

## Outstanding Contest Winners

### Humorous Readings

**AT THE DECLAM CONTEST.** Leota Hulse Black. 8 min. A monolog that has won three state contests and second in National, 1933. 50c

**AT THE SWIMMING POOL.** Clara Lewis Seeman. 10 min. Has won four state contests, one inter-state, and fourth in National, 1934. 50c

**BROTHERLY LOVE.** Leota Hulse Black. 11 min. Has won five state contests and the National, 1932. Characters: the percise 17-year-old Harold, his tormenting 9-year-old brother, Peter John, and their mother. 60c

**BROTHERS BEREFT.** Black. 12 min. Has won two state contests. 60c

**BROTHERS-IN-LOVE.** Black. 10 min. Has won two state contests. 60c

**BROTHERS TAKE A BOW.** 12 min. 1936 "Brother" reading. Leota Hulse Black holds the all time record for writing winning contest readings, and in this selection we feel that she has surpassed even herself. 60c

**CHINA BLUE EYES.** 12 min. Has won seven state contests. 60c

**DAVID GARRICK.** From the play. 10 min. This cutting won the National, 1936. Several adult characters. 60c

**EXIT THE BIG BAD WOLF.** Luella E. McMahon. 10 min. Has won two state contests. Characters: lisping Sally, Bill, their father, their aunt, and the characters Bill brings into the frightful story he tells Sally. 60c

**JUST ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY.** Mary Maynard Kieffer. 12 min. New last year, this reading has won many contests, one of which was a state. The Higginsville school gives a program for closing day. 60c

**LADIES' AID AT THE LOCAL THEATRE.** J. L. Harbour. 10 min. Besides winning a state, this reading has placed twice in the finals at the National (1934 and 1936). 60c

**LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE.** Black. 11 min. Has won five state contests and the National, 1933. 60c

**MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR.** Shakespeare. 10 min. This new cutting from the play will give opportunity for varied character work. 50c

**THE SCHOOL PROGRAM.** J. L. Harbour. 9 min. Has won five state contests, one tri-state, and the National, 1931. 50c

**DICK SWIVELLER AND THE MARCHIONESS.** (From "Old Curiosity Shop"). 12 min. 1936 cutting. One of the best humorous readings from Dickens. 50c

**TRIALS OF A VAUDEVILLE MANAGER.** J. L. Harbour. 12 min. This reading has won a state and placed twice in the finals at the National (1933 and 1935). 50c

**X MARKS THE SPOT.** Black. 12 min. Won South Dakota State Contest, 1936. 60c

**THE WIDOW'S MITES.** Black. 12 min. Has won two state contests. Wartie and Percy invent amazing excuses for being late to school. 60c

**THE HOME TALENT REHEARSAL.** J. L. Harbour. 10 min. Has won two state contests. Amateurs are being coached for a program. 60c

**CLOSING DAY PROGRAM.** J. L. Harbour. 12 min. The last program reading from the pen of this successful writer of this type of readings. Won the Ohio State Contest, 1935. 60c

Our free catalog describes these and many other winning readings. (Humorous, Dramatic, Oratorical.)

## WETMORE DECLAMATION BUREAU

1631 South Paxton Street  
Sioux City, Iowa

# The Rostum



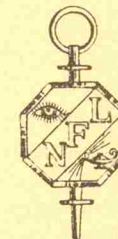
Official Publication of the National Forensic League

VOLUME XI

JANUARY, 1937

NUMBER 5

"UNTIL a man knows the truth and the method of adapting the truth to the minds of other men, he cannot be a good public speaker."—Plato.





## THE ROSTRUM

*Official Publication of the National Forensic League*

KARL E. MUNDT, *President and Editor*

BRUNO E. JACOB, *Secretary*

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 Karl E. Mundt, Editor, Madison, South Dakota. 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 of publication.

### How High Is a Ceiling?

Aviators dread a low ceiling because it denotes hazardous flying, difficult landing, and makes it difficult to soar to proper heights in the course of an average flight. Best flying weather and best flying performance require a high ceiling with clear visibility and ample opportunity for attaining satisfactory altitudes.

School life is like that, too! Best performance in school—or after it—requires a high ceiling, with ample room (and ambition) to make progress upward. The only low ceiling likely to impede progress in school is the limitation of too small an ambition or too low an aim. Students who succeed always work with a “high ceiling”—high because their vision is clear, their ambitions courageous, and their goals far enough advanced to call forth their best efforts and command their clearest thinking.

And, moreover, pupils in school have an advantage over pilots in space. Pilots have their ceilings fixed by Nature and while they can talk about the weather they can't do anything to alter the height of the ceiling. Pupils, on the other hand, build their own ceilings and they can limit their progress by putting them up only at arm's length or they can challenge themselves to real accomplishments by projecting them upward into the stratosphere of envisioned goals of real magnitude. Frequently, the difference between success and failure is not so much a matter of a difference in ability as it is a difference in ambition. The best IQ in school is of small avail if it operated under a low ceiling—better by far to have a lower intelligence quotient and a higher ceiling than to have the mind of an Edison curtailed by the inertness of an iron deer in the park.

How high is a ceiling? How high is **YOUR** ceiling? Every man and every institution has its ceiling—it may be a low thatched roof crowding down upon it and cramping its capacity or it may be the starry heights of the blue canopy of heaven. You build your own ceilings and you operate under them; prudent pilots and serious students cover high ceilings and prefer high altitudes. In school, a ceiling is as high as the vision of your ambition; look well to your ceiling—it may be the measure of your future success.

—Karl E. Mundt.

## Jacksonville Awarded 1937 National

The seventh National Speech Tournament will be held in Jacksonville, Ill. This was decided by the Executive Council following its St. Louis meeting.

Jacksonville is an attractive college town of 17,000 in west-central Illinois, just 90 miles north of St. Louis. It is near the center of population and still nearer the center of the region in which speech activity is carried on most extensively.

While the tournament will center in the Jacksonville High School, two colleges within walking distance will place their facilities at our disposal. McMurray college is a high ranking institution for women, and Illinois college, coeducational, is famous as the alma mater of William Jennings Bryan. Jacksonville High School has qualified a team for each of the six national tournaments and participated in four of them. Many NFL members know its coach, Harold E. Gibson, as author of numerous articles on debating as well as a high school text.

The Secretary spent Monday, Dec. 29, looking over the facilities and found them adequate. That the tournament will have the full support of the city was demonstrated at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon that day. The presidents of the colleges, the superintendent of schools, representatives of the press, and city officials spoke in terms of definite cooperation in this project. The Chamber of Commerce has guaranteed \$1,000 for trophies and judges. It will also arrange for the use of rooms in Jacksonville homes for the tournament participants and has a full-time staff to do this efficiently. The New Dunlap hotel offers excellent modern accommodations at attractive rates.

Situated relatively near to both Iowa and Missouri, a large share of the tournament judges can be obtained from colleges in those states. That will help solve the problem of providing out-of-state judges for contests in which home-state contestants appear.

Jacksonville is only 30 miles from Springfield and Salem, Lincoln shrines which every tournament participant will want to visit.

Sioux Falls, South Dakota, selected as the favored site at the Oklahoma City convention, notified the Council that due to changes in its school administration and coaching staff it preferred to postpone its invitation for another year or so and for that reason the Council is selecting a different Tournament City from the one voted upon at Oklahoma City.

Detroit presented some very attractive aspects of an invitation, but was not able to complete definite arrangements for the several essential requisites at this time. While the resources of such a city are extensive, it does take more time to bring those resources together. Detroit, however, remains a very likely choice for a subsequent year.



## Executive Council Meeting

Following an informal discussion of NFL business with members present at the general meeting on Tuesday evening in the Hotel Statler, St. Louis, the Council met in executive session on Wednesday morning, Dec. 30, and transacted the following official business.

### National Tournament Rules

The standing of second place winners in NFL tournaments with respect to national eligibility was clarified by changing the rules to provide that if 12 or more Chapters participate in a contest in a District NFL Tournament, winners of first and second places shall be eligible to enter the national; if less than 12 participate, winner of first place only.

While retaining the possibility of extending special invitations to the national tournament, the Council concurred in the principle that such invitations should not be extended to schools in states in which both a state league contest and an NFL tournament provide means of qualifying.

Ranking in the decalet of leaders was withdrawn as a means of qualifying for entry in the national tournament. The opinion prevailed that this provision was inconsistent with the NFL purpose to encourage spreading participation over a greater number of students. The desire to have gifted students earn enough credit points to rank in the decalet of leaders, or to keep them there, thus gaining eligibility to enter the national, evidently brings about their participation in contests in which other students should profit to better advantage. The aim of the chapters should be to give more students the participation qualifying them for the Degree of Distinction rather than letting one student earn more than 300 points to enter the national tournament through the decalet. The decalet of leaders will still be published in *The Rostrum*, but space will be given more frequently to the second and the third decalet.

The procedure for elimination of teams in the debate tournament was modified as set forth in another article in this issue.

The "Readers Digest" was substituted for "Time" as a source of topics for extemporaneous speaking.

Effective in 1938 the time limit in all forms of declamation will be reduced to 10 minutes. In 1937 it will remain 12 minutes as an immediate change might be unfair to students already prepared with longer selections.

### District Tournament Rules

The changes in the national rules with respect to extemporaneous speaking and declamation apply to the district rules as well. The change in debate elimination does not affect the district rules this year. Some members of the district tournament committees should first have the opportunity of observing its operation in the national event before being asked to apply it in their districts. Also in some

of judges intact for five rounds. If any district committee wishes to follow the new procedure this year, it may request its rules to be amended in that particular.

The time for registration is extended to within five days of the opening of the tournament, instead of seven; but chairmen will be required strictly to enforce the rule and to permit no late registrations. If the registration list is positively closed at that time, the assignments of contestants, judges, and chairmen for the first two rounds can be prepared definitely before the tournament opens and thus assure a smoother functioning set of contests.

### National High School Award

Careful consideration was given to the possibility that the practice of extending courtesy entries to tournament hosts past and present might result in giving those schools such an advantage in points toward the National High School Forensic Award that it might not really represent "excellence in national tournament." To preclude this possibility the Council voted that no points would be given to such participants if they failed to survive the first elimination in the tournament, but that the full number of points for all rounds would be given if the participant survived the elimination. The provision applies to the 1936 tournament.

The rules simply mean that host schools will have an added opportunity to gain trophy points if their contestants are really superior—good enough to survive an elimination which drops out 60% of the original contestants—but will receive no extra points for the participation of mediocre contestants simply because they represent a tournament host school.

### Miscellaneous

The Council re-elected Bruno E. Jacob national secretary for a term ending June 30, 1938, and fixed his salary at \$125 a month. It also re-elected Karl E. Mundt editor of the *Rostrum* and fixed his allowance for clerical help at ten dollars per issue exclusive of the numbers prepared at the national office.

The limit of 500 chapters was left unchanged and the Charter Committee instructed to give preference in the filling of charter vacancies to schools in states not already well supplied with NFL chapters.

At the Northeastern Wisconsin debate tournament, eleven schools participating, Shawano won first, Menasha second, and Two Rivers tied for third, all NFL chapters.

It voted to extend for one year the practice of giving one degree of excellence or distinction with each certificate of membership. Although the plan last year did not produce the anticipated increase in applications for the degree of honor and so prevent a significant loss in revenue, the Council felt that the plan did provide an appreciated reduction in NFL costs and that the Chapters might support it with more substantial increase in applications this year. district tournaments it might not be feasible to keep the same group



## New Plan for National Debate Tournament

A most significant change in procedure has been authorized by the Executive Council for the 1937 national debate tournament. In the first five rounds qualitative ratings will replace win or lose decisions in determining which teams are to continue in the race for national honors.

The plan is a modification of a procedure developed by the University of Colorado last year and used with remarkable success.

All teams will debate in five rounds before any are eliminated. A single debate critic will hear each debate and at the end of the fifth round turn in a rating for each of the ten teams he has heard. The ratings will be compiled and on the basis of these recommendations one-third of the teams will be selected to continue in the tournament.

In making this selection obviously those teams which have been designated as outstanding by all or nearly all of the five judges who heard them can be placed on the chosen list at once and those which have not been recommended by any of the judges can be eliminated without question. To determine the disposition of the "in between" group the judges will meet in conference and select the number required to fill up the bracket for the remaining tournament rounds.

From that point the tournament will continue in the unusual two-defeat elimination procedure, with one defeat eliminating after the eighth round.

### Advantages of the Plan

The plan has several distinct and significant advantages. Most important is the fact that strong teams can meet in the early rounds of the tournament without eliminating each other. Both teams in such a debate can be recommended by the critic as outstanding. Both can win and go on.

Conversely mediocre teams through the circumstance of drawing relatively easy opponents will not remain in the tournament longer than they deserve. The element of luck—good or bad—in drawing opponents will be reduced in its importance in determining the fate of any team.

No team will be eliminated by losing two close debates—and in a national tournament they are likely to be close—or debate in which it regards the decision erroneous. At least three of the five judges who heard that team in five different debates will have to concur that it is not as good as other teams in the tournament before it is eliminated. Whereas otherwise a judge must alone decide the outcome of a close debate, here he will have both the ratings and the oral reports of four other judges who heard that team against four different opponents to help him determine his final vote on continuing or eliminating the team.

Finally, this method removes the tension from tournament debating. The participants need not fear each other. They are assured

that if they do good work, both they and their opponents can get a superior rating and go on in the tournament. Victory is not gained at the expense of their opponents. Debate can really be friendly. Debaters from far sections of the country can meet and really enjoy the encounter free from the necessity of defeating each other to advance themselves.

This year the procedure will apply only to the first five rounds, so that the technique of operation can be developed in a positive way. It can later be extended to include a second series of debates judged in the same way and so carry the tournament to the quarter finals before the win-or-lose elimination must be resorted to.

For purposes of determining credit points all debates will be considered winning debates.

The plan was widely discussed and favorably received at the 1936 national. Those fortunate enough to attend the 1937 national will see it in operation. It seems to promise a real development in tournament debating.

## NFL Members Hold Big Banquet at St. Louis Speech Convention

Nearly two hundred members, alumni, and friends of the National Forensic League held an interesting and enthusiastic banquet in St. Louis Dec. 29, in conjunction with the annual convention of the National Association of Teachers of Speech. NFL-ers from a dozen states attended the get-together which was arranged by the Webster Groves, Maplewood, and Granite City chapters of the League.

General chairman of the program was past-director Julian C. Aldrich of Webster Groves, and Lee Hewitt, student NFL member of the Maplewood chapter served as toastmaster. Toasts were given by President Karl E. Mundt of Madison, S. D., Dean Dennis, national honorary member of Northwestern University; Professor Ewbank, national honorary member of the University of Wisconsin, Dwight Croessman, member of last year's national championship debate team of DuQuoin, Ill., and Marlow Markert, present debate director at Jennings. Julia Pitchford, national champion declaimer of Granite City, led the group in community singing and provided several novelty song numbers of her own. It was a most delightful occasion in every way and the prevailing sentiment indicated that this was just the first of a series of group meetings of the various chapters in the St. Louis vicinity.

Following the toast program, about a dozen NFL coaches adjourned to a committee room and discussed matters pertaining to League welfare until a late hour. In addition to President Mundt, Secretary Jacob, and Director Diettert attended both meetings.

—NFL—

Peekskill, N. Y., has 25 members and 59 degrees in its Chapter at present and recently published an attractive NFL handbook with complete information about the chapter and its members. A "Chapter History" is an interesting document—every chapter should have one.



## Value of Debate Training

By H. V. Kaltenborn, Radio News Commentator

From The Gavel of Delta Sigma Rho, May, 1936

There are many analogies between life problems and debate problems. The difficulties the student confronts as he enters the world of affairs are manifold. They require close analysis. Once analyzed he must seek to solve them. The solution requires good judgment and successful persuasion. Nearly always some other person is involved. To make a point of view count with that other person, we must convince him we are right.

In all these processes training for debate is helpful. There, too, the first problem is to define terms and analyze issues. Then we must separate those which are important from others relatively unimportant. We must differentiate between extraneous issues and those actually germane. In life as in debate it is essential to select the things that really count as compared with those that only seem to count. Concentration of effort is essential. Concentrated effort achieves success where scattered effort is wasteful. Speeches that are grouped around one or two or three ideas are more effective than those that deal with many. All life is a process of selection. So many people hate the effort of making up their minds. The good debater learns to make up his mind promptly and learns also to stick to his decision once it has been reached.

But it is not only the facts that count, it is also the way facts are presented. Manner may be more important than matter. Sometime it is necessary to be aggressive but more often it is better to be persuasive. The good debater learns to use both methods.

Repetition is another important element. The good debater knows that it is not enough to say a thing once. He must repeat it with different emphasis. Only through repetition can he drive his point home. Every advertiser has learned the value of repeating his message. We are living in a scatter-brain age. The competition for attention is keen. Only those who know how to repeat without monotony can be sure of success.

Training for debating shows the value of research. It brings home the importance of learning the other fellow's point of view. It stimulates quick thinking in an emergency. It teaches the value of a sense of humor. It drives home in a hundred ways the enduring value of thorough preparation.

Someone ought to make a study of what happens to good debaters after they get out of college in comparison with what happens to good football players. Gridiron battles have their value as a preparation for life, but I venture to say that those who participate in platform battles achieve more worldly success. In our age, brawn has superseded brawn, and debating is a great brain builder.

## Contemporary Speech Publications

**Magazines:** Two very attractive and keenly interesting little speech magazines reach the desk of The Rostrum regularly. They are "**The Speakers' Library Magazine**," published in Tacoma Park, Washington, D. C., and "**The Platform News**," published in Portland, Maine. Both are published by speech service organizations with speakers' aids for sale and are available to readers at a very nominal subscription price. Both are ably edited and contain much helpful material for people seriously interested in speech work. Sample copies are available without charge to anybody caring to write for them to the publication offices.

**Books:** **The Reference Shelf**, Julia Johnsen (H. W. Wilson Co., 958 University Avenue, New York City). The Reference Shelf is an old friend to most experienced high school debate coaches. One of the oldest, if not the pioneer, annual publications on current debate topics, The Reference Shelf is a thoroughly creditable and authentic symposium of debate materials. It contains a complete affirmative and negative brief, a reliable bibliography, and numerous articles on both sides of the question. The 1936-37 edition on "Government Ownership of Electric Utilities" is now available and is no exception to the rule—it is one of America's best source books on high school debate material and is issued by a thoroughly reputable concern.

**University Debaters' Annual**, Phelps and Johnson (The H. W. Wilson Company, New York City). As its name implies, this book is intended primarily for colleges and universities and the 1936 edition does not contain a debate on the current high school debate question. It is useful, however, in giving students an idea of how model debate cases can be prepared and contains a number of interesting debates between some of the outstanding colleges and universities of the country. Another valuable feature of the 1936 edition, is the inclusion of two debates of other than the orthodox style of debating.

**Debate Coaching**, Carroll Pollock Lahman (H. W. Wilson Co.) Sub-titled "A handbook for Teachers and Coaches" this book is exactly that; it is a convenient work-book for debate directors and charts the activities of a debate coach from the necessity of showing students the reasons for debating to suggestions on how to judge the modern debate. Debate Coaching is of special value to the beginner coach or to the English instructor who finds herself confronted with the responsibility of directing debate (may her tribe decrease!) without having had special training in college for the work. Mr. Lahman's book is thorough and authentic; indispensable as an aid to the novice coach it makes valuable review reading and mental exercise for any active coach of debating.

NFL

Membership certificate No. 15,000 was issued to John Robert Walter, Columbia City, Ind.



### Something of This—Something of That

The Rostrum editor acknowledges with thanks the Dec. 23 issue of *The Mirror*, attractive high school newspaper of Evansville, Ind. The issue was apparently devoid of forensic news items but we'll be expecting bigger and better things from the forensic reporter on future issues. *The Mirror* is ably edited and correctly laid out—all it needs to rate a double A double plus with this editor is a good front page story on forensic plans for 1937!

—NFL—

Fort Collins, Colo., placed fourth in the Cheyenne, Wyo., practice debate tournament held in December according to an issue of *Spilled Ink*, high school paper of Fort Collins, which has reached *The Rostrum*. This weekly paper has twice found its way into our editorial sanctum of late and both issues carried marked front page items concerning speech activities in Fort Collins.

—NFL—

And the above reminds YOU (meaning your NFL chapter news correspondent) that your high school paper should include *The Rostrum* editor on its mailing list and that the forensic items in each issue should be marked. Let "Mark 'em and Mail 'em" be your slogan concerning news stories on the speech activities of your school and we'll see to it that your school gets its share of publicity through our official magazine. If you don't have a school paper, send us the clippings from your community newspaper or write up your chapter in a news letter of your own and send it in. We are now getting regular news reports from some fifty chapters; that's 10% of our chapters—how about the other 90%? Let's hear from you, too!

—NFL—

The Kenosha Evening News of Kenosha, Wis., should be added to the rapidly growing list of outstanding American newspapers who realize the value and importance of speech training and who are "saying something about it." An editorial "Students Appreciate Forensics" comments glowingly about Kenosha's speech program and about a big Student Vodvil Show staged to raise money for the Kenosha speech trips. Nearly 1,400 people attended this money-raising and fun-provoking event.

—NFL—

Some of the curious who wonder how it is possible for Miss Mary Blackburn of Granite City, Ill., to continue chalking up National Championships year after year might get a clue from the Granite High World for December 18th. Therein it is announced that right after the Christmas holidays a special series of contests in poetry, dramatic, humorous, oratorical declamation, original oratory, and debating will be conducted within the school. Appropriate trophies will be awarded the winners in each division and much hopeful material is expected to be discovered which will be further developed to make life miserable for contestants from throughout the nation at the 1937 National Speech Classic. It's an idea well worth imitating in other chapters.

### More of This—More of That

Miss Peggy Dunn, former star debater of Chisholm, Minn., is now "going strong" at Virginia Intermont College, Bristol, Va., and is student representative of Phi Rho Pi. Miss Peggy spoke at the Inter-Society Banquet in St. Louis and did a bang-up job of it, too. She credits NFL with getting her started in her forensic career and she is now well on the road to becoming one of America's most effective women undergraduate speakers.

—NFL—

Lebanon, Kans., is one of the newest NFL chapters and is already becoming one of our most active units. In a letter from Frank Cunningham, last month, *The Rostrum* learns that Lebanon has a high school forensic club of thirty-five members and the school enrollment is only one hundred fifty. The Forensic Club is sponsored by the NFL chapter and puts on a public program once a month and holds a carnival once a year to finance special forensic trips and speech activities. In the annual county speech contests with seven schools participating, Lebanon has placed first three times and second twice in the past five years. Cheer up, everybody—maybe Lebanon will beat Topeka sometime and thereby eliminate one of America's most consistent threats to National Championships from the competition.

—NFL—

Russell Caldwell of Wooster, Ohio, conducted an All-Ohio debate tournament last month in which about twenty-five schools participated in from three to twenty-four debates each. The meeting was held in the nature of a "Debate Clinic" and provided much valuable early training for the young Buckeye speakers. Apparently, Wooster, like Granite City and Topeka believes in getting an early start and in having extensive as well as intensive speech training for its students. Possibly, it is **no accident** that Topeka won the first National Forensic Award in America and that the two present runners-up are Granite City and Wooster!

—NFL—

Shawano, Wis., has already won two debate tournaments this year, according to Ethel Hickinbotham, Chapter Secretary there. Shawano won the tournament held at Two Rivers by the Northeastern Conference Debate Tournament and it also won the tournament sponsored at Shawano.

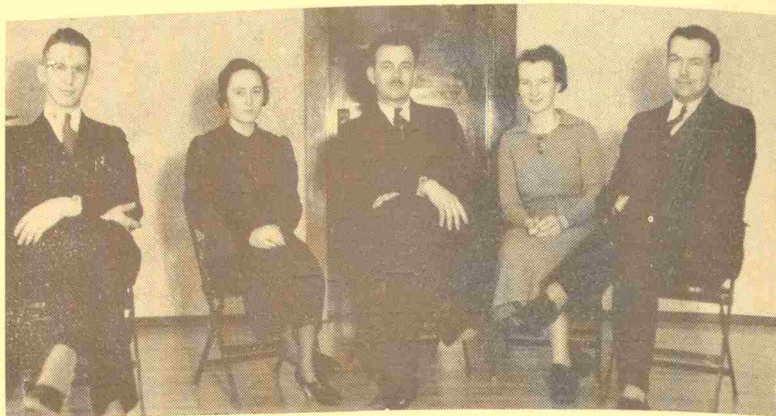
—NFL—

The Central Texan, official paper of the Central Texas School of Oratory, carries a nice article on the National Forensic League in its issue for December. Miss Verena King of that institution recently won two oratorical contests for Brownwood, Texas, and is now looking for new fields to conquer. Any challengers?

—NFL—

Topeka, Kans., recently completed its eightieth debate of the present season. If practice makes perfect in Kansas, look out, America!!! What school can boast a more extensive record to date?





Adrian McClelland Frieda Panimon, F. J. Knower Ethel Mae Gunnison G. H. Aarnes

### NFL Coaches Prove That They Can Practice Their Teaching

The above picture shows the participants in a novel demonstration debate held at Moorhead State Teachers College of Minnesota, last month, in conjunction with a large invitational high school tournament participated in by high schools of four states. NFL members, Coach Ethel Mae Gunnison of Madison, S. D., and Coach G. H. Aarnes of Moorhead defeated non-NFL Coaches Adrian McClelland of Grand Forks, N. D., and Miss Frieda Panimon of Fargo in a demonstration debate on the high school question which was judged by Dr. F. J. Knower of the University of Minnesota. Students watched their coaches perform and received much profit by observing their methods (and mistakes!). The affirmative won the debate.

—NFL—

### NFL Leaders Honored by Tau Kappa Alpha at Special Banquet

NFL not only confers honorary memberships—but it sometimes receives them! This was demonstrated at the recent speech convention in St. Louis when National Secretary William Hade of Tau Kappa Alpha conferred honorary memberships and awarded honorary keys to President Karl Mundt of the National Forensic League for his work in high school forensics and to J. Edmund Mayer, Topeka debate director, for his outstanding work in coaching the first series of contestants ever to win the National High School Forensic Award for Continued Excellence. The award itself is a beautiful columnar pedestal in silver and is presented by Tau Kappa Alpha. The November Speaker, official Tau Kappa Alpha publication, carries a most interesting article telling of Topeka's speech program and the method by which it won this unusual national distinction.

—NFL—

Excuse it, please! Your editor apologizes for not being able to include all the letters and clippings sent him in The Rostrum. Space simply will not permit; however, if your items were left out this time, don't get discouraged but keep us informed and we'll get to you sooner or later.

## From the Secretary's Desk

### Wisconsin Ahead!

Since November, 1934—for 26 months—the New York District has held undisputed first rank in the standing of the NFL Districts. Pennsylvania, Missouri, Indiana, and Nebraska in turn threaten to dislodge the Empire State, but never quite succeeded. Now in one month an unsuspected third place district—Wisconsin—topples the leader.

How did it happen? In the first place, all 22 Wisconsin chapters except one are active. District Chairman Ralph N. Schmidt of Mayville sees to it that they are and his predecessor, O. A. Swanson, of Oconomowoc last year saw to it that the district was in good shape when he finished his term of office.

Then four chapters—Mayville, West Bend, Plymouth, and Columbus—sent in as many applications for membership and degrees as they could just as soon as their early season debates were over. In other words, they moved up while others were just getting ready to move.

Will Wisconsin keep its place? That will depend upon whether the other Wisconsin chapters support the lead attained by getting their applications in early, too, and also what the chapters in other districts have in mind doing about it.

It just shows though what can be done and any district no matter how far down the line now can steal a march on the rest and treat the rest of an open-eyed membership to a surprise. Watch the standing in February.

### Small School Merits Recognition

Smaller high schools often complain that they cannot compete successfully with their larger neighbors. The number of schools of a moderate size at our national tournaments shows that they can in contests and here is a chapter which can in NFL membership standing, too.

Since it was chartered in 1933, Emerson, Neb., has ranked 6th, 5th, 4th and 4th in the annual standing of the 61 chapters chartered in 1933. Holding its own? Why, that little school of 100 enrollment is even moving up on the leaders. A small school can do things if it has the right motivating force and in this case the motivating force is H. J. McCabe, principal and NFL District Chairman for Nebraska.

### Degrees of Distinction

Gordon Walter, Omaha-North	Josephine Novak, West Bend,
Richard Swanson, Omaha-North	Wis.
James S. Ritter, Pittsburg, Kans.	Earl A. Machaby, Omaha-Benson
Don Engstrom, Mpls.-Roosevelt	Hal Cherry, Brownwood, Texas
Albert DaSilva, Freeport, N. Y.	Mr. J. A. Tracy, Ft. Collins, Colo.
Arlene Forst, Mayville, Wis.	Ethel Hickinbotham, Shawano,
Patricia O'Meara, West Bend,	Wis.



## Statistical Page

## District Standing

Up or Rank Down	District	Members per Chapter	Leading Chapter	Members & Degrees
1. +2	Wisconsin	12.0	Mayville	49
2. +1	Nebraska	11.7	Omaha-Benson	33
3. —2	New York	11.0	Poughkeepsie	66
4. 0	Ohio	8.7	Youngstown-Chaney	37
5. +2	California	8.2	Bakersfield	30
6. +3	Texas	8.0	Denison	28
7. —2	Illinois	7.7	DuQuoin	42
8. —2	Kentucky	7.7	Independence	22
9. —1	Pennsylvania	7.2	Charleroi	58
10. 0	Indiana	6.7	Bloomington	17
11. 0	Iowa	6.6	Oskaloosa	32
12. +2	Colorado	6.6	Ft. Collins	21
13. —1	Oklahoma	6.5	Enid	33
14. —1	Missouri	6.1	Joplin	43
15. +2	South Dakota	6.0	Presho	23
16. —1	Minnesota	5.2	Mpls.-Roosevelt	22
17. —1	Kansas	5.2	Topeka	31
18. 0	Tennessee	3.8	Jonesboro	12
19. 0	Washington	3.5	Lewiston, Idaho	15
20. 0	New England	3.0	Portland, Me.	11
21. 0	Michigan	2.8	River Rouge	14
	National	7.1	Poughkeepsie, N. Y.	66

## The Decalet of Leaders

Coaches	Students
L. D. Schreiber, Charleroi.....802	Dwight Croessmann, DuQn...542
J. Edmund Mayer, Topeka ....755	Warren White, Okl.-Classen 360
Kathryn Moran, Joplin .....739	Julia Pitchford, Gran. City.....359
William Row, Pittsburg, Kas. 661	Jane Lieberman, Chaney HS. 333
Levi Osterhus, Minneapolis....652	Chas. Brown, Springfld. Mo..288
Hazel A. Hatch, Enid .....598	Jim Swanson, Holdrege .....267
J. C. Aldrich, Web. Groves....579	Beatrice Woodward, Charl...257
Lucile Stephens, Poughk'psie 526	Harold Mirvis, Wooster.....253
Mary Blackburn, Gran. City 531	H. Christopher, Dwight .....252
T. C. Bond, Niles .....502	Wilbur LeMasters, Ravenna.248

## Going Up

	New	Total
Chapters .....	2	458
Members .....	105	15,242
Keys .....	28	8,405
Reports of Contests .....	390	56,721
Degrees of Honor .....	46	5,831
Degrees of Excellence .....	26	3,114
Degrees of Distinction .....	15	1,638

## READINGS THAT WIN!

Out of 92 readings used in a recent National Forensic Tournament, 52 are handled by the Ivan Bloom Hardin Company. Here are some of our new ones which are already showing great promise in this year's contests:

## Humorous

What Price Beauty?  
Kay, Queen of the Underworld  
Hollywood Headache  
Cheap Skate

Clarence the Clerk  
The Goat Story  
School for Scandal  
Smarty's Party

## Dramatic

The Bells  
Faith  
Gallipeau  
The Man Who Sat  
The Violin Maker

Both Judge and Jury  
Romeo and Juliet  
Peter Patricia  
Riders to the Sea  
Reprisal

## Oratorical

Youth Speaks  
Enough of This  
Willard Wilson  
Merchants of War

Treason of Benedict Arnold  
Swastika Over Germany  
Strength, Sorrow Born  
A Way of Life

All of our new readings, in line with the current demand for play cuttings, are either from plays, or are in dialogue form. Send for free catalog.

IVAN BLOOM HARDIN COMPANY  
3806 Cottage Grove Ave. Des Moines, Iowa

DEBATE MATERIAL  
SEASON OF 1936-1937

MINIMUM WAGES and MAXIMUM HOURS. (Handbook Series IV, No. 6) By Nichols and Baccus. \$2.40.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH. (Reference Shelf, Vol. 10, No. 8, By Julia E. Johnson. 317 pages, cloth 90c.

UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURES (Reference Shelf, Vol. 11, No. 1) By H. B. Summers. Approx. 200 pages, cloth 90c.

CONSUMER COOPERATIVES. (Reference Shelf Vol. II, No. 2) By Johnsen, Garland and Phillips. 90c.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF ELECTRIC UTILITIES. (Reference Shelf, Vol. 10, No. 9) By Julia E. Johnsen, 329 pages, cloth 90c.

THE CRISIS IN THE ELECTRIC UTILITIES. (Ref. Shelf Vol. 10, No. 10) By Garland and Phillips. 90c.

ODD NUMBERS, VOLUMES AND SETS  
Of All Magazines Supplied Promptly and Reasonably

Write for complete list of material of interest to debaters and debate coaches with special price quotations for quantity orders.

The H. W. WILSON COMPANY  
950 University Avenue NEW YORK CITY