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Western Normal Leader - December 15, 1909

Western Normal Leader Staff

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Western Normal Leader

Vol. 3. Hays, Kansas, December 15, 1909.

No. 7

Remember.

That bluffing is anything but a trait to be proud of. Bluffing (chronic bluffing) denotes lack of head work. The proposition doesn't pay out from any stand point. A student knows the bluffer every time and reserves his admiration for someone else. There is a chance that a proffession may not discover the bluffer on first acquaintance but when he does discover him—woe unto him for his path will be anything but peaceful.

The bluffer is the biggest nuisance possessed by any college. He robs the fair and square student of his just desert by consuming valuable time during recitation hours, he lowers the standard of his class, he creates anything but a good impression for his college.

You can detect this type of students every time; a headache excuses him from some study; he asks a question before the professor can mouth it; he takes five minutes to make a minute reply; he argues on a trivial point to kill time; he misses a question then gives a yard of explanation why he missed it; he pats himself on the back with the "I know" attitude when he succeeds in fooling the professor. Besides this he is a pestiferous, in-the-road, get-out-of-my-way, I-am-it, watch-me-do-em sort of a chap who doesn't know peanuts from pop-corn, and publishes the fact to the world, while he labors under the impression that he is making a hit, and is the College's one brilliant man, who wants to be a bluffer?—Ex.

The Text Books.

I sat at my desk at midnight,
As the minutes glided by,
And the embers in the fire-place
Burned low and began to die.

I saw their faint reflection
On the page before my gaze,
As I read my Latin grammar
Through a dull and dusky haze.
And far in the book-case corner,
On that dreary school day night,
The flame of those dying embers
Presented a gruesome sight.
Among those oaken book shelves,
Where the darkening shadows fall,
Were Geometry, English and History,
Looming upward dark and tall.
Then my tired lids fell drooping
To the page before my eye.
I translate, translate, translate,
Till it seems as if I'd fly.
How often, oh, how often
Must I study that ancient book?
How much longer, how much longer
Must I wear that tired look?
For my eyes are tired and heavy,
And my head is in a swim,
My joints are stiff and aching,
And my memory grows dim.
When I think how many thousands,
The same trials undergo,
My heart beats slow with sorrow
And my sight doth dimmer grow.
I see the long procession
Of text books passing through
And long for my grandmother's
school days
When of text books there were few.
And forever and forever
As long as professors exist,
There'll be English, Geometry and
History,
And thousands more on the list.
But soon these days will be over,
When our midnight vigils end,
Our school life will be a memory,
Like these lines that I have penned.
The light from those dying embers,
And the shadows on the wall
Of those everlasting text books
On the book shelves, dark and tall.
K. V. W.

Y. W. C. A.

The Normal Quartet sang a very beautiful arrangement of "He Leadeth Me" at the meeting on December 7.

The address given by Mr. J. H. Teach was especially helpful as well as interesting and thought inspiring. The subject was, "The Bible and Its Interpretation." The talk was illustrated with Bible quotations and allusions to stories from the Bible. The speaker emphasized the necessity of bearing these thoughts in mind when studying the scripture:

1. Historical and geographical knowledge necessary in order to interpret references to common things.

2. Knowledge of manners and customs give new light on many passages.

3. Forced interpretation must not be made.

4. Consider circumstances and temperament of writer and the time when passage was written.

5. Consider purpose of writer.

6. Knowledge of definitions of words, especially obsolete words, necessary.

8. Each passage must be interpreted in the light of the spirit of the whole Bible.

9. Bible written by Oriental people It is highly figurative and must be read and interpreted with this thought in mind.

Miss Elva Bice led the meeting on Tuesday.

Misses Peppiatt and Morgan were elected members at the last meeting.

Be sure to attend the next meetings. Extra good programs are being arranged for the last meetings before the holidays.

The District School.

The severe weather has kept a number of the little people at home for the past week or more, but the boys have been enjoying the ice and thoroughly believe the saying that

"it is an ill wind that blows nobody good." They hope the skating may last indefinitely.

The general story the past week has been, Edward Everett Hale's, "The Man without a Country." The lesson of patriotism which it teaches was not without some effect.

The second grade has finished the first reader and is now using the Crane reader for some supplemental work before beginning the regular second reader.

Another first grade pupil, Everett Runyon, has entered school.

The fourth grade class are happy in the possession of new geographies.

The seventh grade enjoyed map drawing last week because they were allowed to water color them.

"The time draws near the birth of Christ:

The Christmas bells from hill to hill,
Answer each other in the mist."

—Tennyson

For the next two weeks the world will be astir with the Christmas spirit and Christmas thoughts, School should be no exception so there will be the Christmas songs, the stories, the stars, the holly and all that is conducive to make it a joyful season. A Christmas program will be given on the day of the dismissal for the holiday vacation.

Hill City 24 Normal 38.

Friday evening December 3, the Normal basket ball team defeated the Hill City High School bunch on the Normal floor, 38 to 24.

This was the first game for our boys and although they easily captured first place it looked for a while as if the visitors were going to take advantage of the teacher's dumb and awkward playing and carry off the blue ribbon.

Forwards, Johnson and Frankenberg.

Guards, V. Eice and Nielson.

Center, Reed.

Lyceum Notes

Our society furnished nine tenths of the program for our joint meeting. Say! what about the Lyceum musicians?

The basket ball game being called off Friday morning leaving such a short time to get up a program the Lyceum and Literati had a joint meeting in the auditorium.

A new pedestal has been added to our Hall which, with the other we already had, makes our fern show off nicely.

The orator of the Literati society gave us quite a harangue on the tariff question at the joint meeting. Evidently the question will not be settled satisfactory until he takes a hand in it.

My! but our sister society is slow. It is even rumored that they have had no election yet this term, but then they have a cute "little" president and possibly they think that he represents the society better than anyone they could put in his place.

Caleb, our "fresh air fiend," is talking strongly of erecting a tent on some breezy point to be used as his bed-room.

Prof. Cunningham's lack of importance could not be interpreted Monday morning until he was seated on the front row in chapel proudly displaying a brand new pair of dun-colored cowhides.

The Normal photographer, (Harry Matthew) has been exercising some of his artistic ability on the cast for the coming play. With the gorgeous array of scenery used in setting the stage he had ought to be able to get out something quite "fussy."

Isn't it queer what a little sunshine will do? Everybody seemed happy when "His Majesty" the Sun showed his face Monday, driving away all gloom and dejection gathered during the long days of polar

weather. Smiles were seen on every face, while some of the girls even went so far as to appear in their prettiest spring suits.

Some there are who think that to interrupt a class social it is necessary to tear the house down, kill a few of their opponents and scatter the remains over the city. Well perhaps this is one way of doing it for things are certainly lively for a few minutes but before long if this is kept up these blood thirsty hoodlums will find that no house will be available for their parties. A little good natured scuffle is perfectly proper and necessary to keep up the spirit in the school. Tie up the whole bunch if you can but don't lose your temper and don't destroy property. If your crowd is attacked don't cower down behind the girls as if afraid of soiling that nice clean collar put on for the first time day before yesterday but dive head foremost into the fray and get as much enjoyment out of it as possible.

Hopper's dream in the Manual Training department is rapidly nearing the state of perfection. When completed it will be one of the niftiest boats ever seen in this end of the state.

Prof. Smith recently installed a bench in the boys dressing room. It beats the old style of sitting on the floor all hollow. Now all we lack is some warm water for the shower bath.

The patrons of the Dining Hall were rudely disturbed in their mid-day meal one day last week when the building caught fire from an over heated flue. However, the flame was soon extinguished with but slight damage.

Quite a number responded to English's invitation Friday evening and turned out to assist the Juniors in having a good time.

Literati Jottings.

Jiminy and his brother, Mabe, are planning to give a "Soup Bone" feast at "Liberty Hall" some time in the near future. Watch the "Wag's Dope" for announcements.

It has been suggested that we insert in our society notes the personal experience of some of our members. Being in a position to know we give the following as an average example:

"The clock struck one
Happy hadn't yet gone
The clock struck two
Happy wasn't yet thru
The clock struck three
Happy ready to flee
The clock struck four
Happy still at the door
The clock struck five
Happy enters his hive
The clock struck six
Happy his pal he kicks
The clock struck seven
Happy enters seventh heaven
The clock struck eight
Happy not yet awake
The clock struck nine
Happy nothing on his mind
The clock struck ten
Happy awoke with a loud Amen
The clock struck eleven
Happy thought it was seven
The clock struck twelve
And then!:-

With a whoree tippe tippy
tammy ty

Way those bed covers they did fly
Left foot, right foot everything rips
By two's and three's down stairs
he slips

Over to the building into his room
Brushes his hair with an old whisk
broom

Down to the club, just on the dot
Prides himself as Johnny on
the spot.

And there:

With a long drawn face an excuse
To his fellows to take.

He labels his twelve hour's
experience,

A severe headache.

The Literati and Lyceum societies rendered a joint program in the auditorium last Friday evening.

Anthony Unrein is now hurling the Lyceum lasso under the disguise of woman suffrage.

Did any of our society notice the eclipse of Bodmer on the night of the junior party? It was visible on Normal avenue to some of the seniors.

Our "Knights of Persistence" of the "W. B. R. C. Brotherhood" held their regular meeting three nights last week at the usual place.

On the evening of November 25, the faculty gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Picken and presented Mr. Picken with a handsome gold watch, a testimony of their high regard for him and of the happy relations existing between himself and his faculty.

On account of disagreeable weather the evening of the Hill City game the Athletic Association went in the hole for a considerable sum. To provide against any such unseen contingencies arising in the future, Prof. Cunningham arranged a season ticket good for five games to be sold for one dollar. Although this gives one game free, calculating from the usual price of two-bits per game the money will be in the treasury thereby insuring the games. This plan is one adopted by the larger colleges and if it works there, there is no reason why it should not prove satisfactory here.

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Ex.

The strain of monotony was broken by the ever-accomodating Seniors last Wednesday evening when that class gathered at the home of Miss Edith Freeland to participate in that form of recreation which aids in keeping up the life and spirit of a school, i.e., a Senior class party. Everyone was beginning to think that our rivals were not going to show-up when a sound was heard outside and four or five skulking, shivering, forms could be seen looking enviously at the gaily lighted house before them. But their mission was not one of depredation and plunder for presently the door was thrown open and a letter edged in black sailed gracefully into the room. The message contained no threats, only words of sorrow for the loss of one of their number who had but a short time before been leading the jolly life of a Junior, and entreating the Seniors to use the utmost care in initiating him into the ranks of honored dignity. At midnight oysters were served to the crowd and although Wag swore it was the "punkiest" stuff he ever tasted we noticed that his bowl was filled four times.

The next morning a sleepy, forlorn, look on the faces of the Seniors betrayed the fact that the preceding evening had been crammed with enjoyment for all.

Mrs. Shively and John Walton returned from an extended visit in Kansas City last Thursday evening.

A change that is most apparent this year is the order in the classrooms during the afternoons. No more are the Freshmen heard talking and visiting, no more are the Juniors heard whispering in the halls, nor the Seniors scribbling on the boards. Oh, no; we see none of these things now. Nothing exists but quiet. The rooms are filled with silence with here and there a "special privileged" student while the remainder of students are busily engaged with their books in the auditorium.



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Western Normal Leader

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Literati, Will Calvert

Lyceum, Loree Cave

Jr. Class, Caleb Bodmer

Sr. Class, Mary Ryan

Mamie Helm, Y. W. C. A.

Some members of the reporting staff have the idea that it makes no particular difference when their copy is handed in or whether they do any writing at all or not. Although the date of publication is well known to everyone they start with surprise when asked for their notes and really don't see how they can write anything as there has been absolutely nothing happened in the past two weeks. What a place to live in! Think of it! Two weeks life in the most enterprising school in Kansas and haven't seen anything worth recording. Truly the sage hit the nail squarely on the head when he voiced the immortal words; "Having eyes yet they see not and having ears they don't know enough to use them." Now the editor has an almost inexhaustible supply of good material unless something happens, some-

body wakes up, before long the smoke of battle which has long been gathering in the quiet seclusion of his den will burst forth and hang about the heads of those who failed to do their duty.

We have been somewhat disappointed lately with the interest manifested by the student body as a whole in the welfare of the LEADER. The Normal Leader is a paper by the students. If you are a student of W. K. S. N. it is your business to take an interest in your paper and make it a success. It all depends upon you. We have a Leader box in the lower hall near the drinking fountain for the special benefit of students. This was not put there for the benefit of the staff or reporters but for your special benefit. If you know an interesting bit of News write it up and drop it in the Leader box. Anything that interests you will interest someone else. Has someone been visiting you? Do you know what the graduates of this school are doing? Have your friends visited school lately? Have you something for the joke department? Have you a good story or essay? These things are of interest to others, they help make our paper better, write them up and drop them in the Leader box. We would like to see this box full to overflowing next issue.

The magazines received by the library from June 1908 to June 1909 were returned from the bindery last Saturday in the form of 98 up-to-date bound volumes. This makes a valuable addition to the library as the popular publications frequently contain articles of value in reference and research work which can be found in no other book.

N. B. All those wishing announcements written up, letters of regret or a ceptation penned, biographies written, wedding notices constructed, or messages of farewell expressed, see "Old Germany" and our "White Haired Member."

The Y. M. C. A. regular devotional meeting was held in Literati Hall, Tuesday, December 7, at 4:00 p. m. The meeting was conducted by the president, H. V. Matthew. Rev. A. N. Smith gave an address. He emphasized the point that Christian men should at all times conduct themselves so that their associates can readily see where they stand. The Normal Male Quartet sang for us. A goodly number of boys were in attendance but we should like to see more at these meetings. - Next meeting is Tuesday, December 21.

In this age of progress the law makers of the country realize that if the general health of the public would be at its best, strict rules concerning the sanitation of the community must be laid down and enforced. A fine is imposed upon those who know no better than to spit on the sidewalks or floors of public buildings yet these same wise heads have failed to notice the vital point during the skating season. Consequently the ice is covered with filthy pools of discarded saliva which are being continually swept up by the unskilled skater whose equilibrium is not always perfect. Think of the bacteria and tuberculosis germs distributed in this manner and even if not carried away in the clothes of some luckless skater think what an unsanitary place the creek will be when the ice returns next year. If you simply have to expectorate when skating carry a cuspidor in your left overcoat pocket and see if this nauseous evil cannot be eradicated.

The Juniors were entertained at the home of Miss Ethel Pierce last Friday evening. Of course some of the Seniors got wise as usual and immediately put their silver tongued orators to rallying Seniors specials and Freshies in fact everybody they could get. The hour of ten o'clock found about 400 on the outside a lookin' in. Two of the most sympathetic Juniors, who felt that unless something was done there would be

some of "the four hundred" frozen stiff and still standing at the windows next morning, stepped out into the bunch and extended a very cordial invitation to them to go home. This the Seniors at first refused to do but when they noticed that their tools (the Freshies) had all gone back on them they also trotted off to bed. The following is a list of the Juniors. Some do not seem to know where they are classified. Marguerite McVey, Gertrude Black, Loree Cave, Alice Morton, Lena Brown, Elva Bice, Ethel Rowilson, Grace Copeland, Ruth McVey, Gertrude Hanna, A. H. Kerns, G. C. Moore, Ed Davis, Clarence King, Vernon Bice, Clinton Morgan, J. L. Robinson, Brownlow Hopper, Jas. Johansen, A. Bodmer, Clyde Bice.

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Senior Doings.

Pardon the absence of any rare, juicy Senior's notes this week as the regular reporter took a day off and compelled her subordinate to do the work.

Our chaperons certainly did themselves credit at the party the other night when they entered into the spirit and foolishness of the evening with as much or more zest than the gayest of their charges.

It is a shame the way some of our class have neglected their education but actually there are some whose inability to wink one eye without shutting both shows that there has been something lacking in their previous training.

Three new students enrolled last week, Beryl and Sibyl Harlan from Winona and Peter Miller from Catherine.

The dwellers on "Mount Olympus" report a breezy time last week, especially the one required to start the fire in the morning.

A man can get along alright without a hero but if he is going to amount to anything he must have a heroine. Ex.

Christmas vacation begins at 12:30 p. m. December 23, and lasts until 8:10 a. m. January 4. Think of the back work that can be made up in that time.

Curious, isn't it that some will tramp down to the club for supper on Sunday evenings when they can get the same thing in the lunches that are dealt out at noon?

The wit of the University Missouri-an suggests to those who would reform football for the sake of fewer injuries that they might move up the date of Thanksgiving and thereby shorten the football season.

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"Wag's" interest in the coming play deepens with every rehearsal.

Everybody is looking forward to a jolly time during the Christmas vacation.

The Faculty Quartette again favored us with a selection in chapel Friday morning.

Clyde Bice would certainly have been granted credit in Public Speaking had the professor of that department heard him last Friday evening.

Word from Roy Dazey states that he is enjoying life in Colorado Springs and that he intends visiting his friends here before long.

The "Freshies" when generald by one of the upper class-men make an effective force in disturbing the Senior and the Junior parties.

Although the ice is rough and partially covered with snow there are some who never miss an opportunity of spending an hour on its rolling surface.

"A Certain Rich Man" was reviewed in chapel last week in which the strong points of this great literary production were placed before the students in a clear, concise form.

Edward Miller's interest in boxing has somewhat waned since he drove his nose into an opponents glove with so much vehemence that a physician was required to straighten it out.

For the last week and a half the psychology class have been discussing the sense of morality among animals. Now some are beginning to wonder whether it is man or the lower animals that should be credited with the most common sense.

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