

NEWS ITEMS

Breakfast Conferences. The breakfast conferences are proving interesting as well as helpful. A joint breakfast, with the Future Farmers of America, is scheduled this year at the Memorial Union (see program on page one). A reservation blank is enclosed. Come prepared to participate.

Wisconsin Players. An opportunity will be afforded to see the Wisconsin Players in "A Kiss for Cinderella" Saturday afternoon, May 13. It is suggested that you secure tickets in advance. A special rate of 50 cents is offered to contestants and coaches.

Railroad Rates. Railroads call attention to week-end reduced fares—one fare plus 25 cents for the round trip. Tickets on sale for all trains on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, to reach original starting point by the following Tuesday. For further particulars, consult your local railroad agent. If you are interested in the special rates for groups of ten or more, write to Mr. P. F. Neverman, Marinette, Wisconsin.

Hotel. 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. 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.

Entertainment. The contestants will be guests of the sororities and fraternities for lodging Friday night.

Coaches as Judges. The committee in charge of the state contests has voted to have the coaches act as judges. Since the adoption of the constitutional amendment is still pending (final action at the annual meeting in 1933), the five judges will be selected by lot. All of the coaches should meet in advance as designated on the program, for the selection of judges.

Debate Question for 1934. Send to the secretary, or to your district chairman, your suggestions for debate question for next year.

The National Forensic League Championship Debate. This debate may be heard over the Columbia Broadcasting System, May 11.

Material for News Letters. The News Letter is your publication. The principals, coaches and other teachers of member schools are not only invited, but urged to contribute material or offer suggestions for subjects which they would like to have discussed in the News Letters.

Declamatory Contests. Considerable interest has been manifested in regard to the declamatory contests. Definite suggestions have come to the secretary to divide the declamatory contests into two contests, or to limit the type of selection used in a single year to either dramatic or humorous type. This subject will come up for discussion at the annual meeting. If you are interested, write to your representative on the Board, or to the secretary or chairman of the Board, and come prepared to discuss the matter at the annual meeting.

Petition to Publishers of Plays. It has been suggested that through a concerted effort on the part of those schools interested in play production, some concessions might be secured from the publishers on the use of copyright material, that is, paying one royalty for several productions of a limited number of plays, or permission to use a certain number with reduced royalty, providing a great many copies are purchased for production in the State. If you are interested in this project, write directly to Miss Ethel Rockwell, Advisor in Dramatics, University Extension Division, who has petitions to the publishers in process of preparation.

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

Vol. IV

MADISON, WISCONSIN, APRIL, 1933

No. 4

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

ON TO MADISON FOR STATE CONTESTS AND CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

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

May 12—2:00 p. m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Reading Contest—Assembly Chamber, State Capitol.

May 12—3:15 p. m.—Forensic Association Extemporaneous Speaking Contest—Assembly Chamber, State Capitol.

May 12—3:30 p. m.—Future Farmers of America Contest—Agricultural Hall. This program will be broadcast over Stations WHA and WLBL.

May 12—8:00 p. m.—Forensic Association Declamatory and Oratorical Contests—Assembly and Senate Chambers, State Capitol. Room will be decided by lot.

May 13—8:30 a. m.—Breakfast Conference—Memorial Union—George J. Balzer, Chairman of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, presiding. The contestants will be the guests of the Forensic Association and Future Farmers of America. Others, 30 cents per plate. Reservations should be made in advance with the Secretary of the Forensic Association, Almere L. Scott, University Extension Division, Madison, Wisconsin.

Greetings—Joseph Werner, President, University Forensic Board.

Greetings from one of Our Pioneers—Mrs. R. H. Dixon, Whitewater.

Public Discussion and Citizenship—Chris L. Christensen, Dean, Agricultural College, University of Wisconsin.

Music—Mrs. A. T. Weaver.

The Big Top or the Side Show—Professor A. T. Weaver, Department of Speech, University of Wisconsin.

Readings—Professor Gertrude Johnson, Department of Speech, University of Wisconsin.

May 13—10: a. m.—Broadcast by the state champions in reading, oratory, and declamation over Station WHA.

SEE NEWS ITEMS FOR SPECIAL RAILROAD AND HOTEL RATES

WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

G. J. BALZER, Chairman
Wash. High School, Milwaukee
ALMERE SCOTT, Secretary
Univ. Extension Div., Madison
B. E. McCORMICK, Treas.
Sec., Wis. Teachers' Ass'n,
Madison
PROF. A. T. WEAVER,
Adviser in Speech

EAU CLAIRE DISTRICT
C. W. Dodge, Stanley
LA CROSSE DISTRICT
E. J. McKean, Tomah
OSHKOSH DISTRICT
J. E. Kitowski, Menasha
PLATTEVILLE DISTRICT
M. A. Fischer, Dodgeville

RIVER FALLS DISTRICT
H. C. Mason, River Falls
STEVENS POINT DISTRICT
J. E. Rohr, Nekoosa
SUPERIOR DISTRICT
G. A. Bassford, Ashland
WHITEWATER DISTRICT
F. C. Bray, Fort Atkinson
MISS ETHEL THEODORA ROCKWELL,
Adviser in Dramatics.

STATE CONTESTS DEBATE

River Falls from the Northern, Clintonville from the Central, and Mayville from the Southern Sections of the State competed at the State Capitol, March 23, in the final contest for state championships. Speaker Cornelius T. Young presided in the Assembly; Lieutenant Governor Thomas J. O'Malley in the Senate; and Judge John D. Wickhem in the Hearing Room. Professors A. T. Weaver and H. L. Ewbank of the University of Wisconsin, and Professor Karl Windesheim of the University of Washington, acted as judges. Clintonville, for the second time, was declared the champion, with Mayville ranking second and River Falls third.

DEBATING AS TRAINING FOR LATER LIFE

By Professor Karl Windesheim, University of Wisconsin, on leave of absence from the University of Washington.

It was indeed a pleasure to serve as a judge in the final debates of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association. The competing teams displayed a most commendable degree of skill and training in the art of debating.

As one thinks about the matter of debate training and its possible value to the student who participates in this type of activity, one is reminded of the objectives of debating as indicated by the usual instructions to the judge. Judgment is based on analysis, argument, refutation, and presentation. The debater must be trained, then, to think his way through the problem in order to make a careful analysis of that problem. To argue the question effectively implies a high degree of careful, logical reasoning. To convince an audience, or a judge, this reasoning must be reinforced by facts, figures, and statistics, which in turn require long and diligent research and study on the subject. In order to refute the arguments of the opposing team, a debater must be able to see clearly the application of his opponents' arguments, balance one argument against the other, find possible fallacies in the reasoning of the other side, concentrate on the important points, and eliminate those points which are unimportant. And, finally, no matter how good the reasoning, nor how extensive the knowledge, a debater is lost if he cannot effectively present his material in good, persuasive, oral English.

Certainly there can be no training which could be of greater value to the high school student in his later life than training of this sort. If every citizen were able to think clearly, weigh evidence carefully, refute arguments logically, and express his own ideas effectively on such great national problems as are discussed in our high school debates, this country would be much nearer to a solution of its present political, social, and economic difficulties.

DRAMATICS

By Professor Ethel T. Rockwell, Dramatic Adviser.

The fourth annual dramatic contest was most gratifyingly attended by an enthusiastic audience at the East Side High School in Madison on Friday evening, March 24, with Principal Foster S. Randle presiding. For the second consecutive time, Oconomowoc High School, of the Southern Section, carried off first honors with the tragedy CLOUD-BURST by J. Clark Weaver. Second place was won by the Menasha High School, of the Central Section, with the amusing comedy, PIRTLE DRUMS IT IN, by Charles Divine, and third place went to River Falls High School, representing the Northern Section, with the play THE VALLEY OF LOST MEN, by Alice H. Ernst.

Excellent direction had been given all of these plays by Miss Bonnie Small, Miss Margaret O'Neill and Miss Doris Frederickson, respectively. The judges were Mr. Harold McCarty, Director of WHA, Miss Clara Krefting, dramatic director of Baker University, Kansas, and Mr. Cyril Duckworth, of the Wisconsin Players. All of the judges rather deplored the tendency of high schools to select highly melodramatic tragedies for contest use, but they felt that the excellent acting and staging effects compelled the recognition given the group presenting CLOUD-BURST. They commended the choice of PIRTLE DRUMS IT IN for its brightness and humor, and for its suitability for high schools. Some of the best individual acting made the performance of THE VALLEY OF LOST MEN notable.

CONFERENCE BREAKFASTS

The conference breakfasts were held in the Memorial Union, Friday and Saturday mornings. Through the co-operation of the University Forensic Board and the Wisconsin Players, interesting as well as entertaining programs were arranged and very much appreciated by the visitors. The contestants were guests of the Forensic Association.

WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF THE AIR

WHA 940 Kc. Madison
WLBL 900 Kc. Stevens Point

"BETTER SPEECH" COURSE

Mondays 9:15-9:30

Gladys L. Borchers, Instructor.

The complete program of this course was mailed to all schools with the program of the state debate and dramatic contests. There were thirteen broadcasts in this series. All except the following two have been scheduled:

May 1. PARLIAMENTARY LAW

Would you be embarrassed if you were elected president of a club today? How can the business be carried on most fairly and efficiently? This dramatization aims to make clear the simpler rules of parliamentary law. Send in questions that puzzle you.

May 8. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES OF SPEECH TO ALL TYPES OF SPEAKING

This final broadcast aims to show how the principles of speech training are applied to all types of public and private speaking. It aims to show how they carry over not only to conversation and reading but also to debating and dramatics.

The Forensic Association is particularly interested in the development of this type of an educational activity and hopes that the schools that have been able to listen in will write to the Station, expressing an interest and a desire for a similar program next year. These broadcasts are helpful also to the club workers and adult listeners generally who wish to develop the ability to speak convincingly. They are suitable and recommended for use in high schools to supplement work in speech classes, or to give training in schools where no regular speech course is offered.

Miss Borchers has very kindly offered to answer, so far as possible, any particular questions which might arise in connection with the development of the program. Miss Borchers would also appreciate any suggestions and criticisms of the plan. Listen in and write to Miss Gladys Borchers, 257 Bascom Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

SPEECH AND DRAMATIC INSTITUTE

HIGH SCHOOL SECTION

In response to the interest shown by high schools in the dramatic arts and in the work offered by the Annual Dramatic and Speech Institute at the University, the management this year is adding a High School Section to the Institute, which opens June 30 and ends July 15. Professor Gladys Borchers, who is in charge of the University courses on the teaching of speech, will act as chairman of the High School Section.

The courses are designed for students who will be attending high school during the coming year. They aim particularly to give them training which will be of practical value to them and to their schools in staging plays, in planning and arranging assembly and public programs, and in participating in various forensic activities and tournaments. The following courses are offered to meet the special needs of high school students: High School Speech Activities, by Professor Gladys Borchers; Declamation and Oratory, by Mr. Lowell Lees; and Play Production for High School Students, by Professor Ethel Rockwell. These courses are open to high school students only. These students are also free to choose from the following: Stage Arts and Crafts, by Mr. Fred Buerki; Costume Design, by Miss Evelyn Kent; Play-Writing, by Professor Ethel Rockwell; Voice Training, by Professor Eugene Bahn; and Character Study and Make-Up, by Professor Alethea Smith. Teachers and directors interested in drama are also cordially invited to attend.

For further particulars, write Miss Ethel Rockwell, Director of the Institute, Bascom Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.