

# THE TOASTMASTER

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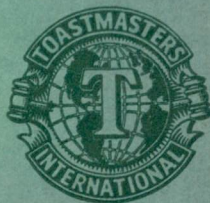
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# The Toastmaster

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## The President's Page

*J. Clark Chamberlain, First President of Toastmasters International*

**W**HAT do I get out of Toastmasters, you ask? Plenty, I reply.

As I reach for my fountain pen, my eye turns to the engraved plate on the base of the holder. It reads, "Presented to J. Clark Chamberlain, 1926, by the Anaheim Toastmasters Club." For more than seventeen years, that set, outmoded but still working perfectly, has never left my desk. Other organizations which have claimed part of my interest have never challenged the right of any Toastmasters emblem to come first. I glance down at my lapel. There rests the first pin fashioned for Toastmasters International, and I am startled to realize that since we adopted that emblem in 1931, this very pin has been with me every day in public.

But just what is it that automatically rates Toastmasters above all other activities? What is it that has caused me to postpone birthday parties, anniversaries or business trips so as to maintain a record for seventeen years of less than two meetings missed in a

year—and only one missed in the past two years? Surely, after having participated in upwards of 850 regular meetings of his own club, a fellow should be able to say what it is that keeps him coming.

Frankly, I am stumped for a concrete, concise answer. It is a combination of things, in addition to the natural feeling of wanting to "stick around" such as anyone would have who had played the same part in the formation of Toastmasters International. The friendships, kept alive through the years, the good fellowship at the meetings—these seem priceless to me. Keeping my ego in place, by means of good old constructive criticism, has been an invaluable help. Where else could we get it?

Certainly one must mention the opportunity to work with others for community good. Without the constant brushing up and toning down we get in the meetings, this service to others could not be so great. It is hard to say what I feel about it. All that Toastmasters means to me takes more than a sheet of paper for expression.

## The President Accepts

*Edwards Thomas was elected President of the Toastmasters Club of Borger, Texas, at the spring election. His speech made at the anniversary dinner of the club, at which he assumed his office, is an excellent example of what a President may say on such an occasion. It is published as a suggestion to other Presidents who may have occasion to wonder how to get themselves started and what to say when they are inducted.*

It is a pleasure for me tonight to accept the responsibility as President of this club. I have enjoyed serving you for two terms as Secretary and I am looking forward to my term as President. You have made the task much easier by electing as capable a group of officers as any club could hope for to serve with me, and with your help we shall try to guide the activities of the club in such a way that it will become stronger and more useful both to the individual member and to our community and our nation.

When our club was organized, a little more than a year ago, I do not believe that any but the most far-sighted members could visualize the possibilities of the organization. We all realized the importance of the type of training which it provides. We were all intensely interested in the opportunity that it offers for self-improvement through developing our ability to convey our ideas clearly and forcefully to others. We enjoyed the fellowship of the men with whom we had become more

closely associated during the classes which preceded the formation of the club and we wished to continue those associations. For these reasons a club was formed and these reasons within themselves constitute sufficient justification for the formation of a new club.

At first we thought of our club as just a little something we had whipped up for our own enjoyment. But as it became known that our club existed, the community began to realize that here, in this organization, was the answer to one of its greatest needs—one of the greatest needs of any community. The reservoir from which trained speakers could be drawn to convey to the public the information which it needs and wants concerning matters of public interest. Service clubs suddenly realized that their own leaders and members were making their meetings more interesting through increased ability to speak clearly on a variety of subjects which they had not previously attempted. Before we knew what was happening, our club was adopted by the com-

munity; and what we had previously considered as more or less a confection for our own personal enjoyment took on a dignity which we had not anticipated.

Today we are at war and with war come many problems—problems which can be solved only by enlisting the help of every man, woman and child in America. Money must be raised for such projects as U. S. O., the Red Cross, War Bonds and the like. We have rationing with its problems. Volunteer workers must be found for every sort of defense activity. The public must be aroused to these needs—and therein lies our opportunity for service—our challenge!

The press always is one of the most powerful moulders of public opinion and the press is doing its full share toward keeping the public informed and showing what is needed. But to supplement the press there is a need for able speakers, to crystallize public opinion and to obtain action. A man can read an armful of newspapers and books by the dozen and thus be fully aware of the need for action, but the effective way of transmuting realization into action is by the words of a dynamic speaker.

We members of the club do not pretend to be orators. We have no ambition to become orators. But we can talk. I wonder if there is a man anywhere who has taken part in public affairs who has not experienced the feeling of that wise man who once remarked, "How wise are my thoughts—how foolish my actions!" And I doubt there is

a member of this club who has not at one time or another, after stumbling through a talk, paraphrased that expression to read, "How wise are my thoughts—how foolish my words!"

I have tried in this talk to refresh in your minds a thing you all know well—the importance of training ourselves to speak our thoughts clearly. I have tried to put into words the realization we all have of the importance of our club in the community. Included in the membership of our club are the leaders of the cities of Borger and Phillips—the kind of men to whom our nation must look in these times of stress, for local leadership in matters of national importance.

I have pointed out to you the challenge that is before us. By your action in electing me as your President, you have said that you are behind me—that you are going to back me up. In a sense you have challenged me to provide the type of leadership which will make our club realize its full potentialities. I am glad to know that you are with me and I accept the challenge.

I am going to expect each one of you, individually, to stand by me and to back me up and in return I pledge to you that I will give my best efforts to the interests of our club. With your support, I am going to pledge this club and each of its members, to do everything within our power to accept and discharge the responsibilities of Toastmasters in war time.

## When You Preside

Ralph C. Smedley

**M**ANY newly elected presidents of clubs are gaining their first experiences as presiding officers at this time. Not only for the good of the club, but also for the good and the advancement of the official himself, he needs to make the most of his office. An efficient President can save time and expedite work, just as a careless or inefficient one can waste time and wear out his fellow members.

When *you* preside, it is your duty to know the business which is to come before the meeting and the allotment of time. You have a schedule, carefully timed, prepared before the meeting and you are ready to put it through on time.

A meeting is properly opened by use of the gavel. Make sure that one is provided. Don't depend on rattling a spoon against a glass, or clearing your throat. Have a gavel and use it. Rap sharply, once or twice. Do not give a series of hesitating, indecisive taps. Start with decision. Make the opening sharp, clear and authoritative by correct use of the gavel.

When *you* preside, remember that you are in charge of the business of the meeting. Unless you call someone else to take the chair in your place, it is your responsibility to handle all matters requiring action. You may introduce a program chairman or a toastmaster to present a program, but if any

matter of business arises in the course of the program which requires formal action, you, as president, take over control for the time being. You are not a dictator, nor the operator of a steam-roller, but you are the responsible head of the organization and its business is your business.

When *you* preside, avoid set formulas for dealing with recurring situations. In introducing a program chairman or other chairman, do not make it a rule always to "turn over the meeting" to him. In fact, it is not good form in any case to "turn over a meeting." Use less violent methods. Vary the formula. You can yield the gavel to him, or surrender control, or ask him to take charge. Better still, you can introduce him cleverly, just as you would a speaker or an entertainer and say nothing about yielding or turning over.

When you come to the end of the meeting, once more avoid a set formula. In a session which has been run by the program schedule and for which the time of adjournment has been fixed in advance, you do not need to ask for a motion to adjourn. Similarly, you do not really need to ask, "Is there anything else to come before us?"

If there is anything else to come up, you, as president, ought to know of it. Do not become a slave to the habit of saying, "If there is

nothing else to come up, the meeting is adjourned." Find other and better ways to say. For example, you might try, "This concludes the evening's program and the meeting is adjourned." Or you can speak a complimentary word to the program chairman or committee and announce adjournment. It can be done in many different phrases. Don't overdo any one form. Seek variety.

When *you* preside, keep one eye on the clock. If the meeting is well planned, there is a definite time to start and to stop. Do not disregard either. Start promptly, if it is

humanly possible. When the closing time arrives, do not let the meeting run over except by approval of the audience.

As presiding officer, be on your toes all the time. Let every word you speak be given clearly and carefully. Take advantage of your opportunity to gain practice in making short speeches, all of them good. Be sure that you are prepared and then proceed to preside with confidence and certainty. People more willingly follow a leader who knows where he is going.

## Advice for the President

(Stuart C. Henton, immediate Past President of Akron Toastmasters Club, offers good suggestions for the newly elected club president.)

**H**ERE is my conception of some of the extra-curricular duties of a president—that is, the duties in addition to the weekly privilege of presiding over the meeting:

1. It is his business to see that the retiring officers are given credit for good performance and that they are not permitted to sink into oblivion.

2. He must see to it that suitable and useful activities are provided for the past officers who are (we hope) not retiring into obscurity as they step out of office, but rather, engaging in further work which will be helpful and which will make full use of their experience.

3. He should act as a "filter" or clearing house for ideas pre-

sented by the members, either directly or in their speeches, so that every useful suggestion may be weighed and tested and put into use when possible. In our own club this last feature has been one of major importance.

Many ideas have been evolved which have been used for the good of the club. Here are just a few of them, to show how the plan works out:

Item 1. We give a prize for the best speech at each program. All those present vote for the winner and he is presented a gaily beribboned pencil, inscribed "Akron Toastmasters—For Best Speech." The same speaker is not permitted to win in successive appearances. I can well remember the thrill

which came both to myself and to my family when I received this simple and inexpensive award.

Item 2. We have provided a guest book in which we register all visitors at our meetings, together with the name of the host in each case. This gives us a valuable list for membership follow-up.

Item 3. We keep a permanent scrapbook. In this we keep all written and printed material, such as programs, pictures, newspaper items and the like which have helped to publicize members and club activities. This will become a treasured possession of the club in the course of years.

Item 4. We have a mechanical timer for speeches, built by some of our members, which automatically times the speakers.

Item 5. Our bulletin board, made of celotex and collapsible, for storage, is placed at the entrance to our meeting room. It is used by the secretary, or by com-

mittees or members who wish to post notices of interest to the club.

All these items and others, including the gavel, are the direct responsibility of the Sergeant-at-Arms. He takes care of them and sees to it that they are at hand when needed. Later on, when we complete our list of properties, we shall have a case made up to hold them and make their handling easier.

I have suggested just these few of many things which a live club president can do for the good of the organization, in addition to his task of presiding once a week over a meeting of the club. My best advice to the new president is to do all he can for the club, for in doing this he will be doing much for himself as well and the more he does outside the presidential chair, the better he can preside when the time comes for him to wield the gavel.

## Can You Say What You Mean?

*R. M. McMahan, President of Tulsa Toastmasters Club.*

**O**H! If I could only express myself clearly!

You have often heard that remark. Perhaps you have made it yourself. Almost everyone has said something like it at some time. The implied goal is within the reach of anyone who is willing to make an effort to attain it.

Dunlap has said, "Millions of men and women, ambitious and eager for success, anxious to make a favorable impression upon their friends, their associates, their em-

ployers, are limited because they cannot command the right word at the right time; because they cannot express in their correspondence, their conversation, their writing, what they really want to say."

In the Toastmasters Club we recognize this need and try to meet it. One of our specifically stated purposes is "to improve the members in the oral expression of thought." The training and experience patiently and slowly acquired in our meetings are extensive

and valuable, but this training can be augmented. Perhaps we are overlooking an opportunity. We need more work and more practice. Wouldn't it be a good plan for those of us who have the time and the desire to remain after the close of our formal meeting for additional study and practice?

There are many good books on speech which would help us. In these books there are exercises which could be practiced to improve breathing, enunciation and pronunciation. There are vocabulary building methods designed to teach the use of adjectives other than "purty," "awful," "nice," "good," "funny" and "swell." Studying these might keep us from being like little Mary, whose grandmother said to her, "Mary, there are two words I want you to promise me that you will never use again. One of them is 'cute' and the other is 'lousy.'" "Why, surely I'll promise," said Mary. "What are the words?"

We need instruction and practice in conversation. Such practice will keep us from being reticent and reserved, as with Greta Garbo, who said, "I don't like to talk to people because I cannot express myself satisfactorily. I don't say the things I mean to say. I am misunderstood. This makes me keep to myself." (Of course, being distant has not done Garbo's reputation as an actress any harm. And there are times when it is convenient to be able to say "I tank I go home" and get away with it.)

Training in conversation may be even more essential than training in public speech, for everyone converses. However, both studies are definitely correlated and each helps the other.

One can read a book on speech by oneself, but solitary studies may become tiresome and practice in speech can be secured only when there is an audience. That is why I recommend the plan of "staying after school" for extra training. A little group of interested Toastmasters can spend an extra half hour, after the regular meeting has adjourned, in conversation about speech methods, vocabulary building and general speech improvement, with profit to all.

Progress may be slow and hard to recognize, but it is made. It takes courage and determination to carry on, but morale may be sustained by remembering the words of Lincoln, spoken when he was a struggling young man. He said, "I will study and improve myself. Perhaps my chance will come." We have our chance right now in our Toastmasters Club to get ready for the big chance which will come later on, if we are ready.

Every man of us, by putting in a little extra effort, can learn to express himself clearly, forcefully and convincingly and the man who can thus express his thoughts is the man who can gain recognition wherever he may be found.

# HUMOR---and how to use it

Frank W. Ellis, Los Angeles Toastmasters Club

*Humor contributes immeasurably to the success of an introduction or speech, providing it has a definite tie-up with what one has to say. However, comparatively few of the thousands of anecdotes that are available lend themselves to specific tie-ups. Toastmasters will do well to collect appropriate stories and file them under appropriate headings for ready reference. The following have been carefully selected.*

## Brief Introduction

There may be a better way to introduce a speaker, but this one, at least, has the virtue of brevity. Tell this story preceding your formal introduction and you're off to a good start:

"The old German mayor had been called upon to introduce former Senator Spooner. When the moment arrived, the mayor arose and said: 'Mine frents, I have been asked to introduce Senator Spooner, who is to make a speech, yes? Vell, I haf dit so, and he will do so now.'"

## Toastmaster

"Arthur Brisbane defined a toastmaster as being an individual without brains enough to make a speech himself, who tries to divide attention from this fact by kidding those more oratorically gifted. This evening I shall attempt to prove that—at least, in my case — Mr. Brisbane was wrong."

## A Toast

To the after-dinner speeches—

May they be short and sweet.  
We're glad they do not come until  
We've had a chance to eat.

## Wrong Conclusions

We are all apt to jump at wrong conclusions. For instance, many people believe that Edison made the first talking machine, but such an impression is erroneous. God made the first talking machine, although it is true that Edison invented the first one that could be shut off.

## Faith

"If you will only believe it," said the salesman, addressing a meeting called for the purpose of increasing the pep and effectiveness of his salesmen, "every one of you can be as successful a salesman as the man who sold a bungalow to a stair-rod manufacturer. But you must have faith in yourselves and your line; otherwise you may find yourselves in the position of the colored pugilist who met defeat in his big fight. In the dressing room afterwards he was offering his alibis to his trainer.

"'I kep' tellin' myself over an' over befo' hand dat I was shuah gonna win, jes' lak yo' done tol' me,' he said. 'But de trouble is, I know what a turrible liar I is!'"

## Response

One speaker, in protesting that such a fine introduction was really undeserved because he was not nearly so capable as people seemed to think he was, told this story:

Perhaps many of you here can sympathize, as I do, with the man who was unable to tie a white tie. Whenever he dressed for a formal affair it was necessary for his wife to tie his white tie for him. But there came an evening when his wife was away and he had to dress downtown at his club in preparation for a formal dinner. He had put on his stiff shirt and collar and suddenly was faced with the terrible fact that he did not have the slightest idea how to tie a white tie. He thought it might help if he fortified himself with a drink. So, he telephoned down and asked that one be sent up to him.

When the waiter came in with the drink on the tray, he had a sudden inspiration. He said to the waiter, "By any chance, can you tie a white tie?"

The waiter said, "Why, certainly, sir. Just lie right down on the bed."

So he lay down on the bed and the waiter tied the tie with a beautiful knot, and the ends were square and even. He got up and looked in the mirror and he was delighted.

He gave the waiter a generous tip and, as he did so, he said, "I appreciate very much this accommodation, but I hope you will pardon my curiosity on one respect.

Why did you ask me to lie down on the bed?"

Whereupon the waiter replied, "Sir, I was formerly an undertaker."

## Apology

If compelled to read a speech, you might follow your apologies with this story:

"The Scotch elder's nephew, a young sprig just out of college, preached his first sermon in the village kirk. At dinner the young minister anxiously awaited some complimentary remark from his uncle on the sermon, but none was forthcoming. At last the lad ventured, 'Weel, uncle, an' what did ye think o' ma sermon?'"

"'Sin' ye ask it, laddie, I maun tell ye, I dinna like it for three reasons: first, ye read it; second, ye read it badly; an' third, it were no' worth readin'.'"

## Topic

Oliver Wendell Holmes was once approached by a committee and asked how much he would charge to deliver an address. He answered that if he were allowed to choose his own subject, it would only cost \$150.00; if they chose it for him, it would cost them \$300.00—but under either circumstances he would deliver the same speech.

While I have a specific topic imposed upon me, which in due time I hope to dispose of most creditably, I do not propose to deny you the privilege of hearing a first class address!

## Shall We Eliminate the "Ceiling"?

Harold T. Crane, Santa Monica Toastmasters Club

**F**ROM the beginning of our work it has been the custom to hold our club rosters to a limit of thirty active members. This was done in order to afford every member frequent opportunities to appear on the program. It works well when the club membership is maintained at the top figure.

In actual practice it does not work so well, especially in days like the present when disturbed conditions tend to upset all our plans. The question arises as to whether it would be wise to raise or even eliminate the "ceiling" on club memberships.

The problem of maintaining club membership at the highest figure is one of the most serious problems faced by our clubs. Comparatively few are able to hold up consistently to the limit of thirty members. Frequently we find a club successfully operating with a roster of 26 to 28 members. Then, within a few months and for a variety of reasons, half a dozen members are lost. The result is that with the normal number of absences, attendance will drop below 20, which is too low to provide the proper audience, the proper program and the proper enthusiasm. The members tend to lose interest and the club is likely to find itself on the down grade. In such circumstances it becomes difficult to attract new members.

The trouble is that we do not

have a sufficient safety factor. We need more weight to absorb the shocks of membership losses.

It is suggested that one remedy may be to raise the maximum from 30 members to 40, or even to eliminate the limit altogether. It is urged that with a membership of 40 men, the loss of six or eight members would still leave the club in a strong position, with possibilities of easy replacement of those lost, while with a club of 30, such a loss is really a serious blow.

The objection may be raised that larger membership would limit participation in the program. However, with six speakers, six individual critics, a toastmaster, a general critic and a table topic master, 15 men besides the president would participate each week and a member would be scheduled as speaker at least once in every five or six weeks. The larger audience would encourage better speeches. Greater enthusiasm would be engendered by better attendance. And when members were lost, the club would not face annihilation.

To make such a change would require an amendment to the By-Laws, and such an amendment should not be hastily adopted. It is suggested that some of the clubs might like to try the experiment of building up larger membership. In fact, some have done so already, as a result of "Speechcraft" campaigns. Such an experiment could properly be tried by

the simple expedient of setting aside the membership limit for a time, as an emergency measure. It is quite certain that the Board of Directors would approve of this, especially as a means of gaining experience.

Membership is not altogether a wartime problem. It is always with us, intensified at present by the war conditions, but a continuing matter for study. We need a permanent cure for this trouble and it is believed that the change

in membership limitations may help to that end.

What do you think about it? Will your club discuss the question and then report to the Home Office as to its judgment? Will your club undertake the experiment and help demonstrate? If a sufficiently favorable response is received, the Board of Directors will take cognizance of the matter at the meeting on July 31st. Send your ideas to the Home Office at Santa Ana and help reach the right decision.



### AT TEXARKANA

April 6 was the date of the charter meeting for the newest chapter in the Lone Star State. Deputy Prosecutor Dennis Williams, acting in behalf of Toastmasters International, presented Charter Number 244, which was accepted by President Ralph C. Owens. Most of the members of the club are connected with the Lone Star Defense Corporation.

In the picture, reading from left to right: John Uden, Deputy Governor; Leslie Dearth, Secretary and Treasurer; Edward Maynard, Vice President; Dennis Williams, Deputy Prosecutor of Miller County, Arkansas; Ralph Owens, President; James Hamilton, 2nd Vice President; Waldo Fike, Sergeant at Arms; and John Alexander, who wants to start a club for the "swing shift" at the Lone Star Corporation.

## "Audience Enemies"

**I**N a recent issue of *Science*, Eugene G. DuBois, of the Department of Physiology, Cornell University Medical College, writes an interesting discussion on "The Reading of Scientific Papers." His findings are quite in line with those of Toastmasters and are worthy of study.

Dr. DuBois says that the chairman of a scientific or medical meeting should have the title, "Sole Protector of the Audience." The audience is helpless when confronted by speakers with poor delivery, poor stereopticon slides and poor speech material. He classifies these "audience enemies" as follows:

1. The *Mumbler*, who is handicapped by poor habits of speech, an incorrectly placed voice or an inherent nervousness. Bad delivery is caused by lack of consideration in a man who is more interested in excreting words than in conveying information. When the speaker turns to the screen or talks at his chart he is paying more attention to his own achievements than to the audience. This is particularly disastrous if he is talking over a microphone and permits himself to wander away from it.

2. The *Slide Crowder*, who wishes to show just as much of his data as possible and thus demonstrates his industry. He prepares many slides from typewritten sheets, because this is the easiest method, ignoring the fact that

typewriter type is very poor for display or reading at a distance.

3. The *Time Ignorer*, who exceeds the limits set by the program and is purely selfish or else over-impressed with the idea that his speech is much more important than the program committee had imagined it could be.

4. The *Sloppy Arranger*, who selects the method of presentation best calculated to confuse the audience. He may have in the back of his head the idea that he can lead up to a climax and hold the audience in breathless suspense until in his very last sentence he may prove that the venous blood of the wimpus contains only three milligrams of gadgetyl chloride instead of four milligrams.

5. The *Lean Producer*, whose speech consists of trivia, errata, omissia, et cetera—mostly et cetera.

6. The *Grasping Discusser*, who can spoil almost any meeting, who has been invited to open the discussion and has probably prepared a nice little paper of his own with scant reference to the topic of the evening, or who just happens to have in his pocket some stereopticon slides which he would like to show, just for a few minutes.

From the above, it appears that bad habits of speech extend even into the ranks of the learned men of science. Possibly this is why a great many doctors find it worth while to spend time as members of our Toastmasters Clubs.

## Wanted---A Word

**I**N the March issue of the Toastmaster Magazine there was an appeal for help in deciding what name shall be given to our critical processes. Clubs were requested to discuss the subject and report their findings to our Home Office, to help in determining what word best expresses the thought and is most acceptable to our members. Comparatively few clubs had responded in time to be reported in the present issue, but their suggestions are interesting.

From Waterloo, Iowa, the club's favorite critic, Carleton Sias, sends the suggestion that we term the process "Helpful Comments." He adds: "Experience in our club leads me to believe that this is the function of any so-called critic. It assumes no superiority of ability or knowledge on the part of the person offering the comments. It is not necessarily the weighing of the worth of a speech. It can cover the matter of preparation, material, arrangement, presentation, forcefulness, adaptation to the audience and timeliness. It is not a harsh expression that would be embarrassing either to the criticizer or the criticized."

A similar suggestion comes from John J. Rubly, of Indianapolis and from R. H. Sells, of Mobile, Alabama. Both propose that "Commentator" be made the official title of the general critic and that "Commentary" or "Comment" replace the other words now used to indicate the process.

From Angeles Mesa Toastmasters, L. L. Sweet reports an evening's discussion which resulted in expression of preference for the old words "critic" and "criticism." He says: "As a club, we may profitably build up a greater consciousness of the true intent of criticism and conscientiously attempt to present it in our club on a higher plane, in an attempt to eliminate the destructive phases which have crept in and which have compelled us to recognize the situation as a problem."

Seattle's "Totem" Toastmasters reached a similar conclusion. In a close decision, "Constructive Criticism" won by a small margin over "Speech Evaluation" and "Speech Analysis," each of which had its supporters. All agreed that all three of these titles are good, but the majority maintained that "Constructive Criticism" is best, as reminding us that the purpose of criticism must always be to assist the speaker by giving him constructive suggestions.

It is hoped that many more expressions will be sent in, so that there may be gained a dependable reflection of the sentiment among our members. Work is now in progress on revision of our so-called "critique sheets" to make them more definitely useful and on the revision and re-naming of our book which is now published under the title "Speech Evaluation." Helpful comments by our members on these matters are urgently requested.



## Peace Plans

Nearly one hundred different plans for postwar world organization have been devised and published by their authors. Each plan has some advantages and some drawbacks. The problem which will confront the world one of these days is which plan or combination of plans shall be chosen as promising the greatest degree of security and the greatest assurance of lasting peace. Study and discussion of the plans is a profitable enterprise.

One plan which is attracting general attention is "The World Federation Plan," offered by Ely Culbertson. This was extensively reviewed in the Reader's Digest for February, 1943. It appears to be a most concrete and comprehensive scheme, embodying features which meet many of the objections which have been brought out and offering some rather new ideas.

Without in any way endorsing this plan, or adjudging it to be the best, it is possible for Toastmasters Clubs to render a valuable service and at the same time to do themselves much good by making the Culbertson plan the subject for special study and discussion. It can be compared with others and its strength and its weakness may be discovered. If reports on these discussions are made available to Mr. Culbertson and his associates, they may be aided in perfecting the plan by comments and criticisms offered by our members.

It is suggested that each Toastmasters Club devote an evening in the near future to consideration of peace plans, with emphasis on the Culbertson plan. The program may be handled as a panel discussion, a round table discussion, a forum, or a series of prepared speeches dealing with various phases of the problem. It is suggested that special attention be given to ferreting out the weak spots of the plan. Take care to have either an individual or a committee to keep notes on the discussion and to draw up a report on the findings. Send a copy of this report to Ely Culbertson, in care of The World Federation, 16-A East Sixty-Second Street, New York City, so that he may know your thought on his plan. Please send a copy of the report also to the Home Office of Toastmasters International at Santa Ana. Frank, constructive criticism by thoughtful Toastmasters may be wonderfully helpful to those who are working on this vital question.

For material, refer to the Reader's Digest for February, 1943, or send twenty-five cents to The World Federation, 16-A East Sixty-Second Street, New York, for a booklet giving a more complete summary of the plan. When you get the material, study it with these questions in mind: Is the plan feasible? What are its vulnerable points? Wherein is its strength? Then, after a fair discussion, give Mr. Culbertson the benefit.

## It Need Not Be Funny

**T**OO many speakers get the idea that an illustration is always a funny story. This is by no means the truth.

A good joke or humorous story, if it fits the occasion, is excellent material for illuminating a speech, but there is a vast field of analogy, anecdote and illustration which is not in the least funny, but can be drawn on for valuable material to impress a point.

No finer illustrative material can be found than there is in the parables of Jesus and yet these are not funny. The story of the Prodigal Son, or of the Sower, or of the Good Samaritan will do for a case in point. These brief but immortal bits of word picturing live because they clarify eternal truth in words so simple that a child can catch the meaning.

Ancient literature is rich in such stories. From the Persian, the Hindu and the Arabic come fables, allegories and parables which will enrich the language of any speaker. These should be consulted as earnestly as the latest joke books.

Here are two types of illustration not calculated to provoke laughter, but well adapted to emphasize and reinforce an argument. The first one is just a brief statement about Lincoln, bearing on the value of friends.

*When Abraham Lincoln was first talked about as a possible candidate for the presidency, many people in his own party said: "Why consider Lincoln? He has no influence; he has won no high political honors; he has no money.*

*In fact, he hasn't much of anything but a lot of friends."*

But those friends made Lincoln President of the United States.

The second is an old parable current in Hindu literature, which can be used in several connections, especially to emphasize the importance of resourcefulness and quick thinking.

*An aged merchant who wished to retire from business had two sons, but he was unable to make up his mind which of them was the more clever and so should have the property. He decided to put them to a test. For that purpose he gave each of them one ana (which is equivalent to about two cents of modern money) saying, "I wish you to buy with this money something which will fill this house."*

*The elder son hastened to the market place, priced all kinds of goods that were for sale and found that the cheapest and bulkiest thing he could buy was straw. Therefore he spent his ana for that, but when he took his purchase home he had not enough even to cover the floor.*

*The younger son, perceiving that his father had entrusted him with a commission which could be executed only by unusual shrewdness, gave deep thought to the matter. After much thinking, he spent his ana for candles. These he took home and lighted them, one in each room, so that the light they gave filled the house.*

*"To you," said the happy father, "I give over my business, for you have shown true wisdom."*

## Editorial

The good showing made by our clubs in the spring reports is most gratifying. The loss of men to the armed forces and to other lines of war work has made heavy inroads on our membership. Food shortages and labor shortages make the matter of eating in public places a continual problem. At first glance we are all too ready to emphasize the difficulties of carrying on in these "trying times."

But, just as every cloud is supposed to have its silver lining, so we find that this war, terrible as it may be, has brought to us Toastmasters many new opportunities. The opportunities to serve the nation in a variety of ways have been frequently mentioned in this magazine, and every member, willing to help, has found ways in which his training in Toastmasters has made him a more efficient citizen.

In the same measure that the individual member has profited, so may the organization as a whole benefit by this enlarged field of activity. Restricted travel this summer solves one of our annual problems and brings an additional challenge. Some clubs in past years have met less frequently during the vacation season, and a few have even suspended altogether, because of the scattering of members in the summer months. But this year finds most of our members kept close enough to their homes to enable them to be as regular in attendance during the summer as at other seasons. This brings new opportunities to serve the members and to add to the list of community activities. The variety of programs and the extent of their usefulness will be limited only by the imagination of the members.

Many clubs will find new experiences in the summer months and there may be discoveries and developments of vital importance to our work. Each club is requested to keep notes on its work for the summer and to report interesting features to the Home Office so that all successes may be reported and shared for the benefit of the entire organization.

## Reno Is Revued

*The Reno State Journal, of March 25, 1943, carried an article about the Toastmasters Club which reflects great credit on the Reno Toastmasters and at the same time gives an interesting picture of our work as seen by an outsider.*

*Gladys Rowley writes the column headed "Reno Revue," and she is the visitor who enjoyed the hospitality of the club and then wrote her impressions. Here are some paragraphs from her entertaining article:*

For some time I've been tempted to "crash" a masculine stronghold. A more ladylike entrance was permitted me, however, when I was invited to attend a dinner last week of the Toastmasters' Club, as guest of their president, Hal Halling, and Jim Henrichs.

What the Toastmasters are doing is, I think, so smart and so progressive that you wouldn't think it could also be fun. But it is.

Since they didn't tell me the particular aim of their group activity, I shall have to give you my idea of it: The man who can think on his feet—and effectively express his ideas—is a few jumps ahead of the man (or woman)! who becomes tongue-tied when it comes to public utterance.

Besides added poise and self-confidence personally gained thru practice in public speaking, this Reno group is sufficiently civic-minded to provide speakers who assist in bringing to the attention of the local public whatever worthy causes they are asked to serve.

Guest speaker for the evening was Samuel Platt, Reno attorney, introduced by Mr. Davidson as "one of the finest public speakers in Nevada," who had been asked to deal with "some of the trials

and tribulations of a public speaker."

Referring to any public speaker as "one of the most despised of men," Mr. Platt said this was evidenced by the number of people who are unable to attend a public function if they hear there are to be speakers; while, if not, they are "relieved" and quite able to attend.

Also, he said, "a speaker is generally the least considered man in any gathering"—especially so in regard to the manner in which he is introduced to his audience.

Mr. Platt stressed the importance to a speaker of a proper introduction and the infrequency with which it is accorded, although it could "get him off to a good start . . . or leave him cold."

Highlighting his talk with amusing anecdotes from his own experience, Mr. Platt said that though he had "started at the age of 15," he had "never known an occasion without advance nervousness" attending the preparation for a speech.

He further cited characteristics peculiar to notable orators of our time and the past, whose eloquence has greatly contributed to the art of public speaking.

## New Clubs Are Welcomed

Miles City, Montana, with Charter Number 239, held its charter presentation meeting on February 6th, with Carl W. Lehman, Lieutenant Governor of Area Six, District Nine, doing the honors. The club started off with a full roster, and has already demonstrated its value to the community. Much help has been given by the Toastmasters Club of Great Falls during the organization period. This club meets on Wednesday evenings at the Metropolitan Banquet Room.

At Farragut, Idaho, Charter Number 240 was taken by the Farragut Officers' Toastmasters Club and 241 by the Farragut Chief Petty Officers' Toastmasters Club. Both chapters grew out of the interest of Captain I. C. Sowell, Commandant of the Naval Training Station and former member of San Diego Toastmasters Club. Spokane Toastmasters worked faithfully to help get these clubs under way, aiding District Governor Charles Tyson at every point.

Waynesburg, Pa. Toastmasters Club is Number 242. Organized with the help of District Governor Carroll W. Freeman and the neighboring clubs of Washington, Jeanette and Greensburg, this chapter has started off with the enthusiasm which characterizes Pennsylvania Toastmasters. The charter was presented on April 16th, by Governor Freeman.

Huntington Park, California adds another chapter to the list, in the "Inter-City" Toastmasters

Club which was given its charter on March 30, by Secretary Ralph C. Smedley. The charter meeting was held at the famous Knott's Berry Farm, located near Huntington Park. The club starts with an initial membership of 26 men.

At Texarkana, Texas, a club has been in process of organization for some months among the executives of the Lone Star Defense Corporation. Located at great distance from all other Toastmasters Clubs, this chapter received Charter No. 244 on April 6th by means of recorded speeches. A. J. Schrepfer, Chairman of the Executive Committee, presented the charter and Past President Sheldon M. Hayden presented the gavel, both by means of recordings. The new club meets on Tuesday evenings at the U.S.O. Building and will welcome visitors, as do all Toastmasters Clubs.

Spokane, Washington has added a fourth chapter to its list of Toastmasters Clubs. This one, the "Manito" Chapter, receives Charter No. 245. With 31 charter members, it meets at the Manito Presbyterian Church on Thursday evenings. The club has for its president John C. Olson, a member of the Spokane Monday Toastmasters Club, who has transferred temporarily to the new chapter and whose experience is proving most valuable.

Ashland, Kentucky takes the honor of being our first chapter established in the "Blue Grass State." Organized through corres-

pondence, it has built up a membership of 30 leading business and professional men of the community and has been granted Charter No. 246. The club meets at the Henry Clay Hotel on Friday evenings and since the manager of the hotel, Herbert R. Smith, is the president of the club, no serious difficulties are anticipated as to a place to meet. The charter is to be presented soon by District Governor L. C. Turner, of Akron.

A new club at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho is the result of the transfer of District Governor Charles N. Tyson from Tekoa, Washington to the Idaho city. Governor Tyson could not live in a town without a Toastmasters Club and so Coeur d'Alene will receive Charter No. 247 in the near future. It was no trick at all for Toastmaster Tyson to line up a charter membership list of 30, with several more on the prospect

list, which just goes to show how the project appeals to ambitious men when presented by an enthusiast.

At Las Vegas, Nevada, famous for the great Boulder Dam, the war has brought about the establishment of a tremendous industry known as Basic Magnesium, Incorporated. P. A. Taylor, a charter member of Prescott Toastmasters Club, is employed there and as a result of his interest, a splendid club has been established. This chapter will receive Charter No. 248 at a presentation meeting of proper quality some time during the month of May.

Other clubs in immediate prospect are at Winnipeg, Canada; Burlington, Iowa; South Chicago, Illinois and Marshfield, Oregon. Mario Mei, former president of the club at Taft, California, has moved to Bakersfield and intends to organize a club in that city.

## Personal Items

"Personal Efficiency," the official organ of LaSalle Extension University, in its April issue carries an interview with A. J. Schrepfer, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Toastmasters International, in the course of which Mr. Schrepfer finds opportunity to put in several good words for his experience in the Toastmasters Club and the aid it has given in developing his own "personal efficiency."

Robert M. Switzler, of San Diego, former Vice-President of Toastmasters International, had the privilege of spending several

days in March with his boyhood friend, Andrew Jackson Higgins, in New Orleans, where Mr. Higgins is setting new records as a shipbuilder. Toastmaster Switzler had the opportunity to visit the New Orleans Toastmasters Club, giving this chapter its first direct contact with the official family of the organization.

Sheldon M. Hayden, Past President of Toastmasters International, has been covering Southern California with lectures for the Navy Recruiting Service, speaking before high school and college students.

## Don't Say That

**H**ERE are mistakes which persist. Every one of these has been heard in a Toastmasters Club meeting. Not one of them belongs there.

"Sergeant-of-Arms" instead of "Sergeant-at-Arms."

"Deputy District Governor" instead of "Deputy Governor."

"For you and I" instead of "For you and me."

"Neither of these are right" instead of "Neither of these is right."

"DEE tail" instead of "de-TAIL."

"EN tire" instead of "en TIRE."

"In TE gral" instead of "INtegral."

"IM ported" instead of "im-PORT ed."

"RE sources" instead of "re-SOURC es."

"Particularly" pronounced "P'tickly."

"Probable" pronounced "Pro-b'le."

"Insidious" pronounced "Insid-uous."

Many errors in grammatical construction result from awkward arrangement. The best way to correct such usage is to reconstruct the sentence or phrase.

"Because each in their own way have tried." This is an awkward construction at best, but to make it grammatically passable it should read, "Because each in *his* own way *has* tried."

"We must decide which of these two are going to live." Of course it should be "which of these two is going to live," but the difficulty

could be avoided by saying "which of these two shall live," or "shall be permitted to live."

"This is one of the best books that has (or have) been published this year." This is always a troublesome phrasing. Whether to use "has" or "have" depends on whether you make the subject "one" or "books." A better way to say it is, "This is one of the best books published this year."

"Column" and "columnist" are words too often mispronounced. There is no "y" sound in either word and the "n" is silent. Do not say "colyumist," nor "colum-nist." Say it just as it is spelled, leaving off the "n."

"Proven" is not good form in modern speech. Better say "prov-ed." The "proven" form is archaic. It was good form a century ago, but not now. The same is true with "dive," which requires "dived" in the past tense. Earlier generations said "dove," but the best usage now is "dived."

The "t" is silent in "often," just as it is in "listen."

Picked up in the mail:

"Each of these men are requested to serve—"

"Kindly advise by return mail what the price of these sheets are."

Most mistakes in speech heard in the Toastmasters Club result from carelessness rather than ignorance. If what you have to say is worth saying, it is worth saying correctly.

## Get The Most Out of Your Club

A. L. Aeils, Downtown Toastmasters Club of Seattle.

**I** assume that all of us agree that the training we get in the Toastmasters Club is one of the most important forms of training available to man. Therefore, the question of how to get the maximum value out of our work in the club is a vital one.

My answer to it can be given in few words: *Strive for perfection every time you get on your feet.*

I say "every time" because you cannot afford to waste a single one of the few moments you get for your speech practice. Every minute counts.

Consider how little of the time you actually spend on your feet in speech. Let us assume that you are assigned for a five-minute speech at every fourth meeting of the club. Perhaps you will act as critic or as Toastmaster of the evening occasionally, in addition. And then, at each meeting you will have a chance to participate in the Table Topic or Current Event discussion, which gives you another minute or two. Sum this all up and you will find, to your surprise, that about 15 minutes is the total time the average Toast-

master spends on his feet in speech each month. Out of eight hours spent at the club meetings, you have one quarter of an hour for speaking.

I personally believe that every Current Events or Table Topics speech should be carefully thought out and prepared in advance. The subject matter may not be so important, but every detail of preparation and delivery is worthy of careful treatment. Even when you are called on to act as an individual critic, you can get speech practice. Don't just talk at your audience in a hit or miss fashion. Give even the shortest speech a definite beginning, body and conclusion. Acknowledge the introduction and address the chairman and audience in the proper manner, though you are to talk but a minute. Strive for the best in your posture, gestures and voice. Try to make every speech, even the one-minute speech as nearly perfect a little speech as you are capable of giving. To derive the greatest benefit from every one of the precious fifteen minutes a month, strive for perfection every time you get on your feet.

### Opposite Opinions

"As soon as any art is pursued with a view to money, then farewell, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, to all hope of genuine good work."

—Samuel Butler, the Younger, (Note Books)

"No man but a blockhead ever wrote except for money."

—Samuel Johnson.

## GUESTS---You Are Host to Them

**E**VERY man who visits a Toastmasters Club meeting is a potential member. The impression made by the treatment he receives may determine his further interest. Show him full courtesy. Not only is this due the visitor, but it is good for the club.

The usual practice is for the president to ask members accompanied by visitors to introduce their guests. The member presents the guest, mentioning his name and his business or other connection. The guest rises, bows and takes his seat. This is good as far as it goes.

Acceptable variety may be introduced if anyone will give the matter thought. A very favorable impression may be made on the guest by pleasantly different methods of introduction. The introduction should never be a casual matter, or one which is forgotten and neglected until someone calls attention to the omission. It should be

given a definite place on the president's agenda for the meeting and it should be his especial care to see that it is done correctly and with serious thoughtfulness.

If time permits, it is good policy to give the visitor a chance to express his reaction to the meeting. Getting him to participate in it is one of the best ways to interest him. He may be invited to take part in the table topic discussion, or at the end of the program, he may be asked to offer, in one minute, his thought about the value of what he has heard. Sometimes he gives a good suggestion. Always he is likely to commit himself in such a way as to make the invitation to come again and even to become a member, follow as a matter of course.

The visitor who is cordially welcomed and courteously treated is one of the very best prospects for membership.

## You And Your Audience

**T**HE first obligation of a speaker is to keep his audience awake. This is impossible unless the speaker himself is interested, and in earnest about the matter he is discussing.

The speaker determines the attitude of his hearers toward what he says. His own attitude is reflected in them. If the speaker is disinterested, the audience will be likewise. If the speaker is bored, his hearers will go to sleep. If he

is enthusiastic, they will catch something of his spirit.

The speaker who is so deeply convinced concerning his subject that he believes he has a message for his hearers can set the dulllest theme on fire. The intensity which comes from belief in the importance of one's subject will carry conviction and induce favorable action. The audience believes in the speaker who obviously believes in himself and in his message.

"The essence of a good speech," says Professor Brander Matthews, "is that the speaker *really* has something which he *really* wants to say."

For example, someone knocks you down. You then have something to say and you say it with force and conviction, without hesitation or prompting. You can hardly hope to be knocked down as a preliminary to every speech,

but mental preparation calculated to produce conviction is a good substitute for the knockdown.

When you face an audience, remember that these people are giving you their time and attention in exchange for your ideas and appeals. Their time is worth something. To make it a fair exchange, you must give them something to justify their expenditure.

## Five Minutes A Day

**T**HAT is not much time, but it is enough, if used every day, to give you a good command of the English language. Five minutes a day spent with the dictionary will enlarge your vocabulary, improve your diction and help you to correct the pronunciation of many a word. All you need is the five minutes, a plan, a strong purpose and a good dictionary.

Open the dictionary at any page in the vocabulary. Start with the very first word on the page. Probably it is familiar. Read on down the column until you come to a word with which you are not well acquainted. Stop there and find out what it means, how it is pronounced and whether it can be used in your own speech. It may be some technical term, out of your range, but on the other hand, it may be a useful word and just what you need. In that case, make it your own.

Don't go any further. One word

at a time is enough. Master this word. Make sure of its pronunciation and its meaning. Try it in your mind in various connections in which you might use it. Memorize it. Incidentally, make a note of it in your personal "word book." Then start out to find a place to use it. Without too much stress and strain, introduce the new word into your conversation at an opportune time. When you have used it half a dozen times, it will be your word.

Do this every day for a month and you will have added at least 30 words to your vocabulary. At the same time you will have made many interesting discoveries about words, as to origin, pronunciation and use and your daily speech will begin to reflect the good you have gained.

Five minutes a day with the dictionary will build up your vocabulary and add a new zest to your speech. Try it for just one month, and you will keep it up.

# The Clubs At Work

## New Officers

The new officers are taking over in most of our clubs. This issue of the Magazine is designed to help them. The Home Office sends special bulletins to all new officers as they are reported. If any newly elected officer has not received the bulletin dealing with the duties of his office, he is requested to write the Home Office for one. Each officer should consult the "Manual" for further information about his work.

## Committees

The full committee organization as outlined in the By-Laws and the Manual should be put into operation as quickly as possible. By this time the Executive Committee (Manual, page 6) should have had at least two meetings to plan the season's work. The Program Committee (Manual, page 15) should have its schedule well outlined. The Membership and Attendance Committee (Manual, page 11) should be checking up on membership matters and planning to maintain a full roster. Intelligent planning right now will make for a good season of activity.

## Summer Plans

This year especial emphasis is laid on maintaining the club work at its best throughout the summer season. Vacations will be less generous than usual and travel opportunities will be restricted, making it possible to carry on to good

advantage. Plans should be worked out now to provide for an interesting variety in the summer schedule. It may be wise to plan for some outdoor meetings or picnics and for other special events suited to hot weather. Above all, the club should be kept functioning and ready for whatever it can give. Even though attendance may be somewhat reduced, the work should go on. They don't stop the war because of hot weather, you know.

## Secretaries

The semi-annual reports were due April 1st. Many secretaries have sent theirs in on time. Some are slow. Each club should make an especial effort this time to cooperate in the interests of economy and efficiency by returning the reports without delay. Has your club's report been sent in yet? If not, don't let it wait another day.

## Speechcraft and Basic Training

Two new educational projects have been introduced in recent months. Reports on their use are needed for further improvement. Will every club which has made any use of "Speechcraft" please send in a report as to method of use, degree of success and definite results? Also, give your suggestions for improving the material or method for use in coming months. It appears to be practical and desirable for each club to

offer the course in "Speechcraft" once a year.

"Basic Training" is now furnished to each new member. The club secretary is expected to report the new man promptly so that he may have this book to start his speech career. Nearly 1000 copies have been sent out in the last three months, most of them to new members and some sold to old members who wish to use the plan. Comments are desired. Men who have used the course of "Basic Training" for even a few speeches are requested to write the Home Office giving their suggestions for improvement. This book will go into a new edition soon and comments are desired immediately.

## Educational Helps

A dozen different mimeographed bulletins on various phases of speech and club work are available at the Home Office. More than ten thousand of these sheets have been sent out since January 1st. They cover program planning, membership problems, speech construction, voice and hand gestures, word use, parliamentary procedure and other important points. They are sent free to clubs on request. (It helps if postage stamps are enclosed to cover cost of mailing.)

Several printed aids are available also. The Telephone Company provides a limited number of copies of the booklet, "The Voice with a Smile," and the publishers of the Webster Dictionary supply

us with helps on vocabulary building, pronunciation and choice of words. Write for samples.

## Encouraging Reports

During January, February and March, new members were being reported at the rate of two hundred a month. An inquiry was sent to all the clubs in February, asking how many members had been lost and how many gained. Just about half the clubs replied, showing losses and gains almost balanced. The average membership for the 85 clubs reporting was 22, which is but a fraction under the figures of last year. Heavy losses were shown by a number of clubs, due to the war demands, but in almost every case the new members gained were very nearly enough to offset the losses.

The spring reports had been received from 97 clubs, up to April 26, and these showed an average of 22.3 members per club.

Twelve new clubs have been chartered during the fiscal year since July 1, 1942, which is counted a very satisfactory gain in time of war.

In spite of the losses in membership resulting from the war conditions, our total membership at present is very near the 5000 mark, after having fallen below 4000 during last fall and the early winter. We may point with pride to the fact that about 2000 Toastmasters are now in uniform in the forces of the United States and the Allied Nations.

## News from the Clubs

### The Surprise Spot

At Mankato, Minnesota, the Program Committee developed the practice of including a "surprise spot" in every meeting, which has proved exceedingly popular with the members. This provides a wide range of experience for participants and offers a rare chance for committeemen to exercise their originality in thinking up surprises. Some features which have been well received are as follows:

*Spelling Contest.* The members were divided into two teams and spelled down in the old-fashioned way. The words were "plenty tough" and the contest was a short one.

*Grammatical Corrections.* The leader read a series of sentences in which there were errors and then called for a show of hands as to the number of mistakes which the members detected.

*Telling the News.* A short news item was told and retold by four members in private and then told to the club by the last one hearing the story. After his telling of it, the original item was read just as it had been told to the first member. There was a difference.

*Radio Talks.* Two of the members were candidates for political offices and were due to give radio speeches at the time the club was meeting. A radio was brought in so that the members could listen and then evaluate the speeches.

### In The Movies

Maricopa Toastmasters of Phoenix recently made use of motion pictures as a means of self-evaluation. Each member had the opportunity to speak before the camera. At a later meeting the completed pictures were shown, with the result that the various members saw themselves in action and were able for the first time to realize what their critics had been talking about. Definite improvement in posture and delivery is an inevitable result.

### Duluth Expands

Climaxing a month-long membership effort, thirteen new members were formally inducted into the Greysolon Chapter of Duluth on March 16, when District Governor Thomas Hennessy was the special guest and installing officer. Wintry weather, including a first class blizzard, was not enough to chill the enthusiasm of this fine club.

### Chain Topics

A novel idea for the Table Topics was used by one enterprising club, adapting the chain story method. The first speaker was assigned a topic for his one-minute talk. The second speaker did not use exactly the same topic, but was required to select a topic from one of the suggestions or statements made by his predecessor.

The third speaker took a thought from his predecessor's speech and elaborated on it. As it went around the table, there was developed a surprising variety of speech topics, each springing from the one just before it. The method proved acceptable as stimulating the imagination, encouraging close attention and developing quick thinking.

### These Lucky Fellows

In a time when some Toastmasters Clubs are having trouble to find a place where they can meet and eat, Minneapolis Toastmasters Club announces that it has changed its meeting place to the Zurah Shrine Club, a beautiful building which affords all the needed conveniences and facilities, including a remarkably fine dinner service. This club meets on Thursdays at six o'clock and is a good place for visitors to get a bit of atmosphere. The decorations and furnishings are an added attraction and the dining room used by the club is just right for table arrangement and accoustical advantages.

### Editor-Toastmaster

R. E. Lee Aldrich, editor of the San Gabriel Sun, is also a member of San Gabriel Toastmasters Club. Newspaper publicity is no problem for this chapter. Editor Aldrich carries at the head of his editorial column this challenging paragraph: "The material in this column contains the personal opinion of the editor, therefore the first person is used. He does not expect everyone to agree with him. Difference of opinion provokes

thought which sometimes makes for action."

### Official Recognition

The Bulletin of the Minnesota Federation of Engineering Societies for February pays tribute to the Engineers Toastmasters Club of Minneapolis in an enthusiastic article which starts like this: "A toast to the Toastmasters! One of the most interesting luncheon meetings of the year was held December 18, at the Andrews Hotel, thanks to those masters of speech and chairmanship — the Toastmasters. Before launching on the subject, "The Post-War World," Harry G. Morton, president of the group, gave a brief explanation of the Toastmasters idea. D. R. Manual, acting as Toastmaster of the day, introduced the following: Paul M. Saxon, who spoke on "Social Status"; E. T. Hutchinson, "Economic Status"; George L. Patchin, "Political Evaluation." All the speakers were masters of their subjects and presented them in a most interesting and convincing manner. The value of membership in the Toastmasters Club was proved to all who attended the meeting."

### Program-Roster

One of the best arrangements of the roster for use in program building has been devised by Ocotillo Toastmasters of Phoenix. In addition to the listing of all active members it even carries blank space to be filled up with new names to take care of the vacancies. Any club interested in seeing an exceptionally good program ar-

rangement may write for a copy (enclosing postage, of course) to Gordon R. Chambers, President, Box 3906, Phoenix, Arizona.

### Speak By A Spin

Toastmasters of Jeannette and Greensburg, Pa., have been holding joint meetings, exchanging speakers and critics with mutual profit. At a recent meeting they used a roulette wheel to select the men for the program. No assignments were made in advance. The spin of the wheel decided who should be speakers, who should serve as critics, grammarian and parliamentarian. The program was thus entirely impromptu, but of high quality and it constituted a good practice in quick thinking for all who participated.

### Akron "Rubber City" Toastmasters Club

The first anniversary meeting was built around the theme, "Benefits of being a Toastmaster." All the speech topics dealt with this theme. The table topic was "In what specific ways do I use my Toastmasters training?" Speech subjects included: "What Toastmasters Training Has Done for Me."; "Benefits I Expect from My Membership"; "Practical Values of Membership in Rubber City Toastmasters Club." With a growing membership and excellent attendance, this club is making a definite contribution to its members.

### Jeannette, Pa.

Good publicity was secured for

this club when the Jeannette Daily News-Dispatch published a series of four articles, written by Toastmaster James Kindelan, which set forth in attractive manner the purposes and achievements of the Jeannette Toastmasters. These articles attracted favorable attention.

### Dividends from Speechcraft

At Keokuk, Iowa, a most successful course in "Speechcraft" resulted in the addition of fourteen new members to the club. This chapter, through its Deputy Governor, J. O. Boyd, is cooperating in the establishment of a Toastmasters Club in Burlington, Iowa, where George McBride, a former member at Waterloo, has things well under way.

### "You Have A Date"

The weekly postcard bulletin sent out by Gordon R. Chambers of the Phoenix "Ocotillo" Toastmasters, carries the appealing slogan: "You have a date with your fellow Toastmasters every Tuesday evening."

### Toastmaster Turns Chaplain

Harold W. Cole, pastor of the First Christian Church of Yuma, Arizona and member of the "Sunshine" Chapter of Toastmasters, volunteered as a chaplain in the Army. His induction into the service was featured at a recent meeting of his Toastmasters Club, where he was given an ovation by his fellow Toastmasters as he departed for his course of training at Harvard.

## Toastmasters At War

Letters from our men in the service bring occasional revealing flashes of their thoughts and experiences. Here are a few of them:

Charles Carr, former member of Ventura Toastmasters and now in the Army, found his Toastmasters training useful one evening recently when he attended a "Quiz" Show at the Service Club at Keesler Field, Mississippi. The Master of Ceremonies asked for three volunteers to come on the platform and each to tell a story. Carr writes: "Before joining Toastmasters I would have lacked the courage, but as it was, I went right up and won the prize."

Lieutenant Commander Dwight D. Young, a former president of Smedley Chapter, Number One, of Santa Ana and now with the Medical Corps in service in the South Pacific, sends a story which he says is current among the Marines. There was a certain hill position which held out against all the Japanese attacks. Every time the Japs advanced, they were mowed down. Finally, their commanding officer in desperation called for 25 volunteers to wipe out the resistance. There was no response. He called for 50 volunteers. Still there was no response. He made a fiery speech to his men, telling them they ought to be ashamed of themselves—fifty men, afraid of one lone Marine on a hill. He then called for 100 men and they were finally secured. They were armed with everything—grenades, automatic rifles, machine guns and bayonets and they started. For about ten minutes, all hell broke loose. It sounded like the second battle of the Marne. About 50 of the original 100 Japs came tearing back, a disorganized mob. The officer seized one of the men and yelled, "What's the matter with you! I send 100 men against one lone Marine and you come running back like a bunch of children!" The soldier replied, "Sir, you lied to us. There are two Marines."

Stanley Newton was a member of El Camino Toastmasters in Santa Ana before the war. Now he is a Lieutenant attached to a Task Force Replacement Center in New York. Recently he was notified to appear at a head office for an interview. There were about eighty officers in the group of interviewees and none of them knew the purpose. A day or two later, Lieutenant Newton was ordered to report at a certain center, where he found himself one of ten officers assigned to receive special instruction on Public Relations. Completing the course, he was put to work lecturing four hours a day, five days a week, to the civilian personnel of the War Department. He writes: "I am now fighting the war in the St. George Hotel, which may be something to brag about to my grandchildren when it is all over. My Toastmasters training had much to do with my being chosen for this work and I haven't decided yet whether to 'cuss' Toastmasters or to thank them. The guy who said that 'war is hell' never had to rough it at a swanky hotel."





### "SPEECHCRAFT" RESULTS AT FORT WAYNE

Here are some of the new members inducted into this live chapter following what President Earle Saffen terms "one of the most interesting projects the club has ever participated in," eight weeks of "Speechcraft" training.

Standing, from left to right, are new members, Otto Karston, A. W. Aplin, Robert E. Angell, Howard Potts, J. M. Shafer, R. L. Nicholson and Fred Grunst, with President Earle R. Saffen presenting "The Amateur Chairman."

Seated are club members Herbert Tipton, Dudley Mellinger, James Mitchell, Howard McKenney, Richard Brown, Charles Florent, Raymond Perry, Philip Telford and George Sacks.

### COLLEGIANS CARRY ON

The demands of war are hard on clubs made up of younger men. The "Collegians" of Sioux Falls have lost 22 members to the armed forces in the past few months. Seventeen are left and they continue the work. Club Secretary G. O. Goodman writes: "The problems of maintaining a club on our college campus in recent months have been almost insurmountable. We who are older members realize the unique possibilities of Toastmasters and hence have fought for its existence. In the purposes of almost any club of this type you will find such phrases as 'to improve your speaking ability, to build your personality, to equip you for the problems of life,' but usually it is just rhetoric and does not work out that way. Toastmasters does! In several cases, fellows who have lived most of their lives in a shell have now crawled out of that shell and are living a well balanced life. Why? Because in our club they had to overcome their inhibitions and talk to us. Through criticism they have learned to see themselves as others see them, which is one of the healthiest mental conditions possible to man. Those fellows (and I am one of them) will forever be indebted to Toastmasters."

## LET'S SEE NOW

"THAT'S NO LIE"

Well it's been quite a spell since we had our little chat. You know, I couldn't seem to think of anything interesting to write about. That kinda got me to thinking; good exercise if you're capable of taking it too. Everything seems so sort of common place if it happens to us but just let it happen to some of those movie stars and, Oh boy!!!, that's "a horse of a different color" as my grandmother used to say. Judging from the actions of my friends (not to mention some original first-hand experience), I've come to the conclusion that sometimes folks wouldn't lie if the truth didn't seem so dern dull.

### A LONG LIFE

Speaking of being dull, it has quite a few advantages if you've ever stopped to add 'em up. You wouldn't think a feller like me would read the "Reader's Digest" but I do; regular as clock work every month, always find lots of good things. No that ain't dull, but did you ever notice that its the little feller that you never even heard of that's always popping up with something original. I couldn't help contrasting that with that column in "Time" (read that too) that tells what has happened to "important" people. More'n half the people who have died lately in that column have never reached fifty or at best fifty-five. Of course there may not be any advantage in living long. You know about the argument between the married



and the single man. The married one said that anyone knew they lived the longest. The bachelor said 'twant so it only *seemed* longer. Kind of got off the track here; but the point I wanted to make was that a common ordinary life may not be so spectacular but it usually lasts longer.

### AIM HIGH

Sometimes I wish I was the one who wrote answers to the clubs instead of the secretary doing it all the time. He's too all-fired polite. The other day I overheard him dictating one to a club that was complaining about their membership falling off and high prices for food and so many of the members in civilian defense and a lot more that I can't remember. I remember the last sentence of that feller's letter. "I don't see why we always have so much trouble. We always aim to do just right." Now if I could have answered it I would use just about ten words and told him that the trouble with his club was just like lots of men I know, they *aim* to do right, but they never *shoot*. I'll be seein' you, GUS

# District Activities

Harold T. Crane, Chairman of Committee on District Affairs.

**T**HE relation between the District and the International organization is much like that between a state and the National Government. The District operates under its own constitution and by-laws, with its own governing bodies, the District Council and the District Executive Committee. It elects its Governor, handles its funds, determines the number and size of its Areas and holds its own annual convention and other meetings as may be found best.

The District is in many ways an operating unit within the general organization and, of course, subject to the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of Toastmasters International. It brings closer to the individual club the benefits of experience, supervision, guidance and coordination.

The thing we are getting at is that we like to see a spirit of district unity, loyalty and enthusiasm developed in every unit of our organization. That makes for healthy growth. Let's all work with our District organization and each of us make sure that our own District is the very best District in Toastmasters International.

**Plans for the Spring**

District One plans to hold its Conference and Speech Contest on July 31, coincident with the Annual Meeting of Toastmasters International. The meeting is to be

held at the Hotel Huntington, in Pasadena, where the District met last year with so conspicuous success. District Governor McAninch is inviting the nearby Districts to take advantage of this meeting, which is offered as a local substitute for the International Convention, omitted because of the war. It is hoped that a number of Toastmasters from more distant parts may be on hand for the Annual Meeting, so that they too may have a part in the District Conference.

District Six reports completion of arrangements for the Spring Conference which is to be held May 22 at the Leamington Hotel, in Minneapolis. With 23 clubs in his District, Governor Tom Hennesy looks for a large attendance and an inspiring meeting, with the speech contest as the climax.

District Thirteen will hold its Spring Conference and Speech Contest at the Roosevelt Hotel in Pittsburgh on May 16th. This District has been one of the most active in our organization during the present year.

## To Complete the Year's Work

Hold the annual business meeting of the District. Secure complete reports on the year's work. Elect the new District Governor. (A special Nominating Committee should be appointed well in advance to make sure that the best man is named for this important office.)

## OFFICERS OF TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

President.....Ted Blanding

IN SERVICE U. S. NAVY

Vice-President.....Harry W. Mattison

Monite Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Phone Hyland 9234

Secretary.....Ralph C. Smedley

516 First National Bank Building, Santa Ana, California  
Phone 3079-W

Treasurer.....Ben H. McEachen

3035 Randolph Street, Huntington Park, California  
Jefferson 4714

Past President.....Ernest C. Davis

3945 S. E. Pine St., Portland, Oregon

## DIRECTORS

Harold T. Crane.....Santa Monica, Calif.

Phone Santa Monica 56720 621 21st Place

O. T. "Pete" Peterson ..... San Jose, Calif.

Phone Columbia 4062 St. Claire Bldg.

A. J. Schrepfer ..... Huntington Park, Calif.

Phone Kimball 5389 2822 E. Cudahy Street

E. M. Sundquist ..... Santa Ana, Calif.

Phone 623 312 W. Third Street

Lewis C. Turner ..... Akron, Ohio

Phone Hemlock 1317 South High School

E. Roy Van Leuven ..... Spokane, Washington

Phone M-4391 319 Paulsen Building

Special Representative.....George W. Benson

300 Baker Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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## THE TOASTMASTERS CALENDAR

### WHAT TO DO IN MAY AND JUNE

Plan for a full summer program. This is a new experience for some clubs. Get the most out of it. If ideas are lacking, write the Home Office for suggestions. This is the year to remember that "the devil never takes a vacation" and we are going to follow his example.

Introduce the Educational Bulletins into your club procedure. These are available from the Home Office without cost except for postage. A dozen or more valuable aids to speakers, these should be used to help build vocabularies, acquire ease in gestures, learn parliamentary procedure, conduct panels, etc. Write for the list.

Redouble your efforts to help in every effort to win the war. (Past President Ernest C. Davis writes: "War activities demand leaders, and I have seen our objectives pay dividends during the past year. We have our members in key positions throughout the land, and their training is now placing the Victory "E" above the name of Toastmasters International.")

During this summer, make your club deserve the "E" award, both from the War Department and from our own organization.