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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.

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MADISON, WISCONSIN

Vol. 32, No. 29

## High School Youth Begin Training For League Competition

January will afford the first exhibitions of debate skills by students of Wisconsin high schools in the state-wide program of forensic training promoted by the state forensic association and the University Extension department of debating and public discussion. Schedules were announced this week in the "News-Letter" of the association.

Final dates for registration for all forensic contests except dramatics is Dec. 15. Latest for debate registration are: First round, Jan. 14; second, Jan. 21; third, Jan. 28; semi-sectional, Feb. 11; sectional or tournament, Feb. 18; state debate, Feb. 24-27.

The state dramatic contest will be held Dec. 9 at Central State Teachers college, Stevens Point.

Latest dates for holding other contests are: For league contests, April 8; for district contests, April 22; for state contests, April 29.

At the association's recent annual meeting Supt. E. J. McKean, Tomah, was re-elected state chairman, and district members of the board were re-elected as follows: E. J. McKean, La Crosse district; M. A. Fischer, Dodgeville, Platteville district; W. E. Gordon, New Richmond, River Falls district.

The board selected travel as the type for the reading contest for the coming year, and voted to select the topics for extemporaneous speaking from certain issues of American Observer, Current History, News Week, and Scholastic.

The debate question for 1939-40 is in process of selection among member schools in Wisconsin and other states using the National University Extension debate topic.

The association membership on Dec. 1, according to the "News-Letter," was 286, as compared with 263 at the same time last year. The goal sought this year is 400. Last year the student participation in these activities throughout the state was approximately 29,275, an increase of about 1,000. Only 1,831 certificates of merit were granted to students from 171 schools, although many more students were eligible for them.

Plans are being considered for a speech conference, for the state at large, to be held for a week or ten days in Madison about a year from now. A special committee now is working on panel discussions for high schools.

## Digest of Welfare Findings Published For Study Groups

Four study aids in a series devoted to explanations of the findings of the Citizens' Committee on Public Welfare in Wisconsin have just been issued by the department of debating and public discussion of the University of Wisconsin Extension division. With two earlier ones, an introductory pamphlet and one on child welfare, they complete the list of six that make up the series.

The four final topics are "Health and Disability," "Public Assistance and Employment," "Delinquency and Corrections," and "Administration, Personnel, and Finance (County and State)."

Under health and disability are treated the historical background of public health, the Wisconsin General hospital, mental disease and mental deficiency, tuberculosis, and the activities of the state board of health. Delinquency is studied from the angle of the "treatment system" as preferable to the "reform system." References are made extensively to the work of the board of control and the state's correctional institutions, county jails and workhouses, and rehabilitation by non-institutional treatment.

Main phases of administration are listed under such heads as county administration, state organization, finance, personnel, and developments under the reorganization act. The committee's ideal of public service on a career basis is emphasized.

Existing laws on dependency and public assistance are challenged as out of date, since they are based on Elizabethan statutes 300 years old. The study goes into the historical background of relief, and takes up in detail the committee's references to work relief, agricultural distress, direct relief, and special aids created by legislative act.

Printed material on all subjects is sent on request to residents of Wisconsin.

These study aids have been prepared jointly by the department of debating and public discussion and the Works Progress administration.

## Former U. of W. Man Named Ag Institute Officer

J. Clyde Marquis, once agricultural editor at the University of Wisconsin, was elected vice president of the Permanent Committee of the International Institute of Agriculture at its recent meeting at Rome, Italy. Among the matters handled by the committee include a special report on the world wheat situation; a special study of the world production and market-

## Huge U. W. Festival Heralds Approach of Christmastide

The familiar agrarian atmosphere of the University of Wisconsin stock pavilion will give way next week to an environment characteristic of New Testament times, symbolizing the age-old story of the Nativity. In one of the most picturesque projects in dramatic entertainment ever attempted by the State University as a whole, the pageant-drama, "Numen Lumen," will be staged Tuesday evening, Dec. 13, in a presentation to which the people of the state are invited.

One end of the pavilion will be converted into a semblance of a wooded rocky hill slope, topped with a blue sky against which will be silhouetted shepherds, angels, and figures representing 20 centuries. Music will play the major part in the presentation, making it take on operatic proportions. Prof. Carl E. Bricken, director of the school of music, will direct the University orchestra for the overture from Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel."

**Chorus of 500 Voices**  
Paul G. Jones will direct the combined men's and women's choruses and a large general chorus made up of singing groups from the fraternities and sororities and the campus churches, with a total of about 500 voices. Solo, trio and quartet numbers will be sung under the direction of Miss Florence Bergendahl. Pres. C. A. Dykstra will direct two chorus numbers, "O Come All Ye Faithful" and "Joy to the World," which will conclude the first part of the drama called "Yesterday."

The grand finale, "Tomorrow," will begin with a symbolic scene where the circling 20 centuries are seen against the sky background, while on the ground plane members of Orchestras, the University dancing organization, will represent in rhythmic interpretation the hopes and despairs of civilization. This will be directed by Prof. Margaret H'Doubler, Beat-

rice Hellebrandt, and Frances Svott Bradley.

**Sing Hallelujah Chorus**  
On the hill slope between the two groups will be seen the figures of war, still dominant over the earth. As this scene ends, groups from the International club and other organizations will fill the playing area with flags of all nations. Stephen, symbolic of the youth of the world, will again appear on his white horse with a challenge to his comrades of the world, and the scene will end with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's "Messiah."

About 300 students will present the dramatic action of the pageant, representing Israelites, Roman courtiers and soldiers, shepherds, dancing maidens, angels, modern youths and maidens, and international groups. In addition, several animal actors will appear, including three camels for the Wise Men, a white horse for Stephen, a donkey for Mary, and several sheep and cattle.

**Miss Rockwell Director**  
Each scene will be opened by chants from two prophet figures standing on either side of the proscenium opening in recessed arches, above which will appear the illuminated devices of a book and a star with the words "Numen" and "Lumen."  
Numen, the prophet of the Word, will be played by Howard Hansen, and Lumen, the prophet of the Star, by Paul Boomsliiter, both graduate students in the school of speech.

The pageant, written and directed by Prof. Ethel Theodora Rockwell, chief of the University Extension bureau of dramatic activities, is being presented under the auspices of the University Y. M. C. A., Jack Collins, chairman, and the Y. W. C. A., Pauline Coles, chairman. Fred A. Buerki, of University theater, is in charge of scenic effects, and Noel Wallen is in charge of lighting effects.

## NYA Report Reveals Average U. Student Annual Expense \$455

Questionnaires submitted to 429 of the University of Wisconsin students who received employment last year from the National Youth Administration, federal educational aid program, revealed that the average cost for NYA students for one year's attendance at the State University is approximately \$455.

This figure corresponds closely to the \$450 figure which the Student Employment Bureau and the Registrar's office of the State University considers an average minimum expenditure for the school year for a student who does not have to pay the out-of-state tuition.

Of the group, 49 spent less than \$350 for their academic year while 36 spent \$600 or over. For the majority of the students, food and lodging comprised the major expenditures with the average cost of room \$106, and \$160 for food. Students reported individual expenditures for food from \$15 to \$320 and from \$25 to \$200 for lodging, with those who did their own cooking or received supplies from farm homes able to spend far less for food than the average.

While only 14 of the group reported expenditures for dependents, a surprising average of \$123 for each of them was noticed. The range went from \$20 to \$300, with two students reporting figures of \$400 spent for dependents last year. An equally wide range was reported in insurance expenditures. Here the amounts varied from \$3.65 to \$120 with the average at \$25.

While the average recreational costs were \$21 for the year, individual reports ranged from \$2 each to four students who each spent \$100 for the period.

These individual divergencies from the average figures explain why it was possible for 282 students to complete the year with a total income during the school year outside of NYA of from \$1 to \$49 while 16 students had outside incomes ranging from \$400 to \$599. The average outside income revealed was approximately \$175.

## Club Agent E. B. Hauser Succumbs After Illness

Ranks of the Wisconsin extension staff suffered the loss of one of its members with the recent passing of Edwin B. Hauser, county club agent of Milwaukee county. He had been a patient at Veterans Hospital, Milwaukee, since July. A native of La Crosse county, Hauser had taken training at Stout Institute after which he served as fieldman in dairy herd improvement association work in La Crosse from 1913-15. He later was an instructor in the schools at Comfrey, Minnesota, from 1921-22, after which he transferred to the staff of the Milwaukee county agricultural school where he served from 1923-28. He entered the Wisconsin extension service as club agent of Milwaukee county on October 1, 1928, a position which he occupied until his death.

ing of wool; and a survey of world agricultural resources. Forty-eight nations were represented by official delegates at the recent meeting. Six of these, including Mr. Marquis, were from the United States.

## Badger Industries Spur Employes To Special Training

Personnel men of three southern Wisconsin factories expressed the opinion that home-study courses of the University of Wisconsin extension division afford an opportunity for ambitious young men in their plants to show their capacity for advancement and supervisors.

C. S. Baker, president of the Baker Manufacturing company, Evansville, in explaining that his company pays the entire fee for correspondence courses carried by men in his plant, says, "I am so convinced that we are making a wise investment, that I am having the boys study an hour or so a day on company time."

Arthur R. Luebke, supervisor of apprentices at the Fairbanks-Morse company plant in Beloit, explained, "We are training men through correspondence courses for future supervisory work. These courses also supplement their apprentice training. I am encouraging qualified men in our plant to enroll in home-study courses that have a direct bearing upon their work."

Ray F. Tierney and Leon Lundberg, of the Madison-Kipp corporation, Madison, said that courses offered by the University of Wisconsin extension division offer one of the best types of training available to their employees.

These four industrialists stated that they insist that men taking such courses apply what they learn to their work, and that these men are given advancement preference.

## New Directory Lists 5500 Engineer Grads

Over 5,500 graduates of the University of Wisconsin's College of Engineering are listed in the latest issue of the Alumni Directory recently published by the college. This marks the eighth publication of this complete directory of Engineering Alumni of the State University, the seventh issue having been printed in 1928.

Of this total, approximately 5,300 of the graduates will be found throughout the United States in various sections of the country. The remaining 200 are scattered through 25 countries of the world. Large numbers of them are located in Canada, Mexico, China, the Philippine Islands, and South America, while others may be found anywhere from South Africa to Norway.

Daniel Britts, Milwaukee, a junior in the University of Wisconsin college of agriculture, was the Wisconsin winner of an essay contest sponsored by a Chicago meat packing concern. His award was a trip to the International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, where essay contest winners were given a complete picture of the marketing of live stock and their products. The prize winning essay outlined the methods employed by the meat packing business in marketing meats, poultry, eggs, butter, and cheese, and reviewed the services which the packing industry gives the consumer.

linemen, electrical contractors, and other types of electrical workers.

## Electrical Training By Home Study Is Extension Service

Basic knowledge required by everyone employed in the application of electricity to human needs is provided in more than a score of University of Wisconsin correspondence courses in electrical engineering. The University Extension division at Madison, in offering these courses to students in any state, announces a comprehensive program for home study training.

This program includes, besides practical mathematics, courses in essentials of electricity, theory and operation of alternating current and of direct current machinery, central electric stations, electric lamps and illumination, electric wiring, watt-hour meters, storage batteries, and others in both elementary and advanced subjects.

The University's correspondence courses in this field are arranged with special reference to the requirements of wiremen, operating engineers, central station attendants, telephone men,

## U. W. Study Improves Methods of Grease Removal from Sewage

Improvement of the techniques under which grease is removed from sewage, and establishment of standards under which the operation of existing grease interceptors can be more accurately tested have been accomplished at the Engineering Experiment station at the University of Wisconsin.

Concerned over the problem of grease and oil in sewage, which has long troubled industries and communities, Arthur M. McLeod has recently terminated an exhaustive study on the grease and oil nuisance made while an instructor in hydraulic engineering at the State University.

This series of experiments included a survey of grease interceptors or catch basins in the drain line of a plumbing fixture for the purpose of collecting and retaining greases and oils so that they may be periodically removed and thus prevented from entering the sewer system. This work will aid to reduce pollution of lakes and streams in Wisconsin, and more adequately safeguard public health from the dangers of less scientific sewage disposal.

**Aid Public Health**  
According to McLeod, greases and oils may enter the sanitary sewer systems at many points. These include restaurants, lunch rooms, hotels, hospitals, and similar establishments. Industries such as hide tanning and curing plants, soap factories, or fat rendering establishments also contribute their share as well as slaughter houses, curing plants, garages, and filling stations. In addition, residential kitchens in the community also complicate the sewage disposal problem.

Greases and oils in large quantities in sewage constitute serious nuisances in both treated and untreated sewage disposal. Where the grease-laden sewage is disposed of by dilution in a stream or lake, a "sleek" forms on the surface of the water, making it unrecognizable in appearance. The banks of rivers and sand beaches become coated, and in some cases fish and other marine life are affected.

**Grease Troubles Plants**  
In sewage treatment works, oils and fats cause many difficulties in opera-

tion. Grease-laden wastes mix with cold sewage in the mains, causing the grease to congeal and adhere to the solids in the waste. By the time the sewage has reached the treatment plant, a thorough mixing of grease and solids has occurred. Since bacterial action on grease is slow, it does not decompose readily and is carried through the plant, affecting the operation at many points, depending on the type of treatment.

"The problem of preventing grease and oil from entering the sewer system with resulting clogging of mains," continued McLeod, "and disposal difficulties at treatment plants have long been handled by individual communities without the aid of adequate laboratory investigation. Moreover, manufacturers of grease interceptors who have had their products rated at various laboratories which have attempted interceptor testing have found serious lack of uniformity in test methods and results."

**Test Interceptors**  
Determined to clarify the situation, his experiment consisted of extensive tests on 50 manufactured interceptors to determine the principles of effective grease removal as applied to effective interceptor design, and to formulate a test method which could easily be duplicated and which would provide a fair basis for rating interceptors.

In line with this, experiments were conducted and definite recommendations made regarding such matters as factors affecting interceptor efficiency, comparative test methods, factors affecting operation and principal features of installation, design, and operation. In addition, a comparison of features of 50 manufacture interceptors was made together with findings as to the most advantageous combinations of features to make the best possible interceptors.

Finally, McLeod's experiments at the State University led to the establishment of recommended standard tests for interceptors. As a direct result of his findings, standard test equipment, procedure, and rating of interceptors are now much more accurate.

## Wisconsin Lags In Transportation For High School Pupils

Declaring that the State of Wisconsin has been far behind her sister states in contributing to the needs of the high school boys and girls in the matter of furnishing transportation at public expense when necessary, Prof. John Guy Fowlkes, and Dr. George S. Beery of the school of education at the University of Wisconsin recently turned in to State Superintendent John Callahan a report of their survey of the transportation of high school pupils in the state.

While the eleven year period from 1927 to 1938 saw an increase of 157 per cent in the number of school buses operating in the United States, with a corresponding increase of 153 per cent in the number of pupils transported to high schools during the last eight years, and while 22 states expend more than one million dollars annually for such transportation at public expense, the development of pupil transportation in Wisconsin has not paralleled the national increase, the study shows.

**Hit at Obstacles**  
Beginning with the surprising fact that only 16 per cent of the states is located in high school districts, the State University investigators voiced the hope of "a greater equality of educational opportunity" and hit at three definite obstacles to such success. One of the obstacles to the realization of such a hope, they stated, seems to be a natural conservatism and unwillingness to relinquish local authority and control of small units.

Another has been the detachment law of 1927 which operates in direct opposition to any scheme of reorganization into larger units, because it allows areas within a district maintaining a high school but lying outside of the corporate limits of the village or city to be detached. A third difficulty has been the lack of a controlled development of transportation of high school pupils, which allow larger units to make available high school opportunities to all within their given areas.

The investigation of buses now being used in the state revealed some startling findings. "That Wisconsin has been negligent in the essential matter of safety in high school transportation," declares the report, "is seen in the prevalence of inferior and unsafe equipment being used for transporting high school pupils. At least one-fourth of the buses used now are unsafe."

**Many Buses Unsafe**  
It was found that 17 per cent of the chassis are over seven years old; 25 per cent of the bus bodies are of inferior and unsafe construction; 23 per cent of the buses have no emergency exit; 53 per cent of the buses have no fire extinguisher; 20 per cent have gasoline tanks inside the body; 12 per cent have the driver's seat separate from the passenger compartment of the bus. These conditions, the report claims, can only be remedied by stringent state legislation. Towards this end Fowlkes and Beery have drafted a "Code for the Transportation of High School Pupils" for the purpose of clarifying and enforcing the matter.

In conclusion, the investigators insist, "The state contributes transportation support for less than 30 per cent of the high school pupils transported in the state. There is no reimbursement by the state for transporting any non-resident high school pupils to schools in the nearest high school district. Wisconsin needs a more equitable system of state support for transportation, which will assume a major share of the cost. Depriving a child of a high school education because his parents cannot pay transportation costs or because no transportation is available to the child is not in accordance with the principle of 'equality of educational opportunity.'"

## Extension Offering Round Table Series On National Affairs

To help the people of Wisconsin more completely to understand national and international affairs, the University of Wisconsin extension division has prepared a round-table series on Outstanding Governmental Trends of the Times. This lecture-discussion series will be offered in any community within the state that desires it.

The discussions attempt in a simple style to help the group find its own answers and attain some grasp on our rapidly changing order, by bringing results of recent research to bear on their questions.

The topics for the eight meetings include: What government is for; The essence of communism; The essence of fascism; The essence of democracy; Politics vs. administration; The crisis of Europe; America and the next war; Why more centralization of government?

Instead of being ready-made, this round-table series is shaped to fit the interests of each particular group, with the aim of promoting a better understanding of our political order by presenting the significant facts. The leaders are from the staff of the department of political science, University Extension division.