

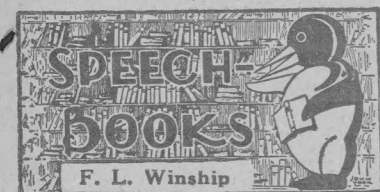
TEACHERS' GUIDE TO GOOD PLAYS



THIS MONTH and next we are listing a large number of three-act plays which are new to our shelves. A few are plays which appeared on Broadway last year and are still running there.

We are deeply grateful to the publishing companies who have so graciously cooperated with this office in sending us examination copies of these plays.

- Flying Vagabond, The—R
Fools' Luck—R
Ghost of Grah Canyon, The—R
Good Bad Man, The—R
Grain of Wheat, A—R
He and She—R
Help! Help!—R
Here Comes Patricia—R
Honest Abe—R
Howling Dog, The—R
Husbands Three—R
In the Dog Old Summer Time—R
It Happened in June—R
It's Great to be Crazy—R
Larry—R
Little Madcap, The—R
Long Ago Ladies—R
Lucky—R
Lucky Winner—R
Maggie Bough, The—R
Mail Order Brides—R
Making Daddy Behave—R
Masquerade, The—R
Miss Blue Eyes—R
Moonlight and Roses—R
My American Beauty—R
My Tomboy Girl—R
Mystery House, The—R
Night of Terror—R
No Wedding Bells for Me—R
Nuts to You or the Nitwits—R
Oh, Doctor!—R
On the Go or Buzz Inn—R
One Smart Girl—R
Perfect Getaway, The—R
Presenting Polly—R
Prodigious Son, The—R
Ring of Truth or Hot Chocolate—R
Sally You—R
She Got Away with It or The Counterfeit Wife—R
Sherlock Holmes—R
Simple Life, The—R
Sir Frog Goes A-Travelling—R
Sister Sally—R
Smoky Joe—R
So Let 'em Foreclose—R
Stranger Peasas, A—R
Success Road or Eat Your Spinach—R
Suicide Specialist, The—R
Take My Advice—R
Tommy's Brides—R
Too Many Bosses—R
Top of the World—R
Trapped—R
Tricking Tricksters—R
Tumble Inn—R
Turning the Trick—R
Vanishing Pearls—R
Welcome to Our City—R
What Do You Think?—R
Will of Stratford—R
Widow Without End—R



THERE ARE many excellent collections and anthologies of plays. They should be known to teachers if for no other reason than their value as supplementary texts for classes.

Sixth Yearbook of Short Plays—by Snook and Edenburn. Row-Peterson & Co., Evanston, Ill. Price, \$4.00.

For six years this company has published a collection of non-royalty one-act plays. This book is as good if not better than preceding volumes. It contains a wide variety of plays suitable for use by junior high school, senior high school and college students.

Twelve One-Act Plays for Study and Production—by S. Marion Tucker. Ginn & Co., 1510 Young St., Dallas. Price, \$1.48, subject to discount.

The twelve plays in this book are standard and usable. Plays by such authors as Dunsany, Wilde, Tarkington, Morley, O'Neill, Goodman, and others guarantee the quality of the book.

Twenty Short Plays on a Royalty Holiday, Vol. II. Edited by Margaret Mayorga. Samuel French, 25 West 45th St., New York City. Price, \$3.00.

A group of new non-royalty plays never before published. While the collection does not seem up to the general standard set in the first volume, there are many usable plays here.

Short Plays—by Edwin Knickerbocker. Henry Holt & Co., New York City. Price, \$1.50.

This is one of the finest anthologies we have read in a long time. Not only is it an anthology of outstanding plays, but it also contains enough material to be of value as a text.

The plays are among the best in the field of one-acts. Tragedy, farce and fantasy are represented. Almost any one has a splendid record of production.

ELEMENTARY STAGE-CRAFT III. The Use of Cut-Down Scenery By Gordon Minter, Assistant Professor of Drama, The University of Texas.

THE MAXIMUM dramatic effect with the least expenditure of money is the goal of almost all small producing groups. With this in mind, it is well to consider the use of cut-down scenery, especially in cases where lack of time, money, and available facilities prevent the use of complete scenic backgrounds.

Term Defined The term "cut-down scenery" is not a literal name for the method, in that it does not always mean that the height of the scenery has been reduced. It does mean that certain characteristic features of a locale are selected to suggest the entire atmosphere of the place.

Contemporary One-Act Plays—by B. Roland Lewis. Chas. Scribner's Son, 320 E. 21st St., Chicago, Ill. Price, \$1.50, subject to discount.

Beginning with an able discussion of the structure of a one-act play and an approach to the study of the one-act play, the compiler of this anthology reprints eighteen plays. One might question the appearance of a few of them in this volume.

Short Plays—by Webber and Webster. Houghton Mifflin, 715 Browder St., Dallas. Price, \$1.28.

The authors have contrived to include some very good, but not generally used plays in this anthology. The plays are by standard authors and include Wilde, Dunsany, Mackay, Tocheron, and Lady Gregory.

Speech Pupils in Brownwood High School



Top picture, left to right, back row, Billy Allcorn and E. F. Smith, debaters, and Billy Tom Field, extemporaneous speaker. Front row, Maritza Shaw and Billie Ward, debaters, and Frances Long, extemporaneous speaker.

Speech Squad Loses Several by Graduation

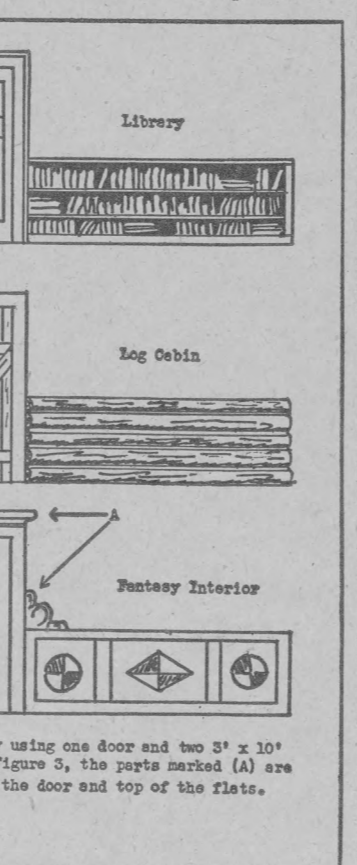
THIS GROUP of pupils made a fine record at the Regional Meet in Abilene last year. They are preparing, with a few recruits, and minus two or three of last year's performers, to enter the speech contests again.

Maritza Shaw and Billie Ward won second place in the Regional Meet at Abilene in debate. Billie Ward is a senior, this year, and she is continuing her work in debate and extemporaneous speaking also.

good quality unbleached muslin for building and covering a set of about nine flats, none of which would be higher than 3'. (Cut-down scenery more than 3' high is sometimes desirable, but as muslin increases sharply in price as it comes wider than 36 inches, the 3' height is recommended for those with a very limited budget.)

Obviously, the size of the basic set of flats would be determined by the size of the stage to be used regularly. If some student will make scale models of this set of flats, the director will find them useful in laying out the ground plan for each new show.

When set pieces should be higher than the basic 3', it is possible to cut small pieces of beaver board or heavy cardboard into patterns which may be nailed onto the tops of flats and over doors before any of the painting is done.



Initial Cost \$10 The initial cost for using this method need not run higher than ten (10) dollars, and the cost of painting the necessary pieces for each show may be held down to approximately three (3) dollars.

speech later in her college work. Maritza Shaw is a freshman at Howard Payne College this year. She is taking voice along with her other work—which includes all the speech courses available to freshmen.

E. F. Smith and Billy Allcorn were eliminated in the first round of debate at the regional meet last year. E. F. Smith is a senior this year and he is continuing his work in debate.

Before starting the actual painting it is well to consult a good text on scenery for details of mixing and using scene paint. If the director is careful to see that sound professional methods of painting are used by the students, thus insuring adequate results, an appreciation will be developed for well mounted shows.

Cut down scenery should be lively in color, repainted for each show, and should be used with carefully chosen properties. It works better with black drapes, because black becomes more space thus emphasizing the set pieces, but drapes of any color behind the scenery serve adequately as the upper part of the walls, and may carry pictures and other essential "trim."

Lighting Light into cut-down scenery should be focused low. Care should be exercised in keeping the light on the actors and scenery, and in not allowing too much illumination to touch the background. Added flexibility to the light set-up of a modest stage may be obtained by the use of the new spotlight bulbs—ordinary bulbs with built-in reflectors to accomplish this end.

Bear-Grass and Sacahuiste

These are favorite folk names for certain plants native in the Southwest. The Yucca family furnishes most of the bear-grass. There are two species of Yucca called also "sacahuiste," namely, Nolina lindheimeriana and Nolana Texana.

The "slender bear-grass" is not the only plant called in Texas "sacahuiste." On the Texas coast, the salt marsh grass with stickers on the ends of the blades is known locally as "sacahuiste."

Nothing is ever accomplished by a committee unless it consists of three members, one of whom happens to be sick and another absent.—Hendrick Van Loon.

My advice to you is to meet success like a gentleman; and to meet disaster like a man.—Lord Birkenhead.

E. F. Smith won 27 out of 32 debates last year.)

Frances Long was a senior last year. Upon graduation she was employed by one of the local business firms. She won first place in four speech tournaments—winning a \$50 scholarship to A. C. C. in one contest.

sophomore year, won first place in five speech tournaments in extemporaneous speaking. At the regional meet he placed second. He is continuing his work this year in speech—debating as well as doing extempore work.



Molly Jo Wells placed second in the regional contest. She is a senior this year. She plans on entering North Texas State Teachers College next year—majoring in speech. Molly Jo is continuing her declamation work this year.

Champion Journalist of the 1939 State Meet

IN ORDER to win the Journalism contest of the Interscholastic League, a contestant must turn in a higher total of points than any other contestant in five different events: Reporting, Editorial, Copyreading, Headline Writing, and Feature Story Writing.



Other honors which Donald won while in high school form a rather impressive list, as follows: Graduated Magna Cum Laude; member National Honor Society; Pacemaker Award (highest Journalism Award for outstanding work on Jacket Journal); one of ten best editorial writers in United States (Quill and Scroll); Business Manager of Jacket Journal Weekly; Editor Jacket Journal Weekly as Journalism 2 student; Assistant Editor of Yellow Jacket Annual; Editor Senior Journal (Senior Class Publication); Lieutenant-Colonel in High School R.O.T.C.; Editor Listening Post (R.O.T.C. Camp Dallas publication); Special Efficiency Award from Camp Commander for outstanding work as editor.

At eighteen, Don is a pre-law sophomore in The University of Texas, residing in Brackenridge Hall 101A. On freshman entrance examinations, he scored among the highest 10 per cent. He made his letter last year as a member of the Longhorn Band.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Cowan, live at 2324 West Rose-dale Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas.

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. Brandtetter, San Jacinto High School, Houston, Texas, "Historian" of the Association, and editor of this column.—Editor.

THE PROGRAM which follows gives some indication of the interesting Speech Clinic which will take place in Odessa, Feb. 21, 22. It is sponsored by the Odessa Senior High School Speech Department. Already, a large number of schools have accepted the invitation to attend.

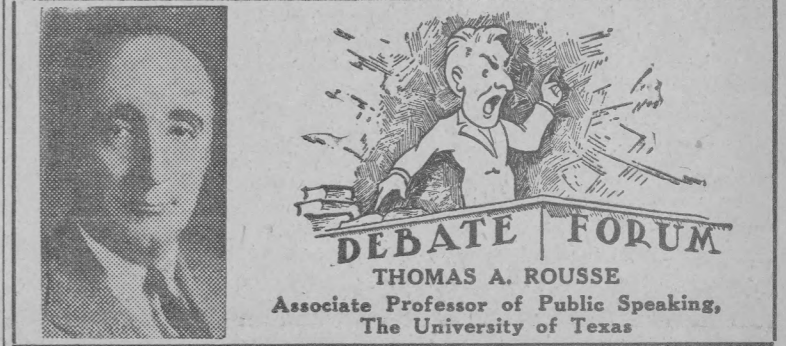
ODESSA, FEBRUARY 21-22

- FRIDAY 9:30-10:00 Registration. 10:00-10:30 Welcome, Assembly Program—Odessa Senior High School. 10:30-12:00 Declamation Demonstration: Individual Criticism—by Thomas Rouse, Roy Bedichek and F. L. Winship. Seniors, 2 boys, 2 girls; Juniors, 2 boys, 2 girls. 1:30-2:15 Why Use Contests in Speech Work?—Roy Bedichek. 2:15-4:00 Extemporaneous Speaking Demonstrations; Individual criticisms—by Thomas Rouse, Roy Bedichek and F. L. Winship (4 boys, 4 girls). 4:00-4:30 Speech Rule Changes—F. L. Winship. 5:30-6:30 Chuck Wagon Feed, served by the well known "Chuck Wagon Gang" of Odessa. 7:00-9:00 Speech Teachers' Round Table. This will be an old-fashioned affair with coffee and cake and talk. We expect you to bring the talk.

SATURDAY 9:00-12:00 Demonstration Debate, Criticism and Discussion of the Question—by Thomas Rouse. 1:30-2:00 Speech Contests Are Not For the Few at the Expense of Many—Roy Bedichek. 2:00-4:30 One-Act Play Demonstration. Critic Judging and Discussion—F. L. Winship.

The fourth annual Speech Conference sponsored by Texas A. & I. College of Kingsville was held there January 18. A large group of students and teachers enjoyed the Conference. Problems concerning Debate, Declamation, Extemporaneous Speaking, and One-act Play were discussed in the lively sectional meetings scheduled. Speakers were Mrs. Bernice Jessie Laredo, Miss Gladys Sands, Corpus Christi, and Interscholastic League officials from Austin.

It is hard to believe that there are only 120 Texas Speech teachers who belong to their State Association. Yet, only that small number, out of the 600 speech teachers in the state, have paid their dues to Secretary J. Clark Weaver, TSCW, Denton. The Association has been responsible for the adoption by the State Department of Education of three units of Speech for affiliation. It has written the adopted Speech course of study. It has brought about the adoption of texts in Speech for the senior high school, the junior high school, and a supplementary text for interpretative reading. Fourteen members think enough of the welfare of the Association to become sustaining members, paying dues of \$5.00 per year. A regular membership is only \$1.50.



THOMAS A. ROUSSE Associate Professor of Public Speaking, The University of Texas

A LIST of over one hundred debate topics has been received by the League office, and we are asking for more. In most cases the actual statement of the question is made, but we had better deal with only the topic at present.

Next in order in popularity are "Limiting the Term of the President," "The Abolition of the Electoral College," "Equalization on Per Capita Basis for Education in the United States," "Abolition of the Poll Tax," and "Civil Service of State Employees."

Other Topics If you haven't submitted your preference, please do so at your earliest convenience, because we want to receive as many suggestions as possible. What do you think of the "Federal Housing Administration" as a debatable question? Some have suggested the question of "State Regulation of Trucks," and the latest suggestion to be received has been a question on "A Military Alliance Between the United States, Mexico, and Canada."

When a man is wrapped up in himself he makes a very small parcel.

"Elaborate puns," says Max Eastman, "are not so much puns as punitive expeditions."

DECLAMATION HINTS

The following speeches appear in the January 15, 1941, issue of "Vital Speeches." Copies of this magazine can be secured for 15c each by writing to City News Publishing Co., 33 West 42nd Street, New York City, New York. Copies are not available through the Interscholastic League or the Extension Loan Library. These speeches will make excellent senior declamations with some cutting.

Preservation of American Independence by Franklin D. Roosevelt. The State of Education in This Troubled Age by Walter Lippman. The Industrial Policy for Tomorrow's Children by E. W. Palmer.

Do not fail to read the revised rules for both senior and junior declamation contests. Failure to do this might very well cause your student to be barred from the contest.

