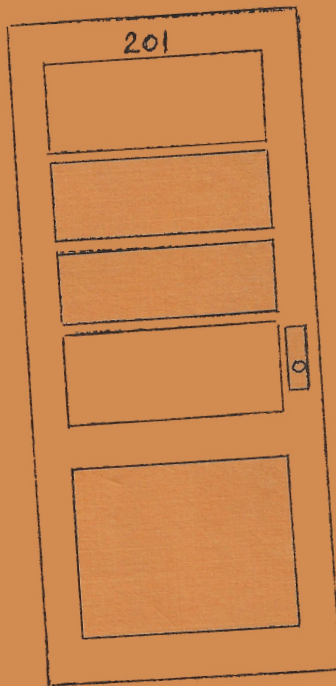


WALDRON HIGH SCHOOL  
**201 SPEECH ODYSSEY**



IN REMINISCENCE:  
THE CLASS PLAYS, SPEECHES,  
MEMORIES OF SPEECH AND ENGLISH CLASSES  
1977-1938

KENNETH D. SEVER, TEACHER  
WALDRON, INDIANA  
1985

Class of 1956-57

Pages 289-294

Kenneth W. Sever

201 SPEECH ODYSSEY

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## FOREWORD

As the years passed it became more imperative that we should preserve the astonishing antics of Waldron High School Speech 201. We could not stand "idly by" and allow those "immortal words" of the Joes and Johns, the Marys and Marthas, or the Davids and Dianas to fade into the shadows of oblivion. So the time-worn teacher decided to select as many quotations as possible from the speeches, class plays, and "adventures" of the approximately 900 remarkable young adults who "took" speech between the years 1947-1977. (He also included some reminiscences from his other language classes because they had their share of oral communication starting in 1938.)

Consequently it should be apparent that no other oral similar organization can quite match Speech 201 in colorful dialogue, vigorous variety, emotional excitement, or just pure enjoyment. So this volume is meant to be a tribute to the best speakers in the "entire system."

Therefore, to these endeavors we invoke the assistance of the Spirit of Oral Communication that he may inspire us to remember with pleasure and nostalgia the maturing times that we shared in Room 201.

## INTRODUCTION

"You may say anything you wish as long as it is the truth as you see it and as long as it is socially acceptable, but remember - everyone else has the same right so he, too, will be heard, and we must listen respectfully; moreover, each one of us must assume responsibility for our words and actions; whatever we say, if we so desire, will not be repeated beyond these classroom doors." With this philosophy each speech class session began. Our classes stressed work and punctuality - open and free participation as well as open and free listening (excepting the times of hilarious and friendly pandemonium) - and even that seemed to be constructive. We tried to have no social levels - we endeavored to treat each person as one of God's equal creatures in order to develop him or her into the best possible individual - and to a noticeable extent we succeeded. Even the teacher received his share of sincere criticism, growth, and hard work.

At times the following statement appeared on our class play programs: "Speech Class policy for years has insisted that all Seniors who choose may be and should be included in at least one stage play in contrast to the very prevalent high school practice of choosing only the few and only the "best" after try-outs. At Waldron, for the past years, there have been no try-outs and no "best" prospects. Here we write our own play trying to create parts for each class member. So, if a cast of 47 seems unwieldy and the story appears to be

"wayout" and the comedy somewhat "hammy", just remember that our PRIMARY purpose then is to create a training experience for ALL - not just the elite. Our secondary purpose then is to entertain. Past years have proved our policy; likewise, we hope this year's performance will be rewarding and entertaining. Although our acoustics, seating, lighting, stage equipment, amplification, dressing rooms, rehearsal opportunities, and general conditions are unsatisfactory, we do appreciate working with the "best" teenagers and playing before the "best" audiences. So thanks for your interest and encouragement."

During and following public performances, parents and friends frequently commented - "I didn't know she (or he) could act or perform like that!" The answer - "Until now perhaps they never had the opportunity to develop their skills and abilities."

We remember with a full spectrum of emotion the smiles - laughter - pathos - ecstasy - anger - sympathy - pride - sportsmanship - love - tears - astonishment that emitted from the podium. We would estimate that in this time space Room 201 echoed with approximately 21,650 speeches in the "you-name-it" categories. The speech class membership included some 900 individuals averaging about 26 per year; the largest class was 52 in 1969 and the smallest 12 in 1974 after the administration and school board instituted policies that weakened the school curriculum, but improvements overcame the handicap and again the enrollment reached 29 in 1976 and 38 in 1977.

In this book we are relating primarily the story of the Waldron High School class plays including casts of characters, excerpts from some of the plays and related references; also we have included quotations from some of the actual speeches. We regret that we could not include all the interesting words that we have kept through the years, but that would have meant copying a file of typed pages over three feet thick - a real, live encyclopedia!

The Speech Appraisal, used in each assignment, rated the speaker on a scale of 0 - 9 in each of the following categories: introduction, clarity of purpose, choice of words, bodily action and gestures and posture, eye contact and facial expression, vocal expression, desire to be understood, poise and self control, adapting material to audience, organization of material, and conclusion.

Each speech required an outline which included the following: Construct a neat, complete sentence outline on this sheet and hand it to your instructor when you rise to speak. He may wish to write criticism. Type of speech - Number of words in outline - Name - Date - Purpose of this speech - TITLE - INTRODUCTION - BODY - CONCLUSION - Write sources of information on the back of sheet.

Some of the speeches were Personal Experience, Pet Peeve, Reading Aloud, Bodily Action, Pantomime, Speech to Inform, Stimulate or Arouse, Entertainment, Speech to Gain Goodwill, Drama, Eulogy, Heckling, Sales Talk, Emotional, Anniversary, Speech to Convince, Charades, Original Skits, Final Exam.

1956 - 1957

SPEECH Class of 1957 Period V

Baker, Bob  
Beyer, Jim  
Bogemann, Larry  
Cousins, June  
Cuskaden, Nancy  
Fallis, Kenny  
Goolsby, Loletta  
Gullion, Carolyn  
Hayes, Paul  
Harker, Dick  
Lortz, June  
Gahimer, Donna  
Conover, Lloyd

Merritt, Patty  
Miles, Jerry  
Knight, Eddie  
Neeb, Linda  
Rosenfeld, Janet  
Rudicel, Tom  
Runnebohm, Frank  
Runnebohm, Nick  
Settles, Allen  
Simpson, Nancy  
Stotsenburg, Carl Don  
Swinford, Phyllis  
Yeager, Jim

A very interesting speech class which delivered some rather unusual speeches - enrollment in English 12 was about the same as in speech. Average final grade 89%.

REMEDIAL ENGLISH Period IV

The course stressed spelling, reading, and basic composition-grammar. Twenty pupils were enrolled. Average grade 74%.

English 11 Period VI

This course included grammar & composition, spelling, American literature and the writing of a research paper. Average 86%. There were 34 pupils involved.

English 10 Period I

Grammar, written & oral composition, world literature, spelling. Twenty-pupils listed on class book. Average grade - 83%.

English 10 Period II

Same course of study as period I; 23 enrolled; Average 81%

THE PERFECT IDIOT

by E. & G. Atkinson

Presented by The Class of 1957, Waldron School Gym March 21 and 22

A Farce in III Acts

Produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Co.

SYNOPSIS

ACT ONE: An afternoon in spring.

ACT TWO: One month later. Friday afternoon.

ACT THREE: The Following Wednesday afternoon.

Place - The Living Room of the Tennyson Home.

Time: The present. Spring.

Organ Music: Thursday- Bob Baker, and Phylliss Swinford.

Friday - Nancy Cuskaden, and Kareta Kuhn.

House Manager and Ushers: Garnet Kuntz, Lloyd Conover, Floyd Conover, Martha Shackle, Nancy Simpson, Barbara Wisker, Kay McColley, Robert Shugert, Eddie Knight, Carolyn Gullion, Nick Runnebohm, Dick Harker, Donna Gahimer, and Patty Merritt.

Directed by Kenneth Sever

Excerpts from THE PERFECT IDIOT 1957

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Margaret Tennyson, Mother of the household - Nancy Cuskaden  
Jackie Tennyson, Her youngest son - Carl Don Stotsenburg  
Rhodora, The Maid - Donna Gahimer - Nancy Simpson  
Roger Tennyson, Father of Household - Kenneth Fallis  
Walter P. Latherby, Soap manufacturer - Jim Beyer - Bob Baker  
Daniel Tennyson, The young Genius - Paul Hayes  
Arthur Barnard, Principal of Center High School - Larry Bogemann  
Miss Baker, A Teacher - Janet Rosenfeld  
Linda Barnard, Loletta Goolsby, Linda Neeb  
Jeannie Wilson, Jackie's Girl - June Lortz  
Aloysius (Puff) Witomski, Star Athlete - Jerry Miles, Frank Runnebohm  
Mr. Hockhorst Von Barf, A Psychiatrist - Tommy Rudicel, Jim Yeager  
Miss Booth, A Newspaper reporter - Carolyn Gullion, Patty Merritt  
Carla Carlson, Puff's Girl - June Cousins, Phylliss Swinford  
A Policeman, Dick Harker, Nick Runnebohm

ACT II - page 49 . . .

(Latherby enters UL, and starts after Rhodora, furiously. Rhodora screams in fright and runs out R.)

LATHERBY: Where is he? Ha! Where - (Turns at C as he sees Dan.)  
Oh, there you are!

DAN: (leaping away from Linda) Mr. Latherby! I didn't - I -

LATHERBY: (waving a newspaper, which he thrusts into Dan's hand.)  
Don't think you'll get away with this! Slander! Defamation of  
character!

DAN: (recovering) Oh, that article? Why, yes, as a matter of fact  
I wrote it.

LATHERBY: (raging again) You admit you're behind this? . . .  
. . . Who's backing you, Tennyson? Scrubmore? Hey? Suds-A-Lot?  
(Dan tries to interrupt.) Floatsy-Woatsy? Odor-Pruf? I'll bet it's  
Odor-Pruf outfit! People are getting tired of B. O.!

DAN: Mr. Latherby, please. There's nothing slanderous about the  
article. You asked me back on your show. . . . But this whole  
campaign was planned for you. (To Linda.) you see, Linda - (making  
gestures to her which do not register.) I told you he wouldn't  
believe us. . . .

DAN: (sadly, interrupting Latherby.) I'm afraid you've offended  
Linda, Mr. Latherby. She had such confidence in you. . . .

LATHERBY: Announcement? What announcement? . . .

DAN: (playing hard to get, moving DRC, followed by Latherby.) Well,  
if you don't want me back, you know your competitors will be only too -

LATHERBY: Wait a minute! I didn't say that. Don't get me wrong, -

DAN: (moving to C). You'll be hailed as the great educator of radio.

LINDA: You'll be famous, Mr. Latherby!

DAN: The Latherby Intercollegiate Quiz. Greatest educational pro-  
gram ever to be presented. . . Crack teams from all the big colleges  
competing for the Latherby Oscar. . . .

DAN: And the commercials will stress the great intelligence and re-  
search that goes to make Latherby soap the finest of them all.

LATHERBY: Naturally. . . .

DAN: (dramatically). Latherby! The soap that thinks for itself! . . .

LATHERBY: (catching the enthusiasm). Not bad. Not bad. That's great!

ACT II page 64 . . .

(A Policeman enters UL)

POLICEMAN: Good afternoon, folks. Can I interest you all in tickets for the Policemen's Ball?

ROGER: What in thunder is all this confusion!

MARGARET: Oh, officer, could you come back later? We're busy and -

POLICEMAN: (spotting Dan) Why, you're Dan Tennyson, the boy genius!

Say, can I have your autograph? My kids are crazy about you. I hear you're going to have a new program.

DAN: (hysterically) I can't stand it! I tell you, I can't go to college! Won't somebody listen to me? I can't! (There is a tremendous commotion in closet) . . .

RHODORA: Burglars!

JACKIE: (leaping in front of closet) There's nothing there!

ROGER: There's something funny here. Let me open that closet.

DAN: Wait! Don't.

POLICEMAN: (as knocking comes again, drawing his gun). Stand back, everybody!

LATHERBY (as closet door bursts open, hopping out like Bugs Bunny.) They've stolen my parsnips!

POLICEMAN: Hands up, you!

LATHERBY: Officer! Call a cop! Hurry! . . .

Miss Booth: Latherby! Is that Latherby?

LATHERBY: Don't stand there like a pack of idiots? Do something. my parsnips! . . . (spotting Miss Baker's hat, a monstrosity decorated with artificial fruits and flowers.) There they are!

Miss Baker: (screaming as Latherby chases her around sofa, trying to get her hat.) OOOOOH! (Dan counts three and snaps fingers.)

LATHERBY: (chasing Baker) Thief! Parsnip-snatcher! Give them back. (Barnard and Dan try to restrain him, and finally manage to catch him R of sofa. . . Meanwhile, Dan is frantically counting one, two, three, and snapping fingers in vain.)

PUFF: (suddenly coming to life beneath the coats, coming downstage, declaiming the "dagger scene" from MACBETH at top of his lungs.)

"Is this a dagger which I see before me, . . ."

(Jeannie, Jackie, and Carla try to stop Puff, but are dragged downstage with him as he declaims.) . . .

Miss Booth: What a story. Lemme at that phone! (Finds policeman at it, and dashes out UL.)

POLICEMAN: (into telephone, as noise subsides a little.) Send the wagon. Send a strait-jacket! Send the riot squad. Send the Marines. (Roger is at C stage, tearing his hair, Barnard holds the struggling Latherby right of the sofa, while Dan is snapping his fingers and yelling one, two, three. Margaret is on the sofa, Miss Baker clutching her in fear. Jeannie, Jackie, and Carla hold on to Puff, who continues to declaim, and Rhodora's screams have dropped down to a low moan as she sways back and forth on chair, covering her face with her apron.)

QUICK CURTAIN

. . . ACT III page 85 . . .

MARGARET: Well, I hope everything is settled now.

DAN: (humbly) That isn't for me to say. I've learned my lesson.



Excerpts from THE PERFECT IDIOT continued 1957

BARNARD: Well, Roger, I guess we can forgive and forget.

ROGER: Margaret?

MARGARET: (putting her arm around Linda). I think so. Thank you for telling us, my dear.

ROGER: Latherby? I don't suppose this need go any further?

(During above conversation Latherby has been fiddling with hypnosis machine. First he shakes it a little, then listens to headphones, then fiddles with it and listens again. He pantomimes puzzlement, then satisfaction. By the time Roger addresses him he is deep in another hypnotic trance. As the question is asked, he turns angrily to Roger.)

LATHERBY: I told you before, I won't stand for any more nonsense. Give me my parsnips!

ROGER: Huh?

VON BARF: Remarkable!

DAN: (running to Latherby). Omigosh! He's done it again!

(Margaret faints into chair LO.)

LATHERBY: (his voice rising to a shriek.) They're all after my parsnips! But they won't get them. I'll never give them up. Never mind the hounds. Fight to the finish! (All leap to restrain him, Dan is shouting one, two, three, snap. Rhodora bustles in R with a big bouquet of parsnips. She crosses to Latherby and hands them to him.)

FINAL CURTAIN

Quotations from final exam speeches 1957

POSSESSIONS by Linda Neeb

. . . I closed my eyes and could see a clump of green trees with a pretty blue lake located in the center of it. Love for nature is a sign that if he doesn't know of God's wonders he soon will because the great outside will teach him, and he will learn unless he is too contrary with himself. . . . "I took a day to search for God, And found Him not. But as I trod By rocky ledge, through woods untamed, Just where one scarlet lily flamed I saw His footprint in the sod."

THE COMPOSITION OF A MOTHER AND FATHER by June Cousins

. . . One of the teachers at Waldron said he had seen several times poor children waiting outside a tavern for their father. I have seen it too, and I know others have. I don't believe I could call a man like this a father. Could you call him a father? It is obvious this type of man places his wants first.

LIFE, A SYMPHONY by Carl Don Stotsenburg

. . . Just like an orchestra we have an audience watching us and judging us by whether we succeed or make a mistake. If you are fortunate enough to see a symphony orchestra play, as the conductor raises his baton and the musicians begin to play, try to visualize not music alone but life itself unfolding before you in the form of music.

Quotations from final exam speeches 1957

LAUGH AND BE MERRY by Kenny C. Fallis

What is so important about laughter? In this complex world where men are knocking themselves out trying to make a "fast buck" why stop to laugh? We want to get to the moon, be a tycoon, and die too soon. Why, what with air travel, mining gravel, frozen dinners, pennant winners, sport stars, sport cars, sport shirts, instant deserts, union shop, bottled pop, atomic submarines, honest tom machines, and automation, our whole nation is a revelation. With all of this, why stop and take time to laugh . . .?

THE PROGRESS OF WOMEN by Donna Gahimer

. . . I think the best example of the progress of our sex is Clara Boothe Luce. With her nomination by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on February 7, 1953, as United States ambassador to Italy, she became the second woman ambassador in American history and the first assigned to a major world power. Her history in politics just goes to show that any one of us girls when we get older can help our sex to further progress.

I DARE YOU by Paul Hayes

We can plan our lives as a triangle. One side of the triangle is physical living, another is mental, and at the base, pushing both of these qualities up is our social living. We must keep this triangle pointed in the upward direction, don't let it get our of balance because it could lead to your downfall, as Hitler, and many others have found out. . .

OUR PAST, OUR PRESENT, AND OUR FUTURE by Carolyn N. Gullion

. . . We are in the present and looking forward to the future, but are we ready to face the future? What will the future hold for us? What our Future will be will depend on each of us - what we are making of ourselves now. - The Past has its influence . . .

WHAT MAKES AN EDUCATED MAN by Nick Runnebohm

. . . Another mark of an educated man is that he is considerate of others. We do not see an educated man bullying people around or acting superior to them even though he may well be so. He uses his knowledge to help himself and others. . .

PROBLEMS OF YOUTH by Tommy Rudicel

. . . one of the young gentlemen in Shelbyville recently drove all the way out S. Harrison in low gear with his duals vibrating windows on the other side of town. It happened that he drove right by a police car where the officers were listening to a quiz program. They arrested him because his car was causing static on their radio.

THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE by Loletta Goolsby

Smoking is also harmful to the inside of your body. Your lungs are filled until they look like the inside of a stove pipe that has not been cleaned for Lord knows when. Finally you'll go around coughing your head off and won't be able to breathe. . . . If a woman wants to keep her husband happy, she better leave her cigarettes at home. . . .

Quotations from final exam speeches 1957

AMERICA AS I SEE THEE by Bob Baker

America, America; O how I do love thee  
America, America; The source of liberty  
America, America; The letters do stand great  
America, America; Land of the forty-eight  
Why, take the A for instance:  
The A is for ability of which we proudly claim,  
Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln; I believe that's how they came.

PRAYER by Allen Settles

. . . God will answer anybody's prayer no matter where he says it if he keeps his mind on his prayer. We should all take some time each day to thank God for the wonderful sight that nature has given us.

CONTRASTS IN LIFE by Larry L. Bogemann

. . . On the other hand he could have been another Du Pont. When Du Pont's gun wouldn't fire because of inferior gun powder, he decided to manufacture his own gun powder, and he was determined to make it the best gunpowder in the country. He built a small shack and began to experiment. When his entire company was wiped out by an explosion, he didn't give up. He was more determined than ever. He put his heart and soul into his work and built his little shack into one of the biggest companies in the world.

ROAD by Dick Harker

. . . Ever since you were a little tot of about 4 or 5 years, you've had to be successful. By this I mean, growing up and using your head before you decide on what you are going to do. . .

TAKE (TIME) CLOCK by Lloyd D. Conover

. . . we should take time to appreciate all the small things around us that we take for granted such as the birds, flowers, trees, and even the sun. When the sun is out, we may feel more like working than when it is raining . . . If we see a person who is not doing something right . . . we should tell him so.

HAPPINESS by June Lortz

. . . Do you ever get up in the morning and thank God that you are alive and healthy? If you do, then you probably think of all the truly good things that bring us happiness. . . . If everyone took his troubles to God, he would find more happiness. . .

FAITH by Frank Runnebohm

. . . Bob Mathias has had to have faith in God and himself. Bob as a child, had anemia but thanks to his faith in himself, in God and in others, he began the long and hard fight back to normal . . . To make a champion of himself he had to have faith - but most important an athlete needs and must have faith in a higher Power. . .