



LET US CALL to your attention a few items of vital importance to directors of one-act plays entering the contests in March. Be certain you have received your acknowledgment card from the State Office. If you do not have this card, your school is not yet officially entered in this event. Please do not fail to send us the title of your play if you have not already done this. Use the official judging standards to check up on your play. Again let us mention the necessity for understanding thoroughly all parts of the 1940-41 rules. Write to us if we may be of assistance.

Bayou Harlequinade—by Betty Smith and Clemon White. French, 2m1w, Non-roy., 35c, fantasy. Not on the prescribed list but will be approved for contest use. A delightful fantasy. Gelsomino leaves Columbine but is brought back to his senses and Columbine by the action of Harlequin. Good lines and clever comedy. One of the authors, Mr. White, is a Texas high-school drama director.

CRITIC JUDGING*

*This is the first in a series of three articles on critic judging. The next two will appear in February and March issues of the LEAGUER.

ONE YEAR ago the State Office began an active campaign to replace jury judging of one-act play contests with critic judging. It was hoped that possibly thirty percent of all play contests would be judged by single critic judges the first year. It is with real pleasure we announce that, not thirty percent, but sixty-eight percent of all one-act play contests in Texas last year were judged by single critics. This is progress. It is a tribute to the efficacy of critic judging and to the common sense of Texas play directors and contest directors.

More of the Same Finally, and we could go on at length in the same vein, there is the case of three judges who got their decisions mixed up, changed them twice and still did not have the right play designated as winner. They threw up the job, turned it over to the director of the contest and he had to settle it all by himself.

Examples of Faulty Judging All contest judging was carefully observed last year. It was found that over half of jury plan decisions were compromises. Here is one example. There were five plays in the contest. Two judges ranked play "A" in first place. Judge Number Three placed the same play in fifth place. According to the original ballots play "B" got second, play "C" third, play "D" fourth, play "E" fifth. Disregarding the specific instructions in the rules the Contest Director allowed a conference decision, one where the judges meet to "talk things over," and there was an immediate conflict. Judge Number Three flatly refused to participate in the decision if play "A" was given first place. A "compromise" was reached. Play "A" was given third place, play "B" first, play "D" second, etc. Play "D" was the one given first place by Judge Number Three and was the one which the other two judges ranked fourth. All this took over an hour, and all but two casts, plus all of the audience, went home before the decision was announced. By this "compromise" neither of the two plays judged as the winner received first place. Judge Number Three simply out-talked the other two judges, but all three judges got the blame for the obviously bad decision.

Coin Flip Decides Another example: A five-man jury found two plays tied for first place. After thirty-five minutes of discussion a coin was flipped to see which would be judged the winner. Five judges were paid \$45.00 to flip a penny.

Personal Mention Dr. Joe Ray, Bullock Hyder, and colleagues at North Texas Teachers College, Denton, are planning to have their annual institute for high school speakers again this year.

Dr. Hugh F. Seabury and the Southwest Texas Teachers College recently held their annual college speech institute at San Marcos. All students are given ratings and constructive criticisms by critic judges.

A. & I. Speech Institute Miss Mildred Pecaut, chairman of the Department of Speech at Texas A. & I. College, announces the date of the fourth annual speech institute at that college to be January 18. An unusually interesting and practical program is being arranged. Officials from the League and teachers in nearby high schools will appear as speakers. Speech and drama teachers in the Kingsville area

from a Texas college) who judged a contest in which there appeared a play directed by a former student of one of the judges, who said, "I just cannot see how any director can beat one of my ex-students." The other two figuratively nodded their minds in acquiescence.

University Institute Over eight hundred debaters, declaimers, extemporaneous speakers, and dramatists, constituted the largest group we have entertained in Austin at our Speech Institute. Dr. E. DeGolyer gave a splendid talk on the negative side of

The Speech Arts In Texas Schools

This column belongs to the Texas Speech Association for discussion of speech problems and news concerning the Association, its members, or its work. Communications should be sent to John W. Brandstetter, San Jacinto High School, Houston, Texas, or to the Editor, League, and editor of this column—Editor.

Dr. Raubicheck Talks To Speech Association

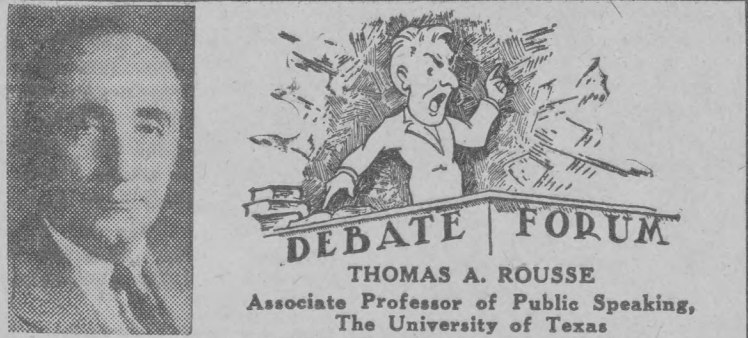
HIGHLIGHTED by the appearance of Dr. Letitia Raubicheck, the Texas Speech Association held its annual convention November 21, 22, 23, in Fort Worth.

Dr. Raubicheck, Director of Speech Improvement in the New York City Schools, spoke at the Friday meeting on "The Function of the Auditorium Period in a Building Better Speech" and on Saturday on "Speech Education—American Design for 1940."

Election of Officers The Convention closed with a luncheon Saturday noon, November 23. The program was broadcast over the Texas State Network.

Spanish Club (Continued from Page 1) the popular Mexican music which they enjoy very much.

Girls' Debate—There were thirty-five girl debate teams participating in the Saturday afternoon debates. Three teams, Alamo Heights and Brackenridge, Team No. 2, of San Antonio; and Gaslight, won all three of their debates. Teams winning two out of three are as follows: Austin, affirmative, and Austin, negative; Brackenridge, Team No. 1; New London, Thomas Jefferson, San Marcos, Alamo Heights, Gaston, Galena Park, San Marcos, Team No. 1, and San Marcos, Team No. 2.



THE MONTHS of December and January must be considered "information" periods, if we are to appreciate the number of Debate and Speech Institutes scheduled over the State at this time of the year.

We attended the McAllen Institute and enjoyed ourselves very much, with an exceptionally interesting group of Speech teachers and debaters.

Valley Speech Conference

The first annual Valley Speech Conference was held in McAllen on December 7. Twenty-three schools were represented by the 150 teachers and students attending. The conference was organized and conducted by Mr. Don Irwin, speech instructor at McAllen High School.

Others who took part in the program were Don Irwin, McAllen, Roy Bedichek, and F. L. Winship of the Interscholastic League, T. A. Rousseau of The University of Texas, O. M. Montgomery, A. & I. College, William Doyle, McAllen. Supt. John H. Gregory and Mr. Irwin are to be commended for their efforts in behalf of Speech promotion in the Valley.

Material We understand that North Bigbee, of Texas Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association in Dallas, is preparing a negative brief on the Natural Resources Tax question, which will be distributed to all interested parties. We are looking forward to the publication of the brief with much interest, and will notify you through this column as to when and where you may secure copies.

Question For Next Year Several visiting debate coaches brought up the problem of next year's question, and as usual we suggested that these gentlemen and others should start thinking about that problem now. Someday we will select the question for the following year in the early spring. Obvious benefits can be gained by such a method. Therefore, if you have any "burning issues," please do not hesitate to submit them to us. Your aid is earnestly solicited.

Practice Debates Although the purpose of our Institute is to promote and encourage the seeking of information, we find that it is necessary to furnish some incentive, other than information, to our visiting high school debaters. Consequently, we scheduled three rounds of debates between them on the last afternoon of the Meet, and the results are as follows: Girls' Debate—There were thirty-five girl debate teams participating in the Saturday afternoon debates. Three teams, Alamo Heights and Brackenridge, Team No. 2, of San Antonio; and Gaslight, won all three of their debates. Teams winning two out of three are as follows: Austin, affirmative, and Austin, negative; Brackenridge, Team No. 1; New London, Thomas Jefferson, San Marcos, Alamo Heights, Gaston, Galena Park, San Marcos, Team No. 1, and San Marcos, Team No. 2.

RHYTHM BAND

(Continued from Page 1) enjoy it when they may give rhythmic expression by clapping or tapping. Since we know rhythm is the most primitive form of music it seems the logical place to begin musical training. Many children who cannot "carry a tune" can learn, through concerted action to play rhythmically, and later learn to sing.

Habit of Concentration The habit of concentration is definitely encouraged, for in order to play together the children must listen and feel the rhythm. In order to make entrances at the proper time, to attack together, and end as one, they must watch the director. When the music which is played either by a pianist or record, is good and well rendered the children get a real background for future development which cannot be surpassed. A large repertoire of good music may "cinch" their taste for that class of music in the future. Many times very young children have told me they had heard some particular composition over the radio, but that it was different from the way we played it.

I have found that the rhythm band does arouse or awaken in the child a keener interest in choral and instrumental activities in the upper grades. But the greatest joy of it all is that they have learned the pleasure of rhythmic expression together.

MURIEL PARKER

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outstanding student in the Language Department, was a member of the Student Commission, and was chosen in her senior year as one of eight students from our 1,500 enrollment, to make a "Crusade," visiting schools in Arizona and California. She served as Editor-in-Chief of the "Pioneer," weekly newspaper of Austin High School, all of her senior year.

In scholarship, Muriel ranked tenth in a class of 215, her four-year average being 91.583. Last year at Stephens, Muriel was a member of the honorary radio fraternity, Beta Epsilon Phi. She had a leading part in the Stephens College broadcast from Kansas City. She was elected a senior advisor for this year, and is working toward being a radio journalist.

ADVISORY

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State might be brought into closer relationship with the State Executive Committee to the end that the program of the League might render more effective service to the schools.

Mr. Fillers of Wichita Falls finally made a motion that it was the sense of this body that the Advisory Council should have concern with the League as a whole, but only with the larger questions of policy, such, for instance, as dealing with the present demand for changing the basketball set-up to a conference plan. Mr. Fillers' motion, after considerable discussion, prevailed.

The discussion next turned on whether the Council should be appointive or elective. Upon motion of W. J. Stone, the Committee decided that the Advisory Council should be elected by mail ballot.

Mr. Stone further moved, and the motion was carried, that the Council should be representative of the eight Interscholastic League regions, and also of the following classes of schools: (1) Schools with an enrollment of 500 and above; (2) schools with an enrollment of 200 to 500; and (3) schools with an enrollment below 200. Motion was then made that only Superintendents, Senior High School Principals, and County Superintendents be eligible to position on this proposed Council. Motion was carried.

prior to November 1 of each year. Motion was carried. Mr. Wade moved that in case of a vacancy, the group and region in which the vacancy occurs vote by mail in the regular way on filling the vacancy.

Mr. Stone moved that the original call for nominations be issued on or shortly after September 1, and that the present group serve until its successor is elected. Motion carried.

FT. WORTH MEET

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judge contests. Professor Rousseau said that the judge is invited simply to give his opinion, necessarily subjective, as to the relative merits of contestants. He does not, therefore, make an error—certainly he does not commit a crime; he does what he was asked to do—state his opinion.

Radio Speech After Mr. Frizzell's description of the speech project in Palestine, Professor Rousseau posed the question of whether we are going to use the radio as a means for improving speech or as an advertising agent. Professor Rousseau stated that there is a noticeable tendency to use this new technique as a promotional or advertising instrument rather than as a means for working on speech correction, for improving the individual. As a result the schools are not getting nearly so much out of this new teaching instrument as has been expected.

During the discussion following the negative and affirmative treatment of the question of whether speech contests develop the few at the expense of the many and of the question of whether teachers favor or disfavor contests, Mr. Fulton, of Prairie Lee, raised the problem of the small school whose students are handicapped in debate, for instance, because of their frequent inability to enter the various debates that should provide training and experience.

Mr. Williams, of Prairie Lee, asked how many counties had taken advantage of the League offer that member schools substitute a point system for the customary county contest as a means for providing for the school that has been handicapped in time and preparation. There were present representatives from three counties that have adopted or are adopting the system. Those who have followed the new plan stated that it was working satisfactorily and was promoting harmony.

In conclusion Professor Rousseau reminded those present that the purpose in speech training is simply this—the subjective development of the individual student in his ability to think, to organize and present materials, to speak.

After Meeting Following adjournment of the Section Meeting, about a dozen school principals, superintendents, debate and athletic coaches met to consider rule changes. B. M. Dinsmore served as secretary of the meeting. Mr. Dinsmore's minutes follow:

Motion was made by Mr. Webb and seconded by Mr. W. R. Bradford, of Iowa Park, that a regulation should be placed on debate tournaments and speech contests; that the number of debate tournaments should be restricted just as other League activities are regulated. This motion carried unanimously. During the discussion of the motion, Mr. Watson, of Moran, said his school would be eliminated in debate because of these tournaments.

