



**EUGENE McCLOUD**, who was Director General of the League in Borden County last year, says in a recent letter that that far western county is "one hundred per cent for the League." He takes occasion also to say that the LEAGUER is doing a great work for the schools in his portion of the State.

**SUPT. H. G. LARKIN** is of the opinion that the League rules should require district basketball managers to provide competent officials of tried ability as officials of the tournaments. Much dissatisfaction also resulted in his district tournament, he says, from not allowing the teams to be present at the drawing.

**WE** received from Mrs. Gussie W. Pettus, of Goliad, a full report of the Interscholastic League meet held in Goliad County for Mexican schools. Nine Mexican schools placed in the meet, fifteen participating. Contests in all the regular League events were scheduled, and there was a large attendance of the Mexican population.

**THERE** is considerable demand for lowering the age-limit in music and picture memory contests. Says Miss Joyce Benbrook, of Fulshear: "The minimum age of ten years works a hardship on the rural schools for sometimes the required classes have only one or two pupils and then they are ineligible. The music memory contest is open to pupils in any grade of rural schools, but in my school and I'm sure in many others, pupils in the upper grades enter three events more in keeping with their grades and the music memory is left for the smaller pupils."

"**I** wish to add my opinion," says Mr. Monte Draper, teacher of public speaking, Childress, "to that presented by Homer H. Bell, of Gainesville, in regard to the one event limit rule in the public-speaking contests. My difficulty has come this year in the conflict between the one-act play and the other contests in public speaking." Mr. Draper declares that since there is no conflict between the one-act play contest and other public-speaking events, he thinks the limit should be removed. However, Mr. Draper is in error here, as in many districts, such conflict exists.

### Says Memorization Is the Bane of Speech Contests

(By A. F. Ligon.)  
**T**he criticism I have of the debating and extemporaneous speech contests is that there is too much memorization, especially in the debating. Memorized speaking does not develop the right kind of faculty for platform speaking. I have heard high-school debaters give speeches that would do credit to United States Senators; yet, when called upon to give an opinion extemporaneously, they floundered badly. It may be said that this faculty of extemporaneous delivery of a speech may be acquired in some other way; that is exactly my contention: if the student does acquire the ability to do the kind of speaking he will be called upon to do in business and professional life, he will have to acquire it in some other speech practice other than debating as it is at present practiced.

I believe a plan could be worked out which would eliminate memorization, a plan similar to the one used in extemporaneous speech contests; namely, provision for a number of subjects, from which number a subject could be taken on a specified time before the particular debate, in time for the speaker to make specific preparation, but not in time for them to memorize speeches. I do not see that it is nec-

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## Temple Wins Three Firsts in Public Speaking at State Meet



Left to right: Billy Hall and Valter Brindley, debaters; Morris Alexander, extempore speaker; Louise Harper and Beatrice Young, debaters.

**FOLLOWING** is an account published May 4 in the *Austin American* of the exceptional achievement of the Temple High School in producing three State winners in public speaking at the last State meet of the League:

**TEMPLE** continued its march uninterruptedly to state titles Saturday night when its boys' high-school debating team defeated the Ranger team by a 4 to 1 decision at the law auditorium before a group of several hundred people.

Billy Hall and Valter Brindley, Temple debaters, will take home to their high school a silver loving cup and will wear gold medals because of their victory while the Ranger boys—Richard Rudolph and Erasmo Lozano—were the recipients of silver medals which go to the runners-up.

This was the third victory that had come to the Temple High School in public-speaking events at this meet of the University Interscholastic League. The girls team of Beatrice Young and Louise Harper of Temple defeated Roberta Hollingsworth and Mary Joe Durning in debate Saturday morning for the state title, and Friday night young Morris Alexander of Temple started the triumphs for that school by winning the state extemporaneous speech contest.

Hall and Brindley, boy debaters, upheld the negative side of the question "Resolved that the Sterling Plan of Financing a State System of Highways Should Be Adopted in Texas." The girls team upheld the affirmative

## League Breakfast and Section Meeting

Banquet Room No. 1, Rice Hotel  
Houston, November 28, 7:45 a.m.

Address by Professor G. E. Densmore,  
Public Speaking Department,  
University of Michigan

Conference on League Rules

Send \$1 to Secretary, Interscholastic League,  
University Station, Austin, Texas,  
for reservation

THOSE WITH TICKETS WILL BE ADMITTED FIRST;  
OTHERS, IF THERE IS ROOM

Assure yourself of a place by securing ticket in advance

## PLACID QUALIFIES 3 IN STATE MEET

McCulloch County Rural School Takes Lion's Share Honors Brownwood Meet

**T**HE PLACID School, McCulloch County, has the distinction of being one of the few rural schools which qualified last year three contestants for the State Meet, one of these being in tennis, an event which is usually given over to the larger high schools.

J. W. Deering, Principal of the Placid Rural School in McCulloch County, has been an ardent advocate of Interscholastic League activities since 1912.

The Placid school had the distinction of entering three of its students in the district meet at Brownwood last April. Two students, Rupert Deering and Lillie Mae Waddill, won first and second place, respectively, in senior boys' declamation and senior girls' declamation at the McCulloch County meet last March; and Laruth Jordan won in Tennis.

The Placid school also has the honor of having won the banner for the rural schools of McCulloch County in the 1930 Interscholastic League contests.

We are pleased to present pictures of each of the Placid School district winners, with a short sketch of each:

Lillie Mae Waddill, a fourteen-year-old student in the Placid Rural School, won second place in senior girls' declamation, rural division, at the McCulloch County Meet of the Interscholastic League last March.

At the district meet held April 18 at Brownwood she won first honors, which entitled her to enter the State contest at Austin on May 2.

Although a junior in age, Lillie Mae was eligible, on a grade basis, for senior declamation.

Rupert Deering, who was a ninth grade student in the Placid Rural High School, last year has received high honors in public speaking contests since he was eight years old.

He won the county championship of San Saba County in senior boys' declamation, rural division, last year, but lost at the district meet.

Moving to McCulloch County, he again entered the rural division of senior boys' declamation, representing the Placid school at the county meet held at Brady last March. He won first place and was awarded the gold medal.

This victory made him eligible to participate in the district meet at Brownwood on April 18. By unanimous decision of the judges he was declared first place winner, and was again awarded a gold medal.

He was the representative of the Placid school in senior boys' declamation, rural division, at the State meet held in Austin in May.

Laruth Jordan, 16 years old, a student in the Placid school, entered the Interscholastic League county contest in girls' tennis singles for the first time last March, winning easily.

She represented McCulloch County at the district meet at Brownwood and won the first two sets, thus winning the district championship in the Thirteenth District.

She is regarded in that section as one of the best singles players in girls' tennis who has ever represented her district in the history of the Interscholastic League.

## Marshall High School Adopts Radical Curriculum Changes

Superintendent Argues in Favor of Altering Graduation Requirements to Meet Needs of a Larger Percentage of Students

(By Superintendent E. C. Deering)

**HIGH SCHOOLS** in America were established originally for the purpose of preparing boys for college who intended to study law, medicine, teaching, and the ministry. At that time practically every boy who entered the high school completed the course of study and entered college. The course of study consisted of Latin, Greek, Mathematics, English, and Science. By 1890 only one person out of sixteen of high school age was enrolled. By 1890 the vocational subjects such as home economics, agriculture, industrial and mechanical arts, and the commercial subjects were added to the high school curriculum after tremendous opposition on the part of many teachers. With the advent of vocational subjects enrollment in the high schools began to increase rapidly. In 1900 one person out of every ten of high-school age was enrolled. In 1910 one person out of six, and in 1920 one person out of every four of high-school age was enrolled. Today one-half of the boys and girls of high-school age are in actual attendance.

With this vast increase in high-school enrollment it became apparent to high schools everywhere that they had two types of obligations: first, to provide the vast majority with the kind of opportunities which they were capable of receiving and which they needed; and second, to continue to furnish college preparatory courses for the minority. About 1915 high schools began to reorganize their curricula and to change their requirements for graduation to meet the needs of all students. For fifteen years schools have been changing to this plan and today only a relatively few are confining themselves strictly to the college preparatory function.

Charles H. Judd, in his report on Secondary Education for the Texas Educational Survey Commission, sounded the following warning: "Algebra . . . is a first-year requirement in every Texas high school. . . . It is the judgment of the Survey Staff that this excessive emphasis on algebra is wrong. By putting this subject into the curricula as an absolute requirement in the first year, a great many pupils who fail are prevented from getting into courses in history and science which from every point of view will be more useful in later life and are just as good for general mental training as algebra. . . . The figures of withdrawal speak very eloquently of the judgment of Texas young people about highly academic and conservative offerings of Texas high schools. The pupils do not want what is offered to them and therefore they leave school. . . . In the matter of the high-school curriculum, Texas needs an awakening."

But Texas has not awakened to any great extent. Last November (1929) a questionnaire was sent to sixty of the largest high schools in Texas asking for their requirements for graduation. Eighty-one per cent of these schools require four units in English; seventy per cent require two units in algebra; seventy-seven per cent require at least one unit in geometry; ninety-three per cent require at least two units in social science; and sixty-five per cent require at least one unit in natural science. The most frequent requirement for high-school graduation in Texas is four units in English, two units in algebra, one unit in geometry, two units in social science, and one unit in natural science, a total of ten constants.

The same questionnaire was sent to high schools in every state. Answers were received from one hundred and twenty-six schools including at least one school in every state. According to these responses the most frequent requirement in the several states is four units of English, one unit in algebra, and two units of social science, a total of seven constants. It appears, therefore, that Texas high schools are requiring one unit in algebra, one unit in geometry, and one unit in natural science more than is being required by the average high school of America.

The questionnaire showed further that forty per cent of the high schools

\*Texas Educational Survey Report, Volume III, pp. 91-97.

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## REPORT OF COUNTY OFFICERS NOW DUE

Counties Which Have Elected and Not Reported Should Wake Up

**COUNTIES** that have not reported officers should do so at once, if election has already taken place. In many counties institutes have not yet been held, and in some other counties institutes will not be held until shortly before the Christmas holidays. It will improve the prospects for a good county meet if those interested in each county will see to it that officers are elected at the earliest practicable time. We publish below an alphabetical list of those counties which have reported directors to the State Office and counties not included in this list have not yet reported:

- Counties Reported**  
Andrews, Angelina, Archer, Austin, Bandera, Chambers, Collingsworth, Frio, Goliad, Harrison, Houston, Jasper, Johnson, Karnes, Lipscomb, Matagorda, Medina, Mitchell, Montgomery, Motley, Orange, Polk, Sterling, Swisher, Trinity.

### Cripple Is District Winner in Declamation

The following is an Associated Press Dispatch from Friona, dated April 25:

"When the special Interscholastic League train leaves Amarillo April 30, a little crippled girl will be among those eagerly starting to Austin for the state contests May 1, 2, and 3.

"She is Amelia Schlenker of the Rea rural school, near here. She will enter the declamation contest against rural senior girls from the entire state, having won in this class over other contestants from 22 counties of the first district. Her crutches support her as she stands to speak and she has to be carried upstairs by her companions, but she asks no odds on those scores."

Desire not a multitude of unprofitable children, neither delight in ungodly sons. If they multiply, delight not in them, except the fear of the Lord be with them. Trust not thou in their life, neither rely on their condition: for one is better than a thousand, and to die childless than to have ungodly children. For from one that hath understanding shall a city be peopled; but a race of wicked men shall be made desolate.—Ecclesiasticus.

## Interscholastic League

(Dallas News Editorial, April 15, 1930.)

**L**AST year, the Interscholastic League included in its membership 5,268 schools. This year, there were 5,727 paid up and in good standing. That might be regarded as only natural growth. But, says the Interscholastic Leaguer, actually a loss in membership was expected, due to the general abandonment of teachers' institutes on a large scale. At these, in each county, the work of the League has usually been organized since reduction in traveling expense funds made it impossible to send out county organizers. The natural conclusion is that the League is growing of its own momentum.

No more healthful stimulus has been given to Texas public-school life than that which this institution imparts. The wide variety embraced in its competitions, including not only the athletic field but debating, declamation, extemporaneous speaking, typewriting, and the arts, serves to stir ambition in young folk and to interest them in affairs beyond their own locality. The small army of school boys and girls that moves on Austin for the finals in May represents the efficiency of the modern school system.

The League has grown so amazingly that it is a tribute to the forethought of its officials that it has not proved too heavy. There is still room for expansion. There are far more schools in the League today than there are out, but the League has not a 100 per cent enrollment.

Certainly no competition in Texas is as truly all-state in character as the remarkable finals in Austin, for which the competitors have been selected from contests originating in precincts and counties, tapering through district and bi-district elimination.





