

year. Songs, yells, and stunts give this debate all the color of a major football game. The auditorium is decorated in class colors and a canopy is erected for each class. In addition to the valuable training received as a result of debate activity, various awards are presented for participation in debate work." The full newspaper report of the Antigo plan may be borrowed from the secretary of the Association.

Message from a Grange. "A great deal of interest has been aroused in our Grange in our debate on Federal Subsidy for Education. As a result there is a proposal to engage in a debate on that subject with a local high school." Fine work! We hope that many such debates may be scheduled in the future. (The Grange is a rural organization, very active in educational and civic projects.)

"What's Right with Speech Contests," address delivered at Texas State Teachers' Association in Galveston, November 30, 1934, by Professor H. L. Ewbank, may be borrowed from the Secretary of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association. This address contains many suggestions for publicity on value of forensic contests.

Honor to Former Forensic Champion. Miss Avis Zentner, Wauwatosa, won the annual freshman declamatory contest. Avis, as a high school student, had carried away state forensic honors in declamation, reading, and oratory. Congratulations again, Avis!

Gloves. Found: A pair of boys' sheepskin gloves was picked up at the Institute in Madison. The secretary will return to owner.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

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No. 3

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

SCHEDULE FOR CONTESTS, 1935:

Mar. 9—Latest date for sectional debate and dramatics.

Mar. 22—8:00 p.m.—State Debate—State Capitol.

Mar. 23—8:00 a.m.—Debate Conference Breakfast at Memorial Union. Debaters guests of the Association. A discussion of the debates by the critic judges, and other special features. An opportunity for questions.

————— State Dramatic Contest—The place of the dramatic contest will be decided by the competing schools, such contest to be scheduled between March 23 and 30. If the competing schools cannot agree upon the place and date the chairman shall decide. A Dramatic Conference Breakfast will be arranged.

Mar. 2—Latest date for registration for speech contests.

Apr. 13—Latest date for league contests.

Apr. 27—Latest date for district contests.

May 2 and 3—State contests at Madison.

ON TO MADISON FOR STATE DEBATE IN THE CAPITOL

Legislature in session. For special hotel and transportation rates, see News Items. Participants will be entertained for lodging at fraternities and sororities. Breakfast Conference at Memorial Union; contestants are guests of the Association. Others \$0.45 per plate. Reservations in advance. Several graduating classes plan a trip to the State Capitol instead of a Senior Party. Can your school make it this year? A special invitation will be extended to all students in the University who have been participants in these forensic activities.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

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| F. C. BRAY, Chairman Fort Atkinson | LA CROSSE DISTRICT E. J. McKean, Tomah | RIVER FALLS DISTRICT H. C. Mason, River Falls |
| ALMERE SCOTT, Secretary Univ. Extension Div., Madison | MILWAUKEE DISTRICT G. J. Balzer, Wash. High School, Milwaukee | STEVENS POINT DISTRICT Harry Bender, Colby |
| O. H. PLENZKE, Treas. Sec., Wis. Teachers' Ass'n, Madison | OSHKOSH DISTRICT T. J. McGlynn, De Pere | SUPERIOR DISTRICT G. A. Bassford, Ashland |
| PROF. A. T. WEAVER, Adviser in Speech | PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT M. A. Fischer, Dodgeville | WHITEWATER DISTRICT F. C. Bray, Fort Atkinson |
| EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT C. W. Dodge, Stanley | MISS ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL, Adviser in Dramatics. | |

MESSAGE FROM EDWIN WILKIE, PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY
FORENSIC BOARD, TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE STATE
HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC CONTEST

You are to be congratulated as representative participants from your respective high schools in the debate and dramatic contests. You have before you an opportunity to show that the young men and young women of our generation will be well qualified to face the political and social issues of tomorrow. Those of us who are upper classmen in the University look forward to graduation with a determination to do what we can to face the problems which middle age is prone to leave unsolved. And we who have had the strengthening experience of forensic work in high school or in the University feel the more competent to face these problems.

Do your best with the speaking ability you have. Whether you win or lose, the satisfaction of a job well done will linger as a pleasant memory and an encouraging stimulus for future work. Remember that the best judges of forensic contests are always the first ones to admit that judging such contests is not easy and that they are always worried lest they have not chosen the best man. Although they may be wrong, they honestly believe they are right. So if you know that you made the best speech, and if other people think so although the judge does not, don't regret the fact that you did not win the prize but modestly acknowledge the winner.

The self-confidence you have attained will be of more value to you in future forensic contests than all the prizes you have ever won. If you enter a University, as I sincerely hope all of you who would profit by a college career will be able to do, and have the ambition to make a name for yourselves in debate, oratory, or dramatics, I can advise you from even my limited experience that you will value the work you have done and the poise you have achieved in your respective field of speech activity far more highly than the prizes you have won.

Let me encourage you to do your best today for the benefit it will be toward tomorrow. For tomorrow you will view the lasting value of your forensic activities with far higher regard than you will the glory there attained but long since forgotten.

CHIPPEWA FALLS SPEECH INSTITUTE

The Speech Institute, held at the Chippewa Falls High School on November 23 and 24, was very successful. The institute was made possible by the joint efforts of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, the Department of Speech, the University of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Forensic Board, and the Department of Debating and Public Discussion. Mr. Howard Lyon, Principal of Senior High School, acted as local chairman.

There was a total attendance at the institute of over three hundred teachers and students of speech work. Professors Borchers, Johnson, Ewbank, Mitchell, and Lees of the University of Wisconsin attended the institute and gave freely of their experience and knowledge.

A variety program was arranged. Because of the different interests, sectional meetings were held on the various phases of speech work and general meetings were held on the fundamentals of speech work. Exhibitions were given in extemporaneous reading, debate, and play coaching.

Two hundred ten guests enjoyed a noon luncheon and a short program at the Methodist Church parlors.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association officials present at the institute were, Miss Almere Scott, Secretary, Mr. C. W. Dodge, Chairman of the Eau Claire District, and Mr. H. C. Mason, Chairman of the River Falls District.

At a business meeting it was decided that the tournament plan of conducting the debate organization for the coming season be continued with cer-

tain detailed improvements. This action was taken unanimously by the representatives of all schools registered. The tournament will be held at Chippewa Falls again; Principal H. M. Lyon was elected as local manager. Many schools expressed satisfaction with the tournament plan and were eager to continue with it as a decided improvement over the old plan, which involved long trips, expensive judges, arguments over judges, delays in schedule, long distance telephone calls, and other confusion.

Eau Claire, selected from the northwest section by the tournament method, won the state debate championship last year.

Representatives from the following schools attended: Amery, Arcadia, Augusta, Baldwin, Bloomer, Cadott, Chippewa Falls, Cornell, Eau Claire, Fairchild, Hudson, Dunn County Agricultural School at Menomonie, Menomonie, Mondovi, New Auburn, New Richmond, Owen, River Falls, Somerset, Spooner, Stanley, Thorp, Trempealeau, and Viroqua.

—HOWARD M. LYON, Local Chairman.

STEVENS POINT SPEECH INSTITUTE

A large and enthusiastic group of teachers and students interested in dramatics and forensics greeted the speech department representatives from the University of Wisconsin at the Institute conducted in Stevens Point, December 7 and 8. This was the first Institute of its kind to be held in Stevens Point, but from opinions voiced by both teachers and students, it will be an annual affair. The Central State Teachers College, at which place the Institute was held, co-operated splendidly in providing rooms and also in faculty participation. It was an ideal place to hold the Institute, for the rooms were so situated as to make it convenient to meet groups of any size for any length of time.

The Institute did much to awaken a much needed interest in speech activities. It brought together the young folks representing the many schools; it made the teachers aware that their work was worth while; and it led all to appreciate the very fine class of young people participating in speech activities. It also gave the many young people an opportunity to meet teachers of the University Speech Department. The teachers were experts in their respective departments. In spite of their heavy assignments they did everything to contact the members present at the Institute.

One of the direct outcomes of the debate session was the developing of a set-up, or plan, for a debate tournament. Since then the plans have materialized and the tournament will be held at the Central State Teachers College on February 22 and 23. The college authorities have gone on record as favoring such a plan each winter and have issued an invitation to the high schools of this section. All in all, we are very enthusiastic about the results achieved by the Institutes held.

—JOSEPH F. KRAUS, Principal.

NEW ELIMINATION PLAN FAVORED

The new plan of eliminations for debate, tried for the first time in 1934 and continued in January and February of 1935, appears to have received the approval of the participating schools. The change from the old triangular competition to a general tournament was a depression measure, born largely of the necessity for economy. The financial findings last year prove that retrenchment has been effected quite definitely.

The principal objection to the triangular arrangement lay in the large travel and stopover expense entailed. There was evidence of lessened enrollment of schools because of the travel cost and the expense of hired judges.

The new system provides a form of elimination tournament extending over a day or two, depending upon the number of schools participating. The main features are as follows:

Each team will have two or more debates before any elimination takes place. The coaches may act as judges, but so scheduled that no coach will judge his own team, nor the same team twice. At the close the results will be announced, and the teams ranked. The schools with the highest rank will compete further in elimination debates.

In one section, the coaches, responding to a questionnaire after the tournament, declared themselves well satisfied with the new system and with the use of the coaches as judges. A get-together luncheon usually is served at a minimum charge, preferably in the high school cafeteria, affording an opportunity to get acquainted. The coaches meet and discuss their problems, each profiting by the experience of others. At one conference it was suggested that a Code of Ethics for Debate adopted, printed, and posted in every school would prove a factor in the development of higher standards for debate. A small entry fee may be charged each school for tournament expense.

A more detailed report on such tournaments held is available from the Secretary of the Association.

The latest report to the secretary includes the following schools in the debate and dramatic schedules:

DEBATE

EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT: Augusta, Chippewa Falls, Colfax, Eau Claire, Menomonie.

LACROSSE DISTRICT: Sparta, Tomah, Viroqua.

MILWAUKEE DISTRICT: Beaver Dam, Berlin, Columbus, Cudahy, Hartford, Horicon, Kenosha, Mayville, Milwaukee (Washington), Oconomowoc, Racine (Washington Park), Racine (Wm. Horlick), Waukesha, Waupun, Watertown, West Allis, West Bend, West Milwaukee.

OSHKOSH DISTRICT: Clintonville, De Pere, Kaukauna, Kewaunee, Menasha, Neenah, New London, Oconto, Oconto Falls, Pulaski, Shawano, West De Pere.

PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT: Bloomington, Mount Hope, Prairie du Chien, Richland Center.

RIVER FALLS DISTRICT: Amery, Baldwin, Hayward, Hudson, New Richmond, River Falls, Roberts, Spooner.

STEVENS POINT DISTRICT: Adams-Friendship, Antigo, Marion, Marshfield, Mattoon, Medford, Merrill, Mosinee, Nekoosa, Phillips, Port Edwards, Red Granite, Rhinelander, Rosholt, Scandinavia, Stevens Point, Tigerton, Tomahawk, Wausau, Wautoma, Westfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Wittenberg.

SUPERIOR DISTRICT: Mellen, Park Falls, Superior (East), Washburn.

WHITEWATER DISTRICT: Baraboo, Brodhead, Deerfield, Edgerton, Elkhorn, Fort Atkinson, Hartland, Lodi, Madison (Wisconsin High), Middleton, Oregon, Randolph, Stoughton, Verona, Watertown, Waunakee.

DRAMATICS

EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT: Bloomer, Eau Claire, Ladysmith, New Auburn, Osseo, Thorp.

LACROSSE DISTRICT: Bangor, Fountain City, Necedah, Tomah, Trempealeau, West Salem.

MILWAUKEE DISTRICT: Columbus, Horicon.

OSHKOSH DISTRICT: Menasha, Oconto Falls, Shawano, West De Pere.

PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT: Darlington.

RIVER FALLS DISTRICT: Baldwin, Hudson, Osceola, River Falls, Spooner, Woodville.

STEVENS POINT DISTRICT: Athens, Birnamwood, Marion, Mattoon, Mosinee, Nekoosa, Rosholt, Scandinavia, Tigerton, Wisconsin Rapids, Wittenberg.

WHITEWATER DISTRICT: Jefferson.

NEWS ITEMS

Registration. The registration this year exceeds last year at this date by **twenty-two**. The appreciation of the value of forensics as training for citizenship is growing. There have been several new registrations this year. Will your district be the first to reach 100%?

Dramatics. The play selected for the dramatic contest must be registered in advance with the secretary. There has been an increase of 25% in participation in the regular schedule in dramatics. Many schools have been active in dramatics although not registering for regular contest schedule.

Debate. This activity has experienced a most encouraging growth, which is due in a measure to the plan of debate tournament by which some of the expenses have been eliminated. See brief report on "Tournament Plan," page 3 of this News Letter.

Forensic Contests. Read the **Constitution** in the September issue of the News Letter. Amendments are pending, but final action **cannot** be taken until the annual meeting, November, 1935.

Extemporaneous Reading. Study carefully the article by Professor Gertrude E. Johnson in the November, 1934, News Letter, page 3. You will find it helpful.

Extemporaneous Speaking. Enclosed with the News Letter are announcements of special rates on magazines—American Review of Reviews, Current History, and Literary Digest—from which topics are selected. See Constitution, September News Letter, page 14, Rule 6.

Judging. The coach or principal of schools participating should sign the ballot, indicating agreement on judges before the contests begin. Directions in regard to judging and sample ballots should be sent to the judges in advance; their attention should be called to the plan for judging.

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.

Railroad Rates. Reduced rate round trip Rail Tickets are on sale daily now, as low as 1.8c per mile. Consult your local Ticket Agent for round trip fare.

Certificate of Merit. In accordance with the action of the Board, a certificate of merit will be awarded to all students participating in an inter-school program. Names of such students should be sent to the secretary of the Association. It is hoped that these awards will be made at a special dinner or other community event. Use blank enclosed for report on students eligible.

WHA and Speech Activities. High School Speech and English classes will be interested in a new broadcast series, "Gems of Literature" to start March 4, scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. These programs have been prepared by Lois Buswell, teacher of Speech in Rhinelander. Watch the press for the notice of a new series of broadcasts, "Living Again with Great Orators" over WHA. Many schools have benefited by the broadcasts of WHA. Send in suggestions for next year.

Speech Institutes. These institutes have been so much appreciated that plans are already developing for next year. Whenever twenty-five schools express a choice for an institute at a particular school, the Board will assume responsibility for planning such an institute. Send in your suggestions to be considered for next year.

"Two Objectives in Debate Work are Practice in Straight Thinking and in Clear Talking," from the headline in Antigo Journal, November 24, 1934, announcing annual Junior-Senior Debate. "The height of ambition for a Junior or Senior in the Antigo High School is the privilege of representing his class in the annual Junior-Senior debate. Begun by Mr. E. H. Palmer over twenty years ago, this traditional meeting has become a classic event of the school."