

NEW HUMOROUS READINGS

Of our many new humorous readings, we mention the following that we feel sure will be favorites with N.F.L. contestants.

HUCKLEBERRY FINN'S CURE FOR WARTS. Mark Twain. 10 min. Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer go to test a wart cure that entails a dead cat and a graveyard at midnight. Characters: the 2 boys. 50c

A HUSBAND IN CLOVER. Merivale. 10 min. From the play. A young husband finds his wife and his life too perfect. His bride gives him a sample of another kind of life and he is only too glad to be a husband "in clover." 50c

MRS. McWILLIAMS AND THE LIGHTNING. Mark Twain. 8 min. A funny account of a man and his wife who is afraid of lightning. 50c

PROVIDENCE SENDS A DRESS COAT. Murger. 10 min. Two young artists are struggling to exist. One of them has a dinner invitation and nothing suitable to wear. Through a clever ruse, he gets his dress coat and his pal gets a dinner. Three men characters. 50c

PYGMALION AND GALATEA. Gilbert. From the play. 10 min. Main characters: Pygmalion, the sculptor, his wife, and Galatea, the animated statue. 50c

SUITOR FROM A SUITCASE. Oscar Wilde. 8 min. From the play "The Importance of Being Earnest." Characters: Lady Bracknell; her daughter, Gwendolyn; and Jack. 50c

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL. Richard B. Sheridan. From the play. 10 min. Gossip reigns supreme at a party. Clever lines. 50c

VALUABLE RELATIONS. Another cutting from "The School for Scandal." 10 min. Sir Oliver Surface, who has amassed riches in India, returns and in order to test his nephew, Charles, whom he has never seen, calls on Charles as a broker who is to lend money to the young spendthrift. Charles sells to him for a moderate sum all the fine old family portraits. Valuable relations they thus become. Charles' friend acts as auctioneer. The lines are very clever indeed, and the pantomime unusually good. 60c

BY LEOTA HULSE BLACK

whose readings hold the all-time record. Among the contests that Mrs. Black's readings have won were two firsts and a second in National Contests and firsts in 38 state contests.

BROTHERS PREFER BLONDES. 10 min. 1939 sequel to two National Winners, "Brotherly Love" and "Let Brotherly Love Continue." Characters: 17-year-old Harold, 9-year-old Peter John, and their mother. 60c

FOUR O'CLOCK AT THE SIP 'N' BITE. 10 min. Here is a reading that is sure to be an important contest winner. All the favorite Leota Hulse Black characters are included. 60c

MA TAKES THE AIR. 10 min. Characters: Ma Peasley, her children, and the news reporter. 60c

A MODERN PORTIA. 10 min. Sequel to "X" Marks the Spot." Bettina has a new girl for Bill to entertain, a law student from Georgia. When she arrives, he finds she is a beauty when he had expected a "mannish-suited-horn-rim-spectacled-fog-horn-voiced female lawyer." Characters: the twin brother and sister and Camille. 60c

Send for our catalog in which are listed many other splendid Readings, Plays and Entertainments.

WETMORE DECLAMATION BUREAU
Sioux City, Iowa

The Rostrum



Official Publication of the National Forensic League

VOL. XIV

DECEMBER, 1939

NO. 4

*A*s a cracked vessel is known by the sound, whether it be cracked or not; so men are proved by their speeches, whether they be wise or foolish.

—Demosthenes



THE ROSTRUM

Official Publication of the National Forensic League

KARL MUNDT, *President and Editor*

Associate Editors—Mrs. Elaine Tucker, Classen H.S., Oklahoma City;
W. Francis English, Carrollton, Mo.; Ralph N. Schmidt, Mayville, Wis.

Published monthly from September to May in the interests of the National Forensic League and for the promotion of extended and improved speech activities in the high schools of America.

Office of Publication: Ripon College, Ripon, Wisconsin

Subscription Price: 50 cents a year; 25 cents for additional copies.

Contributions should be sent to The Rostrum, Washington, D. C.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Ripon, Wisconsin, under the Act of August 24, 1912

Any item herein may be reprinted or quoted by crediting the source.

Attend the Annual Meeting

From December 27 to 29 the National Association of Teachers of Speech will hold its annual convention in Chicago. Every progressive teacher who handles speech in any of its forms will want to attend those sessions. It is hoped that a great many NFL members, particularly those within easy travel distance, will be there.

As customary for many years, the Executive Council will hold its annual business meeting at the same time. In cooperation with the President of the National Association, Thursday evening, Dec. 28, at 7:30 o'clock has been set aside for this meeting. The place is Room 421-A, Stevens Hotel.

The Council takes this occasion to invite NFL members, students or coaches, to be at this meeting to make their recommendations as to NFL procedure and to discuss the proposals advanced by others. While the responsibility for final action rests with the Council it is desirous of shaping that action to accord with the wishes of the members to the greatest possible extent. This is your opportunity to express that wish and make it effective.

What business is coming up? Some items are mentioned in this issue. Others will concern the national tournament. Should the tournament be held to its present size or should eligibility rules be modified to effect a smaller or a larger tournament? Are the present fees satisfactory or should they be raised to provide a larger budget for tournament judges? Should the debate rating system be retained or should we return to a decision basis for elimination? Should we continue oratorical declamation after this year or replace it with a newer type of contest? Should the Student Congress be enlarged to allow more chapters to send representatives? Shall we include Group Discussion in our regular activity and how shall credit points be given for such participation. These items are already on the docket. Others will be proposed. So a full evening is in store.

If you cannot be in Chicago for these two important meetings, write your proposal clearly, briefly, and specifically to the national office and it will be brought up for you. Better though to be there and speak for it. We believe in the power of the **spoken** word, you know.

Changes Considered by Council

Proposals Would Modify Debate Procedure in NFL Tournaments and Expand Practice Tournament Idea

Why should a debater go thru an entire season of four or five months debating in only one standard fixed pattern? While the standard form of ten minute main speeches and five minute rebuttals is by and large probably the most satisfactory, a number of interesting variations have been developed and proved practical. Would not the NFL members gain versatility by using one of these other patterns in their district tournaments?

This question has been presented to the Council and is being considered sympathetically. With out regarding one form as superior to the other it does seem that if students go through an entire season in their state league debating one way, something would be gained by using a somewhat different pattern of procedure in the NFL tournament. The variation would arouse new interest, break up the tendencies toward set repetitions, and challenge the student's ability to adapt his knowledge and skill to a new situation.

What would the NFL debates be like? No specific form has been determined, but one including a questioning feature has been suggested. The Oregon plan, the Ohio plan, the Denver plan and a number of other variations of the same basic principle offer real possibilities.

The matter will be discussed at our Chicago meeting. If you have a plan to offer or endorse, write the national secretary or your district chairman about it.

Shall We Have More Practice Tournaments?

Much of the success obtained by western teams in effective extemporaneous debating is ascribed by their leading coaches to abundant opportunities to speak in numerous practice tournaments. Teams in other sections are advancing rapidly as they, too are taking up the practice tournament idea.

If this is a way to make better debaters, why not extend it equally to extemporaneous speaking? Why not have more practice tournaments in this event? To a degree the same may be said for oratory and declamation.

This leads the Council to consider the question: Should we urge every chapter to sponsor one practice tournament a year? Such a tournament would not have to be large—eight or ten schools would be quite enough. Nor would it need to include more than two or possibly three contest events.

It should not be restricted to NFL schools, but open to all in the immediate area as a service to the speech interest of that section.

In some areas, principally Ohio, Illinois and Western Pennsylvania, this is already being done and with general satisfaction. The effects of the program are shown by the work of these students in the national tournament. Shall we try to extend the practice to the other districts? If so, what is the most effective way of doing it?

Who's Who in NFL

Sirvillian Stanley Knapp began his career at Mendota, Ill., in the department of English in September, 1924. He organized a debate team among the boys and began



turning out winning debate teams. In the two years at Mendota his teams lost but one debate.

In September, 1927, he came to Dallas as speech instructor and contest coach. There, too, his teams have been consistent winners, having won 14 city championships in 11 years. (In Texas boys and girls debate separately.) In the same period many declamatory and extemporaneous championships have come to his students. Twice in the past three years his boys' debate team has been in the finals of the state contest.

In 1937-38 North Dallas teams won championships in nine tournaments including the Texas District NFL and regular state tournament. Championships were also won in Humorous Declamation and Extemporaneous Speaking at the District NFL Tournament, and the coveted Balfour trophy.

Mr. Knapp took over the chairmanship of the Texas District in 1934 when it ranked 13th and had about 11 chapters. In 1937-38 the Texas district ranked first in the nation with a chapter member-degree average of seven more than the nearest rival district, and the highest such average in the history of the NFL. North Dallas chapter, of course, led the district.

Mr. Knapp's speech philosophy is that contest speaking is an educational procedure and not just a place to "show off" a few good students. An opportunity is given at North Dallas for all students who wish to participate in interschool contests. 37 students participated in 316 debates, and in 52 other contests last year.

A Speech Teacher with a full program of five classes, co-sponsor of senior classes, director of two senior plays each year, coach of American Institute of Banking debaters, coach of Texas Interscholastic League contests in debate, extemporaneous speaking, declamation and one act plays, Mr. Knapp still finds time to hunt, fish, and generally enjoy life with his family. Your editor feels that it is this balance in Mr. Knapp's life, transferred to his students, which has made him and them so exceptionally successful!

The North Dallas chapter was awarded a distinguished service plaque at the Beverly Hills tournament in June and Mr. Knapp a distinguished service key.

NFL

Please send your nomination for outstanding freshman of 1938-39 to Mr. Ralph N. Schmidt, Mayville, Wis., Associate Editor.

From the Secretary's Desk

Election of National Officers

In order to make more probable the election of new members to our national governing body, the executive council last year determined that a primary should be held among the district chairmen to select two of their number to be candidates for national office. Refer to an article on this subject in the January, 1939, issue. To give effect to this decision, the Council publishes the following official order governing the 1940 election.

General Order

Election of National officers in 1940 shall be held as follows:

1. Any District Chairman past or present may become a candidate for national office by so advising the national secretary before March 1, 1940.

2. These names listed in the order in which they were received, shall be sent to the present District Chairman on Mar. 5. Each chairman shall mark his ballot preferentially and these shall be counted for as many votes as his district is entitled to according to members and degrees on record on Mar. 31.

3. The ballots received at the national office shall be counted on Apr. 1, and the two persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be the selected candidates.

4. These names and the names of present members of the Executive Council, candidates for reelection, shall appear on the final ballot in an order determined by lot. Statements not exceeding 200 words in behalf of each candidate may be inserted in the April Ros-

trum. Each chapter shall be sent a number of ballots equal to the number of votes its active members are entitled to cast.

5. Ballots received at the national office on or before May 25, shall be counted according to Regulation No. 9. The first person chosen shall be national president; the next, national vice president; the third, senior national director; and the fourth, junior national director. The term of office for each shall be two years commencing July 1, 1940.

The chapters in the Western Ohio District have elected Geo. S. Ager district chairman. Mr. Ager's association with NFL goes back to 1933 when he entered his team in the national tournament.

The new Appalachian District chose Mrs. James M. Hunt of Asheville, North Carolina. Mrs. Hunt set quite a record during her first year at Asheville and one of her students Mackie Quave won the national contest in radio announcing at Beverly Hills.

Charters Granted

Glendale, California
Blackfoot, Idaho
San Angelo, Texas
San Francisco, California
Sacred Heart H.S.
Conrad, Montana
Alliance, Ohio
New Albany, Indiana
Harrodsburg, Kentucky
Jeffersonville, New York
Valley Falls, Kansas
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
Graham, Texas
Santa Monica, California

District Standings

Rank.	Change.	Dist.	New Chapters	Members per Chapter	Leading Chapter	Members and Degrees
1.	0	Eastern Ohio..	2	19.1	Wooster	88
2.	0	Pennsylvania..		17.2	Bentleyville	50
3.	0	Texas	2	17.1	North Dallas	58
4.	+4	Western Ohio		16.0	Dayton-Oakwood	49
5.	+1	Oklahoma		14.8	Classen	58
6.	-2	No. Illinois		14.7	Maine Township	55
7.	-2	Wisconsin		14.3	Mayville	50
8.	+1	New York	1	13.4	Poughkeepsie	74
9.	-2	So. Illinois		12.8	DuQuoin	55
10.	+3	Iowa	1	12.6	Hawarden	64
11.	-1	Kansas	1	12.3	Wellington	29
12.	-1	Rocky Mount.		11.8	Casper, Wyo.	43
13.	-1	Indiana	1	10.9	Ft. Wayne-North	34
14.	+1	Kentucky	1	10.0	Lexington	27
15.	-1	Nebraska		9.9	Omaha-Benson	40
16.	0	Missouri		9.6	Jennings	37
17.	+1	Minnesota		9.6	Minneapolis-West	20
18.	+	South Dakota..		7.6	Watertown	45
19.	+1	California	3	7.6	Beverly Hills	25
20.	-3	Western	2	7.4	Lewiston, Idaho	36
21.	+1	Appalachian ..	1	6.6	Bluefield, W. Va.	15
22.	-1	Tennessee		6.1	Dickson	26
23.	0	New Jersey ..		5.4	Passaic	18
24.	0	New England 3		5.2	Portland, Maine	19
		National	17	11.4	Wooster, Ohio	88

Our Decalet of Leaders—The Third Ten

Coaches

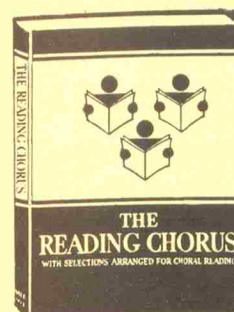
Mildred V. Dunham, Hornell, NY	350
John D. Davies, Kenosha, Wis.	348
W. F. English, Carrollton, Mo.	325
J.W. Brandstetter, Houston, Tex.	322
Comer Clay, Abilene, Tex.	317
Helen M. Hall, Passaic, N. J.	314
Ralph N. Schmidt, Mayville, Wis.	313
Mildred Clapper, Massillon, O.	312
O. A. Swanson, Oconomowoc "	305
Lola M. Berry, Lewiston, Idaho	302

Students

John Dahl, Chip. Falls, Wis.	307
Billy Crosby, Dickson, Tenn.	302
Robt. Schinderle, Mayville, Wis.	300
W. A. Duggan, Dal.-Sunset, Tex.	300
Rich. Pollock, Waynesburg, Pa.	295
Joe Minihan, Casper, Wyo.	284
Jean Frescoln, Winner, S. D.	273
Ann. Greenfield, Houston, Tex.	271
Robt. Salter, West Bend, Wis.	261
Jim Hancock, Classen HS, Okla.	260

Going Up

	New	Total
Chapters	1	479
Members	83	22,274
Keys	22	11,221
Reports of Contests	332	89,634
Degrees of Honor	40	10,443
Degrees of Excellence	14	5,934
Degrees of Distinction	6	3,286



TWO UNUSUAL NEW BOOKS FOR SPEECH AND DRAMA GROUPS...

Hicks'

THE READING CHORUS

With Selections Arranged for Choral Reading
\$1.95

This beautiful and unusual new book includes complete information about choral reading—covering the important questions of the director, techniques, size of chorus, costuming and staging. It also contains many poems, selected, for the most part, from the works of modern poets and skilfully arranged for speaking in groups and by parts.

Sams, Carson's

TESTED ONE-ACT PLAYS

\$2.50

Here is a new book of thirteen prize-winning one-act plays all of which have been successfully tested in actual amateur production. Most of these have won prizes in regional dramatic contests. Included are six comedies, four serious dramas, two tragedies, and one fantasy written especially for radio. The majority of the plays require no special scenery or costuming and all of them may be produced free of royalty payments.

Write for your copies of our free booklet, 6R, which shows pages from "The Reading Chorus" and 10R, which describes each play in "Tested One-Act Plays."

Noble & Noble, Publishers, Inc., 100-5th Ave., N.Y.C.



NEW READINGS

By the Best Authors

HUMOROUS

Getting Papa's Goat	50c
David Garrick	60c
Imaginary Invalid	50c
Alice in Wonderland	50c
Rascal Beats Rogue	50c
The Raft	50c
Rekindling the Old Flame	50c
Interview with An Actor	50c
Midsummer Night's Dream	50c

DRAMATIC

Brink of Silence	50c
As the Herons Fly	60c
Jean Marie	60c
Valley Forge	60c
Riders to the Sea	50c
Wingless Victory	60c
Winterset	60c
Faust	50c
Elizabeth the Queen	50c

ORATIONS

Believe It or Not	50c
Cross Patch	50c
Enough of This	50c
Human Values	50c
Bloody Altars	50c
I Am Innocent of this Blood	50c
Light That Is Darkness	50c
Soul Aflame	50c

All of the above humorous and dramatic readings are cuttings from the classics or from work of established modern authors. Send for our free catalog listing hundreds of other winning readings and also plays for contests.

IVAN BLOOM HARDIN COMPANY

3806 Cottage Grove Ave. 13787 Des Moines, Iowa

NEW ORATIONS

Of our many new orations, we mention the following that we feel sure will be favorites with NFL contestants.

ABSENTEE OWNERSHIP. Hon. Wright Patman. 10 min. A biting expose of the chain store. 50c

AMERICAN CITADEL. 10 min. Won Indiana Collegiate Contest, 1939. A stirring speech that urges the appreciation of the finer, enduring things of life. 50c

THE AMERICAN WAY. Thomas C. Boushall. 10 min. Splendid. 50c

AMERICA'S SLUM. 10 min. Won Kentucky and National Collegiate Contests, 1939. A forceful speech contrasting the South of today with Grady's "fairest and richest domain of this earth." This oration is sure to be one of the biggest winners offered this year. 50c

DEMOCRACY IN THE PRESENT-DAY WORLD. John W. Davis. 10 min. Splendid. 50c

THE DEN OF YOUTH. 10 min. Won Minnesota Collegiate Contest (Womens Division), 1939. A convincing speech that indicts the country beer tavern. 50c

DO YOU WANT TO COMMIT SUICIDE? 10 min. Won Nebraska Collegiate Contest, and Western Divisional Contest, 1933. A forceful warning against marijuana. 50c

FREEDOM NOT FOR SALE. Ralph K. Strassman, Lieut. Col. U.S.A. 10 min. "Instead of comparing conditions in America with an imaginary ideal, people should be led to compare them with actual circumstances of life in other countries." 50c

THE LAST BEST HOPE OF EARTH. Hon. Samuel B. Pettengill. 10 min. Convincing plea for Democracy. 50c

LEST THE WAR DRUMS BEAT. Hon. D. Worth Clark. 10 min. A dramatic, forceful speech. 50c

LIQUOR PROPAGANDA AND YOUTH. 10 min. Won South Dakota Collegiate Contest, 1933. A strong indictment against false propaganda of liquor advertisers. Should be heard from every platform. 50c

MAKING LIVING YOUR HOBBY. 10 min. Won Illinois Collegiate Contest, second in Eastern Divisional, and second in National (Women's Division), 1939. One of the best of the new orations. A helpful message to us all. 50c

PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY. Dr. Frank Kingdon. 10 min. "Your freedom and mine are one. If I restrict yours, I have set a precedent for the restriction of my own." 45c

THE SMALL BUSINESS MAN REBELS. C. Wayland Brooks. 10 min. 45c

THE SOLIDARITY OF THE CONTINENT. Pres. Roosevelt. 10 min. Before Pan-American Union, 1939. 45c

THAT AMERICA MAY LIVE. 10 min. Won Minnesota Collegiate Contest, and second in Western Divisional Contest, 1933. "We prepare young men at West Point and Annapolis to die for America. Why should we not also prepare young men to live for America?" 50c

THREE INSTITUTIONS INDISPENSABLE TO AMERICANS. Pres. Roosevelt's address to Congress, 1939. 10 min. 45c

WHAT WILL THEY BELIEVE? 10 min. Won Missouri Collegiate Contest (Women's Division), 1939. Advocates an education in democracy. "Can we expect students to be loyal to a government about which they know only the worst?" 50c

OUR ORATIONS ARE WINNERS—They have won

11 NATIONAL—109 STATE High School Declamatory Contests

Descriptions of these orations and many state and national winning humorous and dramatic readings will be found in our free catalog.

WETMORE DECLAMATION BUREAU

1631 South Paxton Street
Sioux City, Iowa