

# The Chemawa American

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## DECLAMATION CONTEST

Annual Try-out for Final Places in Competition for Prizes During Commencement—The Occasion was one of Unusual Interest and Merits the Prominence Given it at Chemawa. Arthur Johnson Took First Place

The tryout for the annual declamation contest during commencement week took place on Thursday night last. There were fifteen trying for places, composed of students in the 6th, 8th, 9th and 10th grades. There were none to represent the 7th grade on account of the teacher being ill and off duty for a month or more. But no doubt there will be several contestants from this grade at the final demonstration.

Much interest was manifested and the endeavors on the part of each speaker indicated a strong desire to excel. Indeed, these students seemed determined, each in turn, to win a place on the team and showed such earnestness as to win commendation from all. The following is the list of speakers:

Rena Blacketer	"The Indian an American Citizen"	Sixth Grade
Eva Dubray	"Counting Eggs"	Eighth Grade
Gertrude Todd	"The Pride of Battery B"	Eighth Grade
Maude Craig	"At Bed Time"	Sixth Grade
Elizabeth Montgomery	"No Room for Mother"	Tenth Grade
Clarence Edwards	"The Knight's Toast"	Ninth Grade
Roy Nuckolls	"Keenan's Charge"	Ninth Grade
Victoria Sansaver	"Tim Crane and the Widow"	Eighth Grade
Fred Wilder	"The Engineer's Last Run"	Tenth Grade
George Thomas	"Truth and Victory"	Eighth Grade
William Frazier	"King Philip to the White Citizen"	Ninth Grade
Hattie Martin	"De Valley and Shadder"	Tenth Grade
Louis Colby	"The Doom of Claudius and Cynthia"	Ninth Grade
Arthur Johnson	"The Chariot Race"—from Ben Hur	Tenth Grade
Louise DeMacon	"The Confessional"	Ninth Grade

There was one hour and a-half of oratory, embracing pathos, dramatic effect, tragedy, humor and all effects in the elocutionary art, in which the audience was entertained and given literary edification of a high order. At times the speakers held the audience spellbound and carried the listeners with them into the land of fancy, realism, imagination and tragedy. The judges, composed of Superintendent Hall, Ruthyn Turney and D. S. Turner, announced the successful

candidates for places in the order in which in their judgment they should rank, as follows:

1. Authur Johnson
2. Hattie Martin
3. Louise Demacon
4. Victoria Sansaver
5. William Frazier
6. Louis Colby
7. Roy Nuckolls
8. Elizabeth Montgomery
9. Fred Wilder
10. George Thomas
11. Clarence Edwards
12. Gertude Todd
13. Eva Dubray
14. Maude Craig
15. Rena Blacketer

These contests have grown to be a prominent feature at our commencement exercises, which will take place the first week in June this year.

The experience was of such value to every contestant that it should have more than offset any possible sting of defeat. So far as we know the decision was received philosophically and gave general satisfaction. The final contest will be judged by those who make a profession of oratory or elocution.

We wish to congratulate all fifteen of the competitors, for it was a mighty good exhibition of what can be done in the way of a declamation try-out.

In the judgment of those who passed on the merits of the efforts Arthur Johnson, Hattie Martin, Louise Demacon and Victoria Sansaver should be commended for unusual capacity, effort and natural ease.

From the exhibition given last Thursday night all hopes are high for a final contest next June that will eclipse all former efforts.

The 'varsity basketball team together with Mr. Bent and Mr. Hauser were delightfully entertained on Thursday evening last at a dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. Henderson at their home.

Commencement week this year will follow the usual order, with a baccalaureate sermon, class play, general school entertainment, declamation contest, a musicale, together with graduating exercises, athletics, competitive drill, etc.

The Senior class is now arranging for the annual of 1920, and will visit a photographer in Salem at an early day in order to secure a photograph of each member. It is intended to have the annual in the same style as the one gotten out last year. Several innovations are planned for the 1920 class.