

Prize Winning Oration of Richard Means

Below is given the first place winning oration of Richard Means that won for him the right to represent Plattsmouth in the district oratorical contest at Nebraska City.

The Preamble
We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The Preamble means to every living person no matter of what race, color or creed. First we have the phrase, "We the People of the United States" It is important to notice that this is a government of the people, not of the State. The People the highest authority know that our system from

whom all our institutions spring and on whom they depend.

We the people, is the institution of one great consolidated National government of the people of all the states, instead of a government by compact with the States for its agents. The Constitution is one of the greatest works ever struck off by the pen of man. It is one of the greatest works because it was written by free peace loving men who knew the true meaning of Liberty. They were true honest men who were working to set an example for men all over the world, and they were not easily influenced by greed and power like too many men of today are.

The second phrase "In order to form a more perfect Union, the fathers of the Constitution had a strong feeling about the Union and they wanted to keep it and make it strong. They felt that the States did not make the Union, but that the Union made the states. Therefore, they made the Union strong through the Constitution. No state may secede from the Union without violating the law of the land. In latter years this was to cause much controversy over state rights and slavery, which finally ended in a Civil War. Had it not been for the foresight of the fathers of the Constitution, their work and the work of thousands of people to form a great and strong Union may have crumbled on that faithful day when the roar of can-

non belched forth its fire and destruction at Fort Sumpter. Our great Union would have fallen into many small fragments and each would be striving against the other. Had it not been for the Constitution and the Leadership of Abraham Lincoln, our ship of state may have run aground in a sea of confusion.

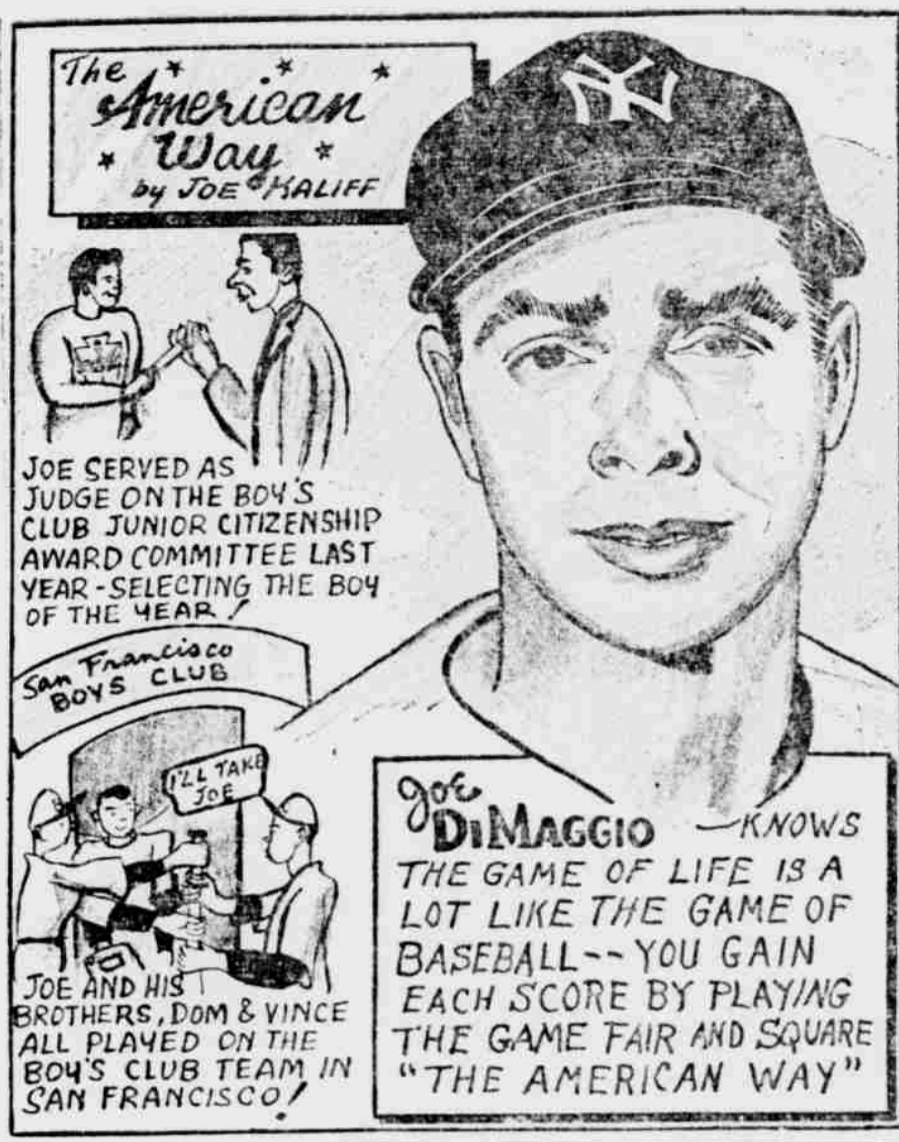
The feeling before the Civil War was that the citizen was not, under the theory of state's rights, in contact with the National Government. He owed allegiance to his State, and the State, in turn, dealt with the Nation. After the Civil War the fourteenth amendment set that theory aside by declaring, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the states wherein they reside." Every citizen now owes an allegiance to the Nation as well as to the State.

The citizens of America have one of the greatest heritages of any people in the world. They have the Constitution, which is the best plan ever made to insure freedom and to release the creative powers of men. They have a Union so great and strong as to be able to protect them from all the power grasping bureaucracies which would swallow them up and enslave them. But most important of all they have a strong Government made of the people, by the people, and for the people.

What makes my heart ache is to think that most Americans think little more about their Freedom, and Liberty than they would of a picture show at the nearby theatre. If we would stop and think a moment of what we have achieved in America under the Constitution, what people all over the world have been working, fighting, and dying for ever since the beginning of time, we could not be in such a pathetic State. It seems strange to me when you give a man freedom he becomes careless and slights his duties but then you take his freedom away from him, and shock will stimulate him to go through untold hardships, and sacrifices to gain it back again.

Take for example, the last World War the United States deliberately disarmed even when they knew that the other countries were preparing for war. They would have nothing to do with any plan whereby they would prepare for that war. Even though they could not hope from being forced into it, but they would do nothing. The next day after Pearl Harbor every red blooded American was ready to give his life for the Cause of Liberty. Now the war is over and we have settled down to fairly normal life once more. Most Americans are more than willing to give five cents out of their last dime to a friendship train to help some needy European family. Yet we will let some smooth speaking rabble rouser step up to the rostrum and give us a flowery speech that has more than its share of degraded politics in it. Then they will walk away and criticize but do nothing about it. We fail to realize that this is more dangerous to the preservation of the people than hunger could ever be.

Establish Justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, Justice is something that every person in the world should have (but very few do). The American citizens are among the few people that are given the right to Justice. We owe this heritage to the fathers of the Constitution. That right is brought forth in Article III, Section I, of that Constitution which states, "The Judicial Powers of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish." Had it not been possible for a just and liberal interpretation of the



Constitution by our judicial department, the Constitution set up by the fathers could never have been put into practical working order. For entrusted to the judicial department lay the interpretation of the fundamental instrument of the government. By many of the liberal interpretations handed down by Chief Justice Marshall we were able to make the Constitution an ever changing one.

It does not make any difference to our courts whether you are guilty or not of the crime you are accused of. Their theory is that all persons are innocent until proven guilty. Every person in America is guaranteed to a speedy trial by jury, with an impartial jury chosen from the location where the said crime was committed. Our right to justice is protected from the dictators and slave drivers of the world by the Constitution. Which states in Article I, Section 9, quote in part "The privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require, also no Bill of Attainder or ex post facto laws shall be passed."

Many loyal Americans feel that because these laws and rights are written down in the Constitution there is nothing anyone can do about it. They fail to see that by neglecting their duties as true Americans they weaken the frame work of our mighty nation. They are the kind of people that cause nations to be enslaved by some power grasping maniac. Who sends his stooges boring into our midst, like a termite bores into decayed wood. We should not sit back and let some dictator become powerful from the sweat of honest less fortunate men. We should demand that all men receive honest judgment.

To provide for the common defense. This to me means not only build a strong defense to protect the rights of Americans. But rather to be strong so we can lend a helping hand to all the people of the world that are being trampled upon by dictators, and to allow people to talk their mind and live as they please without fear of being sent to the salt mines of Siberia, or some concentration camp.

Promote the General Welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. The fathers of the Constitution have done a marvelous job of securing the blessings of Liberty for the American people. It is not the responsibility of the Government or the nation to secure the Blessing of Liberty for us. They worked and gained our liberty for us so now it is our duty as loyal American citizens to keep that right.

We can fulfill our duties as American Citizens by being Loyal, honest and trustworthy. By going to the polls and voting intelligently and by obeying the laws. As Abraham Lin-

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Church Wedding Joins Lives of Young People

The First Presbyterian church, 34th and Farnam streets, Omaha, was the setting Saturday, March 12th, at 4 o'clock for the wedding of Miss Eva Louise Zikmund, daughter of Mrs. Louise Zikmund of Omaha, to Eidon F. Meisinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar F. Meisinger of Plattsmouth.

Dr. Thomas R. Niven, pastor of the church, performed the double ring ceremony before some fifty friends and relatives.

The bride chose as her attire a light rose suit with brown accessories and corsage of white roses. She was given in marriage by her uncle, Mr. Martin Jasten, of Omaha. Her only attendant was her sister, Mrs. Ray Melia of Ord, Nebraska, who wore a suit of gray and blue with black accessories. She wore a corsage of pink roses.

Baskets of peach pink gladioli with fern and candelabra were on both sides of the altar. Robert L. Johnson of Lincoln, an army buddy of the groom sang "Always" and "Because." Chester H. Johnson of Mullen, Nebraska played.

Best man for his brother was Lyle V. Meisinger of Plattsmouth. Leon Meisinger of Louisville, cousin of the groom, served as usher. The groom and his attendant wore dark blue business suits and boutonnieres of white and pink roses respectively.

The bride's mother chose as coln said, quote "Let every man remember that to violate the law is to temple on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own and his children's Liberty."

her dress a bluish gray crepe and the groom's mother wore a pink print. Both mothers wore corsages of white gardenias.

Following the ceremony a dinner was held in the fern room of the Blackstone hotel. Guests at the dinner included the newlyweds, Mrs. Louise Zikmund, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Jasten of Omaha, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Meisinger, Lyle and Irene, Mr. and Mrs. Vermer Meisinger, Dean, Jean and Betty, Mrs. John P. Meisinger, Eugene Hula, Plattsmouth; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Melia, Pat and Janice, Mr. and Mrs. George Zikmund, Dale and Susan of Ord, Nebraska, Mrs. Hatle Hild and Minnie, and Mr. Robert L. Johnson of Lincoln; Leon Meisinger of Louisville; and Chester Johnson of Mullen.

After a brief trip Mr. and Mrs. Meisinger will be at home in their apartment at 2621 Capital avenue, Omaha.

Darrel Ashbaugh departed Sunday for Washington, D. C., where he was called on some matters of business and will be gone several days. While there Mr. Ashbaugh is planning on looking in on congress and viewing the filibuster if still in progress.

Self It Thru Journal Want Ads.

Scoring Record of the Blue Devils

The basketball season of 1948-49 has closed for the Plattsmouth Blue Devils and while the locals failed to attain their goal of the East Nebraska conference title, they have played some very brilliant ball in a number of the battles and even against some of the hardest teams in the class in the state. The scoring record of the team for the season is 645 and divided among the players as follows: Merle Easher, 177; for the high score of the team; Bill McCormick, 152; Dan Rohan, 76; Charles Jancek, 69; Carl Ofe, 48; John White, 40; Raymond Hild, 30; Stanley Cole, 12; Jim Doody, 10; Gary Ashbaugh, 10; Norman Geschke, 7; Ramon Koubek, 2; Carper, 2.

The teams played this season included Omaha South, Lincoln Northeast, Papillion, Glenwood, Pawnee City, Weeping Water, Boys Town, Auburn, Wahoo, Ashland, Nebraska City, Macon, Iowa, Holy Name, College View, Blair, in the Auburn tournament the Blue Devils played Pawnee City.

LEAVES FOR INDIANAPOLIS
Mrs. John Meisinger, Jr., accompanied by her grandson, Dennis Meisinger, departed Friday for Indianapolis, Indiana.

where she is taking Dennis to be with his mother, Mrs. Ruth White. Mrs. White recently moved to Indianapolis where Mr. White is stationed in the air corps and Dennis will now join the mother and step father in the new home.



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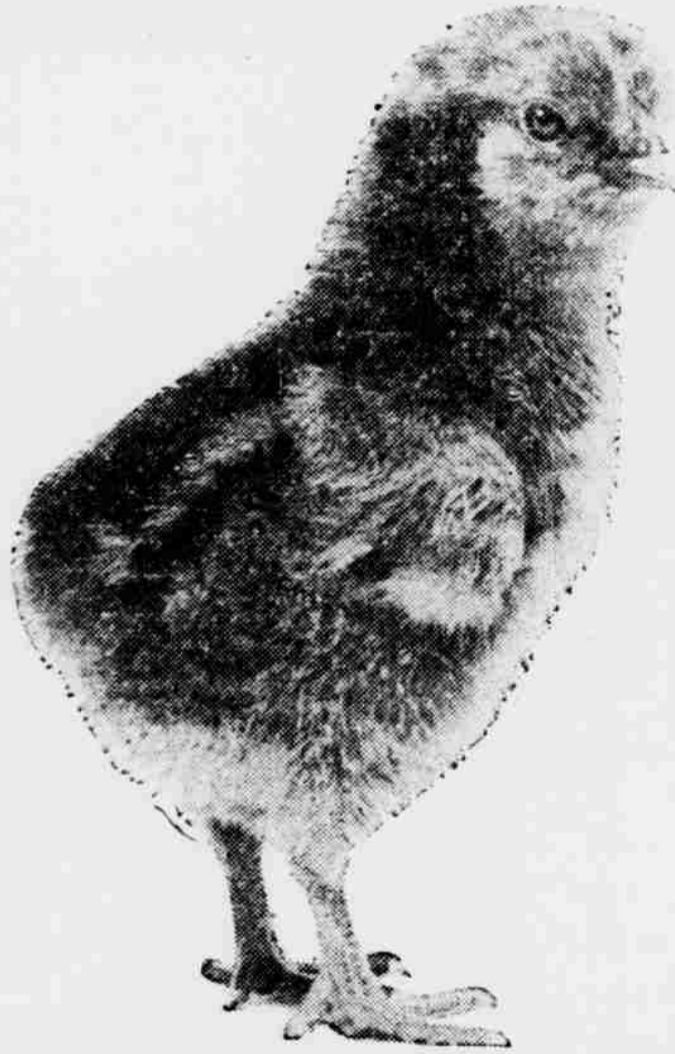
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