

the

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TOASTMASTER



FUNDAMENTALS

For Better Thinking—Speaking—Listening

the TOASTMASTER

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TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL is a non-profit educational organization of 1864 active clubs—located in the United States, Alaska, Australia, British Crown Colony, Canada, Channel Islands, Cuba, England, France, Greenland, Guam, Hawaii, Iceland, Japan, Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, the South Pacific Islands and Venezuela.

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Editorially Speaking

The Little Red Schoolhouse is a tradition dear to the heart of every American. It is the emblem of *fundamentals*.

Our purpose is not to argue the pros and cons of progressive education. But we believe that there was something very basic in the philosophy of "readin', 'ritin' and 'rithmetic" and even in the ponderosities of the McGuffey Readers.

Be that as it may, there is still a great need to get back to the basic fundamentals of life in our present day thinking. To this, Toastmasters subscribe wholeheartedly.

The democratic forces that underlie the thinking of the free world today demand certain rights for every person. One of the most important of these is the right of every man to be trained in the process of individual thinking and individual expression. If we are to defeat the oppressor who seeks to impose his thought and his might, if we are to escape the horrors of the police state, we must join together in a formidable front to demand such freedom. We must demand it loudly, in a voice which may be heard. And we cannot be heard unless we learn to analyze logically, think clearly and constructively, and express ourselves effectively and convincingly.

This will not be accomplished unless we cease superficially to subscribe to what seems to be the expedient pattern of the day. We must return once more to the fundamentals of life, liberty and the pursuit of true happiness as expounded and exemplified by those simple folk of yesterday who reigned in the little red schoolhouses and taught our grandparents the real meaning of the democratic way of life.

Your Toastmasters club is based on this same philosophy.

If gestures and voice modulation bog you down

WHEN my critic suggested that I was too much concerned with trying to remember what I had to say to have any opportunity to think about how I was saying it, I took it as a personal insult to myself as a speaker.

But when he continued with the suggestion that the next time I was on the formal speaking program I use the alphabet or the multiplication table to convey my thoughts, I really saw red.

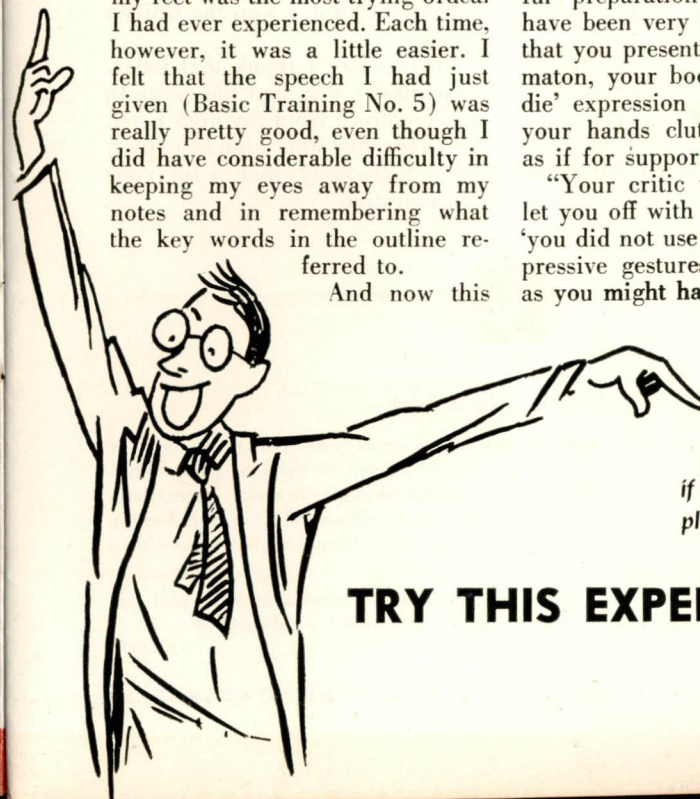
It was true that standing before an audience and trying to think on my feet was the most trying ordeal I had ever experienced. Each time, however, it was a little easier. I felt that the speech I had just given (Basic Training No. 5) was really pretty good, even though I did have considerable difficulty in keeping my eyes away from my notes and in remembering what the key words in the outline referred to.

And now this

critic, this *friend* who was supposed to help me, tossed aside with one glib remark all the hours I had spent in research and preparing an informative and interesting speech by suggesting that I might better recite the alphabet.

Then I became conscious that my critic was explaining why he had made the suggestion and how it had helped him over the same hurdle. "Last month," he was saying, "you gave your No. 4 speech, which was supposed to place the accent on gestures. It showed careful preparation and could well have been very interesting, except that you presented it like an automaton, your body rigid, a 'do or die' expression on your face and your hands clutching the lectern as if for support.

"Your critic was too kind and let you off with the statement that 'you did not use your hands in expressive gestures nearly as much as you might have done.'



if you can't find a place for your hands

TRY THIS EXPERIMENT

"Then and there, I decided to ask to be your evaluator the next time you spoke, especially because you would be demonstrating voice modulation, and I wanted to pass on to you some of the tricks of the trade which would be of great value in making a sincere and capable Toastmaster a master in the art of speaking.

"May I demonstrate just how I mean for you to use such a simple thing as the alphabet as a medium for developing voice modulation and effective gestures?" He had come to the front and faced the group as he continued: "A-B-C" (even emphatic tone with a downward movement of the right fist into the left palm) "D-E-F-G-H-I" (descending in pitch and rather deprecating in tone) "J-K-L-M-N-O" (rising to a challenge with arms outstretched) "P-Q-R-S-T-U-V" (conversationally) "W-X-Y-Z" (with a bang, arms dropped suddenly to the sides) "A-B-C-D-E" (a question, his right hand raised in query) "F-G-H-I-J-K" (a posi-

tive statement, his hands again dropped to his side in a gesture of finality)—etc.

As he continued, my higher intelligence began to grope reluctantly toward the light. Suddenly I saw the logic of his suggestion for improvement. By making a practice speech before an audience, using a sequence of sounds one had learned by rote as a child, he could direct his thoughts primarily as to how he used those sounds and how to bring into use his entire facial and bodily expression to accent and make more descriptive or emphatic the sounds he uttered.

I was grinning by the time he was through and when my next speaking assignment came along, I put my critic's idea to use—and, believe it or not, I won the Golden Gavel.

To this day I thank that fellow Toastmaster who had the nerve to pull me down from my high perch by suggesting this simple experiment. I sincerely offer it for your consideration.



As The Twig Is Bent

Four hundred years ago a gardener planted a small pine tree in one inch of soil in a shallow dish. He trimmed each root and branch as the tree grew. When he died his son took up the task, and so on down through nineteen generations. Today that tree stands, never having outgrown the original dish, in the Kuhura Gardens in Tokyo. After four hundred years it is only twenty inches high with a twisted top some thirty-six inches across.

That little tree shouts a warning to every parent. The mind and the soul can be cut back just like the tree, always with the same result—a dwarf!

—Quote

WELL, I—AH—THOUGHT

IN EVALUATING YOUR SPEECH, MR. SHURTLEFF, AH -- I FOUND JUST ONE -- ONLY ONE GLARING FAULT, A FAULT THAT REALLY PREDOMINATES, THAT IS TO SAY, AH -- OVERWHELMS THE GOOD POINTS, AND THERE ARE MANY GOOD POINTS, AH -- VERY GOOD INDEED -- YES SIR -- BUT I THOUGHT, OR RATHER FELT -- THAT IS -- IN MY OWN MIND, MY OWN PERSONAL VIEWPOINT OR IDEA -- AH -- SOME OF YOU, OF COURSE, MAY NOT AGREE WITH ME -- BUT -- AH -- OF COURSE, THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED -- I ALWAYS EXPECT THAT AS I'M SURE YOU DO TOO, WHEN EVALUATING A TALK OR, THAT IS TO SAY -- A SPEECH -- A-AH -- TALK OR SPEECH OF THIS NATURE -- I REFER, OF COURSE -- HEH -- HEH -- NATURALLY, TO MR. SHURTLEFF'S SPEECH -- THE ONE WHICH I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO EVALUATE. OR IN OTHER WORDS -- IF YOU GET WHAT I MEAN -- WELL, IT REALLY WAS A GOOD TALK -- I THOUGHT, EXCEPT -- WELL, IT DID HAVE THAT ONE GLARING FAULT, AND I FEEL THAT IN CRITICIZING A SPEECH -- THE CRITIC -- WHO IN THIS CASE IS -- AH -- ME -- I THINK, HE OWES IT TO THE SPEAKER TO POINT OUT HIS FAULT -- OR FAULTS -- WHICH, EVER THE CASE MAY -- OF COURSE, IN ALL FAIRNESS -- TO MR. SHURTLEFF, I'D LIKE TO MENTION THAT I'VE NOTICED SEVERAL OTHER SPEAKERS, GUILTY OF THIS SAME INFRACTION SO PLEASE DON'T FEEL TOO BADLY ABOUT THIS -- BUT -- WELL, I -- AH -- THOUGHT -----

YOU TOOK TOO LONG TO GET TO THE POINT!



He who, when called upon to speak a disagreeable truth, tells it boldly and has done, is both bolder and milder than he who nibbles in a low voice, and never ceases nibbling.

—Lavater

She was never a Toastmaster, so-

GOODBYE, AUNT POLLY

MY AUNT POLLY lived in an atmosphere of spice cookies and sprightly conversation. Both of them fascinated me. But there was one essential difference between the two—the spice cookies were always fresh.

"It's the thought behind the gift that counts," my Aunt Polly would say, as she tendered me a cookie. "You run along and paddle your own canoe."

Two heads were always better than one to my Aunt Polly. A fortuitous action elicited: "There's a method in his madness." It was a small world after all, time and tide waited for no man, Satan found mischief for idle hands and two wrongs never made a right. Aunt Polly had a million of them.

I like to remember her standing on her front porch, admiring the sunset. "If you saw that in a picture, you'd never believe it."

at this time. In the spirit of this memorable occasion, she would have been reminded of a story. . . .

Like John Brown, Aunt Polly's body lies a-mouldering in the grave. But sometimes I feel that her words go marching on.

But never in Toastmasters! We are learning to shun the trite, sententious and meaningless phrase. We avoid the cliché. Wornout and overworked expressions have no place in our speeches. Toward this end we are working like beavers—oops, I almost tripped up on that one! Hi, Aunt Polly!

Maybe I'd better watch out. Aunt Polly can slip in very, very easily. But she has no place in the speech of a trained Toastmaster, so in conclusion firmly I say—

Goodbye, Aunt Polly!

Aunt Polly was never a public speaker. But what wonderful opportunities she missed.

How she would have loved introducing the speaker of the evening—the man who needs no introduction—your friend and my friend, Mr. Augustus Q. Spiffledink! She would have enjoyed turning over the gavel without further ado! With whatunction would she have referred to the presiding officer—our genial Toastmaster of the evening, our esteemed co-worker, Mr. Horace Whiffenloofer!

Aunt Polly would never have been content merely to have an idea. She would have tendered a suggestion, or explored the situation and come up with a solution. Unaccustomed as she was to public speaking, she would have been prevailed upon to say a few words



Nine easy ways to

RUIN A GOOD SPEECH

By Tom O'Beirne

(Editor's Note: We were happy to receive recently a copy of *The Scottish Toastmaster*, published in Edinborough by the active and enterprising group of Toastmasters Clubs in Scotland. Similar in size and format to *THE TOASTMASTER*, it is full of interesting reading material. As we especially enjoyed an article by Tom O'Beirne entitled "Is It a Gift?" we are reprinting it in part, feeling that all Toastmasters will appreciate his droll and inimitable manner of classifying some of the attitudes and actions that will invariably ruin a good speech.)

This is not a complete catalogue, but the examples chosen will serve the purpose.

1. Bad News from Home

The speaker pores in a grief-stricken attitude over his notes, and presents the top of his head to his audience for long periods, broken only by furtive glances to see if the coffin has been removed.

2. The Lucky Dip

A fistful of crumpled paper is produced from the inside pocket, smoothed out, found to be unsatisfactory, and a further search conducted, while the Toastmaster remains at the "get set" position, and cricks his back.

3. The Maypole

In this technique, the performer works with loose quarto sheets, and flaps them around like one wrapping margarine.

4. The Kodak

Differs from No. 3 in that the quarto sheets are firmly stapled at one corner, and are swept over with finger and thumb, recalling the actions of removing a full-plate print from a dish of hypo.

5. The Yanks Are Here

Stigmatism and bad handwriting are a deadly combination. Here we have a spectacle wearer who yanks his glasses on and off a score of times, as he raises and lowers his eyes. This fascinating display of dexterity is guaranteed to be much more enthralling than any speech which accompanies it.

6. The Jimmy Shand or Accordion

A hand is placed on either side of a box lectern, and a little nervous twiddling of the fingers coupled with a swinging body will complete the illusion.

The others are: *Chataway* or *The Race for Life*, in which a fifteen minute speech is delivered in seven flat. The *Ta-Ta* or *Trance State*, in which appreciation of the speech is swamped by a growing conviction that the speaker is about to go rigid and fall on his face. *The Timeless Wonder*, who pays out his sentences so grudgingly that after two minutes, nobody cares.

Sometimes we find that a

SLICE OF GRATITUDE

is the most wonderful thing in the world

By Orren Fitzsimmons

GRATITUDE is an intangible thing. Sometimes, however, it can get so thick that one can almost slice it. Like traffic on a two-way street, it flows in two directions at the same time.

The president of the Optimist Club of which I am a member said to me: "We need a representative for our area Oratorical Contest. You are a Toastmaster; you are the proper person to train a boy to represent our club. You have five weeks to select and prepare him. We thank you for accepting this assignment."

My protests of inadequacy were completely ignored. Therefore, I decided that I would do my best to meet this challenge. I felt that it could be an opportunity to prove to myself the value of our Toastmasters Basic Training Manual—the one book I relied upon for my own speech training.

The prize for the contest was an all-expense-paid four-year scholarship. I wrote a letter to the director of the Optimist Home for Boys in Los Angeles, asking that seven boys who might be interested write a letter to me stating their reasons for wishing to enter this contest.

I made a tentative choice on the basis of the letters, and drove to Los Angeles. As I entered the Home, a youngster approached me and asked if he looked fourteen years old. Fourteen was the suggested lower age limit for contestants. I answered, "I guess you are if you say so." It turned out that this was the boy I had selected on the basis of the letters. I discovered later that he was not quite twelve.

This boy, George, was considered by society and the courts to be a juvenile delinquent. He was more familiar with peace officers than he was with his own father. He had been committed to Juvenile Hall at the age of ten, and later transferred to the Optimist Home for Boys, but still as a ward of the court. This was the boy who would teach me the value of my training.

I asked George to accept the Basic Training Manual, to study it, use it as a guide and to trust it as his speaker's bible.

George was like a chunk of clay; he could be molded to any pattern. It was a pleasure to work with him. We studied the book together, and using Basic Training

Number Six as an outline, we built a speech on the assigned topic—"Freedom, Our Most Precious Heritage."

I am sure that I learned much more than I taught. The most difficult part for me was to persuade him not to say "thank you" at the end of his speech. Finally I explained to him in this way: "George, if you write an interesting speech, with good organization, then deliver it well, the audience will thank you with their applause."

He considered the point carefully. Then he answered, "I'll buy that."

During the few weeks I worked with George, I encountered most of the problems that confront all members of the teaching profession. This teaching, however, turned out to be one of my most valuable experiences in speechcraft.

And it was valuable to George too. I wish you could have seen this little fellow perform before an audience of seventy-five adults. He was competing against what I felt to be almost insurmountable odds, against high school boys who had professional instructors in dramatics and public speaking,

who had had previous contest experience and who held a four-year age advantage. George had studied only Toastmasters Basic Training Manual for five weeks. Never before had he delivered a speech to an audience.

George gave the winning speech. I was overwhelmed. Afterward I asked him how he explained his victory against such odds. His reply was immediate: "All my life I've wondered how it would feel to have a large group of grown-ups thank me for just anything—and it was great."

Here was a boy who had been classified a juvenile delinquent, now experiencing for the first time in his life the approbation of adult society. Looking at this little guy as he accepted the area trophy, with the audience giving him a terrific ovation, was for me a tremendous reward for my efforts.

As George looked at me, the gratitude that poured from his smile was almost tangible. I could see it as mist in his eyes. I could feel it as a lump in my own throat. It was so thick you could slice it like a loaf of bread.

You've got to give, to get a slice of gratitude.



John Masefield, Britain's poet laureate, when asked what poem had given inspiration to his career, cited this verse: "Sitting still and wishing makes no person great. The Good Lord sends the fishing, but you must dig the bait."

—Look, quoted in *Quote*

It's a Good Idea ■ ■ ■

■ Diagnostic

A table topic session thoroughly enjoyed by the Breakfast Toastmasters Club (Pocatello, Idaho) found each member in the role of psychiatrist. Each was presented with a capsule "case," such as a husband and wife considering divorce after thirty years. The psychiatrist was allowed two minutes to analyze and diagnose the case and make a constructive recommendation.

■ Leave 'Em Laughing

A "Jokemaster" is the new official appointee for the Evergreen Toastmasters of Vancouver, B. C. This appointment is made for some faux pas, bloop or other misadventure, and it is the duty of the one chosen to come to the next meeting provided with a good, clean and funny joke to amuse the members. His story is the final item of the program, but in recompense, he is allowed to choose the joker for the next meeting.

■ World Championship

The Carrier Speechmasters (Syracuse, N. Y.) report a great deal of enjoyment in a recent "First Annual World Championship Speech Contest." Assigned speakers were told that they were to represent TM clubs of North and South America, Asia, Africa, England and Australia. The program was carried through in television style, with live microphones. Table topics were introductions of speakers, acknowledgements, welcomes and commercials.

The winner? He was Walt Allingham, representing England.

■ Target for Tonight

In what could truthfully be called an unusual approach, Topicmaster Parker Hess wrote his topics on small squares on one large cardboard. Each member of the Ashland (Ore.) Toastmasters Club was given a dart, which he threw at the target and thereby pin-pointed his topic.

■ Directors and Stockholders

A well-planned and carefully executed simulated directors' meeting proved most helpful and instructive to Toastmasters of the Gavel Club (Long Beach, Calif.) recently. The agenda was cleverly prepared and mailed to the members in advance. Toastmaster of the evening George Christen acted as President and Chairman of the Board, and the assigned speakers assumed the role of vice-presidents in charge of various departments and in that guise discussed an important step in company policy. The rest of the members were common stockholders, and each spoke for two minutes on the problem, in lieu of table topics.

The tremendous success of this project shows what a well thought out simulated situation can do for enjoyment and speech advancement.

■ Summer Series

Lewis-Clark Toastmasters (Lewiston, Idaho and Clarkson, Wash.) are up with the roosters these mornings and crowing with justifiable pride about the success of their summer breakfast meetings. These meetings are programmed as "come as you are—whiskers and work clothes acceptable," and emphasis is placed on parliamentary law, unusual speech situations, panel discussions and conference techniques. Special stunts and skits provide surprises and fun.

■ Pledge of Allegiance

It has been suggested by William L. Rose, Governor of Area Seven, Founders District, that since most Toastmasters Clubs open their meetings with the pledge of allegiance, perhaps some thought as to how the pledge should be said is in order.

The difficulty lies with the newly-added phrase "under God." Many people pause for a supposed comma after the phrase, and thereby destroy the rhythm. It should read "One nation under God, indivisible, etc."

■ Make a Miracle

"What would you do if you had the power to produce one miracle?" This was the thought-provoking topic given by Topicmaster Larry Wilkinson to the members of the Navesink (Fairhaven, N. J.) Toastmasters. Responses were varied, but it was unanimously agreed that the topic was one of the best.

■ Know Your Bylaws

Topicmaster Syd Miller of the Uptown (Chicago) Toastmasters combined education with a lively session of ad-libbing by calling on members to give their interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws of Toastmasters International. It was most interesting to hear some of the portions of the rules loosely defined and gave the membership a keener insight into the reasons for the control placed on them.

■ Can You Picture It

Topicmaster Chuck Buck presented a good challenge to the word-painting prowess of the members of the Grass-Valley-Nevada City (Calif.) Toastmasters. He had each member describe a picture which was hidden from the audience. As each man finished, the picture was turned around for the audience to check the accuracy of the word picture.

■ Award Givers

"I take pleasure in presenting . . ." and Ed Chase, Topicmaster of the Connecticut Yankee Toastmasters Club (New Haven, Conn.) had the participants off on making awards to valedictorians, 50-year employees, retiring officers and political chairmen. You never can tell when you will have to present the gold watch or parchment scroll, so practice helps.

■ Use Some, Drop Others

A variation of the "add a word" table topic was a recent innovation of the Oak Harbor (Wash.) Toastmasters. Each member received a slip of paper containing a new word and its definition. A two-minute speech was to be built around the word, with derivation, meaning, and use in a sentence.

Two other table topics were also used by the same group, but these called for elimination rather than addition of words. The first challenge was to talk about your job without using the pronoun "I." The second was to describe an action such as climbing a rope, throwing a ball or writing your name without using "and." A penny in the pot for each use of the forbidden word was an added incentive.

■ Finish the Story

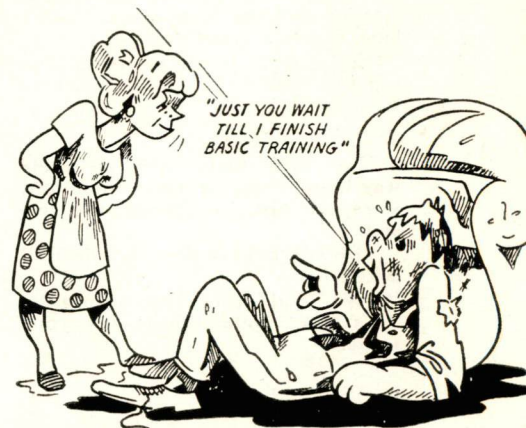
Stories by some of our best-known short story writers such as Mark Twain, O. Henry, Hemingway and others were briefly sketched to members of the International Toastmasters Club (Battle Creek, Mich.) by Topicmaster Russ Snow. At the high point, Russ stopped and called on a member to finish the story. This called for quick thinking, especially if the tale happened to be unfamiliar to the Toastmaster selected.

■ Memories

Toastmasters who did not care to divulge their age had to duck under the table when Topicmaster C. L. Duenkel of the Broadway (N.Y.) Club presented them with this one. He came armed with a collection of pictures of "ancient" celebrities, many of them stars of the silent movie era. Each member had to discuss the picture he drew.

■ It's a Good Idea—

Just to sit down and think of some good ideas yourself.



LAFF LINES



"Chlorophyll and aspirin, incorporated in a single pill," claims Bob Hope, "should be a boon to mankind. It would be the means of getting rid of a stinking headache."

Husband: "Maybe we can figure out what the problem is."

Wife: "I already know what the problem is. It's having too much month left over at the end of the money."

At a party, the learned creator of the theory of relativity was asked by his hostess to explain it "in a few well-chosen words." Einstein told a story instead.

"I was once walking with a blind man," said the scientist, "and remarked that I would like a glass of milk."

"What is milk?" asked my friend.

"A white liquid."

"Liquid I know. What is white?"

"The color of a swan's feathers."

"Feathers I know. What is a swan?"

"A bird with a crooked neck."

"Neck I know. But what is crooked?"

Einstein then explained that he took his friend's arm, straightened and then bent it to demonstrate what was crooked.

"Oh," said the blind man. "Now I know what you mean by milk."

"So," said Einstein to his hostess, "do you still want to know what relativity is?"

Two little girls were on their way home from Sunday School and were solemnly discussing the lesson.

"Do you believe there is a devil?" asked one.

"No," said the other promptly. "It's like Santa Claus; it's your father."

"With a single stroke of a brush," said the art teacher, taking his class around the national gallery, "Joshua Reynolds could change a smiling face to a frowning one."

"So can my mother," said a small boy.

John, "I'm sure I heard a mouse squeak!"

Well, do you want me to get up and oil it?"

Customer: "Are those eggs strictly fresh?"

Grocer (to his clerk): "Feel those eggs, George, and see if they are cool enough to sell yet."

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest.

Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," said the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," interrupted the politician, "somebody created the chaos first!"

Judge: "Do you challenge any of the jury?"

Defendant: "Well, I think I can lick the little guy on the end."

NO USE

Child: "God gives us our daily bread, doesn't He, Mama?"

Mother: "Yes, dear."

Child: "And Santa Claus brings the presents?"

Mother: Yes, dear."

Child: "And the stork brings the babies?"

Mother: "Yes, dear."

Child: "Then tell me, Mama, just what is the use of having Papa hang around?"

Some policewomen are so cute, it makes one feel like taking the law into one's own hands.

Impressions of

A WORLD ASSEMBLY

By Ralph C. Smedley

As an accredited reporter for THE TOASTMASTER, Editor-in-Chief Ralph C. Smedley took his place in the Press gallery at the recent celebration in San Francisco of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the charter of the United Nations in that city.

Dr. Smedley has confined himself to a factual reporting of the occasion as seen through the eyes of a Toastmaster, commenting particularly on the processes involved and the degree of excellence demonstrated by the participants in their presentation.

A FIRST impression was of the prevalence of our favored type of public speech as "amplified conversation." The speeches, almost without exception, were given in the straightforward, non-oratorical style which we, as Toastmasters, so definitely prefer. Even such impassioned speakers as Carlos Romulo of the Philippines, V. M. Molotov of the Soviet Union, and Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon spoke with earnestness and force, but without the bombastic, welkin-ringing effects which might have been expected from them.

Mr. Romulo gave an impressive exhibition of control. While of an emotional, excitable temperament, which normally would tend to cause excessive gesticulation, he had his hands and body under control so complete that his gestures were of an appropriate, timely and impressive quality.

neither too many nor too few. Mr. Molotov was on his good behavior, and he spoke with restraint and with what passed, for him, as gentility.

President Eisenhower's delivery and material were so uniformly impressive that any American could feel proud of his appearance at the opening as our representative. Secretary Dulles gave a similar impression, of knowledge, judgment and dignity, without any sense of stiffness or pomposity. Both men reflected the American spirit of tolerance and the desire for understanding.

A second impression was of the possibilities of English as a "world" language. A great many of the speeches were delivered in excellent English. Comparatively few were presented in other languages, and even the foreign accents were not noticeable to such an extent as to impede understand-

ing. One is led to hope that our tongue may yet come to be accepted as the means of communication throughout the world. Its use appears to be almost universal, even now.

Again, the observer could not fail to be impressed by the uniformity of appearance presented by people of many nations. Distinctive costumes were almost entirely lacking. Every speaker was attired in the conventional garb of the western world. Only a few of the delegates wore portions of their native dress.

Lacking the distinction in clothing, it was difficult to determine the nationality of those whom one met in the halls and foyers. Even color distinctions were virtually unnoticed, and there was no evidence of any discrimination either in the sessions, or on the street, or in hotels and restaurants. It was a cosmopolitan gathering, and San Francisco did nobly in gathering all into its hospitable fellowship.

There seemed to be a community of interest and a spirit of cooperation, not only from the platform, but among the delegates.

The program reflected a lack of imagination on the part of its planners, but we must realize that they were restricted by circumstances. Imagine arranging a program which had to include sixty speakers, representing the sixty cooperating nations, and planning it for interest as well as for factual quality.

It was done by presenting fifteen speakers each day for four days. There were seven speeches in the morning and eight in the after-

noon session, each being allotted approximately twenty minutes. Some spoke more briefly, the Brazilian representative making a record by using less than ten minutes, while Mr. Molotov set the record for length by talking for forty-five minutes. The average was fairly close to the plan, however, but the speakers who finished in less than twenty minutes were appreciated.

The voices were disappointing. Perhaps one-third of the speakers used the lower tones, which gave authority and dignity to their words, but most of them piped along in the high tenor range, some even cracking their voices in moments of especial earnestness. The few who spoke with depth of tone gave a welcome relief to listening ears: Mr. George V. Melas, of Greece, was one of the more satisfactory vocalists, as was Sir Leslie Munro, of New Zealand.

All the speeches were read, some much better than others. Many of the men fixed their eyes on the script and looked up only when they turned a page. Special mention should be made of the excellent reading style of Canadian Secretary of State Lester B. Pearson, and of Carlos Romulo, of the Philippines, as well as of Mr. Abba Eban, representative of Israel. Both President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles proved themselves masters of the art of reading.

What did this great meeting accomplish?

It gave the world a review of the achievements of the United Nations during its first decade of work, and it brought new affirma-

tion of loyalty to the Charter, and to the ideals of peace, from the member nations. It established once more the determination of the nations to preserve the peace, and their confidence that this can be done. It was a stimulating experience to observe the peaceful atmosphere and the earnest striving toward friendly understanding on the part of most of those present.

For one steeped in the traditions of the Toastmasters Clubs, it brought with new force the realization that the world would be better off if better understanding through better speaking could be established throughout the world. Almost without exception, the speakers could have profited by friendly evaluation such as could be given by any member of a Toastmasters Club, for the improvement of delivery and approach to the audience.

Peace among men comes with better understanding. This improved understanding comes with better speaking and with better listening, always reinforced by clear, unprejudiced thinking.

One deep and lasting impression is that the nations of the world need what we, as Toastmasters, have to offer—training in communication, so that all may understand and be understood, and training in discussion, so that we may share experiences. Thus our movement has a great service to perform, not only in the line of personal improvement, but in the development of better international relations. There is a challenge to all of us, individually and collectively. How can we meet it?

Depend on this one fact: The future of mankind, peace, progress and prosperity, must be finally determined by the extent to which men can be brought to a state of common and honest understanding, and the one way to promote better understanding is through better communication.

With the annual observance of United Nations Day coming in October, it is to be expected that many Toastmasters Clubs will devote one program to discussion of the organization, its aims, its accomplishments, its shortcomings and its future.



It's a good idea to keep your words soft and sweet, because you never know when you'll have to eat them.

—Dave Garroway

"A man cannot speak but he judges and reveals himself. With his will, or against his will, he draws his portrait to the eye of others by every word. Every opinion reacts on him who utters it."

—Emerson

TOASTMASTERS TOTEM POLE



Who is top man on the Toastmasters Totem Pole? Well, of course, that's no deep mystery. Everyone knows that it's *Bill Toastmaster* himself, the guy that the whole thing's about. And Bill knows, too, how many seasoned and experienced men form the basic structure of Toastmasters training. Their function is to help him in his quest for self-improvement and development of leadership potential.



Who ranks next to Bill? The *Club Officer*, to be sure. He too is experiencing the strength and inspiration of the solid structure that is Toastmasters. From this structure he derives the leadership which can guide his club to higher and ever higher accomplishment.



The middle spot is a tough spot, but Mr. *Area Governor* rides it with confidence. He's a vital and important member of the clan, with ever expanding duties and responsibilities. He's the contact man, with a weather eye out for club progression in his area and a swift readiness to cooperate with his District Governor in passing along the training objectives of Toastmasters International.



Who has heavy responsibilities? Naturally, the *District Governor* knew when he accepted the important post of field representative of Toastmasters International that the job carried responsibility. He studies his District Manual to determine how best he may function as an executive supervisor in guiding, coordinating and strengthening his district in sure and steady growth of service to Bill Toastmaster.



Who is low man on the Toastmasters Totem Pole? Believe it or not, it's the *International Officers and the Home Office Staff*. Their's is the challenge of administering wisely the tremendous responsibilities and the infinite detail that belong to a widespread, growing and functioning organization of 60,000 members. It is their determination, as they sit at the base of operations, that they shall not fail this task.

It's a clan, Toastmasters, a tightly-knit family unit bound together with ties of trust and affection, and marching forward with a common purpose toward a common goal.



FOR READING OUT LOUD!

By Arthur E. Martin

IT WAS very comforting to have the complete manuscript before you when you read that speech out loud. Gone was the fear of forgetting. There was no groping for the right words, no problem of organization. But—did you put it across? If an honest answer to that question doesn't make you feel uncomfortable, you have mastered one or the other of two arts: reading aloud effectively or of fooling yourself.

If your speech made a splash with the audience about like a birdseed dropped into a goldfish bowl, don't be discouraged. Try it again. Only next time read aloud the way you talk, not the way you read silently. There is a definite difference.

When reading out loud, most people read sentences. They slow down a little for commas, and pause at the end of each sentence. With sentences of normal length, the result is a monotonous drone that lulls the listeners to sleep.

When speaking, we pause between phrases. Spoken phrases in general run from one to seven words in length. There is a good reason for this. The ear simply

does not comprehend as rapidly as the eye. A speaking rate of 150 words per minute is rapid, and is comparable to a reading rate of 500-1000 words per minute. Of course, there are rapid-fire talkers who can exceed the 150-word rate by a wide margin.

So bear in mind the fact/ that the ear/ is slower than the eye/ the next time you read a speech/. Pause a moment/, or draw out the last w-o-r-d/ just before each diagonal l-i-n-e/ to give the effect of a pause/. If your written speech/ does not lend itself to this treatment/ re-phrase it so that it will/. Try reading this paragraph as expressively as you can/ out loud/. When you get the feel of it/ try it on your own speech/. Break it up into phrases/ which feel natural to you/. Pattern it after your o-w-n/ speaking habits/. You have your own/ natural speaking rhythm/. That is the line to strive for/. Use the pauses/ for a glimpse at the next two or three phrases/ and you will be able to maintain good eye contact/ most of the time/.

(Continued on page 29)

HOW TO COMMIT SUICIDE

(In one easy lesson)

By Mel Anderson

Do you know how to commit suicide? I doubt if you do. According to the newspapers, many people make the attempt and fail. That is because they do not know how to do it properly. In an effort to be of service, I have prepared some ideas which will help.

Committing suicide successfully depends upon the method used. There are many types of methods, all more or less practicable, but the one I have chosen to discuss is the one that has been proved to produce the best results. I refer to the automobile accident.

An automobile is the best weapon to use in committing suicide for three reasons: it is quick, clean and convenient. Practically everyone drives a car. I shall use it to explain my method.

First, let us project our thoughts forward, to the time just after this deed has been performed. How will your family feel? They'll feel *sad*, won't they? All right, let's write that down. S-A-D. In fact, they will probably be doubly sad, so let's double up those letters. S-S-A-D-D.

Now this first *S* means *speed*. This is the best way to commit suicide in a car. Over one-third of the fatalities in automobile accidents are due to excessive speeds. This method is quick and convenient. All you have to do is to get out on the highway, travel eighty miles an hour and run into another car or a telephone pole. You will wake up in the halls of Heaven to the sweet music of harps.

(A construction analysis of a humorous speech.)

The Introduction:

The author smacks you right in the face with an idea you have probably never contemplated before. You are intrigued. Is he serious or is the well known tongue in his cheek?

Bridging the gap:

Here he prepares you.

For instance:

At this point he launches into the main body of his speech. You begin to realize he is dead serious, but is using the idiotic approach to more forcibly impress upon you the idea he has to sell.

He employs a gimmick—(a good idea) which not only gives him an excellent and easily remembered outline of his speech continuity, but furnishes the listener with a key by which he may be more apt to retain the "sales arguments" presented.

The next *S* in our key word stands for *sleep*. You simply doze off and never wake up—in this world, that is. But let me give you a word of warning. Be sure that you are traveling fast when you get sleepy. You are trying for a suicide, not a mere accident that will only leave you crippled. So go especially fast at night. Smoking helps, too, only be sure you use both hands to light your cigarette. This will kill you more quickly than lung cancer.

Our next letter is *A*—for *angleworming*. This means weaving in and out of traffic. It's what the high horsepower and fast pickup are installed in your car for. But remember—don't ever pass a car when the road ahead is clear. Always pass on blind curves and bad hills. And pass quickly.

Our fourth item is *D*, which stands for *defective*. This includes defective brakes, defective steering, defective tires and headlights. If you will carefully inspect the mechanics of your car and make sure that everything possible is in poor working condition, you can be reasonably sure of a successful suicide.

The last letter in our key word is *D*—for *drinking*. You knew I wouldn't miss that one, didn't you? There is no better way to help yourself to a happy ending than to drink a lot before driving your car. It is an easy, happy-go-lucky way to end it all. It is quick and painless. Regardless of anything you hear, gasoline and alcohol *do* mix well together. They make embalming fluid.

So there you are, folks, five simple rules to follow and you can't fail. Try any one of these methods, or use a combination of two or more. I recommend particularly a combination of speed and drinking. Take that last snort, stamp on the throttle, and the job is practically done.

So in conclusion, let me leave you with this one great thought: "Drive carelessly! Insist upon your *rites!*"

He uses five examples which are usually too many for effectiveness. But in this instance, where the humorous aspect predominates, it does not lessen the "read on" interest.

His examples are well chosen and the reader may easily picture himself in similar situations and thus follows along, rather enjoying the backhand strokes of presentation that pack a punch for accident prevention and careful driving.

The winderupper:

Here, in effect, the speaker recapitulates his points by suggesting the even more effective use of his examples in various combinations.

Final punch line.

What's Going On

● Timely Topic

The Earlybirds (Seattle, Wash.) Toastmasters really had a timely topic at a recent meeting when the members were discussing the subject "What do you plan to do during the test evacuation?" Shortly after the two minute speeches had started, the actual test occurred, and sirens interrupted the meeting. A number of members who had duties during the test had to leave.

The topic was changed to read "What had you planned to do," and those members who had a part in the exodus were called upon the following week to tell what they had learned from their "real" experience.

● Icebreaker

For an outstanding special event, the Tarsus Toastmasters of St. Louis recently chartered the new excursion boat *Thunderbird* on her maiden voyage. District Governor Joe and Mrs. Tragesser were honor guests as they sailed up the Mississippi River and through the new multi-million dollar Chain-of-Rocks Locks. The weather was frigid but everyone had a wonderful time and they have dubbed the occasion "The Tarsus Icebreaker."

Shown on deck are Ed Renshaw, Pres.; Francis Lansing, Treas.; Lester Katz, Sgt. at Arms; Joe Tragesser, Gov. Dist. 8; Richard Hoeman, Ed. V. P.; and John Walsh, Sec.



● Pep Capsule

District conferences are not usually considered *news* by the Editors and as a result are not often mentioned in the columns of THE TOASTMASTER.

But our attention has just been called to an extremely clever stunt used by District 35 (Wisconsin) in promoting its Spring Conference at Milwaukee. We feel that it warrants commendation.

Governor Bernard S. Zimmermann and Publicity Chairman John Turck, realizing that a Spring Conference is an excellent spring tonic for spring fever and its accompanying lassitude, composed a vitamin capsule which was mailed to all members. When opened, the capsule contained an excellent prescription—an announcement of the conference.

Vitamins presented at the conference were of a different type, since they were absorbed by the eye and ear rather than the mouth or stomach. But all agreed that the tonic prescription was an excellent builder-upper for that tired feeling.

The reproduction at the right pictures the announcement, which was tightly rolled and inserted in a capsule.

● United Nations

Be sure and read Dr. Smedley's special report on page 11.

VITAMIN U-B₁-2

YES,
YOU BE
ONE TOO

A
GOOD
TOAST-
MASTER

Attend
the
Spring
Conference
in
Milwaukee

FUN
Educational
Entertaining

Saturday
April 16th

A. O. Smith
Union Bldg.
3651 N. 27th

Bring Your
Wife
and
Friends

CU
there

THE TOASTMASTER

● Signed and Delivered

One of the projects of District Six (Minnesota) for the past year was the selling of the "road sign idea" to all clubs in the district. Al Leiberman, Public Relations Chairman, was able to sell the idea successfully, for there are now 33 road signs installed in the area.

Another project successfully accomplished was to get a telephone number in both the Minneapolis and St. Paul phone directories. It is now impossible to drive into the St. Paul-Minneapolis area on any major highway without seeing a Toastmasters road sign, with the local telephone number on it.

In the picture, Helge G. Olson, District Six Governor, watches Al Leiberman put the finishing touches on the installation of one of the signs. The clubs in District Six contributed to a "Road Sign Fund" so that no money was taken out of the regular District operating funds.



● Friends and Neighbors

Toastmasters of Port Angeles, Breerton, Port Orchard and Port Townsend, (Wash.) recently joined with the Toastmasters Clubs of Victoria, B. C., for a joint "International" meeting. The highlight of the evening was an impromptu speech by Vic Gilbert of Victoria, who spoke on "I Hate Americans." He brought out the fact that ill will between citizens of the two countries was often the result of casual remarks dropped thoughtlessly or in fun, or by chance mishaps that could occur anywhere but because they hapened in the neighboring country, caused resentment. True brotherhood is found in understanding and tolerance.



● Toastmaster Teachers

Toastmasters Meyers, Schrepfer, Mason and Phoenix of the Redwood City (Calif.) Toastmasters, are being very proud of the success of their protege, Billy Pfann, aged 12, recent winner in an area oratorical contest sponsored by the Redwood City Optimist Club. Billy was carefully trained by the four "Toastmaster teachers" who are also members of the Optimist Club.

● Across the Sea

The Darlington Toastmasters (England) recently enjoyed a "first" in their club history when they were hosts to a visiting American Toastmaster. Thomas P. Edmonds of the Sound-Off Club of Washington, D. C., found that one of the high spots of his vacation was his welcome by the English club. Tom was taken on a sight-seeing trip through the beautiful English Dales, and a dinner was held in his honor. The picture shows Tom (center, back row) and the officers and some of the members of the Darlington Club.

And so is forged another link in the chain of Anglo-American friendship so valued by both countries.

SEPTEMBER, 1955

● Honorary Membership

The Pepperrell (Newfoundland) Toastmasters recently had a guest speaker—in itself no unusual event, but this speaker was only 14 years old. Robert Moulton of St. John's, Newfoundland, son of Major (Salvation Army) and Mrs. Arthur Moulton, is the winner of a speech contest open to all school children of the province. So impressed were the Toastmasters with his five-minute speech on "Juvenile Delinquency" delivered without notes and with the poise of a veteran speaker, that they awarded him an honorary membership in the Pepperrell Club.

● New Territory

Word has just been received of the founding of the first Toastmasters Club in the Azores Islands. The Azores Toastmasters Club of Lajes Field takes its place in the ever-growing list of clubs adding a new country to the Toastmasters map.

● Home Run

The Allis-Chalmers Toastmasters Club of West Allis, Wis., held a special events night to which all members gave an enthusiastic rating of "super." Special guest was Harvey Kuenn of the Detroit Tigers, and the theme of the meeting, naturally, was "Baseball." The table setting was in the form of a baseball diamond (see picture) complete with pitcher's mound, bases and back stop. Other tables were set at an angle to simulate bleachers. Many home runs were scored during the meeting.

● Must Travel

Toastmasters continue to penetrate all portions of the globe. Word has just been received that Donald C. Lueck, immediate past Governor of District 36 and a founder, charter member and first President of the Anchor Toastmasters Club of Washington, D. C., has left for Cairo, Egypt, on a job with the management consultant firm of Booz, Allen and Hamilton.

We are momentarily expecting news of the founding of the first Toastmasters Club in Cairo.

● Convention Noted

If your club is having trouble obtaining good newspaper publicity, you might try following the example of the Bedford (Ind.) Toastmasters. Their simulated convention of "The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Husbands" complete with exhibits, posters, slogans and delegate signs, was so cleverly done that it rated excellent notices in the *Bedford Daily Times-Mail*, and a three-column spread on the front page of the *Indianapolis News*.

● Recognition

Toastmasters of the Raleigh (N.C.) Club are rejoicing in the honor recently bestowed on one of their members. William H. Deitrick, past educational chairman of the club and one of the most outstanding architects of North Carolina, has been awarded the rank of Fellow by The American Institute of Architects, one of the highest honors that can be achieved in the profession. The investiture took place at the Society's annual convention in Minneapolis.

Looking for new goals? Consider

THE TOASTMASTER AND PUBLIC SERVICE

By Kermit W. McKay

SO YOU'RE a Toastmaster. You no longer quake at the thought of getting on your feet at any gathering of people. You've been taught to listen to others and to evaluate quickly and clearly the spoken and written words. You can convey your ideas to others, and think quickly under adverse conditions. You have learned to accept criticism and benefit from it. What now?

All these qualities add up to the inescapable fact that you are a natural for public service.

To keep up with our runaway technology we need ever greater leadership among men. This applies from the top down to the grassroots level. We need individuals with the qualities listed above, in public office. Why not you?

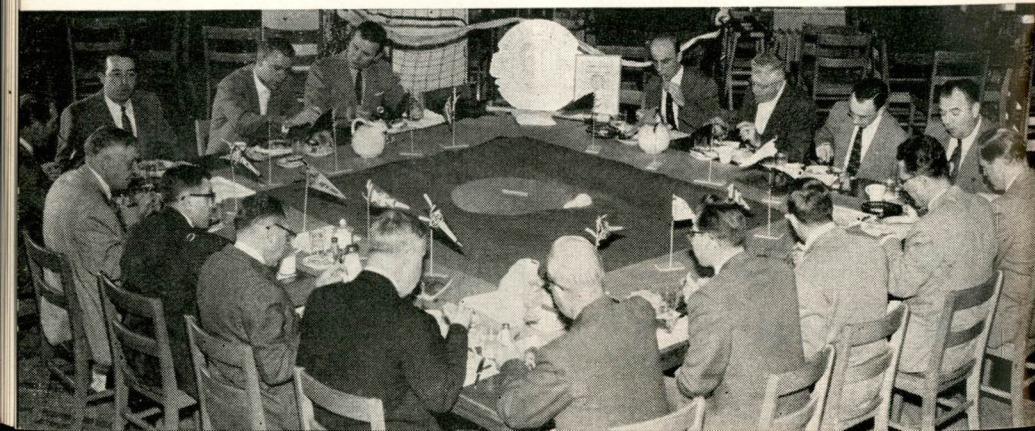
Your Toastmasters training can open to you an entirely new field—an opportunity to partake in the life and business of your community. It is true that the monetary rewards are not great. But the satisfaction derived, the contacts made, and the fullness of life attained will give you something that no money can buy.

By public service we mean everything from being a solicitor for the Community Chest up

through Councilman, Mayor and Governor. The list of opportunities is endless. You have only to pick the ones that fall within your scope of interest.

How does one get into a career of public service? The easiest way is to find it impossible to say "no" when someone asks you to perform a task. If you are asked to speak to the local Women's Club, do it. If you're asked to solicit for the Red Cross, do that too. Maybe you'll have to volunteer your services at first. But each assignment well done will get you further assignments. Patience is important at this stage of the game. It takes time to build solidly.

Suppose you are too busy, or the job is too big for you. Take it anyway. Then seek help. In getting help you suddenly discover that you are now giving the assignments. Here begins your opportunity for leadership. An important point to remember if you wish to succeed in public service is to be constructive. Be pleasant in your dealings with people. Don't ever hit them head-on. Don't sacrifice your principles, but try to put yourself in the other fellow's place and try to see his point of view. Overlook petty items and



personalities if the overall result is good and right.

How far you can go in public service depends upon your own desires and ambitions. It depends also on your ability to shrug off petty and unjust criticism. Remember that tremendous inner satisfaction which comes from a job well done.

After a few years you will awake to a startling conclusion—this has been too easy! Without more than the normal endowment of brains, without superhuman effort, you are becoming a respected leader. Then you will realize that you have actually been filling a vacuum. There is always a shortage of sincere people with leadership ability who are willing to sacrifice time and effort for the good of the community.

Do not be disturbed if you run into that ever-present political character—the brash, loud, glad-handing individual of little or no

real ability. His type is a push-over when faced with demonstrated sincerity and ability.

Don't be afraid to run for office. And don't be discouraged if you don't win the first time, or even the second. If you feel, as many people do, that there is something not quite clean about politics, that is all the more reason for getting into the fracas. You can help to clean up the situation.

The time will arrive when your opinion or your vote at a party meeting will keep the party from supporting a bad candidate or a bad issue. That's the day you will realize that you are helping to shape the destiny of your community and your country. You'll walk home straight and proud, with a glow in your heart.

Remember—find it hard to say “no,” be constructive, and remember the basic things you have learned in Toastmasters.

You can't fail!

NO WONDER

Today my heart beat 103,389 times.
My blood traveled 168,000,000 miles.
I breathed 23,040 times.
I inhaled 4348 cubic feet of air.
I spoke 4800 words,
I moved 750 major muscles,
I exercised 7,000,000 brain cells.

I'M TIRED!

—Bob Hope

WORDS

The five most important words:
“I am proud of you”
The four most important words:
“What is your opinion?”
The three most important words:
“If you please”
The two most important words:
“Thank you”
The smallest word:
“I”

COMMON SENSE

Common sense is the ability to gather facts, then to determine a course of action predicated on *those* facts.

—Don Krout

HAVE YOU READ?



Ten years ago, the United Nations Organization was formed. Those who framed the Charter anticipated that the end of the first decade would be a good time for a thorough review of the organization and its functioning, when there had been time for experience to demonstrate its strength or its weakness. Such reviews are being made this summer.

Most appropriate at this anniversary is the book by Clark M. Eichelberger entitled *UN: The First Ten Years*, published by Harper & Brothers, price \$1.75.

Whether one believes that the United Nations is a success or a failure, one can gain much from a study of this careful appraisal. While Mr. Eichelberger may be regarded as a prejudiced witness, having been one of the group who helped to prepare the first draft of the Charter, he is thoroughly informed, and his presentation of the facts must be accepted as authoritative.

His writing is remarkably clear and logical in arrangement. Most illuminating is his listing of the four major developments which have changed the world situation since the United Nations was created in San Francisco ten years ago, and which have presented new obstacles to full success.

These four developments are: the break-up of the “five-power” system, the advent of the atomic age, the gradual disappearance of

the colonial system, and the worldwide revolt against poverty and misery on the part of the less fortunate peoples. Without the stabilizing power of the United Nations, it is doubtful whether the world could have survived these and other revolutionary developments.

While recognizing the shortcomings of the UN, and its failures and mistakes, Mr. Eichelberger holds to his conviction that this agency is the one means by which world understanding and cooperation will be reached. He emphasizes the importance of the attitudes of the members, and points to the failure of most of the participating nations to fulfill their obligations completely and honestly. It is the governments that have fallen short, rather than the plan of organization as reflected in the Charter; and until the nations learn to consider the UN as the foundation rather than the instrument of foreign policies, the world will continue to be in a dangerous situation.

Editor's Note: This book is recommended reading for Toastmasters. It may be borrowed from the public library or purchased for more permanent study. The information given is important to the thinking of every citizen of a free nation. It will help in the preparation of speeches on this subject and will be useful in planning programs for the observance of United Nations Day in October. Whether we approve of the United Nations or not, we should be informed on the facts.

You and Your Club

By Ralph C. Smedley

Emphasize Evaluation

The practice of speech evaluation is distinctive in the Toastmasters Club. It is fundamental. It is vital. It is an essential part of the training. It must not be neglected.

But good evaluation takes work. It must be studied and planned. It does not happen casually. That is why it is not very satisfactory in most clubs.

That is why special emphasis is given to evaluation during the month of September. As we start in on our fall season, snapping back into more vigorous work after the summer's relaxation, we need to begin with this fundamental point.

Whatever else your club may do in September, let every member make sure that stress is placed on better evaluation, not only in the club, but in his own affairs.

Evaluation plays a large part in your daily living, entirely apart from your Toastmasters Club. Every act, every decision in your life results from your ability to evaluate, to discriminate, to choose for yourself. When you improve your ability as an evaluator, you improve yourself in all points.

Consider how you start the day. You exercise your right to discriminate when you decide what necktie or what shirt or what coat to put on for the day's activities.

Whether you realize it or not, the elements of plan, purpose, effectiveness, appropriateness and accomplishment enter into your choice. You would not don a sports outfit for a day at the office, nor would you put on formal attire if you were going out for fishing or golf. You evaluate, unconscious of the fact, and then you reach a decision.

Develop your critical ability in listening to speakers, and you will build up your efficiency in facing all the problems which call for choice and discrimination between that which is good and that which is better.

Study Evaluation

In your club there should be much attention devoted to the work of evaluation, but whether it is done there or not, go to it for yourself. Get out your copy of *Speech Evaluation* and read it through with care. It will take only a short time to read it, but be sure to take time to evaluate what it says. Evaluate your own speeches and the treatment you get in your club. Evaluate the performance of the club, and study to see how you can help to improve its work.

If you and your fellow Toastmasters could be made to realize how vitally important it is for each of you to be a competent evaluator,

all of you would pitch in to make better evaluation a goal not only for September, but for life.

Election Day

September brings the election of officers, if your club operates on the six months term. Remember, each club is at liberty to choose for itself whether to elect for a year or for six months, but when election time comes around, be sure to choose the candidates with careful discrimination, and get the best men.

Training the Leaders

Officers are elected early in September, and they take office the first of October. This gives September for training. It affords them time to learn their duties and to plan their administrations.

As soon as the election has taken place, the club secretary reports the results to the Home Office in Santa Ana. Soon thereafter your new President receives a package of officer information covering the duties of each officer of the club. The President distributes this material to his associates, and they study it together, so that each may know his own responsibilities, as well as those of the other officers.

The President, in conference with the other officers, appoints the committee, and delegates to the respective chairmen the task of indoctrinating the committee members. Program plans, membership and attendance problems, inter-club activities, social events, finances, fellowship, educational needs, all the interests are consid-

ered by appropriate committees and their recommendations are presented to the Executive Committee.

Thus the leaders are trained. The Area Governor sees to it that the club officers are prepared, and then the club officers pass on the training in their turn. It is a convenient, practical and logical method of applying Toastmasters training to every member.

Educational Values

Every activity in a Toastmasters Club has two definite values. First, it serves the immediate purpose for the club's welfare. Second, it gives training to the person who performs, which should be helpful to him in many other lines of work.

The district or area officer gets training in supervision, in giving instruction and in delegating responsibility. The club officer, in a slightly reduced measure, gets the same training as he carries on his work. As president, or as committee chairman, or in whatever capacity he serves, he gains experience in planning and directing and delegating.

As a committee member, he profits by performing his assigned tasks, and in reporting on them.

Thus there is a definite training value in every part of the club's work, and every member has his chance to learn and improve by doing his part.

Remember, as you work for the club, you work for yourself. The more you give in service, the more comes back to you.

Like sulphur and molasses-
Like quinine and castor oil-

IT'S GOOD FOR YOU

By. C. W. Scott

Sometimes I wonder if we realize just how important criticism is to us. We may not admit it, but no one likes to have someone stand up and tell him he is all wrong. We all hate to be on the receiving end of criticism. But when the trend is reversed, that's a different story!

Looking down the working end of a gun barrel of criticism may cause a person to get his feelings hurt. It may even result in creating animosity toward the man holding the gun.

But what of that? Criticism is to a human being as fertilizer is to a plant. A plant grows weedy and spindling without the proper food. Without criticism, a man will never be worth much to himself or to the world.

How well I remember my first experience with Toastmaster critics. One evening shortly after joining, I was assigned one of those tough fellows, who simply lowered the boom on me. He took more time telling of my mistakes than I had taken on the whole speech.

I went home that evening with my feelings hurt. My mind was made up. I was going to quit Toastmasters. Then I started to think. I came to the conclusion

that Toastmasters had something I needed and wanted, and I didn't propose to let anyone deprive me of its benefits and opportunities.

For my next speech I came up with something like this:

I was born in Alabama. My father was a farmer and taught me how to plow. Plowing was different in those days; we did it the hard way. We walked behind a team of mules and we had a lot of stumps to contend with in some of the fields. They were mighty hard to get rid of.

To this day, when I tackle something that appears too tough for me, I plow just as close to it as I can, and *keep on plowing*.

I have had some stumps in my Toastmasters life, too. There have been times when I felt that a certain stump or other was too much for me. Sometimes I looked over the fence at the bright young fellows who were plowing ahead so forcefully with their fine speech equipment, and got pretty discouraged. Yet I am still plowing and expect to go on doing so, for I love Toastmasters and what it stands for.

That first critic of mine taught me a very important lesson. He taught me that a Toastmaster who is unwilling to accept the frank, friendly criticism of his fellows will never amount to anything as a Toastmaster, but that with it, he can do much.

So the next time someone evaluates your speech, no matter how you feel about it, go to him and thank him. Keep plowing as close as you can to the stump, and someday it will disappear.

HOW TO

RETRIEVE STOLEN THUNDER

How many times have you sat on a platform or at a dinner table, and listened in mounting apprehension as the speaker just ahead of you gave your talk?

You feel the perspiration spring out on your brow. Furtively you run a finger under the edge of your collar. What to do?

This appalling dilemma is as old as public speaking itself. It probably happened to Adam as he sat waiting to deliver his speech on "How It Feels to be Out of Eden." It is an occupational malady to which all public speakers are prone.

Of course there are the obvious solutions. You can clutch your side, roll your eyes, and demand to be carried out in an ambulance because of a heart attack or a burst appendix. (Be sure no doctor is present if you try this one.) Or you can drop to your hands and knees as if searching for a lost button, and gradually work your way to the door. Or you may try to forestall the whole thing by arriving early and bribing the toastmaster into giving you the first shot.

But seriously, the question does point up the vital necessity for flexibility in the make-up of the

accomplished speaker. He must constantly be prepared for such an eventuality. And there is usually very little time in which to make a decision.

Here are some recommended solutions to the problem.

1. Contact the toastmaster beforehand and ask for the theme of the occasion.

2. Make an attempt to contact the other speakers and obtain from them an outline of their remarks. At the same time, inform them of yours.

3. Arrive prepared with the outlines of several treatments of your theme.

4. Have on hand, mentally or otherwise, outlines for several appropriate talks on different, but apropos, subjects.

5. Frankly acknowledge to the audience that a previous speaker has stolen your thunder. Then offer a brief summation of his high points, stressing your feelings on the subject and the reasons why you feel as strongly as you do. Under these circumstances, you will endear yourself to your audience by giving a brief but forceful presentation. And since they have already been walked through the subject by your predecessor, it is highly likely that your message is the one that will be remembered.

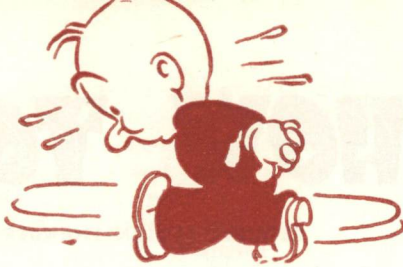
(Adapted from *The Speaker*, Bulletin of the Broadway Toastmasters Club of New York City. Our thanks to Toastmasters R. C. Kenney, who first asked the question, Major Philip H. McArdle, who gave the answers, and S. Dan Daniels, Editor.)

Scandal is like an egg. When it is hatched it has wings.

—Quote

A PERIPATETIC ANSWERS THE CRITICS

(let the chips fall
where they may)



By Harvey P. Schneiber

HISTORY is the struggle of the individual to free himself from the shackles of oppressive government or from the onslaught of a dogmatic society. This is a conflict that is of time and eternity. It is a battle ceaseless as the tide, and the prize is not possession of the body, as some would believe, but possession of the mind.

By capturing the mind, the implacable enemies of freedom can mold the individual, his personality and his character as well as his thinking, to a preconceived plan or pattern. Individuality quickly withers and dies. The victims become mere robots, incapable of thinking or judging for themselves.

When they have achieved this ideal (for them) state, the despots can relax without worry or fear. They have produced a static society, wherein no one may move from his appointed place.

For only one example out of many of this mass imprisonment of minds, let us look at Ancient Egypt. A small minority of priests and Pharaohs ruled a nation of over twenty million people. To this day their power is revealed in the paintings of the artists of the day—paintings all alike in design and

color. Here is an awesome demonstration of mass production of the mind.

You cannot have or enjoy freedom in any degree unless you first have freedom of the mind. When the mind is captured, the body is automatically captured also.

In modern times the enemies of freedom are too clever to make a direct assault. We have learned to understand and to value freedom, so they are forced to resort to indirect and subtle devices. Nevertheless, the battle surges on in every quarter and in every field and walk of life. So insidiously do these enemies of freedom work that it sometimes occurs that their victims voluntarily surrender their sacred rights without even being aware of what they are doing. They are bewitched, bothered and bewildered into that surrender.

The great Greek philosopher, Socrates, introduced freedom to the world. He and his followers believed that if you could free the mind, it would follow that you could free the body and the soul. So it was that Socrates and his disciples Plato and later Aristotle, moved freely among their students as they delivered their message. Thus the word *peripatetic* was

born. It simply means *to discuss or speak while walking or moving about*.

Gentle readers, I am a peripatetic. I move about when I speak. I have dared to follow a practice initiated over two thousand years ago by the greatest exponent of freedom the world has ever known. Yet for this I have been ridiculed, reviled and reproached.

What was my sin, O Toastmasters? What was my crime against society? I think that those enemies of freedom who style themselves "critics" should answer. But I will spare them. The cardinal sin they charged me with was *pacing the floor as I spoke*. Sometimes I committed the double-barrelled sin of turning sideways to my audience.

Thus I, who can cite the greatest names in history, in philosophy and in public speaking for authority to engage in a time-honored practice, have been forced to drink the bitter hemlock cup of criticism, week in and week out. No one has dared to come to my de-

fense. How eagerly have I awaited even one small voice to cry out in my behalf! Why, frequently no one would sit next to me, although of course my fellow-members were always polite. No, I was an outcast. I was alone. I had sinned. And worse—I was not even remorseful about it!

And so I am finally forced to rise in my own defense. I offer to you an explanation for my actions, but I offer no apology. I am not contrite. Nor am I convinced that my critics know whereof they speak!

I follow in the footsteps of a man who gave to the whole world to enjoy, a manifest blessing—freedom.

How now, O Critics?

(Ed. Note: Harvey P. Schneiber has been nicknamed "The Lion" by his fellow club members of the Mission (San Francisco) Toastmasters for his habit of pacing as he speaks. Here is his roar of self-defense. The columns of THE TOASTMASTER are open to anyone who cares to reply to his article.)

FOR READING OUT LOUD (From page 15)

Read the paragraph aloud several times, trying to find the best pauses and inflections for yourself. Then apply the same method to other paragraphs.

For reading aloud effectively, speak in phrases, and the sentences

will take care of themselves. Read naturally, avoid the monotone. Read as though there were no manuscript before you. Speak from the script instead of to it. Cultivate "freedom of speech" as one of the essentials in reading from a script.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

By the time our new International Officers are elected at the 24th Annual Convention of Toastmasters International in Los Angeles, the September TOASTMASTER will be printed and ready for mailing.

The list of new officers will appear on page 32 of the October magazine. For names of 1955-56 District Governors, please refer to page 32 of the August issue.

Among Our CONTRIBUTORS

TOM O'BEIRNE (*How to Ruin a Good Speech*) lives in Rutherglen, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He is a chartered mechanical engineer, and controls a business founded by his father over fifty years ago. A founder member and past president of the Rutherglen Club, he is now serving as Area Governor for Lanarkshire Area. He is a steady contributor to *The Scottish Toastmaster*, where his quiet humor and thoughtful common sense find an appreciative readership . . .

The experience related by **ORREN FITZSIMMONS** of Ontario, Calif. in *A Slice of Gratitude* was, he says, one of the most worth while in his life, and was made possible by his Toastmasters training. A Toastmaster since 1953, he reports that the club is "replacing in great part the college education I was too busy to get." He is in the dry cleaning business in Ontario . . .

ARTHUR E. MARTIN (*For Reading Out Loud*) believes that skill in oral and written communication is essential to success. As a chemical engineer at the Shell Chemical Corporation's synthetic rubber plant at Torrance, Calif., he has achieved national status as a specialist in industrial waste disposal. According to Martin, "Beyond Basic Training is a must. It helps amazingly in getting you on the starting line-up for the big race." . . .

MEL ANDERSON (*How to Commit Suicide*) is a charter member of the Laker's Toastmasters Club No. 388 of Minneapolis, a past president and past area governor. He is in the plumbing and heating business, doing selling and estimating. He is also active in civic affairs, and finds that Toastmasters has been of inestimable value to him in both fields. . . .

"About six years ago," writes **KERMIT McKAY** (*The Toastmaster and Public Service*) "my civic undertakings were limited to soliciting my fellow men on bond drives and Red Cross, under considerable nudging by my employer. I became a stuttering, perspiring Toastmaster. Since then I have held most of the offices in Toastmasters, including District Governor, and am presently member of the Richland (Washington) School Board, Republican State Committee, Governor's Safety Committee, and Secretary of Hanford Works Supervisors Association, and a number of others." Kermit also works in his spare time as a power engineer for the General Electric Co. at the Hanford (Atomic) Works. . . .

HARVEY P. SCHNEIBER, (*A Peripatetic Answers the Critics*) is employed as District Supervisor of the Interstate Commerce Commission at San Francisco. He is president of Mission Toastmasters Club No. 128. An amateur student of anthropology, he is making plans for an extended trip to the hidden city of Machu Picchu, in Peru, and assures us that he will investigate the possibilities of founding a Toastmasters club in the ancient capital of the Incas. . . .

No newcomer to the columns of THE TOASTMASTER, **C. W. SCOTT** of Lubbock, Texas, (*It's Good For You!*) has just been elected Governor of District 44. . . .

Creator of the hesitant evaluator on page 3, cartoonist **FRANK SILL** is an employee of the Crown Zellerbach Corp. of Camas, Washington, where from his studio he illustrates company literature and pamphlets, and prepares posters on company policies. Toastmasters of the Evergreen Club No. 678 (he is a charter member) chuckle weekly over his covers on their bulletin, *The Toaster*, and Toastmasters everywhere will soon chuckle and learn from his clever illustrations for the new Visual Training Program for District and Area Governors now in preparation at the Home Office.

There is one sure cure for the blues — go and do some kindness for somebody else — especially a kindness you would prefer not to extend.



New Clubs

- 367 LAKE CHELAN, Washington, (D 9), *Lake Chelan*, Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Chet's Steak House.
- 914 VAN NUYS, California, (D 1), *Burnt*, Thurs., 7:00 a.m., The Patio.
- 1255 ATTLEBORO, Massachusetts, (D 31), *Greater Attleboro*, Mon., 6:00 p.m., Lantern Lodge.
- 1843 GUAM, Mariana Islands, (D U), *Public Works Center, Guam Chapter*, bi-weekly, Fri., 6:30 p.m., Panciteria Far East, Tamuning.
- 1844 KENNETT, Missouri, (D 8), *Kennett*, every other Fri., 6:30 p.m., Cotton Boll Hotel.
- 1845 OAKLAND, California, (D 4), *Archers*, Alt. Thurs., 5:30 p.m., Robin Hood Inn.
- 1846 PONCA CITY, Oklahoma, (D 16), *Ponca City*, 1st & 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m., Ponca City Library Club Room.
- 1847 WASHINGTON, D. C., (D 36), *Civil Service Commission*, 2nd & 4th Wed., 6:00 p.m., O'Donnell's Sea Grill, 1221 E Street N. W.
- 1848 CHARLESTON, West Virginia, (D U), *Kanawha*, 2nd & 4th Wed., 6:30 p.m., Kanawha Hotel.
- 1849 BROOKLYN, New York, (D 46), *Crow's Nest*, Alt. Wed., 12:00 noon, N. Y. Naval Shipyard, Executive dining room, Bldg. No. 77.
- 1850 FRESNO, California, (D 27), *Fresno Jaycees*, Tues., 7:00 a.m., Hart's Restaurant.
- 1851 GALVESTON, Texas, (D 25), Galveston, Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Chinese Restaurant, 21st at Market.
- 1852 OMAHA, Offutt AFB, Nebraska, (D 24), *Omaha*.
- 1853 CHICAGO, Illinois, (D 30), *Arthur Young & Company*, Thurs., 6:15 p.m., The Blue Note, 3 N. Clark Street.
- 1854 TIFFIN, Ohio, (D 28), *Fort Ball*, 2nd & 4th Tues., 6:30 p.m., Shawhan Hotel.
- 1855 SWEENEY, Texas, (D 25), *Liveoaks*, 1st & 3rd Tues., 7:30 p.m., Phillips Recreation Hall, Old Ocean.
- 1856 LANSDALE, Pennsylvania, (D 38), *Lansdale*, 2nd & 4th Wed., 7:00 p.m., Tremont Hotel.
- 1857 MARSHALLTOWN, Iowa, (D 19), *Marshalltown Y. M. C. A.*, Tues., 6:00 p.m., Y. M. C. A.
- 1858 SMYRNA, Tennessee, (D 43), *Sewart Air Force Base*, 2nd & 4th Mon., 5:30 p.m., Officers Open Mess.
- 1859 ATLANTA, Georgia, (D 14), *Brookwood*, Alt. Thurs., 5:45 p.m., Haley's Penthouse Restaurant.
- 1860 DORVAL, Que., Canada, (D 34), *Lakeshore*, Alt. Tues., 6:30 p.m., Miss Montreal Restaurant.
- 1861 KODIAK, USNS, Alaska, (D U), *Kodiak*, Tues., 11:30 a.m., Officer's Club.
- 1862 GREENSBORO, North Carolina, (D 37), *Suburban*, 1st & 3rd Tues., 5:15 p.m., Western Electric Co. Cafeteria.
- 1863 STEVENSON, Washington, (D 7), *Stevenson*.
- 1864 LOGAN, Utah, (D U), *Logan*, every other Fri., 6:15 p.m., Blue Bird.

WHEN AND WHERE THEY MEET

HOW WE TALK

Pretty—Nice

"It is a pretty nice day."
"That was a pretty nice dinner."

If you say something like that, the word critic will get after you. He will warn you that such usage is not "nice" and that you must mend your ways. In speaking thus he will be echoing the strictures of a multitude of defenders of the English language, but he is fighting a losing battle.

Popular usage has played queer tricks on these two words, *pretty* and *nice*. Each has passed through a remarkable series of changes from its original meaning, and each has filled a variety of places in the language.

Pretty came from an Anglo-Saxon word which meant *sly* or *crafty*. It developed the meaning of *ingenious* or *clever* and then passed on to the sense of *good-looking*, *attractive* but *not necessarily beautiful*, *pleasing*, *fine*, or *excellent*.

Nice started out as a derivative of the Latin *nescere*, to be ignorant. It came successively to mean *foolish*, *stupid*, *simple*, *shy*, *fastidious*, *punctilious*, *discriminating*, until it took on the meaning of *agreeable*, *pleasing*, *good*, *kind*, *considerate*.

The Webster dictionary recognizes all of these uses, and does not condemn them as being colloquial or dialectal. It goes so far as to admit "a nice day."

In addition, the dictionary approves of *pretty* as an adverb,

meaning *moderately*, *considerably*, or *in some degree*, and it offers such examples as "I am pretty sure of the fact" and "It is pretty cold weather."

There is just one point on which you must be careful. Pronounce pretty as though it were spelled "pritty." Do not give it the sound of short *e* as the spelling would indicate, and avoid with all care the "purty" pronunciation.

Thus our language changes. The purist would call it deterioration. A century ago such men as Richard Grant White and William Matthews were raging against such misuse of words, but the march of changing usage went on past them.

Samuel Butler cheerfully wrote: "This is pretty much the case with all boys everywhere." W. S. Gilbert made his characters sing such phrases as "Here's a pretty kettle of fish," and "Here's a pretty state of things! Here's a pretty how-de-do."

Such phrases as "pretty nice," "pretty well" and "pretty good" may lack a certain degree of elegance, but they convey a definite thought and appear to have a firm place in our speech. If you care to risk the wrath of your word critic, go ahead and use these expressions with assurance that you have Webster on your side.

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BEFORE WE ADJOURN

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