

Harlem Youth Captures Title as City Junior High School Orator

Welford Wilson of Mt. Morris School Wins Championship Over All New York Contenders; Given \$100 and Gold Medal for Platform Prowess

Shattering the old tradition that the last speaker in a contest has the best chance of winning, Welford Wilson, Mt. Morris Junior High School student, won the New York City junior high schools' oratory championship Friday evening at Town Hall, 113 West Forty-third street, while his schoolmates and parents cheered his victory.

The contest on the Constitution was conducted by the New York Times in connection with the National Oratorical Contest. The youth who won the finals over three girls and two boys, all white, received a gold medal and \$100.

Wilson spoke on the subject "The Constitution, a Guarantee of the Liberty of the Individual." The contest was the first held at Town Hall.

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high school students; younger pupils heretofore competed with senior students.

Dr. William J. O'Shea, superintendent of schools, arranged for the junior competition in the schools and Wilson won out over his mates at Mt. Morris. The youthful champion is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Welford Wilson. The father is a Post Office clerk and teaches night school.

The second prize of \$75 and a gold medal went to Charlotte Sturz of Lake Junior High, Bronx; the third to Phillis Lockhard, Franklin K. Lane Junior High, Brooklyn. Silver medals and \$25 went to William Grossman, Henry P. O'Neil Junior High, Manhattan; Isidore Josowitz, Mangin Junior High, Manhattan, and Clara Strothman, John J. Pershing Junior High, Manhattan. All are white.

Thomas T. Crane, Supreme Court Justice, presided, and presented the checks and medals. Officials were largely picked from heads of junior high schools.

Young Wilson will again take the platform May 17 at Town Hall when regional finals are held. The country is divided into eight regions and the metropolitan district comprises New York City, Westchester County, Long Island and twelve counties of northern New Jersey. Should the youth be



- Welford Wilson -

among the winners in this contest he will have his fling later this spring at the national title.