



LETTER BOX and PERSONAL ITEMS

SUBMITTING an excellent list of twelve suggestive topics in the extemporaneous speech contest, Miss Merle Holsapple, of Temple, says: "In the last issue of the LEAGUER I noticed an article which interested me very much concerning the extempore speech contest. When we started to work last fall, I thought the assignment was rather vague and uninteresting because I felt that the material available would be confined to the documents from Washington. The more I read upon the questions submitted, the more interested I became in them. I think a great many interesting subjects can be found for use in the contest."

Mrs. Walter Lowe, of San Angelo, remarks in a recent letter, "As Director of Story Telling, I am expecting a very full League year."

Galena Park is looking up in debate according to statement in a letter from Walton Hinds, coach. "Last year," he says, "I had four students out for debate. This year I have fourteen out and they are hustling. We have already had about twenty debates and hope to reach the fifty mark before the meet."

LISTS HOMONYMS IN BULLETIN 3433

Teacher Makes Valuable Contribution to Spelling Contest

MRS. LOUISE W. WOODS, of Devine, has taken the trouble to prepare a list of homonyms or near-homonyms in the spelling list for this season. All spelling directors should be duly grateful to her for taking this trouble. It requires not only great patience to prepare such a list, but wide familiarity with words. In submitting the list, Mrs. Woods says:

"After studying over the word-lists of the Interscholastic League spelling contests, I feel that it would be advisable to call attention through the Interscholastic LEAGUER to the following words which should, in justice to all contestants, be defined to distinguish them from words of the same or similar sound."

Each teacher coaching the spelling should be careful to make this distinction by a phrase using the word in proper context, or by short definition. Mrs. Woods' list follows:

- Lists—Grades IV and V**
Page—Col.
- 3 2 mare from mayor
 - 3 4 raid from raved
 - 4 7 prince from prints
 - 5 9 vile from viral
 - 5 9 vice from vise
 - 5 10 sack from sac
 - 5 10 raising from razing
 - 5 12 wrapping from rapping
 - 6 12 warn from worn
 - 6 13 roam from Rome
 - 6 14 bases from basses or basis
 - 4 8 trusty from trustee
 - 12 18 trustee from trusty

- Lists—Grades VI and VII**
Page—Col.
- 8 1 vary from very
 - 8 2 cask from cascade
 - 9 7 chaste from chased
 - 10 10 sewing from sowing
 - 11 13 slough from slew
 - 12 18 sessions from sessions
 - 12 18 sewer from sewer (heteronyms)
 - 13 21 hoar from hoar
 - 13 23 clause from claws
 - 13 24 scenic from cynic
 - 6 12 barren from baron
 - 16 9 attribute (v.) from attribute (n.)
 - 15 7 phosphorus from phosphorus

Moreover, if a spelling director insists on Anglicizing the pronunciation of "ballet," it should be distinguished from "ballot."

Discussion of the terms synonyms, heteronyms, and homonyms is found in November (1934) LEAGUER, page 1.

It would be a great help to the editor of the spelling list if spelling directors and teachers would compile lists of words similar to the above list which need to be distinguished from other words of same or similar sound, or from other words of same spelling but different meaning.

It is not necessary, of course, to distinguish mere variant spellings, such as "clew" from "clue," or "revery" from "reverie."

Trophy-Case of Range Creek School



THREE of the above cups have been held three years by the Range Creek School. "We hope," says Addie Miller, Principal, "to win new ones this year. All-round championship has been held three years."

Three medals at the top are the district, regional, and state medals won by Ralph Tucker* for mile run. He broke the Class B record at Denton last April.

Inside of five years, besides the cups shown in this picture, the school has held senior spelling cup two years, essay writing cup two years, senior declamation, junior declamation, two state medals in declamation, won two poster contest prizes of \$5.00 each and a large picture for playground improvement contest. Since this picture was made, Range Creek basket ball boys won eight silver basket balls for winning in the boys' division of a Class C tournament. This is a three-teacher school, the same teachers having been in the school for six years before this present term. The enrollment has been from 60 to 95 pupils in the six years, averaging about 70. Nine grades are taught.

*See page one, December, 1934, LEAGUER.

SUPERINTENDENT 30 YEARS IN MIDLAND

W. W. Lackey Will Round Out Nearly Third of Century As School Head



W. W. Lackey

WHEN the Interscholastic League established a district center in Midland in 1916, the superintendent of schools, W. W. Lackey, undertook the directorship of the district. The district was continued for seven years, during which time Mr.

(See—LACKEY—Page 4)

DEBATERS PRACTICE IN LIVELY MATCHES

John H. Reagan (Houston) Sponsors Tournament for Southeast Texas

A COACH of debate attending a round-robin tournament held in Houston, writes concerning the interest in debate in the southeast portion of the state, as follows:

The interest in debate, which is one of the most profitable of Interscholastic League contests, is steadily increasing each year in the various schools of southeast Texas. Recently Mrs. L. T. Hooker, public speaking instructor of John H. Reagan High School, Houston, Texas, sponsored a tournament with seven schools participating, namely, Houston, Waco, San Antonio, Navasota, Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Trinity.

Waco won first place; John H. Reagan, second; San Antonio, third; and Trinity, which was the smallest school represented, won fourth place. Trinity has a very active debate club for a small town, and much stress is put on the value of debate. Mr. E. L. Blair, superintendent of schools and county and district director of debate in Trinity County, organized the Southeast Texas Debate League this year, and the league is growing rapidly. It is hoped by 1935-36 that more schools will join this league, thus enabling high schools to produce better and more efficient debaters, and at the same time bring the various schools in closer contact.

Pupil Issues Call To School Mates To Enter League Work

THE *Timely Remarks of Refugio* issues the following stirring appeal from a pupil who wishes to retrieve the honor of his school in Interscholastic contests:

Are you interested in Interscholastic League work? If you are not, now is the time to change your interest. I suppose Refugio has won fewer awards than any other town in the county. Why? Not because we do not have the brawn, the talent, persistence, stamina or competence. It is all lack of interest and cooperation. We have good equipment, teachers who are always willing to assist, and every opportunity to "go over big" this year. We hear the complaint, "it takes too much of my time." Have

you no pride in your school? Are you smug, self-centered, egotistical, and small enough to always think of yourself first? This is not a way to get revenge on Mary Jones by defeating her in spelling, neither is it a way for the vainglorious to get his name in the paper. If that is your idea of Interscholastic League work, you may keep skipping periods, annoying teachers, and just barely getting by. We will not need your talent. We want those students who are thinking of what it means for the school and not, "Oh, Boy, will I slay them." Think of your school and your school will think of you. The popular person is one who never thinks of himself, but lets other people think of him.

(See—ISSUES CALL—Page 4)

STUDENTS ADOPT AWARD SYSTEM

Trinity Devises a Point Schedule for Extra-Curricular Participation

A NUMBER of Texas high schools have worked out a system of awards which seems to bring this vexed question towards an approach to an orderly solution. W. E. Lowery, principal of Huntsville High School, has done good work on this.* He explained his system in detail to a class in extra-curricular activities at the University summer school last summer. Reports from members of this class of about forty showed that the question is very much alive in many schools.

The following is an excerpt from a letter addressed to the Editor of the LEAGUER from H. G. Andrews, of Trinity, who was a member of the extra-curricular class, and is self-explanatory:

"While studying your course in extra-curricular activities the past summer, I became interested in the idea of making the award system of our school more representative of the activities in which we participate. With the cooperation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. E. L. Blair, a committee composed of three faculty members and students who were participating in each activity to be affected, was appointed to draw up a system of awards which would, as nearly as possible, recognize each of the activities of the school on an equal basis in terms of the hours spent in participation.

"This plan was not proposed as an economy measure, but has as its purpose a wider distribution of the same

*See his article in LEAGUER, page 1, February, 1934.

See—AWARD SYSTEM—Page 4

8th Annual Drama Week Is Celebrated in San Antonio

ON SATURDAY, February 9, at the luncheon hour three hundred drama lovers of San Antonio and vicinity gathered at the St. Anthony Hotel to celebrate the eighth annual drama week luncheon sponsored by the San Antonio Speech Arts Association. The ball room was transformed into a scene of beauty. The Speech Arts table was charmingly developed in a Valentine motif.

Luncheon

In the absence of the president, Miss Ethel K. Orrell, Mrs. Stanley Whitacre, chairman of National Drama Week, presided at the luncheon. The invocation was pronounced by Mrs. Ralph Jackson, president of the city Federation of Women's Clubs. Other honor guests were Miss Minnie Blundell, of Austin, president of the Texas Speech Arts Association, Mr. Russel, of the *Theatre Arts Monthly*, and Frank Beckwith, director of the San Antonio Little Theatre. Mr. Beckwith was introduced by Mrs. E. P. Arneson. Mr. Beckwith's subject was "The Socialized Theatre."

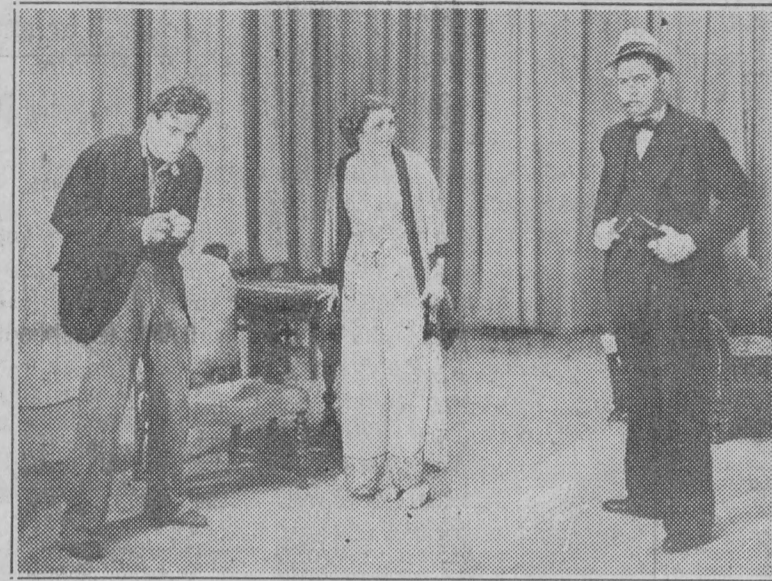
Play Presentation

Under the direction of Miss Jeston Dickey, a one-act play, "The Flattering Word," by George Kelly, was presented by members of the San Antonio Speech Arts Association, assisted by A. B. Wacker of Westmoreland College and Clarence A. Risien of the San Antonio Little Theatre. The cast of characters included:

The Reverend Loring Rigley, A. B. Wacker; Mary, his wife, Mrs. Connie McKeen; Mrs. Zooker, a church worker, Mrs. B. L. D. Roselle; Lena, her daughter, Mrs. Frances Schein Jones; Eugene Tesh, a prominent dramatic star, Clarence A. Risien; Prompter and Substitute, Jewel Franklin.

The loving cup for the club having the highest percentage of attendance went to "The Little Drama Shop," which is sponsored by Mrs. Maude Reeder Lyons.

483 Schools Enroll For One-Act Play 9th Annual Contest



Scene from "Smokescreen," Pampa High School State Champion 1934. Left to right: Vernelle Stevens, Imogene Hollenbeck, Harold Bray.

WITH everything set for county elimination contests, to start with the ninth State One-Act Play Tournament with an enrollment of 483 schools—over a hundred more than were entered last year—it looks as though the Play Contest were going to have to yield its place as "baby" of the League to some of the events that have been added later. Entries represent literally the four corners of the state, from the mountains on the western border to the Gulf; from the Rio Grande Valley to the Panhandle. Still more interesting than the amazingly wide geographical representation is the fact that every size school and town is represented. Since this is a contest in acting and not in stage craft, the small school is placed on an equal footing with the big city school. Each director and each young actor brings to the contest what he can do, not what he can buy or build.

Last year's finals in the contest were held for the first time in the beautiful new Hogg Memorial Auditorium, sometimes called the architectural gem of the campus, with a seating capacity of twelve hundred. The eight schools reaching the finals were: Austin High School, directed by James R. Burton; Austin High School of El Paso, directed by Mrs. Lydia M. Stark; Beaumont High School, directed by Mrs. Mary L. Reed; Bonham High School, directed by Roy W. Fletcher; Laredo High School, directed by Mrs. J. L. Tenney; Pampa High School, directed by Ben Guill; San Angelo High School, directed by Miss Leola Campbell; Wichita Falls High School, directed by Miss Juanita Kinsey.

DEBATERS ATTENTION

THE Municipal Utilities Record contains affirmative material in each issue on the current debate query. It is especially important in giving current developments in the ownership of electric utilities by Texas cities.

The Record offers a special rate for subscription, as follows:

Seven months, October to April, inclusive...\$75

Also an eight-page pamphlet entitled, "Municipal Electric Light Plants in Texas," is available to subscribers, without additional cost, and those who do not subscribe at once will receive only reprints of the most important articles that have appeared in the October, November, and December issues, in lieu of copies of these issues which will shortly be exhausted.

Address:

Gordon Greenwood, 935 Allen Building, Dallas, Texas.

League Work Is Thoroughly Organized In French School

One of the most successful schools in Interscholastic League competitions in Southeast Texas is the French Independent School District near Beaumont. The high school won all-round county championship of Jefferson County for two consecutive years; and one of the ward schools of the district won all-round championship three consecutive years, while the other ward school won second two years. Mrs. Razor, a teacher in the high school, describes in the following article how these results are accomplished.—Eoror.

(By Mrs. A. F. Razor)

THERE ARE three principal factors which have greatly affected the very favorable results attained by our schools in the county, the district, the regional, and, sometimes, the state meetings of the Interscholastic League.

The first of these is our established policy of allowing grade points to the students for participating in the different literary events. Our superintendent, A. B. C. Dean—who started Interscholastic League work as a high school debater the second year that the University sponsored the debate league—found, after keeping

accurate records for several years, that pupils who do fully and faithfully the work required for debate, spelling, essay writing, extempore speaking, etc., invariably lower their grade standing in one or more subjects as a result of the time thus spent.

Grade Points

To off-set this loss in school grades, our schools have worked out a schedule of "grade points"—few, it is true, and varying in number as one participates in local, county, district, or regional competition—which points may be added only to passing grades in a subject related to the activity in which the pupil participates. The allowing of grade points, therefore, is not to help any pupil "bring up" poor grades but is intended, as a matter of fairness to all, to keep the conscientious students—and a majority of all students may be made such under proper direction—from losing their attained grade standing

See—FRENCH SCHOOL—Page 4

QUERY FOR NEXT YEAR IN ORDER

Ralls Superintendent Thinks AAA Would Make Good Basis for Discussion

LAST issue we published the following suggestions for a debate query for next year, that is, for the school year of 1935-36:

1. Resolved, that the several states should adopt the Unicameral Legislature.
2. Resolved, that the Federal Government should adopt a system of old age pensions.
3. Resolved, that the Federal Government should adopt a plan of unemployment insurance.
4. Resolved, that the Government should, as a matter of permanent policy, withdraw from the field of controlling agricultural production.

We have the following good letter from Superintendent J. M. Rankin, of Ralls, in which he voices his preference:

Timely Question

"I think Question No. 4 submitted would be surely a worthy question for next year's debates. The problem of government control of agricultural production is most timely. I rather believe that that question is discussed in rural communities with more enthusiasm and less reason, with more prejudice and less facts than any other question in American politics today. Urban centers probably should learn more about the problems of Texas agriculture than they know, and the research and discussion of the question incident to League debates would clarify a good many points in the minds of interested people. I don't mean to say that the people of Texas who are in industrial pursuits discuss the problem with any more reason or any less prejudice than rural people do—they merely discuss it less.

"The number of adherents to each side of the question assure us that the question is highly debatable. Plenty of material could be immediately available for students. Let me vote for No. 4 now."

TIME NOW SHORT FOR CO. REPORTS

Officers of Missing County Organizations Should Be Filed at Once

THE names and addresses of county committees so far reported are continued in this issue, former instalments appearing in the October, November, December, January, and February issues. The counties reported in this issue bring the total up to 236. However, many counties remain to be reported. The League Office cannot furnish necessary material to county officers until the names and addresses of the committees are reported. If your county does

See—COUNTY REPORTS—Page 4

Writer Says League Work Strengthens School Spirit

In the course of an excellent article entitled "The Principal's Task of Creating a School Spirit," published in *Texas Outlook* (February), Ernest Wallace of Naples, says: "A great work of this sort in Texas is the Interscholastic League. I have had the opportunity of being an official of the League for several years in one of the most enthusiastic counties of the state in league work. The highest type of spirit and loyalty that was manifest by the many contestants was worthy of commendation. Through closer touch with their pupils these principals were really doing for their schools a great vital work and doing for their pupils what the schools of America should do for its youth—developing a spirit of loyalty, patriotism, and team-play."

