



Speech Teacher Suggests Lower Jr. Declaimer Age

Please help me solve this problem for Junior Declamation in high school. The majority of our freshmen students are already 15—we have only four years. Should not the age for high-school juniors read "under 15" without the note on Page 15 of the Constitution and Rules?

I believe all speech teachers would agree since the school age has increased. — Mrs. Comer Haynes, Merkel High School.

Aug. 15 Too Early for Football—Coach Allen

I have talked with several coaches and with Mr. Cobb, the athletic director of Dallas, and we all agree that August 15 is too early to start fall football training.

The main reasons they gave were: That it is too hot at that time of year and that many of their boys have summer jobs and have to work until September 1 in order to earn enough money with which to start school.

They also agreed that fifteen days of Spring training were enough and that it could be fitted into the program so as not to interfere with other sports—baseball and track.

Which all adds up to the fact that we will exchange the fifteen days from August 15 to September 1 for fifteen days in the Spring, which we think will be more beneficial to us as coaches.

This is just an idea some of us had and we wanted to pass it on to you for what it is worth.

Bill Allen, Coach, Paschal High School, Fort Worth.

National Debate Topic Wins More Followers

More comments have been received from administrators interested in next year's debate topic.

Frank C. Bean, superintendent at Avery, writes:

"From the reactions at the Baylor tournament, it appears that the majority of that group favored what I want, and that is, the national question at any cost."

"For the national question I should prefer debating changing the Electoral College System, at first choice, and Federal Aid to Higher Education, as second choice. If we must have a Texas question, the Tideland Ownership is the only listed that would be satisfactory."

E. M. Burkhalter, principal of Shamrock Public Schools, says:

"I think possibly the best debate question for next year would be the Elimination of the Electoral College."

J. O. Webb, assistant superintendent of Houston schools, has this opinion:

"The Tideland Ownership would seem to hold the greatest interest in Texas. However, there are two reasons that I can think of that would count against the use of this question. One is that material would perhaps be scarce. The other is that a possible court decision might make the question impossible for one side or the other."

"The Elimination of the Electoral College would be my second choice, but in view of the objections indicated above, this subject may be the more practical."

T.S.T.A. Head Outlines Legislative Objectives

By Joe C. Humphrey, President Texas State Teachers Association

The legislative program of the Texas State Teachers Association has always been and still is "Better Schools for Texas Boys and Girls." Our association, which is made up of over forty-thousand teachers, is sincerely anxious to improve the educational services in our state.

We desire to give a minimum foundational program of education to every boy and girl in the state. We know that good educational opportunities are based primarily upon securing the best teachers

Ready Writers Contestants Learn Art of 'Explaining'

By Dr. Powell Stewart, Ready Writers' Contest Director

Anyone who undertakes a job is likely to feel that it is a very important job indeed; at least that's how I feel about the job I have just accepted as State Director of The University Interscholastic League's Ready Writers' Contest. A mouth-filling title like that would alone make one take such a job seriously. But even if my ego had not been flattered by the request that I accept the position, I still would have reason to insist



Dr. Powell Stewart

that a Ready Writers' Contest is of very real importance.

For the kind of writing it seeks to promote—expository writing—is not only the most frequently encountered but also the most important in the world today. Exposition is nothing but explanation—explanation of what it is you think, believe, observe, feel; explanation of why you do (or why another should) think or believe or feel as you do; explanation of what something is or how something works. We spend most of our lives making explanations or having them made to us.

The newspapers explain to us what has happened, and sometimes explain why; in the classroom we explain to the teacher how we worked a problem or what we thought the textbook said or a referendum was; and the texts we study are themselves nothing but explanations. If you go to college, you will read explanations all night, and spend your days listening to more explanations or writing them on examinations and term papers. And whatever your occupation in life, you will find that explanations play a large part in it.

Is it any wonder, then, that I consider important a contest which

encourages people to become "ready" explainers? For even though one may not later in life be called upon to write explanations every day, he can hardly hope to escape having to write them occasionally. And learning to write them readily has a two-fold advantage: it forces one to make clear to himself what his ideas, reasons, and feelings are; and it greatly increases one's ability to make them orally.

It is, therefore, to the advantage of everyone to become as good a ready writer as he can. What better way than to enter the Ready Writers' Contest?

How To Write A Winner

If you want to know what makes a winning essay, look at the two prize papers of last year's contest, reprinted in this issue of the LEAGUER. They are, of course, not perfect, for they were written under pressure, and on a subject not

Dr. Powell Stewart, assistant professor of English at The University of Texas, succeeds Dr. R. A. Law as Director of the Ready Writers' Contest. Dr. Law resigned this Spring after serving over 30 years as the Director of this contest.

The new Director is assistant chairman of the committee on Freshman English. He holds a B.S. degree from Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, a M.A. degree from Harvard College and a Ph.D. degree from The University of Texas.

announced to the writers until the beginning of the two-hour period specified by the rules as the time limit of the contest. Many of you who plan to enter the contest this year may feel that you can write a better essay than either of these two examples; and I hope you do have that feeling, for confidence in one's ability is a great aid to clear thinking in a time of nervous tension. But study the essays anyway, to see what made them winners.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 7)

What Makes America Great

By Selma Waldman, King High School, Kingsville, 1948 State Champion in Ready Writers' Conf. AA Contest

"Oh, beautiful for spacious skies, for amber fields of grain— Young voices lifted high to the rafters of the school auditorium and sang of America, sang of beauty, sang of freedom. As I gathered up my books, preparing to leave at the close of assembly, I stood for a moment with my eyes closed and listened to a hymn of democracy. "America, America, God sheds His grace on thee—" sounded strong against my ears. The last words searched the air on a wave of song "—from sea to shining sea!" and ended in a note of triumph—high, free. I opened my eyes. Suddenly, I knew why America, this land of mine, was great!

Jostling and pushing, I made my way to the door and heard

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 2)

By Julianne Oden, Fort Hancock High School, 1948 State Champion in Ready Writers' Conf. B Contest

What makes America great? This question has been asked literally thousands of times by people from all corners of the earth. What is it about this marvelous America that makes the people of the world watch her progress with such admiration and humbleness? Is it her power or is it her wealth and wisdom?

No, not exactly. No one of those factors by themselves could have made America what she is today; the hope of the world.

America's greatness lies in many things:

It is the corner drugstore, where every afternoon after school the high-school gang meets to talk over the day's problems and adventures. It is the community club house that was built by the labor, efforts and money of the men and women of our town.

It is our churches, our freedom of worship, and our simple faith in our God. With the Young People's Meeting every Tuesday, and choir practice every Thursday.

It's Dad's club meeting on Monday night, when Mother pretends she doesn't miss him at supper, and Mother's Guild meeting on Wednesdays, when Dad eats lunch at the drug store, and pretends he's enjoying it.

It is our businesses with our free enterprise, and tough competition, when a man can work at any vocation he pleases instead of like in so many other countries today, where young men must follow their father's occupation.

It is our schools preparing our youth for adult life in a slightly confusing but wonderful world.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 8)



Dr. B. E. Masters

Dr. Masters Assists Reg. VII Director League for 34 Years

Now Serves as Reg. IV Director at Kilgore

Since 1915 when Dr. B. E. Masters served as County Chairman of the Hunt County Meet, he has been active in League work. This year he is Regional Director of Region IV at Kilgore.

"Up to the time of 1930," writes Dr. Masters, "the County Interscholastic Meet was a big affair, a holiday for the thousands attending, with hundreds participating in the various events. There was more interest then, it seems to me, in every event, than there is now, with the exception of track, particularly in the District where almost every school had a team. Then, the District Meet was also largely attended in a community fortunate when the competition ran high. Lots of color was found in these meets."

"At any rate," continues the Regional Director, "I have always felt that this Interscholastic League has been well conducted, has done much to promote the general development of the boys and girls and has taught them good sportsmanship."

"It has done a great deal in developing leadership among them. As a great admirer of Roy Bedichek who for so many years managed the League, I want to say that he has made a distinct contribution to the youth of Texas," Dr. Masters concludes.

From 1915 to 1917, he served as County Chairman at Hunt County, bringing a track team to Austin which won the championship. He was Paris County Chairman later and then District Chairman at Amarillo, which office he held until he left Amarillo in 1935.

His activities at Kilgore as Regional Chairman began in 1945.



Dr. Eldon D. Brinley

Reg. VII Director Plots Meet Early

Detailed Planning Vital to Success

Dr. Eldon D. Brinley, who is on the health and physical education staff of the Texas College of Arts and Industries at Kingsville, has been asked to explain how he organized and planned the Regional VII Meet of which he is the Director General.

"It seems to me," says Dr. Brinley, "that the secret to putting over a meet of this kind boils down to three main factors: Start early; be sure to be constantly in contact with the district directors; and plan every item in minute detail."

The following outline is followed by the Regional VII Director General:

1. Start planning early.
2. Have competent faculty people appointed to serve on general committees. The President of the Texas College of Arts and Industries appoints these people: Director General; Director of Publicity and Assistant Director General; Directors of all contests; Director of Housing; Director of Reception and Registration; Director of Awards and Business Manager.
3. We contact all of the district directors early and get the name and address of each so that we can be in immediate contact with them.
4. We send out an information sheet to all district directors and all schools about a month before the meet. This sheet gives them the detailed information in every aspect of the meet, including these items: place, dates, events, time of events, schedules, districts represented, competition, entries, time of entries, registration, awards, finance, housing and meals. In addition, we send them the name of each one of the chairmen of the various events.

AN EDITORIAL

Schools to Vote in April On Proposed Rule Changes

Before the April LEAGUER is off the press, ballots will be mailed to member-schools on the following questions: spring training; membership in the National Federation; limiting fall training to the home campus; and amending the Amateur Rule defining professional sports, prohibiting an athletic contestant from using his name in the promotion of any item, plan or service and limiting ineligibility under this rule to one year.

The ballots will be mailed out the middle of April and, as usual, about 50 per cent of the schools in each conference will vote on the questions submitted.

Some schools will then claim that the new rules were put on the schools without notice. These rule changes were recommended by the Legislative Advisory Council of the University Interscholastic League.

Member-schools in each region elect a representative to the Council for the purpose of studying all proposed legislation and recommending what ballots are to be submitted to the member-schools. For further information about the Council, refer to the Constitution and Rules of the University Interscholastic League, Article IV, Section 5.

World Series Film Ready

A new film on baseball, entitled "World Series of 1945-46 and 47" is now available for coaches, announces D. W. McCavick, director of the Visual Instruction Bureau. Send requests to the Bureau at The University of Texas.

String Orchestra Added To 1950 Music Contests

One new contest in music and a revision of an existing contest were approved during the regular meeting of the State Executive Committee, Wednesday, February 23. Accepting a resolution of the orchestra directors of the State, the Executive Committee added string orchestra to the list of music events to be offered in the

Regional Music Competition-Festivals.

According to F. W. Savage, Director of Music Activities, details of this new contest are still to be worked out by joint committees, but in all probability competition will be arranged in all seven of the present classifications. A list of

prescribed music for this contest will be compiled by the music selection committee which is to be headed by G. Lewis Doll of Corpus Christi, State Orchestra Chairman of the Texas Music Educators Association.

"We have received many inquiries," Savage stated "concerning the possibility of entering string groups as small ensembles. This is in violation of our existing rule limiting the number of students in an instrumental ensemble to eight members. Because of this demand, it seems feasible that string groups be given the advantages of participation."

"Too," Savage continued, "some schools find it impossible to maintain a band and a full orchestra although string instruction is provided by the school. Judges have criticized the instrumentation of a group which enters as an orchestra but does not contain woodwinds, brass or percussion. It does not seem reasonable to penalize a string group for circumstances beyond its control."

"In spite of the many advantages evident in offering this competition," Savage concluded "strict controls will probably be placed in the rules which will be designed to discourage the possibility of disbanding a full orchestra in order to concentrate on a string group. Schools, which have had full orchestra and are capable of supporting a full orchestra will be encouraged to continue to do so. I doubt very seriously if any orchestra director in the State will be interested in destroying an existing full orchestra just to ease the burden of direction, but the League must take steps to keep from being a party to any such backward step."

Rules for this contest will appear in the 1949-50 edition of the Constitution and Rules and directors who have string groups at present are encouraged to submit suggestions to F. W. Savage or Mr. Doll pertinent to the construction of these rules.

The State Executive Committee also approved the division of Conference C, Junior High Schools, into two divisions. Details of this division have not been announced yet, but will be determined by joint action of the junior high school administrators, directors and the State Director of Music Activities.

"This division in Conference C seems necessary," stated Savage, "because at present Junior High Schools with an enrollment of less than 100 students are competing in the same class of competition with the large schools having an enrollment of more than 1000. If it is reasonable to divide high schools into four groups for participation, it seems reasonable to make at least two divisions in Junior High School competition," Savage concluded.

Music Selection Groups Set Dates of Annual Meetings

Dates and places for the annual meetings of the music selection committees have been confirmed. The orchestra committee will meet on the campus of Southwest Texas State College in San Marcos on June 16-17-18. Anton Bek will act as host and organize a full orchestra to perform the selections to be studied. G. Lewis Doll of Corpus Christi, State Orchestra Chairman, will act as chairman of this committee. The membership has not yet been announced.

Euell Porter, State Vocal Chairman, will act as host and chairman of the vocal selection committee which meets at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene on June 23-24-25. Membership of this committee has not been selected.

Dr. D. O. Wiley will again act as host to the band selection committee during the annual band

school on the Campus of Texas Technological College in Lubbock on June 30, July 1-2. L. H. Buckner of Henderson is chairman of this committee which is composed of Wilbur Gregg of Kingsville, John Buchanan of McCombs, Lyle Skinner of Waco, and Don R. Hayes of Littlefield.

Although it is necessary for these committees to make the final selection of numbers, directors are invited to attend these sessions and lend their moral support.

Baseball Clinics Receive Ovation

Coaches Ask Repeat Performance in '50

Reports from chairmen of the Baseball Clinics co-sponsored by the League and the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues all had the same theme—"our clinic was a huge success," and "let's have them again next year."

Approximately 195 coaches from high schools and colleges attended the one-day clinics held in El Paso, Odessa, Lubbock, Abilene, Austin, Corpus Christi, Edinburg, Sherman, Dallas, Tyler, Waco, Houston and Beaumont from February 13 to February 19.

In each city there were co-chairmen appointed to represent American Legion Junior Baseball high-school and sandlot coaches and managers.

Two speakers furnished by the National Association made a series of "one night stands" throughout the state. Gus Mancuso, scout for the St. Louis Browns, and John Hudson, scout for the New York Giants, conducted clinics in one section. Jack Knott, Cincinnati Reds scout, and Bob Bragan, Brooklyn Dodgers scout, covered the rest of the territory.

Instructors gave talks on such subjects as "Training Your Club," "Batting," "Base Running," and gave explanations of a variety of offensive and defensive plays.

E. J. Lowrey at Lubbock wrote: "We are of the opinion that this initial baseball clinic has an excellent start and that these clinics should be conducted from year to year."

P. C. Cobb, Dallas athletic director, said this: "On behalf of the Dallas Public Schools, I wish to thank you very much for the clinic, as I believe it will improve our baseball a great deal."

Coach Barlow Anderson at Sherman wrote this comment: "The speakers at our clinic did a wonderful job in covering all phases of baseball. I hope this will be an annual affair."

V.I.B. Photographs Finals Of Basketball Tournament

Finals of the Championship Basketball Tournament were photographed by the Visual Instruction Bureau of The University of Texas and will be available to schools in April.

Several superintendents requested D. W. McCavick, director, to take films of their games in the first rounds and semi-finals, also. "Coaches wishing the Tournament film should make their request early," states McCavick, "as there is always a big rush for these pictures."

Send requests to Visual Instruction Bureau, The University of Texas.

Electoral College Topic Is Selected

N.U.E.A. Announces Nat'l Debate Query

The 1949-50 topic just announced by the National University Extension Association Committee on Debate will be—Resolved: That the President of the United States Should Be Elected by the Direct Vote of the People.

The N.U.E.A. committee each year at its annual meeting chooses three topics which are voted on by all the states. This year the three questions submitted were Canadian-American Relations (making Canada a part of the United States), Federal Aid to Higher Education and the Electoral College question.

Member-schools of the Interscholastic League have the privilege of adopting the national question or choosing another topic. The national question together with a number of other topics will be submitted to schools for a vote in April. The question receiving the greatest votes wins and becomes the Texas question.

Some of the other topics that will be voted on by Texas schools, in addition to the Elimination of the Electoral College, are: Water and Soil Conservation for Texas; Unicameral Legislation for Texas; Tideland Ownership; and Federal Aid to Education.

Texas Naturalists to Probe Conservation Needs at Camp

Among the oak-clad hills and cypress-shadowed rivers of the Edwards Plateau, the Audubon Nature Camp of Texas offers five sessions this summer starting June 4 and lasting through August 20 at Kerrville.

Eligible to enroll are teachers, principals, superintendents, librarians, those actively engaged in youth leadership in Scout, Camp Fire Girl, Future Farmers, 4-H Club organizations, camp nature counselors, garden and women's club conservation and bird committee personnel, and others interested in nature education and conservation, provided they are at least 18 years of age.

The purpose of the Audubon Nature Camps, conducted by the National Audubon Society in Maine, Connecticut, Texas and California, is to equip teachers and other youth leaders with a keener appreciation of the value and need of conservation of water, soil, plants and wildlife, and their interdependence and the relation of their intelligent treatment and wise use to human welfare.

Each camp staff is composed of all-round naturalists with ample training and teaching experience. Each camper enrolls in a two-

week session and actively participates in informal classes in the field under expert leadership. All instruction involves demonstration of teaching techniques. Subjects include Nature Activities, Birds, Plants, Insects and other Invertebrates, and Vertebrates other than Birds. Campers are able to take home a recommended program for the coming year, adapted to their particular needs in school, troop or club.

Teachers and youth leaders interested in the Texas Camp at Kerrville have their choice of these sessions: June 4-June 17; June 18-July 2; July 3-July 16; July 24-August 6; August 7-August 20. Applications for enrollment may be obtained from Mrs. John W. Greene, 2003 Sharon Lane, Austin, Texas, until June 3. After this date, all applications and payments must be sent to Audubon Nature Camp, Kerrville, Texas.

Dr. Fred R. Cagle of the Zoology Department, Tulane University, New Orleans, La., returns for his second season as Director of the Texas Camp. The Camp is endorsed by the Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. the State Department of Education, and the State Game, Fish and Oyster Commission.



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R. J. KIDD Editor
OLETTA JOHNSON Assistant Editor

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Some District Committees are writing in, stating that "we are very pleased to advise that there will be no entries in the district meet except in the athletic events." This means that the boys and girls in that district who are interested in Journalism, One-Act Play, Ready Writers, Declaration, and Debate, and other League academic contests have been shut out by the committee.

It is too bad that some school administrators are overlooking these talented students. We have talked with a few of these pupils, and they have told us that they would be willing to pay their own way if they were given a chance to get into competition in the speech activities.

We have none of the fans attacking the literary contest officials. There is no gambling at these contests, no drinking or abusive language. These contests have more carry-over value than any offered by the League. The literary contest is that part of the League program that is strictly curricular and can be correlated with the regular course of study.

This office frequently receives queries on the matter of teaching football in physical education classes relative to the violation of the Football Plan, Rule 30. We have consistently replied that in our opinion if the following conditions were present it would not be a violation of the letter of the rule:

- (1) If it be conducted as a regularly scheduled physical education class, open to all students, and not just for football players.
(2) If no football equipment was issued except a ball.
(3) If held during regular class periods (classes held before and after school and during noon hour would violate this rule).

There is no doubt but that football is a valuable and educative activity in the regular physical education curriculum, and to forbid it to be taught in order to eliminate any possible infraction of Rule 30 of the Football Plan would be a gross injustice to the general student body. However, the establishing of special physical education classes to which several physical education teachers are assigned, with the large majority consisting of football players who have been indirectly or directly informed that if they want to play on the high-school football team next fall it would be advisable to sign up for a particular physical education class, is a violation of the spirit of the law if not the letter.

School administrators are calling the State Office, complaining about the colleges inviting high-school boys to their campus for try-outs in football. If the professional football teams were contacting the college players before the boys completed their college eligibility, the college coaches would be up in arms.

The school administrators at the annual session of the Legislative Advisory Council adopted a resolution condemning the college practice of inviting the boys and asked that it be discontinued. Copies of the resolution were sent to all the college athletic conferences in Texas.

Whereas, the practice by scouts representing colleges of soliciting high-school athletes while still in high school constitutes a disturbing and offensive action by

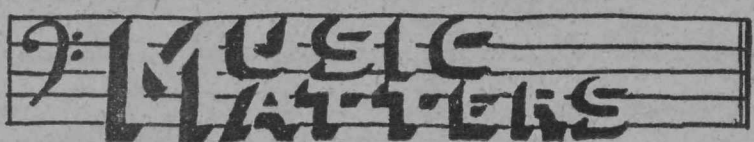
- (1) Creating situations of discord and jealousy among teammates of players solicited,
(2) Creating a commercial atmosphere wherein certain athletes are placed on the block for the highest bidder, and
(3) Placing undue emphasis upon the importance of high-school athletics in the educational program.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the members of the Interscholastic League Advisory Council speaking for the member-schools of the University Interscholastic League, do hereby go on record as condemning this practice as inimical to the best interest of secondary education in Texas and request the co-operation of representatives of institutions of higher learning in the elimination of all forms

of solicitation of high-school boys of athletic ability, which differ in manner or form from the ethical practices used by said institutions in attracting all students.

Committee:

Walter Coers, Orange Grove
Jack R. Ryan, McKinney
R. B. Norman, Amarillo, chairman.



By F. W. Savage, Director of Music Activities

As has been advertised in each issue of this publication since September 1948, February 15 was the deadline for filing acceptance cards for music competition. In keeping with the customary procedure, some schools did not file these cards in time and have to be excluded from competition for this year.

means of a questionnaire to junior high-school administrators and music instructors. If you happen to fall into these categories, be thinking about the place for a proper division. Shall it be at 400, 500, 600 or where?

It has been our ambition for some time to place some of our outstanding high-school groups on a state-wide radio network. If tentative plans work out, we hope you have received circulars from our office announcing such a broadcast by the time you are reading this paragraph.

Entry Blanks Mailed Since the State Office sent lists of eligible schools in each Region to the member schools, it seemed reasonable to send an assortment of entry blanks in the same letter.

The plan calls for a thirty-minute broadcast during school hours during which the performing organization will render as much of the music from the various prescribed lists as time permits. Adjudication blanks will be sent to each member school and the performing group will be graded in the same fashion as groups are in the Regional Competition-Festivals except the judging will be done by your organizations sitting as a committee-of-the-whole and your decisions will be carefully discussed before being rendered.

The future of this idea and whether or not it is expanded or discontinued, depends on the number of listeners we have and the benefits received. Although in all probability this first broadcast will consist of a mixed chorus, we are hoping that bands and orchestras will participate in the listening and adjudication, since points of judging are similar and the listening audience will be greatly increased. If the broadcast is successful this year, we are assured of three broadcasts next year. Keep watching for the circular announcement.

Schedule of District Meets Revealed for all Conferences

Beginning March 11 and 12, district meets are being held each weekend through April 15 and 16. A number of schools have scheduled their meets over several weekends, holding track and field events on different dates from the literary contests.

The schedule of dates and centers which follows is incomplete as a number of directors general have failed to report this information to the State Office.

- Conference AA, by districts:
1. April 9, Canyon
2. April 9, Lubbock
3. April 9, Wichita Falls
4. April 8 and 9, Midland
5. Not reported
6. April 8 and 9, El Paso
7. April 8 and 9, Denton
8. April 8 and 9, Paris
9. Not reported
10. March 25 and 26, Kilgore
11. April 8 and 9, Jacksonville
12. Literary, March 26, Beaumont; tennis, April 1, Beaumont; track, April 8, Port Arthur.
13. April 9 and 16, Baytown
14. April 9, Victoria
15. Literary, April 2, San Benito; one-act play, April 8, Edinburg; track, April 9, Kingsville.
Conference A, by districts:
1. April 9, Canyon
2. Not reported
3. April 8, Floydada
4-5. Not reported
6. Date not reported, Merkel
7. Not reported
8. April 1 and 2, Dublin
9. April 8, Llano
10. Not reported
11. April 8 and 9, Bowie
12-13. Not reported
14. April 2 and 9, Mesquite
15. April 8 and 9, Commerce
16. April 8 and 9, Van
17. April 15 and 16, Pittsburg
18. Not reported
19. April 2 and 9, New Boston
20. March 19, Huntsville
21. April 9, Boling
22. March 25 and 26, Alvin
23. Not reported
24. April 8, Giddings
25. April 8 and 9, Cameron
26. April 2, San Marcos
27. April 8, Edison, San Antonio
28. Date not given, Uvalde
29. March 29, Cuero; April 2, Beeville
30. Literary and tennis, April 2, Taft; track, April 9, Alamo.
Conference B, by districts:
1. April 1, Gruver
2. Literary events, April 1 and 2, Canadian; track, April 19, Foletta
3. April 2, White Deer
4. April 14, Lakoview
5. Not reported
6. April 8 and 9, Anton
7. April 1 and 2, Lubbock
8-10. Not reported
11. April 12, Welnet
12. April 8 and 16, Stephenville
13. April 1, 2, 8, 9, Cross Plains
14. March 15 and 19, Bangs
15. April 8 and 9, Eden
16. Not reported
17. April 2, Sweetwater
18. April 1 and 2, San Angelo
19. Not reported
20. April 1 and 2, Gatesville
21. April 1 and 2, Hamilton
22-23. Not reported
24. Date not reported; Bellevue
25. Not reported
26. April 1 and 2, Van Alstyne
27. April 8, Princeton
28. April 16, Ezra
29-30. Not reported
31. March 25, April 1 and 2, Corsicana
32. In April, Cleburne
33. April 8 and 15, Kopperl
34. Not reported
35. March 26 and April 1 and 2, Calvert
36. Not reported
37. April 7, 8, or 9, Fort Worth
38. Not reported
39. March 17 and 12, Stoneburg
40. Not reported
41. March 25 and 26, Simms
42. April 8 and 9, Naples
43. Not reported
44. Literary, April 8, Malakoff; track, April 1, Eustace
45-50. Not reported
51. April 7 and 8, Saltito
52. April 7 and 8, Golden
53. April 1 and 2, Pinedale
54-57. Not reported
58. April 1, Colmesneer
59-60. Not reported
61. April 1 and 2, Eagle Lake
62. Date not reported, Katy
63. Not reported
64. April 8, Willis
65. April 1 and 2, Liberty
66. March 26, April 2, Rockdale
67. Not reported
68. April 7-9, Hallettsville
69. April 9
70. Not participating
71. April 2, Round Rock
72-73. Not reported
74. March 25, Poteet
75. April 16, Asherton
76. Literary, March 26, Utopia; volleyball, track, April 2, Hondo
77-79. Not reported
80. Literary, April 1 and 2, Port Lavaca; athletic events, April 8 and 9, Refugio
81. April 1 and 2, Agua Dulce and Bishop
82. April 1 and 2, Benavides
83. Not reported
84. April 1 and 2, Pettus
85. April 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, Mazza
86. April 9, Irazan
87. Not reported
88. April 8, Fort Hancock
89-90. Not reported
91. April 7-9, Ozona

Chinese brass bands which accompany many of the funerals in Shanghai often lead the cortege to the grave with such airs as "My Old Kentucky Home," and "Marching Through Georgia."—Coronet.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

September 1, 1947-September 1, 1948

GENERAL FEE ACCOUNT

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures. Receipts total \$3,901.60. Expenditures total \$19,287.03.

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures. Receipts total \$15,462.71. Expenditures total \$3,884.82.

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures. Receipts total \$1,063.95. Expenditures total \$801.74.

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures. Receipts total \$22,081.73. Expenditures total \$22,987.23.

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures. Receipts total \$2,813.90. Expenditures total \$2,639.59.

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures. Receipts total \$13,897.60. Expenditures total \$13,897.60.

Table with columns for Receipts and Expenditures. Receipts total \$13,897.60. Expenditures total \$13,897.60.

Wide Range of Careers Open To Today's Crop of Writers

By Norris G. Davis, Assistant Professor of Journalism The University of Texas

With a graduation time almost on us again, high-school journalism teachers are probably getting a lot of questions these days about possible careers in journalism.

What can you tell these eager seekers for guidance? Naturally you can't try to make their decisions for them, but you can point out to them that journalism is a much wider field than most of them realize. Perhaps just showing them a more complete range of the possible jobs in journalism will help them to make up their minds.

Today training in journalism opens the way to many fields of work other than the standard jobs of writing and editing for the newspaper or general magazine.

To illustrate this point, we might point to a recent graduating class of journalism majors at The University of Texas. Only about 30 per cent of this group went into jobs on daily or weekly newspapers.

Others went into independent advertising agencies, magazine work, radio, teaching, and public relations. Too, almost 10 per cent of the group—girls—gave up journalism at least temporarily to become housewives. They'll be more likely to become community leaders because of their journalistic training even though they never do become professional journalists.

Among the fastest expanding fields for journalists are those of public relations and specialized magazine work. Public relations is drawing an ever-increasing number of capable young men and women, most of them trained in journalism, into jobs where they direct their talents toward helping an organization "be good and get credit for it."

The national labor unions serve as an example of the development of the public relations field. Until recent years the leaders of these unions were concerned only with their immediate aims—stronger organization and higher wages for their members.

The field of specialized magazines also has expanded more than most persons realize in the last few years. Many of these magazines are a part of the public relations program, explaining and promoting a particular point of view. Others are magazines for particular groups such as teachers, doctors, lawyers, plumbers, pharmacists, etc.

As a more specific example of this specialized magazine field, the Humble Oil Company publishes six such magazines through its Houston office. Ten employees work full-time on these magazines, and many others help in various ways. Colleges are now offering specialized journalism courses, such as Oil and Gas Reporting, to prepare students for jobs on magazines such as these as well as for the specialized reporting fields on newspapers.

Journalistic training is also frequently combined with radio training to open the way to a career in radio news. With the coming of television, new jobs are being opened for both commentators and cameramen who can recognize and dramatize news events.

Yes, it's all of these and a million more that help to make America great. Most of it can be summed up in saying: "It's the American people, their way of life, their ideals and their love for freedom and independence." God grant that it may always stay thus so.

Humphrey Keynotes T.S.T.A. Program

(Continued from Page 1)

lated with the intent to improve the educational opportunities of Texas boys and girls.

We hope that each teacher as well as each citizen in our state will take time to learn the contents and merits of all legislative bills which are introduced during this session of the Legislature in order that each person may convey to his Representative and Senator his sentiments and wishes about the proposed legislative program of the Texas State Teachers Association.

The Texas schools have an opportunity to move forward this year, and we hope that each of you who may take time to read this article in the LEAGUER will be willing to convey your sentiments and wishes to members of the Texas Legislature.

Fr. Hancock Writer Wins Conf. B Award

(Continued from Page 1)

where we are given a choice of subjects instead of being told what to take. Where we may have open discussions, pro and con, not only on our school work but on government, our country's policies and even our president.

This is quite different from the case of Ivan Volshinsky, age 14, of a certain small village in a small European nation. Ivan was so careless as to say aloud in a classroom, that he did not understand his country's attitude toward the United States, and that his father often thought the United States was in the right. Ivan never returned to school after that day. In fact nothing was seen of the Volshinsky family after that day. It was as if something had swooped down out of the night and swallowed them up. No one ever says anything about this incident in the village, but the children of that village have been deeply impressed. There will never again be any sort of a discussion about whether their country is right or wrong. She is always right, so a discussion is not "necessary."

It is our traditions, our Christmas with its good will toward men, and its surprises and joys for the children. It is our Easter with bright new hats, outside services, and our beloved Easter Bunny. It's Fourth of July, with noise and excitement, and its our flag day, with reverence and gratitude. It's our homes, America's greatest institutions, our picnics in the backyard, the garden of Mother's, the garage with Dad's boat tied to the ceiling; and it's brother's model airplanes hanging from the beams in the basement.

Yes, it's all of these and a million more that help to make America great. Most of it can be summed up in saying: "It's the American people, their way of life, their ideals and their love for freedom and independence." God grant that it may always stay thus so.



By Bruce Roach

This month we are finishing the list of new plays that have come into the Interscholastic League Drama Service during the last several months. Obviously, there are too many plays to review in this column. Order catalogues from the various publishers, and if you would like to have any of these titles, we shall be glad to send them to you for reading purposes. In addition, a few reviews are included this month of representative new plays from several of the publishers. If you are still at loss for a contest play (though it is a little late for change) you might try one of the two one-act plays reviewed this month. They are two of the best that have come in recently.

Out From New Bedford, by Frederick G. Walsh, Dramatic Publishing Co., Roy. \$5, 2m2w, play, one-act, 50c.

New Bedford, Massachusetts, and the sea is the background for this absorbing one-act play. It concerns the men who go down to the sea in ships—specifically, whaling ships. Nancy, the daughter of an old whaling captain, is in love with a fine strapping lad, Stephen. She refuses to marry Stephen if he goes on with his plan to make sailing a whaler his life. But the call of the salt and the spray is too much for Stephen. Nancy finally persuades her father—against his better judgment—to try to get Stephen to change his mind. The father tries to dissuade the young man from the life of the sea by extolling the glammers of the vine-covered cottage (with a job at a cloth mill attached). But such a confining life is not for Stephen. In a tense scene, the boy sorrowfully bids goodbye to his sweetheart. But love finds a way, and (due to the age old principle that women never really know what they want most) Stephen and his girl ostensibly sail away to bliss—chasing whales! This is a well written play and should prove a popular play in contests and festivals.

Reviewer's opinion: Excellent. Uses: Contest, festival.

Grace for Vincent, by Herman Miller, Dramatic Publishing Co., Roy. \$5, 2m2w, play, one-act, 50c.

Vincent Milletti is convinced that he is to die this night at eight o'clock. He has accepted his fate and is preparing for his last hour. Two years before the time of the play he was in the midst of a terrific battle—shells falling, bombs exploding, etc. He heard a voice calling him, and he pleaded to go home again. The voice had answered, "All right, I will give you two years to the minute. . . ." Thus we arrive at the time of the play. The time for Vincent Milletti is up. Of course, when he came home with this weird story the psychiatrist tried to convince him the whole thing was an hallucination. But Vincent believes the whole thing. Then the father comes home. He is the realist of the group, and has strength enough to pull the boy through his trying hour. This is an unusual and moving play which builds to a good climax. Unfortunately, the excellent last part of the play is spoiled by a very poor beginning. The lines and the action are vague and fumbling at the start. The dialogue of the women is false and affected. A director might try rewriting the first part of the play and turn up a fairly good contest play here.

Reviewer's opinion: Good. Uses: Contest, assembly.

Only an Orphan Girl, by Henning Nelms, Dramatists Play Service, Roy. \$15, 3m5w extras melodrama, 4 acts, 85c.

The full sub-title of this old-time number is "a soul-stirring drama of human trials and tribulations in four acts." It contains enough action and hokum for a dozen melodramas. Each of the acts ends with things getting worse: First act: The villain steals the mortgage money and is about to foreclose on the old homestead if the heroine does not get friendlier. Act two: Dynamite is about to blow both the hero and heroine into the next world. Third act: Nellie the heroine is driven out into the snow because of base rumors that she is a besmirched woman. (We know, of course, that she is more pure than the snow fluttering around her shoulders.) Act four: The circular saw in the sawmill is about to cut our heroine asunder and tear her to pieces (she is tied to a log). Such dastardly deeds go on in the sawmill! Needless to say, however, Right

conquers all, and the heroine ends up in the arms of the hero, mortgaged, dynamite and circular saws notwithstanding. Ample directions are given for staging; excellent suggestions are included in the playbook for working out the four sets and for the various props necessary to the play. Although the play sounds complicated, it can be staged very simply. In addition, suggestions are given for entrance entertainment.

Reviewer's opinion: Excellent. Uses: Little Theater, Club production.

Samuel French, 25 West 45th St., N.Y.

Oh Susanna, by Ryerson & Clements. Musical score by Ann Ronell. Roy. \$50., large cast, 3 act, musical comedy.

Heart Trouble, by Robert Kean. Roy. \$15., 6m6w, 3 act, comedy.

The Importance of Being Important, by Tom Taggart. Roy. \$10., 6m6w, 3 act, comedy.

Are You Kidding? by Russell Drake. Non-roy., 4m8w, 3 act, farce.

College Knights, by John Rand. Roy. \$10., 7m6w, 3 act, comedy.

Happy Ever After, by Douglass Parkhurst. Roy. \$15., 9m8w, 3 act, comedy.

On the Sentimental Side, by John Kirkpatrick. Roy. \$5., 3m4w, 1 act, comedy.

Just Imagine! by Charles George. Non-roy., 6w, 1 act, comedy.

Alexander Proposes, by Jean Lyons. Non-roy., 1m4w, 1 act, comedy.

Tom Sawyer's Morning, by Regina Brown. Non-roy., 8m4w, 1 act, comedy.

Sorority Sisters, by Betty Ann Mattingley. Non-roy., 8w, 1 act, comedy.

Brilliant Performance, by Marjorie Allen. Non-roy., 4w, 1 act, comedy.

Who Picked Mrs. Flower? by Dorothy Nichols and Dorothy Wyman. Non-roy., 3w, 1 act, comedy (a play about home nursing).

Essay on America Wins

(Continued from Page 1)

Marion, my best friend, say, "Boy, that was a good assembly! Why so quiet? Tommy asked about you. He said—" But I wasn't listening. Thoughts were challenging me, whirling in my head. What is this America we had sung about? Could a moment of patriotism mean that I knew the secret of its greatness? I had seen posters about town proclaiming that America had freedom of speech, freedom of worship. Some famous artist had painted them. One was a picture of a woman kneeling, the sun on her face. She was praying. I missed. Then I looked up startled, when Marion said crossly, "you haven't heard a word I said! See you later—" Swinging my books to the other arm, I sat down on a park bench near the walk. The day was crisp—cold; brown leaves lay dryly at my feet and crunched when I stepped on them. People hurried by on various errands. Something by my hand moved with the wind. I picked up a folded newspaper and began to read.

Said the black print of a headline, "Freedom Train Brings Tons of Food to Europe." The American people, I thought, think in terms of generosity as big as their skyscrapers, as broad as the Great Plains. The wind blew against my face and tugged at the newspaper. Food from the soil of America's rich earth, tilled by the farmer who plants what he wants, sent across seas to feed the world's hungry—this, this makes America great! The leaves blew in eddies at my feet.

Turning to the page I saw an article on a youth rally. Why, Tommy had covered that for the school paper! He had said, "Yeah, you should've been there. Kids came from all over. I saw Negroes, Jewish boys, Mexican girls—all from the U. S. A delegation of Chinese representatives from San Francisco was there. Say, that Czech boy was nice. He showed me how to pitch a curve, plays on the team back home. I never saw so many nationalities. One girl of Swedish ancestry taught us how to do a square dance. Did we have fun!" The "melting pot"! Miss Higgins, our American History teacher, told us before that these United States were made up of the people

Roach Cites Judges' Pet Peeves

By Bruce Roach
Director of Speech Activities

Often we are asked just what judges of plays dislike most. We have made a survey of the "pet peeves" of a number of judges and are herewith publishing a few of them for what they may be worth to you in directing your play.

One judge says he can tell how good the director is by the way the actors use the telephone on the stage. There are definite techniques in the use of the stage telephone. More often than not, the actor, when using the telephone, covers his mouth with the receiver. It has been found that the actor can be more effective if he holds the mouthpiece under his chin leaving his entire face to be seen. Then again, young actors are inclined to rush a telephone conversation, not allowing enough time for the illusion of someone talking on the other end of the line. This is particularly true when they dial or call a number and begin immediately to talk to their party without any pause at all.

Often actors do not react to what they are supposed to be hearing over the phone, but wait for their own lines to do any acting. Such dead-pan telephone conversation destroys the illusion of any conversation at all.

The cord can play an important part in showing reactions. When the student has the receiver in one hand, what he does with the other hand in wadding up the cord, grasping it, or involuntarily jerking it, will tell a great deal about the mood he is in, and his reaction to the speeches he is listening to. As a director, it might be well for you to check up on your actors' telephone business, and if they are not getting the best out of the business, straighten them out on telephone techniques.

Another irritating bit of staging to many judges is the placement of a heavy piece of furniture or a divan right in front of the main entrance. Such placement cuts off the lower half of every actor who enters. Too often the director follows the playwright's directions blindly, not realizing that many playwrights, although they may be able to write good dialogue, certainly do not know the first principle about play production. The best advice an experienced director can pass along to a be-

ginner is this: blue pencil all the stage directions given in a play, and use your own. This goes for the set as well. In particular is this true if the playwright has designated a huge sofa right across the main entrance.

A third irritation to judges is the playing of scenes behind the furniture. Admittedly, there are times when this cannot be avoided, but an astute director will see to it that as many of the scenes as possible, and certainly the important scenes will be played in front of the furniture.

Let the actor use the furniture. Too often the members of the cast appear to be moving around and through the furniture as though it were electrically charged. True, they may not have seen this exact set of furniture before, but they must learn to make the room and the furniture a part of themselves. To sum it

up then, it is a good idea to keep your actors in front of the furniture as much as possible, and teach them to use it naturally.

A fourth irritation is the "static scene" in which two characters sit down on a sofa or in chairs and sit . . . and sit . . . and sit . . . without any break-up or change of position. If your actors must sit through a long scene, give them something to do—a piece of paper to read, a pipe to smoke, and get them to break up their positions on the chair by leaning forward, sideways, backward, shifting, crossing legs. Do not let your scenes become "static" unless you have a definite motivation in mind for such a scene.

These are but a few of the irritations directors, through careless direction, cause judges (and audiences). If the "shoe fits" on any of these, it might be well to check up on your own direction.

Speech In Texas Schools

THIS column belongs to Texas Speech teachers for discussion of speech problems and news concerning Speech activities in Texas high schools. Communications should be sent to Mr. Bruce Roach, Box H, University Station, Austin, Texas. Who is editor of this column.

From reports coming in, speech departments all over the State are reaching a new peak of activity. So far, some 450 schools have sent in eligibility cards for the One-Act Play Contest alone. In addition, nearly every school is hard at work on a long play. Many are entering students in oratorical contests other than those sponsored by the League. Although we could not report all of these activities, we have included a few that have come to our attention this month. If your school is not included in this round-up, send us a report on your speech and drama work.

Full length plays are becoming quite popular this season. Alvin High School gave *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* under the direction of Tom Haberle, February 24. Leverett's Chapel plans two plays in the near future by Mrs. Ray. Two full houses saw the Crane High School production of *The Curse of an Aching Heart* at an afternoon and evening performance, February 14. Cypress High School gave *You'll Die Laughing* March 14. The Austin High School Red Dragons are hard at work on *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* with Mrs. Naomi D. Norton directing.

The Wichita Falls Footlight Players scheduled *Life with Father* with Elizabeth Greer directing. *A Date With Judy* will be presented by the Corpus Christi senior class under the direction of Mrs. Ruby Nell Galdonik. Vivian Chenaault's cast for *Meet Me in St. Louis*, the San Angelo senior play, is hard at work for an early Spring performance. *The Man Who Came for Dinner* will be presented soon to a stray dog, wagging his tail for all he was worth, while a small freckle-faced boy fed him popcorn.

"Hi," said Freckle-Face. "Hi," I said. A tall girl with brown pigtailed and plaid bows stopped to gaze at us. "I'm Mary Louise," she informed us. "Did you know I can draw? Teacher just said so, and I'm going to be an artist." She produced a red crayon from her pocket and proceeded to demonstrate on the sidewalk. "Well—I'm going to be president of the U-nited States" said my little friend importantly. Patting the pooch, I picked up my books to walk home, the doggie following behind me. I had said the people made America great—Something Freckle-Face knew that I had forgotten, was that America's opportunities for youth are unlimited. Ahead lies the vision through the arch-way of life. Our dreams, our plans are not realized easily, but in America they can be obtained. We people want to "get ahead"; they have the vigor, the desire, established in their youth, to make a place for themselves in the world. "Perhaps that is the secret of America's greatness," I said to myself.

Then I stopped short. But it was no secret! All about me I had seen it. In my trips to the city, Daddy had shown me the men speaking from the sidewalks, in public places—expressing their opinions, trying to "be somebody." In the country, blue skies look down on an earnest farmer, working with the earth to create with God.

The spirits of American people have made our country a "promised land." I whistled softly as I walked. The sky had grown dark, the air colder. I began to sing. "Oh, beautiful for spacious skies, for amber fields of grain—" Surely God had shed His grace on America! I turned in at the gate. The dog came in, too, and barked loudly. "Mom," I called, "I'm home!"

communications should be sent to Mr. Bruce Roach, Box H, University Station, Austin, Texas. Who is editor of this column.

entered in the eliminations. Tyler High School was represented by 25 students. Raymondville, Waco, Highland Park and Amarillo are but a few of the schools with a large group of contestants. The finals for the State will be held at Thomas Jefferson High School, San Antonio, March 18, under the direction of Richard M. Cummins, Director of Youth Activities for the Legion.

Thirty-nine schools and better than 600 students participated in the Baylor Tournament held February 18-19 in Waco. Glenn Capp of Baylor and Mattie Bess Coffield of Waco High School collaborated to sponsor this effective tournament. One of the features was the appearance of all of the speech contestants (other than debaters) in front of the regular speech classes all day Friday at Waco High School. E. W. Cabe, principal of Waco High School, was most enthusiastic in his praise of this procedure, and expressed the wish to make it a permanent part of the Annual Tournament.

The University of Texas Drama Department presented four original one-act plays by students at the University March 2-5, including *Slough Boy*, *Cross Ties*, *Castle Square*, *Magic Fountain*. The Curtain Club of The University of Texas presented *Beggar on Horseback* March 7-12. Other Drama Department offerings will be the winner of the original long-play contest, *Berke's Peerage*, by Graham Ferguson the week of April 6, and B. Iden Payne's production of *Richard II* commencing April 26.

Supt. E. B. Morrison of Cuero Public Schools has inaugurated a splendid idea for one-act play people. He has invited two schools not in his district, Yoakum and Schulenburg, to come over and present their contest play along with Cuero for rating and criticism on March 23. Bruce Roach will be critic.

Of interest to all drama students and teachers and particularly to members of the National Thespian Society is the announcement of the Third National Dramatic Arts Conference sponsored by the National Thespian Society. The conference is to be held at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana, June 13 through 18. Those who attended the Conference two years ago will remember the superb program and the splendid hospitality offered. This Conference will not doubt be equally fine. For further information about fees, the program, etc., write Ernest Bavelly, National Thespian Society, College Hill Station, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Have you sent in your 1949 dues for the Texas Speech Association yet? If not, send \$1.50 for regular membership, or \$5 for sustaining membership to Bruce Roach, Executive Secretary, T.S.A., Box H, University Station, Austin. Do it today.

Teachers should certainly familiarize themselves with the International Contest Rules which govern all League contests. "Commercial teachers must keep this policy in mind as directors of meets should not accept papers which do not conform to these rules," Miss Stullken warns. Other questions frequently asked the state manager are these:

NEUA World Government Debate Book Available
Schools using the Federal World Government topic as a supplementary debate question this year may secure excellent material by writing Robert H. Schacht, Extension Division, the University of Wisconsin.

Clark's Coaching Produces Winners

Three Awards Go To Schulenburg



I. E. Clark

I. E. Clark and his wife put Schulenburg on the map last year as far as Interscholastic League activities were concerned. Mr. Clark's one-act play won top honors in the Conference B play tournament and two of his cast were on the all-star cast. Two of the typists he had coached came to the State meet where one received first place in the Conference B typing contest.

Mrs. Clark coached declamation and ready writing last year, and sent two contestants to the State Meet. The disclaimer placed second.

Director Clark sponsors the Dramatics Club at his school and directs play productions because he enjoys it and because he likes working with young people.

"What little I know about producing a play I learned while serving as secretary to the Department of Drama and the Curtain Club while at The University of Texas in 1941-42," he says.

He directed his first play in 1947 which won second place in the district meet. His production "High Window" last year was his second attempt and this year's senior play is his first long play. Drama in Schulenburg is an extracurricular activity.

As is the case with most teachers in small schools, Mr. Clark's teaching duties are varied. He teaches first and second year typing, shorthand, journalism, and senior English.

"The fact that teaching some of these courses enables me to enter students in Interscholastic League activities is one of the delights I find in teaching," he comments.

In addition to his record in drama and typing, Mr. Clark coached a student who placed fourth at the regional meet in the shorthand contest.

The school paper, *The Short-horn*, won the I.L.P.C. Award of Distinguished Merit, which gave Schulenburg the right to send two journalist contestants to the State Meet.

Mrs. Clark is the librarian and English teacher at Schulenburg. Besides coaching declaimers and ready writers, she assists her husband with his play direction. Both of them are graduates of The University of Texas.

The Clarks live on a farm on the edge of Schulenburg and, during their spare time, they are dairy farmers.

Adamson Principal Favors National Debate Question

By H. A. Allen, Principal
Adamson High School, Dallas

It has always been a pleasure for our school to enter the University Interscholastic League contests each year. We think these events prove to be valuable stimuli for better pupil work and citizenship in most fields of school endeavor.

However there is one phase of League activity which I, personally, feel may be improved. I refer to the selection of the annual debate topic for the League.

Our school has a very active forensic program and we are interested in seeing the greatest possible values achieved in the execution of this activity. Adamson students each year study both the national and the state debate questions. For a number of years we have found that

(1) Our pupils prefer to debate the national question rather than the state question. This, I believe, is due to two reasons. First, there is usually a more adequate supply of material available, suitable for high-school students' use, on the national topic than there is on the state question. Second, there seems to be a tendency for high-school age pupils to like to feel they are solving some big problems, such as world or national problems, and state questions appear insignificant to them in comparison to the ones usually posed

by the national topic each year. (2) Our pupils desire the experience gained by meeting out-of-state high-school debaters each year. Whereas our forensic program is strong enough to give our students this experience, in addition to local Texas participation on the state question, many pupils are denied this opportunity of meeting out-of-state debaters because their debate programs are too limited to enable them to prepare on both the state and the national topics.

(3) Our pupils want out-of-state debaters to participate in the annual Adamson debate tournament. If we hold our tournament on the Texas question, these out-of-state boys and girls cannot participate, because they are prepared to debate only the national question used by most of the schools in the United States. If we hold our tournament on the national question, then many of the smaller schools debating only the Texas question cannot participate.

(4) Our pupils desire that it be possible for both Texas and out-of-state debaters to engage in the Adamson speech tournament.

In view of these circumstances, I believe our forensic program would be best served each year if the Interscholastic League would adopt for debate the national debate question each year.

Tips Given Ready Writers

(Continued from Page 1)

Notice first their style, the quality which the judges are instructed to count least in arriving at their decision. The vocabulary used consists of simple words; the authors were not showing off by trying to use sesquipedalian words such as *sesquipedalian*. The sentences are varied, furthermore, complex being more numerous than simple or compound sentences. Examine particularly the paragraphs of the winner in the AA Conference; each one brings up a single idea and sticks to it until that idea has been clearly explained to the reader. And don't overlook the fact that neither paper has a mechanical introduction or conclusion in which the author says, "In this paper I am going to do such and such" or "In the above paragraphs I have done so and so."

Look next at the organization, which judges consider more important than style. Both papers are organized. In other words, both authors decided, before they began to write, where they were going and how they were going to get there. The organization of one is based upon time, the ideas being presented within the framework of an assembly at the close of the school day and the thoughts it occasioned during a walk home.

The organization of the other essay is indicated by the statement "America's greatness lies in many things," the author thus indicating that an enumeration would follow whose cumulative effect would explain America's greatness. And in order to clarify the idea that the things that make America great are unique to America, the paper was organized to present a con-

trast between our country and another. Whatever you do, don't underestimate the importance of organization. You'll never get anywhere if you don't decide where you want to go and plan how to get there. Don't be like the eager but foolish man who enthusiastically jumped on his horse and galloped furiously in all directions.

Notice finally the quality of interest, considered by the judges as the most important criterion of a paper's excellence, and defined in the rules as "originality of thought and freshness of treatment." You may be inclined to feel that at your age and with your few years of education you have little chance of having an original thought. And in your desire to achieve "freshness of treatment" you may be tempted to search for unusual words and tricky expressions in the hope that they will impress the judges. But remember this, however: you are the world's authority on one subject—yourself.

The secret, of course, lies in your ability to be accurate, to make your record exact, detailed, and specific rather than vague, general, and abstract. To see what I mean, you have only to turn to the prize-winning essays. That sentence about "Dad's club meeting . . . when Mother pretends she doesn't miss him at supper, and Mother's Guild meeting . . . when Dad eats lunch at the drug store and pretends he's enjoying it!" There in one sentence are two sets of observations, emotions, and thoughts; and no one in the world except the author of the paper ever had that exact combination, which is not only original, but unique. Getting that combination expressed accurately took care of "freshness of treatment."

The originality of the other winning paper followed automatically from the decision to organize it about the author's personal, and therefore unique, experience. But again notice how specifically, how much in detail, how accurately that experience is recorded. Every action, every emotion of the author during that experience were seen to find written down: "Swinging my books to the other arm, I sat down . . ."; "Something by my hand moved with the wind"; "Why, Tommy had covered that for the school paper"; "God . . . must have blessed America," I said solemnly to a stray dog . . ." And yet we know that not all the author's actions, observations, thoughts, and feelings were recorded; instead, out of a million details only the significant ones were selected.

I extend an invitation to all students in the state to enter the Ready Writers' Contest, and hope to meet personally many of the contestants in the near future. Not all of you, of course, can write the winning essay; but every single entrant can get pleasure and profit from this contest. Granted, we all "sweat blood" when we try to write, but there is a peculiar fascination about writing which makes it fun; and every time we make an attempt, we increase our powers of thought and expression. So if you enter the contest, you can't lose.

State Manager Reviews Aids For Typing Contest Graders

Some judges of the Typewriting Contest during the 1948 District Meets failed to mark more than half of the errors in the typing competition, reports Miss Florence Stullken, state manager of the contest who examines the district tests.

"Many of the papers had errors, which were not marked, in spelling due to division of words at the end of the line," the state manager has pointed out.

"Coaches of typing contestants should put their students on guard against this habit of misspelling a word by incorrect division as well as warn them against carrying over a two-letter syllable. Sometimes this last fault is not an error in English grammar, but more often it is," she continues.

One rule which should be noted by all teachers is that a line must contain at least sixty-one spaces. The line starts with the first word in that line—not with the left margin.

Teachers should certainly familiarize themselves with the International Contest Rules which govern all League contests.

"Commercial teachers must keep this policy in mind as directors of meets should not accept papers which do not conform to these rules," Miss Stullken warns.

Other questions frequently asked the state manager are these:

What kind of machine may be used? What is the minimum number of words per minute considered acceptable? What is the best way to grade typing papers?

Miss Stullken answers these points as follows: "Any kind of machine with either elite or pica type is permitted in the contest. Teachers should not consider their students capable of competition unless they can type at least 40 words per minute. Less than 40 words per minute should not be accepted at League meets."

To teachers acting as judges at meets, Miss Stullken makes this suggestion: "All papers should be graded twice, each time by different teachers. The high ten papers should be checked three times and initialed. Then the contest director should take the high three papers and choose the two winners."

Make it a rule of life never to regret and never to look back. Regret is an appalling waste of energy; you can't build on it, it's only good for wallowing in.

There is no limit to the good a man can do if he doesn't care who gets the credit for it.

Postscripts on Athletics

The question of inter-school boxing as a school-boy activity is almost universally frowned upon by medical authorities, health and physical education authorities and school administrators. Only four states offer boxing as an interscholastic activity, and even in those states it is offered on a limited basis. Let us look at boxing as a high-school activity from an educational, health, and scientific viewpoint.

In the fight game the prime object is to hit an opponent in the stomach or on the head, the main idea being to render him unconscious. Trying to lessen that charge the boxing defender will point to the victory by decision but that is merely a side issue.

The main objective in the fight sport is to score a knockout and usually the knockout comes when a fighter loses consciousness because of constant blows to the head. In no other sport is the main objective to knock the opponent unconscious.

If you're a follower of the fight game over any lengthy period of time have a look around you and make note of the boxers you have known who are now walking on their heels, mumbling their conversation, more or less, and usually more, punch-drunk and goofy. How did they get that way? You know the answer. They got that way through absorbing blows to the head and that was the main objective of the opponents they fought.

Did you ever ask your family physician what he thinks of boxing? In that regard you may find interesting a recent article in the influential *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

"There is no evidence to support the frequent allegation that boxing is a particularly valuable method of developing character, determination and personality," said Dr. Ernst Jokl. "The refusal to realize the danger of boxing," the physician continued, "is responsible for many a boxer's life being spoiled. Boxing often exerts a brutalizing influence on spectators and it appeals to the lowest human instincts."

"It is probable that no head blow is taken with impunity and that each knockout causes definite and irreparable damage," was another line in the medical journal.

"A great deal of the strength and endurance which has been attributed to boxing comes about as a result of the training program in which the boxer takes part," said the medical journal article. "This training period might just as well be devoted to other sports with the same effect."

In boxing the primary target is the head, and the goal is to injure or physically punish the opponent, with the knockout as the eventuality. This is at variance with all other sports in which injury is accidental. For example, in football the touchdown is the goal and injury only a possible by-product.

That last sentence counters properly many an argument advanced by the ardent fight fan who points out that players are killed in football, occasionally in baseball, more frequently in horse racing, and sporadically in numerous other sports.

A great number of physicians and physical educators have become convinced that boxing cannot be defended as an appropriate sports activity for high-school boys. The legislative council of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation recently passed a resolution which recommends "the discontinuance of interscholastic boxing for boys 18 years of age or under."

Harry Sheer, sports writer on the *Chicago Daily News*, made an investigation of the insurance risks in boxing. He wrote, "The people who write millions of dollars worth of insurance for everybody from deep-sea divers to men on the flying trapeze will not touch professional prize fighters with a ten-foot pole."

Roger Treat, sports columnist for the *Chicago Herald American* says, "Perhaps because we are all sadistic and janglebred, we are deliberately ignoring the main point—that boxing is primarily a contest in which the object is to kill or maim the opponent. We like to think we are civilized. We like to claim that boxing is the 'manly art of self defense.'"

Texas City, Memphis, Martins' Mill Win Titles



MARTIN'S MILL (Front row, left to right) Leon Black, James Pennington, Kellis Gene White, E. R. Sides, Nelen Black. (Back row) Coach A. S. Slaughter, Oneal Weaver, Orsborn Williams, and Charles West, manager.

Brownwood, French, Big Sandy Take 2nd Place

Texas City's Stingarees, newcomers to Conference AA, defeated the Brownwood Lions, 30-28, in the final game of the 1949 State Championship Basketball Tournament Saturday, March 5.

Earlier in the day, Martin's Mill won the Conference B crown, while Memphis took the Conference A championship.

Five new records were set during the 29th tournament. A new attendance record was reached Saturday night when a 7000-strong crowd brought the three-day's total up to 43,500. Last year's crowd reached the 42,550 mark, a 5000 increase over the previous tournament.

Oneal Weaver, Martin's Mill's center, set a new mark in the Individual Scoring in One Series Department with a total of 61 points, bettering 49 by Kenneth Pemberton of Stratford in 1946.

Martin's Mill's score in the finals, 39 to Big Sandy's 33, bettered the

high team score in the Conference B championship game. The previous all high had been set by Shedd in 1943 with 36 points. The total score of Martin's Mill and Big Sandy in the finals of 72 brought down another four year old high—68 points by Prairie Lee and Mount Enterprise in 1945, 35-33.

Floyd Dickens, one of the Big Sandy twins, added his name to the roster of most free throws by individual in one game. Dickens threw eight, to equal the mark of Marcus Freiberger of Greenville, 1947, Adair of Beeville, 1947, and Junior Carrington East Mountain, 1946 and 1947.

The tournament brought to an end a year of competition among 1066 schools and 15,847 boys in Conferences AA, A and B.

A round-up of the state tournament scores by conferences follows:

Conference B
Big Sandy 47, Woodsboro 34; Slidell 32, Shallowater 26; Waelder 48, Gustine 21; Martin's Mill 38, Marfa 24.

Semi-finals—Big Sandy 39, Slidell 36; Martin's Mill 40, Waelder 38.

Third Place—Waelder 39, Slidell 31.

Championship—Martin's Mill 39, Big Sandy 33.

Conference A
Memphis 25, Coleman 23; Gaston 33, Madisonville 22; French 46, Uvalde 27; Lampasas 43, Nona 24.

Semi-finals—Memphis 23, Gaston 27; French 28, Lampasas 23.

Third Place—Gaston 34, Lampasas 32.

Championship—Memphis 27, French 25.

Conference AA
Port Arthur 32, Bowie (El Paso) 25; Texas City 38, Waco 31; Lubbock 46, Highland Park 27; Brownwood 40, Austin 38.

Semi-finals—Texas City 49, Port Arthur 31; Brownwood 46, Lubbock 32.

Third Place—Lubbock 47, Port

Coach Is Important Cog in Local Health Education Program

By Lewis Spears
Director of Health Education
State Department of Education

Coaches are often the most popular teachers in schools and communities since they offer a program that is of interest to boys and girls, as well as adults, of a given area. They have been given credit for building physically fit, mentally alert, and morally straight individuals of high character. This point was proven to a large extent by the high percentage of former athletes, both high school and college, being able to go immediately into combat duty or into vigorous flight duty during World War II.

Some people object to athletics as presently conducted because it only reaches a small percentage of the student body, but this could be overcome by the coach recognizing the need for a total health education program in a school and community and by working in the background to see that some of his ideas that are employed in teaching boys to become physically fit are also employed in the daily living of boys and girls who do not participate in athletics.

For example, the coach could serve on a school health council—not as chairman, but as a member of the council which has been organized to encourage administrators, teachers, students, parents, and community agencies to work together as a team in discovering the more outstanding health problems in a school and community. The council could work together as a team in solving some of these health problems.

The outstanding coaches in the country have proven that "team work" is far superior to the play of an individual star; therefore, we should like to take this opportunity to encourage all coaches in Texas to help develop "team work" in their schools and communities to win the "big game" of life and make health functional in the lives of all boys and girls.

ents of the boxers, as fine clean, "manly" sport which supposedly develops some type of character which will help the youngster in the "battle of life." The amateur kids are badly trained, if at all; their boxing skill is nothing, and could not be at that age and experience. The winner is the one who lands the lucky punch and happens to be able to take punishment better than his opponent. It also leaves the winner in the unfortunate position of becoming the prey of the panders of the professional boxing racket.

It should be the duty of all school administrators and athletic personnel to discourage students from entering boxing programs sponsored by organizations where monetary profits are the sole basis for conducting them. Your purpose should be to see that no high-school boy is utilized for commercial profit. The superior football players are often especially urged by outside interests to enter boxing contests so that the promoters can use their reputation as a means of attracting more cash customers. In my opinion high-school boys should only have boxing in physical education classes and in-ramural activities, and only then after adequate coaching, supervision, training and a thorough medical examination.



MEMPHIS (Front row, left to right) Bobby Crooks, Billy West, Andy Gardenhire, Leroy Green, Don Corley, Thomas Messer. (Back row) Coach L. E. McColloch, Raymond Clark, manager, Charles Morrison, Sammy Rasco, Don Ray Rasco, Scotty Grundy, R. A. Wells, Manager.

Conference Members Entitled to Fee

Some school administrators who have invited members of the athletic staffs of Southwest Conference schools to speak at football banquets have not known that the Conference has ruled these men are entitled to a fee. When this fact is called to their attention, an extremely embarrassing situation often develops for all concerned.

At the May meeting of the Southwest Conference, the matter of appearing at high-school banquets and civic clubs meetings was discussed at length.

It was decided that an honorarium of \$25 and expenses of 6 cents per mile each way be paid to any member of the athletic staff who appears at a banquet outside his own city.

This rule became effective September 1, 1948, for all Conference schools.



The answers in this column are in no sense "official interpretations." Only the State Executive Committee is competent under the rules to make official interpretations, and the State Committee's interpretations appear in the Official Notice column of THE LEAGUER. These are answers to inquiries which are made in the course of routine correspondence with the State Office of the Interscholastic League.

Q. What would be the status of a high-school boy who played in a softball tournament in which cash prizes were awarded? Would this participation jeopardize his League eligibility if he did not share in the prizes?

A. The amateur rule provides that a boy is rendered ineligible if he participates on a team with a paid player; hence, in case any members of the team on which he is a member receive any cash prizes or other remunerations for playing, he would be ineligible under the amateur rule.

Q. One of the boys in our school who is a prospective athlete wishes to ride a horse in a parade at our county fair where he will receive five dollars. Would he endanger his eligibility in League athletic contests if he enters this rodeo?

A. As long as he is riding a show horse in a parade or exhibition, he would not be violating the Amateur Rule. However, if he enters any individual event such as bronc riding, calf roping, etc., he then is engaged in an athletic event and will come under the jurisdiction of Article VIII, Section 8.



TEXAS CITY (Front row, left to right) John Paul Smyrl, Jack Mosher, L. G. Dupre, Max Montegut, John Welch; center-front, Sheldon Simon, manager. (Back row) Coach Dick Edwards, Bobby Rankin, Bill Chuoke, Richard Garner, Jack Hill, John Acree.

Veteran Coach Labels Tennis 'The Best Game in the World'

By Dr. D. A. Penick
State Manager of Tennis

Your problem as tennis coaches is to inspire in your boys and girls a love for the game. You cannot do this unless you love tennis yourself. If this task is assigned you against your wish, try to persuade your superintendent to find someone who is fond of the game. If you are unsuccessful in that effort, put your heart into the game, play it yourself and persuade the boys and girls that it is the best game in the world.

Tennis can be played almost from the cradle to the grave. It can be played in moderation or most energetically. It can be played by two's or four's. It develops muscles of the body, and the mind and soul. It requires the use of the mind; concentration is the first requisite. Tennis demands mental and spiritual control. No one can play the game successfully who cannot control his temper; hence its disciplinary value.

Having sold the game to yourself and your players, study all possible ways of development. Keep before the group full information about past and present great players. Supply them with

good books, both informational and instructive. Make available to them current literature about the game. Your youngsters will read with pleasure and profit *American Lawn Tennis Magazine*, 35 West 53, New York, the outstanding tennis publication. Your school should have it on its library shelf. Any junior player can buy this magazine for \$3.00 a year. The regular price is \$6.00. You should also have the Bulletin published by the U.S.L.T.A., 120 Broadway, New York, for \$1.00 a year.

By using this material you can take up every phase of the game, one at a time. Begin with the fundamentals: use of the mind, the eyes, the feet, the hands. Always insist on good sportsmanship and regular practice. Lessons have been prepared by the U.S.L.T.A. on the different strokes used in tennis: the forehand drive, the backhand drive, the serve, the volley. These are explicit and accurate. If you do not have a set of these lessons, you will find them helpful at a cost of only 25 cents.

The most important item for improvement is practice in competition. This can be done by means of clinics, local tournaments and any other tournaments within reach. Hold your own clinics and your own tournaments, then bring in other helpers for your clinics. Attend clinics elsewhere, county clinics, district and state clinics. Do the same for tournaments.

News and Views of the Coaches

Stan Lambert, Publicity Director,
Texas High School Coaches Association

Last month's column must have set some kind of a record for "long windedness." After seeing how much ink that it consumed, the writer actually suspected that someone had inserted a few paragraphs under his by-line, thus forcing him to have to read every line of it. After close inspection, he was forced to plead guilty to all of it; and about all that can be done about it at this late date is to promise never to do it again.

serious consideration. But here's the hitch—the problem has whipped everybody who has ever tackled it. Two years ago the idea was presented to the Advisory Council; and it looked as if passing it the second day of a two-day meeting would be only a formality. However the next day when the body reconvened, it junked the plan that was submitted in toto. This writer was also cocky enough to tackle it himself at about that same time; however, after many hours of research, several conferences with League officials and many more hours of figuring, he gave it up as beyond his ability to solve. Texas' sprawling geography is the most formidable stumbling block; but traditional rivalries, natural competitive areas, irregular distribution of population and other factors combine to make it really tough. Anyone who would put in the time and effort to come up with a workable plan would really make a fine contribution to the welfare of Texas athletics. This is a "top shelf" problem and should be as nearly perfect as possible the first time, therefore much time should be spent on it before any plan is ever submitted.

Vote or Forever Hold Your Peace
When (and if) you read these lines the referendum ballots on the proposed changes in some of the League relations will already be in the mails. Now is the time for every coach to drop around for a visit with his superintendent and have a man-to-man talk with him about them. Doubtless both parties would benefit by a frank item-by-item discussion of all the questions involved. If there is some difference of opinion on some of the issues and each presents his side of the question, both parties will at least know the reasons for the other's viewpoint; and a fuller appreciation of each other's position should result. There is even the possibility that one will win the other over to his way of thinking. When this happens, regardless of who wins, a real gain has been made because harmony replaces misunderstanding. The coach can't lose anything so long as he goes into the conference with the right attitude—and he stands a chance of winning a great deal.

Then after the ballots are counted and the results announced everybody concerned should accept the majority opinion and make the most of it. Let's not forget that Texas still has the best Interscholastic organization in the world regardless of how these particular issues go. If the majority differs from our opinion, it might even be wise to ask ourselves, "could it be possible that I am out of line—that my thinking is a little warped?" In fact that's not a bad question for one to ask himself every once in a while anyway.

It Couldn't Have Happened To A Better Guy Dept.

Chatter Allen is coming back to the high-school ranks after one year at the University of Corpus Christi. . . . High-school athletics is better with him in it than out of it. . . . He is tackling one of the very toughest jobs in the state at Beaumont High. . . . everybody except probably Gene McColloch, John Tomlin, Brooks Conover and Phoebe Phythian will be glad to see him make a comeback. . . . Leo Jackson received a well-deserved promotion in going to Greenville. . . . and Greenville picked up a coming coach. . . . Raymond Alford is climbing the walls after losing the last game of district playoff two years in a row by one point. . . . better quit now before a promise is broken.

Can 50 Million Frenchmen Be Wrong?

When Hitler busted the Maginot Line, he proved to this generation that 50 million Frenchmen can be wrong; but in most instances that many of any nationality are more likely to be right than wrong. This writer, for instance, has always been strongly against the eight-semester rule; but in looking around at the other states, he finds that 42 of the 48 states are playing under that regulation. He has opposed it not because he wanted to "hold over" his best players; but because he thought that there was no justice in depriving the boy who had "slipped" somewhere along the line of his senior year of eligibility. He also contended that the boy who was unfortunate enough to have a retarded physical development should have the opportunity to catch up with the normal boy by competing another year in high school. However he now admits that it looks as if that issue is a dead duck. For that reason he will dispose of it as we do all dead ducks—and certainly won't bore his readers arguing that case. But there are still several very alive issues.

Some More Comparisons

In comparing Texas' regulations with those of the other states, more evidence of the UIL's superiority is plainly evident. For instance, Texas has the youngest age limit in the nation; and at present a large majority of the schools are happy with it. However, when all students in the state attend 12 full years, further study on that question will probably be indicated. Seventeen states place the limit at 19, while 25 have a 20-year ceiling, and five states don't declare them ineligible for high-school competition until they become eligible to vote for President.

Baseball Plan Deadlines

1. May 14—last date for certifying district baseball champions in Conferences B, A, and AA.
2. May 28—last date for certifying district baseball champions in City Conference.
3. June 4—Last date for regional and bi-district baseball playoffs.
4. June 7, 8, 9—State Baseball Tournament for AA Conference.
5. June 10 and 11—State Baseball Tournament for City Conference.

Glen Rose Suspended

Glen Rose High School has been suspended in football during the 1949 season for mistreatment of football officials. This action was taken by the State Executive Committee on January 19.

Special Awards

The State Executive Committee has ruled that the giving of special awards to individuals by a district executive committee in football is a violation of Article XIII, Section 5 of the League Rules. In a further interpretation of this Section, the Committee ruled that a school could not accept an award for an individual player and hold it until his eligibility is completed and then give it to the player. This, in the opinion of the Committee, would be a subterfuge of the Awards

The Triple-A Is on the Way

It does not take a Solomon to see that something must be done about the present classification of our high schools. Nor does it take a Sherlock Holmes to read between the lines in the LEAGUER (Rhea Williams' column last month, another editorial for example) and see that the League is giving it



Correction in Spelling Lists

On page 14, line 7, of the Word Lists for Interscholastic League Spelling Contest, the word "incident" is misspelled.

The State Office asks that persons finding any misspelled word in the Word List to report this at once so that attention may be called to the error in the Official Notice Column.

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The Shortest-Lived Sex

The 1950 census, now being planned, will show that there are more women than men. . . . that the women live longer than the men. The main mortal enemies of women are childbirth, tumors and cancer. Pneumonia and all the other things that kill people, get the men first.—*The Comma*.