



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

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To Editor:—The news in this bulletin is prepared especially for the press, and is released for publication on the date below. Please address exchange copies to Editor, 711 Langdon Street.

May 2, 1934

## Drama Institute Bids Students to Summer Session

### Annual Play Production Course Offers Special Training in Stage Technique

The seventh annual dramatic and speech institute at the University of Wisconsin will be held from June 25 to July 7, it was announced at Madison. The period covers the first two weeks of the University summer session.

The institute enrolls not only students of the summer school, but any others desiring the benefits of special training in dramatic production and speech activities under a specialized faculty. Features of outstanding interest are planned this year.

Miss Ethel T. Rockwell, bureau of dramatic activities, will direct the course, and the faculty will comprise resident and visiting lecturers of authority in special fields.

The faculty and the subjects each will teach are as follows:

**Faculty is Named**  
Voice training, Prof. Eugene Bahn, University of Iowa; Suggestions for high school forensic activities, Prof. Gladys Borchers; Stage arts and crafts, Frederick A. Buerki; Technique of writing and speaking for the radio, Prof. H. L. Ewbank; Major trends in the adjustment period, Prof. J. H. Kolb, of the rural leadership summer school faculty; Creative dramatics for children, Miss Carrie Rasmussen; Playwriting, Prof. Ethel Theodora Rockwell;

Play production, Professor Rockwell; Character study and make-up, Prof. Althea Smith, Florida State College for Women (on leave); Costuming, Professor Smith; Acting and pantomime, Prof. Joseph F. Smith, University of Utah; Personality and social adjustment, Prof. Kimball Young, of the rural leadership summer school.

**Plans for Pageant**  
The special project to be worked out during the institute will be the staging of a large pageant, "Children of Old Wisconsin," in the university stadium. This pageant was written by Miss Rockwell for the elementary schools of the state. This has special fitness, it is believed, for initial presentation this summer as a special celebration of Wisconsin's tercentenary.

Cooperating with the management of the institute are the faculty and management of the city recreational department and the Madison board of education.

A program of one-act plays will be staged in Bascom theater by the members of the institute's class in play production.

## Over 50 Schools to Take Part in Radio Music Fete at U. W.

More than 50 schools scattered throughout Wisconsin will participate in the first Radio Music Festival to be broadcast over the state radio station, WHA, at the University of Wisconsin May 12, it was announced today.

For some weeks past, the hundreds of boys and girls in these schools have been following the weekly lessons in singing and orchestra which have been taught to them via radio broadcasting by Professors E. B. Gordon and Orien E. Dalley, of the University school of music.

On May 12 all of the children who have learned the songs will come to Madison to take part in the broadcast. A certificate of participation will be awarded each of the schools represented.

The following list of schools which will participate in the state-wide festival includes both orchestra and chorus members:

Ashton, Baraboo, Berlin, Cashton, Cross Plains, Dane, Langes school of Denmark, Dodgeville, Washington school of Fond du Lac; state graded school of Footville, Parkview and Oak Grove schools of Green Bay, Gotham, Green Lake, Kiel, Lathrop; Emerson, Hawthorne, Holy Redeemer, St. James, Lakewood, and Gammon schools of Madison; Menasha, Milwaukee, Monroe, Mazomanie, Mt. Horeb, Mattoon; Skeleton Bridge, Lincoln and Read schools of Oshkosh; Portage, Pheasant Branch, Richland Center, Ripon, South Wayne, Springfield Corners, Sheboygan, Stratford, Stoughton, Suring, Hayes graded school, Janesville, Taycheedah, Waterloo, West Allis, Westby, St. Mary's school of Wausau, Wild Rose, and Weyauwega.

## State's Sand Plain Should Be Converted into Recreational Land

Most of the central sand plain of Wisconsin should be converted into forests, recreational land, and wild life refuges, for this sandy area like the land of Northern Wisconsin is capable of but a meager agricultural development, J. Riley Staats, research assistant in geography at the University of Wisconsin, told a group of Wisconsin scientists recently.

The three chief sources of income from the more sparsely settled areas of this great plain, he explained, come from the sale of pine bolts obtained from the natural growth and reforested tracts of land and used by the paper and pulp mills; the sale of sphagnum moss, obtained from the marshes; and the sale of cranberries, a specialized crop.

This region, he revealed, furnishes from two-thirds to three-fourths of the total commercial moss production of the United States and approxi-

# 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.

MADISON, WISCONSIN

Vol 39, No. 42

## Dr. Birge, 83-Year-Old U. W. Scientist, Is Oldest Living Member of State Academy

Dr. E. A. Birge, 83-year-old State University scientist and former president of the University of Wisconsin, is the oldest living member of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, a survey of that organization's membership has revealed.

The survey was conducted by H. A. Schuette, associate professor of chemistry, who is secretary-treasurer of the academy. The survey revealed that more than 100 faculty members of the State University are members of the group.

The academy was established 64 years ago, in 1870, and since that time has held either semi-annual or annual meetings. Dr. Birge, who, upon becoming president emeritus of the University in 1925, went back to his beloved scientific work, has been a member of the organization for 58 years, since 1876.

### Six Life Members

Dr. Birge, who is now in charge of the natural history division of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History survey, is one of the academy's 13 life members, six of whom are members of the Wisconsin faculty. The others are Frank C. Sharp, professor of philosophy; E. B. Skinner, professor of mathematics; J. J. Davis, curator of the herbarium; Chancey Juday, professor of limnology; and C. K. Leith, professor of geology.

Two of those now on the rolls of the academy have been members for more than 55 years; one other more than 50 years; three others more than 45 years; 19 more than 40 years; six more than 35 years; 15 more than 30 years; 23 more than a quarter of a century; and 15 more than 20 years.

## Badger Teachers of Social Studies and History Meet at U.

Four members of the University of Wisconsin faculty will speak before the fifth annual state-wide conference on the teaching of history and the social studies to be held in the Memorial Union building at the State University next Saturday, May 5, it was announced today.

The conference is expected to bring to the University several hundred teachers of history and social studies from high schools and colleges throughout the state.

State University faculty members who will speak are Dean C. J. Anderson, of the school of education, who will give the address of welcome to the teachers; Prof. J. D. Hicks, of the history department, who will discuss the question, "Should History Be Taught in the High Schools?"; C. V. Easum, professor of history, who will discuss the testing problem at a round-table discussion; and Prof. Paul Knaplund, also of the history department, who will talk on "Viewing Europe" at a luncheon meeting.

Miss Nellie M. Lamoreux, Waukesha, state chairman of the conference, will preside at the meetings. Others who will talk are Werner Witte, Appleton; Miss Bernice M. Scott, Sheboygan; Earl E. Welch, Stoughton; Miss Mabel Hanson, Waukesha; and Leonard Calvert, Beloit.

## Regents Appoint U. S. Attorney-General Aide to U. Law School Post

Appointment of Charles Bunn, of St. Paul, widely known attorney who during the past year has been engaged as a special assistant to the attorney general of the United States in preparing and arguing government cases before the nation's supreme court, as a professor of law in the University of Wisconsin Law school, was confirmed by the university board of regents at its recent meeting.

Mr. Bunn is a graduate of Princeton University, where he was valedictorian of his class in 1914, and of the Harvard Law school in 1917. He was editor-in-chief of the Harvard Law Review, and because of his high scholastic rank, was selected to serve as law secretary to Justice Holmes of the supreme court, but gave up that opportunity to enter the army, where he served during the world war as captain in the air forces.

After the war he returned to St. Paul, where he engaged in law practice. Having long desired to teach law, Mr. Bunn resigned from his firm last spring after 14 years of service. Several years ago he declined an appointment to the faculty of one of the east's leading law schools, but last summer, before he joined the U. S. attorney general's staff, he gave a seminar course at Chicago.

Mr. Bunn comes from a family of lawyers. His uncle, George Bunn, was associate justice of the Minnesota supreme court; his father, Charles W. Bunn, now retired, was general counsel for one of the north-west's most important railways; and his grandfather, Romanzo Bunn, was judge of the U. S. district court in Wisconsin.

Approximately 95 per cent of all the cranberries produced in Wisconsin, whose acreage of producing marshes ranks third in the United States.

Farming in this region is generally limited to producing forage and feed crops for a small dairy industry. The few good tracts of crop land, he said, are small and are surrounded by sandy areas.

This survey of the central sand plain of Wisconsin is one of a series of regional studies of the state now being carried out by the department of geography at the University of Wisconsin.

the survey showed.

### List U. W. Members

Besides those already mentioned, other State University faculty members who belong to the academy include:

Dean Charles S. Slichter, W. S. Marshall, E. R. Maurer, E. B. Van Vleck, Louis Kahlenberg, Edward Kremers, Richard Fischer, F. E. Turneure, George Wagner, C. E. Brown, C. E. Allen, A. R. Hohlfield, Walter M. Smith, Ernst K. Voss, W. J. Chase, L. R. Ingersoll, J. L. Sammis, R. E. N. Dodge, J. B. Overton, Charles R. Bardeen, R. H. Denniston, Lelia Bascom, Charles H. Bunting, M. F. Guyer, L. J. Cole, W. J. Mead, L. R. Jones, E. M. Gilbert, Eric Miller, J. H. Mathews, William Snow Miller, R. H. Whitbeck, E. B. Fred, W. H. Peterson, Harry Steenbock, B. M. Duggar, E. F. Bean,

Edward Bennett, R. A. Brink, George S. Bryan, G. W. Keitt, Paul S. Clark, Farrington Daniels, Norman C. Fasset, V. C. Finch, Emma L. Fisk, C. L. Fluke, L. F. Graber, E. G. Hastings, V. A. C. Henmon, C. A. Herrick, F. L. Hisaw, M. H. Ingraham, C. M. Jansky, James Johnson, F. R. Jones, W. H. Kiekhof, Otto L. Kowalke, L. E. Noland, Elizabeth F. McCoy, S. M. McElvain, H. W. March, D. W. Mead, V. W. Meloche, C. E. Mendenhall, H. W. Mossman, Max Otto, Helen T. Parsons, W. O. Richtmann, J. R. Roebuck, Dr. E. R. Schmidt, Dr. E. L. Sevringhaus, Joel Stebbins, W. E. Sullivan, F. T. Thwaites, W. E. Totingham, Emil Truog, W. H. Twenhofel, Nellie Wakeman, J. C. Walker, Dr. Ralph Waters, Helen White, H. F. Wilson, E. J. Witsmann, and Casimir Zdaniewicz.

## Wisconsin Man Chosen for Milling Company Post

Fremont Conrad, a native of Milwaukee county and a former editor of the Wisconsin Country Magazine, has entered the employ of a Michigan milling company. He will assist the firm in its department of research and service. Since his graduation from the University of Wisconsin last February, Conrad has been carrying on advanced study in agricultural journalism.

## Farm Students Come from Many Sections to Study at State U.

Students from other states and countries, as well as from Wisconsin counties seek the classrooms, laboratories, and instructional staff at the Wisconsin college of agriculture to aid them in pursuing studies and research.

Graduate students to whom the institution has lately granted fellowship privileges for advanced study during the coming school year are: A. B. Erekson, of the University of Utah, to work in the field of agricultural bacteriology; W. C. Sherman, Jefferson county, in agricultural chemistry; R. J. Penn, of the River Falls State Teachers College, in agricultural economics; W. Keller, of the Utah State College, in genetics; S. B. Locke, of Oregon State College, in plant pathology; Edith Klarin, University of Uppsala, Sweden, in home economics;

E. H. Peterson, Utah State Agricultural College, in veterinary science and dairy husbandry; F. Williams, of Utah, in agricultural bacteriology; S. Johansen, of the University of Minnesota, in rural sociology; R. P. Reese, of the Connecticut Agricultural College, in animal husbandry; and O. C. Whipple, of the University of California, in plant pathology.

Those granted scholarship privileges are R. W. Simonson, North Dakota Agricultural College, in soils; K. S. Davis, of the Kansas State Agricultural College, in agricultural journalism.

## Composition of Wood Millions of Years Old Told at Lab at U. W.

Pieces of fossil wood recovered from 200 feet underground and identified as relics of the Miocene epoch of the earth's history, eleven million years ago, were described as to their chemistry and microstructure at a recent meeting of the American Chemical Society by R. L. Mitchell and George J. Ritter, chemists, of the Forest Products Laboratory at the University of Wisconsin.

The specimens were unearthed in the course of mining operations near Placerville, Calif., and lay in Miocene gold-bearing gravel. Three species are represented, similar to present-day pine and redwood and the cedar of Lebanon. The chemical and micrographic study showed that these ancient woods, contemporary with the mastodon and the three-toed horse, contained the same principal constituents that exist in trees now growing.

The amazing preservation of the pieces is accounted for, in part, by the complete freedom of their cells from the threads of decay fungi, the assumption being that they became buried while thoroughly wet. The changes found to have occurred were a slight degree of petrification in some cells, some crushing, and a pronounced decrease in soluble materials and cellulose or fibrous substance, but in no case had the bodies become coal-like or unrecognizable in their wood characteristics. Of the three species examined, the redwood was most nearly like normal wood in its composition.

## Journalism Seniors Win Scholarship Honors

Six seniors in the school of journalism of the University of Wisconsin, have been awarded honors for their high scholarship throughout their four-year course by the national professional journalistic fraternity, Sigma Delta Chi. Each year the national fraternity gives this recognition to the one-tenth of the senior class students who have the highest scholastic average in all their university studies. The Wisconsin journalism seniors honored this year are: Jennie M. Guenther, Cincinnati, Ohio; Arthur T. Jacobs, Calumet City, Ill.; Eleanor K. Kratz, West Bend; Hulda M. Schuetz, Monroe; Mary Sheridan, Milwaukee; and Roger G. Sherman, Lancaster.

## U. Workers' School to Train Teachers

### May Help Government Prepare Workers' Teachers

The University of Wisconsin's summer school for workers in industry may become a training center for 30 teachers whom the federal government is trying to train for the teaching of workers' education next winter, Pres. Glenn Frank revealed at the recent university board of regents' meeting.

The regents approved a budget of \$2,400 for the 1934 summer school for workers in industry, and authorized Pres. Frank and the workers' summer school committee to work out a program whereby the University can make use of federal funds which will provide an office staff and permit 30 teachers to take training in workers' education in the school this summer.

The plan of holding a training center in workers' education for teachers at Wisconsin was brought to the attention of Miss Alice Shoemaker, executive secretary of the workers' school, by Miss Hilda W. Smith, head of the federal government's department of workers' education.

In presenting the plan to the regents, Pres. Frank described it as an important move for the Wisconsin summer school for workers, an opinion which was backed by Mrs. Meta Berger, Milwaukee regent.

"The University has a great opportunity and a great obligation in the field of workers' education, and if our program here is to continue, it should be expanded," Pres. Frank said. "The University will be negligent of its obligations if it does not take hold of opportunities to help solve problems of industry and agriculture, as well as labor."

## Milwaukee Celebrates All-State University Day

It was "All-State University Day" in Milwaukee last Thursday when 14 faculty members and 28 students of the University of Wisconsin invaded the public schools of the state's metropolis to continue their efforts to foster closer relationships between the public high schools of the state and the State University.

The delegation from the University was headed by Pres. Glenn Frank and Frank O. Holt, registrar and chairman of the faculty committee on public relations.

One faculty member and two students visited each of 14 schools in the city, while Pres. Frank spoke at a luncheon meeting of the Milwaukee Civic Alliance, composed of members of 16 service clubs in the city. The Civic Alliance heard Dr. Frank speak on "The Renewal of America."

## U. W. Faculty Acts to Prevent Waste by Elimination of "Thin," Duplicated Courses

Accepting unanimously the report of its special committee on the survey of courses, the University of Wisconsin faculty recently voted to establish a University Committee on Courses which, acting with the dean of the college concerned, shall have the duty of discovering and discontinuing any thin, overspecialized, and unessential courses in the University curriculum.

The report, which contained eight other recommendations, was presented to the faculty by Prof. Farrington Daniels, chairman of the special committee, and Prof. Frank C. Sharp, both of whom emphasized that the number of duplicated and "thin" courses in the University curriculum at the present time is extremely small.

"But the danger of waste of funds through duplication and thin courses is always imminent, and this new committee on courses would prevent any possibility of such waste," Prof. Sharp told the faculty. "All of the recommendations of this report point toward economy and prevention of any possible waste for the good of the University."

The committee shall be composed of two members from the college of letters and science, and one from each of the colleges of engineering and agriculture, and the schools of education, law, and medicine. The members shall be elected annually by the respective faculties and the committee shall elect its own chairman.

Other recommendations of the report outlined the powers of the new committee, and defined certain principles along which it should work.

The work done by the special committee during the past year, and its report, were highly praised by both George C. Sellery, dean of the college of letters and science, and Pres. Glenn Frank, who said the committee had done a very complete and intelligent job.

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## Committee Will Attain Goal Set by Dr. Farrington

### To Finish Memorial to Dr. Babcock, Noted U. W. Scientist

A memorial plaque to Dr. S. M. Babcock, inventor of the Babcock butter fat test, will be placed upon the agricultural campus of the University of Wisconsin.

This goal was set by the late Prof. E. H. Farrington and will be attained by a committee of friends determined to carry on the project. The clay model, from which will be cast the bronze plaque, was designed by Lorado Taft, the noted sculptor, and has been approved by the committee and is being shipped to an eastern foundry where it will be cast in the near future, according to an announcement made by A. J. Marshall, treasurer of the fund.

### To Hold Unveiling

A couple months of time will be necessary for the completion of the casting after which the plaque will be unveiled and presented to the University of Wisconsin at appropriate public exercises to be arranged later.

Contributions to the fund were obtained largely through efforts of the late Prof. Farrington, formerly the head of the dairy department of the University of Wisconsin and colleague of the famed inventor.

### Mrs. Farrington Aids

Although Dr. Farrington died before the completion of the model, Mrs. Farrington took up the unfinished work of her husband and together with the committee has carried the work to completion.

Contributions to the memorial fund have been made by individual dairymen, cooperative dairy organizations, dairy manufacturers, school children, and others interested in erecting a memorial in honor of the inventor, whose work has contributed much to the development of the dairy industry of the state and nation.

## Fourteen "Home-Ecs" in Hospital Service

Fourteen students, graduates of courses dealing with nutrition in the home economics department at the University of Wisconsin, have been selected for positions with important hospitals or with organizations requiring services of workers trained in nutrition.

Those who either are, or will be so associated at the end of the present school year, are:

Annette Kelzer, Chicago, at Montefiore Hospital, New York City; Francis Brady, Madison, at Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago; Laura Brooks, Madison, in emergency relief work, Iowa. Eleanor Brewer, Madison, at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore; Meryl Pickering, Black Earth, at University Hospital, Ann Arbor; Frances Burkhardt, Monroe, University Hospital, Ann Arbor; Emily Gillan, Glendale, California, at Peter Bent Hospital, Boston; Norma Gunderson, Madison, at Barnes Hospital, St. Louis; Edith Goldman, Milwaukee, at Beth Israel Hospital, Boston; Lora-yne Huybrecht, Green Bay, at Presbyterian Hospital, New York City; Helen Livingston, Livingston, at Miami Valley Hospital, Dayton; Pearl Quam, Stoughton, at Harpers Hospital, Detroit; Jessie Wetter, Orchard, Iowa, at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore; and Mary Bergin, Watertown, to City Hospital, Indianapolis.

Besides establishing the new committee, the report recommended that no new course shall be given for University credit except on approval of the dean of the college concerned and the committee on courses. New courses, the report declared, shall be encouraged only when they are genuinely needed for a new demand or a new situation, but they shall be scrutinized carefully by the dean and the committee.

Joint courses by two or more departments should be encouraged, the report recommended. Classes of small enrollment shall be given in alternate years, and discontinued in case the enrollment remains small, unless justified for special reasons satisfactory to the dean of the college concerned and the committee on courses.

### Guide Future Work

The recommendations also provide that arrangements shall be made to discontinue any duplicating courses, unless they are justified for special reasons by the dean of the college concerned and the new committee. With very little duplication at present, Prof. Daniels explained that this problem is not now important, but inclusion of the recommendation was thought necessary as a guide for the future work of the committee on courses.

The report also recommended that the University catalog should not give a misleading impression as to the number of courses offered; that with the prospect of the discontinuance of some courses, the committee recommends conservatism in the addition to or replacement of the permanent staff; that more complete organization along divisional lines in the University is needed for consultative and advisory purposes; and that the new committee on courses shall submit comprehensive annual reports showing curriculum changes during each year.