

JUNE, 1958

The TOASTMASTER

On Conversation

By A. Whitney Griswold

Summer Meetings

By Ed Mercer



Convention Applications

pages 20-21

For Better Speaking, Listening, Thinking

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A Toastmasters club is an organized group providing its members with opportunities to improve their abilities to speak in public, conduct meetings and develop their executive abilities. In congenial fellowship, ambitious men help each other through actual practice, mutual constructive criticism and the assumption of responsibilities within the organization.

Each club is a member of Toastmasters International. The club and its members receive services, supplies and continuing counsel from the Home Office.

"As a man speaks, so is he."—Publius Syrus, 43 B.C.

The TOASTMASTER

For Better Thinking—Speaking—Listening

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ON CONVERSATION, CHIEFLY ACADEMIC

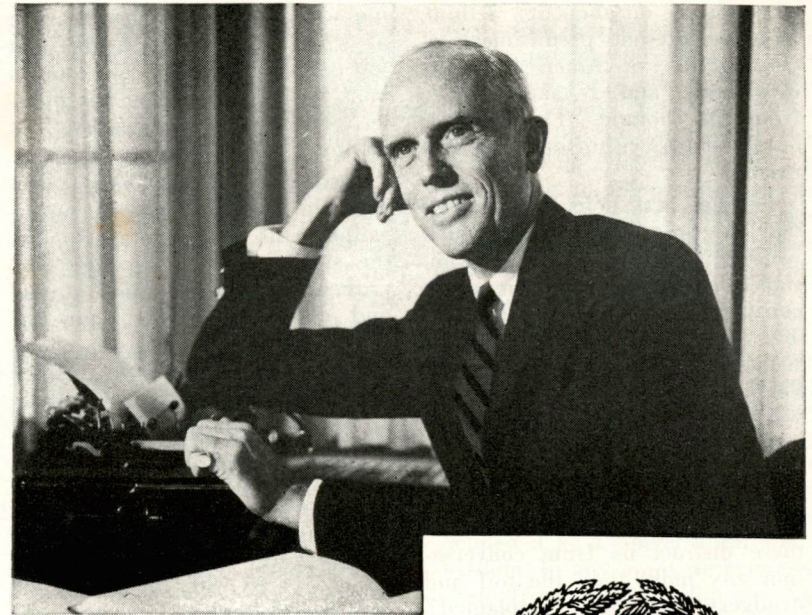
By A. WHITNEY GRISWOLD
President, Yale University

CONVERSATION in this country has fallen upon evil days. The great creative art whereby man translates feeling into reason and shares with his fellow man those innermost thoughts and ideals of which civilization is made is beset by forces which threaten its demise. It is forsaken by a technology that is so busy tending its time-saving devices that it has no time for anything else. It is drowned out in singing commercials by the world's most productive economy that has so little

Before he became the sixteenth president of Yale in 1950, A. Whitney Griswold had been a member of the Yale faculty for twenty years. As president of Yale, Mr. Griswold has stood forth as spokesman for the values which characterize the university tradition in the Western world, and has consistently sought to identify what is worth preserving of that tradition and how it must be reinterpreted in the new age of science and specialization.

to say for itself it has to hum it. It is hushed and shushed in dimly lighted parlors by television audiences who used to read, argue, and even play bridge, an old-fashioned card game requiring speech. It is shouted down by the devil's advocates, thrown into disorder by points of order. It is subdued by soft-voiced censors who, in the name of public relations, counsel discretion and the avoidance of controversy, like so many family physicians breaking the news gently and advising their patients to cut down on their calories. It starves for want of reading and reflection. It languishes in a society that spends so much time passively listening and being talked to that it has all but lost the will and the skill to speak for itself.

I wonder how many of us are aware of this predicament and interested in its possible consequences. It was conversation, reaching its orderly and exalted climax in the dialogues of Socrates, which, in an age without books or their latter-day substi-



tutes, laid the foundations of the civilization we are dedicated to defend. It was conversation of which the New Testament, the greatest teaching ever recorded, was composed. It was conversation, among small groups of university scholars still in a bookless world that revived learning at the end of the Dark Ages. Conversation is the oldest form of instruction of the human race. It is still an indispensable one. Great books, scientific discoveries, works of art, great perceptions of truth and beauty in any form—all require great conversation to complete their meaning; without it they are abracadabra—color to the blind or music to the deaf. Conversation is the handmaid of learning, true religion, and free government. It

would be impossible to put too high a price on all we stand to lose by suffering its decay.

How then do we account for the symptoms of decadence? Are they the result of a sinister softening-up process such as preceded the dictators of recent history not to mention Big Brother of 1984? Or are they our own fault? Are we being softened up or are we merely softening? In either case

what can we do about it? I think that the present predicament of conversation in America is our own fault, and I take courage from the thought. For what is our fault lies within our power to correct.

Let me first defend the thesis that the predicament from which we suffer is our own fault and not something slipped over on us by conspiracy. Consider all the tools and toys of our prolific economy—the time-saving, labor-saving devices, the automatic cookers and washers, the almost automatic automobile that will present us with a new industrial tautology when it becomes complete, the movies and the television sets. Do these distract us from conversation any more than the toil and drudgery they have supplanted? Perhaps not, but that is not the point. The point is that they have given us more leisure than the human race has ever known and in more equal, democratic measure; yet instead of making that leisure the ally of conversation we seem content with it as no less of a distraction than drudgery. Is this the result of machination or conspiracy? I find it hard to believe so. I find it much easier to believe that it is nobody's fault but our own, and I rest my case on a cardinal principle of American business. This principle is, the customer is always right. If he wants faster, more expensive cars, he shall have them. If he wants bubble gum and comics, he shall have them too. And if he wants to spend his time looking and listening without ever discuss-

ing with his friends the meaning of what he sees and hears, that too is his prerogative. We look in vain for scapegoats in this quarter. The trouble here is toys, not traitors.

I would argue the same of scapegoats in general. Orderly conversation in its parliamentary sphere, the sphere essential to free government, has been much abused and disrupted of late, and the abuses and disruptions have spread like ripples from a stone cast into a pond, stirring up strife all over the country. The effect of this strife has been to inhibit conversation and make a case for the public relations experts; and some critics have found individuals responsible for the phenomenon. I do not agree with them. On the contrary, I think we are responsible for the individuals. I think we are responsible because we, the people, elected and appointed such individuals to represent us, and that is exactly what they are doing. They are representing our fears and suspicions.

The forms conversation should take and the rules it should follow are of course important. Like all art it cannot be formless and it must show obedience to certain classic principles. Jargon is not conversation. Plain English, the purer the better, is essential. One of the things that made possible the attainments of Greek philosophy was the extraordinary fluidity of the Greek language, which the philosophers who are still read used in its purity and never in adulteration. Small talk and gossip are not conversation. Neither

is indictment, with which I include any and all one-way processes of insinuation, invective, diatribe, denunciation, excoriation, anathema, and so on, notwithstanding their current popularity. Conversation is an exchange of thought that leaves all parties to it a grain the wiser. It implies progress. Though it may begin anywhere, even in the realm of trivia, it should try to get somewhere and carry everyone with it as it goes.

The basic principles of conversation were established by Socrates both by example and precept more than two thousand years ago. One of the most important of these was that conversation should take place among friends, in a congenial atmosphere, with common interests at heart. Best of all would be one common interest, namely wisdom. It is interesting to see how these principles anticipate the nature and purpose of our liberal arts colleges. Wisdom, to Socrates, was "the one true coin for which all things ought to be exchanged . . . and only in exchange for this, and in company with this, is anything truly bought or sold, whether courage or temperance or justice. And is not all true virtue the companion of wisdom, no matter what fears or pleasures or other similar goods or evils may or may not attend her?" Such were his last words to his disciples just before he drank the hemlock. Again, in an earlier dialogue, Socrates declares:

Some things I have said of which I am not altogether confi-

dent. But that we shall be better and braver and less helpless if we think that we ought to enquire, than we should have been if we indulged in the idle juncy that there was no knowing and no use in seeking to know what we do not know; that is a theme upon which I am ready to fight, in word and deed, to the utmost of my power.

These are, it is true, the utterances of a consecrated teacher and philosopher rather than merely a gifted conversationalist. Yet they tell us much about both learning and conversation. If Carlyle could define a university as a collection of books, Socrates might well have defined it as a conversation about wisdom. In any event we may conclude from what he did say that conversation about wisdom is true conversation.

To facilitate conversation of this kind, to keep it moving and make it truly productive, Socrates established one practical rule that has served both conversation and learning well ever since. This was his separation of the hypothesis and its consequences into two distinct questions. The hypothesis was first assumed as true. Then the consequences of the hypothesis were deduced, those which agreed with it being accepted as true and those which disagreed rejected as false. The hypothesis was never taken as axiomatic or self-evident and if called into question was debated in its turn. By this method the parties to a conversation were brought onto common ground, unity and relevance were ensured for their discussion, and the whole

range of human knowledge was infinitely expanded. What a boon it might be to our troubled world that wastes so much time and temper arguing at cross purposes if we could apply this rule more generally to the discussion of human affairs today. Criticism would have to be answered on its merits rather than by attacks on the critic. Concealed or unstated premises would be brought out into the open. It might even become possible to discuss our foreign policy without raising our voices and accusing one another of treason. Who knows what enlightened dispensations in the national interest might not result? But I am afraid that for such exalted conversation as this we should either have to bring Socrates back to earth or wait as he did in the conviction that the ideals of men were laid away in heaven.

Even supposing we did bring him back to earth and summoned his thought to the matter at hand—the revival of conversation among students in residential colleges of the liberal arts—he might not find the going so easy at first. I can see him now returning, not from the army at Potidaea or a religious procession at the Piraeus, but, let us say, from a meeting of the Association of Colleges in New England, where he has been demonstrating the impossibility of computing the essential worth of each member institution on four pieces of paper eight and one-half inches wide by eleven inches long. On the train he has encountered graduates of two of the member institutions whose names,

with apologies to Owen Johnson and J. P. Marquand, are Dink Stover and Bojo Brown. They engage Socrates in a discussion of education and arrive with dispatch at the following proposition:

BOJO: I don't like this new Ivy League Agreement.

DINK: Neither do I. All this business about spring practice and recruiting players!

SOCRATES: Players? What is the Ivy League, a group of actors?

BOJO: No, a group of colleges.

SOCRATES: Ah, and they have just agreed to recruit actors?

DINK: No, they have just agreed not to recruit football players.

SOCRATES: But why should they wish to recruit football players? I thought colleges were for students. At first I thought you were talking about players in the sense of actors or possibly musicians, who would entertain the students and recreate them after their studies. But why football players?

DINK: You tell him, Bojo.

BOJO: Well, you see, a lot of colleges award football scholarships—

SOCRATES: But what has football got to do with scholarship?

BOJO: Well, I see what you mean, but that's what they call them.

SOCRATES: That may be what they call them, but what *are* they?

DINK (interrupting): They're grants of financial assistance . . .

SOCRATES: Financial assistance? You mean money? You mean young men are paid money to play football in college?

BOJO: In some cases yes, but not in the Ivy League. Although by

the way, Dink, a friend of mine in Greenwich told me the other day . . . of course I don't believe it, but I thought you ought to know it's going the rounds, that a Princeton man in his office told him that he knew for a fact that a group of your alumni had offered . . .

DINK: I deny that! And anyway, what about that fellow up in Buffalo who was registered in our freshman class and then a group of your alumni grabbed him as he was stepping off the train and . . .

BOJO: Oh, that old chestnut! I . . .

SOCRATES: Gentlemen, all this talk about football and chestnuts! I thought we were discussing education.

DINK AND BOJO, testily, and in unison: WE ARE!

Even with the help of Socrates we should have work to do before the art of conversation in our colleges came into its own. We should have to ensure our students a proper subject of conversation. Fortunately we have this, too, ready to hand in our liberal arts curriculum. This is the educational birthright of undergraduates at Brown and Yale. Its currency has never been devalued; it is still at par with the currency of Socrates' one true coin. With its perceptions of greatness and excellence, its intimations of immortality, it embodies the full meaning the Greeks gave to virtue and Socrates himself gave to wisdom. As a source of great conversation it has never been equaled.

The most important thing about any form of communication is what is communicated. The most important thing about what is communicated is its valuation in the currency of Socrates' coin. The utilitarian skills and techniques of each generation are soon outmoded. The search for wisdom and virtue never is. Not all the technological triumphs of history have satisfied man's needs for these, nor displaced or even approached them as the most inspiring and fruitful of all subjects of human conversation.

We must manage to present this subject to our undergraduates in such a way as will inspire them to help revive conversation in this tongue-tied democracy that has such good ideas yet cannot speak its own mind.

This condensation of an address delivered at the opening convocation of Brown University's 191st academic year appears in Dr. Griswold's book, "In the University Tradition" (1957), and is reprinted here by permission of the publishers, Yale University Press, Inc.



SOCRATES ON CONVERSATION



SOCRATES: If you want to hear me and Protagoras discoursing, you must ask him to shorten his answers, and to keep to the point. For discussion is one thing, and making an oration is quite another.

But you see, Socrates, said Callias, that Protagoras may fairly claim to speak in his own way, just as you claim to speak in yours.

Here Alcibiades interposed: That, Callias, is not a true statement of the case. For our friend Socrates admits he cannot make a speech, but I should be greatly surprised if he yielded to any living man in the power of holding and apprehending an argument. Now, if Protagoras will make a similar admission, and confess that he is inferior to Socrates in argumentative skill, this is enough . . . but if he claims superiority in argument as well, let him ask and answer—not, when a question is asked, making a speech at such length that most of his hearers forget the question at issue . . .

Critias went on to say: But we should not be partisans either of Socrates or of Protagoras; let us rather unite in entreating both of them not to break up the discussion.

Prodicus added: That seems to me to be well said, for those who are present at such discussions ought to be impartial hearers of both speakers; remembering, however, that impartiality is not the same as equality, for both sides should be impartially heard, and yet an equal meed should not be assigned to both of them; but to the wiser a higher meed should be given, and a lower to the less wise. And I as well as Critias would beg you, Protagoras and Socrates, to grant our request, which is, that you will argue with one another and not wrangle; for friends argue with friends out of good-will, but only adversaries and enemies wrangle. And then our meeting will be delightful; for in this way you, who are the speakers, will be most likely to win esteem, and not praise only, among us who are your audience; for esteem is a sincere conviction of the hearers' souls, but praise is often an insincere expression of men uttering falsehoods contrary to their conviction. And thus we who are the hearers will be gratified and not pleased; for gratification is of the mind when receiving wisdom and knowledge, but pleasure is of the body when eating or experiencing some other bodily delight.

—From Plato (Protagoras) Jowett translation

THE CLOAK of CONSERVATISM

By DONALD E. WARNE

AN EXPLORER FRIEND of mine sat back in his chair and toyed with an Amazon Indian quiver filled with poisoned darts. A veteran lecturer, he had recently returned from photographing uncharted regions of the Amazon.

"How," I asked him, "do you account for the fact that your life has been so full of adventure, so different from that of ordinary people?"

"Um-m-m." He thought for a moment. "I suppose it's because I wanted so much to do the things I've done that I was willing to break through the shell of convention and get out and do them. You know," he added, "the thing that holds most people back from fulfilling their desires and ambitions in life is just ultraconservatism. Don't you think so?"

To me, that remark put the finger on the major difficulty of many of us Toastmasters. We live too close to the vest and confine

the *speaker we could be* in a tight cloak of conservatism.

How many Toastmasters meetings have you attended where the members displayed these qualities in their talks:

- 1—*fear of projecting their voices*
- 2—*fear of using dynamic gestures*
- 3—*fear of experimenting with the unusual*
- 4—*fear of using humor*
- 5—*fear of expressing their true beliefs on controversial subjects*

As business reporter for *The St. Petersburg Times*, I have interviewed hundreds of business and civic leaders. I have found that the man who is successful in life is most often the man who disdains any fear of manifesting his true personality. He has broken out of the strait-jacket of conservatism. He is able to assert himself—his true self—in a frank, graciously-forward manner.

As I talked with the young explorer further, I uncovered in him a philosophy which is also inherent, I believe, in most successful men. This is a willingness to gamble and wrestle with the odds, for a better life.

"There was a large element of danger involved in my expedition," the explorer admitted. "I decided to do my best to ignore it."

This man had gambled with his life to achieve his goals. Most of us in trying to improve our speaking abilities have to gamble only against such questionable tortures as a little embarrassment. Surely this is not a major hazard, especially when we talk to the sympathetic and intelligent friends found in our Toastmasters clubs.

Strangely enough, most of us have more within ourselves than we imagine. The chances of winning the speaking struggle are much more in our favor than the chances of losing. This is a fact which most successful men know, but one which the ultra-conservatives have yet to discover.

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players," said Shakespeare many years ago. This thought is well worth weighing by speakers. What role do we covet in the drama?

My explorer friend was willing consciously to project himself into the play and go out after a more challenging, lucrative role. Men can aspire to be more than they are in many walks of life. Certainly it is possible to become a much better speaker. Maybe many of us need to change our approach to the way we speak.

Many speakers fail to realize that they are actually more advanced than they think they are. For example, they tend to judge themselves by the way they spoke the last time at the podium. If they did not do an especially good job, they decide that they are not really very good yet. They forget that, like the iceberg, their capabilities lie mostly below the surface. The past is the past; it is always behind us. The present is the only thing which matters.

The man who can realize this can make more rapid strides in speaking in a single performance than he has made up to that time in all his speeches.

How can he do this? He can do it by freeing himself from the muffling folds of the cloak of conservatism. He can do it by being *himself*, the self he has always wanted to be, by being willing to gamble, by deciding to play the role of dynamic speaker. He can do it by forgetting past performances in which he restrained or inhibited himself, by putting forth a new type of effort, a fearless one. Only then will he find that he is filling a role which he desires and enjoys—and one which he can easily attain. He will be richer for the experience.

His Toastmasters club, too, will be richer for him and because of him. ♦

Donald E. Warne is a member of the St. Petersburg (Florida) Toastmasters Club No. 2284, and as noted in his article, business reporter for The St. Petersburg Times.

ACROSS THE DESK

By TED BLANDING

Executive Director, Toastmasters International



Toastmasters International put down secure roots and enjoyed a healthy growth during the great depression of the thirties.

I have frequently been asked the reasons for this, since that period saw the burgeoning of many movements and organizations now vanished. Why did Toastmasters survive?

It seems to me that one of the reasons is that Toastmasters is concerned with the individual at a time when that individual is compelled by circumstances to be concerned with himself. He is appraising himself as to potential and performance. Toastmasters offers him opportunity for self-improvement. Hard times often provide the spur which jolts a man into recognition of his need to advance. This is one of the main reasons why men join our organization.

The man who can communicate, who can express his ideas clearly, concisely and convincingly, is the man who occupies a strategic economic position. He has an extra dimension of value in his work and in society. Toastmasters can help a man attain this goal.

A Toastmasters club helps men to face facts as well as their fellows. This is necessary at all times, good or bad, but it becomes imperative when facts are unpleasant and conditions unfavorable. In the friendly atmosphere of his Toastmasters club, a man can discuss his problems with the certainty that he will be understood, helped, and accepted.

This stimulus to morale, the therapeutic value of "talking it out" is an extra dividend frequently reported by club members. It is not the reason for the existence of Toastmasters clubs; we have never attempted to invade the field of mental health nor its fringes of uplift and positive thinking. We offer the opportunity for practice and training in communication; yet many Toastmasters attest that out of this training have come other benefits.

Another factor we might mention for our growth during that period is the simple one of *cost*. Membership in a Toastmasters club is not expensive. It is significant that through the years, the actual cost to members for services has not increased, while the services themselves have multiplied many times over. Meal prices, costs of social events and other fringes have risen; they can be cut. The value of our training does not lie in the trappings.

All these things contributed to the growth and development of Toastmasters during these depression years. They are as true now as they were then. They provide the solid foundation upon which our structure has been built.



THEY SPEAK BY NIGHT

By OTTO WODTLY

IT'S 2:40 a.m., not p.m., by that clock, and another successful Toastmasters meeting of Club 2477 has passed into history.

Of course we ran a bit overtime. Not very much, though—ten minutes in all, just about long enough for the camera to catch club officers Roger Larson, Otto Wodtly, Roy Myers and Phil Carey confronting that accusing timepiece. Furthermore, our wives were not a bit upset at our staying out all night when we finally got home. This was merely the regular Wednesday meeting of the Esco Night Owls Toastmasters.

The rest of the city of Portland,

Oregon, may have been asleep—or as much so as any large city ever sleeps. But lights were burning in the Esco auditorium when the club President banged the gavel to open the meeting at one a.m. That's right, one a.m., one hour past the witching hour of midnight. The Esco Night Owls group is a rather special one, composed entirely of swing shift workers in the Electric Steel Foundry Company's Portland plant. We hold our meetings from one to two-thirty a.m. every Wednesday. Interest and attendance are high. We usually have about thirty to thirty-five members present, all of them ready to jump to their feet and hold forth in true Toastmasters fashion.

I suppose in a way you could call the Night Owls a success story, or an example of the way obstacles can be overcome. Maybe it merely proves that people who really want to form a Toastmasters club can do it, regardless.

We're the second club at Esco. When the first one—the Esco Toastmasters—was organized last year, a number of men who worked on the night shift expressed their desire to join. Naturally, they couldn't, because of the conflict in work hours. We took a survey and discovered that there were enough interested men working nights to form a club of their own. That's how the Night Owls came to be organized.

Membership consists of all levels of workmen—laborers, grinders, crane operators, foremen and assistant superintendents. As you can imagine, we all have a lot to talk about.

We had two lucky breaks. One drawback to the formation of a swing shift club is that it's not an easy matter to find a meeting place at that hour of the night—or morning. We were fortunate that our company has an auditorium and was willing to make it available to us.

As our second lucky break, we proudly present our honorary member, Miss Shirley Farrington. Miss Farrington, secretary to one of the executives of Esco, was such a great help in doing our typing and organizational work that the club unanimously voted her honorary membership. She was present on the night that Mr. Evans Hamilton, past governor of



Club's favorite girl friend Shirley Farrington receives charter from TMI Board member Evans Hamilton



Pres. Wodtly (cen.) presents traveling trophies

District 7 and member of the Board of Directors of Toastmasters International presented us with Charter 2477.

So to any Toastmasters or interested friends who find themselves in Portland looking for amusement or inspiration on a Wednesday at 1:00 a.m., we extend a cordial invitation to visit the Esco Night Owls Toastmasters. ♦

EVALUATION

is a TWO FOLD RESPONSIBILITY

EVALUATION, when properly conducted, can enrich a Toastmaster to a degree impossible to measure. Its chief purpose is to teach or instruct, not to praise or condemn. One of the most difficult, and at the same time most rewarding assignments that a Toastmaster can receive is that of the role of evaluator. Unlike other duties one may be called upon to perform as a member of a Toastmasters Club, the role of evaluator carries with it a twofold responsibility. One is to the speaker, the other is to the club membership as a whole.

No evaluation is adequate unless it provides an honest and sincere appraisal of the speech and the speaker. In performing an evaluation, one becomes at once critic and instructor.

In the role of critic, the evaluator must analyze the speech in relation to the man who delivered it. He must conduct this analysis with a critical attitude. In this area, the evaluator is called upon to exercise judgment because it is his responsibility to offer his own views and his own ideas as to the merits of the presentation. It is true that each of us differs in respect to the way that we judge a speech and form opinions on any

subject, but it is in the exercise of judgment that evaluation carries a serious responsibility and at the same time, provides the evaluator an opportunity for self advancement.

Every Toastmaster has a right to expect of his evaluator an adequate review of his efforts. Even the exceptional speaker, and there are many of them, is entitled to the best evaluation that his evaluator can give him. "You were in your usual good form" or "You did a fine job as was expected, Mr. Jones," is not an evaluation—it is merely an attempt to fill in the time. It is possible that Mr. Jones, aware that he is not in his "usual good form," may be expecting the evaluator to recognize the weakness in his speech and offer some instructive criticism. Mr. Jones would not be receiving full value for his efforts if the anticipated constructive criticism is not forthcoming.

The evaluator, as a critic, must assume the responsibility of analyzing the speech in order to determine what the speaker really meant and how his material was presented. He should approach his task with an impartial attitude and with the desire to show the speaker how he appeared before

his audience and how his speech was received.

All teaching is not done in the classroom. Each of us is called upon at some time in our lives to teach or instruct, or more explicitly, to impart knowledge to another human being. We may call it advertising, counseling or instructing, but the essential aim is to impart knowledge or information. The evaluation of a Toastmaster is designed to provide him with instruction to enable him to advance in the art of public speaking. In the final analysis, the evaluation is instruction.

As an instructor, the evaluator has an obligation not only to point out errors and mistakes but also to suggest methods by which they can be corrected or minimized. It is incumbent upon the evaluator to point up the good features of the presentation and offer encouragement as well as suggestions for improvement.

In the form of instruction the evaluation becomes a lesson in the art of speaking. An audience can recognize errors and inappropriate gestures made by a speaker whereas the speaker himself may be totally unaware of them. The evaluator should be prepared to pick up those errors and call them to the speaker's attention.

Each evaluation should be a stepping stone along the road toward effective speaking in that the speaker is taught one or more lessons which will enable him to express himself more effectively and which will help develop whatever potential talents and abilities he possesses. Unless the

evaluator constructs a stepping stone each time he performs an evaluation, he is derelict in his duty to the speaker.

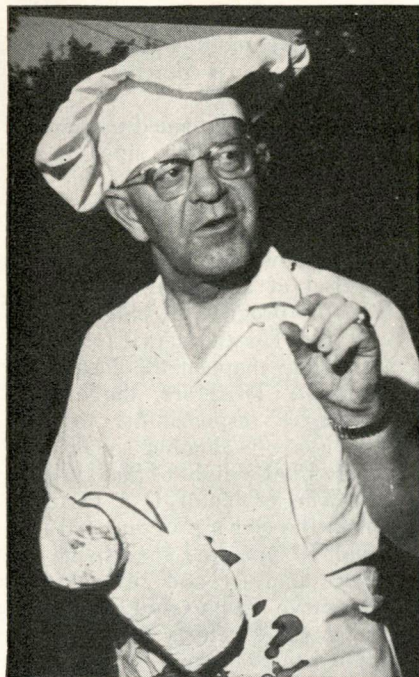
Evaluation is intended primarily for the speaker, but since it is heard by all present, it can be considered as instruction for the club as a whole. Of course, we cannot know how often the good appraisal of a speaker has influenced the progress of other members of a Toastmasters Club, but that it does happen there can be no doubt. Therefore, the evaluator has a responsibility to his club. Every evaluation should be prepared in the light of that knowledge. The evaluator is a participant in the club's program and he should be prepared to provide a critical analysis and present an instructive discussion on the speaker whose efforts he has been assigned to evaluate.

The evaluator should seek to achieve a proper balance between criticism and instruction. At the same time, he should offer his views and ideas in a manner that will be interesting and instructive.

With a little effort each of us can learn to accept the twofold responsibility which good evaluation entails, and help each other to become better Toastmasters. ♦

Thomas J. Toole has been a member of the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Toastmasters 256 for five years. He is the Assistant Governor of Area 5, D. 38, and employed in the Social Service Division of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Assistance.

all in favor of
SUMMER MEETINGS...



By ED MERCER

EACH YEAR, the Home Office of Toastmasters International urges continuation of club activity throughout the summer months. However, until last year, Madison 173 failed to follow the recommendation, cutting back meetings from weekly to twice monthly or even once a month during July and August. Each fall, there was a scramble to pull a scattered, indifferent club back together again into a strong, cohesive working force.

Denver's Public Service TMs hold barbeque, Skipper E. P. Mills (above) presiding



Last spring, at the recommendation of the executive committee, continuation of the weekly club meetings with specially planned meetings for the summer was advised and followed.

Following the final August meeting, an evaluation of the summer schedule showed the following results:

At the first summer meeting, June 5, the club had 28 active members and five associates. After the final summer meeting, August 29, the club had 27 active and 6 associate members. This indicated a loss of one active and gain of one associate. Actually one member was lost and one new member was taken into the club.

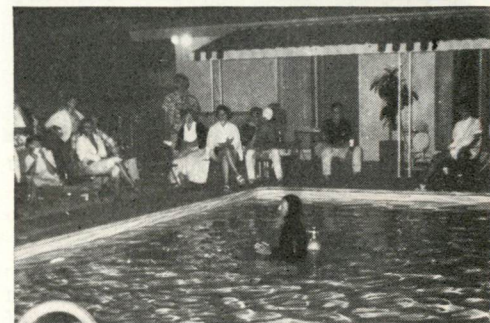
Weekly attendance was as follows: June 5, 23 members, 20 guests; June 12, 20 members, 5 guests; June 19, 18 members, 16 guests; June 26, 13 members, 1 guest.

In July: July 3, 13 members, 1 guest; July 10, 20 members, 18 guests; July 17, 17 members, 1 guest; July 24, 21 members; July 31, 15 members, 1 guest.

During August: August 7, 12 members, 1 guest; August 14, 16 members, 1 guest; August 21, 15 members; August 28, 18 members.

Big guest attendances indicate special events such as Former TM's Night; a golf outing; a Ladies' Night outdoor steak fry; et cetera.

Totaling summer attendance figures, we found: During June, 75 members attended four meetings for a weekly average attendance of 66% of the club's active

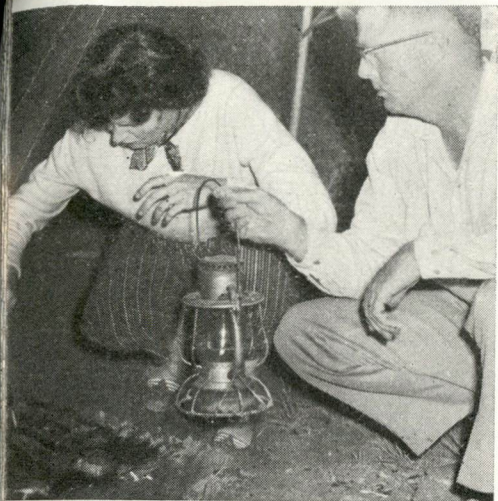


Dico 595 (Portland, Ore.) lunches outdoors

Smedley No. 1 (Santa Ana) has pool for podium

Raleigh's Tar Heels 1293 get in the swim

membership. During June, 42 guests attended. Total guest and member attendance was 117 or a weekly average attendance of 88%



It's sizzling steaks for Powell (Wyo.) 2091

of the club's total active and association membership.

During July, 86 members attended the five meetings for a weekly average attendance of 61.4% of the club's total active membership. Also, 23 guests attended for a total of 109 members and guests, or a total weekly average attendance of 60% of the club's active and associate membership.

And during August, 61 members attended for a weekly average of 54.5% of the club's active membership. Two guests attended during August for a total of 63 members and guests, or a weekly average attendance of 49.6% of the club's total membership.

For the 13 weeks of the summer, 231 members attended plus 67 guests to total 298 members and guests, for a weekly average attendance of 23 persons or 69.9% of the total club membership.

These figures are not exceptional but they prove the validity

of claims by Toastmasters International that the sure way to keep full club membership and interest is to maintain a full summer program!

Interest has remained high among members and even though all members couldn't attend regularly, due to vacations and other summer activities, they all took part when their turns came. When fall came, there was no scramble for membership, no struggling to "get back" a hard-working force. Out of the summer guest appearances came three new members, putting us again at top membership level.

Naturally, our summer meetings were not left to chance or spur-of-the-moment happy accidents. They were carefully planned for interesting entertainment and inspiration. Outdoor meetings were held insofar as they were practical. Special events were planned with great care, and the gratifying totals of members and guests attending prove that the planning was successful.

As a result of a strong, aggressive summer program, the Madison club moved forward to a year's activities of stronger programming because it did not have to overcome the ennui of summer relaxation. ♦

Ed Mercer of Madison, Wisconsin, has served his club, the Madison Toastmasters No. 173, D. 35, as president. He has also served as Governor of Area 8, District 35, and District Public Relations Chairman.

FOR A COMFORTABLE CONVENTION STAY:

MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW

To make sure you receive the desired accommodations, it is suggested that you make your reservations early. Complete the form on the reverse side of this sheet and mail direct to the hotel of your choice.

HOTELS	Rates per day:	SINGLE	DOUBLE	TWIN	SUITES
PENN-SHERATON		\$8.50	\$12.50	\$13.50	\$27.00
William Penn Place		12.50	15.50	20.00	55.00
PICK-ROOSEVELT		\$5.00	\$10.00	\$12.50	\$24.00
607 Penn Avenue		10.25	13.00	13.50	38.00
(3 blocks from Penn-Sheraton)					
PITTSBURGHER		\$7.00	\$ 8.00	\$11.50	\$25.50
428 Diamond St.		8.25	10.25	12.50
(3 blocks from Penn-Sheraton)					
SHERWYN		\$6.25	\$ 9.00	\$11.75	\$17.00
Wood Street at Third Ave.		10:50	13.00	14.00	30.00
(3 blocks from Penn-Sheraton)					

COMMENTS

1. The hotels listed above are the leading hotels in Pittsburgh, and members are at liberty to register wherever they wish. While it is considered desirable to reside at the official convention hotel, the Penn-Sheraton, the hotels listed above offer excellent accommodations within walking distance of the Penn-Sheraton. All hotels are contiguous to adequate parking facilities.
2. There are many motels in Pittsburgh, but because of their distance from Pittsburgh proper and the heavy traffic in and out of town, we have not compiled a listing for recommended use.
3. Maps, guides, transportation schedules, lists of tours and sightseeing excursions will be available at the Information Desk at Convention headquarters.
4. If you are interested in dormitory style accommodations, write the hotel of your choice as to availability and rates.

APPLICATION FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

27TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
AUGUST 14-16, 1958

TO: Reservation Clerk

_____ Hotel

_____ Address
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Please make the following reservations:

() Single with bath—rate \$ _____

() Double with bath _____ persons—rate \$ _____

() Twin beds with bath _____ persons—rate \$ _____

Special room requirements _____ adults, _____ children

Arriving approximately _____ A.M. P.M. Date: _____

Leaving _____ A.M. P.M. Date: _____

Room will be occupied by:

_____ Name Address Club

_____ Name Address Club

Signed: _____

Address: _____

IMPORTANT! This application for hotel reservation must be sent directly to the hotel (Reservation Clerk) of your choice at Pittsburgh. Fill in the hotel name in the upper left hand corner, tear out and mail.

SPECIAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

If this registration is completed, mailed and postmarked to Toastmasters International, Santa Ana, California (or if you live in contiguous districts to Pittsburgh and register through your local organization) prior to midnight, July 1st, 1958, your registration fee is \$4.00 instead of \$5.00 and your wife's is \$1.00 instead of \$1.50.

Please reserve registration and event tickets for me as follows:

QUANTITY	PRICE
..... Membership registration—@ \$5.00	\$
..... Ladies registration—@ \$1.50	\$
..... Ticket(s) Fellowship Luncheon (Fri.)—@ \$3.50	\$
..... Ticket(s) President's Banquet (Fri.)—@ \$6.50	\$
..... Ticket(s) Breakfast with the Founder (Sat.)—@ \$2.50	\$
..... Ticket(s) Speech Contest Luncheon (Sat.)—@ \$3.50	\$
..... Total	\$
..... Less pre-registration credit—\$1.00 man, \$0.50 lady	\$
..... Net Total	\$

Please check here if you prefer fish for meal events on Friday

Please check following questions to assist the Local Activities Committee in its arrangements:

How many young people of teen-age will accompany you?

Are you interested in baby-sitter arrangements?

My check (make checks payable to Toastmasters International) for \$..... is enclosed. It is understood that my badge and tickets designated will be waiting for me at the PRE-REGISTRATION DESK at the Penn-Sheraton Hotel in Pittsburgh.

Signature

(Please print)

Name..... Club No..... District.....

Wife's first name.....

Mailing address

City..... Zone..... State.....

Fill out, detach and mail with check to

Toastmasters International
Santa Ana, California

PITTSBURGH CONVENTION PROGRAM

Penn-Sheraton Hotel, August 14-16, 1958

- Tuesday, August 12** Toastmasters International Committee meetings—all day
- Wednesday, August 13** Board of Directors meeting—all day
- Thursday, August 14** Morning: District Officers training session.
Afternoon: **Opening of convention and business meeting.**
Evening: **International Night**—Dr. Robert T. Oliver of The Pennsylvania State University (Dept. of Speech) and Ian D. McIntyre of Glasgow, Scotland, Governor of District 18, will be among the featured speakers.
- Friday, August 15** Morning: **First Educational Session:** A symposium of speakers will discuss how each aspect of Toastmasters contributes to all the others.
Noon: **Fellowship Luncheon:** Toastmasters' annual fun and relaxation time. Fred Smith of Fred Smith Associates, writer and speaker, is featured.
Afternoon: **Second Educational Session:** Strengthening the club; how to use committees; workshops; parliamentary procedure.
Regional Speech Contests.
Evening: **President's Banquet:** Wallace Jamie, Director of Public Relations for The Carnation Company, featured speaker.
- Saturday, August 16** Morning: **Breakfast with the Founder:** Dr. Smedley brings inspiration to annual morning event.
Third Educational Session: A down-to-earth program planned to bring help to the individual member.
Noon: **Luncheon and International Speech Contest.**
Afternoon: **Fourth Educational Session:** How to make better speeches. Dr. Lionel Crocker of Denison University, speaker.
Board of Directors Meeting.

PERSONALLY SPEAKING

By RALPH C. SMEDLEY

A REMARKABLE opportunity for extending our service has been presented to Toastmasters International. Like several other opportunities, this one has come without any solicitation on our part. It may be counted a very encouraging and complimentary reaction to Toastmasters training.

This opportunity has come in the demand for training to be given to special groups in various situations in which it is not expedient to organize and charter a regular Toastmasters Club. Such special groups exist in hospitals and reformatories, as well as in some industrial projects, and even in high schools and colleges.

We have demonstrated the value of our training by the work done by many of our Toastmasters Clubs, which have sponsored speech training for groups in their vicinity. This has been done rather unofficially, but it has produced results.

Medical men in our Veterans' Hospitals and similar institutions have found speech training a valuable instrument in helping patients to re-orient themselves. In various reformatory institutions, the training has contributed much to the rehabilitation of men, and preparation for their return to society. In educational institutions, it has helped students to gain practical experience as a supplement to classroom instruction. Requests have been coming from an increasing number of groups needing our training; steps have been taken to meet the need.

A policy has been adopted by the Board of Directors, providing for organization of special groups under the name of "Gavel Clubs," to which our training can be made available at small cost, and without formal chartering as Toastmasters Clubs. The title as provided is "The Gavel Club . . . affiliated with Toastmasters International."

Regulations as to membership such as we have in the Toastmasters Club are omitted, making it possible for ineligible groups to be benefited by the work.

It appears to me that this is one of the most stimulating opportunities for service ever presented to Toastmasters. We have something which men need, and here is our chance to share it with them. We do not promote nor solicit such clubs, but stand ready to help when the need appears.

This project does not require sponsorship by Toastmasters Clubs. Any group interested in our service may write directly to the Home Office at Santa Ana, asking for information on the formation of a Gavel Club. This will be sent promptly, and all necessary aid will be provided.

I am enthusiastically interested in seeing our simple process of developing men through practice in self-expression put to such a constructive use. I believe that we shall have reason to take pride in what may thus be accomplished.

Speaking Editorially

THE OSTRICH ATTITUDE

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it," wrote Thomas Paine in 1777.

A little over a year ago, we published in this magazine a brief editorial entitled "In Praise of Controversy." It elicited very little reader response. Of course this may have been because nobody read it. Naturally we prefer to think our readers accepted the premise that controversy should not be shunned, that ideas must be subjected to the "test of truth" in "the competition of the market place."

We revert to the subject because many people—TV broadcasters, school boards, even Toastmasters clubs, seem to prefer avoiding important subjects because they are controversial. Unanimity is confused with harmony, and harmony is sought above honesty.

The world today is confronted by issues which must be faced if we are to endure as a people in a world worth living in—a world of freedom and opportunity. Since these issues involve our very existence, they arouse passionate feelings, pro and con. To name only a few, we have: segregation vs. integration, foreign aid, disarmament, atom bomb testing, labor unions, the UN and UNESCO.

These subjects invite prejudice, violent emotional reactions unsupported by reason and incapable of enduring discussion. Prejudice is a dangerous attitude, and one which has never satisfactorily settled any question.

In spite of this knowledge, we still encounter the notion that it is dangerous to rock the boat, to stand up and be counted for our convictions, to face prejudice with reason, passion with logic. The price of courage is often the loss of popularity. It is a price we seem increasingly reluctant to pay.

We are becoming too much like the ostrich, who is said to bury his head in the sand at the approach of trouble. If we don't see it, it isn't there. Whom do we fool?

If our clubs operate on a tacit "gentleman's agreement" to avoid controversy at all costs, we do not have strong club bonds—and we have failed to grasp the true values of communication. If we cannot discuss ideas of vital importance, then what good is communication anyway? True, we can keep our talks and our table topics in the quiet and shallow waters of "My Most Embarrassing Moment" or "How to Sell Vacuum Cleaners." We can acquire a certain glibness from this exercise. Best of all, we can achieve a com-

fortable unanimity, a merging with the herd, an acceptance based not upon the sharing of ideas but upon the avoidance of them.

In short, we can become an undistinguished and undistinguishable unit in the herd of ostriches. We race to the nearest patch of sand and stick our head in.

Unfortunately, the ostrich attitude always places another portion of the anatomy in a peculiarly vulnerable position.

Somewhere along the line the notion has arisen that it is reprehensible to disagree. We have been led down the garden path by the gospel of the group. The group *per se* is not always right, wise or efficient. It is merely a device for getting things done. To be strong and effective, a group must have room for individual differences. To differ from the group is not a sign of weakness or lack of social responsibility. On the contrary, a false or insincere agreement—whether from fear or desire of favor—weakens the moral fiber of the individual and lessens the value of the group decision.

Our Toastmasters clubs are forums in which to practice the art of civilized disagreement. They are places where ideas should be freely expressed.

It may be that we have laid too much stress upon the necessity for *convincing*, for "selling" an idea or plan. What if we do not persuade any listener to our way? What if we do not "make the sale"? Have we thereby failed?

Of course not! Life rarely presents us with simple choices of black or white, of yes or no, true

or false. The real value of expressing a conviction honestly arrived at and honestly upheld does not lie in the persuasion of others to our side. To bring an idea to the market place involves an invitation to general appraisal, in the course of which our own appraisal may be altered or modified, strengthened or weakened. This is a consummation to be welcomed, not feared.

The Toastmasters slogan of "stand up, speak up and shut up" does not apply only to rising, articulating audibly and concluding within the allotted time. It has the deeper imperative of standing up for our convictions, expressing them fearlessly, and listening to the other side of the question. To expect the world to be in complete conformity with our own ideas is to carry over into adulthood the demands of a child. To deny or discard our ideas because of group disapproval is to be forever adolescent.

We might ask, what good is an organization where everyone is in agreement only because they consistently avoid the realities of life? Are we not short-changing our opportunities in Toastmasters when we sacrifice free discussion to a false harmony?

We are not suggesting that we approach each meeting with a chip on the shoulder. We are not advocating the weekly mounting of a pet hobbyhorse. We do suggest that our Toastmasters training will hold greater value if we learn to disagree as agreeably as we agree.

—M.F. & D.G.

CLUB TO CLUB

Gray's Harbor Club 79 Aberdeen, Washington:

We of Club 79 feel that we have made an important stride towards bringing prospective members to meetings. Wishing to pay for guest dinners yet feeling that club funds should not be used for this purpose, we created a "guest dinner fund." Each meeting members ante up 25c each. Half of the money goes into the fund; the other half is awarded to the man voted "best table topic speaker of the evening."

To increase the fund, we used a "Pig in a Poke" table topic. Each member brought a carefully wrapped article, sold it in one minute. Proceeds were added to the fund. Such articles as a used tennis ball, a blank income tax form and a can of turtle food caused great hilarity.

Results of this plan are (1) greater interest in bringing new members, and (2) increased enthusiasm in table topics.

* * *

First State Toastmasters No. 1679 Newark, Delaware:

Topicmaster John Drewry used a good approach the other evening. He distributed accounts of actual court cases (sans decision) to each table topicker, who was asked to summarize the case and render a considered judgment. At the conclusion, John amazed us all by announcing that 11 out of 12 verdicts agreed with the verdicts actually rendered.

Compton Toastmasters 464, Compton, California

An innovation was introduced into the program last week that really tested the mettle of our members. It was cooked up by Iz Schneider and expertly performed by Bob Beacon. Bob was Toastmaster of the evening, and in the course of performing his duties, he deliberately did about ten things incorrectly. As Chief Evaluator, Iz called upon Chuck Crook to evaluate the Toastmaster. To his everlasting credit, Chuck detected and reported on eight of the mistakes. This was no mean feat, as Bob had performed so ably and injected the errors so expertly that many Toastmasters would have considered his performance outstanding—by standards other than those set by Club 464.

* * *

Granada Hills Club 2334 Granada Hills, California:

Our club and the San Fernando Toastmasters 282 recently held an exciting "Table Topics Tournament." Each club furnished two judges and 15 subjects. Subjects were drawn from a hat and talks were given alternately by the two "teams." Speakers were judged on organization, presentation, originality and audience interest. A running score was kept on a large blackboard.

It was almost a tie, but the final score ran: Granada Hills 285—San Fernando 282.

Stockham Toastmasters 818 Birmingham, Alabama:

On the occasion of our 8th birthday our club would like to display its record:

Formed in 1950, we're a company club, with full support of management, open to all male employees of Stockham Valves & Fittings, Inc.

Very seldom have we had less than a full roster of members.

Nine of our members have been in the club since its beginning.

Eleven past presidents are still active. Member Jack Marsh is a past Lt. Gov. of District 48.

All charter members not still active were guests at our birthday meeting.

* * *

Lorain Toastmasters 1791 Lorain, Ohio:

Lorain Toastmasters Club was honored recently by the selection of M. Eugene Vernon, newly-elected club president, as "Young Man of the Year" by the Lorain Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Gene is an accountant for the Ohio Fuel Gas Co., and has just been notified that he will be promoted to manager of the Oberlin, Ohio, Fuel Gas Co. He joined our club in June of '56 and has held most of the club offices.

* * *

Osage Toastmasters 1585 Bartlesville, Oklahoma:

Something new has been added to Oklahoma—a breakfast club. Osage Toastmasters, newest addition to clubs of Bartlesville, is the only club in the state which meets in the morning. Interest and attendance are at top level!

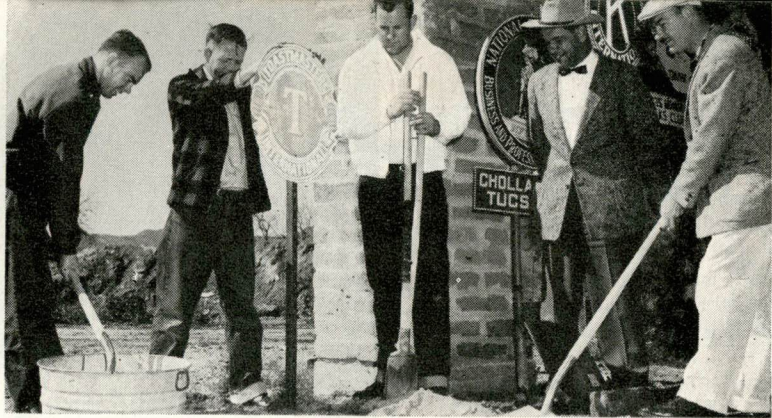
With the addition of the Osage Club, Bartlesville (pop. 25,000) now boasts four TM clubs—an unusually high number for cities of this size.



Pres. Gene Burton and 1st Pres. of club Herbert Kilgore display Stockham birthday cake

Lt Gov. (16) Travis Freeman presents charter to Osage Pres. Bob Dye

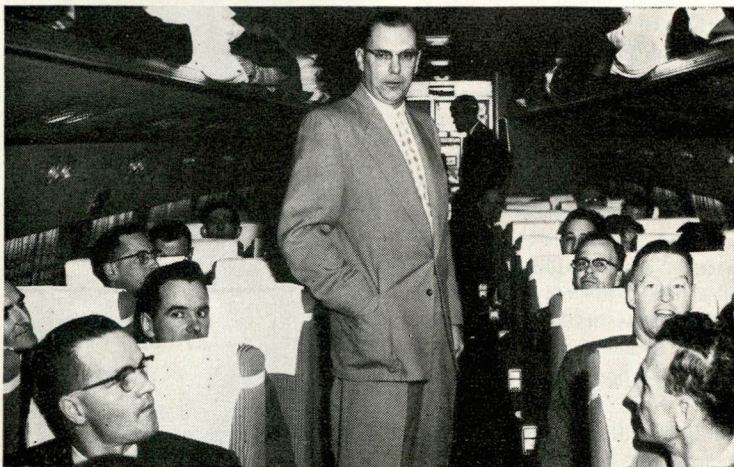




Tucson Tells the World—Tucson 1155 and Falconeer 1091 Clubs of Tucson, Arizona, join in sign planting project. L to R: Jerry Johnson, Len Gardner, Mike Shade, Christo Seterlis, George Papa



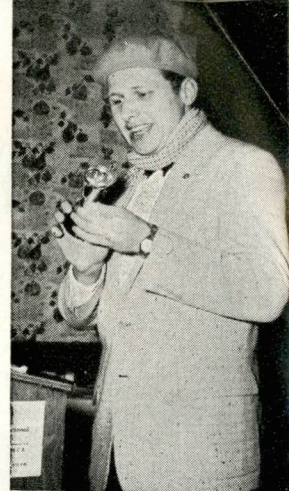
High and Mighty—TM Glen Acheson addresses Winnipeg Skyliners 831 during meeting held aloft. Pres. Wally Simon thanks TCA Stewardesses for wonderful flight



Welcome Aboard—Int. Treas. George J. Mucey greets Weirton, W. Va., Club 2353. L to R: Mucey, Robert J. Leach, Pres.; George Schwerka, Pres. pro-tem

Impromptu Impersonations—Oscar Awards Night at Speakers Forum Club 371, Chicago, featured Ray Wakefield, Ed. V-P, as "Walter Winchisel"; Tony Schoeffler as "Alec Grinless"; Bob Wilson, Admin. V-P, as "Walt Disnip"

Silver-tongued Brass: Members of San Diego's Flying Toastmasters 203 display "best speech of week" trophies. L. to R: LCDR Jack Felsman, LCDR Bill Davis, Lt. Bill Campbell, LCDR Bill Burgin, Capt. Tom Walker, LCDR Bill Koepcke, CDR Rudder Kieling, CDR Chuck Aikens, Lt. Bill Golding





Ott explains evaluation

**West Hills Club 1249
Cincinnati, Ohio:**

Ed Ott of our club was asked to be guest evaluator at an early meeting of the newly formed Evendale Club. In his speech on evaluation, he explained the use and advantages of a well-planned evaluation sheet.

The Evendale Club is organized within the AVCO Mfg. Corp., where Ed is a Senior Process Engineer.

We are also happy to report ten members on Beyond Basic, and considerable activity in the Exchange Speakers program.

* * *

**Inglewood Toastmasters 114
Inglewood, California:**

Our club recently celebrated its twentieth birthday with a party attended by the club's founder, Conrad Jongewaard, twenty-four past presidents (seven of them still active members) and fifty-five members, wives and guests.

Honored guests were Earl and Lola Coffin. Earl, a past International Director, was a charter member of our club. Earl and Lola were presented with a plaque for their many contributions to the activities of the club.

Speakers' panel included past presidents Bob Irwin, Al Gurash, Jack White and Lynn Garderer.

* * *

**Lynwood Toastmasters No. 423
Lynwood, California:**

Our club did something a little different last month. Pres. Jerry Bleeker had a member buy enough 50c paper-bound books to distribute to each member—sight unseen. At a later meeting each man gave a book report. As a result, the club was brought up to date on twenty books and a different type of speech was delivered.

This Family Has Its Own TOASTMASTERS CLUB

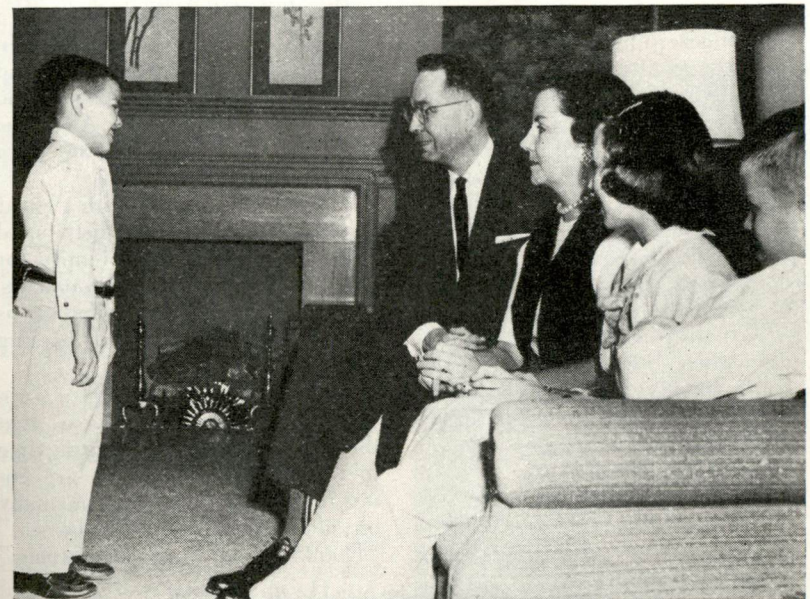
By LUKE GREENE

In fact, the Tates are somewhat in the trail-blazer class, for they have organized what may well be the first family Toastmasters Club.

In case you're unfamiliar with the function of a Toastmasters Club, its purpose is to make public speakers out of those who get stage fright when they have to talk to a group.

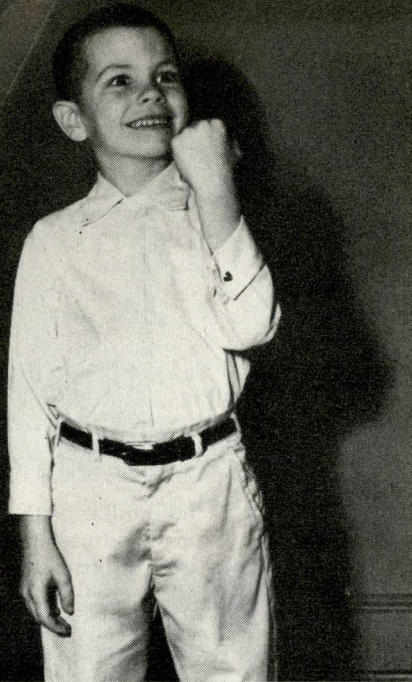
THE TELEVISION set is getting some keen competition in the James H. Tate household at 3854 Wieuca Terrace, NE, Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Tate, Donna and Steve listen enrapt while Jimmy speaks



**Tallahassee Toastmasters 1135
Tallahassee, Florida:**

Ed. V-P Maurice King has assembled aid kits for the Toastmaster, Topicmaster and Chief Evaluator. These contain pertinent literature from the Home Office and elsewhere, suggestions and instructions, and topical information (changed each month). At each meeting, the kit is passed on to the next man scheduled for the post.



"The country demands ACTION!"

Highly-paid business executives sometimes join such a big-city club as a means of overcoming their fear of appearing before an audience.

The Tates decided it might be a good idea if they got a little training of this kind as a family group, and the result was organization of their own club which, of course, includes their three children.

Actually the idea was born one day when Steve, 9, came home from Sunday School and said he had been elected president of his class, but wouldn't accept the job because he didn't know how to "give those reports."

That set Mr. and Mrs. Tate to thinking. They agreed they didn't

(Reprinted by permission from *The Atlanta Journal*)

feel too much at home before an audience, and if their children were showing the same tendencies, maybe it was time to do something.

So they talked the matter over with the children and sold them on the idea of a meeting about once a week when every member of the family would get up and make a short talk, followed by criticism from the others.

The results have been gratifying in the few weeks that the club has been going. Everybody has improved and the family is still excited about the whole thing.

In fact, the children sometimes can't wait for meeting night to roll around. Occasionally at the dinner table they'll toss out the question: "Why don't we have a meeting of Toastmasters tonight?"

On the night when there is a meeting everybody assembles in the living room—Mr. Tate and his wife, Ellen; Steve; Dana, who is 11, and Jimmy, 7. All three children are students at Sara Smith Elementary School.

Mr. Tate has beside him a sheaf of note paper, which is distributed to each member of the family for putting down critical comments. Jimmy, the youngest member, is usually given the job of passing these around.

Beforehand, of course, a subject has been selected so that the speakers can have a little time to think about what they are going to say. The talks are normally on such subjects as "Halloween," "Thanksgiving" and "Christmas."

In the present stage of training the speeches are held to a little over a minute, but they will be lengthened as time passes and everyone gets a little more sure of himself.

The family group has agreed on a list of six questions that are used as a basis for criticism:

1. Did he speak loud enough?
2. Did he enunciate clearly?
3. Did he employ good eye contact?
4. Were the hands used properly?
5. Did he stand properly and use body correctly?
6. Was the content of the speech good, and did he express himself well?

Each listener is carefully marking his critique as a speech progresses. Sometimes an impish grin will creep across the face of one of the children as he writes his comment, especially if the target happens to be Mom or Pop.

When a speaker has finished the others take him apart—in a friendly manner, of course.

Comments run something like this: "He talked too jerky"; "there should be no sigh of relief at the end of the speech"; "he was rocking like a boat" or "he stood like his toes were nailed to the floor."

Everybody learns to take his or her criticism in good humor. In fact, that's one of the big advantages of the training. Life carries a lot of hard knocks and a person has to learn to take criticism.

Early in the game Jimmy encountered what the public speaker knows as "freezing." When he

got up to give a speech on "Halloween" he managed to squeeze out the words: "On Halloween we went trick or treating . . ."

He couldn't think of another word to say, and he just stood there, his face growing redder by the second. And finally he just dashed over to the sofa and buried his face in a pillow.

But that's all over now, and he's becoming a seasoned veteran, along with the rest.

The Tates, like most families, don't particularly care about becoming experts at public speaking. They just want to feel at ease if they have to moderate a civic club panel, discuss a problem at PTA meeting, or serve as an officer of some organization.

Moreover, their Toastmasters Club is almost as much fun as going to visit grandmother. ❖

"And furthermore . . ."





the last straw

By REX P. MERILATT

THEY HAD STIRRED paint with my best file—*my best file!* I popped my cork.

After the initial release of well-founded expostulation, I decided, not too calmly, to analyze the situation. I decided to list the liabilities and assets of my family—wife and daughter—and determine whether or not they were worth the trouble. Starting with the liabilities, of course!

For instance, there always seems to be a dripping faucet somewhere, not quite turned off. It's always the hot one, too. I have an electric water heater. I also have startling electric bills.

And the lights! There are always a few that don't need to be on. There is an interesting side-light to this particular grievance. The other night I woke up from watching TV, and noticed several unnecessary lights on. I decided to teach my family a lesson. I went through the house turning

every light on. I didn't know there were so many.

However, this turned out to be an extremely effective lesson. Believe me, I'll never do *that* again. Guess who turned the lights off? I spent the next week explaining to neighbors that I had *not* had a party to which they had not been invited.

Then there are the toothpaste tubes, always squeezed from the top first. The cartoon program on TV instead of the fights. The paint brush used but not cleaned. My newest razor blade borrowed to rip that seam. The gas tank always empty. The furniture always old. The neighbor's furniture always new.

The liability list was long enough, for a start. I would now list the assets.

They are attractive and lovable. They . . . I could not think of another thing. Well, I could come back to that later. Perhaps I had

better list the liabilities in order of importance and then make my decision.

However, I found it difficult to decide upon the most severe liability. In fact, the more I studied the list, the less important they all seemed. And the one asset began to seem more and more important. Yes, that file was a good one—it cost about forty cents. Why, that cork I lost cost more than that. And the water bill—always less than an oil change for my boat. The light bill—well, what about that last poker game? And I always manage to squeeze enough toothpaste for my needs.

I had made a startling discovery. That one asset was *all* they needed. All they had to do to make my life happy was to remain attractive and lovable, and I would be able to take these not-so-glaring liabilities in my stride.

This discovery started me thinking about "last straw" situations in general. We meet many such situations throughout our lives. If we continually permit ourselves to "pop our cork" I doubt if many of them contribute much to our dispositions and our reputations.

Some people may argue that a blow-up has a certain therapeutic value in release from tensions, prevention of frustrations, et cetera, et cetera. This may be true, and I am certainly not going to argue about it. But I have noticed that a hair-trigger temper and a tendency to blow off steam are not qualities that cause a man to be held in affection and esteem by his fellow men.

No, there's a better way of

avoiding tensions and tempers. We can use our Toastmasters training in evaluation and logic. We can analyze the situation objectively, and plan our course of action from there.

Too many of us let our emotions take over when they ought not, often with disastrous results. These are the times when we should apply our Toastmasters policies of self-evaluation and sound reasoning. Several years ago while I was club president, attendance began to fall off. There came a crucial meeting when only three of us showed up. Surely this was a "last straw" situation.

However, with each others' help, we were able to analyze the situation and develop a solution. We held special meetings, organized a membership drive and began to build back. It would have been easier to fly off the handle and quit—but today we have an active and interested club.

The next time you encounter a "last straw" situation, stop and think, and apply the lessons you have learned through your Toastmasters training. The benefit and the profit will be enormous.

Excuse me just a minute. I have to go turn out the porch light my family left on. ♦

Rex P. Merilatt, immediate Past Governor of District 22 (Kansas and Missouri) is an airport engineer in the Airports Division of the Civil Aeronautics Administration. A member of Kansas City's Aeronautics Toastmasters 559, he has served two terms as club President.

Letters to the Editor

(Because of obvious space limitations we often print only pertinent portions of letters received. While only signed letters will be considered for publication, names of writers will be withheld on request.—Editor)

The Nationwide Insurance Toastmasters Club 753 completed a specially prepared and very fine Speechcraft program on February 24. Speechcraft and a regular program were combined in a two-hour program with Speechcraft held at 5 p.m. and the regular program at 6 p.m. Twenty-three men enrolled and twenty-one men received speechcraft certificates on the final night.

Speechcraft, as a means of promoting executive development, has been accepted as a part of the Sales Training program for Nationwide Insurance Company Agents and District Sales Managers.

H. N. Anderson
Area Gov. D. 40
Columbus, Ohio

I believe Dr. DuBridge (*The Toastmaster*, March, page 2) has accepted an error very common among men who spend a life in contemplating the order of the universe. They become loyal to the processes of intellect rather than loyal to their fellow man. . . . The erroneous belief that people can be controlled by law and formula rather than by leadership; that people can be classified rather than dealt with individually; that their conduct can be based on statistics rather than conscience; that they want security rather than opportunity; that they make decisions by intellect rather than character. . . and that intellect can control its own destiny rather than reliance on a higher power, are examples.

Thos. J. Callaghan, M.D.
Sacramento, Calif.

It was rather interesting to note old Malthus resurrected in Dr. Lee A. DuBridge's article in the March issue of *The Toastmaster*. Strange what little faith some scientists have in the Almighty. They apparently believe He created a world which is incapable of providing for the needs of man without man's deliberately planned intervention.

However, Dr. DuBridge need not concern himself with the earth's capacity, as for man with his puny needs the resources of the earth are infinite. Someday man may discover that there are laws which regulate the number of humans existing on this earth, but the writer is certain they will be found to inhere within man himself and have no relation to the finite size of the earth.

O. B. Johannsen
Garden State TM's 1049
Roselle Park, N. J.

The address by Lee DuBridge in the March issue of *The Toastmaster* entitled "Science—a Link Between Nations" is by far the best article I have read on this subject. I wish it were available to many, many people. . . .

May I congratulate you on obtaining such material, and especially this one, for use in the official publication of Toastmasters International.

J. M. Scholl
Associate Professor, Iowa
State College
Ames Toastmasters 569

Congratulations to the alert editor or officer who brought Lee DuBridge's address to *The Toastmaster's* readers! Articles of such stature enhance the already excellent stature of our journal!

Hal Crispell
Naval Electronics
Club 2539
San Diego, Calif.

Harold Brigham's article "Your Library Offers . . . Come and Get It" in the March issue of *The Toastmaster* is a most effective contribution to the cause of a better-read America.

We are most pleased with this support and want to express our deepest appreciation to you.

Virginia H. Mathews
Field Organization, National
Library Week
New York, N. Y.

Agree and applaud your stand against stereotype group pictures, re March, 1958, *The Toastmaster*.

Am sure your Public Relations Manual will help Toastmasters in general and Gov. Highland in particular.

B. C. Kee
Metropolitan TM's 348
St. Louis, Mo.

What can be done by the club when the local newspaper staff mutilates any stories that aren't deadly dull. Myself and other members have had this same "editing."

Name withheld on request. We suggest first, a study of our *Public Relations Manual*, and second, a frank talk with the editor of your local paper. You may be holding differing views on what constitutes "deadly dull."—ED.

Here is my check for a copy of "A Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage." The book review plus the authors' names convinced my wife that this was a book that I had to have. Since I concurred with her, we are looking forward to the opportunity to enjoy ourselves and at the same time improve our use of the English language.

Robert P. Swan
Marietta, Ga.

You will be happy to know that our last several ladies' nights have been great hits with the distaff set. We are now getting far less static about the weekly night "out with the boys."

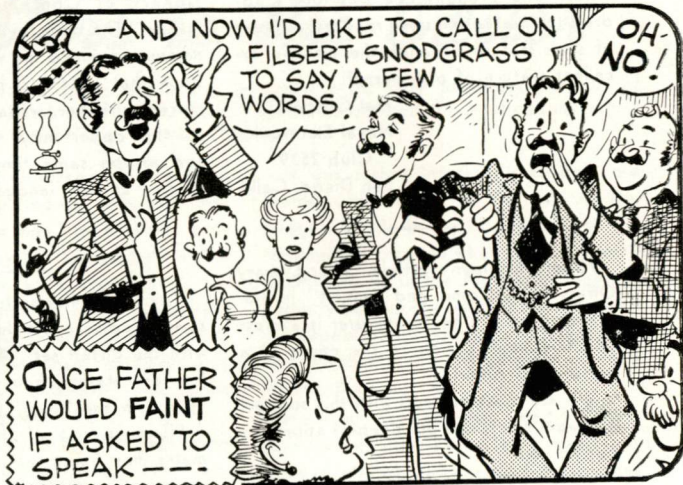
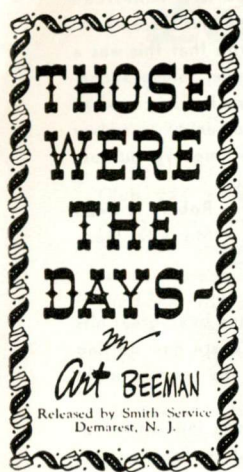
However, one of these inquisitive females has heard about a Toastmistress organization that seems to be invading the field. . . . Personally, I shudder to think of my wife with more vocal varieties than she has already without formal training.

Yet we have promised to inquire, so if you can enlighten us on the subject, they will appreciate it.

R. D. Bishop
Chase Field TMs 2386
Beeville, Texas

Although the men might wish it otherwise, the ladies have every right to improve their speaking abilities, and we have always enjoyed friendly relations with the Toastmistress organization although there is no official connection between us. We would suggest that the interested ladies write the vice-president in charge of membership of the *International Toastmistress organization*, for information relative to the formation of such a club. Her name and address will be furnished by the Home Office of *Toastmasters International* upon request, or you may contact any of the *Toastmistress Clubs* in your area.—ED.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS



When the above cartoon, appearing in the *Dundee and West Omaha News*, was brought to the attention of the Editors of *THE TOASTMASTER*, we immediately wrote to Cartoonist Beeman for permission to reproduce, asking at the same time for a biographical sketch, and whether or not he was a Toastmaster. He replied:

"As to myself, I certainly AM a Toastmaster . . . I have been a member of the famous "Rose Bowl Toastmasters" 456-F, Pasadena, California, for some 15 months now, and at present I am the Administrative Vice President . . . I was formerly the Secretary.

"My profession is: Art Director of Technical Publications of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena, California. I have been with J.P.L. for over six years, and am proud of the very small part that I had in putting up above the world the first U.S. Satellite, The Explorer.

"My comic strip is a side-line to my technical art work and gives vent to my humorous facet. It is released through Smith Service, of Demarest, New Jersey, and the American Press Association. The strip has been syndicated for 7 years and now appears once a week in 117 newspapers in the U. S. and Canada.

"As Administrative V.P. I am doing all I can to promote Toastmasters and acquire new members to the worthy cause, as you can see by my strip."

By ART BEEMAN

But NOW-WOW!



Disarmament is like a party. Nobody wants to arrive until everyone else is there.

The four-hour day will bring many changes into our lives. For example, we'll have to reschedule the coffee breaks.

No, Junior, that bowlegged man isn't a cowpoke. He's just been straddling the floor hump in a late-model car.

New figures from AT&T show that Canadians and Swedes spend more time on the telephone than Americans, proving that the yak is a far-ranging beast.

—Changing Times

Boss: What's this big item on your expense account?

Salesman: That? That's my hotel bill.

Boss: Well, don't buy any more hotels.

Johnny had just returned from his first day at school. "I'm not going tomorrow," he told his mother.

"Why not?"

"Well, I can't read and I can't write and they won't let me talk, so what's the use?"

1st Secretary: Is your boss' dictation hard to take?

2nd ditto: Well, I do have to take a lot for grunted.

Said one firefly to another: "Yesterday a scientist was looking at me with a microscope. But I soon stopped that."

"What did you do?"

"I just turned on my light and blinded him."

"Why did you buy that new fur coat?" roared the irate husband.

"Well," confessed his wife, "I guess Satan tempted me."

"Then why didn't you say, Get thee behind me, Satan?"

"I did—and he looked over my shoulder and said, 'Fits you real good in the back, too.'"

It's a free country. If you don't like the weather here, you can always move somewhere else and not like the weather there, either.

Why worry about growing old? When you stop growing older, you're dead.

New Clubs

(As of April 15, 1958)

- 105 COEUR d'ALENE, Idaho, (D-9), *Lake City*, Tues., 6:30 p.m., Templin's Grill, 1st & Sherman Avenue.
- 240 PULLMAN, Washington, (D-9), *Veterinary*, Alt., 9:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m., Sun., Wilson Compton Union Room 207, Pullman.
- 245 KELLOGG, Idaho, (D-9), *Kellogg*, Mon., 6:30 p.m., Sunshine Inn.
- 285 BRIDGEPORT, Washington, (D-9), *Columbia*, Thurs., 6:00 p.m., Resident Engineer's Office, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- 544 INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, (D-11), *Indianapolis Water Co.*, 1st & 3rd Wed., 5:00 p.m., 1220 Speedway Avenue.
- 886 VISALIA, California, (D-27), *Mineral King*, Tues., 6:30 p.m., McDonald's Drive Inn, 110 N. Floral.
- 948 KANSAS CITY, Missouri, (D-22), *Cities Service Oil Co.*, every other Mon., 5:00 p.m., 3435 Broadway, Kansas City.
- 1530 CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee, (D-43), *Thursday-Thirty*, Thurs., 6:00 p.m., Gulas Restaurant, 1516 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga.
- 1662 BIG BEAR LAKE, California, (D-F), *Bear Valley*, 2nd & 4th Wed., 7:00 p.m., Navajo Hotel, Highway 30, Big Bear Lake.
- 1736 BERMUDA, Kindley AFB, (D-U), *Mid-Ocean*, Alt. Wed., 12:00 noon, Teen Town Club Room, Kindley AFB, Bermuda.
- 1939 ALEXANDRIA, Virginia, (D-36), *Vox Pop*, 2nd & 4th Tues., 7:00 p.m., Anchorage Club.
- 2133 SITKA, Alaska, (D-U), *Totem*, Mon., 6:30 p.m., Kiksadi Club, Sitka.
- 2234 PARMA HEIGHTS, Ohio, (D-10), *Mid-Park*, Alt. Wed., 6:00 p.m., Pacino Restaurant.
- 2258 ORLANDO, McCoy AFB, Florida, (D-47), *Vapor Trails*, Alt. Thurs., 11:30 a.m., McCoy Air Force Base.
- 2376 CLEVELAND, Ohio, (D-10), *A.I.M.*, Wed., 5:00 p.m., Euclid Athletic Club.
- 2451 OSAN, Osan Air Base, Korea, (D-U), *Osan Air Base Officers' Club*.
- 2468 CASABLANCA, Nouasseur AB, Morocco, (D-U), *El Khatib*, Tues., 11:45 p.m., NCO Club.
- 2469 POINT MUGU, NAMTC, California, (D-12), *Ascent*, 2nd & 4th Wed., Beach Dining Room, U. S. Air Missile Test Center.
- 2565 ALICE, Texas, (D-56), *Alice*, Tues., 6:30 p.m., Alice Country Club.
- 2658 DETROIT, Michigan, (D-28), *Union Carbide*, Mon., 5:15 p.m., UCC Bldg., 10421 W. Seven Mile, Detroit.
- 2676 MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota, (D-6), *Robin Hood*, Wed., 5:00 p.m., Andrews Hotel, Pioneer Room.
- 2703 NAPLES, Italy, (D-U), *Di Napoli*, Tues., 7:00 p.m., The Allied Officers' Club, Bagnoli, Naples.
- 2704 EUREKA, California, (D-57), *Eureka*, Wed., 7:00 p.m., Walt's Famous Steak House, 2331 Broadway, Eureka.
- 2713 SEATTLE, Washington, (D-2), *Mortgage Bankers*, Wed., 12:00 noon, Mayflower Hotel, 4th & Olive Way, Seattle.
- 2720 MIDLAND, Texas, (D-44), *Wall Street*, Mon. 6:30 p.m., Grace Lutheran Church, 1606 West Wall.
- 2731 FLORA, Illinois, (D-8), *Flora*, Mon., 7:30 p.m., Flora Township High School.
- 2733 SHARON, Pennsylvania, (D-13), *Shenango Valley*, 2nd & 4th Thurs., 5:30 p.m., Villa Nova Restaurant.
- 2734 CHICAGO, Illinois, (D-30), *Zenith*, 2nd & 4th Thurs., 5:30 p.m., Belvedere's Restaurant, 6012 W. Grand Avenue.
- 2735 GUELPH, Ontario, Canada, (D-60p), *Royal City*, Mon., 6:00 p.m., The Royal Hotel, Guelph.
- 2736 VICTORIA, Texas, (D-56), *Greater Victoria*, Mon., 6:30 p.m., Mamma's Cafeteria.
- 2738 BUFFALO, New York, (D-34), *Buffalo Frontier*, Mon., 7:00 p.m., Kenmore YWCA, Kenmore, New York.
- 2740 ASHEVILLE, North Carolina, (D-37), *Dogwood*, Tues., 6:15 P.M., Battery Park Hotel.
- 2741 SANTA MONICA, California, (D-50), *General*, Mon., 5:45 p.m., General Telephone Co., 7th St.
- 2742 ENTERPRISE, Oregon, (D-33), *Valley*, Mon., 6:15 A.M., Coyle's Cafe.
- 2743 HAGERSTOWN, Maryland, (D-36), *Antietam*, 2nd & 4th Thurs., 6:15 p.m., Alt. Howard Johnson Restaurant, US 40, East & Airview Restaurant, US 11 North Hagerstown.
- 2745 CHICAGO, Illinois, (D-30), *Men's*, 2nd Tues. & 4th Wed., 8:30 p.m., Leslie's Restaurant, 87th & Chappel.
- 2746 OMAHA, Nebraska, (D-24), *Benson*, Thurs., 6:00 p.m., Kay's Restaurant, 6031 Binney St.
- 2748 SLAYTON, Minnesota, (D-6), *Slayton*, Wed., 6:00 p.m., Clyde Morris Bakery.
- 2749 CAMDEN, New Jersey, (D-38), *Cherry Hill*, 1st & 3rd Mon., 5:45 p.m., Sans Souci Restaurant, Merchantville, New Jersey.
- 2750 WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Canada, (D-42), *Speakeasies*, Thurs., 5:30 p.m., St. Charles Hotel, Notre Dame & Albert, Winnipeg.
- 2752 PALMDALE, California, (D-12), *Convair-Palmdale*, Thurs., 12:30 p.m., Convair Aircraft Cafeteria.
- 2753 MARION, Illinois, (D-8), *Little Egypt*, Mon., 6:30 p.m., Motel Marion, Marion, Illinois.
- 2754 ESCANABA, Michigan, (D-35), *Bay de Noc*, 2nd & 4th Mon., 6:15 p.m., Delta Hotel, Escanaba, Michigan.
- 2755 NORWICH, Connecticut, (D-53), *Norwich*, 1st & 3rd Mon., 6:15 p.m., Charles Restaurant, West Thames Street, Norwich, Conn.

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Jacksonville Florida
**** 2/ 57b

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build . . .
strengthen . . .

YOUR CLUB

PLAN

SUMMER MEETINGS

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other activities can make summertime a
club asset.**