



IT HAS BEEN a pleasure to work with you and other officials of the Interscholastic League in a program that I consider the greatest character builder in the educational circles of the nation.

WE have enjoyed very much the use of your Word Lists which we have purchased from time to time from far away Texas. I used them when I was in that State and I am frank to say that I have found nothing better for that purpose.

WITHIN the last year a chess club has been organized at our senior high school and a great deal of interest has been shown in the game of chess throughout the school.

Therefore, due to the interest shown in our school we wish to give our heartiest approval to the aforementioned plan, and we sincerely hope that it succeeds.

### Texas Tech Math Prof Is Famous Chess Player

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in the Department of Applied Mathematics, Dr. R. S. Underwood, during the past summer at the University of Texas, is the co-author of "Jaunts Into Space," and author of "Jaunts Into Space," in the field of popular astronomy.

He is the champion chess player of West Texas and New Mexico, and has offered to assist high-school chess clubs in getting organized and on their way if they happen to be located within reach of Lubbock.

It was a saying in Paris when Hitler began persecuting the Jews, that the French are not jealous of the Jews "because the French, too, are intelligent."

### EXTEMP TOPICS

PACKAGE libraries are available on each of the following topics:

1. Reconversion in War Industries
2. Postwar Unemployment Problems
3. "I am for Roosevelt," or "I am for Dewey."
4. Rehabilitation of Disabled Service Men
5. Employment of Discharged Service Men.

Only teachers are furnished packages by the Extension Loan Library, and only one package at a time is available. Application for packages should be made direct to the Extension Loan Library, University Station, Austin.

A good assembly program can be assured by any extemporaneous speech, or Current Events Class, and this makes excellent practice for contests—it constitutes at once an examination in Current Events, and an exercise in public speaking.

## Is Your School Using Radio in Its Music Appreciation?

### List of Programs which Furnish Schools the Best in Music

(By Archie Jones, Professor of Music Education, The University of Texas)

THERE were 45,000,000 radio sets in the United States just before the war, with an average use of 5.1 hours daily. About 900 broadcasting stations were on the air an average of 16 hours daily, and the daily electric bill for radio alone, paid by listeners was nearly \$300,000.00.

#### Systematic Listening

It is strange indeed that the average citizen, who spends over \$75.00 per year for radio listening, does not get the most for his money. Listening must be, first of all, systematic. Merely turning on

the radio to kill time is no pleasure. Second, it must be *discriminative*, in order that the programs shall be appealing to each listener. Third, listening should be *informative*, in order that one's knowledge should increase day by day.

Among the many hours of broadcasting, there occur each day one or more fine musical programs. In order that school children might be aware of these programs, and encouraged to listen to them, this column of suggested musical programs will be included in each issue of the LEAGUER. It is suggested that the list be attached to the bulletin board in each school, and attention called to it in the music classes.

#### Current Programs

At the time the current issue goes to press, the complete list for 1944-1945 season is not available, but will be corrected in our next issue.

In the accompanying box will be found the programs especially recommended:

#### Recommended Radio Programs

Sunday:	11:00 a.m.	Tabernacle Choir	Columbia
	2:00 p.m.	New York Philharmonic Orchestra	Columbia
	3:30 p.m.	Pause That Refreshes	Columbia
	4:00 p.m.	General Motors Symphony	N. B. C.
Monday:	7:30 p.m.	Voice of Firestone	N. B. C.
	8:00 p.m.	Telephone Hour	N. B. C.
	9:00 p.m.	Carnation Program	N. B. C.
Wednesday:	9:00 p.m.	Great Moments in Music	Columbia
Thursday:	8:00 p.m.	Kraft Music Hall	N. B. C.
Friday:	7:00 p.m.	Cities Service Concert	N. B. C.
Saturday:	2:00 p.m.	Metropolitan Opera	N. B. C.
	2:30 p.m.	Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra	Columbia
	7:30 p.m.	Boston Pop Orchestra	Blue Network

### Junior Historian Puts Houston in Its Place

Maybe you think the original city of Houston was that metropolis now booming on the Gulf Coast.

You're wrong, according to a Texas schoolboy historian, writing in the *Junior Historian*, published at The University of Texas for the Texas State Historical Association.

The original town of Houston, writes Jimmy Valentine of Palestine, grew up in 1836 around the original old Fort Sam Houston, about two miles west of the present city of Palestine. (Houston-on-the-Gulf was established with the purchase of land for a townsite August 26, 1836, according to the *Houston City Directory*.)

"It is never mentioned in the published texts of Texas history that there were two towns started with the name of Houston—the first passing out of the picture entirely and the other rising to be the largest city in Texas," young Valentine pointed out.

"Today there is not a trace of the old fort or of Anderson County's town of Houston," he added, "though a stone marker erected in 1936 commemorates its site."

### Tentative List for '45 Basketball About Ready

The State Office will release on October 15 the tentative list of basketball schools for the 1944-45 season. This tentative list with an acceptance card will be mailed to all schools that participated last season and to other schools that have stated they intend to take part this year.

If you are not certain that your school is on the basketball list, write for confirmation. The responsibility for enrolling is with the school and not the State Office. Through the LEAGUER and circular letters every effort is made to inform schools of the closing date for acceptance of the basketball plan.

Before a school can be officially assigned to a Conference there are certain requirements that must be met, namely:

1. An acceptance of the basketball plan must be on file in the State Office by November 15.
2. Last year's Eligibility Blank must be on file.
3. Last year's Season Report must be on file.
4. A school must be a member of a district and have been given a schedule.

## Chatty Letter From Soldier "Somewhere in the Pacific"

### Interest Keen in Football, Chess, Victory Gardens, and World Politics

"HIGH SCHOOL football," writes Pvt. Robert O. Hensley, "from somewhere in the Pacific, addressing R. J. Kidd, Athletic Director, 'has always been an interesting thing to me. I think the Interscholastic League is a great institution and I am just as interested in watching the state champion develop as I am in watching the major leagues play to the world series and a baseball championship.'"

"My only trouble has been in obtaining football scores each week. Texas papers seem to print complete scores only in their particular section of the State. I hope you a successful year in 1944-45 and many more to follow. I realize though, that the wartime short-

ages must be a hard obstacle for you to overcome and that you are doing so; should win for you a position among men who are building America today.

#### Likes Chess, Too

"In the March issue of the INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUER, I read an article by Mr. James A. Creighton of the history department in the Corpus Christi High School, which stated his arguments for chess as an Interscholastic League Contest subject. I have learned something about the game from an Austrian and a Swede since coming over seas, and I cannot help but agree with Mr. Creighton about the high educational value of chess. It is not a simple game at all. It is complicated but a teacher can familiarize one with it so that after practice it becomes easily understandable to anyone.

"It develops the mind because there are not one, but many ways in which to accomplish each objective. Some of these ways are better than others and require thought and planning.

#### An International Game

"Truly, chess is the international game. It is a written and spoken

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## Players' Safety First Importance

### School Has Obligation Here That May be Overlooked in Scramble for Profit

(By R. J. Kidd, Athletic Director)

WITH the opening of the 25th football season we are concerned about the health and safety of the players. The armed forces have publicly recognized the value of interscholastic athletics as a physical and mental conditioning program for young men.

Physical fitness is the theme of the hour. The army and navy through the screen and radio have publicized the excellent physical stamina of our troops and the fine medical care at their disposal.

What are we doing about this all-important problem of medical supervision in our schools and in the pre-induction program of our young men? Suppose the Army and Navy placed our boys in the battle without proper physical conditioning and medical examination? Some of our schools are doing that very thing in their high-school athletic programs. They are placing the boy in hard, rugged athletic training and competition without previous examination to determine his fitness to engage in such a program.

There are a few obligations that the school and community owes to the boy if he is to be permitted to represent the local high-school team at a public performance for which an admission charge is made.

#### School's Obligation

The school and community should provide a dental and medical examination for every boy that is allowed to represent the school in a physical activity in which there are personal hazards. The

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## Abilene Entry Wins Journalism Contest



Sara Bedford, Abilene High School

SARAH BEDFORD, of Abilene, took first place in the 1944 Journalism State Meet by turning in the highest score in Reporting and In Copy Reading, and second highest in editorial writing.

She has been editor of the Abilene High School paper, D. A. R. representative, and has been active throughout her high-school career in student activities. She was graduated from high school last May being third from the top in scholarship in a class of 265. She is 16 years of age, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Bedford, 409 Jeanette, Abilene, Texas.

Powdered sabadilla seed (*Schoenocaulon officinale*) has now been used as an insecticide. War has cut off supply of many other insect poisons but there are three species of this genus growing in Texas as weeds, which promise to replenish our war-restricted supplies. Moreover, the product of these species promise to become effective as a spray, a quality the South American and Mexican species do not seem to have.

## Minutes of the 34th Annual State Meeting of Delegates

(By Supt. R. L. Williams, Lockhart, Secretary)

THE UNIVERSITY Interscholastic League met in its thirty-fourth annual session at breakfast in the Driskill Hotel, Friday morning, May 5, 1944. Sixty school representatives were in attendance in addition to a number of visitors.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman T. H. Shelby. The Invocation was by Principal R. B. Sparks of Robert E. Lee High School, Goose Creek.

Dr. J. G. Umstadt of The University of Texas briefly reviewed the development and purposes of the Texas Study. He stated that thirty-four junior and senior high schools were participating in the Study during the 1943-44 school year and that twenty-two colleges were supplying consultation to these various schools.

Composite Ballot Reported: Roy Bedichek, Director of the League, announced the result of the six ballots recently submitted to public schools and returned as follows:

Ballot I, Rule 30: to remain the same by a vote of 220-115.

Ballot II: concerning awards, carried by a vote of 243-174.

Ballot III: concerning the twelve credits at the beginning of the seventh semester was voted down by a vote of 259-171.

Ballot IV: concerning the nine-game schedule was voted down 216-119.

Ballot V: concerning part-time coaches, carried by a vote of 220-126 in Conference A and B; lost 50 to 33 in Conference AA.

Ballot VI: concerning the transfer rules was voted down 238-137.

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## Chess Match at 1944 State Meet

### Several High School Players Decide an Unofficial Championship

(By James A. Creighton, Corpus Christi High School)

While chess is not a scheduled contest in any Interscholastic League Meet, a group of enthusiastic high-school chess-players assembled at the last State Meet of the League and held an impromptu tournament. — Editor's note.

AT THE UNION Building, Thursday, May 3, on the University Campus, amid all the environment of dignity and culture which one associates with the birth of chess, the royal orphan was permitted to tarry awhile and to hold court. There was no gate; no cheering squad; no officials; not even the familiar jockeying of contestants as to place and/or position or even the interpretation of some obscure phrase in a rule book. There was nothing in any

(Continued on p. 3, col. 5)

## Association Adopts Plan For Rating Game Officials

FOR SEVERAL years the League has been actively co-operating with the Southwest Officials Association in an effort to improve the officiating in the high-school games. The League has been urging the schools to use only those men as game officials who are members of the Officials Association, for the reason that these men have taken special training to equip themselves for the job.

In many instances the good or bad athletic relationship that exists between two schools or communities is based on how well the inter-school games have been conducted.

#### Rating Cards

This year the Southwest Officials Association has furnished the

## Grade Schools Hold Fine Meet

### Directors Estimate 50% to 75% of All Pupils in the Schools Participate

SHALLOWATER held the most successful Grade School Meet in the State last spring, so far as the reports to the State Office indicate. Abernathy, New Deal, Cooper and Frenship were among those participating. The local newspapers gave full write-ups, listing all winners and describing in detail the various competitions. New Deal won the all-round championship of the tri-county meet, while Abernathy took top honors in athletics.

B. T. Rucker, superintendent of the Shallowater Public Schools, furnishes the LEAGUER the following brief account of this meet:

#### 75 Per Cent Participation

"In checking up I found that over 75 per cent of my grade school pupils participated in some event during the tryouts and the conference combined, and some of the other superintendents stated that from 50 to 75 per cent of their pupils did also. This would seem to indicate that we have reached the greater portion of our pupils in this program, which is a very important part of our wartime school work.

"We furnished meals at a reasonable price and secured judges out of Lubbock. We also gave ribbons to the contestants without any expense whatever to the visiting schools. Maybe we should add that there was absolutely no fussing on the part of anyone, which is unusual. We set up an organization that functioned smoothly and the meet run itself off."

#### Directors

A list of the directors follow: Declamation, Miss Elleine Woodward, Shallowater; Story-Telling, Mrs. Grace Daniel, Shallowater; Choral Singing, Miss Etta Robinson, New Deal; Spelling, Mrs. Ruby Pender and Mrs. John Harrel Abernathy; Ready Writers, E. E. Pierce, Cooper; Number Sense, J. M. Bennett, Frenship; Tennis, W. K. Roberts, Shallowater; Volleyball, A. L. Penuel, New Deal; Track and Field, Dalton James, New Deal; Playground Ball, Kermit Mitchell, Abernathy.

Copy of special debate issue of Congressional Digest, containing 41 pages of tip-top discussion of "Voting Age," is available for debaters at League State Office, 25c per copy.

"We are digging around," he continues, "in the background history now and have uncovered some stuff on how, in biblical days, Isaac set the precedent for emancipating his sons Esau and Jacob at the age of 40; how, under the Jewish economy, the age of majority was fixed at 25; and how, during the Middle Ages, the majority was fixed at 21.

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## Visual Aids; News & Guide

(By D. W. McCavick, Director)

A LIVELY two-day forum on visual education attracting 196 individuals from Arkansas, California, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York, and Texas, was held at The University of Texas August 21-22, under the joint sponsorship of the School of Education, Division of Extension, and Zone IX, Department of Visual Instruction of the National Education Association.

#### Out-of-State Speakers

Out-of-State speakers on the program included: Alfred L. Hall-Quest, Professor of Education, Division of General Education, New York University; Mrs. Mary E. Windle, Consultant, Encyclopedia Britannica Films, Inc., Chicago; H. S. McLeod, Film Officer, British Information Services, New Orleans; and C. R. Crakes, Educational Consultant, De Vry Corporation-Visual Education Teacher, Northwestern University, Chicago.

The topics for discussion were administration of visual programs, visualizing the modern school curriculum, contribution of visual aids to inter-group understanding, teacher preparation for visual instruction and visual aids in the post-war period.

Mrs. Mary E. Windle demonstrated the use of the sound motion picture at the elementary level, using a group of students from the university high school. The proceedings of this Forum are to be published and will be available about October 1st.

#### Films

Over two hundred new films have been added to our film library. Sixty of these are Encyclopedia Britannica Films. A

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## Debate Question One of the Best

### Famous Speech Teachers Tell Why 1944-45 Query Arouses Enthusiasm

"MY FIRST reacting to the choice of topic was one of disappointment, but it is so no more. My preliminary investigation leads me to believe that it is going to produce some very fine debates. There are more interesting angles to this topic than I ever suspected."

So writes Dr. Hugo Hellman, Director of the School of Speech, Marquette University.

"We are digging around," he continues, "in the background history now and have uncovered some stuff on how, in biblical days, Isaac set the precedent for emancipating his sons Esau and Jacob at the age of 40; how, under the Jewish economy, the age of majority was fixed at 25; and how, during the Middle Ages, the majority was fixed at 21.

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#### Advisory Council Vacancies

The terms of members of the Legislative Advisory Council which expire September 1, 1944, follow:

- Region 1-A: J. W. Reid, Dumas.
- Region 2-B: W. T. Graves, Coleman.
- Region 3-B: Ivan Stone, Weatherford.
- Region 4-AA: La Rue Cox, Jacksonville.
- Region 5-A: V. W. Miller, Dayton.
- Region 6-AA: H. A. Moore, Kerrville.
- Region 7-A: J. W. Roach, Alice.
- Region 8-A: B. F. Meek, Kermit.

In Region 5, Conference AA, there is a vacancy, due to the resignation of T. Q. Srygley, of Port Arthur.

## Texas High School Coaches Association--News and Notes



Associated Press Photo COACHES IN HUDDLE

These Texas coaches got together for a bull session at the Texas High-School Coaching School at Wichita Falls Aug. 8. Left to right (background) are Pat Gerald, Vernon; Watty Myers, Lufkin; Jewell Wallace, San Angelo, and Les Cranfill, Temple. Seated in center is Harry Stiteler, Waco.

Howard Lynch, Amarillo, President; Bobby Cannon, Edinburg, Vice-President; Bill Carmichael, Executive Secretary; and W. C. O. Harris, 3001 Cockrell, Fort Worth 4, Correspondent.

(By W. C. O. Harris, 3001 Cockrell St., Ft. Worth, Texas)

THE 1944 convention held at Wichita Falls, August 7-11 was the largest in the history of the organization. The large attendance was an unexpected development, thus facilities of the hotels and cafes in Wichita Falls were taxed throughout the week. The Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce headed by Perry Davis,

President, and Dick Knight, Secretary, performed a thorough job of promotion for the school and all-star game. Paul Montgomery, Manager of the Holt Hotel, secured quarters for the multitude of visitors who came to the school. The fine co-operation of the Wichita Falls Public Schools had much to do with the facility with which the school moved. Thurman Jones, Coach; Joe McNeil, Business Manager; and O. T. Freeman, Assistant Principal, were unsparing with their time, and it was due largely to their untiring efforts that the school was a success.

E. E. Seannell, Director of the Oil Bowl Shrine Benefit Game for the past several years prepared the

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ROY BEDICHEK, Editor

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Vol. XXVIII SEPTEMBER, 1944 No. 1

**THE DATE-LINE** of this column contains to the left the Roman numerals "XXVIII," which means that this issue of the LEAGUER begins its 28th year. Vol I, No. 1, is dated October, 1917. The first issue came off the press near the close of World War I, and we fervently hope that this issue is much nearer the close of World War II. The boys who were winning track meets and debating tournaments in the League in 1917 are now middle-aged men and many of their sons and daughters are now participating in League contests. Soon the grandchildren of the first tribe of Leaguers will be coming along. Of course, the League as an organization was functioning seven years before the LEAGUER was born, having been organized at the State Teachers Association meeting in Abilene in 1910. Thus this school organization has been going along for more than a third of a century.

**ATTENTION** is called to Article IV, Section 7, of the Constitution and Rules, which provides for the election and duties of the State Legislative Advisory Council. Eight vacancies occur on this council and notification has been sent to school-members in conferences and regions where these vacancies occur. Schools should seek to nominate and elect the men most interested in promoting the League work among schools. Men whose schools are not actively engaged in League activities are not acquainted with the most pressing problems in this field and should not be nominated.

It is through the Legislative Advisory Council that schools may initiate needed legislation and recommend changes in the rules. Your council-member is your conference and regional representative. Without a good representative a conference or a region has no voice in setting up new policies and recommendations. If schools are not satisfied with the present eligibility rules they should contact their regional representative immediately and get their views recorded. The council will have the annual meeting during the early part of November. Present vacancies are listed in another column of this issue.

**FORMULATION** of aims is always an interesting and sometimes a helpful activity. Sometimes the statement takes the form of a "credo," or a series of paragraphs each beginning with the phrase, "we believe." Recently the secondary school principals of Baltimore, Md., announced the following credo:

1. We believe in democracy in education which implies that education should offer to every pupil an equal opportunity to develop to the limit of his ability and to acquire those characteristics which will make him a happy and useful citizen.
2. We believe that secondary education should aim to train students to do better the things they will do in after-life and stimulate in them a desire to do better things.
3. We believe that the development of ethical character is an important aim of secondary education.
4. We believe that one of the cardinal principles of secondary education is the inculcation in every pupil of the desires and habits needed for the development of a clean mind in a strong body.
5. We believe that secondary education should develop those interests that lead to the worthy use of leisure time.

**CURRENT NEWS** and current problems are the basis of the Extemporaneous Speech Contests in the League for the 1944-45 school year. A new world is being created. The day to day news is so breathtaking and accompanying problems are so vast that only the most energetic, intelligent and organized research can keep pace with them. To assist the current events teacher in her problems of directing this research the Extemporaneous Speech contest is articulated with the most approved plans followed in this field. To help search the wide field of newspaper and magazine literature for significant information and developments, the Extension Loan Library research workers are assembling packages from the best informed sources, which are made available to the school library for period of two weeks at merely the cost of postage. If there is no library, the packages are supplied to the school superintendent or principal or to the member of the school faculty who has charge of the Extemporaneous Speech work, or current problems study. The League is supplying additional incentive by supplying the plans for competition, either inside the school or on an interscholastic basis. This year for the first time, there are scholarships in several institutions of higher learning provided for winners in Extemporaneous Speech. Details of these awards will be found in Appendix V of the Constitution and Rules, current issue, Bulletin No. 4427.

**"Realistic" Statesmanship**  
SOON we shall hear much favoring of the sort of statesmanship which is termed "realistic." We heard much said in defense of expediency, even cleverness, when Mussolini invaded Ethiopia. France, marching on democratic Spain and, finding it politically advisable, the hardheaded men of the world stood by and lost the world. China was raped and these political realists winked. Idealism

would have been more practical. A measure of courage. But cynicism supports no courage. Some small faith in decency at least. A very qualified expression of men's responsibility to each other. These are such stuff as dreams are made on. But they would have saved the world from bankruptcy and spared some twenty million lives.—Orson Welles, "Moral Indebtedness," from Free World, October, 1943, pp. 375-376.

## Quote & Comment

By the Editor

**TO KEEP** our freedom, we have to learn to estimate the long-range effects of short-range behaviors.—Mrs. Bonaro W. Overstreet.

We must judge our own actions by thinking of what kind of society we would have if everyone else behaved as we do.

In short, dear reader, you can't go very far in any ethical discussion without running jam into Kant's categorical imperative, which is stated, you remember, in Abbott's translation, as follows: "Act only on that maxim whereby thou canst at the same time will that it should become a universal law."

Now apply that any time, anywhere, to any kind of action, and you have some basis for judging whether or not the action is moral. Take a very touchy subject: Buying gas in the black market. Dost thou will that it become a universal law to so buy gas? If thou dost so will, thou certainly wilt that this country be defeated in the present war, that fascism triumph over democracy, that thou and thy children become the peons of a foreign power. But, you say, everybody went buy gas in the black market. Quite true. There is a certain per cent (some say as high as ninety per cent) of folks who are moral. So you, of the ten per cent immoral, wish to ride the 90 per cent through to victory, do you? Oh, what a noble resolution!

Kant is unpopular largely because he makes us feel so uncomfortable.



**Education Through Recreation.** By L. P. Jacks, New York and London. Harper & Brothers.

**THIS** book which is in its third edition cuts squarely across some concepts of education which have been and still are current in many high places. The keynote of the book is "Let us have more joy in life."

The author takes the position that "the art of living is one and indivisible" and that life is "whole" and cannot be divided into compartments. "Man the worker and man the player are not two men" of the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde type.

### Evil of Enforced Leisure

The first chapter on *Education Through Recreation* is followed by Chapter II on Leadership in Recreation in which the importance of properly conducted recreational activities in a changing era of increasing leisure time is brought into bold relief. He says in part: "The evils of enforced labor—the labor of slaves—we all know. But the evils of enforced leisure, which leaves the masses of the people at loose ends and with nothing worth while to do are almost as bad and might be defined as a new form of slavery—slavery of those who lead them by the nose." The author says industrial leadership and leisure leadership are intimately connected and ideally should be united in the same person: Thus he ties the job and leisure activities together and makes each contribute to the other and this he maintains brings about complete harmony in the individual.

In the chapter on a New Adventure in Education he describes the transformation of a crowd at a Toronto, Canada, recreation meeting into a joyous happy community by having them engage in "folk games." He makes the pertinent observation that on the play side of life "lies an opportunity for building up that higher and nobler humanity which the old system of education concentrated on the book gives little promise of achieving."

### Community Responsibility

Upon the community, the author places directly the responsibility of developing and supporting a recreation program. He attributes many of the community social problems to a lack of such a well-formulated program. He makes the point that a "wide circling movement" on these problems is often preferable to a frontal attack. We cannot correct the evils of the night club or the road house or the automobile by attacking these evils directly, but by substitution an activity of a wholesome and educational sort that has a stronger appeal than do these things.

In the author's words: "The greatest service that education can render to any human being, child or adult, is to lead him to the discovery of his own powers." "He (man) works best when he is working with others, plays

**TEACHERS** have a preferred credit standing with us, says a circular letter mailed to the teachers of one of the larger school systems of Texas, soliciting the loan business for a bank. "Many teachers," the circular continues, "have a real problem when fall school season begins." (How well we know!) "There are summer bills to pay, new fall clothes to buy, repairs to be made on the car . . . and many other fall expenses to meet. Also, personal funds are often needed until fall income comes more. Our personal loan department gives members of the teaching profession especially prompt action. We do not contact school authorities, nor do we make any annoying inquiries of friends or relatives. Your loan is a private business transaction."

Is there any other set of public professional employees (except teachers) who, generally, are so chronically hard-up that the banks and credit associations make a special class of them? We doubt it! Every year, three months without pay, during which the teacher is often required to spend money in summer school to hold her job at all, reduces the teachers to borrowing from Peter (the bank) to pay Paul (the grocer). No wonder teachers are leaving the profession in droves. And they will continue to leave a profession which offers merely subsistence pay for only nine months in the year.

best when he plays against other players, and should be thought of as playing with him, since without an antagonist there is no game at all. Man needs an antagonist both for work and for play; and his antagonist is often his best friend."

### "Rhythmic Companionship"

In his effort to depict the community spirit, the author asks us to note the phrase "rhythmic human companionship." He proposes to outflank the mind, which is the most prominent element in our makeup by "getting around the body." He thinks the body should be brought into the "educational net, and not leave it, as heretofore, to hygienists and athletic trainers." "I would develop it (the body) as the creative instrument nature intended it to be on the lines of 'rhythmic human companionship.'" He would have adult education take that direction. "The education of the whole man, as an inseparable unity of mind and body, created for 'rhythmic human companionship,' and finding his highest jobs in the beautiful art of co-operation—I give you that as a summary for adult education."

### Organize on Three Levels

The author advocates a National College of Recreational Culture organized on three levels, viz., primary or elementary, secondary or intermediate, and higher or final. By primary recreation he reverts to the Greek ideal that physical culture is "the art of bringing the whole body under control of the intelligence, so as to place it at the life-long disposal of the will in the normal activities of life." His secondary stage would usher in the playground with multitudinous games suited to the interests and needs of all in friendly but significant competition. "The Higher Recreation is art, from its simplest form in the manual craft or hobby, to the finest work of musician, painter, sculptor, and architect." "Those who spend their leisure in the Higher Recreation will find that deeper meaning in recreation which is suggested—by pronouncing the work re-creation."

T. H. SHELBLY.

**You and Your Congress.** By Volta Torrey. Published by William Morrow. 271 pages, \$3.00.

In this volume as a practicing political journalist, he has set down a lot of things he has observed about Congress and the politicians who run it. He has a strong feeling that some of the things about our government are wrong, and he points out that it lies in the power of you and me as individual voters to right them.

Mr. Torrey's book is not a definitive book on Congress, it is not even conspicuous for the quality of organized thought that went into writing it. It is rather a newspaper man rich in political observation spilling this observation out on the pages—an observation that has gradually crystallized into the feeling that certain broad principles of procedure are necessary in our land for democracy to bear its richest fruit for the American people, and that in some striking instances, we as voters are letting ourselves be cheated. You may not agree with everything Mr. Torrey says, but we do not believe you

can read You and Your Congress without loving America a little more wisely, a little more thoughtfully.

### Striking Inequality

Most striking of the abuses he points out is the inequality of apportionment that exists between the votes we cast and the representation we get in Congress—even in our national parties for that matter.

With the two-party conventions just ahead of us, these words of Mr. Torrey should give you cause for thought:

"In the national committees of both major parties, each state or territory is represented by one committeeman and one committeewoman. Thus the 500,000 people of Arizona have as much representation as the 7,000,000 of California. The District of Columbia, whose people cannot vote in national elections, has as many votes in each committee as Pennsylvania. Alaska matters as much as Michigan; Puerto Rico is as powerful as Massachusetts. A Southern state that could hold its Republican state convention in a phone booth is as well represented in the Republican national committee as a Northern State where Republicans fill all the court-houses."

That is party representation. In our actual elections the same strange variations are found. In the same campaign year, for instance, Representative Eugene Cox of Georgia retained his seat by winning an election in which only 3,794 votes were cast, while Representative Winifred Stanley occupying the seat just across from him in Congress needed nearly two million votes to win her place. Just what this means in increased power for the congressman from the smaller district, Mr. Torrey explains in detail.

Also he points out the inefficient and impractical way many states have today of qualifying voters. And his plea is for a method of procedure that would increase the number of people allowed to vote, who should have that right.

So simple a thing as the hours the polls stay open also needs some stiff reforming if we are to let many people who should vote have the chance to get to the polls under the conditions in which they live and work.

Of course, a good many of the abuses Mr. Torrey points out the politicians themselves do not want changed, for the present unequal system gives them an arbitrary power which they would lose in a fairer democratic scheme. The area of political districts in many cases is carved to suit the convenience of the political bosses rather than on lines of logic. On one occasion when this matter came up the New York Times pointed out that "notches had been put in one district so as to include political club houses and the homes of political leaders in the districts where they preferred."

### Why 21?

Did you ever wonder why the age of 21 was chosen as the legal voting age? Mr. Torrey suggests an earlier age would be fairer to a large portion of the intelligent population (though at present Georgia is the only state which has a legal voting age of 18) and then puts forward this remarkable explanation of 21 which he takes from Professor Theodore W. Cousins of Lafayette College: "Blackstone is probably incorrect when he assumes the 21-year requirement to be entirely without reason. It had a reason, but not one of the kind that Blackstone delighted to show. It was not such as could be defended by the quintessence of soundness to the dry logical mind of the eighteenth century." And the reason Professor Cousins puts forward was that people thought 21 was a lucky number. It was customary in medieval times to take a round number and add one, just for luck, when setting a figure in a business deal. It is the round-number-plus-one superstition which the professor feels accounts for the voting age having become 21.

You and Your Congress discusses such subjects as representation in parties, filibusters, the Senate's attitude toward foreign treaties, the struggle between state and federal power, and the public servant in his relation to local representation and international policy. The author writes informally and chooses his illustrative incidents from actual cases that have come under his observation. Of four members of Congress, Frederick C. Smith, Dewey Short, Harold Knutson and Hamilton Fish he writes in detail, submitting rather as case histories.

The author's plea is for an increased participation on the part of the people in politics, to lower the voting age and to clear away the barriers that make it needlessly difficult to enter the voting booth.—John William Rogers, Book Editor, *The Times-Herald*, Dallas.

Pacifism gives rise to passivism.—Lewis Mumford.



**WITH** the demands of war still reducing the ranks of journalism teachers in Texas and making more difficult the securing of materials for the school paper, the I. L. P. C. this fall begins its sixteenth year.

In such times of need we hope that the facilities of the I.L.P.C. will be of even greater help to editors and advisers than in past years. We will continue the I.L.P.C. critical service and will issue at least one detailed criticism of each member paper this fall, if it is requested. In addition we have two pamphlets in preparation concerning current problems and will issue these before Christmas.

If your paper is to be enrolled in the I.L.P.C. this year, please send a note at once to the Interscholastic League office and we will send you an enrollment blank. Every paper published in a high school affiliated with the Interscholastic League may be enrolled free of charge.

### Improvement Needed

In what ways may Texas high-school papers improve over last year? Generalizations are dangerous because they cannot be applied to all papers; yet I would like to venture a few. They may not fit your paper—you be the judge.

1. One of the weak spots in last year's high-school papers lay in the editorials. Two or three years ago many school papers had aroused considerable reader interest in editorials through well-chosen subjects and vividly written editorials. By and large, editorials last year lacked the vigor and freshness of those of previous years, and some papers had discontinued editorials altogether. For one of your New Year's resolutions, we urge you to declare: "We shall develop a strong editorial page this year." Editorials constitute the mouthpiece of the newspaper. They are important to the paper. Don't neglect them.

2. A second weak spot—news story leads. Test your news stories to see if they contain all of the five W's plus a sparkle that comes with a recognition of the unusual elements and the human interest elements of your story. Study a good journalism textbook on "getting the feature into the lead."

### Trim Those Pictures

3. "Untrimmed" pictures. Most common weakness in pictures that appeared in high-school papers last year was waste space. By count of the pictures printed in twenty-three high-school papers, we found that approximately one-third were in need of "trimming." Trimming eliminates the waste space around the central objects in a picture and permits those central objects thereby to become enlarged and clearer. Check your pictures this year and trim the ones that can be trimmed.

4. Inadequate news coverage. Many school papers last year printed only ten to fifteen news stories in an issue. Even a small school should produce more stories than this in a two-week period between papers; and large schools cannot be covered adequately with such a small number of stories. Strive for twenty or twenty-five news stories at least in each issue of your paper if your school has more than 1,000 students. Make them short, if necessary, to crowd stories of many activities into the paper.

### Away They Go

Personal Items: By second-hand information we have learned that—

Miss Hazel Bechtoldt, for many years journalism teacher at Port Arthur High School, has accepted a position in Little Rock, Ark., High School.

Miss Otsie V. Betts, journalism teacher at North Side High, Fort Worth, has joined one of the women's military services.

Miss Gussie Burnett, journalism teacher at Waco High, attended The University of Texas this summer to take some additional journalism courses.

Mrs. Katherine Norman has been appointed journalism teacher at Austin High School to take the place vacated by the resignation of Mrs. Marvin Montgomery.

What idea used in your paper last year aroused the most reader comment? High School Press welcomes contributions; and we should like to have especially suggestions of good ideas that have benefited your paper and that might be used to help other papers. Send in your contributions.

Copy of special debate issue of Congressional Digest, containing 41 pages of tip-top discussion of "Voting Age," is available for debaters at League State Office, 25c per copy.

## Now the Famous Dance Marathons Are Debunked

**BESIDES** promoting "bunions derbies," C. C. Pyle was America's No. 1 impresario of the dance marathon—that insane mixture of human-endurance agony, glory and customer appeal that hit the country in the 20's.

"The dance went on for weeks, you'll recall," writes John P. Lewis, "until the final staggering couple still left on the floor dragged off the generous prizes hung up for the winner by Pyle."

Introducing a character whom he calls Sgt. Pepsi, bus-driver for Pyle, Mr. Lewis proceeds to debunk the dance marathon:

"Sgt. Pepsi opened up today with a brief and succinct explanation of Pyle's fabulous success in the dance marathons.

"He had three sets of twins," Sgt. Pepsi said. "At the rest hours each night they'd switch. One was always sleeping while the other was dancing. They'd win back the prize money, and we'd go on to a new town."

### The Magic Valley

**WE WERE** driving along a road in southern Texas.

For a long time we had been going up and down over arid land full of flat rocks where cattle grazed in the dust between feathery bright green mesquite bushes and flat-leaved thorny desert plants.

The road broke through a dense thicket of trees and crossed an irrigation ditch full of abundant muddy water. We were out on a broad irrigated plain of bright-colored fields. On a rise of land in the middle of it stood a white five-story building that looked like a Florida hotel. A drive curved in toward it past a vivid green lawn that had a fine spray playing on it from a hose. There was no sign on the building so we went into the office to find out what it was.

### Clubhouse for 'Homesuckers'

In the office they told us the story. This had been a clubhouse run by a land company during the days of the great boom in irrigated valley land in this section. Investors from Chicago and Omaha and Kansas City would be brought down here by the real estate agents to visit citrus groves. The company would put them up in the clubhouse, fill them full of food and drink and illusions of retiring to spend their declining years among orange groves and murmuring waters, and sell them citrus land at two thousand dollars an acre. There was a parasitism scheme by which the company operated the groves for a small commission and sold the product. So all the homesucker had to do was to sit there in his twenty-five-thousand-dollar home, through an eternal balmy afternoon, and let the grapefruit drop into his lap and the dollars flow gently into his bank. The agents never let the prospective buyers get out of their sight. They were doctors, dentists, lawyers, and aging professional people mostly. Once they got them in the clubhouse they never had a chance. The local inhabitants, who were never allowed to speak to them, jeeringly called them homesuckers.

### Real Wealth Remained

That boom collapsed in 1933. The homesuckers couldn't complete their payments and lost their equity, the land companies went broke, the banks went broke. What remained was the real wealth of the country: the roads, the land, the citrus groves, the irrigation ditches, and the frugal, amenable Mexican day-laborers. Since then this particular clubhouse had been in the hands of mortgage holders, bankers, and insurance companies, and now Farm Security had bought it with its attendant twenty thousand acres, to use as a resettlement center for small farmers driven off the land.

An elderly man six feet tall and more under his dusty broad-brimmed hat, who stood very straight in his rancher's boots, showed us around the place. He came from the panhandle of Texas and had been ranching and farming all his life. "There are two things you can do," he said: "you can sell land or you can build up the country. They used this place to sell land in the worst way . . . now we are tryin' to use it to build up the country."

### "Don't Ever Argue With 'em"

He showed us his various varieties of papaya trees, his fields contoured-plowed into strips where he was trying out rye and barley and hot-weather legumes. "The rows ain't straight, see?" he said. "The aim of contour plowin' is to make runnin' water walk. . . . I have a tough time gettin' some of these fellers to try it. In ear

breaks their hearts not to be able to make straight rows . . . I never argue with 'em. I just tell 'em to go ahead and do it their own way. One feller I did ask if he was farmin' for straight rows or if he was farmin' for crops." We were standing in front of a magnificent stand of pale-blue flowering flax that stretched waving in the wind as far as you could see across the flat land. "I brought that seed down from the Dakotas . . . I never argue with anybody," he said. "I just try things out an' let 'em see how they work. When we used to have all the room in the world in this country it didn't matter what any one man did. He could go off on the range an' get drunk an' do any fool thing an' be as free as he liked in his own way. There was still plenty of room. It was devil take the hindmost. Now what I try to tell people is that we can't be free that way any more in this country. We've got to learn to co-operate. . . . In farmin' like in everything else. But don't never argue with 'em, I say. Just find a chance to try it out and let 'em see the results, in yield to the acre."—John Dos Passos, "The People at War," Harper's Magazine, June, 1943.

## DEBATE FORUM

By Edd Miller

**I**N THE last half of the last century a young man was making himself widely known throughout the Mid-western portion of the United States. His great ability as a speaker, often demonstrated in local, state, and interstate debate and oratorical contests, gave him a reputation as a promising young leader of the country.

And when William Jennings Bryan later entered politics, his enormous following of people of all ages and classes could be pretty largely attributed to his experience as a competitor in interscholastic forensic events. But Bryan was no exception. The list of great names in American statesmanship includes a very large proportion of excellent speakers whose training was received in interschool competitions. History would seem to indicate that one of the best proving grounds for statesman participation in debate.

### Time to Think

Today, times are very troubled. Intelligent understanding of the tremendous problems that confront the American people is vital. Probably at no time in our history have we needed so desperately people who can think clearly and express themselves clearly on matters of public concern. It seems to me to be a higher sort of patriotism—more lasting and more vital—to be able to aid in the effective guidance of our nation, than any other patriotic activity. Each of us should strive to perfect himself for the task of assuming full civic responsibilities, today and in the days that lie ahead.

There is no place in school or in life where one can get more effective civic training than in debating. For it is only in debating that we learn the dual arts of thinking and speaking clearly, directly, and to the point. It makes little difference about what the future may hold in store for you. Whether you intend to enter politics professionally or not, debate experience is invaluable. Just in conducting the ordinary routine affairs of civilization in a democracy, we need citizens who are trained in thinking and speaking.

### Makes Better Citizens

Make a resolution this year that you will concentrate on developing yourself as a better citizen. If you make such a resolution and begin hunting for means of putting it into operation, you'll find no better method than debating. Remember this, it doesn't take a high-powered coach of debate (although that might help), it doesn't take debaters with years of experience behind them, it doesn't take students who understand thoroughly the theory of debate, to make debating possible in your school. All it really takes is the desire to improve yourself, your school, and most important, your nation. This year, Texas debaters will be discussing the 18-year-old vote question. All of you are near enough 18 years old to be vitally concerned with the outcome of the question. If you are nearly old enough to vote, don't you think you are old enough to prepare yourself for the responsibility of being an active member of a democracy? Now is your chance to debate on a question of immediate concern to you and to develop, at the same time, powers and abilities that will prove to be a life-long asset. Begin a debating club in your school this week—for your own sake and for the future of America.



DURING the summer we have received several shipments of new plays from the publishing companies. Below we have listed these plays under the names of the publishers and the number of acts. "R" indicates that a royalty is required for the production of a play, and "NR," no royalty. The Drama Loan Service will be glad to lend any of these plays for a period of one week to any responsible adult in the State. Only ten plays may be borrowed at one time, however. Most of these plays will be reviewed in this column at an early date.

BAKER One-Acts Couple of Ghosts, A NR Emmy NR Pioneers R Station YYYYY R Travelers, The R

DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE Three-Acts Knickerbocker Holiday R Only An Orphan Girl R Wallflower R

FRENCH Three-Acts Beware of Murder R Busy as a Beaver NR Cry Havoc R Curse of an Aching Heart, The R Janie R Keep It Under Your Hat NR Lillian R Listen, Professor! R Murder in a Nunnery R Murder without Crime R Once There Was a Princess NR Oscar's Other Half NR Outrageous Fortune R Sally Sallies Forth NR Those Endearing Young Charms R Three's a Family R Young Man of Today R

ROW-PETERSON Three-Acts Accidents Will Happen R Bogeyman R Days Without Daddy R Do Re Mi R Judy Pulls the Curtain NR Man from Missouri, The NR Sunrise by Request R Touch and Go R

One-Acts Did You Say Mink? NR Go Ye To Bethlehem NR Hattie NR Pure Gravy NR Shakespeare Streamlined NR Skin Deep R Sob Stuff NR Sunday's Child R Tell Dorie Not to Cry R Westward from Eden NR Wooden Soldiers NR

Contest Plays Added A number of new plays have been added to this year's Prescribed List of One-act Plays for Contest Use. Some older titles have also been returned to the list after having been removed for various reasons during the past few years. For your convenience we have listed below both old and new titles that have been added. Our Prescribed List of One-act Plays for 1944 will be ready for distribution about September 15, and we shall be happy to send you a copy free upon request.

Baker Emmy, 2m3w, NR. John Doe, 6m1w, R. One Who Came to Gettysburg, 4m2w, R. Open Door, The, 3m2w, R. Pioneers, 3m2w, R. This Night Shall Pass, 2m1w, NR. Trysting Place, The, 4m3w, R. Woman in the Freight Car, 4w, R. Women Who Wait, 6w, R.

French Bayou Harlequinade, 2m1w, R. Eternal Life, 3m3w, R. Fifteenth Candle, The, 2m3w, R. Finders Keepers, 1m2w, R. First Dress Suit, The, 2m2w, R.

Hero-Worship, 2m2w, R. Jubie, 2m4w, R. Life With Mother, 4w, R. Man in the Bowler Hat, 4m2w, R. Perfect Gentleman, The, 2m3w, R. Spreading the News, 7m3w, R. Teapot on the Rocks, 3m3w, R. Thompsons, The, 3m4w, R. Three Cents a Day, 6w, R. To Tommy With Love, 9w, NR

Dramatic Pub. Co. Guns Against the Snow, 4m1w, R. Heart Attack, 6w, R. Mooncalf Mugford, 2m3w, R. V as in Victory, 2m2w, R.

Dramatists Play Service Ile, 5m1w, R. Longmans, Green & Co. That's Logic, 3m4w, R.

Ingram Taps, 3m2w, NR. Row-Peterson Best There Is, The, 3m4w, R. Gray Bread, 4w, R. Hit's Man's Business, 5m1w, R. Last Flight Over, 3m2w, R. Nobody Sleeps, 1m4w, R. Senior Freedom, 2m3w, R. Wooden Soldiers, 1m3w, R.

Publishers' Addresses Walter H. Baker Co., 178 Tremont St., Boston, Mass. Dramatic Publishing Co., 59 E. Van Buren St., Chicago 5, Ill. Dramatists Play Service, 6 E. 39th St., New York 16, N.Y. Samuel French, 25 W. 45th St., New York 19, N.Y. Frederick B. Ingram Productions, Gansert Bldg., Rock Island, Ill. Play Dept., Longmans Green & Co., 55 Fifth Ave., New York 3, N.Y. Row-Peterson & Co., 1911 Ridge Ave., Evanston, Ill.

Ready Writing Winner

A LONG time ago we called it the "essay contest." But the term "essay" seemed a little heavy for the kind of composition which the League rules developed. The competition calls for the ability to set down in attractive, forceful, and fairly correct English, information on some topic within range of the study, observation and experience of the average high-school pupil.

To see to it that there is no fudging, topics are not assigned until the contestants are assembled in the room and ready to begin. Then two hours are allowed to complete the composition. We cannot expect that finished pieces of writing will be produced under these conditions, but we can and do get a fair competition and drill for this kind of contest prepares the pupil for writing conditions which will confront him many times in actual life-situations. Nearly all letter-writing is done under these conditions. A hurry-up call from the local paper for an account of a meeting, the statement of a point of view on an attack reproduces almost exactly the conditions prescribed in the League's contests. It is no longer called an "essay" contest but a "Ready Writers Contest," implying that the productions are extemporaneous.

Winning Essay At the State Meet, the most popular subject listed was "My Experience in a Storm." It seemed that a great many of the contestants had experienced storms. The three winning compositions were so entitled. We shall publish each of these productions, in succeeding issues of the LEAGUER. This month, we present the winner of first place:

MY EXPERIENCE IN A STORM (By Helen Chillman) I have a vague feeling that by far the largest per cent of people in the United States and, in fact, all over the world, do not enjoy storms. They consider them wet, cold, noisy, and rude, besides a few other things. I will have to admit that nine out of ten storms are impolite and anything but pleasant; however, most of the storms I have experienced are

quite passably civil and sometimes even courteous. You may meet storms in very odd places. In the car, for instance, when you are on an all-day drive and your automobile turns into a special little world all your own, with diamonds all over it and the raindrops playing tag with the window-wipers. In the city, where all the electric signs smile happily at being allowed to stay on in the daytime and the tall, tall skyscrapers hold conferences with cumulo-nimbus clouds in deep voices. At the bus stop, too, you may meet a storm, and the frowning monster and his grey-cotton children throw rain down as fast as machine-gun fire, hoping to puncture your umbrella. And you can find storms in the mountains—silver rain on bare red rock—and in the fields covered with timid, thirsty little plants who have never met the thunder before. But I think the prettiest storms are the ones that come over the New England hills. My favorite storm is the summer storm in New England that caught me halfway up our hill. "Our hill" is not all ours, but we live on it and have taken verbal possession. It is a comfortable little hill that has settled down for the rest of eternity with its toes in a small cold brook, and given itself up to raising peppy young blueberry bushes and misty green trees. Up one side runs a one-car road—our road. It was down our road that I started one afternoon to get the mail from the little row of mail boxes sitting at the bottom. A little breeze was turning the leaves and whispering in the heat, and back of the house the sky looked as if someone had painted a wide, dangerous streak of steel-black just above the apple trees. It started to rain when I was halfway down—raining in the deceptive way of summer storms, assuring you that it would be over right away and all the time snickering behind a cloud. I wasn't fooled, but I didn't hurry very much. I had a nice avenue of trees to walk under—wouldn't get wet. I didn't notice that the rain was turning the tree trunks dark brown, or that the shadows had spread over all the road instead of just splashing the dust-like spilled paint. So I got the mail and started slowly back up again. It is always much farther up a hill than down one. The storm was quite aware of this and decided that we had about enough time to make friends before I got home. So it hurried just a bit, and before I knew it was anywhere around it tapped my shoulder with a large raindrop and offered me a cloudy arm. The fact that it wanted to show me how cleverly it could throw lightning was not a point in its favor, and I suddenly came to the decision that had better run. I must have offended the storm, for it chased me with its heaviest artillery all the rest of the way. Cannon-like thunder clouds shot balls of rain and spears of lightning. The trees—the little ones—covered near the dry leaves, and the big ones tossed and laughed and shrieked at me. The leaves spun down, playing with the whirlpools of water. And when I finally clambered up onto the back porch I was convinced that storms were rude, as people said. But once I got dry and warm, and sat looking out the window at the rain, I decided it wasn't the storm's fault that he was violent, and I have found that it is impossible to dislike storms even after playing catch with one up a slippery road. In 1902, Congress appropriated \$15,000 to save the buffalo from extinction. He has been saved, but so tame and domesticated in the process that nature-lovers fear he has lost his soul. It is now proposed that he be restored to a natural range where he will have to fight it out with nature in order to survive and thus eventually, it is hoped, recapture some of those rugged qualities of character which made him such a figure on the frontier. There are now about 5,000 buffaloes in the United States; about 15,000 in Canada.

Ready Writers Winner Is No. 1 in Scholarship



Helen Chillman

HELEN CHILLMAN'S talents are not confined to ready writing, if the list of her honors in high school are indicative. Graduating at 16 from Lamar High School (Houston), she is credited with the highest scholarship honors in her class, and is a member of the National Honor Society. In a poster contest sponsored by The Scholastic, national high-school magazine, she received honorable mention. In the essay contest sponsored by Colonial Dames in which all the high schools of Houston competed, she won second place. And, of course, she won her way to the State Meet in Ready Writing by winning her Conference and also her Regional Meet. She was awarded 1st place at the State Meet, 1944, in Ready Writers over winners of the seven other Regions. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Chillman, Jr., reside at 2242 Stanmore, Houston, Texas.

54,000 Teachers in Teacher Retirement

THERE are approximately 54,000 active teachers-members in the Texas Teacher Retirement System," says Mrs. B. B. Sapp, Executive Secretary and Director. "We have 848 retired teachers receiving monthly annuity checks which total approximately \$444,000 per year. In addition approximately \$4,300 is paid annually on disability claims. "The law creating the Teacher Retirement System provides that 3 1/2 per cent interest must be allowed on the mean amount in the membership annuity reserve fund and the mean amount in the Prior Service Annuity Reserve Fund during each year. After regular interest was allowed August 31, 1943, current interest was then applied to the individual accounts. Current interest August 31, 1943, was 2.8 per cent on the August 31, 1942, balance. "The Constitution and the Teacher Retirement Act restrict investment of the retirement funds to U.S. Government Bonds and bonds of cities and counties in Texas that have not defaulted in payment of principal and interest on any bonds within ten years immediately preceding purchase. The Board of Trustees of the Retirement System adheres rigidly to these restrictions. For the past two years, only U.S. Government Bonds have been purchased. The Teacher Retirement System has not suffered a loss by default of interest or principal on any bonds since its establishment. "The System now owns \$4,852,989.27 municipal bonds, and \$20,588,719.31 U.S. Government Bonds, making a total of \$25,441,708.58."

Major Says Athletes Make Tough Soldiers

Recently Major Robert Johnson, of Oklahoma, a former boxer and football player, said: "Everybody knows that the American way in sports teaches team play, but what a fellow doesn't realize until a German bears down on his tail is that he has learned never to give up." In his first air fight, Capt. Don Gentile, of Ohio, the first American ace to break Eddie Rickenbacker's record of 26 planes in World War I, said it was the stamina and determination he developed in competitive athletics that was largely responsible for his success as a combat pilot. Lt. Ike Kepford, former Northwestern University football star, had his plane riddled with 127 bullets before he fired a shot the first time he went up in combat. Yet the ex-Wildcat bagged four planes on that mission and before many months had passed rang up an impressive string of 16—Esquire, August, 1944.

College Debaters Find 'Voting Age' Lively Topic

Right now I am on the track of the debates that were held in the New York Legislature in 1867 on a bill to reduce the voting age in that state to eighteen at that time. "I have also gotten hold of some of the debates and editorial opinion expressed in Georgia when that state reduced the voting age to 18 last August. I was interested to find, too, that there were four resolutions in the 77th Congress, and seven in the 78th Congress which would lower the voting age. I tell you all of these things to give you some indication of (1) the fact that there will be plenty of interest and plenty of material on the topic, and (2) that we have gotten off to a start that promises to make our 1944 Background Book bigger and better."

College Debaters Find 'Voting Age' Lively Topic

(Continued from page 1)

Minutes of the 34th Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1) Athletic Insurance: P. E. Shotwell, Longview High School Coach, reported on the insurance meeting of May 4, 1944. He stated that the Colorado Security Life submitted the best bid and was awarded the contract. He furthermore commented on the liberalization of the policy and the acceptance by the company of increased allowances on sprains, bruises and infections. State Track and Field: Coach Bobby Cannon of Edinburg proposed the change in the number of winning places in the State Track and Field Meet to six. He suggested that points in relays be increased to ten or fifteen. He also suggested a change in the eligibility rule to permit summer school make-up for failing grades in the long session. Principal R. N. Sandlin, Denison High School, made a motion, seconded by Superintendent S. R. LeMay of Athens, to recommend to the Advisory Council that the number of points on relays be increased, with the amount of increase to be determined by a committee. Principal Fetherree, Abilene High School, amended the motion for the points to be increased 10-6-4-2. The amendment was seconded by Dean E. E. Rogers of San Marcos Academy. Motion and amendment carried unanimously. Coach Shotwell made a motion, seconded by Coach Jewell Wallace of San Angelo, that the places at the State Meet be increased to six, likewise carried unanimously. Medley Relay Recommended: Athletic Manager E. J. Lowry, Lubbock High School, offered a motion, seconded by P. C. Cobb, Athletic Manager, Dallas, that a medley relay be added to the list of events. Mr. R. J. Kidd suggested that a field event be added instead. Coach Standard Lambert, Austin High School, questioned the increase of points in the relays. The motion carried by a vote of 15-13. Combination of AA and A in State Meet: Coach A. W. Johnson, Karnes City, questioned the practice of combining competition of AA and A schools in the State Meet. Coach Johnson made a motion, seconded by Principal Roundtree of San Angelo, to separate AA and A schools for State Meet competition. P. E. Shotwell commented favorably on the motion. Principal Lee Mitchell of Yoakum likewise expressed favorably. W. E. Kerr, Texas City, commented enthusiastically on the motion. Mr. Roy Bedichek questioned the motion because of the housing facilities in Austin. He suggested that Class B schools would also desire a State Meet. He called attention to the congested conditions which would develop if the three classes of schools brought representatives to the State Meet on the same week-end. He furthermore expressed consideration relative to the expansion of the transportation problem. Principal Norman of Amarillo challenged the motion because of the reduction that would necessarily produce in the rebate plan. He felt that if the number of participants were increased in accordance with the classes of schools that the funds which would be available for rebate would be so greatly reduced that they would

Don Kilgore Wins Unofficial Chess Title

(Continued from page 1) manner to indicate that a contest was being staged which demanded more mental gyrations and exact reasoning than any which has ever been placed before the school boys of Texas. Don Kilgore Winner At the end of approximately two hours play Don Kilgore of Highland Park emerged as the first unofficial high-school chess champion of Texas. To say that Don had only two opponents is in no wise to reflect upon the character of his victory or the quality of his play. Chess players from all over the State who have had the opportunity of facing Don in chess, as well as several of the national chess masters, will attest to the fact that Kilgore is every inch a champion and quite capable of holding his own in any company. In the opening match, Kilgore versus Bonitay of Corpus Christi, the Dallas player won the toss and opening, selected the Ruy Lopez for his opening moves. In the second game Don, playing black, struck out with a Sicilian defense and managed after several bad errors to overcome his opponent Bob Branran from Sinton. It was simply a case of experience versus inexperience and the steadier and more experienced player won. In the consolation finals, Bonitay defeated Branran. To analyze the opening game would perhaps require too much space but a brevity of it will show the following:

Kilgore White Bonitay Black 1. P-K4 P-K4 2. N-KB3 N-QB3 3. B-N5 (a) P-QR3 (b) 4. B-R4 P-QN4 5. B-N3 B-B4 6. 0-0 N-B3 7. P-Q3 0-0 8. B-N5 N-Q5 9. NxP! (c) NxP 10. RPxN P-Q3 11. N-B3 N-N5? 12. P-KR3 N-B3 13. P-QB3 P-Q4 (d) 14. P-KB1 P-KR3 15. PxN PxP 16. PxP R-K1 (e) 17. P-Q4 B-Q3 18. Q-Q3 B-P3 19. P-KN4 BxP? (f) 20. PxP Q-B5 21. Q-B5 QxQ (g) 22. PxQ P-KB3 23. QN-Q2 KxP 24. QR-K1 R-R4? (h) 25. R-K6 P-KN5 26. KR-K1 (i) PxN 27. N-K5 B-B4 28. PxP K-B2 29. Q-N6ch K-T2 30. P-KBch K-Q3 31. P-Bch K-Q3 32. P-K7 K-Q2 33. P-B7 BxKP 34. R-N8 R-KR1 35. RXP QR-KB1 36. N-KB3 B-Q3 37. R-N7 R-R3 38. N-N5 P-QN4

Debate Handbook Ready

Question: Resolved, That the Legal Voting Age Should Be Reduced to Eighteen Years. Book of 250 pages prepared with especial emphasis on developing a sense of civic responsibility in high-school students. Much supplementary material also available. Write for list. Read of scholarships provided in institutions of higher learning for winning debaters, Appendix V, current issue of Constitution and Rules, Bulletin No. 4427. Postpaid copy of Handbook \$.75; two copies \$1.20 Address orders to Interscholastic League, Box H, University Station, Austin, Texas.

39. N-R7 R-R1?? (j) 40. P-B8 (Q) ch K-B3 41. QxR P-N5 (k) 42. Q-R8 ch K-N4 43. Q-N7 ch K-R4 44. R-R1 mate.

(a) The moves up to this point constitute the Ruy Lopez opening, named after Bishop Ruy Lopez, who originated it in 1561 at Madrid, Spain. To this day it remains the most dangerous and complex of all openings. (b) The play by Black is the Morphy Defense, named after Paul Morphy, the most famous of American players. (c) Winning the Pawn. (d) An attempt to break White's center but the continuation was bad for Black. (e) The defense of Black's King has been weakened greatly. (f) A pointless sacrifice. Black would have been wise to keep his two Bishops. Combined, they are very powerful. (g) White forces the exchange. (h) Rather than waste any time, Black should cash in on his Q-side Pawn majority. (i) Trapping the Knight. (j) An outright blunder. (k) Black might as well resign since he is a Queen and Rook behind, a hopeless situation. White brings the game to a quick and beautiful finish.

The Winner

The winner, Don Kilgore, is a strong student at Highland Park, carrying a heavy load of math and science. He made the Highland Park tennis team, and came very near to qualifying for the State Meet. He is also an excellent golfer. On the business side, Don has already saved up \$1,000 for college, although last year was his first in high school.

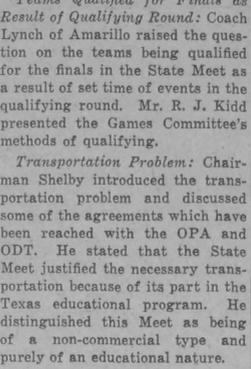
Minutes of the 34th Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1) D. C. (Bobby) Cannon, Edinburg: The following changes I believe will be to the advancement of the League program: 1. Change the number of winning places from four to six in all final events in track and field. 2. Change the point value of the places in the Relays from 5-3-2-1 to, say, 15-9-6-3, or 18-15-12-9-6-3 in case the number of winning places should be changed. 3. Change the eligibility rule to allow a boy who fails to make the three required courses in May for eligibility in September to go to summer school to remove said ineligibility. Weldon Bynum, New Braunfels: The rules are O.K. Leave them alone. Dillard McCollum, Harlandale: No change in rules. Very satisfactory. Among those present and registering were the following:

Abilene, Principal Hilliard Fetherree. Amarillo, Principal R. B. Norman: Coach Howard W. Lynch. Athens, Superintendent S. R. LeMay. Austin, Superintendent Russell A. Lewis; Coach Standard Lambert; Dean T. H. Shelby, Extension Division, University; Mr. Roy Bedichek, University Interscholastic League; Mr. R. J. Kidd, University Interscholastic League; Dr. J. G. Umstadt, University. Brenham, Principal J. L. Buckley. Corpus Christi, Principal E. W. Smith. Dallas, Mr. P. C. Cobb, School. Gladewater, Principal E. A. Brodhead, Juniper High School. Goose Creek, Principal R. B. Sparks. Greenville, Superintendent H. H. Chambers; Principal J. H. Flewharty. Haskell, Mr. Thos. B. Robertson, Director of Athletics. Karnes City, Coach John W. Johnson. Lockhart, Superintendent R. L. Williams. Longview, Athletic Coach P. E. Shotwell. Lubbock, Mr. E. J. Lowry, Director of Athletics. New Braunfels, Mr. Weldon Bynum, Director of Athletics. Odessa, Coach Clayton Hopkins. Paris, Coach Raymond Berry. Port Arthur, Principal W. B. Killbrew. Rankin, Principal G. Hannaford. San Angelo, Superintendent Bryan Dickson; Coach Jewell Wallace. San Antonio, Principal Enos Gary, Brackenridge High School; Superintendent Dillard McCollum, Harlandale High School. San Marcos, Dean E. E. Rogers, San Marcos Academy. Temple, Superintendent George H. Gentry; Principal Conrad Vernon. Texas City, Coach Floyd L. Edwards; Assistant Coach Hugh Dungan. Texas City, Coach W. E. Curry.

Every film in our library has been inspected, reconditioned and processed. We have placed our films in the best possible condition. You may help keep them in good condition by checking and cleaning all projector surfaces over which the film passes, replacing worn parts of the projector and careful handling and threading of the film in the projector. Service We are trying to give you service. We frequently receive, inspect and reship films on the same day. This means a special trip to the express office, as only one collection is allowed from the same shipping point each day. Please help us to give better service by returning all films on time. Return shipments should never be made later than the morning after the last schedule showing. Post-War Plans Are your schools adequately financed for the present and for the future? Do you anticipate having sufficient funds for salaries, new buildings, equipment, supplies, and other operating expenses now and during the post-war period? "Pop Rings the Bell," a new film released by The National School Service Institute, may be able to help you solve your school financing problems. Ten prints are deposited in the film libraries of Texas. Write for the nearest source to: Visual Instruction Bureau, The University of Texas, Austin 12, Texas.

become near ineffective and thus incur greater expenditures on each of the sending local school systems. The motion lost unanimously. Teams Qualified for Finals as Result of Qualifying Round: Coach Lynch of Amarillo raised the question on the teams being qualified for the finals in the State Meet as a result of set time of events in the qualifying round. Mr. R. J. Kidd presented the Games Committee's methods of qualifying. Transportation Problem: Chairman Shelby introduced the transportation problem and discussed some of the agreements which have been reached with the OPA and ODT. He stated that the State Meet justified the necessary transportation because of its part in the Texas educational program. He distinguished this Meet as being of a non-commercial type and purely of an educational nature. Deferment of Physical Training Directors: R. J. Kidd commented on deferment from service for physical training directors (not coaches) and went into some detail with regard to certain suggestions which would be presented to draft board officials. Suggestions Submitted Suggestions for "the good of the order" endorsed on registration cards at the Breakfast, but not presented for discussion, follows: Howard W. Lynch, Amarillo: In track and field may I suggest that in the 440 Relay where two (or more) teams tie for the seventh place, instead of throwing all of them out they at least have a chance to run by drawing lots or some such method. You know it is quite a thrill to run in the state finals. The more that compete the more interest. When you make a 540-mile trip (1080 round trip) and then just miss at least a chance, it is a little discouraging. D. C. (Bobby) Cannon, Edinburg: The following changes I believe will be to the advancement of the League program:



Stan Runkel, Sunset High School, Dallas

STAN RUNKEL, winner of first place in the boys' declamation contest at the 1944 State Meet, is an active participant in various extracurricular activities. He is a member of the Good Scholarship Club, Dramatic Club, Speakers Club, and National Thespian Club. He participates in dramatics, and was a member of the winning cast in the State One-Act Play Tournament of the Interscholastic League in 1944. At the Regional Meet, he was chosen a member of the all-star cast. He graduated from high school last June at the age of 17. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Runkel, reside at 1018 Ogden, Dallas, Texas.

Wins Declamation and Dramatics Honors

Visual Aids; News & Guide (Continued from page 1)

number of new Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs films on Latin-American countries and a few new Office of War Information subjects are also listed. The Chronicles of America Photoplays in 16 mm. are now available from our bureaus. 1550 Boone, Daniel. 1551 Columbus. 1552 The Declaration of Independence. 1553 Dixie. 1554 The Eve of the Revolution. 1555 The Frontier Woman. 1556 The Gateway to the West. 1557 Hamilton, Alexander. 1558 Jamestown. 1559 The Pilgrims. 1560 The Puritans. 1561 Peter Stuyvesant. 1562 Vincennes. 1563 Wolfe and Montcalm. 1564 Yorktown. The charge is \$6.00 per school, per day for single pictures when the school submits its own specific dates. When a school submits its own schedule of subjects and dates for the fifteen Photoplays, the series charge is \$75.00. A Teachers' Manual is furnished free of charge when the complete series is booked. Every film in our library has been inspected, reconditioned and processed. We have placed our films in the best possible condition. You may help keep them in good condition by checking and cleaning all projector surfaces over which the film passes, replacing worn parts of the projector and careful handling and threading of the film in the projector. Service We are trying to give you service. We frequently receive, inspect and reship films on the same day. This means a special trip to the express office, as only one collection is allowed from the same shipping point each day. Please help us to give better service by returning all films on time. Return shipments should never be made later than the morning after the last schedule showing. Post-War Plans Are your schools adequately financed for the present and for the future? Do you anticipate having sufficient funds for salaries, new buildings, equipment, supplies, and other operating expenses now and during the post-war period? "Pop Rings the Bell," a new film released by The National School Service Institute, may be able to help you solve your school financing problems. Ten prints are deposited in the film libraries of Texas. Write for the nearest source to: Visual Instruction Bureau, The University of Texas, Austin 12, Texas.

Copy of special debate issue of Congressional Digest, containing 41 pages of tip-top discussion of "Voting Age," is available for debaters at League State Office, 25c per copy.

## Age-Distribution Study of Starting Line-ups in 1943

### Vast Majority of Football Players are 15 and 16 Years of Age

(By R. J. Kidd, Athletic Director)

**T**HE PURPOSE of these tables is to show the age distribution of high-school boys used on the starting line-up in University Interscholastic League football for the 1943 season.

In Conference AA the age-study covered the starting line-up on the 104 teams participating in that Conference. In Conferences A and B the study covered only the starting line-ups of the respective district champions. In Conference A there were 40 district champions and in Conference B, 30 district champions.

There were 174 teams included in the study with a total membership of 2,650 boys. This represents 28 per cent of the total number of teams and 11 per cent of the boys taking part in League football for the '43 season.

Conference AA		
Age Sept. 1, 1944	No. of Boys	Per Cent of Boys
13	6	.35
14	59	3.42
15	303	17.57
16	710	41.16
17	577	33.44
18	70	4.06
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,725</b>

74.60 per cent of the boys listed on the starting line-up were 16 and 17-year old boys. There was a greater per cent of 16-year olds than any other age group.

There were 4,053 boys participating in Conference AA, and out of this total, 1,725 boys were listed as members of the starting line-up.

Eighteen-year old boys represented only 4 per cent of the total number used on the starting line-up.

Conference A		
Age Sept. 1, 1944	No. of Boys	Per Cent of Boys
13	4	.69
14	26	4.50
15	106	18.30
16	263	45.42
17	154	26.59
18	26	4.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>579</b>

72.01 per cent of the boys listed on the starting line-up were 16 and 17-year old boys, there being a greater per cent of sixteen-year old boys than any other group. There was very little difference between the age distribution in this group and that found in Conference AA.

The number of eighteen-year old boys in each Conference was negligible in comparison with the total number of boys participating.

In Conference A there was a total of 266 teams with 6,583 boys participating. 40 teams representing 579 boys are included in this age study conference A team.

Conference B		
Age Sept. 1, 1944	No. of Boys	Per Cent of Boys
13	4	1.15
14	33	9.53
15	101	29.19
16	138	39.88
17	62	17.94
18	8	2.31
<b>Total</b>		<b>346</b>

69.07 per cent of the boys listed on the starting line-up for Conference B were 15 and 16 years old. Ordinarily, one would expect to find an older group in the smaller schools. It is surprising to find that the major portion of the boys making the starting line-up in Conference B schools are 15- and 16-year old boys, nearly a year younger average than is found in Conference A and AA. Of the 30 district champions, there were only eight boys listed on the starting line-up as 18 years of age on September 1.

**Conclusion**  
This report indicates that the football teams in the public high schools of Texas are truly representative of the high-school student body. The teams are largely composed of 15-, 16- and 17-year old boys. The age distribution on the football teams is probably typical of the average age for the student body in the last three high-school grades.

The low age rule insures that no 15- and 16-year old boys will be placed in competition with older and more mature boys. The Insurance Company providing athletic insurance for League members reports a 50 per cent reduction in the number of benefit claims filed in the home office.

This reduction in the injury rate may be due in part to the lowering of the age rule and protecting the younger participants against the older and more rugged players.

The criticisms leveled at the present eligibility rules are that the rules encourage a few boys to remain in school longer than they normally would for the sole purpose of participating in football. Ordinarily the high-school boy or girl does not graduate before the seventeenth birthday, which would seem to indicate that the League's age rule corresponds fairly well to the average age of high-school graduates.

To tighten the gap between the League's eligibility rule and the graduate rule and possibly eliminating the present policy of holding over some of the older boys, the age rule could be changed from May 1 to September 1. Or, since all schools have now been brought to the 12-year system, the League might revert to the old semester rule which was abandoned because it was impossible to enforce it fairly as between 11-year and 12-year schools.

### What Does the Army Want the Schools to Do?

**W**HAT the armed forces want the schools to give boys to fit them for war and post-war service to their country was graphically described to a University of Texas class in education recently by the commanding officer of Camp Swift, Col. O. P. Houston.

Asserting that pre-induction training for boys still in school grows more critical as the demand for technicians in the armed forces increases, Colonel Houston urged training "the whole boy," just as the army trains "the whole soldier."

"Since the whole boy is involved in this preparation, I can only see it as an entire educational program, embracing every aspect of his high-school training," he said. He recommended, in addition to a good foundation for a trade or a profession, that the schools should equip each boy with certain fundamental knowledge before he enters the armed forces:

- "1. They should all know why we are at war and what it will mean to them if we should lose. In other words, we should strive to give him the will to fight."
- "2. The fear of the unknown is present in most people. We should explain to them what happens at the Induction Station, Reception Center and all along the line until they arrive at a unit or permanent station."
- "3. They should know how the Army operates and in general how to get along in the service."
- "4. They should all have command over the fundamental processes of reading, writing, and arithmetic."
- "5. They should all know how to develop and keep a sound body and mind."

"Our immediate task is to keep in mind the needs of the 16-17-year-old boys. We are duty bound to give them what they will need in order to adequately meet their immediate future. If we do this, we will make a real contribution to winning the war."

**HERMAN STEINER**, former U.S. co-champion and a member of three world champion Olympic teams, was here about two weeks ago. He played thirty-four players in Corpus Christi at the same time and had only one draw. Eight high-school players (members of our club) were among those included, and they lasted longer than did their coach. Steiner got a kick out of their fighting qualities—as he said, "what did it matter if their queen was gone? They kept right on as if nothing had happened."

Herman first saw chess in Budapest, standing outside a swank restaurant on a very cold night. He was about ten years old at the time and almost froze his nose watching the gentlemen play. At last one of them invited him and he was in a mild form of heaven. Unfortunately, Steiner, Sr., arrived and took the young man straightway home. Home base was dead set against the idea, destroyed his books and men, but still he learned. After the war when he came to the U.S. and found out that he could not complete an engineer's course in one and one-half years, he turned more and more to chess. Today he is one of the five best in the U.S. and one of the most vibrant and interesting persons in any field that you can meet.—Jas. A. Creighton, Corpus Christi

## 9 Schools Formed League in 1913

### Paul Tyson Discovers Original Rules of North Texas Association

**T**HE LEAGUER is indebted to Paul Tyson, athletic coach at South Park High School (Beaumont) for a copy of rules and regulations of the "North Texas High School Athletic Association."

At a meeting held February 1, 1913, the following high schools were represented by their respective principals:

W. B. Gibson, Sherman; H. D. Fillers, Bonham; J. P. Dawner, Paris; P. L. Tyson, Denison; P. M. Hagan, Greenville; B. E. Masters, Sherman.

The following officers were elected: Principal H. D. Fillers, President, Bonham; Principal B. E. Masters, School Secretary and Treasurer, Sherman; Principal P. L. Tyson, Chairman Schedule Committee.

Besides the schools represented at the meeting, the following were also members: McKinney, Gainesville, Honey Grove.

Following is the plan, purpose, and eligibility rules of the Association:

Purpose of this Association: To create clean athletics, and uniformity in scholastic requirements and general eligibility. To create general interest in school athletic spirit.

There shall be two sections of this Association. First to consist of: Sherman, Denison, Gainesville, and McKinney; second to consist of: Greenville, Bonham, Paris, and Honey Grove. Each team shall play every other team of that section in its home town. Then the two teams having the highest percentage of the two sections shall play a game or games until it is decided which is champion; a pennant shall be awarded to the winning team.

Eligibility of Members: A student in order to be eligible to participate in these games must be taking at least four subjects in the school he represents, and be making a passing grade in any three of them in the month previous and also in the month in which he is to play or game to be played.

Each coach shall present a certified list of those eligible to play signed by the principal of that school before the game.

No student shall be eligible to participate in any game of the scheduled games of this League if he has previously been identified with any baseball club which was under the ruling of the national baseball commission for profit, or who shall have enrolled in that school after February 1 of that year.

Expenses: The expenses incurred by the secretary and president in performing the duties of the League shall be borne by the clubs equally.

### High School Coaches Ass'n—News & Notes

(Continued from page 1)

programs for the game. The Maskat Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. cancelled their 1944 game so that the coaching school could be held in Wichita Falls.

**Ranch Style Dinner**  
The Junior Chamber of Commerce handled the advance ticket sales for the all-star game and maintained an information booth that was of great help to the visitors. Harrison Creed and J. R. Smith were on hand at all times, making the coaches feel at home. In fact, the service clubs and business men of Wichita Falls were most gracious in the reception given the school.

The high light of the week was a ranch-style dinner given the coaches at the Wichita Falls Country Club. Dick Naylor, Henry Ford, and other members of the Entertainment Committee provided a pleasant evening for some five hundred guests.

**Business Meeting**  
The annual business meeting was held on Thursday, August 10. P. E. Shotwell, Longview, made the report of the Committee on Athletic Injuries. He emphasized the point that many injuries were due to the failure of the coach to insist that the boys wear proper protective equipment, or the schools failure to provide the proper equipment or playing fields. Money expended on practice fields, goal helmets, shoulder pads, hip pads, thigh guards, knee pads, and shoes pays dividends in freedom from injuries. Mr. Shotwell advised the coaches to have a complete physical examination for all players, and to never participate an injured player

## My Formal Education

By Elinor Goulding Smith

This article contains so much good-humored satire on certain teaching methods in the public schools that we asked and received from "The Atlantic Monthly" permission to reproduce it. It appeared in that journal in the June issue, 1944. As Mrs. Smith races through the curriculum, she drops remarks which arouse memories of class-room situations familiar to most of us who received our early training in the public schools of this country. Editor.

**S**INCE the large part of my formal education was obtained in the public schools of New York City, I suppose it was not really unique or extraordinary. Yet as I look back, I do think there must have been something a little peculiar about it.

### Shakespeare "Wasn't Much of a Writer"

While reading the reviews of the Robeson *Othello*, it suddenly occurred to me that I had never read *Othello*, or for that matter any Shakespeare to speak of. Shakespeare, as I learned about him in high school, really wasn't much of a writer. He was always committing atrocities, such as mixed metaphors and anachronisms, which were pointed out to us as examples of things never to do. The examples which we were taught over and over were (1) the clock's striking, in *Julius Caesar* (the worst sort of anachronism), and (2) "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" (a really first-rate example of the dread mixed metaphor). We were forced to memorize the "To be or not to be" speech, but only, I supposed, so that we would remember this terrible confusion of metaphors.

This all started me thinking about the rest of my education, and I decided to try to remember exactly what I did learn in school, being careful to separate it from what I learned by poking around in the children's room at St. Agnes branch of the Public Library.

In kindergarten I learned to carry a small green chair around, and I learned to cut paper with dull scissors.

### Skipped Division

In grade school I learned some arithmetic—that is, I picked up some knowledge of addition, subtraction, and multiplication, but I must have been sick when they taught long division. At any rate, I missed it somehow, and I never learned it in school. One day I discovered that all the other children were able to do a mysterious and complicated process with numbers, called "division," and I went home crying. My mother made an attempt to teach it to me, but she put the answer out to the right,

in practice or a game until given permission by the team physician.

### Legislation Discussed

Roy Bedichek and Rodney Kidd of The University Interscholastic League discussed the present regulations of the League, and gave a brief resume of probable future legislation. The coaches present were advised to study the regulations of the present code and to be prepared with logical compromises should the occasion arise. One important change voted last spring caused the most discussion—i.e. the limitations of awards.

(This writer invites coaches, principals, and superintendents to present their views on the new award regulation through this column.) Coaches were advised to be prompt in filing game reports, injury reports, and other data as valuable statistics are compiled from these by the League. Accurate conclusions can be deduced from reports sent in, which are invaluable in shaping the future athletic policies of the organization. Principals should be very careful in making out the eligibility sheets. Accurate and exact information should be placed on all eligibility lists, for carelessness often results in protests. If coaches and school executives would obey the letter and spirit of the rules, more wholesome competition and relationship would result.

Mr. Bedichek was recognized by the Coaches Association for his twenty-five years of leadership. A resolution was read and adopted by the High-School Coaches Association commending Mr. Bedichek for the great work he had accomplished for the public schools of Texas through the University Interscholastic League.

Howard Lynch, Amarillo, was elected President of the Association to succeed W. C. O. Harris of Fort Worth. Bobby Cannon, Edinburg, succeeded Lynch as Vice-President. Bill Carmichael of Bryan was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer by the Board of Directors. Two new directors were elected—Cotton Wiedeman, Childress to represent Region 1 and Pat Gerald for Region 3.

The culmination of a profitable week of instruction in all phases of football by Jeff Cravath, Bobby Dodd, Blair Cherry, Dell Morgan, Jewell Wallace, and Abb Curtis was the all-star game. The South triumphed over a scrappy North team 19-7. The well-played game before a large and enthusiastic crowd was a suitable inauguration for the 1944 football season.

monocotyledon or a dicotyledon, and I learned that the skin of an onion was made up of cells which could be seen if you looked at it through a microscope, but unfortunately I never got to look through a microscope until last year, when I bought one of my own. I learned that most plants will die unless they get water and sun, and we proved this in experiments in which we denied beans water and sun until they died. I learned to draw a grasshopper, and I learned that some part of a carrot is called the cortex, but I can't remember which part.

I read some of the *Odyssey*, but that class came after swimming class, so mostly we just dried our hair on the radiators. Somebody forgot to tell us who Homer was and when he lived, or in fact anything about him, and nobody ever mentioned that the *Odyssey* had anything to do with Greek literature. Indeed nobody ever mentioned Greece or Rome in my presence all through my entire schooling.

I learned that my voice was denasalized, and I intoned "The brown cow browsed around the brown barn," and "The man ran along the sand with his hat in his hand," more times than I care to think about. I don't know if it did any good or not. I learned that the correct way to breathe is not from the chest, but from the diaphragm, but I was unable to change my breathing habits, and so have continued to breathe in my chest anyway, and I suppose my voice is still denasalized.

### Laboratory Work in Physics

I took physics, and I found out that if you heated water long enough, it boiled and gave off steam, and I learned how to hook up an electric bell (though when our doorbell goes out of order I have to call the superintendent because I don't know where the wires are, and anyway it looks different from the ones in school). And I learned that if you pick up a hot Bunsen burner, it hurts.

That was all there was to it. Someone in the school system miscalculated the time necessary to learn all these things, and at the end of three years I discovered suddenly that I had passed plenty of Regents' examinations to get into college, but that alas! I could not graduate from high school because I had only had three years of rope climbing and Highland Fling. This led to all sorts of difficulties, but since I had already been admitted to the university to which I had applied, I simply ignored the difficulties.

At college I learned interpretive dancing (in a short, loose green garment) and I was forced to play tennis until a certain date, regardless of the weather. I learned that if you play tennis in the snow, in a raccoon coat, it is not good for the racket.

I learned that El Greco was a madman, Picasso worse, and that Leonardo's "Last Supper" has flaked off considerably because he was so stupid about experimenting with new media.

I wrote daily compositions (only they were called themes at college) and they were all carefully corrected for punctuation. They were always entitled "On" something, and I no longer ended them with a question necessarily, since that was not required in college.

### Lesson from Rotted Rubber

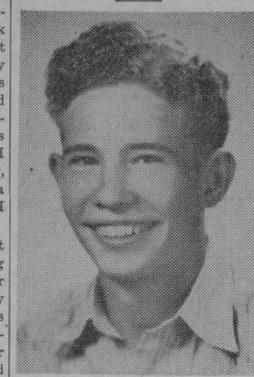
I learned that if you have steam under pressure, and you let it go through a rubber tube that is slightly rotted, the tube will burst and the steam will escape quickly and scald whoever happens to get in the way. I found out that you have to take the whole science of physics on faith, because no demonstration in the lecture hall ever turns out the way it's supposed to, and that furthermore the experiments don't turn out any better in the laboratory. Especially when your lab partner is a fluffy blonde who leans over your shoulder at the crucial moment and dips pale blue ribbons and bits of lace ruffle in your crucible. I learned that there are very few nerve endings on the skin of the back of your hand, that you can see better in the daytime than at night, and that if you drop a baby he doesn't like it.

I learned how to find the volume of a truncated pyramid, but I've not used this knowledge lately.

### Finally Finds Library

I learned, when I came home after two years, that in the public library they have the most amazing books—all about animals, and psychoanalysis, and fungi, and Greece, and languages, and insects, and Rome, and parasites, and China, and music, and semantics, and India, and revolutions, and spiders, and people, and amoebae, and Persian painting, and fishes, and dead languages and Toltec sculpture. I think books are wonderful. Don't you think so too?

### First Place in First State Slide Rule Meet



Zackie Reynolds, Lubbock High School

**F**IRST PLACE in the first State slide rule contest ever held in Texas went to Zackie Reynolds, representing Lubbock High School. Zackie was graduated at the end of the spring term with scholarship standing in the upper ten per cent of his class. He is son of A. A. Reynolds, 1904 14th Street, Lubbock, Texas.

### Fights Japs But Still Follows School Sports

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language through which the spirits of men who speak not the same tongue can communicate with each other in friendly competition on an equal basis.

"Not long ago I met a Frenchman through the game of chess, and while he spoke little English and I very little French, we still spent several interesting evenings together over the chess board.

"I think it would be interesting to organize a chess club at Robert E. Lee High School" when I got out of the Army and maybe build some stiff competition for Mr. Creighton's Corpus Christi team and for Highland Park of Dallas. I would like to try, anyway, to arouse interest among students if Principal Sparks would care to extend co-operation to the idea. As for national politics, the opinion in this company make it a 3 to 1 or a 2½ to 1 bet that Roosevelt will beat Dewey. Personally, I think it will be a closer race than the last one with Dewey standing a fair chance of winning if he could only come out on a strong platform.

### World Police

"I like the world police idea. But they can be made as ineffective as the League of Nations if they are not given power. The word 'police,' I believe, has taken the place of 'League' in world organization because it suggests power, action, competence, enforcement. But any organization depending upon bombastic principles for its effectiveness is only another temple built upon the sands. A police force with power that would be as fair to Russia and Switzerland and Japan as to the United States, would be hard to create but I believe it can be done if for no other reason than by an example which has shown the world that it can be as fair to Delaware and Texas and New York as it is to Virginia.

"Your victory garden sounds pretty nice. It's a good thing to have the fresh vegetables from a garden and too it relieves the drain on the farmer whose producing power has been reduced somewhat by the war. Even one million victory gardens must make a huge difference in the amount of food available for human consumption in the States. A friend of mine from Brooklyn stationed at Mather Field, California, wrote that he had never known what fresh vegetables tasted like until he and his wife got them from their victory garden by their apartment.

"Things over here are getting along fair. We have a victory garden too on this island but its fruits do not go very far because of the many mouths to feed.

### Surf Bathing

"For the past few afternoons I have been swimming in the surf. It is lots of fun and quite strenuous exercise. Eight and ten-foot waves batter against one like a solid wall. They can pick one up and hurl him 10 or 15 feet back toward the beach if one tries to stand his ground against them. At one moment the water may be only a little over knee deep then it will be up to one's neck with a wall of water hanging over one's head ready to break.

"An island native had a surf board which he was riding in front of the waves but Americans, not to be outdone, filled mattress covers with air-like big balloons; tied up the ends; and rode them like surf boards."

\*Goose Creek, Texas.

### Conference Oct. 5-6 Community Planning

Where is your community going? The University of Texas is going to try to help you find the answer to that question—and how to direct its course—at a two-day conference here Oct. 5-6 on "The City—The Town—and The Community of Texas."

Called at the request of scores of community leaders, the conference will seek to explore the problems and the future development of areas ranging from the rural communities to the metropolitan cities, "as they awaken to their own responsibilities," University President Homer P. Rainey explained.

Also at the request of the groups urging the conference, President Rainey himself will act as general chairman, with a committee headed by Walter T. Roife, professor of architecture and an experienced community planner, in charge of program development.

Getting down to "grass roots," the conference will place heavy emphasis on a series of community hearings for representatives from (1) rural communities, (2) towns up to 2,500 population, (3) towns from 2,500 to 10,000; (4) towns from 10,000 to 100,000; and (5) cities from 100,000 upward.

In each of these gathering problems of common interest can be attacked more directly and more practically than would be possible if discussion were general, Dr. Rainey pointed out.

Groups to attend the conference include city officials, real estate boards, architects, chambers of commerce officials and members, social workers, ministers, educators, and others interested in the progress and over-all development of their communities.

### School's Obligation To Protect Players

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boy represents the school and for that reason the school has some degree of responsibility concerning the boy's safety.

Any contestant who has a serious physical defect such as enlarged tonsils, dental cavities, kidney or heart ailments should not be permitted to participate until after these defects are remedied. Medical examination of teen-age boys conducted by the Selective Service System reveals a very high percentage of these defects among inductees.

The school and community should provide some plan whereby the members of the athletic team may have some assurance of proper medical care in case of injury. In a number of instances schools are using athletic receipts to finance stadiums and permanent equipment at the expense of the boy, who makes the income possible because of his athletic skill. There is a tendency on the part of some schools to reduce the budget for equipment in order to retire stadium debts. This is a further hazard that a boy is subjected to because of the lack of a true perspective as to the real purpose of interscholastic athletics which is to train boys and not to make money and entertain the public.

A school or a community can make little headway in meeting these obligations to the boy as long as they are staging the contests for the sole purpose of making money, to publicize the local school or town, or to satisfy the demand of a few of the local fans for some public entertainment. One of the best ways to insure proper medical care for athletic injuries is to provide insurance for each of the players.

The Security Life and Accident Company, Denver, Colorado, has prepared a special athletic benefit plan for members of the League. The policy has been written in order to take care of the most common injuries at a reasonable rate.

A third thing that the school should do is to select competent game officials. Football is a rough game and unless it is kept under strict supervision a boy may be seriously injured. Let the game officials know that they will have the backing of the school officials in enforcing the game rules and in removing from the game any boy who conducts himself in an unsportsman-like manner.

Finally, the school and community should see that boys are properly equipped to play football. The rules of the game require that a boy wear adequate protection. Shoes are very important to the safety of contestants and in many instances boys are issued ill-fitting shoes. Such equipment makes it impossible for the boy to have the bodily movement necessary to protect himself against on-rushing opponents.

If we are going to sponsor and promote a rugged competitive activity among high-school boys, every effort should be made to provide for the health and safety of the contestants.