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WETMORE DECLAMATION BUREAU

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Sioux City, Iowa

The Rostrum



Official Publication of the National Forensic League

VOL. XIII

MAY, 1939

NO. 9

THE Rostrum wishes all members an enjoyable vacation and those fortunate ones who will travel to Beverly Hills, California, for the Ninth National Speech Tournament, a safe and pleasant journey so that they may profit to the utmost by the unusual educational opportunities this occasion affords.

THE ROSTRUM

Official Publication of the National Forensic League

KARL E. MUNDT, *President and Editor*

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

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District Tournament Winners

Tennessee District

Held at Nashville, April 20-22.

Debate—

Dyersburg
Jonesboro, Ark.

Original Oratory—

Newton Allen, Memphis-Central
Richard Weinburg, Memphis-Central

Extempore Speaking—

Richard Weinburg, Memphis-Central
Leiper Freeman, Murfreesboro

Oratorical Declamation—

Joe Zellner, Memphis-Technical
Margaret Catledge, Memphis-Messick

Dramatic Declamation—

Vera Jarrard, Memphis-Technical
Vincent Berg, Memphis-Messick

Humorous Declamation—

Billy Crosby, Dickson
George Anderson, Nashville-Litton

Trophy Winner—

Dickson 44, Memphis-Technical 38,
Memphis-Messick 36, Murfreesboro 36

New York District

Held at Hornell, April 21-22

Debate—

Gloversville
Rome and Jamestown

Original Oratory—

Louis Pannone, Rome
Charles Pressman, Poughkeepsie

Extempore Speaking—

Howard Stanton, Gloversville
Jean Barr, Arlington

Oratorical Declamation—

Robert Ryan, Gloversville
William Walter, Hornell

Dramatic Declamation—

Helen Towner, Hornell
Janet Dowd, Rome

Humorous Declamation—

Betty Lanigan, Rome
Betty Bird, Rome

Trophy Winner—

Rome 28, Poughkeepsie 25, Hornell 25

Colorado District

Held at Fort Collins, May 5-6.

Debate—

Pueblo-Centennial, Colo.
Littleton, Colo., Cheyenne,
Wyo., North Platte, Neb., tied

Original Oratory—

Junior Shrimpton, Kimball, Neb.
Arthur Krill, Longmont, Colo.

Extempore Speaking—

Joe Minihan, Casper, Wyo.
Marybeth Burns, Casper, Wyo.

Oratorical Declamation—

Deane Bottoms, Casper, Wyo.
Joan Demmer, Denver-Cathedral

Dramatic Declamation—

Bob Blodgett, Denver-Cathedral
Francis Morris, Denver-Cathedral

Humorous Declamation—

Bobby Rounds, Cheyenne, Wyo.
Joe Manfred, Denver-Cathedral

Trophy Winner—

Cheyenne, Wyo., 43, Denver-Cathedral
37, Casper, Wyo. 37, Kimball, Neb., 34.

Office Closes June 9

The NFL office will be closed on June 9, by the Secretary's departure for Beverly Hills. Membership certificates for applications filed before June 5th will be mailed on that day. Later applicants will receive their certificates in September. Orders for keys can be filled up to June 8.

Oklahoma District

Held at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, May 12-13.

Debate—

Muskogee
O. C. Classen

Original Oratory—

Betty Swidensky, O.C. Central
Jim Hancock, O. C. Classen

Extempore Speaking—

Robert Loeffler, Bristow
Frank Ogden, El Reno

Oratorical Declamation—

Sidney Upsher, O. C. Classen
Bill Schubert, O. C. Classen

Dramatic Declamation—

Ben Morris, O. C. Classen
Bill Putnam, El Reno

Humorous Declamation—

Martha Jean Reed, O. C. Classen
Cornelia Pendergrass, O. C. Classen

Trophy Winner—

Oklahoma City-Classen 41, Oklahoma
City-Central 93, El Reno 33, Enid 31.

Texas District

Held at Sunset High School, Dallas, May 12, 13.

Debate—

Wichita Falls

Extempore Speaking—

Mary Lu Smith, San Jacinto H.S.
Houston

Oratorical Declamation—

Mary K. Baxter, Abilene

Dramatic Declamation—

Louise Latham, Dallas-Sunset

Humorous Declamation—

Billy Willcox, Shreveport, La.

Trophy Winner—

Houston-San Jacinto 39, Shreveport 36,
Abilene 33, Dallas-Sunset 32

Southern District

Held at Virginia Intermont College, Bristol, Va., May 4-6.

Debate—

Asheville, North Carolina
Winchester, Ky.

Original Oratory—

Bill Davis, Bluefield, W. Va.
Joe Given, High Point, N. C.

Extempore Speaking—

Bill Davis, Bluefield, W. Va.
Robert Young, Mt. Sterling, Ky.

Oratorical Declamation—

Shirley Kilgore, Corbin, Ky.
Howard Sawyer, Asheville, N. C.

Dramatic Declamation—

Curry Jones, Asheville, N. C.
Jeanne Foster, Bluefield, W. Va.

Humorous Declamation—

Mackie Quave, Asheville, N. C.
Anna Sue Lacy, Johnson City, Tenn.

Trophy Winner—

Asheville, N. C., 41, Bluefield, W. Va.,
34, Mt. Sterling, Ky. 33, Corbin, Ky.

Western District

Held at Lewiston, Idaho, April 28-29.

Debate—

Nampa

Original Oratory—

Jean Olson, Lewiston

Extempore Speaking—

Dale Greeley, Caldwell

Oratorical Declamation—

Ralph McColm, Nampa

Dramatic Declamation—

Allene Meek, Cadwell

Humorous Declamation—

Edythe Carlisle, Caldwell

Trophy Winner—

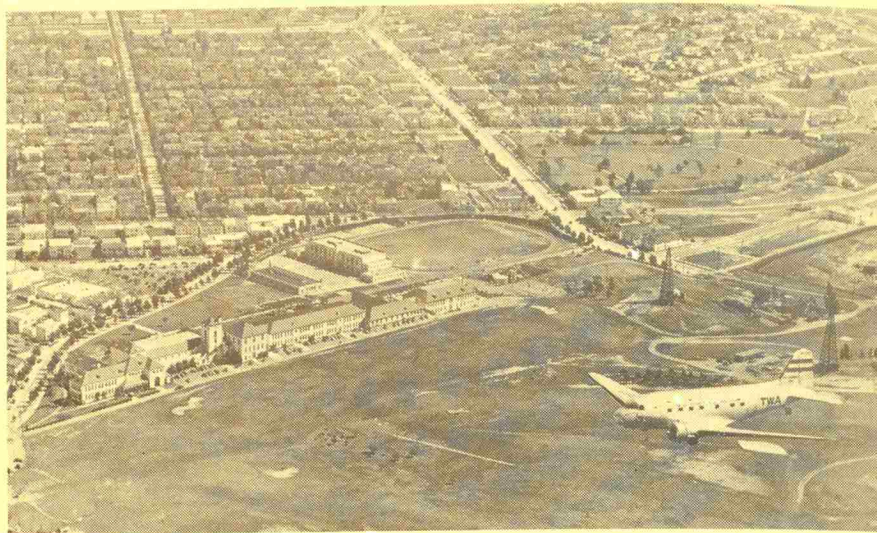
Caldwell 44, Nampa 30, Lewiston 26,
Cheney, Wash. 8.

Famous Coaching Team Breaks Up

The appointment of Carl E. Jackson to the superintendency of the Minnesota Boys Home at Red Wing breaks up the famous coaching team at West High School, Minneapolis, of Jackson and Gregory. The surviving partner, Joyce R. Gregory, is entering the debate team, nine contestants in the five individual contests, and a representative in the Student Congress. This ties Massillon, Ohio, for the largest entry in any national tournament.



Beverly Hills High School Says, "Wish You Were Here"



TWA Photo, Courtesy Pictorial California

Rear view of Beverly Hills High School, locale of the National Speech Tournament and Student Congress the week of June 19, is clearly revealed in this striking aerial photograph.

Center foreground, left to right, are the Administration, Library and Home Economics buildings, while above the latter are the new tennis courts, parking triangle, Mechanic Arts, Physical Education Buildings, and football oval.

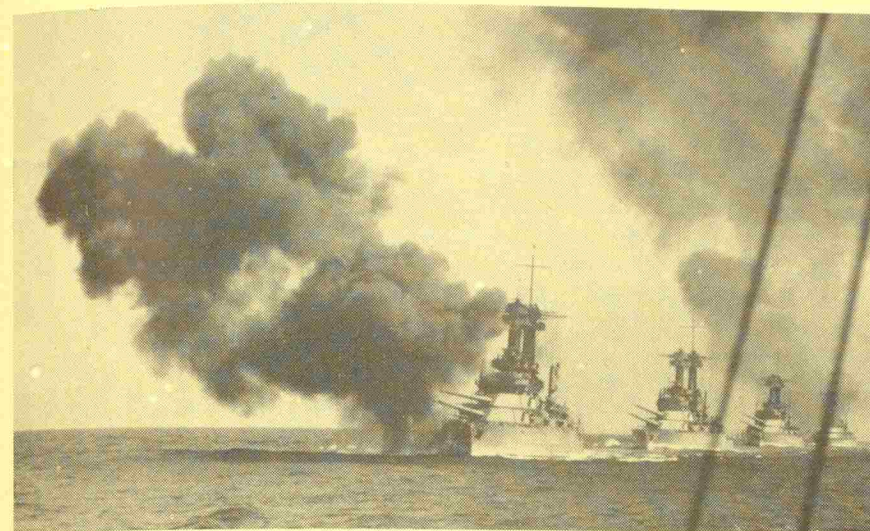
The verdant terraces make the approach to Beverly Hills High School one of the most beautiful in California.

At the left is generous Leonard Steimle, member of the Beverly Hills High School faculty, who offers a week's expense-free vacation at his Balboa Sailing Camp to the non-California boy who makes the most distinguished record at the sessions of the National Student Congress.

And at the right is your Hostess-in-Chief, Mrs. Blanche E. Davis, chairman of the housing committee who will try to make your stay in Beverly Hills pleasant. Did we say "try"?



Contests in Poetry Reading and Radio Announcing at '39 National



—Photo courtesy Los Angeles County Chamber of Commerce

"Battle Wagons" of the United States navy engage in target practice in the Pacific ocean. A trip to the fleet is one of the highlights planned for delegates to the National Speech Tournament and Student Congress at Beverly Hills High School on the afternoon of June 21.

With definite assurance from Ted Malone of the National Broadcasting Company that he will be able to be in Beverly Hills for our national tournament, the Poetry Reading Contest tentatively announced becomes a certainty.

Mr. Malone will again conduct the contest in his own personal style, will award a beautiful pair of book ends to the winner and place the best contestants on the NBC network program.

Radio Speaking, Too

The availability of excellent studio facilities in Beverly Hills and Hollywood and the widespread interest shown in this form of speaking have prompted the addi-

tion of such contest this year. Each contestant will draw two commercial announcements, have five minutes to look them over, and then read them into a microphone. Next he will draw one news flash and read it with but a minute to scan its content. The judges will hear him through an amplifier in another room.

Both Contests Open to All

Poetry Reading and Radio Announcing contests will begin on Wednesday mornnig when well over half of the contestants have been eliminated from the regular tournament. Anyone entered in one of the regular contests may register for Poetry or Radio for an entry fee of \$2.

Success Highlights

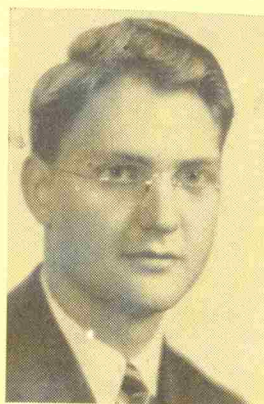
The Granite City, Ill., Chapter celebrating its tenth birthday is on parade. Among the charter members are Leonard Hopkins, a promising young lawyer who has been appointed assistant state's attorney; Leonard Visser, a member of the St. Louis Little Theatre; Wallace Haines, teaching speech at the Moody Institute in Chicago; a doctor, an editor, two business men and two teachers.

Granite City's National Champions are still carrying on. Harold Stark, first place winner in Oratorical Declamation and second place winner in Dramatic in 1935, is at present in New York, a member of the supporting cast for Mae West. Incidentally, he was selected from more than 400 applicants. For the past two summers Harold has been a member of the chorus of the St. Louis Municipal Opera.

Howard Wilson, winner of first in both Oratory and Oratorical Declamation in the first national tournament in Ripon, is teaching speech in the Centralia High School.

Julia Pitchford, winner of Humorous Declaration in 1936 and 1937 is at Northwestern University. She is also singing, dancing and acting. Last summer she sang with Griff Williams' orchestra and traveled to the west coast.

There is probably no more coveted honor among American college men than to be appointed Rhodes Scholar for two years' study at Oxford University, England. Competition for the honor of being one of the small group who each year achieve this distinction is always very keen, and only



Robert Rosa

those who have high attainments are successful. Robert Rosa of River Rouge, former Michigan NFL chairman, has recently received this appointment.

Robert participated in the national tournaments at Wooster, Topeka, and Kent. At the University of Michigan he helped bring the "big ten" debate championship to Ann Arbor. He is also president of the Michigan chapter of Delta Sigma Rho and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

And this winds up the first year for the Success Page. Your Success Editor hopes that you have enjoyed these intimate visits with your NFL great and near great who have set the pace for you. With the sincere wish that you may follow in their footsteps, this is your Success Editor signing off until September. -Elaine Tucker.

Do You Like to Stand in Line?

If not, you will file your registration for the national tournament at once so that room reservation and other necessary arrangements for your entry can be made before you arrive in Beverly Hills.

Statistical Page

District Standings						
Rank	Up or Down	District	New Chapters	Members per Chapter	Leading Chapter	Members & Degrees
1.	0	Ohio	2	33.0	Wooster	130
2.	0	Pennsylvania	1	32.1	Monessen	106
3.	0	Texas	5	30.5	Dallas-North	106
4.	0	Wisconsin	2	28.8	Mayville	79
5.	0	Oklahoma		243.	Enid	81
6.	0	Indiana	2	23.5	Ft. Wayne-North	66
7.	+1	North. Illinois	1	20.5	Maine Township	80
8.	+3	Colorado	2	20.5	Casper, Wyo.	52
9.	-2	South. Illinois	1	20.0	DuQuoin	86
10.	0	Nebraska	1	20.0	Omaha-Benson	81
11.	-2	Iowa	1	19.4	Hawarden	61
12.	+2	California	3	18.1	Beverly Hills	47
13.	-1	New York	2	17.5	Poughkeepsie	78
14.	+1	Kentucky	3	16.4	Lexington	41
15.	-2	Missouri	1	16.0	Joplin	37
16.	+2	Minnesota	2	14.7	Mpls.-West	59
17.	0	Kansas		14.3	Salina	50
18.	-2	Tennessee	5	14.1	Dickson	35
19.	+1	New Jersey	2	12.8	Passaic	29
20.	+1	Western	3	11.2	Lewiston, Idaho	31
21.	-2	South Dakota ..	1	11.1	Watertown	57
22.	0	New England	3	8.7	Portland	26
23.	0	Michigan	1	8.3	River Rouge	24
		National	44	18.5	Wooster, Ohio	130

Our Decalet of Leaders—The Third Ten

COACHES

Alb. L. Swank, Peekskill, N. Y.	360
Paul K. Crawford, Freeport, Ill.	351
John D. Davies, Kenosha, Wis.	340
W. F. English, Carrollton, Mo.	325
Mildred V. Dunham, Hornell NY	318
Helen M. Hall, Passaic, N. J.	314
Ralph N. Schmidt, Mayville, Wis.	313
O. A. Swanson, Oconomowoc, Wis.	303
J. W. Brandstetter, Houston	299
Mildred Clapper, Massillon, O.	290

STUDENTS

Virginia Zuern, Mayville, Wis.	456
Bill Vanderpool, Ok. City-Cen.	438
Jack Ryan, Denver-Cathe., Col.	417
Dor. Reyeroft, Monessen, Pa.	405
John Sokoll, Sheboygan-Cen.	400
John Duvall, Monessen, Pa.	398
Joe Rarick, Pekin, Ill.	397
Milton Bergstein, Monessen, Pa.	392
Ed Weidner, Mpls.-Roosevelt	382
Donald Walton, Lincoln, Ill.	380

Going Up

	New	Total
Chapters	2	500
Members	358	21,458
Keys	188	10,404
Reports	2,791	86,032
Degrees of Honor	298	9,830
Degrees of Excellence	186	5,624
Degrees of Distinction	99	3,125