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Announcements

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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INDIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION, JULY 12TH AND 13TH, AT FORT WAYNE

The thirty-second annual meeting will be held in Ft. Wayne, July 12th and 13th. This decision was reached by the Board of Managers after careful consideration of all invitations from the various cities of the state.

President Van Osdol has arranged a varied program, which is probably the most extensive that the association has ever contemplated. The committee has already been selected by the Allen County Association to help effect arrangements. The meetings scheduled in the program as those of different sections, while especially devoted to matters relating to that particular branch of the profession, are nevertheless open to all members and visitors attending the annual meeting. The forenoon session of Thursday, July 12th, consists of committee reports, and the President's annual address. At 2:00 P. M. of that day there will be a meeting of the Judicial Section. One of the subjects will be "How to Relieve the Congestion of the Supreme Court." There will also be a discussion of the subject "Some Present Day Problems of the Bench." All of the judges of the state are to be especially invited to this discussion.

In the forenoon session on Friday the 13th, the prosecuting attorneys of the State will have the special section. There will be a discussion of the subject, "Should the Office of Prosecuting Attorney be on a Salary Basis?" and "Do modern conditions create new duties for this office?" At the morning session of the second day, there will also be a special section for Municipal Attorneys, at which time the subject will be "The true relation between the Municipality and the State."

The afternoon session of the second day will be given over to various committee reports, and the election of officers. The winner of the State Oratorical contest on "The Constitution" will deliver the prize winning oration at this session.

The annual banquet will be held the evening of the second day at 6:30 P. M.

The President, Mr. Van Osdol, has succeeded in obtaining several of the very best known attorneys of the State to lead in the discussions. A complete program will be announced in the June issue of the *Journal*. Two of the leading members of the American Bar have been invited to deliver addresses. The two are Charles Evans Hughes and John W. Davis.

The Ft. Wayne Country Club has extended an invitation to all our members for the free use of their Golf Course.

JOEL A. BAKER,

Secretary-Treasurer,

The Indiana State Bar Association

ORATORICAL AND ESSAY CONTESTS

The State Champion for Indiana for the year 1928 in the Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Indiana State Bar Association, is Miss Avis June Goyer, of the Kokomo High School, Kokomo, Indiana, and the State Champion in the Essay Contest is John Plummer, of the Bedford High School, Bedford, Indiana.

The Oratorical Contest was held at Crawfordsville, Indiana, on April 24th, and the announcement of the winner in the Essay Contest was made on the same occasion.

These State Champions had won first place in the local school contest, county contest, congressional district contest and consolidated district or zone contest prior to participating in the State Final Contest.

Miss Goyer is a senior in high school and is eighteen years of age. She has had previous experience in the Wabash Valley Oratorical Contest, in the Discussion League and in Debating Contests. Of the two subjects assigned "The Development of the Constitution" and the "Present Significance of the Constitution," she chose the former as the subject of her oration.

Miss Goyer will appear on the program at the annual meeting, will receive the gold medal which is presented to the State champion by the Association at this time and will deliver her oration. She has already received her cash award of \$250.00.

The winners in the first six places in the Essay Contest sat upon the platform at Crawfordsville at the Oratorical Contest. Mr. Plummer, the winner of the first prize, will also be presented with his gold medal at the annual meeting of the association and he has also received his cash award of \$250.00. The two subjects assigned for the Essay Contest were "What is a good Citizen" and "Why Obey the Law." Mr. Plummer selected the latter as the subject of his essay.

Those members of the Bar and others who were present at the final contest were clearly convinced that the Indiana State Bar Association is doing its full share in assisting to restore the Constitution to the hearts and minds of our people.

The National semi-finals in the Oratorical Contest were held at Troy, New York, on May 11, the National finals at Washington on May 25th and the International finals will be held at Washington, October 13, 1928.

Eighty-two counties in the State were represented in our Indiana contests. Two hundred and sixty-six different schools throughout the state enrolled and participated in the Oratorical Contests and two hundred and thirty-six schools in different parts of Indiana enrolled and took part in the Essay Contests. There were three congressional districts in which each county in the district was represented in both the Oratorical and Essay Contests. These districts were the Seventh, Ninth and Eleventh. Miss Goyer comes from the Ninth district and Mr. Plummer from the Third district.

The medals to the county champions and district champions will be distributed within the next few weeks. Each county champion will receive a bronze medal suitably engraved and will have his or her name inscribed thereon. The district champions will each receive a silver medal.

JAMES M. OGDEN,

Chairman, Committee on American
Citizenship.

ARE THE JUVENILE COURTS FACING A NEW PROBLEM?

Previous to the World War the criminal who was brought into the court was a mature individual. He was usually a hardened one and punishment given him by the court was accepted. Young men and young women were seldom brought before the

judge and children, practically, never, except as mere incidents to domestic problems, such as in a divorce proceeding.

The juvenile problems are serious ones, and demand the attention of the courts as never before. To assist in handling youthful cases, juvenile courts have been established. The law governing such courts and their procedure are quite different from that in other courts. Probation officers have been created to serve as agents of this court. It was the intent and spirit, presumably, of the juvenile law to study causes and conditions which influence the youthful delinquent. That law is here to verify the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. These courts and their agents have done and still are doing much to keep young men and young women from slipping into dangerous paths.

The juvenile court is expected to know the social conditions of every child which is brought before it. It is impossible for the probation officer to secure all these facts in the brief time which could be given to such a study. Such a person must understand the modern home as affected by the industrial, economic and social conditions of the day. No court can decide justly concerning what is best for the delinquent child until he knows much of that child's social and economic background.

In some of our progressive cities there have developed departments which bring all this before the court. The psychiatrist will make his mental analysis; the probation officer will procure the family history; the nurse will take the child to the clinic and report about his physical condition. All these make it possible for the juvenile judge to decide more intelligently on what is to be done that will tend to secure for the child its best opportunity. But such a group of workers cannot be found in the majority of our cities, and never in the rural districts; therefore, it is necessary that the agencies in the community be called in for assistance.

In every county in the State of Indiana and in the cities of two thousand and more is found the school attendance officer. This school official is working closely with the homes and with the school. Hardly a case which reaches the probation officer or the juvenile court, but has at some time or another been a problem in school attendance. The reasons for this irregularity in school is one of the first signs of home disturbance.

The attendance officer can generally iron out those cases of home trouble which have to do with food, clothes, books and the like. But when parents are slipping from their parental moor-

ings, the problem is too deep for school authority. It is at this point that the support of the court is most needed. When such parents are brought before the juvenile judge because of neglect to have their children attend school regularly, the cause of such neglect is usually unfolded before the court. Here is often an opportunity for the parents to see their responsibility as parents. In many cases the child itself is of such interest that the parents will "patch up" their difficulties and take on anew the duties of the home.

There are other cases where parents failed to see the rights of their children for education, because they do not understand the training which is needed to meet the new industrial situations. Here again the court can support the home by taking some time to impress the parents with a higher sense of parental duty.

Parents who defy the school compulsory law will not hesitate to defy another law. If they can escape in this one—either by court neglect or by court support, then it is easy for them to continue to slip. A child living in such an environment early gains the impression that it is all right to disobey any law which is not to his liking. The old adage "A stitch in time, saves nine" may be applied to the court. If the court will support the school in its efforts to keep all children in school and to help all children in their school adjustments, then courage will come to the school officials. They will take on a greater interest in the relationship of home to the school. Through this encouragement and support many a home may be tied more firmly to the school thereby increasing the interest of both parents and the school officials in directing the child's activities.

In conclusion, this new problem which faces the court may be simplified to some extent by greater attention to the child in its attendance at school. It wards off possible disrespect towards school laws and school situations. It stamps upon the child's mind respect for law and authority. It may stay the parents in their lack of understanding of their parenthood and it will encourage school officials to take on more responsibility for the children who are in their care. The time taken by the court in handling the attendance problems will be worth much in the way of prevention.

SANFORD M. KELTNER.

Of the Anderson Bar.