainton, Mary Stelma, Barbara Stewart, Ann Taylor, Sandra Taylor, Suna Tiefenthal, Sharon Tobias, Marlene Van Dyke, Dave VanDeWalker, Janet Weaver, and Mary Wise.

For a curtain-raiser the eighth grade will present "Cumberland Fair," by Alec Wilder and Arnold Sungaard.