

THE *Toastmaster*

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

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Honor To Mother --- Always!

On the second Sunday of each May, America gives special recognition to Motherhood. Throughout the ages, Mothers have shaped the affairs of the world through their early guidance of the lives of their children. Let us honor them — and help them — always!





TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL, Incorporated in 1932, is a non-profit educational organization of 500 active clubs, located in the United States, Canada, England and Scotland, devoted to the work of helping men to become better speakers.

For Better Thinking—Speaking—Chairmanship—Listening

(For Information, address Toastmasters International, Santa Ana, California)

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THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VOICE

By ROBERT GAFFKE, Downtown Toastmasters Club, Los Angeles.

Who would you say possessed the most beautiful voice in the world? Would it be Caruso, or Galli-Curci, or Schumann-Heink?

Perhaps you are thinking of some silver-tongued orator, such as William Jennings Bryan, whose voice swayed thousands when he spoke.

I am thinking of none of these, and yet I believe that we, as Toastmasters, should be able to agree on the world's most beautiful voice. To show you what I have in mind, let me tell you a story.

A tiny negro baby was critically ill, and required a blood transfusion. When the physician asked where the needed blood could be obtained, the child's mother said, without a moment's hesitation, "Doctor, please take mine." Then, after the operation had been completed, she looked up at the physician and asked, "Doctor, how soon do I die?"

In those simple words spoke the voice of motherhood—the most beautiful voice in the world! The mother readily offered her blood to save her baby, thinking she was giving up her own life.

None of us will ever find a more beautiful voice, or a more loving voice, than that of Mother.

This month brings Mother's

Day—the day we set apart to acknowledge the greatness of Mother, and the acts of love and understanding which endear her to our hearts.

From the first soothing tones of tender endearment, the soft lullaby, to the gentle words of guidance for the growing child, we have found life guided by Mother's voice. Through those awkward adolescent years, that voice helped us in tones just as loving, but not always so soothing. We can all recall vividly the corrective firmness of her voice as she pointed out the right ways.

I am constantly reminded of my failure to heed those admonitions. Mother used to say to me, "Robert, if you don't stop soaking your head in water, you will lose your hair some day!" One look at my shining scalp proves that Mother was a good prophet.

That daily call of hers, "Dinner's ready!" used to serve as the starting gun in our house for the wild rush for the table. Then, after dinner, for Mother always let me serve as the "Clean-up Man," she would say in a serious tone, "Can you eat this extra piece of pie? It may spoil before tomorrow, and I hate to throw it out."

My ample proportions prove that I never refused.

One of the memorable occasions in a boy's life is his first fight. In my first one, I lost the decision. The fight was called because of my bloody nose. Mother, of course, was much concerned. After my physical wounds were repaired, she said to me, "It is too bad it had to happen, for I hate to see you act like a roughneck. But, next time don't forget to duck!"

Do you remember her words of advice before your first date? And the pride in her voice when you graduated from high school? And the sympathy she gave when you encountered life's early tragedies? The sound of my mother's voice

is as clear in my mind as if I had heard it only yesterday.

Great men and women proudly acknowledge their deep affection for their mothers. It was Mother's faith and love—and her voice—that helped lay the foundations of character on which they built their greatness.

All that is good in the world is reflected in the voice of a good mother.

Great singers and orators do possess wonderful voices, but none can equal the voice of a mother, which to her family is the sweetest music on earth.



MOTHER TOTEM

The poster in the picture was presented to the Totem Toastmasters Club No. 41, Seattle, Washington, at their annual Hi-Jinks party in honor of the many clubs Totem had sponsored. Shown in the picture, from left to right, are Harold Hughes, Walt Nitsche, Earl Meeks, Frank McCrillis, Past President Toastmasters International, and Morris Plummer.

The President's Message

By GEORGE W. BENSON

An incentive provides the means of success. The joy of participation and the pride in accomplishment spur Toastmasters Clubs to enter into friendly competition for individual club success and International growth.



The incentive is the Club-of-the-Year Contest which assures improvement in club activities and ultimate success to the competing entries.

The time for submitting entries for this year's contest is now! Check with your officers to find out what progress your club has made during the past year. This contest offers a complete program for club success; it outlines objectives which, when reached, will make your club one of the best.

Attendance is one of the most important objectives of any club. It is an important point-earning item in the Club-of-the-Year Contest. Good attendance, plus good programs, will bring a club to such a high degree of enthusiasm that every member will look forward to the next meeting. Good attendance means variety in programs and added interest in the personal development of your fel-

low club members. It follows that good attendance not only provides more ideas and better fellowship to Toastmasters, but it also assures perfect audience reaction and participation.

Your club's entry in this contest will make every member aware of the many factors which produce individual betterment and hence, club success. The contest sets up the many phases of club work that have proved advantageous to members in experiencing complete Toastmasters training. Clubs are urged to attend district functions, assist in community service, help publicize our Toastmasters organization and its outstanding educational service, participate in the fellowship of inter-club activities and many other phases of the ideal club performance.

Be sure your club entry is mailed in time, on or before June 10, 1948. Let us have the largest list of entries we have ever had in the Club-of-the-Year Contest. Good luck to you! When you enter, you are sure to win!

GOOD NEWS

Committee men are now busy on the Hospitality Books for the 1948 Convention. They hope to keep the price of these books at a minimum and still give Toastmasters a maximum in entertainment and pleasure.

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Better Speech Evaluation

By STANLEY GUSTAFSON of Mt. Olivet
Toastmasters Club, of Minneapolis.

Our work as speech evaluators needs to be reviewed frequently to make sure that we are doing the work properly. Evaluation is one phase of Toastmasters training on which many of us are weak.

We do not want to hurt the other fellow's feelings. We hesitate to speak frankly—to lay it on the line. We are inclined to hand out bouquets when we should be telling the *truth*. That may be pleasant, but it is not good evaluation.

Speech evaluation, as I understand it, has two primary purposes. These are (a) Audience Reaction, and (b) Analytical Listening.

The speaker needs to know quickly and honestly just how his audience reacted to his speech.

The listener needs to learn how to cultivate the habit of listening attentively, intelligently and analytically. Unless the evaluation produces these two results, it is not successful.

The evaluator must be tactful. When pointing out faults in the speech, he must be encouraging. He must make it seem easy to correct the fault which is pointed out. A good evaluator does this by emphasizing strong points of the speaker in showing how to work on the weak points. *All criticism must be constructive.*

Criticism given the experienced speaker should be more drastic and searching, while encouraging, optimistic comments are best for the beginner. There must never be any intention to hurt or embarrass the speaker.

I have heard some evaluations which definitely reflected failure of the critics to listen attentively. In such a case we need to tell the evaluator of his failure. If we neglect telling him, we are slighting one of the two primary purposes of evaluation.

The General Evaluator should assume this responsibility. It is for him to point out to the individual evaluator just where he erred in his criticism. Only when we have such cooperation in criticism do we get the true value from this part of our program. Only with this helpful exchange of ideas and comments shall we have the "better speech evaluation" which every Toastmasters Club needs.

What's Going On



BORAH TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Donald T. Nelson, member of the Board of Directors of Toastmasters International, presented Charter No. 563 to the newly formed Borah Toastmasters Club of Boise, Idaho. In the picture we see, left to right, H. F. Garrett, Deputy Governor, Dist. No. 15; Donald Nelson, Portland, Oregon; Homer Graham, President, Boise Toastmasters Club; David Doane, President Borah Toastmasters Club; N. W. Balleisen and Jack Roper of the Borah Club.

The Production Department

North Shore Toastmasters of San Diego find themselves in the commendable position of sponsoring three new chapters, all at the same time. President-Elect Roland Franklin thinks that this is at least an unusual situation.

Pioneer Toastmasters of Moorhead, Minnesota, are working on organization of a new club at Detroit Lakes, which they expect to have ready for chartering very soon. This will make the fifth chapter sponsored by the Pioneers of Moorhead.

Early Birds

The First National Bank Toastmasters Club, No. 584, of Portland, Oregon, recently organized by the efforts of Oregon Toast-

masters Club's "George Benson New Club Committee," has voted to hold its regular meetings at breakfast time—7 to 8:30 A. M. Whether its trademark will be the bird or the worm is yet to be decided.

Pioneers To Pin Up

Pioneer Toastmasters Club No. 17, of Indianapolis, which proudly claims to be the first Toastmasters Club organized east of the Rockies, has taken action to provide a Toastmasters emblem for every member. Hereafter, each new member will receive the emblem at the time of his induction. "Wear it proudly," advises the club's bulletin. "When someone asks about it, be sure to invite him to attend the club meeting."

Sponsor "Man Of Year Contest"

Last year the Amarillo, Texas Toastmasters Club sponsored the "Man of the Year" contest in their community. The winner was the person who contributed most to the community in 1947. The selection of this honored person was done by a Board of Evaluators from educational, church, business and civic-minded clubs and individuals in Amarillo.

Credit for this contest goes to the Amarillo Toastmasters Club who thought up the idea, printed the ballots, obtained the proper publicity and then presented the winner a trophy in recognition of the achievement.

Besides sponsoring this contest, these progressive Toastmasters have been active in the Red Cross and Cancer campaigns in their community.

Hail To The Chief

Toastmaster Glen Ahre has been appointed superintendent of police at Thief River Falls, Minnesota. A veteran of the second World War, he is Past President of Northland Toastmasters Club No. 402, of Thief River Falls.

Speaks For Freedom

Grand Forks Toastmasters are pleased by the appointment of their President, L. B. Denison, as chairman of the Speakers Bureau in connection with the promised visit of the Freedom Train to their city.



FREEDOM OF SPEECH FLOAT

The Albuquerque Toastmasters Clubs, Nos. 122, 475 and 493 entered the above "Freedom of Speech" Float in the parade which honored the Freedom Train when it visited Albuquerque, New Mexico. Governor George W. McKim of District 23 is shown in the foreground.

The Ladies

When Boston Toastmasters Club received its charter last November, the ladies were present. The newly formed Toastmistress Club of Winchester, Mass., returned the invitation at a recent meeting. This new Toastmistress chapter is closely related to Boston Toastmasters Club, since it was promoted through the interest of Mrs. Charles Creede, wife of the Educational Chairman of Boston Toastmasters, and Mrs. Ervin Pietz, wife of the charter President of the Toastmasters. The Winchester Toastmistress Club is the first of its kind in Massachusetts.

In High Gear

All of Central's newer members are at work on Basic Training. A structure is only as strong as its foundation; a Toastmasters foundation in public speaking is the Basic Training Program.

(Thus writes Cliff Massoth, Educational Chairman of Chicago Central Toastmasters Club, in "The Headlight").

From The Vigo Hour Glass

"If you read an interesting article which would make good speech material, bring it to the meeting with you. In that way we can build up a library of attractive subjects from which our speakers may choose."

This good suggestion is from Vigo Toastmasters Club No. 332, of Terre Haute, Indiana.



At a recent Ladies Night party, the New Haven, Conn., Club was happy to have as a guest, Carl L. Roberts, Past President of the Alton, Illinois Toastmasters Club No. 282. The picture shows Connecticut Yankee President Len Fish, on the left, greeting Illini Toastmaster Roberts.

Convention-Minded



(Photo by Vern Foster)

Walnut Park-Southgate Toastmasters Club of Huntington Park, California, will be represented at San Francisco in July. The club has started a campaign to provide \$25 each for the four elected delegates and alternates, and \$10 each for every other member who attends the Convention. A total of \$150 has been set as the goal to provide these special funds. Various activities are being planned, such as a bridge party, a Spanish dinner party, and a dance. A poster is displayed in the club room to show progress of the fund.

Shown in the picture are the convention fund poster, the club's cup (awarded regularly to the winner at each meeting) and Freeman Kirwin, President Bob Bromley, and Hugh DeVries. You may count on seeing these three, plus several others from Walnut Park-Southgate, when you get to San Francisco in July.

Toastmasters Debate

A debate involving four Districts of Toastmasters International was broadcast on March 27th, over station KGB in San Diego, California, under the sponsorship of District No. 5 of which Robert Fuller of Mt. Helix Club, La Mesa is the Governor. Using the subject "Resolved that the Marshall Plan should be approved," the speakers were teamed as follows: Affirmative, Junius Kellam of Whittier, representing Founders District, and Curtis Keene of Yuma, Arizona, Governor of District No. 3. Negative, Russell Chastain of San Diego, representing District No. 5, and Herb Hill of Los Angeles, immediate Past Governor of District No. 1.

At the close of the debate, J. Clark Chamberlain of San Diego, first President of Toastmasters International, was given three minutes in which to sum up the arguments of the four speakers.

The debaters and others who participated may not have settled this momentous question in their arguments which appeared to be quite evenly divided, but most certainly they helped to establish the importance of Toastmasters International in the minds of thousands of listeners.

CORRECTION

The back cover of the April issue of *The Toastmaster*, carried a list of new clubs and their locations. The Shriners Toastmasters Club, No. 590, was listed as being in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which was in error. This club is located in St. Paul, Minnesota. Our apologies.

Fun Night

At Ephrata, Washington, the Toastmasters held a Fun program. Speakers were required to talk under adverse conditions, such as holding a glass of water in each hand, standing on a chair, and appearing wrapped in a sheet. This novel program, filled with laughs, proved that Toastmasters can speak well regardless of handicaps.

LEFT-HANDED

If you detect any tendency toward the "left" in this issue, you may attribute it to the fact that Editor Ralph Smedley was so unfortunate as to break his right wrist the latter part of March. He was changing a tire when the jack slipped. The break is mending, but it will be some weeks before he regains his fluency in operation of the typewriter.



AT GARY, INDIANA

The picture shows, left to right, Ira Martz, Area Governor, Granville Lowe, and President Vito Sgambelluri in a happy mood as Charter No. 549 was presented to the Gary, Indiana, Toastmasters Club.



SAN FRANCISCO COMMITTEEMEN

Here is a picture of the San Francisco Convention committeemen. They have planned a great reception for all Toastmasters attending the 1948 convention. So that you will know your hosts, their names are listed here, from left to right—Dick Bourne, Earl Bunting, George Peterson, C. F. Delano, Paul Castleman, T. W. Thompson, Franklin Taylor, Bill Brisco, Syd Wolf, Frank A. Knopp, Jim Clark, John Small and Burt Walcott.

The Club-of-the-Year

By NICK JORGENSEN, Chairman of the Club-of-the-Year Contest Committee

If your Club has problems—attendance, program, membership, participation in outside affairs, or others—the Club-of-the-Year Contest will help you solve them.

Winning the Contest is good, but even better is the club-analysis, the club-evaluation, the complete check-up which it gives. Just as any individual needs an occasional physical examination to guard his health and well-being, so a Toastmasters Club needs its examination to discover its weaknesses. Just as your own physical examination warns that you need more exercise or more rest, or a cutting down on some articles of diet, so your Club's condition is determined by the testing according to the contest standards.

Your Club may not receive one of the coveted awards, but it will have gained something much better—a new understanding of its strength and weakness, and a guide for goals to be kept in view for the year to come.

The contest was not instituted to pick out winners. The real purpose is to make every Club better, and more of a winner than it could be without the competition.

Blanks were sent to every Club some months ago. If yours have been misplaced, write to the Home Office at Santa Ana for duplicates. Then set to work to see how good your Club is, and in what points it needs improvement. Perhaps you will not consider it worth while even to send in the report, but you will, in any case, preserve the information to help you set the standards for the new year.

Send in your papers by the first of June. Win or lose, you will be the better for it.

Book Reviews

THIS IS FUNNY

"What is the best book of jokes, or humorous illustrations?"

That question comes in regularly. It ought to be answered. But there is no answer.

Two which deserve top rating are "The Thesaurus of Humor" by Mildred Meiers and Jack Knapp, and "The Thesaurus of Anecdotes" by Edmund Fuller. Both are published by the Garden City Publishing Company, and each sells at the special price of \$1.98.

The general plan in each case is the same. There are thousands of the best jokes, quips, and humorous situations in the "Humor" book; and other thousands of anecdotes and revealing stories about great men, famous women, heroes, cowards, saints and sinners, from ancient days to the present, in the "Anecdotes" book.

All material in both books is classified according to subject or situation, and arranged for convenient reference, with complete topical index as a further aid. For the speaker seeking an apt illustration for his speech, these books offer wonderful help, saving hours of search for just the right thing.

Whether they are to be classed as "best" or not is for someone else to say. That they are both very good—even excellent—there is no question. That they deserve a place in the library of every speaker is hardly debatable.

You can find these books at your local bookstore, or you can order from Toastmasters International.

When ordering from the Home Office, add 10% to cover postage and packaging. California clubs also add 2½% sales tax.



TAKE A SALES LETTER

If you need a new slant for your next sales letter, a book to consult is "199 'Starts' and 'Stops' for Successful Sales Letters." Here you will find fresh ideas, all tested by actual use, for opening and closing sales letters.

The many ways to approach prospects by letter—with a promise of benefits, a premium offer, a special price offer, etc.—are listed, ready to be put to work.

Perhaps the old letter forms are a bit tired around the edges. If so, this book can inject new life into your next sales campaign.

Buy a copy from Cardinal Book Company, 366 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. or from Toastmasters International. The price is \$5.00.

SECRETARIES LIKE IT

The new fifth revised edition of "Standard Handbook for Secretaries" by Lois Hutchinson deserves a place on every office bookshelf. Easy to use, completely indexed, this book lists rules and forms most frequently used in business, and covers grammar, usage, and other specialized subjects.

A blurb might add: "Let Miss Hutchinson be your trouble shooter. Don't experiment with grammar. Save your original ideas for the contents of your letters."

Published by Whittlesey House, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. of New York, this handbook can be purchased for \$3.50 from your local bookstore or from Toastmasters International.

This book is for office secretaries, not Club secretaries.



Toastmaster Magazine Writing Contest

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Building A Speech

By MICHAEL SPUDICH, Deputy Governor of Carondelet Toastmasters Club, St. Louis.

(Educational)

I have before me an object of mystery. I cannot name it; neither can you. I just don't know what it is nor what it is good for.

Obviously, it represents wasted time and unplanned effort, for it is neither pleasing to the eye nor useful to anyone. And yet, in some ways it may be compared to some of the speeches you and I have had to listen to.

Here is the story back of it:

Several weeks ago my six-year-old son was seized with the desire to build something. He found some scraps of lumber, plundered my tool box, and started a furious sawing and hammering. When the din suddenly ceased, I descended into the basement to investigate.

Tommy greeted me with, "Hi, Dad! Look what I made!"

My reply was, "Very fine, Tommy, but what is it?"

"I don't know," was Tommy's doubtful reply. "It looks a little like an airplane, doesn't it?"

But he confessed that he had not planned to build an airplane nor anything else in particular. He had just made his first failure as a builder. The reason—lack of a purpose; want of a plan.

I felt that it was my parental

duty to set my son right, so we went into a huddle and presently emerged with a definite plan to build something. It was to be a little house for his toy animals. The result was a small, well proportioned little structure, certainly not an architectural masterpiece, but far better than his first unplanned effort.

Speakers fail for the very same reason that amateur builders fail—for lack of purposeful thinking and planning.

Purpose is the only excuse for making a speech. No true Toastmaster ever faces an audience simply because he likes the sound of his voice. He must have something to say, something to accomplish. The purpose must come before the speech can be intelligently planned.

There are two kinds of purpose, the general and the specific. In the category of general purpose, we find divisions like these:

To explain.

To entertain.

To inspire.

To instruct.

To impress.

To persuade.

To stir to action.

It would be difficult to prepare any speech which does not fall under one of these classifications.

Our first task in speech construction is to decide upon the general purpose we have in mind. The second step is to decide just what we expect our listeners to do—just what sort of reaction we desire from them. This gives us the specific purpose. It starts us on the speech, and it must be kept in mind throughout the entire process of preparation.

We know the plan. All that is necessary is to follow it.

We know that there must be an opening to attract and arouse interest, and at the same time to suggest the theme. A speech with a weak opening has two strikes against it at the start.

There must be a strong, authoritative conclusion. You may wonder why I do not consider the body of the speech next. I can explain by giving you a story attributed to O. Henry.

Someone asked this writer how he was able to write such popular stories in so great volume. His reply was that he first prepared an opening, then worked out a conclusion, and finally filled in the middle.

The conclusion of your speech is the climax, the clincher, the destination, the whip-cracker, the result-getter. It must make clear to each listener just what you want him to do or to think or to believe.

With these two items cared for, it is time to develop your theme, or "fill in the middle."

Remember that you have made an assertion or set up a goal in the

opening, and in the body you must prove your point or fulfill your promise. Do this by any one of a dozen different methods; by comparison, illustration, authority, experience, or what you will.

Having completed the framework, made your outline, determined the start and the finish, and marked out the path which leads from one to the other, you have only to study, repeat, think it through over and over again until you are ready to deliver without fear of forgetting what you meant to say next, and without anything to hinder your gestures, eye contact, voice modulations, or any other of the elements of good delivery.

To summarize, speech preparation is like this: A purpose is born in the mind of the speaker; a plan is made; a theme is developed, with special attention to opening and conclusion. Then the speech is studied and rehearsed in his mind until the speaker is so saturated with his message that he can deliver it in good form.

If you will conscientiously follow this plan, I can guarantee that you will never be guilty of making a speech which sounds the way my fantastically fashioned "what-is-it?" looks. Rather, your speeches will reflect logic and design and thoughtfulness, even as the little house for Tommy's toy animals.



The Mark Of Man

By A. J. SCHREPFER, Progressive Toastmasters Club, Huntington Park, California.

(Inspirational)

Twenty, thirty, possibly forty years ago, about this same time of day, many of us may have been doing this very same thing—listening to a speech. It probably began "Once upon a time . . ." Mother or Dad hadn't the faintest idea of delivering a speech; and yet those bedtime stories had many of the elements of a speech. They had suspense, action, climax; and they usually ended with a moral or lesson (or message).

Chances are that the story had to do with animals. Since Aesop's time animals have been favorite story characters. Generation after generation has heard of the cleverness of the fox and the stick-to-itiveness of the tortoise. The big difference between Fables and Silly Symphonies is that Aesop called a fox a fox—instead of "J. Worthington Foulfellow." It took Disney to invent the whimsey that is Mickey Mouse.

Down through the ages, what gave these stories their appeal? Not so much the action, nor the characters. Rather, it was the *words put into the mouths of the characters* by the author or creator. In short, we remember those stories (the "speeches" of our childhood) because of *what was said*. The Sour Grapes Fable brings to mind not so much the clusters beyond reach, as the fox's self-appeasing remark: "Ah, they

are probably sour anyway." Words were the final, vital touch.

Oddly enough, Nature endows some animals with senses and abilities far surpassing those given to man. The horse's speed, the ox's strength, the hound's acuteness of smell, the keen hearing possessed by many wild beasts—all these, plus a faculty of some form of "reasoning," make it seem as though man had been short-changed.

BUT—Nature reserves one priceless gift for the service and ennoblement of man, namely, the power of speech. Speech sets him apart from and above all other denizens of earth. Speech is the mark of man!

Nature's Three-Point Idea

Man has the power of speech for one universal purpose: to convey a message. Whatever may be its nature, whatever may be the number or character of the listeners, man speaks only to transmit thought. Nature had a three-point idea, it would seem, because the use of speech involves

1. A speaker,
2. A listener (or several), and
3. Contact between speaker and listener.

The gift of speech isn't something involuntary, instinctive, or inherited. As infants we were able to breathe, take food, and move our arms and legs from birth onward; but we had to be *taught* to speak—slowly, painstakingly, one word at a time, the hard way. We're still learning "to speak."

So precious a treasure, acquired only with great effort, was obviously given to man to be used, and used beneficially. In his folly, man does not always use Nature's gifts wisely. Life-giving air is poisoned with gas, to kill. Fire and atomic energy are man's destroyers, instead of his servants. Just so, speech is the weapon of the rabble-rouser and demagogue when it is abused and misdirected. Happily, not all men pervert speech.

The gift of speech, to be useful to man, must be shared with others. Nature did this deliberately to prevent the human race from becoming misanthropic. We would not need speech if we were to "talk" only to ourselves.

Speech not heard nor understood is futility. The Tower of Babel became the symbol of confusion because no man knew what the other said. Men's speech conveyed no message; those who heard did not comprehend. When man speaks to an understanding listener, the two form a working combination, at least temporarily.

The Toastmasters Idea

As Toastmasters we seek self-improvement through speech. Our Founder, Ralph C. Smedley, took

Nature's Number One Idea (the power to speak) and built upon it the idea of betterment. Nature provides the gift of speech. Toastmasters training helps men to become *better* speakers.

The faculty of hearing (Nature's Number Two Idea) is the second element in Toastmasters training. Not content with merely hearing, we learn how to listen critically, analytically, appreciatively.

Nature's Number Three Idea (speaker and hearer as a combination) implies a working-together. That's one of the fundamentals of Toastmasters work—co-operation, helping ourselves by helping each other.

Our helpfulness goes beyond the limits of Toastmasters membership. Each year sees widening fields of leadership and inspiration by Toastmasters in business, industry, the professions, and community service.

Greater Usefulness

The Toastmasters idea is a "natural." We are taking these simple, basic ideas—speaker, listener, and the combination of the two—and are developing them into instruments of constantly greater usefulness.

THE WRITING CONTEST

Deadline for the "Writing Contest" is May 15th. Articles received up to that date will be included in the judging for awards. Much good material has been received, and as many articles as possible have been published. All contributions submitted, whether published or not, will be given consideration by the judges. Those which appear in the June issue will be the last ones published in the competition, but various others will be held for future use.

"Farewell to a Chair"



HERMAN DEGE, veteran member of Quincy, Illinois, Toastmasters Club No. 129, marked the end of his term as President by contributing to the Club's bulletin an interesting paragraph headed "Farewell to a Chair." It well expresses the feelings of many a retiring officer who has found joy in his service and quits it with regret. Herman Dege is a man who takes Toastmasters work seriously. A charter member, he has maintained a one hundred per cent attendance throughout. Here is his "Farewell."

I have often wondered how it must feel to have been for a while right on top, a leader, full of responsibilities, and then, all of a sudden, to find oneself a private once more. Now I am to find out. My term as President is finished.

I have known men who let go and drifted away when there was nothing of importance left for them to do. It is like the general who has fought valiantly all through the war. Suddenly peace comes, and there is no more need for him. There is no more commanding, no more ordering others around. There seems to be no more purpose in life.

I want to be different. I am not going to quit. From now on I shall make better speeches. I shall give attention to better pronunciation, read all the educational ma-

terial—perhaps even go through Basic Training from A to Z. There are so many things to be done which I have had to postpone. Now I can do them.

So don't be surprised if you see me around as usual after the 6th of April. I am not tired of my Toastmaster friends, nor of our friendly dinners, nor of the recreation I find in our fellowship.

Thanks to all the officers and committeemen who have worked with me. I feel that I must have been a pretty good President, because of the willingness of all to help. It was your help that enabled me to succeed.

And so, "farewell to the chair" I have been occupying. Welcome to the chance to take my place in the ranks.



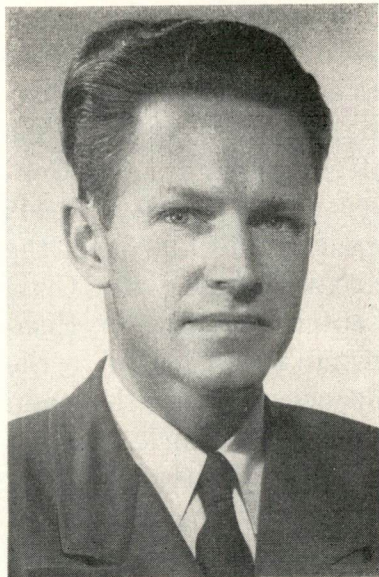
Here

Are a few of the many points of interest in San Francisco which Toastmasters will see while attending the 1948 Convention in July. Focus your binoculars on the Great Bridges, the Civic Center, the Mission, Fisherman's Wharf, the Beaches, and the thousand and one Historic, Picturesque and Romantic Spots to be found in the City of the Golden Gate.

Soon

In the June issue of *The Toastmaster* you will find more pictures and information on the convention city, together with detailed information about hotel reservations, and about the Convention Headquarters at the famous Whitcomb Hotel.

Toastmasters in the News



He Writes A Column

Norman D. Anderson, member of San Diego Toastmasters Club, edits the Club's weekly bulletin (The Voice of Number Seven) in addition to other services rendered. He contributes a special column each week to the "Dow Doings," a house organ for the Louis F. Dow Company, of St. Paul. His column is headed: "Ask Any Salesman—or What Every Salesman Knows."

He thinks that it would be a good idea to use a similar feature in *The Toastmaster*. He would call it: "Ask Any Toastmaster—or What Every Toastmaster Knows."

As a starter, he offers the following examples:

Don't just give a speech—put over an idea.

Transfer a thought from your brain to your listeners.

Be more interested in what you say than how you say it—but remember that both are important.

Two kinds of speakers: The thinkers who never do anything, and the doers who never think. Because of the efforts of the rare in-between type, we hear a lot of good speeches.

The great P. T. Barnum said it: "If a man has goods for sale and doesn't advertise them in some way, the chances are that some day the sheriff will do it for him."

A speech a week improves your speech.

(Does anyone else have ideas on "What Every Toastmaster Knows?")

MEET OLD "TOASTMASTER"



Young Toastmaster as it appears on the next page.

This is Ernest Wooster, member of Santa Ana Toastmasters Club, No. 15, Member of the Editorial Board and the Educational Bureau and past member of the Board of Directors. You will enjoy the conversation of the Old Toastmaster and the

The Old Toastmaster Talks

By ERNEST S. WOOSTER

The Young Toastmaster looked dolefully at the program assignments for the month.

"What's the matter?" the Old Toastmaster inquired, scanning the sheet over the other's shoulder.

"I'm just on as Topicmaster this month. No talk."

"Is that bad?" asked the O. T. "And if so, why?"

The younger man looked at him suspiciously. "Only thing I do is tell the others to talk about something. That's all. I could just as well give it to them in writing and not say a word. What speech training do I get out of that?"

The O. T. cogitated a moment.

"Seems to me that you've never studied your opportunities. How do you expect to get ready to be Topicmaster? Will you just wait till you get there, pick some topic out of the air, toss it out to the members, and let it go at that?"

The Y. T. did not reply.

"Probably that's your method—or lack of method," continued the O. T. "Did you ever think of thinking? I mean about your assignment in advance, planning a subject, getting hold of something lively, even announcing it ahead of time?"

The Y. T. looked up in surprise. The idea was new to him.

"You could go further than that," the O. T. droned on. "You might ask some of the fellows what they are thinking about, or what interests them. You could

use a topic to bring out a cross-section of current thinking. You might pick out a topic for entertainment and fun. Get the members to express their opinions."

The Y. T. was spurred into answering. He asked a question. "What opinions—or opinions on what? And how can you make it entertaining?"

The O. T. offered a question in reply.

"What do you think of the Marshall Plan? What do the others think? How would they vote on the bond issue that's coming up here in town? Do you know? Have you ever asked them? Do you know what you really think about it yourself? You can get a pretty fair cross-section of local opinion by canvassing the members of your own club. They are representative citizens. Why not exchange opinions with them?"

"As to entertainment, there are lots of good ways to have fun. Let the members give individual experiences on "My Most Embarrassing moment," or tell about the most interesting character each one has known. Ask them to speak of the individual who has most influenced their own lives. Let each one tell a story (keeping it clean, of course) and explain how he would use it in a speech.

"Has it occurred to you that you can organize this part of the club's program just as you do any other part, if you give it some

thought? For instance, having announced the topic a week in advance, so that the fellows can think about it, you are in a position to stimulate good discussion. You can have some man express a positive opinion on one side, followed by a similarly strong expression on the opposite side. This will provide cues for those who follow, and will promote a healthy controversial attitude."

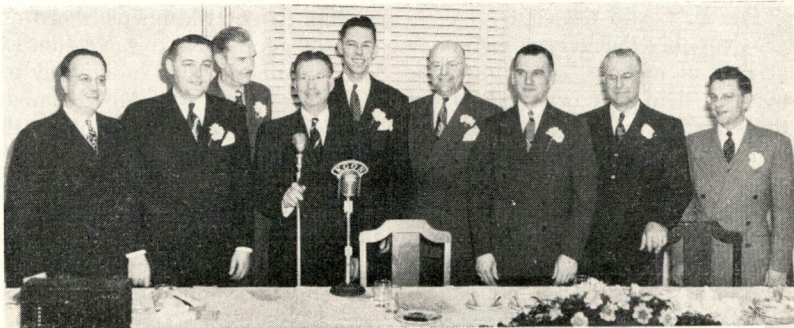
"You make it sound like a lot of work," the Y. T. interposed.

"Sure, it's a lot of work, just like preparing a speech, or getting the program ready when you are to be toastmaster, but it is fun when you get into it. You see there's no difference, really, in being Toastmaster, Topicmaster or Criticmaster. If you'll just study the possibilities, introduce some showmanship, prepare your part of the program, take the same care you would with anything else you

want to make succeed—if you'll go at it this way, you will find that you can make your job of Topicmaster just as important as any other—even more than the others are when someone slights them.

"Don't look down on your chance to lead the discussion. That is your time to find how to be a good chairman. It is different from handling a business session. It gives you a new experience if you will take it. Any time you don't want to be Topicmaster, let me know, and I'll trade my speech turn for it. But not this time. I want you to get the good of the experience."

"Well, all right," conceded the Y. T. "I'll go at it and see. But you are going to have to help me out, brother. Let's put some good topics down on this card right now. How do you think it would do to ask each man to tell how he made his first dollar?"



The Oregon City Toastmasters were hosts to more than 200 visitors at the annual speech contest of Area 1, District 7, held at Oregon City, Oregon, in March. Shown in the picture, from left to right, are Dr. F. Heisley, Carl Hasenkamp, Charlie Griffith, Emmett E. Stoddard, Ralph A. Miller, L. E. Francis (first place winner), Leonard Lindas, Irving L. Saucerman and Jack Lynch.

Be Careful What You Say

By RALPH C. SMEDLEY

You have freedom to speak as you will. But this freedom implies an obligation to speak carefully, thoughtfully, wisely. What you say carelessly may be taken seriously by people far beyond your own circle, with catastrophic results.

The world of today has grown small, and communications have become almost instantaneous. Isolation of thought, put into words, is no longer a possibility. Any word, once spoken, may take wings and fly to the uttermost parts of the earth.

What you say on the street corner may be repeated in a drawing room or auditorium or newspaper in any part of the world. Something said in Anaheim, Azusa, or Cucamonga may be quoted—or misquoted—in Iloilo, Ilkeston, or Boola-Bongo. It may be misinterpreted, misunderstood, or distorted. Better be careful.

This is a national election year in the United States. As usual, it produces much loose talk. Campaign speeches are notoriously biased, unfair, illogical. Speakers accuse candidates—candidates accuse each other—of all kinds of dishonesty, insincerity, incapacity, imbecility. We in America understand it, even though we deplore it. We know that most of it is just "campaign" talk, directed to vote-getting. We do not let it bother us much.

People in other lands do not understand us so well. When they see national political leaders violently disagreeing with each other, denouncing party policies, pointing to disaster unless "our ticket wins," they are impressed. To them, much dissension among our leaders foreshadows dissolution of the United States.

Some speaker attacks the President. "Aha," says the foreign, unfriendly observer, "there goes America. Capitalism is on the verge of destruction. On with the world revolution! America is helpless under the leadership of fools! I just heard Senator Bumbletongue say so on the radio."

We in America must remember that we are no longer enclosed in a tight, soundproof compartment of the earth. We live in a glass house, wired for sound, for all the world to see and hear. Our influence for good in the direction of world understanding, friendship, and peace can be neutralized and destroyed by silly speeches. We must not do this, for the sake of a world which needs us, if not for our own sakes.

This applies not only to America, but to Canada, to Britain, and to every other nation which stands in a position of leadership in the world. Most especially it applies to all those free lands whose peoples must stand together for world safety. Even among friendly na-

tions it is possible for misunderstandings to arise from the unwise, ill-considered words of some irresponsible speaker. These misunderstandings are magnified and glorified by peoples jealous of our freedom, or opposed to the principle of liberty.

We cannot afford to have friendships broken through foolish speech. We cannot permit ourselves to be misrepresented and misunderstood because of loose talk. The remedy is to think before we speak.

Even in private conversation we can save ourselves trouble by considering what we are about to say. In public speech, care is more

sorely needed in proportion to the importance of the occasion, the position of the speaker, and the number who hear.

There are certain principles which even a political speaker ought to bear in mind as he talks. Certainly these must not be forgotten in conversation. Here they are:

1. *Is it true?*
2. *Is it wise?*
3. *Is it necessary?*
4. *Will it do good or harm?*
5. *Is it likely to be misunderstood or misquoted?*

Test your speeches by those questions, and some of them will never be made.



There is a workshop in the Home Office as well as in the many Toastmasters Clubs. In the picture, Founder and Educational Director, Ralph C. Smedley, with book in hand, is helping Executive Secretary Ted Blanding, seated at the left, and Wilbur M. Smith, Administrative Associate, work out a problem in speech evaluation.

The Club Workshop

Stimulating Table Topics

Oregon City Toastmasters Club goes in for table topics which provoke thought and discussion. President Emmett Stoddard reports on several recent topics. (You may remember the article on page 28 of the March issue of *The Toastmaster*, contributed by Stoddard, outlining a discussion which has been profitably used by many clubs). Here are more good ones.

1. The topicmaster called attention to the various lapel emblems worn by the members, and asked that each man tell briefly what organization was represented by his emblem, approaching it in the spirit of selling the idea of the organization. If a man wore no emblem, he spoke on his favorite church or civic organization.



2. The Topicmaster had a large envelope containing pictures of men of distinction. Each Toastmaster present was handed a picture, and asked to speak for two minutes on highlights of this man's life and achievements.

3. The Topicmaster, a life insurance underwriter, presented the topic: "What are your personal plans for retirement?"

To The New Officers

Any organization to succeed must have three elements. It must have a purpose, a plan and leadership. The Toastmasters Club has the purpose set up by the general organization. It has a plan or program worked out through many years of experience. These two elements are provided for every club. But every club in turn has to furnish *leadership*. Upon the quality of that leadership depends the success of the club in all its undertakings.

You new officers have been chosen by your club as competent, enthusiastic and willing leaders. It is your duty now to lead. This does not mean that you are to be dictators, imposing your own ideas and wishes in spite of everything, but that you are to lead in cooperation with your members that their desires for speech improvement may be fulfilled.

There are four things which every officer must do.

(a) *Every club officer* should carefully study and frequently refer to the Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws, the Club Manual, and the various bulletins which are periodically mailed to the club. This study is a must for the President and the Secretary. It is highly desirable for every member of the official group.

(b) *The Executive Committee*

holds regular meetings to study the work and welfare of the club. Some of these meetings may be held following the regular club meeting, but at least once every month there should be a meeting of the Executive Committee unimpeded by any other event, so that there may be ample time for a full study of all the problems before the group.

(c) The work of the *Program Committee* and the *Educational Committee* must be coordinated and put into such relationships of efficiency that there will be no question about the variety and effectiveness of the programs for the meetings. At the beginning of your term of office, program plans should be laid out for at least three months in advance, and in a general way for six months. The *Progressive Training Outlines* should be followed in so far as

this can be done. Every member should be urged to work on his Basic Training, both to complete the 12 assignments and to review thoroughly enough so that skill will be keen in every point.

(d) *Each officer* should understand not only his own work but in a general way the duties of his fellow officers so that the whole program may be built into a unified structure. For you newly elected officers, the months of your administration offer one of the greatest opportunities you have ever enjoyed.

Do not permit yourselves in any way to be robbed of the benefits which may come to you through this experience in service. The resources of the home office are subject to your call. We wish for you the greatest possible success in this good work.



The Colorado Springs, Colorado, Toastmasters Club received Charter No. 555 when seventy-six persons attended the Charter Night banquet. Toastmasters from the Denver and Fort Collins Clubs were on hand to welcome the Colorado Springs Toastmasters into the organization of constructive fellowship. The picture shows, from left to right, Harry H. Hoiles and George W. Spotswood of Club 555 watching Gordon Merrick, president of the Fort Collins Club, present the Charter to Roy E. Hay, president of 555. Rex Dodson, Colorado Springs, and Dr. J. C. Risnik, president of the Denver Club, look on approvingly.

The Commencement Address

By LEWIS C. TURNER, Akron Toastmasters Club.

Commencements, like bananas, come in bunches. You have to be ready to pick them when they are ripe. There is no time to stall and tell the one who is inviting you to address the graduates that you will think it over. He has to know so that he can get his information on the class program. It is "yes" or "no," and like the boy scout, you had better be prepared.

It has been my good fortune to be asked to give hundreds of commencement addresses in the last twenty-five years. I say "my good fortune," because I feel it a privilege to speak to young people. It is true that they are a critical audience. You had better be familiar with your subject and be interested in it or you will find yourself in trouble.

I know of an occasion where a United States senator was asked to give a commencement address in one of our large cities. It may be that the secretary made the appointment without asking him about it. Just before he was to be introduced, the senator leaned over and asked the principal of the high school what he should talk about. The principal's reply was a classic: "If you don't know, God

help you. I can't." (P. S. He didn't. He helps those who help themselves by applying His laws.)

What subject shall you use? In general, you should choose one which deals with those character traits that have the most to do with success as we understand it. Soon after I started giving commencement addresses, I made out a short questionnaire. I asked the graduates to fill it out for me so that I could help them the more. These were the questions:

- a. What is your definition of success?
- b. List three or four character traits which you feel are necessary to success in any field.
- c. If you were starting in high school again, what practices would you adhere to which you have not stressed too much in your work during the last four years?

In a short time I had an inside view of their thinking. They told me that it took Perseverance, Honesty, Unselfishness, Sympathy, Promptness, and Strong Personality to be successful. Since that time, in my commencement addresses, I have stressed the meaning and importance of these character traits. If I can help to strengthen the faith young people have in the might of Right, I feel that I shall have done a fair job.

Out of their letters, I have gathered that they define success as do-

ing the best one can, with what he has, where he is. I have been unable to improve upon this definition, which, by the way, was substantially Lincoln's idea of success.

If you are asked to give a commencement address, accept the challenge. Define success, then discuss the traits of character most helpful in achieving it. Stick to three or four points, no more, and give some good examples to prove each. Talk about people whom the students know. Wind up by challenging them to prove to the com-

munity that it has made a good investment in giving them a four-year education. Young people like a challenge and they respond better than their elders. That is why we choose them to fight our wars.

Especially, I warn you to watch your time. The ideal length for a commencement address is from twenty-five to thirty-five minutes. I have seen more speeches ruined by running over time than by any other item I can recall. Be genuine, honest, sincere, brief, and your audience will stay with you for half an hour.

Magic of the WONDER Word

There is in our language a WONDER word, which, when standing by itself amounts to little but when in COMBINATION with other words becomes almost pure magic! There are many great and powerful words in our language: Mother - Home - Love - Friend. They all have a fine and beautiful sound. The WONDER word will make them even finer, more beautiful and greater. In chemistry this word could be called CATALYST. Undergoing no change in itself it permits many otherwise impossible reactions to occur. The application of our WONDER word, too, will cause many otherwise impossible things to take place. Closed doors have swung open to its subtle magic. All real achievement depends upon it. Through the ages inventors, statesmen, writers, painters, orators, salesmen, street car conductors and social climbers have used it to great advantage. In fact ALL progress is due to this one word. Any group of individuals who work for a common purpose must have it and their success will depend upon only—HOW MUCH? Our Toastmasters Club literally overflows with it. Now can you guess what the WONDER word is? It is one of the greatest in our language — *ENTHUSIASM!*

The Language We Speak

By CHET SANDERS, of Zanesville Toastmasters Club.

This club features talks on definitely educational subjects. This one, on unusual words, is one of the series.

When I attended high school, we had a blubberous football team, with some busty girls for cheer leaders, and we also had some statuesque English teachers who assigned voluminous lessons. Since I became a Toastmaster, I have found that one chapter, on effective use of words, stands out in my memory among all those lessons in English.

It was stated that effectiveness in diction required that words be selected for exactness, appropriateness and expressiveness. I shall rehearse the lesson for you.

There are some words, said the textbook, which violate good usage. Such words are classified as barbarisms, solecisms, improprieties, slang, and obsolete, archaic and technical words. These are to be avoided.

Figures of speech are effective, for they light up our language, make it vivid, vigorous, beautiful. Figurative language often lends force and clearness to the expression of our thoughts.

- The simile is a common figure. It is a figurative resemblance expressed in comparison. For example: "Our house swarmed with guests like a beehive." By contrast, a metaphor implies the comparison instead of formally stating it. "Our house was a beehive" is the metaphorical language for the

simile. You can distinguish the simile, because it always includes a word of comparison, such as "like" or "as."

- Antithesis is a figure based on unlikeness, and always expresses contrast. In using this figure, like words must be contrasted, verbs with verbs, nouns with nouns, and so on. An example of antithesis is: "Silence is as deep as eternity; Speech is as shallow as time." Here we have silence and speech, deep and shallow, eternity and time, brought into contrast.

- An epigram is a brief, pointed saying which takes the nature of a proverb. "The fastest colors are those which will not run," is an example. The modern "wise-crack" partakes of the nature of the epigram.

- Metonymy is a figure in which the name of one object is substituted for that of another, as when we say, "The kettle boils," while we understand that it is the water in the kettle which is boiling.

- Synecdoche names a part for the whole, or the whole for a part. When a Toastmaster spoke at the theater about the Red Cross campaign, he beheld—not a great many people, but "a sea of faces."

- Hyperbole is a dignified name for exaggeration. It usually

occurs in humorous writing or conversation. A serious hyperbole would be: "We live the time that a match flickers."

• Onomatopoeia is a figure in which the sound of the word imitates the sound it names. Thus we have: splash, buzz, hiss, tinkle, crash, as examples.

• A large vocabulary of multisyllabic words is the result of study. An adequate and expressive vocabulary is the mark of an in-

telligent man. And you can enlarge your own vocabulary by a little work. Spend five minutes a day on words. In five years, you can increase your word stock by twenty to thirty percent.

Resolve right now that every day shall be a "new word" day for you. Select words which are appropriate, exact, expressive and useful, use them, make them your own, and your power in speech will be enlarged.

"FLYING SQUADRON" SUCCEEDS IN DISTRICT TWO

One reason for the success in District Two this year is the "Flying Squadron," under the direction of Bert A. Johnson, District Secretary.

A streamlined program with one toastmaster, three speakers and an evaluator has been very well received by service clubs in Seattle. Each program has a different group of men participating, thereby giving more Toastmasters an opportunity to speak outside of their own club. Speakers usually talk about the importance of Toastmasters to the individual, to the community and to the nation.



A recent program at the Lions Club found Nick Jorgensen, International Director, as Toastmaster; Robert Grube, International Treasurer, as one of the speakers, along with Colin Millar and Al Johnson. Evaluator for the day was Bert A. Johnson.

The result of this one meeting—one new Toastmasters Club!

I Collected My Dividends!

By ROY ALBRIGHT,
of Greensburg, Pa.,
Toastmasters Club.



With all modesty and humility, I present a testimonial concerning Toastmasters training for the benefit of all skeptics whose skepticism is exceeded only by their subliminal consciousness.

I am really serious about this testimonial. I had often read about persons who, when called upon to say a few words, arose to their feet, stammered or said nothing at all, and then sat down in ignominy. I knew that I was in the same boat.

I avoided all gatherings where I might have to face this situation. When it could not be avoided, and I was called on to "say a few words," I did exactly that—said a few words, and those few were lost within a few feet of me. I envied the man who could rise to the occasion, say what he had in mind, say it so that it was clearly understood, and then sit down with the satisfaction of knowing he had not fallen down.

And then, I was introduced to Toastmasters.

Here was presented the opportunity to overcome the timidity

which continually plagued me. Perhaps it was my big chance.

But before I made the leap, my thoughts ran something like this: "I cannot speak before people. But Toastmasters are people. If I cannot speak before people, I cannot speak before Toastmasters."

For once in my life, I showed that I had will power. I leaped, and landed in the Toastmasters Club. Well, it was just as I expected. They were people. But they were a different kind of people. They made the landing easy. I gave one speech, and it did not hurt much. Then I gave another, and another, and so on.

Now, after having been a Toastmaster for more than a year, I can say that I have improved. Maybe not outwardly. My speeches may be as poor a sever, my diction may

not have improved much, my vocabulary may be about the same. Nothing about my speeches may have improved, but *I have improved*. When I first made a speech, I was in agony; now, when making a speech, I am relaxed, and when relaxed, I notice that it is the audience that is in agony, if anyone is.

Toastmasters has paid me dividends; and I have collected.

A few weeks ago we had an exhibit up at the factory. Our shop and office personnel visited this exhibit in groups. Someone had to describe and explain the equipment. It was my lot to be the one.

This was my first opportunity to speak to an outside group since joining the Toastmasters Club. I mounted the platform and gave talks before groups consisting of as many as eighty persons at a time. I cannot honestly say that it was a pleasure, but I can say that it was far from being an ordeal. I got through. They listened.

For this achievement I am indebted to Toastmasters.

Some pictures were taken during one of these speeches. The pictures prove that I did use gestures. The people who listened agreed that I used words, and could be heard.

Whatever else has come about through my membership in the Toastmasters Club, *I have improved*. That is what I wanted to do. That is my dividend—my bonus. I am glad I collected it.

“So Did I”

Says ARTHUR L. RITENOUR

The Greensburg Toastmasters have a pleasant custom of taking turns at editing the Club's bulletin, “The Speakeasy.” The preceding article appeared in the bulletin early in March, when Toastmaster Albright was the editor. The following week was Arthur Ritenour's turn, and here is what he had to say about his own experience:

Last month I served as toastmaster at the annual meeting of 300 Credit Union members, introducing five speakers. I also gave a teaching demonstration at the University of Pittsburgh with 386 students attending, and was speaker at two undergraduate seminars. I am no Billy Sunday or William Jennings Bryan, but I can say for myself that I got through the assignments without any casualties. If I had tried to do these things without the benefit of my training in the Toastmasters Club, probably I would not be in shape to be writing these lines now.

I remember very well the first time I attended a Toastmasters Club meeting. Even the word frightened me. To think that I was practically forced (to save my ego) to stand and say something before all these experienced men just about petrified me. Since that time I have learned that they are a fine bunch, all out for the same purpose, and that all of them started in the same way — standing there in front, frightened stiff, trying to say a little of something, and trying to help each other say it better. Check your experience with Albright's and mine.

When anyone talks about “collecting dividends,” you can join us in saying, “Me too.”

Questions Answered

Time Conscious

Q: How do clubs suppress over-time speakers? We have a few and they always seem to get added enthusiasm just when the bell rings. Once, when this happened, the whole group rose and shouted, “Aw, Shut Up!” and it startled as well as stopped the speaker. But this idea did not work the second time. We need additional ideas to stop such verbose Toastmasters.

Len Fish, New Haven, Conn.

A: (1) When the speaker's time is up, the Toastmaster could rise, rap the table with the gavel, and in a loud voice yell, “Thank you for your speech, the next speaker is . . . !” (2) When it is time for the speaker to stop, the audience could begin their applause and not stop until the speaker sits down. (3) If the timing device is connected with a large bell, buzzer, or whistle, the speaker will usually relinquish his place to such raucous competition. (4) Why not have the audience rise and, with dignity and decorum, proceed to the speaker's platform in single file and each take the speaker's hand, congratulating him on such a long talk? The audience could then file out of the room; the speaker would fade into oblivion.

Better yet, stress the point that a sense of timing is fundamental among benefits of Toastmasters training. Not only is there an element of discourtesy in encroaching on the time of another, but the speaker who has not learned to fit his material to his time has failed to learn one of the very first lessons in speech.

Who Assigns The Subjects?

Q: Which is better, to let the speakers choose their own topics, or to have the Program Committee assign them? Which plan gives the best training for the speaker, and less headache for the Committee?

Weslie W. Olson, Quincy, Ill.

A: Use both plans. Each has its advantages. Neither should be used exclusively. There is definite value to the speaker in having to study and prepare on some topic outside his own field. Even if the subject is in his field, it is good training for him to adjust his speech so as to fit in with others. If he is called upon to speak before audiences other than his own club he will frequently find a theme suggested. He must be ready.

At the same time, he should be given plenty of opportunities to choose his subject and prepare his material along the line of his own interest. If the club is following “Progressive Training” program suggestions, it will use many special types of program, in which the style of speech is indicated rather than the exact subject. But some of these suggestions provide for definite subject assignment.

In the Basic Training course, the nature of the speech is suggested, but the choice of the topic is left to the speaker. Variety in form and theme is always important, so as to give the member the widest possible experience in various styles of speech.



Thought Starters

A story, a proverb, an epigram, or a well-worded saying by some notable may start a train of thought which will result in a good speech.

The foremost problem of the United Nations is to get themselves out from behind the hate-ball. —Weekly Progress.

* * * *

Speeches are judged not by their length but by their quality. It is something like the story of the young housewife who was complaining of the small piece of ice that had been left in response to her order for fifty pounds. The ice man replied, "But notice, ma'am, the firm and excellent quality of it. In buying ice, your motto should be, 'Not how much, but how good.'" —Speakers Magazine.

* * * *

He (the king) inquired of another (one of the wise men) "What is the aim of oratory?" And he said, "To convince one's opponent, pointing out the errors in an attitude of deference. For in this way wilt thou win over the hearer, not by direct contradiction, but by showing appreciation withal, with a view to convincing him. But persuasion is attained through God's working."

—From "The Letter of Aristeas" (dated in the 3rd century B. C.)

* * * *

There are one-story intellects, two-story intellects, and three-story intellects with skylights. All fact collectors, who have no aim beyond their facts, are one-story men. Two-story men compare, reason, generalize, using the labors of the fact collectors as well as their own. Three-story men idealize, imagine, predict; their best illumination comes from above, through the skylight. —Holmes.

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Notwithstanding all the ignorance and all the woe in the world, never before has there been such widespread opportunity for enlightenment, never such widespread comfort, never so much kindness, so much pity for animals, for children, and, above all, never have women been shown such consideration . . . But always the people remain, pressing onward in a great stream up the slopes, and always somehow toward the light. —Brand Whitlock.

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There is only one difference, after all, between the successful and the unsuccessful man. They both have ideas, but the successful man does something with them. The unsuccessful man simply wishes and daydreams about his ideas. —Ralph Barstow.

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Adversity is sometimes hard upon a man; but for one who can stand prosperity, there are a hundred that will stand adversity. —Thomas Carlyle.

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Every man is as heaven made him, and sometimes a great deal worse. —Cervantes.

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He who says much must be right sometimes.

What a fool does in the end, the wise man does in the beginning. Lowly ground and poorly tilled will sometimes breed a fragrant rose. —Spanish Proverbs.

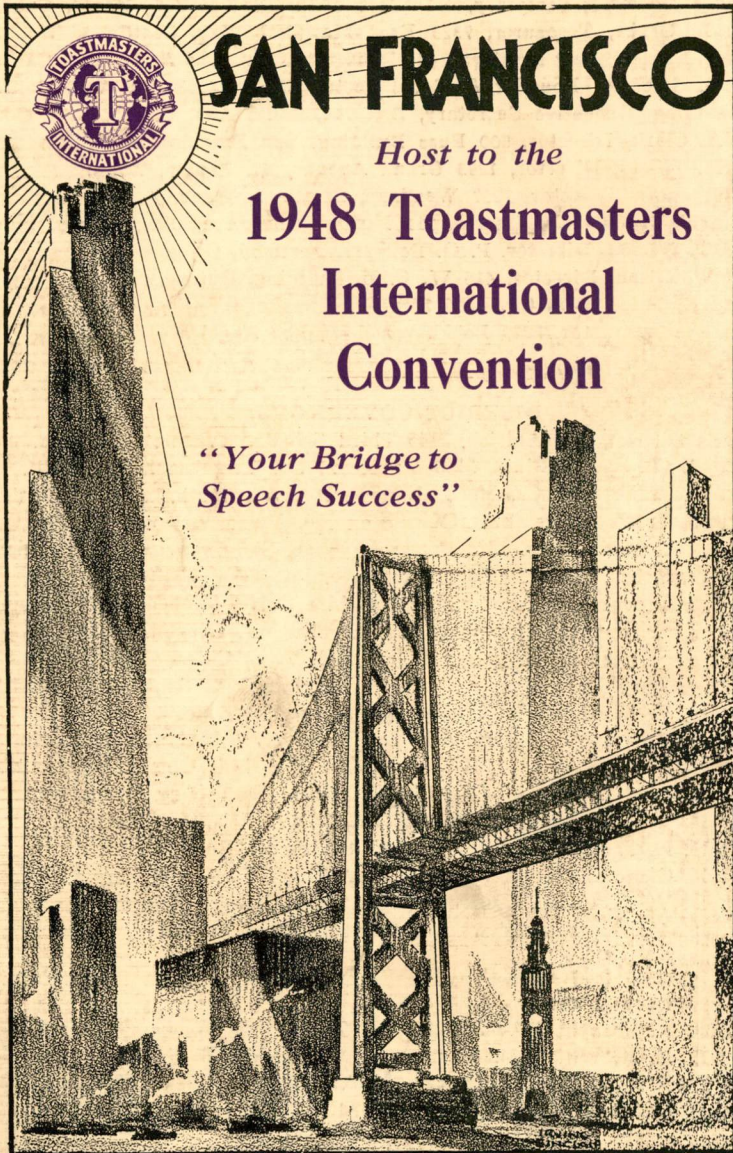
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