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Wisconsin High School Forensic Association Newsletter

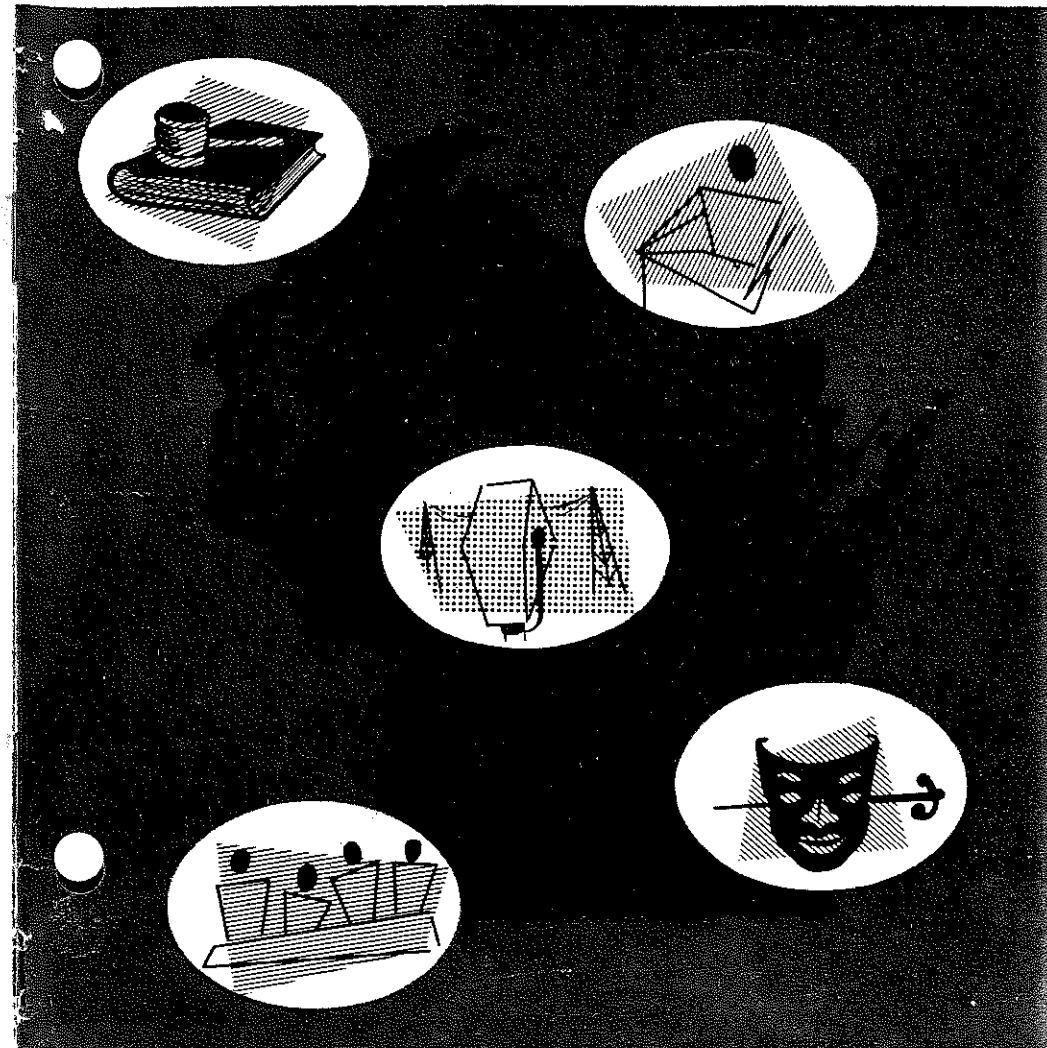
"Not to defeat each other, but to pace one another on the road to excellence"

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WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOL FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with

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PROBLEM AREA FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE 1960-61

"How Can the Security of the Free World Best Be Maintained?"

Dates for Next Year

The dates for next season's contests appear in the enclosed insertion and will be repeated in the September *Newsletter*.

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Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

State Speech Contest

The 1960 State Speech Contest, held on the University of Wisconsin campus on April 9, was attended by 1217 students from 335 high schools; 103 fewer contestants than in 1959. The decrease was primarily due to the merging of the humorous and non-humorous declamation contests into one event called memorized declamation. Among the remaining seven events there was increased participation in non-original oratory, extemporaneous reading, and four-minute speaking. In original oratory, extemporaneous speaking, interpretative reading, and play reading there was a slight decrease.

The following chart compares the number of contestants in the 1959 and 1960 contests.

	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	
Humorous Declamation	150	---	-302
Non-Humorous Declamation	152	---	
Memorized Declamation	---	188	-114
Non-Original Oration	155	175	+ 20
Original Oration	138	118	- 20
Extemporaneous Speaking	118	117	- 1
Extemporaneous Reading	122	134	+ 12
Interpretative Reading	148	137	- 11
Four-Minute Speaking	111	127	+ 16
Play Reading	226	221	- 5
	1320	1217	-103
<u>Ratings Given</u>			
A's - - - - -	656 (49.7%)	553 (45.4%)	
B's - - - - -	611 (46.2%)	588 (48.3%)	
C's - - - - -	53 (04.0%)	76 (06.2%)	

(Contd.)

The fifty-four judges at the state contest came from eight of the Wisconsin State Colleges, two of the University Extension Centers, a private college, another state forensic association, the National Forensic League, plus staff members from the University of Wisconsin campus.

Fall Elections

Elections will be held in October for the following positions on the Board of Control:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Central Section	E. C. Marquardt
Oshkosh District	A. F. Christ
Platteville District	Harold Gall
Whitewater District	Roland Hunsader

Primary ballots will be mailed out in September to the three districts and the one section.

Certificates of Participation

If your school has not ordered the Certificates of Participation for inter-school programs sponsored by the Association you may still do so. State whether you wish drama, debate, discussion, or speech certificates, and how many of each.

With the exception of the Play Reading contest where there may be from 2 to 5 participants, all other events of spring speech are limited to 2 entries from a school. Therefore, the highest number of speech participation certificates per school would be 19.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Practice Debate Tournaments for 1960-61

The following is a tentative schedule for invitational practice debate tournaments to be held during the 1960-61 school year:

West Bend - - - - November 12
Eau Claire - - - - November 12
Merrill - - - - December 10
Green Bay West - December 10
Neenah - - - - - January 14

If there is any change in the above dates or if your school is sponsoring an invitational meet and it is not listed, please write to the state office so we will be able to include the information in the September Newsletter.

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
To Sponsor Discussion and Debate Institute 1960-1

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is making plans to conduct an institute in discussion and debate for high school coaches and students in the Milwaukee District on November 12, 1960. A faculty committee headed by Assistant Professor William Donnelly, and consisting of Professors Melvin Miller, Ted McLaughlin, and Raymond Myers has made preliminary plans for the program.

Schools in the Milwaukee area will receive more specific information from the University in early fall.

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Mr. Kenneth Curran Resigns

After fifteen years on the Board of Control of the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association Mr. Curran has tendered his resignation.

One who serves a worthy cause beyond the call of duty is worthy of special praise. Such a person is Kenneth Curran, Administrator of Cashton's Public Schools. Mr. Curran served as a member of the Board of Control of the Association from 1944 to 1959.

In 1956 he was elected Chairman of the Board of Control, and was reelected the following year. He had previously served as Vice-Chairman and also was chairman of several important committees.

Mr. Curran was particularly active in supporting a forensic program for all students in small high schools as well as in large ones. He brought to the Board of Control a broad vision and fine sense of humor.

The speech activities of all Wisconsin high schools have been greatly enriched by the dedicated, unselfish service of Kenneth Curran.

Ervin C. Marquardt
Central Sectional Chairman
WHSFA

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Results of State Debate Tournament

Fifteen teams competed for top honors in the 1960 State Debate Tournament held at the Wisconsin Center Building in Madison on February 26 and 27. Stevens Point won first place as the only undefeated team in the tournament. Kenosha rated second place with seven wins and one loss. Whitefish Bay and Chippewa Falls McDonell tied for third place with six wins and two losses. Other schools in the event were Hartford, Merrill, Neenah, Wausau, Eau Claire Memorial, Eau Claire Regis, Chippewa Falls Senior, West Bend, Green Bay West, Racine St. Catherine, and Madison West.

A school plaque and individual gold medals were awarded to the Stevens Point team. Certificates of Achievement for the schools and debaters were presented to the second and third place teams.

Mr. Harold Konnak, University of Wisconsin Regent from Racine, was the guest speaker at the banquet held on Friday evening in the Center Building. His subject was "The Spoken Word."

A welcome from the University of Wisconsin Extension Division was given to the students and coaches by Mr. Charles Wedemeyer, Director of Correspondence Study. Mr. Harold G. Gall, Chairman of the Board of Control of the WHSFA, greeted the participants, coaches, and judges at the dinner. Frederick E. Haug, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of the WHSFA presided.

The official question for the 1959-60 school year was: "Resolved: that the federal government should substantially increase its regulation of labor unions."

Wisconsin High School Forensic Association

Speech Section at SWEA Holds Symposium on Discussion and Debate

The annual meeting of the speech section of the Southern Wisconsin Education Association was held at the Memorial Union on February 19. The program consisted of a symposium entitled "Discussion and Debate in Wisconsin High Schools." Participants were: Winston L. Brembeck, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin; Edna Sorber, Assistant Professor, Wisconsin State College, Whitewater; Frederick Haug, Jr., Sec'y-Treas. WHSFA; Mary Kate Lorenz, Monona Grove High School; and Hoyt Rawlings, West Allis Central High School.

The members discussed the following aspects of the general subject:

- "The Value of Debate as an Educational Activity"
- "The Value of Discussion as an Educational Activity"
- "The Present Status of Discussion and Debate in Wisconsin High Schools"
- "The Novice Coach Looks at High School Discussion and Debate"
- "The Role of the Coach in Discussion and Debate Activities."

New Officers for SWEA Speech Section

Officers elected for the 1960-61 school year at the February 19th meeting include:

Chairman--Allan Frank, Oconomowoc
Vice-Chairman--William Hintz, Badger High
School, Lake Geneva
Secretary--Mrs. Hermoine Knapp, Janesville

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The Theatre Collection

by

Julia Mailer, Theatre Librarian
Extension Division Library

When you receive our beautiful new Theatre Collection flyer in your spring WHSFA package you will discover that the old "Play Library" is now a part of the University of Wisconsin Extension Division Library. We are still at the same address but we are no longer the Bureau of Information and Program Services. I am happy to say that I can still serve you from the same collection and that we are adding more technical books, more theatre history and criticism and new speech journals. Our aim is to make this a theatre library second to none, and to give you the best service possible within our physical limits. We are proud of our history and proud now to belong to a bona-fide library.

Jerry Collins of the Wisconsin-Idea Theatre and I have been slaving over the new one-act play list for the forensic drama contest and sharing our disappointment over the lack of new material coming in from the publishers. There is only a handful that we can possibly recommend and add to our old list. The trouble is, of course, that playwrights are no longer writing one-act plays because the professionals are not producing them. Hence, there is no money in them. The few that come through are non-professional and hackneyed and artificial.

So we have gone back over the golden period of the one-act play and tried to pick up a few titles which we may have missed. This means that some of these titles are no longer in print but that the publishers have given the WHSFA permission to copy them for use in our contests. This may seem a lot

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of work, but we think the plays are better literature than what we are getting today. We hope you will agree.

The Theatre Library will be at the old stand all summer, so why not send to us for one-acts which you can read at your leisure--before the big deluge starts in September. Let us serve you while we have the plays on our shelves.

A pleasant vacation to you all and if you are in Madison this summer drop in at Room 20, Memorial Library and say hello.

The new list of APPROVED PLAYS 1960 is being mailed with this Newsletter. Why not get acquainted with it and send for some of the plays right away.

See you next fall at the drama contests.

New Play List Enclosed

"APPROVED PLAYS 1960" is being sent to you with this Newsletter. All plays to be entered in the one-act play contest in 1960 must be taken from this list, with one exception. Any school may enter an original one-act play (written by the faculty and students of that school); such an original play must be submitted to the State Office by October 1 so that final approval may be granted.

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University Summer Speech Institute

On June 30, 1960 the University of Wisconsin Department of Speech and the Department of Education will sponsor a one-day institute on the Madison campus. The subject of the institute will be "The High School and College Theatre--Architecture and Stage Design."

This institute, designed primarily for teachers and prospective teachers of speech, will combine instruction by recognized leaders in the field, and demonstration. The morning program will feature two speakers. The first is Arnold S. Gillette, Director of the University Theatre, State University of Iowa, who has very recently published a book entitled Stage Scenery. The second speaker is Orville K. Larson, Associate Professor in Fine Arts at Ohio University. Professor Gillette will speak on "Scene Design for the High School Theatre," while Professor Larson will discuss "Some Aspects of Contemporary American Scene Design."

In the afternoon Professor Frederick A. Buerki, Theatre Technical Director at Wisconsin, will talk on "High School Theatre Architecture." His speech will be followed by a discussion concerning "Effective Low-Budget Scenery and Lighting for the High School Stage." Participants in this discussion will be Mr. Thomas Tews, West High School, Madison; Mr. Eugene Cramer, Manitowoc High School; and Professor Buerki.

The concluding presentation will be a demonstration of representational and presentational acting. This portion of the institute is being prepared by Miss Jean Scharfenberg, Wisconsin High School, Madison; Mrs. Jane McCartney, Monona Grove High School; and Professor Jonathan W. Curvin of the University

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Speech Department. A group of high school students will assist in the demonstration.

Coinciding with the institute will be the opening performance of the Wisconsin Players' first 1960 summer production, The Waltz of the Toreadors by Jean Anouilh.

There is no registration fee for the institute, and anyone interested in the program is most welcome to attend. Tickets for the play in the evening may be purchased at the registration desk on the morning of June 30th. For a copy of the institute program write to Professor Herman H. Brockhaus, Department of Speech, University of Wisconsin.

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