

# The Time Has Come

DAVE LEVERING, University of Redlands

I am standing on the mountain of eternity over-looking the valley of time. On the floor of that valley I see a gigantic stage, called life, upon which is being enacted the drama of destiny. The scenes of this drama shift and the actors change, but the plot is forever the same. It is the story of man's search for fulfillment in life, the account of his fight against fear. But everywhere I look on the stage, I see disorganization and confusion. The actors refuse to listen to the cue from the wings when they forget their lines. The confusion increases and at times it seems as if the curtain must fall on tragedy; but it is in the moments of greatest darkness, on the brink of complete failure, that some one listens to the cue from the wings and reads his line — a few others find their places and the play moves on. When it gets dark enough, the stars always shine.

I am looking first at the scene called Rome, at man's attempt to conquer fear through the building of a great empire. Rome was afraid of her neighbors and built great armies to conquer them. Conquest made her proud and pride made her afraid of stronger neighbors. The cycle was repeated but to no avail. The empire that had set out to conquer fear was itself forever afraid. The confusion increased but the actors of Rome refused to listen to the cue from the wings. But in a far corner of that empire there was one who listened and who as a result felt compelled to travel throughout the countryside advocating a new method

for the conquest of fear, a method involving love and kindness and humility. Many listened to this man and a few followed Him for His message was new and vibrant; but most of the people were afraid, and Jesus died on the cross. To the many, His death like His life had little significance but to the few that had followed Him it meant disillusionment and despair, it meant the tragic end of a beautiful story, it meant a truth turned into a lie. And yet it was in the midst of their bereavement that this little band of men first began to realize that in their Master's life, love and kindness and humility had conquered fear, that through defeat He had achieved victory, that through ignominious death on the cross He had passed into eternal life. It was in the dark years just after His death that the little group of followers caught the eternal significance of the cue from the wings, that a few men found the only way to conquer fear. When it gets dark enough, the stars always shine.

The scene shifts. I am looking now at an era that the writers of history have chosen to call the age of faith, but which I would term the age of irony; for it is in this time that perhaps the greatest paradox of all time takes place. The church, an organization formed to aid man in his fight against fear, had emerged the conquerer of his mind and body. Conquest made the church proud and pride made her afraid of those whose doctrine was different from hers. As in the previous age, the actors of this era, even within the



church, refused to listen to the cue from the wings. Confusion and darkness deepened, and then in the city of Florence in the country of Italy there came a man who listened to the cue. Savonarola walked the streets of that wicked city advocating a different method for the conquest of fear, a method involving love and kindness and humility. Many listened to this man for his voice was like music and his message was new and vibrant, but the majority of the people and the church were afraid and Savonarola was burned alive. To the many his burning was justice, but to the few who had followed him the expiration of his life meant the end of the dreams of which he spoke in such eloquent terms. And yet it was in the depths of this darkness that these men began to realize that Savonarola had the real answer, that though his body had been burned, the significance of his words was without end. It was in the blackness of that hour that once again a few had found the only way to conquer fear, had discovered the eternal significance of the cue from the wings. When it gets dark enough, the stars always shine.

The scenes shift and the actors change, but the plot is forever the same. I am looking now at a division of the world into small segments, called nations, each of which is trying to find for itself the answer to the problem of fear. But these actors, like those of the past, have refused to listen to the cue from the wings. They try to solve their problem through the subjection of one nation to another. Each time they try, their methods are a little more severe; each time they try, their effort is a

little more intense; but each time they try, the result is always the same. The product of fear is conquest, and the product of conquest is pride, and the product of pride is fear. Thus the cycle has been repeated until in our own time there are those who have said that the final curtain is about to fall on the drama of destiny. Yet even into the midst of this darkness there came a man from a far corner of the world who listened to the cue from the wings, and who as a result felt compelled to take the message of the ages to the teeming millions of his native land. He spoke to them of love and kindness and humility as the only way to conquer fear. Many listened to this man, for his message held hope and challenge, but the majority of the people was afraid and Ghandi died from the assassin's bullet. The year since his death has been a dark year for those who listened, for the end of his life meant to them termination of the qualities of which he spoke. There are many today who are saying that the final curtain is about to fall on the drama of destiny, and yet I would say to you today that that curtain need not fall; Ghandi listened to the cue from the wings and read his line. It is now up to the other actors to find their places if the play is to go on. When it gets dark enough the stars always shine; but in the darkness of this night, if the drama of destiny is to continue its run upon the stage of life, then the time has come for the supporting actors to read their lines, the time has come for us to live in the cause for which the stars have fallen, the time has come for us to listen for our cue from the wings, the time has come ..... listen.



# Return From Wasteland

JOE B. LAINE, Yankton College

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe I have judged you without weighing all the evidence. I have condemned you without hearing your side of the case. I feel that I may owe you an apology. Let me tell you what I mean. It all started several years ago while I was working at a hospital for the treatment and care of the mentally ill. In the course of my work as gardener, I became acquainted with several of the inmates of the institution. Now these men, in the terms of the outside world, were insane. But, nevertheless, they became my friends. I found in each of them an interesting and distinctive personality, in them I found intelligence, inquisitiveness and the desire to please. There was, for instance, Bill who impressed upon me the invaluable lesson that as Roger Bacon suggested in the thirteenth century, "One individual is worth more than all the universals in the world." It was the violation of this precept that brought on the feeling of animosity I came to have for you. Because you represented the society of my day which has taught me that all the people in such institutions were to be classed in one universal category—crazy, nuts, the insane!

But I had found them to be individual persons. So it was quite natural that I should be somewhat antagonistic toward you. Of course it was not long before reason took the place of emotion and I soon concluded that my society felt no malice toward these people. It had nothing against them, but the piling up of

everyday cares and the consideration of seemingly more important problems had brought on a sort of callousness and indifference that led so easily to the place where my friends of the mental hospital were simply consigned to the ranks of the crazy people and forgotten. But they weren't all forgotten. Not entirely forgotten. There was, for instance, John whom you remembered very well.

John had spent three years in the sanatorium recovering from an emotional breakdown. Now he was ready for the final stage of his treatment—the readjustment to the social environment of the outside world. For after he has been treated for his illness and has shown a satisfactory response, the patient is returned to the community, to you where the final decision as to his stability and usefulness as a citizen is handed down. I recall very well the day John told me of his fear of returning to his home community. He remembered only too well the glances exchanged on down-town streets, looks passed across the grocery counter and the whispering that went on behind the backs of those who had "come-back." He had become significantly aware of the hard struggle to make the adjustment which would bring the "inalienable rights of life, liberty and especially the pursuit of happiness." Yes, John expected to find derision and back-biting and the dreadful feeling of his friends shying away from him, and he found it.



Suppose, my friends, that you should meet someone on the street who had been treated for a broken leg and was forced to walk with crutches. Would you bump into him and knock him sprawling to the sidewalk? Of course you would not think of doing such a thing. Common sense would dictate otherwise. And yet, that same kind of idiotic, tragic thing is exactly what you did to John. For here was a mind that through the workings of modern science and the grace of God had been returned from the wasteland of insanity. It was put into your hands for final shaping and adjustment. And what did you do with it? You said, "We don't want you but if you want to stick around we can use you as a topic for back fence gossip or as a standing joke for the bridge or poker table."

When I knew that John had been forced to return to the hospital because of the nervous agitation brought on by his inability to readjust, my anger toward you returned. This time it seemed harder for me to take up the instruments of rationality in defense of my people. For I was inclined toward bitterness. I wanted to sneer at the political and social morality of my country which had taught me that "in the eyes of God all men are created equal" and that ours was a government "for the people", all the people. But when one has been brought up on the ideals of democracy he cannot long hold out for quick judgments and condemnation without reason. Besides, it had been Christ Himself who had said shortly before his death at the hands of His people, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." It

was simply that you did not realize what you did. You did not know you were helping to destroy a man's mind when you could so easily be helping to make it strong and secure. Could I in all fairness blame you because you did not understand? Before I could answer this question to my satisfaction, a tragic situation occurred which answered it for me.

Now Pop Jones was a short, round-bellied little man with white hair. I met Pop, while he was working as custodian of one of the hospital buildings and waiting for his final release. How often when coming into the employees' living quarters did I extend a jocund greeting to the old man as he went about his work and receive from him a wry smile or a casual word in reply. Ours came to be that type of impersonal friendship that has a depth and sincerity that more intimate relationships often lack. I soon became curious why Pop did not return to his home. For he had responded to treatment and had shown that he was able to do a day's work and get along with his fellow men. Why was it that society did not reclaim him and rejoice at the saving of another mind from the wasteland? I wish I had never found the answer to this question—but I did find it. I found it in a stiff, cold body and a white head lying in a pool of clotted blood. I found it in a hand that rigidly clutched a straight-edged razor which had been drawn across a dusky throat making it simply a gory mass. My friend was dead, you had helped to kill him and I hated you for it.

But the man committed suicide, you say. Yes, that was the coroners verdict. It wasn't mine. This little old



## Illinois Xi Wins More Honors

Augustana College, producer of champion debaters and orators has again won notable victories. Dorothy Ann Koch and Lucille Foley won first place at the Bowl of Green Tournament in which twenty-five colleges and universities participated. The same team together with David Loring and Charles Lindberg were undefeated in a field of seventy universities and colleges from thirteen states, but yielded first place to St. Olaf on a point system. Lucille Foley also won first place in the Illinois State Oratorical Contest.



## Michigan Theta Wins State Debate Honors

Three members of Michigan Theta Chapter won honors at the State Women's Debate Tournament, February 25, when Joan Haglund won the first place medal in the League Debates; Joanne Olmsted won the first place medal in Tournament Debates and Frances Collver won the second place medal in Tournament Debates. The team of Olmsted and Collver, first year debaters, have now won thirteen out of fourteen judged intercollegiate debates.





1st row from left to right: Buell Raupe, Tom Hughes, Emmitt Johnson, Wallace Boling.  
 2nd row: RoseAnn Cummings, Peggy Huse, Margaret Floyd, Pansy Ware, Jo Ann Stine, June Stefka.  
 3rd row: Dott Sala, Mary Carlton, Brooks Heard, Eve Elrod, Julia Burns, Peggy Dendy, Bill Kind, Maurice Schnorr.  
 4th row: Paul Rilling (coach), Marcus Hickerson, Sam Bass, James Shiflett, Charles Ludlow, Mike Earney.

## Texas Eta Wins Many Trophies

The large and talented squad of North Texas State (Texas Eta) has compiled such a splendid record during the year that it is given in full.

**East Central State Tournament, Ada, Okla., Dec. 1-3.**

1st in senior women's debate —  
 Dott Sala and Mary Carlton.

1st in junior women's debate —  
 Julia Burns and Peggy Huse.

Sweepstakes winners in both women's divisions.

**University of Texas Women's Tournament, Austin Texas, Nov. 18-19.**

1st in senior women's debate —  
 Dott Sala and Mary Carlton.

3rd in junior women's debate —  
 Julia Burns and Peggy Huse.

**Millsaps College Tournament, Millsaps, Miss., Dec. 9-10.**

1st in senior women's debate —  
 Jane Bennett and Rose Ann Cummings.

2nd in men's debate — Tom Hughes and Marcus Hickerson.

**Abilene Christian College Tournament, Abilene, Texas, Feb. 10-11.**

1st in junior women's debate —  
 Julia Burns and Brooks Heard.

2nd in senior women's debate —  
 Peggy Dendy and Rose Ann Cummings.

Sweepstakes winners.

**Southeastern College Tournament, Durant, Okla., March 2-4.**

1st in senior women's debate —  
 Rose Ann Cummings and Brooks Heard.

3rd in junior women's debate  
 (both eliminated in semi-finals)  
 — Julia Burns and Peggy Huse.  
 Sue Weatherby and Betty Phillips.

**University of Nebraska Tournament, Feb. 24-25.**

superior debate rating (5 wins, 0 losses) — Tom Hughes and Mike Earney.

superior debate rating (4 wins, 1 loss) — Wallace Boling and Jim Shiflett.



## Return From Wasteland

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man had been driven to death by a cruel, harsh, indifferent society. A society which professed Christianity and practiced paganism. I fear what started out as an apology has resolved itself into a vindication of my position. For in the course of my presentation of these cases a strange realization has come to me. I keep telling myself that this cannot be, that my imagination has gotten out of hand, but the feeling keeps coming over me that Bill and John and the others, even Pop are out there in the audience. I know it sounds foolish, but I have the impression that I can see my friends of the sanatorium in your faces. That tomorrow or next week or next year any one of you, or me for that matter, might be Bill or John or Pop. Bill had had no insanity in his family. John did not plan on going to a mental hospital. And Pop... well, he was just some-

one's grandfather. As I recognize these men in your faces and realize that the reflection of their hardships and misery is to be found in your hearts, I know that there too is to be found that basic quality of goodness and fair play which will keep before us the fact that men like Bill are individuals, that there is a fifth to be added to the four freedoms—that men like John shall have the right to come home without derision and the lifting of eyebrows. In our twentieth century society we have replaced the bedlam of chains with modern hospitals and we have exchanged the burnings at the stake and the drownings in the witches' chair for the latest in Psychiatric medicine. It remains for you and me to establish a new therapy on the home front. Lest we see our own hands drawing the razor across Pop's throat let us join together in helping these, our neighbors in their return from wasteland.

## Skeletons All

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change our democratic attitude from one of passive to one of active participation by teaching ourselves to become counted-upon, responsible persons. We must discipline ourselves to study election candidates and vote when the time comes. We must be willing to assume responsibility for goals which extend beyond immediate results in such matters as labor negotiations and soil conservation. We must be wary of becoming overly-dependent upon government subsidies, since they often create the

dangerous attitude of complacency and eventually pave the way for power politics, gangsters and dictators. Lastly, we must strive for originality in our thoughts and actions by resisting the pressure of style — the easy way and the path of least resistance.

When we are dead the bones of our bodies may remain. Perhaps, as the body of Jeremy Bentham, our bodies will remain for centuries without the flesh, blood and tissue which gives them life.

Must we living be like skeletons — present but not responsible—present but not voting?



# A Basis For Speech Study

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drama. How important this may be was indicated recently by another friend of speech study. Robert Frost said that all in the world a teacher can do for a student with respect to a poem is to have him perform it. Here again the total performance is the important thing, and the teacher who attempts to improve it is not just meddling with inflection, quality, and gesture, but is getting to some fundamental problems of imagination. Again, the end may be only a better man.

Throughout this discussion I have charged that speech study has followed an opportunistic course which has led it not to bad results but to incidental ends. *There may be nothing wrong with the ends.* I see, however, through public speaking, interpretation, and dramatics, the emergence of a man with a better understanding of the world. Part of this understanding has come through his engaging in a speaking performance and his use of widely gathered materials and experiences. If he is able to sell, teach, plead, discuss better as a result of this learning we are neither surprised nor disappointed. We know in the words of the late Mr. Justice Holmes: "Life is action, the use of one's powers. As to use them to their height is our joy and duty, so it is the one end that justifies itself."

The teacher's tasks should be clear. He gives to the students good

plays and helps the actors interpret good writing. He forgets to as great an extent as possible the attempted description of an ideal amateur play offered by one of our better commercial houses for plays:

It must be amusing; have an easily understood and quickly moving story; it should have plenty of laughs throughout; and explain or suggest some idea or viewpoint that is optimistic, "worth-while" and wholly acceptable to present-day Americans who are neither intellectuals nor morons.

In public speaking, whether in the class or in the contest, the teacher's interest again is one of large scope, to acquaint the student with problems of magnitude and to evaluate his performance in such a manner that first things are placed first. The contest itself is but another challenge, a relatively strong one, and to the extent that it serves to elicit from the student his best efforts and give him cues for something better it is commendable. It is a larger class room which is not confined by any branch of learning, science, humanities, or social sciences. And it is a situation in which incidental learning is boundless.

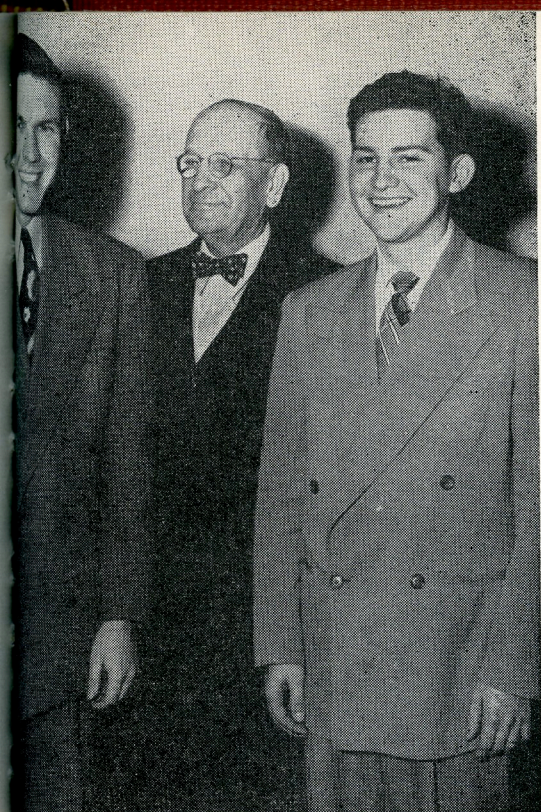
The speech teacher's material originates in philosophy and rhetoric, in poetry and drama, encompasses the scope of subject matter which can be approached through these arts, and terminates in the performance of a sensitive and educated man.

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Talking and eloquence are not the same: to speak, and to speak well are two things. A fool may talk, but a wise man speaks.

BEN JONSON: *Discoveries*, c. 1635

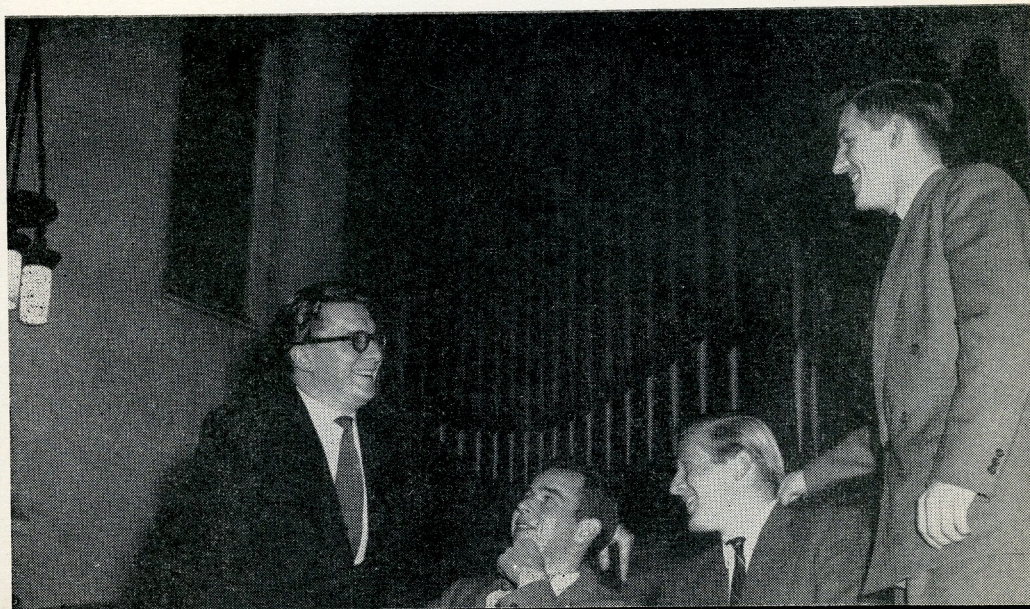




Jack Carter and Collin Bowen of Southeastern Oklahoma State College have made an excellent record in debate this year, being undefeated in three tournaments. They received superior ratings at the Nebraska University Tournament with five wins in five debates and won the Savage Tournament by winning all nine of their debates, to be the only undefeated team in the tournament.

to right: Collin Bowen, Prof. T. A. Houston, Jack Carter.

Jack Ryan and Roger Schrader of Missouri Alpha entertained Robin Day and Geoffrey Johnson-Smith from Oxford University.





# Chapter Notes

Lawrence Gunnels and Robert Logan of Ottawa University were undefeated in four rounds of debate at the William Jewell Tournament. Barbara McJilton and Richard Chartier won first place in the senior division of the Pittsburg State Teacher's College Tournament.

Kansas Omicron at McPherson has had an active year, Ardys and Avis Albright winning second place at both the Winfield and Hutchinson tournaments.

Hugo A. Carlson has re-assumed the position of Director of Speech at Augustana after an absence of seven years. For the past five years, Mr. Carlson has been the voice of the American Broadcasting Company from Hollywood. No doubt many Pi Kappa Deltans have been regular listeners to his news, sports, and special-events broadcasts over the network. Previous to his affiliation with ABC Mr. Carlson had established a record Hooper-rating with the Central States Broadcasting System in Omaha and Lincoln.

Oregon Alpha, Linfield College, under the leadership of R. D. Mahaffey, held their Twentieth Annual Intercollegiate Forensic Tournament. Over four hundred representatives from thirty-one schools in six western states participated. Their total miles of traveling would be staggering, as speakers were there from San Diego State in the south, and Western Washington in the north—two

schools almost two thousand miles apart. They also came from Bozeman, Montana, which is one thousand miles east.

Entered in competition were one hundred fifty-eight teams in debate, and four hundred eight entrants in individual events.

Wheaton College has attended the following tournaments: Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois (Grand Western); Charleston Invitational (Eastern Illinois State College); Normal Invitational, Normal, Illinois (Illinois Normal University); DePauw Invitational, Greencastle, Indiana (DePauw University); Iowa Forensic Conference, Iowa City, Iowa (University of Iowa); Northwest Tournament, St. Paul, Minnesota (St. Thomas College); Bradley Invitational, Peoria, Illinois (Bradley University); Knox Invitational, Galesburg, Illinois (Knox College); and the University of Illinois at Chicago Invitational, Chicago, Illinois.

The high point of the year was reached in the Southern trip of the men's varsity teams. George Johnson, William Thompson, Don Searer, and Art Klem visited nine college and university campuses on a three thousand six hundred mile trip that took them as far south as Miami, Florida. They were accompanied by C. L. Nystrom, director of forensics at Wheaton College. Dual debates were held with the following schools: Tennessee University, Knoxville, Tennessee; University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina; Mercer University, Macon, Georgia; Stet-



son University, DeLand, Florida; Miami University, Miami, Florida; Tampa University, Tampa, Florida; Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Florida; Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida; and Alabama State College, Montevallo, Alabama.

The third annual Great Lakes Area Tournament was held at Bowling Green, February 3 and 4. Twenty-five colleges and universities from seven states competed. This tournament consisted of six rounds of preliminary debates. Eight of the best teams were picked for final rounds of elimination. A Pi Kappa Delta School, Augustana College of Illinois, won the championship debate over a team from DePauw University. The winning team was two women, Lucille Foley and Dorothy Ann Koch.

Albert Goh, Chinese student from Singapore, now attending Bowling Green State University, won first place in oratory. Morris Niedenthal of Northwestern placed second.

Activities of the Gamma Chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, Mississippi State College for Women for this year includes the follownig: participation in the Student Youth Congress sponsored by the Mississippi Speech Association held at Jackson, Mississippi, December 2-3, 1949; attendance at the Alabama University Invitational Discussion Tournament, November 18-19, 1949; sponsor of intra-mural debates and interpretative reading and original oratory contests; sponsor of the Annual Magnolia Speech Tournament for college and university women held at M. S. C. W., Georgetown, Kentucky, March 24-25, 1950, and the Southern

Speech Association Tournament at Birmingham, April 3-7, 1950

Individual ratings have been received by the following students as indicated: Joyce Jones, Superior in interpretative reading and discussion; Jean Wilson, Superior in extemporaneous speaking and Excellent in discussion; Kay Hall, Millie Turnipseed, Dorothea Osterloah, Excellent in discussion; Velma Myers and Valerie Threlkeld, Excellent in debate; Carolyn Reed and Velma Myers, Excellent in original oratory; Betty Boyles Superior in after dinner speaking; Patsy McDade, Excellent in after dinner speaking; and Betty Carson, Superior in interpretative reading.

Officers for this year have been Joy Noble, President; Bennie Hartzog, Vice President; Martha Kee Secretary and Treasurer.

Southern Illinois University has again become active in forensics under the guidance of C. Horton Talley, Chairman of the Speech Department. At this writing Tom Sloan is undefeated in intercollegiate competition, having won the Illinois State Oratorical Contest, Superior in oratory at the Illinois State Normal Forensic Meet, and first in both oratory and after dinner speaking at the Indiana State College Meet. Doris Schwinn was second in the Illinois State Oratorical Contest.

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The finest eloquence is that which gets things done; the worst is that which delays them.



## Book Review

*Famous First Facts: A Record of First Happenings, Discoveries, and Inventions in the United States* (888 p. \$7. H. W. Wilson Company, New York 52).

This work is an unusual compilation of "firsts". The earliest first listed is 1007, the year the first child of European parents was born on American soil. The latest date is June 9, 1949, the day the First Woman Treasurer of the United States was confirmed. In between there are 5,548 "firsts" in Business, Government, Labor, Religion, Science, Sports, etc., described in this remarkable and fascinating compilation of who did it first, when, where and how. Among the 413 "first B's," for example, are the stories of the first baby show, bacteriology laboratory, bank, Baptist Church, best seller, billiard ball, bloomers, blue law, book magazine, botanic garden, brass foundry, breakfast food, Bud-dhist Temple and business manual.

The first appendicitis operation was performed January 4, 1885 and the book presents all essential details as they were reported in *Colorado Medicine*. January 30, 1798, saw the first brawl in Congress when a gentleman from Vermont spat in the face of a gentleman from Connecticut. Names and other details are, of course, included. The first glass was spun for a dress in 1893 by the E. D. Libbey Glass Company for Georgia Cayven. In 1919 the Chicago Cubs and the Cincinnati Reds played nine hitless innings. The place, day, names of pitchers and the final score are given in the story. It is one of forty-three baseball "firsts."

Another feature of this remarkable book is its complete indexing. There are indexes by year, days of the month, by the names of individuals, and by geographical location. In the name index, Benjamin Franklin is credited with twenty-six firsts, George Washington with twenty-three, Franklin Delano Roosevelt with eighteen and Thomas Jefferson with fourteen. As would be easily guessed Franklin's list of "firsts" covers the widest range. It includes: newspaper cartoon, rocking chair, chess book, fire insurance company and stove.

The first Congress of the United States met in New York City from March 4, 1789, to September 29, 1789. Eleven entries are devoted to Congressional "firsts" of this year including the first act to be declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The first Catholic magazine was published in 1789 and the first Catholic college was established. The first Presbyterian General Assembly met and the first local temperance society was formed. This year also saw the start of American industry in cotton milling, flour milling and the manufacture of white lead.

The index by days suggests that first events pick certain days on which to happen. These are **July 1** with seventy-eight entries, **March 3** with sixty-four, **March 4** with fifty-eight and **January 1** with fifty-four. It should be pointed out, however, that no day is either blessed with all good or all evil happenings.

Everything about the book is impressive; its large, well bound pages; its cross references; its total 31,382 entries, and of course, the wealth of fascinating and valuable information it contains.