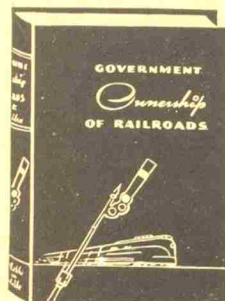


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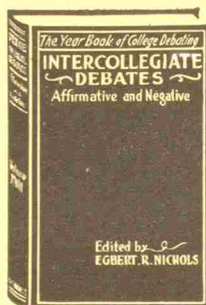
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# The Rostrum



Official Publication of the National Forensic League

VOL. XIV

OCTOBER, 1939

NO. 2



NDER dictators citizenship ceases to require self-expression and demands mute obedience in its stead. Moral: Intelligent self-expression is the base of successful Democracy!





## 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.

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### EXIT THE PEN AND THE SWORD!

Maxim makers for tomorrow's copy books may well discard the one about the pen being mightier than the sword, because the speaker in today's civilization has so much more influence than either the pen pusher or the sword swinger that to continue to contrast the mightiness of these minutia is no more sensible than it would be to compare the effectiveness of sling shots and air rifles in an attack on the Siegfried line.

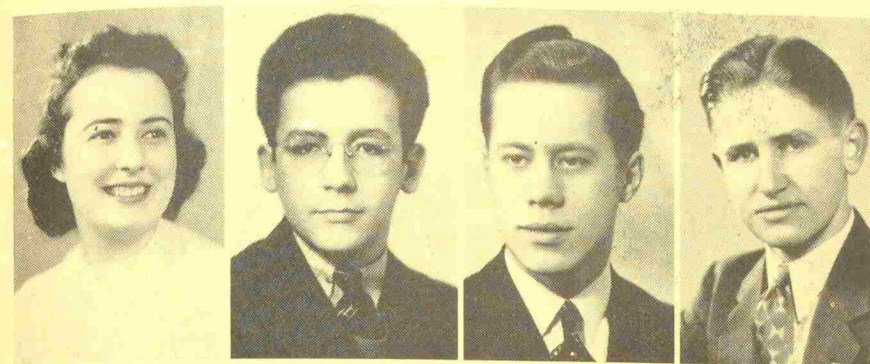
Neither the pen nor the sword is the instrument by which minds are moulded most effectively today and students and teachers who rely upon essay writing and fencing to train leaders for citizenship are guilty of ox cart methods in an age of stratosphere transportation. Lucky indeed is the community, today, served by a school system whose leadership recognizes the importance of the spoken word as a vehicle for influencing human behavior and which thereby gives its students the benefits of scientific speech training, corrective speech guidance, and ample competitive speech experiences so that the highest degrees of excellence may be developed.

The swordsman may still slay a squadron of soldiers; the penman may reach the attention and sway the opinions of a limited circle of readers; but the spokesman has his voice and his views projected around the world by short wave radio and exerts his influence upon both his seen and unseen audience. Frequently the message of the speaker is now transcribed on a record and preserved for posterity.

In these turbulent times, men wage war or enjoy peace not because of the prowess of swordsmen or the syntax of writers but as they are motivated by speakers exhorting them to die or desist. Even in Europe's war of the moment, battles of broadcast propaganda and blood curdling speeches have monopolized more of the news during the first sixty days than the cannonading of guns.

It was wisely said a long time ago, "where there is no vision the people perish." It may also be said most accurately of future civilizations—where there is no vocalization—in the form of compelling speeches by convincing men—the people perish because only a speaker can answer a speech and against the spokesman the pen and the sword can provide neither peace nor protection.—Karl Mundt.

## We Honor Massillon



*Doris Bloomberg, James Lane, William Karrenbauer, Lawrence Marthey*

Hail to Massillon! It was but two short years ago that the Massillon NFL Chapter came in to the speech spotlight by tying for third place at the state finals. Since then—well, with two contestants at Wooster in 1938, and ten at Beverly Hills, no telling what they'll do next April when NFLers meet again in national competition. Secretary Jane Crowe writes that the secret of their success lies in the proper choice of a chapter slogan. Last year they were striving for "Beverly Hills or bust," and to quote from her report—"we didn't—and we had a scrumptious time." Now that is as easy as taking a patent medicine. All you need is a slogan.

Of the illustrious members of the Massillon Chapter who didn't "bust"—Jim Koontz who you might have heard in Oratorical Declamation, is now in the United States Navy; Doris Bloomberg who attended the tournaments in Wooster and in Beverly Hills, is now a student at Carnegie Tech; and Lawrence Marthey the 1939 Ohio State champion in Extempo-

aneous Speaking, and a national entrant in Extemp and also in Debate, is now enrolled at Yale university, and selling hot dogs at the Yale Bowl. What a grand location, and I hope everyone gets hungry! Any by the way look up Warren White, who is a Yale man, too, a junior this year and the Assistant Freshman Debate Coach. Warren was one of the champion debaters of 1937.

But to get back to Massillon—Ted Princiotto, a 1937 graduate, is now a reporter on the Cleveland Plain Dealer; Zoma Leroy, '38, is a student at Kent university; and James Lane, '38, is now a student at Ohio State university.

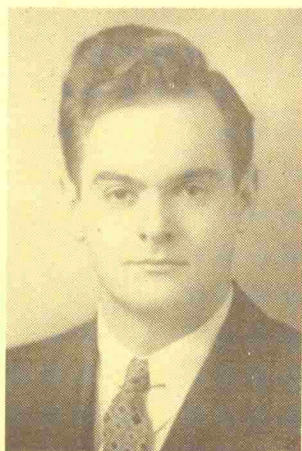
Orchids to Pauline Karney whose enthusiasm was the starting point for the Massillon organization, to T. C. Bond of Niles, who sponsored the chapter, and to Coaches Mildred Clapper and Ivan C. Mann for their good work well done. And may another successful year begin for the NFL chapter at Massillon, Ohio.

—Your Success Editor.

*Mrs. Elaine Tucker*



## Who's Who in NFL



**THOMAS D. REED**

Thomas D. Reed, genial Indiana District NFL Crairman, coach at Hammond High School, needs no introduction to students or coaches who have attended National tournaments. His cheerful, somewhat droll, personality has brightened six of these conclaves as coach, judge, and officer—five of them have found him accompanied by a qualified student contestant. Twice he has entered the coach's contest, placing fourth in 1937.

His administrative genius has been recognized in Indiana, not only by the NFL (which he has served for three terms), but also by the Indiana Debate League (chairman for three years) and the Indiana Discussion League (chairman for seven years).

As a coach, his record is again outstanding. His debate teams have won both Indiana and NFL championships. His extempore, humorous and oratorical declaimers have won first place in the NFL. In discussion, his con-

testants have won county and district laurels, and placed high in the state finals for the past four years. He holds 252 NFL points for coaching.

He holds the B.A. degree from Indiana University, and the M.A. degree from the State U. of Iowa. While at these institutions he became a member of the following fraternities and clubs: Sigma Delta Psi, national athletic; Tau Kappa Alpha, national speech; Alpha Tau Omega, Scout Leadership; Gamma Eta Gamma, law; Phi Delta Gamma, dramatics; History and Pol. Sc. Club; Psychology Club; Y.M.C.A. Cabinet. He was a member of the second team in wrestling, the water polo team, and the championship intramural basketball team for two years.

He is still active in sports, his present hobby being handball—in which he lost two games last season (and won 314)! He is 29 years of age, married, and has two children.

### MILTON BERGSTEIN

Monessen, Pa., contributes Milton (Mitzi) Bergstein to Who's Who. A senior who debated on the varsity as a freshman, and who has been a member of three county, one district NFL, and one Pennsylvania championship debate team, his total of 410 NFL credit points places him near the top of the national standings. Last year, his first as a declaimer, he won the dramatic championship of the Pennsylvania NFL district tournament. He has twice competed in the Nationals—at Wooster and Beverly Hills.

He is president of the local NFL chapter and Debate Club; a



**Milton Bergstein**

member of the School Paper staff; cheerleader par excellence; and a Junior Life Saver. Last year he was majority floor leader of the senate in the Pennsylvania Student Congress.

Among his favorites are "Yearning," played by Tommy Dorsey, and "Chinatown," played by Jan Savitt. He has a leaning toward sporty clothes in green and brown hues, and is—you guessed it—a jitter-bug. He says his hobby is walking on rainy nights—(alone, Mitzi?).

The U. of Michigan or Dickinson College will claim him next fall as a law student—with his dramatic ability he'll probably relegate Clarence Darrow's memory to the "also-ran" class.

### Speech Rivals Football

In the midst of the current football season, on the very day when football fever was the highest for the local topnotch grid attraction between age old city rivals (a game that regularly draws more than 20,000 spectators), a City Chamber of Commerec dedicated

a day in honor of the achievements of the city high school students in—believe it or not—speech, music and literary and fine arts fields. There was a luncheon, with music and speeches, and time on the radio—and even printed programs. And, sit up and take notice, NFLers, the whole thing began because of the increased city-wide interest in the speech activities of our city high schools. All of this happened three months after the Beverly Hills Tournament, when normally you wouldn't expect interest to be at a high pitch. But, as a guest at that meeting I'd like to say that in Oklahoma City at least Speech and NFL (they are synonymous here) are well known, and appreciated.

It would have done your hearts good to have heard parents who heard the contests at Beverly Hills, school superintendents, college deans, ministers, editors, laud the fine young men and women who had achieved some measure of success in the fields where brains count more than brawn. The National debate Champions, and the second place winners were present, with their coaches, and their superintendents. The six city students who are already qualified for the 1940 tournament were introduced also. It was an Event. Can any other community match this story—for interest that lasted throughout the vacation?

There's a moral to this little tale. If you have become discouraged because you think your school officials and your fellow citizens don't appreciate those long hours you spend after school on your speech activities, just remember that we have felt that way, too.



## District Standings

Rank	District	Members per Chapter	Leading Chapter	Members & Degrees
1.	Eastern Ohio	17.9	Wooster	78
2.	Texas	14.6	North Dallas	58
3.	Wisconsin	13.3	Mayville	50
4.	No. Illinois	12.1	Maine Township	55
5.	Pennsylvania	11.6	Monessen	37
6.	Oklahoma	11.3	Classen	58
7.	So. Illinois	11.1	DuQuoin	54
8.	Western Ohio	10.7	Dayton	46
9.	Indiana	10.6	Ft. Wayne-North	34
10.	Rocky Mountain	10.3	Casper, Wyo.	43
11.	New York	10.2	Poughkeepsie	74
12.	Kentucky	8.8	Lexington	25
13.	Kansas	8.5	Wellington	29
14.	Nebraska	8.2	Omaha-Benson	40
15.	Missouri	7.5	Jennings	37
16.	Minnesota	6.8	New Ulm	15
17.	Western	6.5	Lewiston, Idaho	36
18.	South Dakota	6.5	Watertown	45
19.	California	6.2	Bakersfield	22
20.	Iowa	5.6	Muscatine	33
21.	Appalachian	5.4	Bluefield, W. Va.	15
22.	New Jersey	5.5	Passaic	18
23.	Tennessee	4.5	Memphis-Messick	12
24.	New England	4.4	Portland, Me.	19
	National av.	9.3	Wooster, Ohio	78

## Our Decalet of Leaders

### Coaches

R. P. Hibbs, DuQuoin, Ill.	663
Hazel A. Hatch, Enid, Okla.	651
L. D. Schreiber, Charleroi, Pa.	651
Russell L. Cadlwell, Wooster	623
Lucile Stephens, Poughkeepsie	585
E. J. Diller, Youngstown, O.	581
R. S. Cartwright, Elgin, Ill.	529
A. E. Melzer, Sheboy., Wis.	479
Levi Osterhus, Mpls., Minn.	477
T. C. Bond, Niles, Ohio	463

### Students

John Amott, Ft. Scott, Kans.	500
Dick Goodman, Lincoln, Ill.	474
Virginia Zuern, Mayville	456
Wm. Reeb, Dwight, Ill.	435
Milton Bergstein, Monessen	410
Harold Kester, Enid, Okla.	385
Robt. Loeffler, Bristow, Okla.	370
Ev. Vaughn, Mansfield, Ill.	366
J. Mackenzie, Watertown, SD	361
Theresa Pick, West Bend	349

## At the Close of the Year

Chapters	New	Total
Members	46	500
Keys	2,043	22,100
Reports of Contests	974	11,175
Degrees of Honor	12,166	89,120
Degrees of Excellence	1,329	10,363
Degrees of Distinction	690	5,900
	406	3,264

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