

for speech institutes next year. Any other member schools interested should send in a vote promptly, since it has been the policy of the Board to hold an institute in a high school only when twenty votes express a preference for that particular school. The following schools have votes as indicated: Menomonie—18; Shawano—17; Marshfield—10; Park Falls—7; Wausau—6.

Press Publicity. There has been a most encouraging increase in the amount of publicity as evidenced by the clippings received by the secretary. Collections of these clippings, arranged alphabetically by towns, will be on exhibit at the state contest, State Capitol, Assembly Parlor, May 7.

Notice to High School Teachers of Speech and Coaches of Forensics and Dramatics. Enclosed with this News Letter you will find a brief statement sent to you by the Department of Speech at the University of Wisconsin. Your co-operation in bringing this notice to the attention of teachers in your school who may be interested will be deeply appreciated.

Dramatic and Speech Institute, July 7-21, inclusive. The purpose of this Institute is to offer training in community and school leadership in the art of play production and all of the other arts that are closely bound up with it. High school students are also eligible. The headquarters will be the University High School. For further information write to Miss Ethel Rockwell, Chief, Bureau of Dramatic Activities, University Extension Division.

Poetry Festival. May Day, May 1, is the final date for the Poetry Festival. Memorial Union the place. Readings begin at 10:00 a.m. Luncheon will be at 12:30.

Those who were privileged to attend the Poetry Festival last year will welcome this announcement. See April, 1935 News Letter, page 4, for report on last year's Poetry Festival. If interested, please write directly to Professor Gertrude Johnson, Department of Speech, University of Wisconsin, for further details.

Opportunity to Schedule Miss Bauer. We have learned that Juanita Bauer, who gave such a very delightful program at the forensic dramatic breakfast April 4 at the Memorial Union, will be available for assembly programs in this region of the United States part of next year's season. Write to School Assembly Service, Kimball Building, Chicago, Illinois, for full information. If you wish to schedule Juanita Bauer next year, communicate with the Bureau at the earliest possible date because the number of engagements that she can take will probably be limited.

Co-operation of author and publishers in use of quotation on cover. The Forensic Association appreciates the co-operation of Miss Jessie B. Rittenhouse and also the publisher in granting permission to use the quotation printed on the cover. This quotation is taken from "My House of Life" by Jessie B. Rittenhouse, pp. 88-89, published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, \$3.50.

National Forensic League Broadcast—Friday, May 8, 1936—9:00 a.m., National Broadcasting Company Networks—National Speech Contest Winners; 1:00 p.m., Columbia Broadcasting System—National Championship Debate. (Time is Central Standard Time.)

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

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No. 4

Additional copies available to member schools at five cents each.

Copies available to other than member schools at ten cents each.

LIFE VALUES OF SPEECH ACTIVITIES

From: MY HOUSE OF LIFE by Jessie B. Rittenhouse.

"The thing that educated me and gave me my tools for life was not mathematics nor any specific work in the class-room, keen as I was for languages and literature, but the exhilarating discussion in the old Ingelow Room where met the literary society to which I belonged. My foot was on my native heath when it came to debate, then so much a part of educational life.

"What ready speech it gave us, what orderly and coherent thinking, what zest in making one's thought come alive on the lips! What do I not owe to those hours when I built up an argument or demolished one and so laid the foundation for extemporaneous speaking, for creative thinking before an audience."

ON TO MADISON FOR STATE CONTESTS MAY 7,

BREAKFAST CONFERENCE PROGRAM, MAY 8

(Complete program on page 2.)

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

M. A. FISCHER, Chairman Dodgeville	EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT Howard M. Lyon, Chippewa Falls	OSHKOSH DISTRICT T. J. McGlynn, De Pere
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PROF. A. T. WEAVER, Adviser in Speech		STEVENS POINT DISTRICT Harry Bender, Colby
ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL, Adviser in Dramatics.		SUPERIOR DISTRICT G. A. Bassford, Ashland
		WHITEWATER DISTRICT C. H. Dorr, Milton

MAY PROGRAMS

The Forensic Association and the Future Farmers of America are again sponsoring the state speech programs. The following schedule has been adopted:

- May 7—9:00 a. m.—Forensic Association Oratorical Contest—Assembly Chamber, State Capitol.
- May 7—11:00 a. m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Reading Contest—Assembly Chamber, State Capitol.
- May 7—2:30 p. m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Speaking Contest—Assembly Chamber, State Capitol.
- May 7—3:30 p. m.—Future Farmers of America Contest—Agricultural Hall. This program will be broadcast over Stations WHA and WLBL.
- May 7—8:00 p. m.—Forensic Association Declamatory Contests—Humorous and Non-humorous—Assembly and Senate Chambers, State Capitol. Room will be decided by lot.

- May 8—8:00 a. m.—Breakfast Conference—Memorial Union—Supt. M. A. Fischer, Chairman of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, presiding. The contestants will be guests of the Forensic Association and the Future Farmers of America. Others, 40c per plate. Reservations should be made with the Secretary of the Forensic Association, Almere L. Scott, University Extension Division, Madison, Wisconsin.

Greetings—George Duggar, President, University Forensic Board.

Message and discussion of the various contests by Professor A. T. Weaver and other members of the faculty of the Department of Speech of the University.

Greetings—Chris L. Christensen, Dean, Agricultural College.

- May 8—11:00 a. m.—Broadcast by the state champions over Stations WHA and WLBL.

MESSAGE FROM GEORGE DUGGAR, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
FORENSIC BOARD, TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE STATE
HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC CONTESTS

It is with every wish for a pleasant week-end that we are looking forward to your arrival in Madison.

Members of the Forensic Board are participating in and arranging contests much like those in which you have been so successful. We have held during this year at the University a discussion contest (by teams), many debates, both intramural and intercollegiate, an extemporaneous speaking contest, a reading contest, a declamatory contest, and a number of oratorical contests. Hundreds of students in the University have taken part in these programs. Some are past contenders in the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association events.

So we understand the interest in forensics which has meant so much to you and to us. We hope that you will follow it in college or university. We congratulate you on your past triumphs, wish you luck May 7, and heartily welcome you to Madison and the University.

STATE DEBATE AND DRAMATIC CONTESTS

Debate. For the first time in the history of the Association, the debates were held on the campus of the University, because of the fact that the State Capitol was not available at the time. The debates were very well attended and were conceded by all to be especially good. Each school won one debate, and there was only one point difference in the ranking of the first, second, and third place. Eau Claire won the championship, Antigo second place, and Mayville third place. Seventy-two attended the breakfast conference, which proved helpful as well as inspirational. The debaters were guests of the Association at this breakfast. The Association was very fortunate in having the opportunity to hear the discussion of speech activities in Australian schools by Colin Graham McAuliffe and of socialized medicine in Australia by Nevil F. Stuart. All arrangements had been made by George Duggar, President of the University Forensic Board. Mr. McAuliffe and Mr. Stuart were members of the University of Melbourne (Australia) Deputation, Goodwill Debating and Lecturing Tour. You will find in this issue a short message from Justice Nelson of the Supreme Court, who presided at one of the debates. In this issue you will find also the greeting from Professor A. T. Weaver, who was unable to be with us because of an auto accident which he had in returning from judging a debate at Mayville.

Dramatics. By vote of the contesting schools the dramatic contest was scheduled in Madison. Through the courteous co-operation of the Madison Board of Education and the principal of East Side High School, the plays were again produced at the East Side High School. Through the co-operation of the Vocational School, music was supplied at the beginning of the program and between plays by a W. P. A. orchestra. Oconto Falls, producing "Knaves of Hearts," ranked first; River Falls, with "The Short Cut," ranked second; and Lake Geneva, with "Marriages are Made in Heaven and Elsewhere," ranked third. Special messages in this issue from two of the judges of this contest are encouraging on the development of the dramatic activities of the Association. The members of the casts were guests of the Association for a conference breakfast, at which the plays were discussed by the judges. Miss Juanita Bauer contributed a most delightful as well as a worthwhile number to this breakfast program. We are including information in the news items on the possibility of securing Miss Bauer for assembly programs, because of the special interest shown by principals and coaches.

LETTER FROM PROFESSOR A. T. WEAVER, DEPARTMENT OF SPEECH,
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, TO THE STATE DEBATERS

March 20th, 1936.

It is a matter of very deep regret to me that I cannot be present at one of the State high school debates this evening and at the breakfast tomorrow morning. However, together with many who have participated in the preliminary contests, I have been eliminated this year. In a very real sense, I am a disabled veteran of the debating wars. In all the circumstances, I am sure that those concerned will overlook my apparent dereliction and will realize that it in no way reflects any lack of interest in the program which seems to me so vitally important to the high school students of Wisconsin.

Next year I shall try to take extraordinary precautions not to become incapacitated just at the critical moment in the debate season.

With sincere congratulations to the boys and girls from Antigo, Eau Claire, and Mayville and their coaches who, by their splendid work, have won their way through to this state championship series, I am

Most cordially yours,

(Signed) A. T. WEAVER,

Chairman.

IMPRESSIONS ON THE STATE CONTESTS

DRAMATICS

From Ruth Kentzler, Madison Central High School, Judge:

Honesty, co-operation, and sympathetic understanding of other human beings are three necessary fundamentals of good citizenship—the objective of every high school in the country. Well-directed dramatic training in high schools is an important factor in developing these three fundamentals, and therefore should be offered whenever and wherever possible.

The plays in the final contest of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association showed good direction and were, for that reason, of value not only as art but as character education.

From Charles R. Phipps, Director, Madison Civic Theatre, Judge:

It was long an established custom for the trained actor of the professional stage to look upon the performances given by "home-talent" and high school dramatic organizations with a half-amused tolerance. This attitude was not without reason. In most cases the play chosen for presentation was either cheap melodrama or "Toby-type" comedy with no literary value and very little entertainment value. The play was produced with scarcely any thought given to direction, casting, or characterization; the entire performance was conducted in a haphazard fashion that dragged its weary way to an inglorious end. No one took a serious interest in what he was doing, and when the performance was over it was quickly forgotten.

Today all that is changed. No one could witness the State Dramatic Program at East Side High School April 3 and not be conscious of the fact that the amateur stage is now taking a prominent part in our national life. Here was a program in which serious thought had been given to the selecting, casting, and directing of each play. This was particularly noticeable in the performance of *THE KNAVE OF HEARTS*. This production, which required quite an amount of complicated stage-business, was so well directed that at no time was the stage-picture ever out of balance. The costumes were delightful and the cast, acting as though they were living their parts, kept well in character.

The Wisconsin High School Forensic Association is to be congratulated. It provided an evening of splendid entertainment. Let us hope that these boys and girls will carry on with their dramatic talents, and will, in adult life, be ardent members of the Living Theatre, that goal toward which the true lovers of Dramatic Art are striving.

DEBATE

From George B. Nelson, Justice, Supreme Court, presiding:

It is always a pleasure to preside at the debates sponsored by the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association. The teams which participate in the final contests here in the city of Madison are doubtless the best teams from the several districts represented. They are always well prepared and consequently discuss the questions for debate with apparent confidence and great earnestness. The debates that I have listened to have been nothing less than excellent.

I know of no training that our prospective electors can be given which is more worth while than that of preparing for and participating in public debates.

As a high school student way back in the nineties I had little opportunity to cultivate the art of public speaking. However, in the University of Wisconsin I found abundant opportunities which I promptly grasped and to which I clung until my college days were over. I regard the training I received in preparing for and participating in college debates as priceless.

In my opinion, the Department of Debating and Public Discussion of the Extension Division of the University of Wisconsin is rendering an outstanding service to the young people of Wisconsin in promoting and fostering the activities of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association.

NEWS ITEMS

The Association missed keenly Professor A. T. Weaver at the state debate this year. See page 3 for his message which was read at the breakfast conference. Professor Weaver met with an automobile accident while returning from judging a debate at Mayville.

May Forensic Programs at the State Capitol, Agricultural Hall, and the Memorial Union, Thursday and Friday, May 7 and 8. Program on page two. All are cordially invited. Special railroad and hotel rates. The contestants will be guests of the Association for lodging and breakfast. Blanks should be returned very promptly.

Hotel Rates. Special arrangements have been made with the management of the Park Hotel for rooms with bath at \$1 per person per night when two or more persons occupy the same room; without bath at 75c per person. There are many large rooms with private baths which will accommodate five or six people. Make reservations with Mr. W. R. McNeil, Manager, Park Hotel. Be sure to indicate when registering that you are a member of the Association. This is necessary to take advantage of special rates.

Reduced Rates for Round Trip Railroad Tickets. Reduced rate round trip railroad tickets, as low as 1.8c per mile, are now on sale daily. Consult your local ticket agent for the price of round trip fares.

Judges for State Contests. The preferential vote for judging contests—coaches, a single critic judge, or expert judges—will decide as far as possible the judging plan for state contests this year. It is, therefore, very important that the secretary know at the earliest possible date the results of the district contests.

May Contests. Letters of inquiry seem to indicate that News Letters giving rules on contests are not read carefully. Please note the following:

1. Prompting in all League, District, and State declamatory and oratorical contests is prohibited.

2. No notes permissible in state extemporaneous speaking contest.

3. No student shall represent his school in a league, sub-district, district, or state contest in more than one of the following speech activities: Extemporaneous Speaking, Extemporaneous Reading, Humorous Declamation, Non-Humorous Declamation, and Oration.

4. Time keepers must be provided for in all contests. See Constitution, Article VII—General Rules, Rule 8.

5. Extemporaneous Speaking. For full information for the conduct of the extemporaneous speaking contests, see Article VI—District Rules, Rule 2, and Article VII—General Rules, Rule 6. The topics for district contests should be selected by the Executive Committee or by someone designated by that committee. A similar plan should be followed for league and sub-district contests. The secretary cannot supply topics for any extemporaneous speaking contest other than the state contest.

6. Extemporaneous Reading. A plan similar to the selection of topics for the extemporaneous speaking contest should be followed in planning the reading contest. Read carefully Article VII—General Rules, Rule 7; also Explanation of Reading Plan on pp. 15-17 of the September, 1934 News Letter. The secretary is not expected to supply the list of references or the books for the reading contest.

Certificate of Merit. There seems to be some misunderstanding in regard to the award of the Certificate of Merit. This Certificate is awarded only to those students who participated in an inter-school program of the W.H.S.F.A. A list of students with event must be sent to the secretary. The certificates will be forwarded before May 1 to the high school principals from whom the secretary has received lists.

Speech Institutes. Madison, with a vote of 45, and Antigo, with a vote of 21, are the only two towns receiving a vote of at least twenty member schools