

# Student Activities

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# School Assemblies and Rallies

Of all the many activities and school organizations which draw the high school students into a unit, student assemblies and rallies seem to arouse the most spirit.

This year has been exceptionally rich in arousing rallies, due possibly to our wonderful new "gym." I remember the first assembly we had this term—a sort of renewal of acquaintance affair and a tuning of our voices to a roaring St-ockton. The mechanics were still at work on the building, but their noisy labor served to put more "pep" into our yelling and I only wonder that our lusty "Give 'em the axe" did not make them take hastily to their heels. Anyway, that was the first of our rallies, and, after that, a basket ball game would not have been a basket ball game if it had not been preceded by the all-important rally.

Did not our athletic assemblies make possible that turf field that we are literally "all swelled up" about? Of course, it did. By following up the principle of deduction, we find if it had not been for those rallies we had, there might not have been even the ghost of spirit around here and our athletes, not being supported, would have lost out in their meets; then all of us would have lost faith in ourselves and there would not have been anything but an old plowed field where now there is a beautiful green sward.

Of course, all our get-together moments were not devoted to disturbing the quiet of the vicinity with resounding "sirens" and "locomotive" yells. We can sing, too, as well as yell, for which our music hours bear witness. It was quite a new idea in Stockton High School and a mighty good one, too. Every Friday during the advisor period two classes gathered in the assembly hall for a few minutes of song. The songs were our American classics, or rather I could say folk songs—"Old Black Joe," "My Old Kentucky Home," "Long, Long Ago," and all the other songs which are dear to an American heart, yes, even though that heart is an irresponsible young one.

Then the commercial students have had many assemblies all their own. These were, naturally, intended to be possibly more educational than anything else; however, the students are quite unanimous in voting them entertaining. Mr. Neumiller gave an interesting talk on taxation; Mr. Wurster spoke on clearance houses; and Mr. Craig also gave an interesting talk.

Many prominent men have also spoken here this term, giving S. H. S. students a privilege which many a high school might well envy. Among the noted men of affairs who delighted us with their talks was Mr. Berwick, one of the world's great peace advocates. Having heard him talk, one certainly could be nothing other than a devout worker for world peace.

Since the visit of Mr. Ketcham, "Safety First" has been our motto. Without doubt he was the most refreshing speaker we have had the pleasure of hearing this year, both from the standpoint of the message he had to give and his delightful witticisms. Mr. Ketcham holds a very responsible position with the Southern Pacific Railroad Company and it was upon knowledge gleaned in his work that he based his lecture of "Safety First."

Such has been the character of our assemblies this year—assemblies which, as never before, have drawn the students into an all desirable sympathy and have made them a unit in striving to uphold the glory of our loved alma mater; a glory not only of track and game, but also a higher and more lasting one.

J. B. W., '15.

# The Public Speaking Class

As we look backward over the town that has just passed, there comes to our mind an addition to the school curriculum of which we have reason to be justly proud—the course in Public Speaking.

When the possibility of such a course was first spoken of, there were many enthusiasts, but some time later, when the announcement came that the class would meet at 8:15 each morning, some of these enthusiasts gasped and gracefully retired. The chaff being blown away, the wheat remained and under the able guidance of Miss Minerva Howell, went earnestly to work.

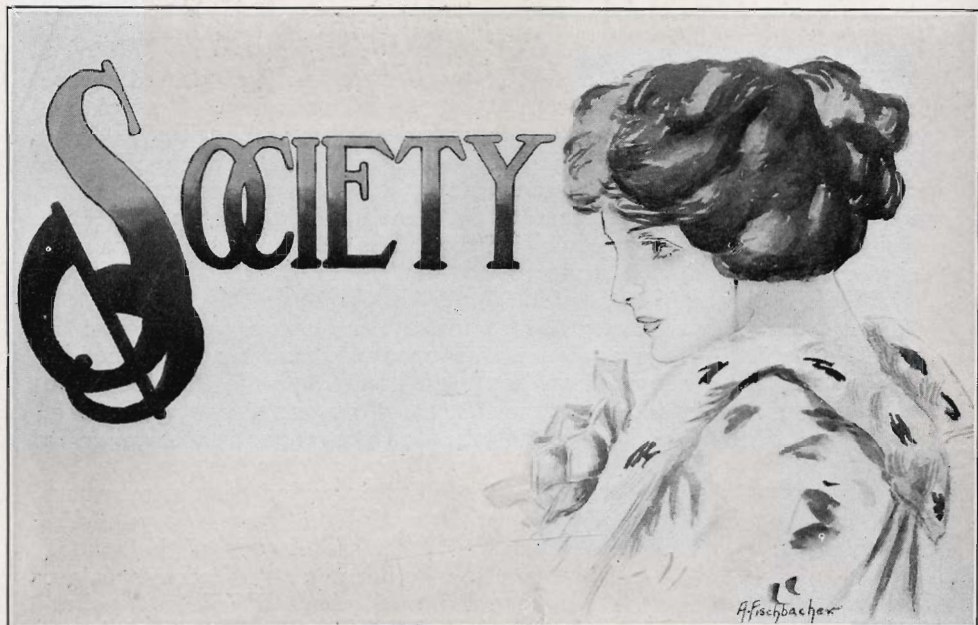
The attempt has been made to make this course as practical as possible. To do this an audience was necessary and was obtained in two ways: each morning a sign has been hung over the door of room six, bearing the words "Visitors welcome, providing that they remain during the entire period." But this method proved not so effective in its results as might be wished, so a second and perhaps better plan has been adopted. Occasionally, during the advisor period certain members of the class in turn have been chosen to speak from the platform of the Assembly hall to the Student Body or to certain classes of the school.

Edward Everett Hale, in telling how to become an effective speaker, "Talk whenever any one is fool enough to ask you." While not insinuating that those tendering invitation are included in the afore mentioned type, the class has used Mr. Hale's advice as a policy and has not been slow in accepting all invitations offered. Thus, three weeks after the class was organized it made its initial bow upon the occasion of Washington's birthday, before the members of the Senior and Junior classes. The speakers of the day were Mildred Jenkins, Harry Mazzera, and Lester Gnekow, and they acquitted themselves so creditably that they were asked to repeat their program before the Sophomore and Freshman classes. The next appearance of the class was for the purpose of discussing the ever-popular "Student Control." Introduced by Lester Gnekow who at that time was president of the class. Frazer Young, George Buck and Milton Kingsbury addressed the students. A month or so later, the members of the Senior, Junior and Sophomore years were entertained by John Gallagher, Harold Gravem and George Buck, respectively, on the subjects "The Value of the Public Speaking Class;" "Sell Your Hammer and Buy a Horn;" and "The Hyphenated American."

But the hour's program given by the class on Peace Day was its crowning achievement. The object throughout was to show the benefits of peace as compared with the horrors of war. Among those taking part were Fraser Young, John Gallagher, Aubrey Howland, Mildred Jenkins, Lester Gnekow and Beatrice Davis. George Buck introduced the speakers, and they truly proved themselves a credit to their teacher and to their school. So impressive were their speeches that by the unanimous vote of the faculty the class was requested to further the speaking of the peace spirit by repeating their program to the patrons of the school on the evening of June 2. This they did, augmented by Harry Mazzera, who spoke upon "National Honor and Peace."

Looking critically at the Public Speaking Class for results, we are not disappointed. We feel that first of all the course has been a thoroughly practical one and a beneficial one to the members of the class; that they have derived from it an ability to prepare well-organized and effective speeches, and to speak with a clearness and finish that is indeed an adornment to them.

M. J., '17.



### Reception for the Freshman Girls

The annual reception given by the Senior girls for their infant cousins, the Freshmen, was held Saturday afternoon, October 3rd, in the gymnasium. The decorations were green, as that color was deemed most suited to the age and—well—the general appearance of the young guests.

Since they hope to graduate in 1918, the costumes were supposed to represent the fashions of that year, and some startling gowns were worn by the hostesses and their guests.

Doris Knight, Georgia Pound and Freda Dustin, members of the committee of arrangements, appeared in Turkish trousers of brilliant colors, and looked as if they might have escaped from the harem of some Turkish prince. Many other original costumes were worn, and it is certain that if the creators of Parisian fashions could have attended the party, they would have turned green with envy at seeing some of their worst efforts outdone.

Only simple, childish games were played, so that the babes felt quite at their ease, and their innocent sport was sweet to behold.

Crackers and milk were served to the children at an early hour, with more substantial refreshments for the elders, and the party then broke up, for Freshmen, you know, must be safely home before the five o'clock whistle blow.

### Jolly-Up

The first "jolly up" of the season was held on the evening of November 21st in the gym. Through the efforts of Miss Davis, the affair was a great success.

An excellent program was given during the early part of the evening, and later dancing was enjoyed. Paul Mitchell gave a demonstration of fancy Indian club swinging. Irving Neumiller sang "Vagabond Lyrics." Ruth Lamb sang the "Shepherdess' Song" very sweetly, and several

other very good numbers were given. About eight couples danced the Virginia reel, the Dan Tucker and other old-fashioned dances with much grace and spirit.

The girl dancers and members of the committees were attired in gay paper costumes.

Miss Davis worked very hard training the dancers and perfecting the plans for the jolly up, and her work was appreciated by all those who attended the most successful school party of the year.

### **Sophomore Dance**

With their usual spirit, the Sophomores were the first class to give a dance this year. The dance was held in the gymnasium on the night of December 19th. The gym was elaborately decorated with greens and the class colors, white and green. The program still further carried out the white and green color scheme. The chaperons were Mr. and Mrs. Elliott and Miss Grace Davis. Delicious punch was served, and excellent music added to the evening's pleasure. The Sophs may be congratulated on the success of their dance, which was one of the most largely attended of the year.

### **The Junior Hop**

On February 6th the Juniors gave a "hop" in the gymnasium, which was attractively decorated with potted plants and the class colors, orange and black. Serpentine thrown over the rafters gave a gay touch to the scene. Punch was served throughout the evening, and music was furnished by Miss Musto's orchestra. The patrons and patronesses were Mr. and Mrs. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Elliott, Miss Halwick, Miss Cliberon, Miss Adele Howell, Miss Inez Henderson and Mr. Mawhorter.

Although the attendance was not large, one of the best times of the year was enjoyed by all present.

### **The Masquerade**

On the night of April 9th the gymnasium was filled with bright costumes, happy boys and girls, and good music. It was the finest dance ever given in the gym. Tramps and princesses walked arm in arm, and the scene upon the floor, as viewed from the bleachers, looked like a congress of all nations. The mingling of so many varied characters, and the profusion of gay colors, all moving to the strains of waltz music, made a gay and novel picture. Those who were fortunate enough to be present and enjoy the festivity of the happy occasion will remember the merry hours until "time grows old and the leaves of the judgment book enfold." The greatest praise is due Miss Halwick, Paul Murray, Dutch Neumiller and Tom Louttit.

### **The Freshman Dance**

For the first time in the history of the school, the Freshmen were hosts at a dance held the 15th of May in the gymnasium. It was a novel affair, being a tennis dance. Sprays of greenery were hung artistically around the gym, while tennis nets draped on the walls carried out the idea of the dance. The girls all wore white middies and skirts, while the boys in their white shoes and trousers resembled real tennis players. Punch was served throughout the evening and music was furnished by Miss Musto's orchestra.

## The Lyceum Course

For three years the Stockton High School has maintained a successful Lyceum Course. The last year was the best of the three, not only in interest and attendance, but in the character of the individual numbers. This eight-number course afforded the unusual opportunity to the public, and particularly to the students, of hearing some of the very best concerts and lectures at the very reasonable rate of \$2.50 for the adult season ticket and \$1.25 for the student season ticket.

This year's course opened October 20th with the Dunbar Male Quartette, which for ten years has been considered one of the best concert companies. They showed great versatility in their program, which consisted not only of varying numbers of vocal music, but also of clever impersonations and most remarkable bell ringing. Their bells numbered two hundred and fifty and ranged from one to twenty-five pounds.

The Killarney Girls followed on November 14th and proved themselves to be most delightful entertainers. The seven Irish lassies appeared in Irish costumes under appropriate stage setting, presenting an unusual program of song and instrumental music, which was interspersed with impersonations. The playing of a genuine Irish harp by Rita Rich was one of the special attractions.

Alton Packard proved to be a most suitable number for Thanksgiving evening, as his clever cartoons and humorous lecture kept everyone in a happy state of mind. His pictures were drawn with remarkable celerity and with unusual accuracy. His lecture withal was very instructive.

The fourth number on January 5th was Montaville Flowers, formerly president of the Cincinnati Academy of Dramatic Art. Mr. Flowers' reading of "Hamlet" was well done and somewhat out of the ordinary, in that he represented Hamlet as a youth.

The concert by the Passmore Trio on February 12th was an artistic triumph for these talented California daughters. The musical people of the audience, which was one of the largest of the course, pronounced the concert perfect, finding it a difficult matter to determine which of the three had excelled, the violinist, the pianist, or the cellist.

David Starr Jordan, despite his slight indisposition, gave a most enlightening discussion of the "Lessons of the War" on Friday evening, March 12th.

The seventh number on April 9th seemed to be the most popular of the entire course. Montraville M. Wood, the inventor, showed to a large audience that a scientific lecture can be made interesting to the public. His demonstration of the gyroscope, monorail, and ultra-violet ray was marvelous.

The closing number on April 30th was one of the very best. Marshall Darrack, the noted Shakespearean reader, gave an excellent reading of "The Merchant of Venice." The many and varying characters were given without change of scene and without any costume whatsoever in a most remarkable manner.

The course for 1915-1916 promises to be even better than the last, six of the numbers having been already engaged, each of which is a star number in itself.

The six numbers are as follows: The Apollo Concert Company, one of the best instrumental companies on the platform; Albert E. Wiggam, America's foremost authority on eugenics and efficiency; the Oxford Musical Club, one of the best vocal troupes of marked versatility; Judge Geo. A. Alden, the noted Boston lecturer; Sidney Landon, the entertaining lecturer and imitator in "Types of Literary Men"; and Frederick Warde, the eminent Shakespearean actor and reader.

# Dramatics

During the past year the Thespians of our high school have been unusually active. Aside from the Big S Vaudeville and the Senior play, which are annual events, there have been several productions by the members of the various English classes. These ambitious young actors have gone back to the classical dramas of Shakespeare for their material. The stage in the assembly hall has run red with the blood of the murdered Caesar, and its walls resounded with the impassioned cries of our school Julia Marlowes and E. H. Sothorns.

The boys of Miss Moore's 10-A class put on the murder scene from "Julius Caesar" in a truly Shakespearean manner. As in Shakespeare's time, there was no scenery to draw attention from the action of the play, and the costumes were improvised Roman togas. It was an "all star" cast and every member of it deserves especial mention. Those who took part were Arthur Glick, Howard Moore, Stanford Raymond, Paul Murray, Allan Sapiro, Morris Wallin, Merle Sprague, George Williams, Hartwell Wallace, Lewis Fox and Carmine Boscoe.

Another performance given by the Sophomores was "Pyramus and Thisbe," from "A Mid-Summer Night's Dream." This was staged on the campus, beneath the wide spreading oak which shades the lawn on the western side. Here Thisbe and Pyramus held the attention of their audience before falling on their pocket knives and dying in a mock tragic manner. Merle Sprague as Thisbe, Lee Hickinbotham as Pyramus, and Allan Sapiro, Stanford Raymond, Melvin Parker and Arthur Glick as Noall, Moonshine, Lion and the Prologue, respectively, were excellent; and Bottom, Swine and Snout themselves could not have been any funnier.

Miss Howell's 11-A class led the retreat from the standards of Shakespeare by presenting one act from the dramatization of Thackeray's famous novel, "Henry Esmond." The cast was carefully selected, and some time was spent in preparing the parts, so that the performance was highly successful and greatly enjoyed by all who witnessed it. Those who were responsible for its success were Alberta Wilkes, Bethel Guernsey, Mildred Jenkins, Harold Gravem and Buteau Lundy.

And now for the crowning achievement—the most successful, with one exception, of all our dramatic efforts. In other words, the Big S Vaudeville! The Yosemite Theater was crowded on the night of February 27th with enthusiastic students and friends of the performers.

Clayton Westbay and Burchard Higby, the "eccentric tumblers," opened the bill with some excellent acrobatic stunts which were very well received. They showed through their work the value of gymnastic training in the schools and proved that they had taken full advantage of the athletic opportunities which had come their way.

"The Long Green Club," a little skit written by Percy Ahearn, was very clever, and the singing of Paul Murray, Jack Raggio and the author was especially good.

The little "Dutch Maids," eight in number, who introduced Dutch folk dances and songs in so charming a manner, had really one of the best acts on the program. Their costumes were blue and white, and the girls looked exactly like the quaint little figures to be seen on the Delft pottery. The "Dutch Maidens" were Annie Fuhrman, Helen Quinn, Nadine McQuigg, Edna Gormsen, Lena Comfort, Eva Hildebrand, Jessie Nicholas and Florence Halwick.

Van Dennis and Elmer Kohle staged a most novel and amusing act. The audience was surprised to see them described on the program as "acrobats of international fame." Before putting their marvelous

strength to the test, they devoured a package of "Force" between them and the effect was immediate and truly wonderful. They performed difficult acrobatic feats with the greatest ease and puzzled the audience by an exhibition of skill which no one dreamed they possessed. The climax was finally reached, however, when Kohle, who had been balancing for some time on Dennis' head, was left dangling in mid-air by a wire, like a spider on a thread; while his partner took a stroll about the stage. Incidentally, the audience roared with laughter.

"Pest" Gravem, our pride and joy, is certainly a king among fun makers. His "spiel" at the vaudeville was even funnier than the one he made as auctioneer, which, you know, is about the highest praise that can be given. As the "Newly Elected Fire Chief of Peters," with false whiskers, a disguised voice, and some jokes that were real jokes, he scored the hit of the evening.

Miss Ila Tretheway and Wilbert Cowell, as "Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Crane," proved themselves worthy imitators of that famous couple by their very graceful dancing. The Maxixe, Fox Trot, Half and Half, and other of the ultra-modern ballroom dances were gracefully demonstrated in a truly professional manner which delighted the audience.

Miss Eda Lawson, accompanied by Miss Dustin, sang very sweetly "Mary Jane," "Song of the Soul" and "Can't You Heah Me Callin', Caroline?" and responded to several encores.

In "Rehearsing for That Big S Show," Miss Gladys Fox and Irving Neumiller gave a true to life picture of two high school students practicing for that great event. Both of them sing very sweetly, and as their voices blend well, their duets were especially pleasing. Miss Fox can play ragtime with a snap that sets all feet to tapping.

Roger Hardacre and Dix Garland put on an amusing act in which the dialogue was between a negro and a white man, Hardacre taking the part of the negro and Garland the other.

"The Reconciliation," a one-act drama written by Emil Gumpert, a former high school student, was staged very prettily, with Blanche Hillegas in the leading role. She was ably supported by Scott Hyde, Harold Comfort, Cyrus Hickenbotham and George Sanderson.

Thus ended the Big S Vaudeville, the best and most successful undertaking of its kind ever attempted by Stockton High School. Its financial success really put the long desired turf field "on the map," while the general excellence of all the acts gave a new impetus to school spirit.