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Western State High School

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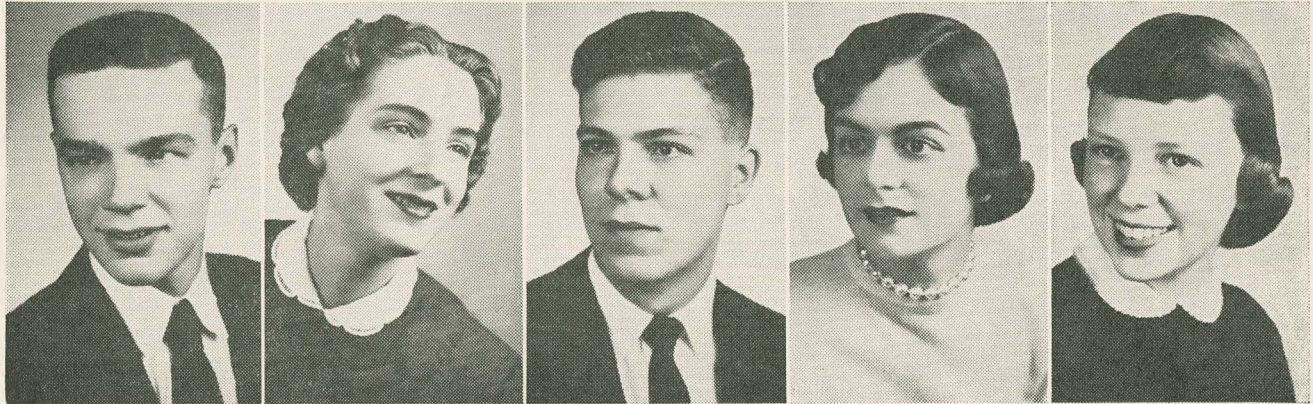


State Highlights

Volume XVII

Kalamazoo, Michigan, June 4, 1956

Number 12



Mike Squires

Margaret Borton

Dean Griffith

Vicki Wenner

Jean Yerden

Top Students Named; Speakers Selected

Nineteenth Annual Honors Assembly

Thursday afternoon at 1:15 State High's nineteenth annual Honors Assembly was held in Walwood Ballroom. It opened with the Pledge to the Flag and the Star Spangled Banner. Dr. Bryan made a presentation of awards and our Student Council President, Tim Light, swore in our new officers for next year. Following this the student body took the pledge of the School Creed. The Student Council Cabinet was then presented with awards along with the Homeroom Presidents and Vice-presidents and Class Presidents. The Monitors were honored along with the Highlights and Highlander staff. Miss Lowrie presented the Library Awards and the musicians were honored both in the instrumental and choir departments.

The Scholastic Honor Roll Awards were presented with the superior honors going to the Valedictorian and Salutatorians. The language awards were presented to the top student in French and Latin. The D.A.R. Pilgrim was also honored. The students who obtained scholarships to the different Universities were also congratulated and presented with awards.

Commencement Set For Thursday

The graduation exercises for the class of '56 are to be held at 8:00 in the Women's gym on Thursday, June 7. The band will furnish the instrumental music, and the choir will sing "Ode to America" by Noble

(Continued on Page 4)

Griffith, Borton, and Wenner Receive Top Honors; Squires and Yerden Named Class Speakers

Dean Griffith, Vicki Wenner and Margaret Borton are the Valedictorian and Salutatorians of the 1956 Senior Class. All three of them have maintained honor grades throughout their high school years and have constantly participated in school activities.

Dean in his freshman year was a member of the Masquers and French Clubs. As a sophomore, Dean joined the Bridge Club and Monitors. In the eleventh grade he was home room president, a member of the Citizenship and Social Committees, Highlander staff, Math Club and Student Council. Also as a junior he won a trip to New York through the A.A.U.N. contest. During his final year at State High, Dean was Math Club President, Highlander Business Manager, a member of the Assembly and Friendship Committees and had a leading role in the annual State High Operetta. During all four years of high school, Dean took piano lessons, was in the Blue and Gold Revue and attended the youth fellowship of his church of which he became president this last year. Dean's interests are piano, reading, tennis swimming and photography. He plans to attend the college of his choice on the National Merit Scholarship he won this year.

Vicki Wenner has been a member of the Friendship Committee 1, Social Committee 1,2,3,4, Citizenship Committee 2,3,4, and Pep Committee 4,

Masquers Club 1, Bridge Club 1,2, Choir Club 2, Secretary of class 3, president of homeroom 1, Student Council 1, homeroom secretary 2, Home Economics Club President 3, general prom chairman 3, chairman of decorations for V.A. Hospital 3, library assistant 1,2,3,4, editor of Highlander, Carnival Queen 4, D.A.R. Pilgrim 4, vice president of Monitors 4. During her years at State, Vicki has won a 1st, 2nd, and two 4th's in the Annual Exchange Club Poster Contest; she won 1st place in Leo's designing contest when she was a junior; she was an arts and crafts counselor at camp, she has been active in work at the Art Center and she has graced all the walls of State High with her fabulous posters. Vicki's interests are journalism, horseback riding and, of course, art. She plans to attend Stephens College where she will study commercial art.

Margaret Borton during her years at State High has piled up the following record: Highlander subscriptions chairman 4, Social Committee 2,3,4, choir 1,2,3,4, Secretary-Treasurer Future Nurses Club 1, Choir Club 2, Knitting Club 2, Records Club 2, Operetta 1,2,3,4, Blue and Gold 1,2,3,4, Home Room secretary 3, and secretary Science Club 3. Margaret has taken piano lessons all four years of high school. Her interests are music, reading, sewing, embroidering, and singing. She is going to attend Western and hopes to be a science or a home ec. teacher.

Cub Senseless

MR. VUICICH: If you can't find the right pair, we wish you would at least find socks that are similar.

* * * * *

In Bookkeeping class while trying to find funny things to do, DAVE V. W. was in a blimp with Dagmar and MR. CHANCE was swimming at lake bottom with Super Mouse.

* * * * *

It seems that CAROLYN KAERCHER had some trouble passing a truck while on a driver training trip. What happened, Carolyn ? ? ?

* * * * *

JACKIE BADEN: What's this we hear about you and SOME CHICKEN? Must be quite a story ! ! !

* * * * *

TOM LAWSON, it seems as if you should know when translating the opera, "Manon," that the couple would love each other and not themselves.

* * * * *

If you've seen some funny looking costumes around, you'll know that it's the French I class putting on its plays.

* * * * *

It seems that the freshmen think that teachers like water in their boots. UMMMM, you've got a lot to learn ! ! !

* * * * *

JIM KEMERLING: Stop being such a pest in History class. You are driving some poor devil MAD ! ! !

* * * * *

Now that hot weather is here again, the pony tails are coming out. Only, boys, it hurts when you pull ! ! !

* * * * *

Congrats are out to PETE PULLON for placing second in the rodeo. Way to go, kid . . .

* * * * *

MERT NORMAN, you really goofed! Poor GARRY BIRCH had to change clothes, and right on the day of the luncheon.

* * * * *

NANCY BROWN, why do you like the job of taking role in your 11:15 class so well. Could it be that boy next door ? ? ?

* * * * *

How come so many SEPARATE junior and senior parties lately? Don't you kids love each other any more?

* * * * *

10:15 U.S. History has another pest also. JIM BETKE is always getting moved into different parts of the room and KEN HARTMAN is running a close second with his little additions here and there.

* * * * *

The all school picnic turned out pretty well again this year. Pretty nice thing to have, isn't it, kids . . . ?

* * * * *

What's in the Oyster?

The whole world is in pretty bad shape. Two major wars, along with police actions and border skirmishes, have splattered the twentieth century with blood. Of every dollar turned in for Taxes in the United States, 65 cents goes for military spending. Last year the Defense Department spent over 24 billion dollars on the army alone. All these billions of dollars go for national defense. But defense for what? No nation has openly declared war against us. Yet we spend billions because of an apprehension that there might be war, and, certainly, no one really wants war.

After such a statement of just how bad the weary old world is, the average commencement speaker very often says that now the world is our oyster. He goes on to say that we of the new generation are better educated than those of past generations, and, because of this, we can march right out and solve the world's problems. With us at the wheel, he intimates, war will be a thing of the past, and taxes will be spent for personal betterment rather than personal destruction because World War II will have been the last major war.

These are stirring words, but are they true? Words very much like these were said at high school graduations in 1914 and in 1940. Yet a few short years later, the boys were marching to war and to death. They, too, said they could cure the world's problems and live a peaceful existence. But these seniors soon marched off: to fight at Saint Mihiel, at the Hindenburg, and at places like Sicily, Anzio, and Normandy. Some lived for days in holes and trenches—often eight or ten inches deep in

water. They soon learned that life is no oyster.

Why didn't these people of the classes of 1914 and 1940 solve the world's problems? The reason was that they were the products of preceding generations, and we are no different. People soon pick up many of their parents' beliefs and prejudices. Arnold Gesell, psychiatrist for Yale Child Clinic, says that a person's personality and behavior patterns are basically formed before he is six years old. He can change, undoubtedly, but it is difficult. It requires careful thought and large amounts of understanding and will power. Education attempts to open a person's mind, and educators say that a person is prejudiced only when he is so closed minded that new and different ideas roll off "like water off a duck." Perhaps we may have more open minds on many of the problems which our parents faced, but we are just as obstinate as they when it comes to new problems of our own. New problems present a situation to which we often cannot refer back into history. Something entirely new, such as the relatively recent discovery of the atomic bomb, presents a great difficulty when it comes to relying on past experience. New trials will come up, and we will "fumble the ball" as badly as it has been fumbled in the past.

We must remember that we are not an entirely new generation. We are merely a slight modification of the old. I will not say that we will create a fully new world, but perhaps if we use our heads, we can carry the ball a little closer to the end zone.

By Pete Pullon

Composite Beauty

Eyes—Kathy Kerjes
Hair—Martha Van Peenen
Nose—Julie Peelen
Mouth—Vicki Wenner
Figure—Rosemary Burnett

Brains—Judi Schenkel
Complexion—Linda Shand
Feet—Suna Tiefenthal
what do you get?????
ASK MR. DEUR!!-

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Famous Futures Seen For Our Seniors

Listen my children and you shall hear,
The prophecy of this senior year.
As we walk down Main we hear music
strains,

It's Morgan and Baxter with a band
of fame.

The news is around of the circus in
town,
With Bell as horse trainer and Jenn-
ings as clown.

The famous **Time** has gone to press,
With Garneau as editor, it's the city's
best.

It surely can boast a staff of renown,
For better than Doyle is not to be
found.

Writer Littig tells of Malbone's fame,
For he has pitched a no hit or run
game.

The world of science has taken a
boom,
For Bryant is now on his way to the
moon.

He has never again to worry about
sleep,
For a mattress tester is now Chuck
Sweet.

Harback and Hawkins prance down
the line,

As manager Percy cracks a whip to
the time.

Choreographer Mary Jane dives up
the ramp,
As she sights a kicker that makes a
mis-stamp.

The golf team of DeKreek, Shepherd,
Britigan and Rock,
Have the championship of the Olym-
pics "knocked."

In the home of Dr. Robert Miles,
We find walls covered with painted
styles,

By Judd Wise who is as we hear,
A contemporary painter—by ear.
Mr. Nathan Taylor soon will be
The basketball coach at the univer-
sity.

John Curren was warned late last
night,

To quiet his parties or turn on a light
In spite of Birch's trampoline,
His hefty frame is still on the beam.
Exterminator Seeley aids the beau-
ties

By ridding their houses of trouble-
some cooties.

The great artist Wenner paints
murals on walls

Of lobbies, libraries, kitchens and
halls.

The Metropolitan Opera has scored a
ringer,

By featuring Stewart, talented singer.
The receptionist of the famed Stork
Club

Is no other than Marcia Sugg.
Ann Taylor as the RED CROSS head,
Has healed the sick and buried the
dead.

The world of politics has great class,
As senator Tyler finds bills to pass.
Dave Bair is presently hunting a
harem,

It's plain to see that girls don't scare
him.

A rare earthy man is our old Flicker,
His humble profession, a quiet grave-
digger.

The paper reads of society,
For Parkes and Roberts are giving
a tea.

A business man is rolling in loot,
For Parker's the man in the grey
flannel suit.

The Crystal Palace has raised its
rating

With famous Danee Taylor skating.
Dave Vandewalker is on the T.V.
screen,

This rising comedian is really a
scream.

Warfield would be a surgeon deft,
If he only knew the right from the
left.

Simcox is practicing his preferred
profession,
In court he hands down unbiased
decisions.

To be a mother is such a life,
Says Mary Louise, able housewife.
A foreman in Ye Olde Factorie
Shoppe,

Is McCrumb with an eye to better
his lot.

A model who needs no beauty lender,
Is a State High grad, namely Bev
Fender.

Mike Squires is a square old top,
Among dusty books in a lawyer's
spot.

Glad that they paid heed to math
Are Jarman and Thorpe—office staff.
A smiling face o'er a big cherry pie,
DeHaan and hubby each say "Hi!"

A boy who now, for nasty things
looks,

Is no other than Simonds, censorer of
books.

Mary Joy Sawyer has gone far away,
For now in the Navy she will stay.

As we hear now, saleswork is a cinch,
For salesladies are Miller and Lynch.
Actresses Forward and denBleyker
wait in the car,

While ham actor Johnson approaches
from far.

Philip Sturman has an intelligent
face,

He will occupy a research place.
Hot rodder Gildea rolled over his car,
But those orange crates won't go far.
Famous for knitting a turtle neck
sweater

Is Libby Davis—no one is better.

Tim Otis is living in great pleasure,
For he is now the U.S. Treasurer.

That library assistant with glasses
on nose,

Is Sharon Spann in a dignified pose.
Treating dead animals isn't a risk
Says Harvey Randell, taxidermist.

The foreign legion has great fascina-
tion,

For Peelan and Schipper are now at
their station.

Photographer Peterson's working for
Look.

We even hear tell he's writing a book.
Mert Norman's gone the long, hard
way,

But now is president of the U.S.A.
Pete Pullon is now the Mayor of
Boston

And feeding beans to all who cross
him.

Monroe is working for the United
Nations;

She sees that hungry countries get
rations.

Nurse Vandyke is trying to cure
The ulcers of business man Beisel
for sure.

Peggy Baker needs long poles,
With them in doughnuts she pokes
holes.

Timothy Light charges nominal fees,
For he is now the doctor of trees.

Famous at math is professor Dean,
He keeps his students on the beam.
Forsleff's orchestra is playing at the
Ritz;

We hope he doesn't give their patrons
fits.

Margaret Borton is baking angel food
cakes,

As her students stand by for a bite
to taste.

Please don't ask for guarantees;
We writers are cats Siamese.

We cannot wash black faces clean;
We do say what we do not mean.

By **Saundra Hybels and
Rosemary Burnett**

Prom Promoters

Promise Prominence

Many State High Seniors will be
saying good-bye to their wonderful
years here at State High while they
are dancing to the music of Bobby
Davidson at the annual Junior-Senior
Prom. The celestial theme, "Moon
Mist" will get underway at 9:00 on
Wednesday, June 6, 1956, in Walwood
Ballroom.

Chaperoning this formal event will
be Dr. and Mrs. Roy C. Bryan, Mr.
and Mrs. Fred Stevens, Mr. and Mrs.
Joseph McKee, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe,
Mr. and Mrs. George Vuicich, Mr. and
Mrs. N. A. Schenkel, and Mr. and
Mrs. W. Fred Allen.

Joan Blanchette has served as gen-
eral chairman. Assisting her are Carol
Schutz, decorations; Nan Perry, re-
freshments; Mary Carney, programs;
Mary Smith, tickets; Gail Wruble,
invitations; Rosemary Burnett, pub-
licity; Marilyn Wilsey, chaperones;
and Jim Kemerling, entertainment.

The Junior class has worked very
hard to give something to the Senior
class that they will long remember.

Hit Paraders

TO YOUNG TO GO STEADY—Junior
Boys

ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK—Tom
B. and Randy C.

GRADUATION DAY—What the sen-
iors are looking forward to, espec-
ially Bev and Dave.

These Kids Whip The Prom Problem

Well, kids, the Junior-Senior prom is almost here and some of those boys are really on the stick. Of course the old steadies are going, but even some of the other boys are going. Here are a few that we heard about.

GARRY FORSLEFF and CONNIE MONROE
DON SIMMONS and SANDY TAYLOR
FRANK ELL and LINDA CHONOWSKI
BUD ROODBERGEN and KATHY KERSJES
JACK PEARSON and JAN CORRELL
JOHN GARSIDE and BECKY CROCKETT
JIM KEMERLING and ALICE MABIE
JOHN CURREN and SHARON SPANN
DAVE FULLER and MARY ROBERTS
MIKE SQUIRES and JEANNE FORWARD
BOB JOHNSON and JUDY GROTE
ANDY LENDERINK and JOAN BLANCHETTE
DOUG DOUGHERTY and SUE VAN RIPER

Some of the guys are taking outsiders. Among these are:

KEN MORGAN and MARIE WESTENHISER
DON ALGUIRE and LINDA MILBURN
JACK BERGNER and DAWN WEYBRIGHT
JOEL SHEPHERD and SUE VAN BUREN
DICK TYLER and LINDA LOGAN
ROD WAGONMAKER and GAIL ARTLEY
BOB BOMMERSBACH and DIANE ROYAL
CHUCK WARFIELD and CAROL BUNN

Commencement, continued

Cain. During the program the band will play the "Westchester Overture" by Graundman. The processional will be "Pomp and Circumstance" by Elgar, and the recessional will be "Pilgrim's March" from the **Italian Symphony** by Mendelssohn. The invocation and the benediction will be given by the Reverend Bernis Warfield. The Salutatorians, Vicki Wenner and Margaret Borton, will give brief addresses at the beginning of the ceremony, and Valdictorian Dean Griffith will present one at the close. Jean Yerden and Mike Squires have been chosen as class speakers; Mr. Jerse will be the main speaker. The theme for the speeches is "The Future is Now." The diplomas will be presented by Dr. Bryan and the introduction of the Seniors made by Miss Crisman and Mr. Jerse.

After the ceremony refreshments will be served at a reception honoring the seniors.

Call Here Next Year

D. BAIR: Western
P. BAKER: Western
J. BAXTER: Western
B. BEISEL: DePauw
T. BELL: Western
G. BIRCH: Wabash
M. BORTON: Western
D. BRITIGAN: Michigan
T. BRYANT: Coast Guard
J. CURREN: Kalamazoo
E. DAVIS: Bell Tel. or Michigan
J. DEHAAN: Western
J. DEKREEK: ?
J. DENBLEYKER: Michigan
A. DOYLE: Michigan State
B. FENDER: Western
J. FLECKENSTEIN: ?
G. FORSLEFF: Western
J. FORWARD: ?
T. GARNEAU: Western
J. GILDEA: ?
D. GRIFFITH: Kalamazoo or Michigan
J. HARBACK: Married in September
L. HAWKINS: ?
J. JARMAN: ?
B. JENNINGS: Work
B. JOHNSON: Hillsdale
M. L. KAERCHER: Western
M. J. LAPLANTE: Western
T. LIGHT: Yale
L. LITTIG: Michigan
S. LYNCH: Western
T. MALBONE: Western
B. MCBRIDE: Western
D. MC CRUMB: U. S. Marines
B. MILES: Western
C. MONROE: Michigan
K. MORGAN: Western
M. NORMAN: Western
T. OTIS: DePauw
P. PARKER: ?
J. PARKES: ?
G. PEELEN: Hope
D. PERCY: Kalamazoo
R. PETERSON: ?
P. PULLON: Albion
H. RANDALL: Western
S. RANSLER: Humbolt or Western
M. ROBERTS: Michigan
J. ROCK: Purdue
M. J. SAWYER: Western
J. SCHIPPER: Western
G. SEELEY: Wesleyan
J. SHEPHERD: Williams
F. SIMONDS: Albion
J. SIMCOX: Michigan
S. SPANN: Western
M. SQUIRES: Western
B. STEWART: Juliard
P. STURMAN: Western
M. SUGG: Alabama Polytechnic Institute
C. SWEET: Armed Service
A. TAYLOR: Western
D. TAYLOR: Parson's Business School
N. TAYLOR: Work at A. M. Todd Co.
R. TYLER: "K" or Western
H. THORPE: Western
D. VANDEWALKER: ?
M. VAN DYKE: Borgess School of Nursing
C. WARFIELD: "K" or Western
V. WENNER: Stephens
J. WESTVEER: Work
J. WISE: Western
J. YERDEN: Anderson

Hollywood, S. H. S.

BETRAYED WOMEN—Senior Girls
TO HELL AND BACK—Exams
CANNIBAL ATTACK—Students starting to eat at the S.C. Luncheon
THE TALL MEN—State High's basketball team
GUYS AND DOLLS—State High students
ESCAPE TO BURMA—Dave Britigan
UNTAMED—Junior boys on "Skip Day."
THE DESPERATE HOURS—Burning the midnight oil for exams
COME NEXT SPRING—The Junior class
UP IN ARMS—Faculty
ON THE THRESHOLD OF SPACE—Girls with dates for the prom
TEXAS LADY—Mary Lou Allen
THE WORLD IN MY CORNER—Mr. Vuicich—He has a glove on his desk.
HONKY TONK—Canteen
WE'RE NO ANGELS—Freshman Class
LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING—M. Wilsey and P. Anderson
TEENAGE CRIME WAVE—Juniors every Saturday Night

Smith Heads New Highlander Staff

The 1955-56 Highlander staff, under the editorship of Vicki Wenner, has worked very hard to put out a good yearbook. Lately the members have been screening names for next year's staff and voting for the people to carry out the responsibility for the book.

The following are the names of the people who will follow in the steps of this year's highly successful staff.
EDITOR Mary Smith
BUS. MAN. Clarke Godfrey
MEMBERS—Mary Lou Allen, Joan Blanchette, Dick Born, Jim Brown, Barbara Burling, Mary Carney, Sue Hodgman, Nancy Hotneir, Richard Howson, Sandra Hybels, Carole Lemon, Robin Limpus, Alice Mabie, Nan Perry, Judy Rock, David Schroeder, Linda Scott, Kim Sebaly, Carol Sutton.

Part-time members are — Eric Brown, Gail Buchanan, Susan Hilgart, Howard Jackson, Wendy Locke, Carol Richardson, Mary Stelma, Sandra Taylor, Bill Whitbeck, Jim Woodruff.

Famous Last Words

DAVE BAIR—Go to Central.
LARRY LITTIG—Don't associate with Mert's Mob.
JOAN PARKES—Beware of the senior boys.
JOHN FLECKENSTEIN—Keep away from the monitors.
JOHN CURREN—Don't be like me.
SHARON SPANN—Get in everything you possibly can. Only one question, Seniors, did you learn by experience?????

Cub Nine Still Going Strong

Despite bad weather which caused postponement of two State High baseball games, Coach Stevens' proteges won their fifth and sixth league games as they downed Otsego 3-2 and Plainwell, 8-2. After running up a 7-0 lead against Vicksburg on May 11 the showers came in the fourth inning and the game was washed clean off the record. Since both games with Vicksburg were washed out, a double-header has been scheduled for a later date. (Wolverine League teams must play a full slate.)

On May 8, State High defeated Otsego for the second time 3-2. Unlike the first encounter with Otsego, which the Cubs won 11-4, State High trailed 2-0 going into the last three innings when they scored a run in each of the final innings to gain the victory. Pete Parker scored the winning run on a wild pitch in the last half of the seventh. Larry Johnson, who replaced Tom Malbone, starting pitcher, was the winning pitcher. Jim Kemerling, Cub catcher, led State High's batters with two of the Cub's three hits, including a triple. Otsego also had only three hits.

State High gained their sixth league win as they downed Plainwell 8-2 on Friday, May 18. The Cubs collected four runs in the third frame, which was the only offensive punch pitcher Larry Johnson needed as he went the route allowing only four hits and striking out nine. Jim Kemerling pounded out two hits as did first baseman, Bob Beisel, who also scored three runs and handled ten chances in the field without an error. The running total shows that State High had eight runs, eight hits, and four errors, while Plainwell had two runs, four hits, and five errors.

State High did no more than even the score in the big showdown between the South Haven Rams, who beat State High earlier 6-3, in Kalamazoo on May 25.

The Reserve Baseball team also has been victorious as they won three games. They beat Milwood 9-0, Plainwell 10-2, and Parchment 3-2. Weldon Johnson, Glen Hess and Dave Potts were the winning pitchers respectively.

Want Ads

- Wanted—Dave Fuller's address and phone number, by **Cub Sense**.
- Wanted—another date with Linda Shand by Bill Daugherty.
- Wanted—a permanent membership in the "S" Club by Katie J. and Sandy Shau.
- Wanted—a good driving teacher, by Jeannie Chandler . . . any volunteers?

Just For The Record

When the Class of 1956 receive their diplomas it will mark an end to one of the greatest athletic records ever compiled by a State High School class.

The year 1952 not only marked their first year in high school, but also the first year of the Wolverine League. During the last four years State High athletic teams have won twelve conference championships, one state championship, eleven regional titles and finished second in the State Class B Football in 1955 with an unblemished record. This spring Cub teams may still add two more conference titles and two state championships. Breaking the record down shows that the Cubs won the State golf championships in 1955, regional tennis titles in 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956, regional track championships in 1954, 1955, and 1956, and conference championships in football in 1954 and 1955, in basketball in 1953 and 1954, in track in 1954, 1955, and 1956, and in tennis at least for the first of these years.

Of course a great athletic record cannot be accomplished without outstanding material. The Class of 1956 has been represented on all but one of the varsity squads in their four years in high school. Not only have these boys compiled a strong varsity record, but they also were unquarable in reserve competition during their freshman and sophomore years. Great depth of material has contributed to these records, but also there are some outstanding performers who deserve special tribute. Bob Miles, who is without a doubt one of the Cub all-time greats, has won fifteen letters in high school. So far he has been selected on seven all-city teams, and two all-state teams. Other standouts include Pete Parker, a winner of ten letters, who has already won three all-city berths, and finished third in the state 100 and 220 yard dashes in his senior year. Chuck Warfield, winner of eight letters and one all-city selection has been a scrapping, consistent athlete. Bob Beisel, seven letter winner, and one all-city berth, is noted for his heads-up play. Dick Tyler, rugged footballer, made the all-city team twice and all-state team for his performances on the gridiron. Larry Littig, a four year standout on the tennis team. Jack DeKreek, Dave Britigan, Joel Shepherd, and Jim Rock have been top notch golfers. Ted Garneau, John Fleckenstein, Gil Seeley, Nate Taylor, George Peelen and several other boys also deserve praise. Fortunately the Class of 1956 athletes also have received excellent coaching which was needed to develop their great potential. Not only have these boys compiled a great record, but also have displayed excellent sportsmanship. State High can proudly point to their athletic

Call Me Splinters by Ted Garneau

This is the most pleasant job of writing I have had to do. The Cub athletes have just about climaxed a near perfect year by winning the State Golf Championship and the Regional Tennis Championship. We have also ruined South Haven's bid for a perfect baseball season by clobbering them by an 11-3 score. The tennis team on the same day sneaked past Plainwell thanks to an upset in the number 3 doubles by Dave Bair and George Brown. The score of that close match was 4-3. The win gave the Cub netters the championship in the tennis league. Only three baseball games and the State Tennis Tournament remain on the Cub spring sports agenda. If the baseball team downed Portage Tuesday and beat Vicksburg in the double-header on Thursday another trophy will be added to our already crowded trophy case. This is undoubtedly the greatest year ever enjoyed by State High. May I add that all this was done in competition with schools having larger enrollments than ours.

When this year rolls to a close, State High will lose a fine gentleman and coach and teacher. Mr. Fred Stevens will move up to Western as a frosh coach. Not enough can possibly be said for Coach Stevens and what he has done in developing State High boys. Western couldn't have asked for a better man. Good luck, Coach.

At the All-Sports Banquet several interesting awards were given out. Joe Sugg and Tom Brown were named most promising Freshmen. Pete Parker and Bob Miles were designated outstanding athletes of the year. The field goal against Allegan in football was credited as being the outstanding event.

Captains were named for all of the spring sports. Jim Kemerling in baseball, John Boyd and Ken Hartman in track, and Jon Scott in tennis will lead their teams. If you boys need any help, just contact Splinters.

Yes, this year has been wonderful. And may I add in closing my literary career that I've enjoyed writing for you almost as much as you've enjoyed reading me. Losing Mr. Stevens and Mr. Jerse is terrible, but to lose Splinters in the worst of catastrophes. Before I get into any more trouble, may I close and say I love you all (to use a slightly corny expression which always gets somebody into trouble).

Record, Continued

tic record of the past four years. What will be State High's loss in 1956 will undoubtedly be many colleges' gain next year.

Mr. McKee Receives Highlights' Thanks

There is one person on the faculty here at State High who is always poking here and there to find out the everneeded news for the Highlights. This roving reporter is no one else but Mr. McKee.

Now that he no longer has 2:00 study, he works harder and longer to get those last minute pictures and articles to the printers on time. He is always behind you pushing hard to get things done, and never loses his sense of humor as you all should know by the comical headlines.

This year's Highlights wouldn't have been very successful without the necessary and wanted help of Mr. McKee. The staff would like to take off their hats to him!

State High Above Average In Science Interest

Today one of the biggest questions in our minds is: "How does the United States compare with Russia in the field of science and technology?" The Welch Physics and Chemistry Digest for April 1956 states these facts concerning this question.

Russia is speedily passing us. According to best estimates the United States now has 800,000 engineers and scientists, Russia has 650,000. Disturbing as this is—it is insignificant as against the rate with which she is increasing her engineering and scientific talent compared with us. In 1954 she graduated more than 50,000 engineers and scientists. We graduated 23,000.

Some may argue that Russian engineers aren't technically as well trained as ours. This isn't the case. It is true that they are trained in engineering exclusively and at the cost of their general education. Further, their engineering training is confined to narrow specializations.

The Russian approach to education is a total approach. They are educating as many women as men, and women constitute one-half of the total in the professions. While our mass production system will permit us, for the time being, to build more things faster than Russia, their engineers may soon, by their very numbers, invent better machines. In rate rate of progress they are, in fact, already ahead of us. We must not take for granted our technological leadership.

Because this question is so important to the American people, I felt it would be interesting to make a survey and compare the number of students taking a science course this year at State High with the national average of high school enrollments. Before we look at our own percentages, let's study the chart I found in the "Science Teacher" magazine

We'll Miss Stevens

How does a school and student body tell and show their appreciation to a fine teacher and a great coach?

State High School is faced with this problem. Mr. Fred Stevens, who has taught physical science and has been Athletic Director at State High School for the past ten years, will be leaving to be a coach at Western Michigan College next year. His new position will be assistant coach of freshman football and assistant track coach at Western Michigan College.

Mr. Stevens will be remembered by all the boys for his help and guidance in sportsmanship and sports activities. He has always been the one to whom the fellows went for a word of wisdom and advice when they wanted help. As coach of baseball, his teams came in second last year and first the two years before that.

for March 1956. It will show you the percent of high school students who took Biology, Chemistry, and Physics since 1890 to 1954-55.

| Year | Biology | Chemistry | Physics |
|---------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 1890 | | 10.1 | 22.8 |
| 1900 | | 7.7 | 19.0 |
| 1910 | 1.1 | 6.9 | 14.6 |
| 1915 | 6.9 | 7.4 | 14.2 |
| 1922 | 8.8 | 7.4 | 8.9 |
| 1928 | 13.6 | 7.1 | 6.8 |
| 1934 | 14.6 | 7.6 | 6.3 |
| 1949 | 18.4 | 7.6 | 5.4 |
| 1954-55 | 19.6 | 7.3 | 4.6 |

Remember when you read this chart that because the number of pupils in high school has increased rapidly the percentage of pupils in a science class may decrease. You must not forget that science classes are mixed with some freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors. Physics is about the only course that has all seniors, very rarely a junior. With these two facts in mind, let's look over the following chart which is the result of my survey. The percentages are based on our enrollment of 334 students.

| Course | Class Enrollment | Percent of total |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| General Biology | 90 | 26.4 |
| Advanced Biology | 28 | 8.2 |
| Physical Science | 34 | 9.9 |
| Chemistry | 58 | 17.3 |
| Physics | 26 | 8.2 |
| Aeronautics | 8 | 2.3 |

The total number of our high school students taking a science class this year is 246. It is also 73% of our total enrollment. It is plain to be seen that we are above average in our high percentage. It is a thing to be proud of, but let's remember that the United States needs more scientists each day, so we, as young Americans, must take an interest and try and help out the shortage of scientists by taking science in high school and going on with it.

a little this A LOTTA THAT

Well, kids, the final few days of school are here once again. Looking back over the years, we can see that it was pretty successful. Here are a few of the later successes.

It looks like there is a new romance around here. Gil Seeley has been courting a pretty blonde, P. T. lately. Could it be that it's the time of year for tennis ? ? ?

The seniors certainly have been having a lot of parties lately. Prom's almost here, isn't it, girls, ? ? ?

It looks like Penny Lyon got her birthday wish. She saw her man from Battle Creek. Way to go, Pens.

Sharon Lynch seems to have her eye on Comstock. What has Comstock got, Sharon ? ? ? Don Algure and Vern Wade seem to be interested too ! ! !

The other night I was spying again and happened to see a few Hilltoppers out with some pretty cute partners. How about that, Judy Rock and Dick Tyler ? ? ?

Seems like the girls are out on the prowl again. Saw a blue and white oldsmobile cruising around. Whose could that be, UMMMMM ? ? ?

Boys, if you only knew of all the girls that wanted to skip school and watch your tennis matches. You just don't know how many admirers you have. Guess we girls will have to learn how to play. Any volunteer teachers?

Barb Burling got an awful knock on the head the other night. Only one thing, what were you doing so close to the ceiling? Did it have anything to do with that baseball player from Central ? ? ?

A few senior boys certainly have been quiet lately . . . What about it, Jack, Jim, and Joel ? ? ?

A few of the kids can hardly wait any longer. College is almost out isn't it, Barb M., Libby D., Mary Joy S., and Joan H.

You can sure tell that graduation is almost here. Connie M., Vicke W., Anne D., Anne T., and Jean D. H. are just bubbling over with excitement. Oh, my guess is that you'll be missing the old Hilltop about next Sept.

Formal talk certainly is in the air. If you go by the lockers of Julie D., Mary R., Sharon S., Joan P., and Bev F., you can just tell that this event is going to top the year off just right ! ! !

A dollar to a doughnut we'll be seeing quite a bit of Bob M., Tom M., Nate T., John F. and Bob P. next year. Could it be some of these girls that won't be leaving ? ? ?

Some of these fellows going with out of school girls will have to be kept an eye on this summer. What about it, Chuck W., John S. Denny P. Garry B. and Dave B. ? ? ?