



# **The University of Wisconsin press bulletin.**

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# THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PRESS BULLETIN

The purpose of this Bulletin is to bring to the newspapers of Wisconsin and their readers—the people of the state—pertinent news and information concerning their State University. The University Press Bureau will gladly furnish any special news or feature stories to editors. Address letters to R. H. Foss, editor, Press Bureau, University of Wisconsin.

September 27, 1933

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Vol. 29, No. 13

## Study of Biography by Clubs Aided By Extension Outline

### Guided Study of "Representative Americans" is Offered For Groups and Individuals

New aids for Wisconsin clubs in their season's work in the field of biography are offered in a "guided study" program issued by the University Extension's department of debating and public discussion. The outline, entitled "Representative Americans," was arranged by the late Carl Russell Fish, who was professor of history in the University of Wisconsin and an outstanding scholar in the field of American history.

#### Orderly Study is Aim

The guided study is intended to provide a constructive plan of study in biography through references to authoritative works on each of the consecutive periods in American history and on the statesmen, men of letters, and others whose achievements influenced their times.

"In the study of biography," Prof. Fish contended, "one must be prepared to see men and women from the point of view of the times they live in, and their own aims. In judging them one must use their own yardsticks — and then these yardsticks may be compared with those which belong to other times and different groups. One may disapprove the intolerance of the Puritans, but one must remember, and appreciate, that they considered intolerance a vice.

#### Broad Vision Necessary

"All biographies should be read as one writer's treatment of one personality, and the reader must consider whether the author validates his facts, whether he shows an understanding of the times in which his subject lived, and whether he writes with broad comprehension of human nature, or with the idea of showing the desirability of some particular attitude. The fact that George Washington ran a distillery must be considered in reference to the fact that it was the general custom, that the temperance movement arose after his time, and that there was no eighteenth amendment. However, letters, diaries, and speeches are really the best reading."

In cooperation with public libraries and statewide library agencies, the department of public discussion loans essential reference material to groups and individuals interested in such a study.

## 4 Unique Qualities that Make U.W. Great Told to Freshmen at Convocation

Four unique qualities which are found among the people of Wisconsin and in their own State University and which make the University of Wisconsin stand out as an educational institution were told to about 1,500 freshmen at the annual Freshman Convocation recently by Dean George C. Sellery of the college of letters and science.

Dean Sellery, who has served the University and the state for a generation, named brotherliness, frankness of criticism, friendly heartiness, and doggedness of persistence as the four unique Wisconsin qualities.

"You will find at Wisconsin a very marked brotherliness, a spirit of cooperative helpfulness on the part of the faculty and students," Dean Sellery told the freshmen. "You will find also a frankness of criticism which exists not only at the University but throughout the state.

"There is also a lack of austerity at the University. In its place you will find a certain friendly heartiness often missed at other institutions of learning. And you will find on this campus a certain doggedness or persistence similar to the pioneer ruggedness of the people of the state. There are no quitters at Wisconsin."

"The spirit of Wisconsin to which you will make your contribution is made up of brotherliness, frankness of criticism, friendly and light-hearted cheerfulness, and rugged persistence, even when things look dark. Wisconsin is a great University and you young men and women will help to keep it great."

## Students Who Excel in Scholarship Rewarded in Many Ways at U. W.

Excellence in scholarship is recognized and rewarded in many different ways during various stages in a student's progress at the University of Wisconsin, a survey of honors and prizes awarded annually for scholastic achievement has revealed.

The first recognition for scholastic excellence may come during the freshman year by election to one of the freshman honor societies, Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Epsilon Sigma for men and Sigma Epsilon Sigma for women. A freshman in any college who carries a normal class schedule and who establishes an average of at least 2.5 grade points per credit of work taken is eligible.

Festivals of several colleges recognize high scholastic attainment during the freshman and sophomore years by the publication of sophomore honors and high honors, based on the work done by students during the first two years of college life. Senior honors and high honors are awarded in like manner for the work of the

## Liberalist—Purist Battle over English Grammar Usage Flares Anew as U. W. Man Declares Textbooks Are "Out of Tune" with Tims

The battle between Liberalist and Purist over modern English grammar usage flared anew on the University of Wisconsin campus today with the publication of a bulletin by Robert C. Pooley, professor of English, in which it is asserted that "the contents of present-day English grammar textbooks are sadly out of tune with the facts of current usage."

Prof. Pooley leveled three charges at contemporary textbooks in English grammar and composition, at the same time pointing out that such charges are preferred against the textbooks as a group, and that no single text is thoroughly bad or entirely free from censure.

#### Make Three Charges

The three charges are:

1. On the side of theory, present-day textbooks are deficient in cleaving to a traditional set of standards and attitudes to the neglect of contemporary linguistic principles;

2. On the side of actual practice, the textbooks are deficient in that they fail to represent accurately and faithfully modern English as it is actually used in speech and writing;

3. Present-day English grammar textbooks fail to arouse in the student an attitude toward English as a living, changing organism, influencing and being itself influenced by every individual who speaks and writes it.

"Rules of the textbooks, inherited from 18th century language reformers and Purists, and supposedly descriptive of the grammar, syntax, and usage of modern English, are in many instances partially or totally misrep-

resentative of current English usage, urging distinctions not found in the language itself, or prohibiting uses fully established in the language on the grounds of logic, analogy, etymology, and other straight-laced 18th century criteria," Prof. Pooley declares in his attack on the Purist textbooks now so widely used.

#### Many Examples Cited

Prof. Pooley's charges are contained in a bulletin published by the State University's bureau of educational research. They are based on a study of 16 of the most popular textbooks in grammar and composition published during the years from 1900 to 1930. The books range from elementary grammar school texts to those used in colleges and universities.

The bulletin contains a list of examples of the kinds of word and phrase constructions condemned by the Purist textbook writers, but which have been generally accepted and are used as "good English" throughout the country.

#### Authors Deaf to Usage

"As far as can be determined by a careful scrutiny of the current textbooks, their authors are not trained in philology or linguistic science, and in some instances they do not know, or show no signs of knowing, essential facts in the history and development of English," Prof. Pooley declares. "It is true that they cleave to a traditional and authoritarian theory of correctness and are deaf to the language which even they and their colleagues use. It is also true that they set up distinctions and refinements of speech and idiom for

such a one urges, therefore, a renewed enforcement of the rules and a multiplication of cautions to 'correct' the errant tongue. To the liberalist, however, these discrepancies are signs of change and growth in language, by which rules and restrictions, even those at one time accurately descriptive of English usage are now obsolescent or contrary to current use.

"It is evident therefore that the Purist and the Liberalist must of necessity be diametrically opposed, and that this opposition must result in great confusion and uncertainty regarding 'correct' usage in the present day," he insists.

Prof. Pooley's study attempts to show that such a confusion does exist, and that it has an unfortunate influence upon the teaching of English in the schools of the country.

## Machine, Cursed by Many, is Setting Man Free, U.W. Man Says

The Machine, cursed by many in recent years as the cause of most of man's social, economic, and spiritual shortcomings, found a new defender recently in the person of C. M. Jansky, professor of electrical engineering at the University of Wisconsin, who maintains that the machine is the agent by which man is "setting free his mind and body."

All one needs to do to understand the value of the machine to civilization is to view the sad plight of the primitive man, who had to make fire by the tedious process of rubbing wood together, or eat his meat raw, Prof. Jansky points out in an article on "The Machine—an Aid to Humanity," which recently appeared in Electrical Engineering magazine.

"We need no vivid imagination to picture to ourselves the plight of primitive man, who was subject to all the vicissitudes of the changing temperatures of the seasons and to the rigors of changing climates," he maintains. "His sole means of securing sustenance was the skill of his hands and the fleetness of his feet. His shelter against the rigors of the storms and climate was a cave or a rude hut of sticks covered with bark or skins of animals.

The food he had to eat raw until through the ages he acquired the skill to build and maintain a fire. Before he devised a machine for building the fire, if the fire died, he had to beg or steal from another, and thus in a measure he was subservient to the more fortunate. When, however, he devised the fire drill, he became more independent and self-reliant. Thus the simplest machine was an agent of freedom and independence and not of enslavement.

"The next great step in human progress was the discovery of the method of making fire or heat do the work of men and of animals," he asserts. "The steam engine made factories possible, and these factories to some are merely prison walls, but the prison walls are not the work of the machines. If factories are prison walls, the fault is of human origin and not that of the inanimate machine that does man's bidding."

Students in the design class of the art education department at the University of Wisconsin have furnished a number of murals which now decorate the walls of the children's room in the orthopedic hospital at the University. Lying on their beds, the children gaze with pleasure at the softly-toned murals.

last two years.

There are many honor fraternities which extend recognition to upper-classmen either on the basis of scholarship alone, or of scholastic excellence plus certain qualities of character and leadership. Chief among these are Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. Various professional colleges, schools, courses, and departments have their own special honor societies, membership in which is highly prized.

In addition to these honors, a number of cash prizes and scholarships are awarded annually to students whose academic work has been superior. Among these are the \$25 Lewis prize, the Vilas prizes of \$50 and \$25, the \$100 prize given to the winner of the David B. Frankenberger Oratorical contest, the Glicksman prize and the Herfurth prize.

## Thousands of Young Citizens of State to Attend "Air College"

By merely turning on the radio and tuning in on either of the state radio stations, WHA at the State University in Madison, or WLRL at Stevens Point, thousands of boys and girls in farm and city homes throughout Wisconsin will start attending a new kind of school next week.

The new kind of school is the Wisconsin College of the Air, in which the first class will start at 1 p. m. Monday, Oct. 2. Courses in the new college will be broadcast over both state stations, WHA and WLRL.

Courses will be broadcast at 1 p. m. daily from Monday through Friday for a period of 30 weeks. The courses and the days on which they will be heard are as follows:

Monday, Farm Life and Living; Tuesday, Enjoying Your Leisure; Wednesday, You and Your Home; Thursday, The World About You; and Friday, Social Problems of Today.

Applications for enrollment in the courses are now being received. To Wisconsin residents there is no tuition fee and no charge for study helps, examinations, or certificates of achievement, to be awarded upon the successful completion of the courses. Students may enroll for as many courses as they wish to take. A descriptive bulletin of courses is sent upon request to WHA, Madison.

Cooperating in the planning and presentation of the College of the Air are the state board of vocational education, state department of public instruction, Wisconsin Teachers' association, University Extension division, college of agriculture, school of education, Wisconsin Press Association, and the two state radio stations.

## Wisconsin Dairy Team Wins High Honors in National Dairy Contest

First place in judging cheese was won by dairy students at the Wisconsin college of agriculture in competition with 17 other colleges and universities at the national student judging contest held at Chicago, September 18.

The winning team, composed of senior students in dairying, consisted of Glenn H. Hagberg, Bayfield county; Fred Wagner, Rock county; and Walter Uphoff, Sheboygan county. They were awarded a silver cup in recognition of their score. L. C. Thomsen, coach, accompanied the team to the contest.

Individual medal awards were won by Uphoff and Hagberg, who placed second and third in the entire cheese judging contest in which 51 contestants took part.

## Freshman Enrollment Increases at State U.

With 1,382 students enrolling on the last day of registration, the total enrollment at the University of Wisconsin at the opening of classes last Wednesday reached 7,075, it has been announced.

This figure represents a drop of more than 400 students below the total of last year, but with many students registering late during the first week of classes, it is expected that this decrease will be reduced considerably, and may be wiped out entirely.

Although the total enrollment dropped slightly, the freshman registration increased about 100 students over that of last year, figures revealed. Last year the total enrolled in the freshman class was about 1,500, while this year it has climbed over the 1,600 mark.

students to labor over, which have in most instances faded out years ago or never actually existed."

To liberal-minded English teachers there have long been apparent numerous and striking discrepancies between the rules and cautions governing usage to be found in the textbooks on grammar and composition on the one hand, and the regularly observed customs of language on the other, Prof. Pooley maintains.

#### Bad Influence on Teaching

"The interpretation given to these accumulated contradictions varies in accordance with the language philosophy of the observer," he asserts. "To the purist these differences are indications of the decay of Modern English, by which far too many corruptions are permitted a degree of tolerance dangerous to the integrity of the language.

"Such a one urges, therefore, a renewed enforcement of the rules and a multiplication of cautions to 'correct' the errant tongue. To the liberalist, however, these discrepancies are signs of change and growth in language, by which rules and restrictions, even those at one time accurately descriptive of English usage are now obsolescent or contrary to current use.

"It is evident therefore that the Purist and the Liberalist must of necessity be diametrically opposed, and that this opposition must result in great confusion and uncertainty regarding 'correct' usage in the present day," he insists.

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## WILD GAME Man'Can Speed Production

Wisconsin contains the best and largest prairie chicken range remaining in North America.

If the recovery of Wisconsin prairie chickens from the ten-year cycle could be speeded up so as to allow long-season shooting, seven years out of ten instead of three years out of ten, the chicken crop could furnish a large cash revenue from an area of land now mostly idle and aggregating millions of acres.

This new crop would benefit from, rather than be injured by, whatever agriculture can be maintained. Water fowl, fur, fish, deer and ruffed grouse crops could be developed on the same lands. But to realize on these possibilities will require research in how to speed up recovery after the cycle has decimated the birds. To promote such research is one of the objectives of the program recently undertaken by the University.—Aldo Leopold, Game Manager, Wisconsin College of Agriculture.

## Scholarship Honors Given at Welcome for Agriculture Students

Public recognition of the high scholarship of freshmen and sophomore students at the Wisconsin college of agriculture last year was given at the annual "walk-around" on Thursday, September 21.

Freshman honors in agriculture were awarded to Gordon R. Corey, Osecola; David G. Frey, Hartland; Emmett W. Terwilliger, Ashland; Leonard M. Josephson, Ashland; and Carl D. Simonson, Neillsville.

Freshman honors in home economics were won by Marion Fuller, Neenah; Jane E. Billyeal, Chicago, Illinois; Lois R. Beebe, Vesper; Constantine R. Maher, Sun Prairie; and Bonnie F. Beilfuss, Neillsville.

Sophomore high honors in agriculture were won by Stewart McNeil Johnson, Oconto Falls; while sophomore honors in agriculture were awarded to Milton E. Bliss, Hartford; Harold R. Dodge, Clintonville; Nieman H. Hovland, Cottage Grove; Russell R. Poyon, Waunakee; A. M. Swanson, Rockford, Illinois; and Owen Williams, Waukesha.

Sophomore honors in home economics were won by Mary A. Jansky, Madison; and Elizabeth M. Lamoreaux, Janesville.

Gordon Corey, winner of first place in high freshman honors in agriculture, will receive the additional recognition of having his name engraved upon the Alpha Zeta Freshman Scholarship cup and Miss Marion Fuller will be accorded like honor by having her name engraved upon the Omicron Nu Scholarship cup. Both of these bodies are honorary scholastic organizations.

## County Dietitian Job is New Opportunity For Home Ec Trained

Another line of work has now been added to the already long list of different kinds of jobs open to home economics graduates.

The job of county dietitian has already been established in three Wisconsin counties — Ashland, Kenosha and Milwaukee. County dietitians cooperate with poor relief workers in investigating home conditions, suggesting better management, and working out special diets for those who need them. This results in more efficient use of the funds appropri-

## Poison Mysteries in State Solved by U. W. Toxicologist

### Sudden Mysterious Deaths or Illnesses of Humans and Animals Solved

The mystery behind many deaths and cases of sudden serious illness on Wisconsin farms and in the cities of the state is solved each year by Dr. Robert P. Herwick, state toxicologist, whose laboratory is located in the Memorial Institutes building at the University of Wisconsin.

The office of state toxicologist was established in 1923, just a decade ago. According to a report compiled recently by Dr. Herwick, a total of 209 cases involving various forms of poisoning were handled in the laboratory during 1932. In 1931, a total of 165 cases were solved, while so far in 1932, about 240 cases of poisoning have been brought to the laboratory for thorough analysis and solution.

Of the total of 209 cases in 1932, exactly 72 came from the department of agriculture and markets, 70 from district attorneys throughout the state, 55 from institutions and hospitals in various counties, and 12 from various sources, mostly from private citizens, such as farmers whose stock had suffered sudden death, for no apparent reason at all.

#### Serves County Officials

The laboratory serves sheriffs and district attorneys throughout the state in cases where murder or attempted murder by poisoning is suspected. Since 1925, when the work of the laboratory really became statewide in its scope, deaths by poisoning have apparently been reduced in the state, Dr. Herwick said.

In recent years the sudden deaths of various kinds of domestic animals on farms in the state have been referred to Dr. Herwick for solution in an ever-growing number of cases.

These cases usually come from the state department of agriculture and markets, but are also referred from the state college of agriculture, and even from individual farmers.

#### Aids State Farmers

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