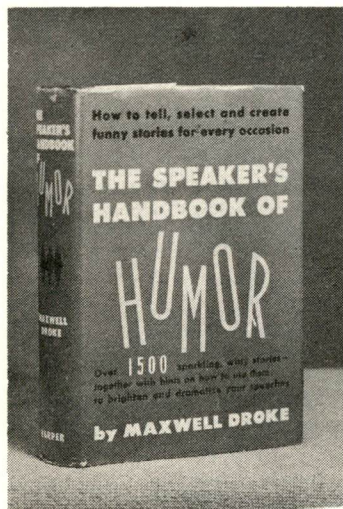


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The
TOASTMASTER

DECEMBER, 1957



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For Better Thinking—Speaking—Listening

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INDEX

CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN CITIZEN— By Rep. Joseph W. Martin, Jr.....	2
USE YOUR OTHER TWO VOCABULARIES—By Frank Versagi....	7
OF MEN AND BOOKS—By LeRoy Ford.....	8
NEW BLADES FOR OLD SAWS—By Gunther Cohn.....	10
A DEAF MAN IN TOASTMASTERS—By Elmer H. Mateas.....	12
THESE ARE THE GIFTS—By R. C. Smedley.....	14
BOOK BRIEFS—By Seth Fessenden.....	24
SUBJECT INDEX TO THE TOASTMASTER.....	28

WHAT'S GOING ON. 16 — EDITORIAL SPEAKING, 20 — CLUB TO CLUB, 22 — PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS, 25 — LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, 26 — NEW CLUBS, 32.

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DECEMBER, 1957

By REP. JOSEPH W. MARTIN, JR., of Massachusetts,
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives

CONGRESS . . . and the AMERICAN CITIZEN

AS CIVIC leaders and as good citizens, Toastmasters should be especially alert to the need of electing good Congressmen to office, choosing among candidates the one who is in closest accord with the individual's political philosophy.

Too often, the matter of selecting the right Congressman is not given due consideration by the voter, when the Congressional race is overshadowed by a Presidential election, or when hot races for local offices overshadow the Congressional election.

For instance, in the 1956 election more than 3.5 million more votes were cast for President than were cast in Congressional races. Many people who voted for the President apparently were not interested enough to cast their ballot for Congressman.

Such a situation should be corrected, as the importance of Congress to every American citizen cannot be overestimated. This is particularly true in these days when it is essential to every indi-

vidual that we have the best possible representation.

Congress makes the national laws under which all Americans live and which determine the course, size, policies and extent of the United States Government, and levies the taxes which support it. War or peace might well hinge on the type of our representation. A national Administration can recommend courses of action, but whether or not these are put into effect depends on the laws which Congress enacts and the money it appropriates.

The party which controls Congress has entire control of all legislation. This is intensified by the fact that the party with a majority in Congress has a majority on every committee and subcommittee, and the chairmanship of each of them.

A party opposed to the President can radically change the legislation and thereby defeat the purpose of the Executive, while still retaining the title of the measure.

For instance, a bill embodying

an Administration legislative request may be introduced into the House of Representatives, and a companion bill into the Senate. Each bill is referred to a hostile subcommittee, which may or may not pass it up to a hostile full committee. Even if it survives this far, it may be amended in the process to bear little resemblance to the original proposal. All this takes place before it comes up on the Floor of the House or Senate for debate and vote, if it ever does.

However, the committee system is most necessary, due to the vast bulk of proposed legislation. For instance, during the first 5½ months of the last session of Congress, more than 8,000 bills were introduced into the House of Representatives alone. Committee members have the task of screening this huge number of bills, of holding public hearings on important ones, of deciding which ones should come before the entire House or Senate. Many committee members become experts on legislation on certain subjects.

A Congressman has other functions and duties, in addition to serving on committees, participating in debate and voting on the Floor of the House.

He must keep himself informed on a huge variety of subjects and on the feeling of individuals and groups of his constituents regarding them.

He serves as a liaison man between government agencies and groups of his constituents, to help them present their views on matters affecting his district in a right and proper manner.

.....

Few men are qualified to write of government with so much authority as Rep. Joseph W. Martin, Jr. (R) of Massachusetts, who has spent 33 years in the service of his country. At present Mr. Martin is Minority Leader of the U. S. House of Representatives, a position for which he was chosen in the 76th Congress and which he has held continuously except during his distinguished service as Speaker of the House in the 80th and 83rd Congresses.

He performs proper services for individual constituents, whose cases have become tangled up in our bureaucracy. In this respect, he can usually get quick action and information on their cases.

He has a steady stream of callers on official business and a huge correspondence to attend to, speeches to write and to make, meetings to attend.

A Congressman, to be effective, must have a great number of desirable qualities and aptitudes—first, in order to remain a Congressman, his basic convictions must be well in tune with those of a majority of his constituents, or he will not remain a Congressman for many terms. With the multiplicity of legislation being considered every year, far too much for the average voter to follow, the latter wants a man whom he can trust to represent his general viewpoint, although two human beings seldom agree entirely on everything. Almost every voter may find his Congressman voting against some of the things he wishes, which may be more than balanced by votes for many more things he favors.

Second, the Congressman should be a man of sound common sense, with a good analytical mind. He has to make decisions on a great variety of subjects every day, and he must be equipped to analyze almost any kind of a matter, get at the heart of it quickly and make a quick series of sound, common-sense decisions.

He must really like people and have the ability to let people know he likes them—and to influence

them—in his dealings with his constituents, and with his colleagues in Congress.

He should be an effective speaker, but not necessarily a fancy one, needing the ability to formulate his thoughts concisely and to put them across to others in committee discussion and Floor debate—and to greater length in the many speeches he is called on to make to various groups.

Without a sound knowledge of parliamentary law, he can easily get lost in the course of action on the Floor of the House, which is governed by a set of rules which are basically those by which every club meeting is conducted—but which are much more complicated and comprehensive.

Turning from the Congressman to his constituent, a good constituent can help make a good Congressman.

A good constituent should be civic-minded, well informed, vocal and active in community and political affairs. The proper functioning of the American form of government depends on the active interest in it shown by the American citizen.

The quality of our government—we agree that its forms in general are the best ever in the entire world—depends on the type of men who are elected to public office.

In order to get good officeholders, we need first of all good candidates. In order to elect good candidates, we need an enlightened and informed electorate participating in public affairs. This does not just mean voting in presidential

years. In fact it goes farther than voting. It means helping to get good men and women to run for office.

It means that in both parties we need active participation in party work by more and more American men and women.

Politics and civic affairs shade off into each other. In America today, more and more people are active in civic affairs. More and more should be so interested. This trend has been encouraged by the great shifts in population—from the cities to the suburbs and beyond. People, moving into new locations find many urban conveniences lacking which they took for granted when they lived in cities.

The drive to obtain adequate schools, better roads, street lights, trash and garbage collections, side-

walks, in some cases city water and sewers, fire hydrant protection, police protection, fire protection and a host of other services, has brought about participation by countless thousands of Americans in Parent-Teacher Associations, civic associations, by speakers with Toastmasters experience and others. Many progress into political activity.

Countless others are devoting energy, talents and time to charity drives, scout work, church work and many other means of making a better community.

In all these affairs—political, civic and religious—leadership is needed. The man who is prepared is in a better position to exercise leadership, to make his influence felt in favor of the objectives he believes to be right and necessary.

Executive Director Blanding confers with House Minority Leader Martin and Congressman James D. Utt of California.



Participation in Toastmaster activities is a true and tried training school for such leadership. It plugs a gap in the education of many Americans. So many in our high schools and in our colleges either never had the opportunity or never took the opportunity to develop their public speaking abilities.

So many of us are in the situation that faced me when I finished high school. I had to go to work to help support my family. I was fortunate in that my job after graduating from high school was as a newspaper reporter. In that line of work I had the chance to observe public speakers, good and bad, and to learn from them. When I was in my twenties, I started my active participation in politics as the manager of a friend's campaign for the state legislature. When I was 27, I ran for the Massachusetts House of Representatives and was elected. I have been active in public affairs almost continually ever since—on the national scene for more than 32 years in Congress.

My advice to a young man, or to a man of any age, who is interested in community affairs is *to gain experience in public speaking and to learn something about parliamentary rules.*

The person who has good ideas and can express them to the public in a sincere manner is well started on the path to public leadership. If he knows the rules under which a meeting should be conducted, he can work to get things accomplished in a proper and orderly manner, can prevent others from "putting anything over on him,"

does not get confused by parliamentary maneuvering, is able to conduct the meeting himself if called upon, he has taken a second step on the path toward leadership.

This leadership is a civic duty of which you Toastmasters are deeply conscious. Your participation in this organization opens the door to you for activity in public affairs. Take advantage of your training. Use your talents. Devote as much of your time as you can spare toward building a better community, a better state, a better nation.

There will be a Congressional campaign next year. This 1958 Congressional election will largely determine the direction that the Federal Government will take during the following years. It is your duty as a citizen to become informed in regard to candidates and issues. Do this. Register. Vote. And if you are able to do so, become active in the campaign. You will enjoy the activity. You will make new friends. You will have the satisfaction of doing your duty as a citizen.

Under the American system of government, political parties are the vehicles of progress. The direction of government activity at all levels is largely determined by those few who are really active in the affairs of the two parties. To have an opportunity to exercise leadership, to influence public policy, to make your opinions felt, to make your contribution to public affairs, I urge you to take immediate steps to become active in the political party of your choice. ❖

By FRANK J. VERSAGI

USE YOUR OTHER TWO VOCABULARIES

Frank J. Versagi is Chief Chemist of the Mueller Brass Co. of Port Huron, Mich., member of Port Huron YMCA Toastmasters 806, and a speaker, writer and editor on technical topics.

IN ALL our speaking, social, business and civic, we can only be as effective as our basic tool—our vocabulary. Scores of books and hundreds of articles have been written on methods of increasing our word power. Most of these methods require efforts external to our normal pattern of thought and action. Indeed, some are as mechanical as reading the dictionary—one page a day for several years.

How much easier to make use of material already within us! We all have such material, for in reality we each have 3 distinct vocabularies.

Our speaking vocabulary is by far the smallest. These are the words we use in our normal social and business conversations. Depending on education and interests, this vocabulary can vary from a few hundred to a few thousand words.

Larger than our speaking vocabulary is our writing vocabulary. All of us write, especially in reports and formal letters, words which for several reasons we almost never use in conversation. In speaking, for example, we might say, "There's no explanation." In writing the same thought we might say "It is inexplicable."

Look at some of your old letters and reports; you will find scores of words that you use in writing which can easily be added to your speaking vocabulary. You already know meaning and usage of the words.

One psychological impediment (in speaking, I would have said "mental stumbling block" instead of "psychological impediment." See what I mean!), of course, is that we can't pronounce many of the words we write. Have a quick look at the dictionary in this case. Like making the last payment on a car, the word becomes completely yours.

Finally, we all have a reading vocabulary—our largest. This includes not only the words we speak and write, but hundreds of other words which we recognize and understand when we see them in context, but which we would be unable to define if we were asked the actual meaning. While this last vocabulary requires more effort than our writing vocabulary to integrate into conversation, the battle is half won since we know the general usage and approximate meaning of these words.

To get the most out of this last technique, however, we have to expose ourselves to good reading material—something other than the mass magazines and newspapers.

Your writing and reading vocabularies are already a part of you, waiting to be called upon. Put them to use for better speaking. ❖

OF MEN and BOOKS

BY LE ROY FORD

EACH Christmas season, I make a special point of re-reading three stories: the first, Anatole France's "The Juggler of Notre Dame;" the second, Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol;" and the third, Dr. Clement Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas." In them, I find much that helps repair the beliefs that have become a bit scuffed by the year's travel down life's uneven path, and much that helps nourish and sustain those beliefs during the journey into the new year ahead.

I read "The Juggler of Notre Dame" because I believe in the sacred nature of the season; and, also, that the offerings of the lowest are just as acceptable above as those of the mightiest. The only hallmark such gifts need is sincerity.

I read "A Christmas Carol" because I believe in the spirit of Christmas. The brightness, the good-cheer, and the merry caroling; the holly, the mistletoe, and the glittering Christmas tree; the festive table and the plum pudding are all, in my opinion, symbols of the finest chapter in the too-often dreary and unhappy diary of man.

And I read "A Visit from St. Nicholas" because I believe there is a Santa Claus.

I know that a great many people say there is no Santa Claus. But, on the other hand, a great many say there is. Most of the believers are, admittedly, a little too young for doubts and distrust and cynicism to have clouded their minds to vision, as a cataract shuts out beauty from the eye. But their conviction is every bit as strong as the unbelievers'. And why shouldn't it be? When it is said there is no Santa Claus, we have only the word of humans for it. And humans have been known to be wrong.

For my part, I believe that Santa Claus exists just as surely as Jean, the lowly juggler with his sorry bag of tricks, exists, as surely as Ebenezer Scrooge and Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim exist. Not only do these people exist, but, so long as one Christian is left in the world, they will never die.

And just as surely, Dr. Moore's St. Nicholas exists and makes his annual rounds, imparting to every thing he touches the glow of peace and good-will, the warmth of generosity and trust, the excitement of hope. If there is anyone who does not remember the magic of this touch as he lay early abed on a Christmas Eve, long ago, listening breathlessly for the padding of reindeer's hoofs on the snow-piled roof, the mysterious scurrying below stairs, the tinkle of sleigh bells fading away into the frosty night, I can only say of such a one: What a pity!

The skeptics will say, this is all very well and good, if you want to believe in that sort of thing; but, after all, Dr. Moore's poem is just another story. How typical of the skeptic's meagerness of soul is this empty thought and half-truth. Naturally, everyone knows that "A Visit from St. Nicholas" is a story; but what the skeptics fail to see, is that is it far, very far from being just another story. I have read it each year for almost as many years as I am old. Yet each year it is just as youthful and buoyant as it was the first time I read it. It never grows old.

This resistance to that great evaluator, Time, who allows a year to a best-seller and two weeks to a popular song, is the mark of not just another story, but of a great story. No story can be great unless it does have this eternal youthfulness, this ability to stand up under reading after reading by generation after generation. Nor will it have greatness unless we

feel as we read it that it is true, true of us personally.

"A Visit from St. Nicholas" has both timelessness and intimacy, and is, therefore, a great and moving story. It is, perhaps, in one form or another, the best known story in the world because it is everybody's personal story. It strikes a responsive chord because we already have the story deep down in our hearts. Dr. Moore, in writing it, simply gave the story imagery and color and action.

Santa Claus exists then, as I believe, in the hearts of all men of peace and good-will. He exists in the hearts of all generous men who seek a decent and better world not only for their own children but for other men's children as well. He exists in the hearts of men of faith—men who look, and find, beyond material things, the true and enduring meaning of life.

Believing this, and with Tiny Tim and the ragged Juggler fresh at hand to reassure me that the biggest thing in the world is the bigness of the human spirit, I find it difficult at Christmas to be anything but hopeful of the road that leads off into the future. That future will be just as bright as we keep this season bright. It will remain bright for as long as we preserve within us the desire and the urge to repeat, one to the other, the words of Dr. Moore's "jolly old elf," "*Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!*"

.....
LeRoy Ford of Philadelphia's First Toastmasters No. 541, is an accountant, but says he gets "more fun from working with words."



by gunther cohn

MILLIONS of words are spoken and written daily. All too many of these communications are heavily loaded with clichés, stereotyped figures of speech; each repetition makes the trite phrases just a bit triter. We are in danger of becoming intellectual illiterates.

What is wrong? Are we unprepared when we speak, weak thinkers as we write? No, we pay careful attention to subject matter. Perhaps we fail to give the proper weight to the form of presentation. Let's therefore consider not only what we say but also how we say it—at work, at play, and in our Toastmasters training.

It is not only permissible, it's good to make our own figures of speech. After all, where do you think the trite ones came from? Someone thought them up, and when first used, they were quite clever. But, like the chewing gum on the bedpost, the flavor's gone.

The process of inventing new figures of speech does take a little imagination. It is true that some people have more of that quality than others. Poets and scientists, as window washers of our minds, supply many such figures of speech. Each one of us, however, can express our thoughts in a live-

lier, clearer, more colorful fashion.

Let's admit at the outset that the standard quotes, when used correctly and in moderation, are perfectly acceptable. There is a place in our speaking and writing for the classic metaphor, simile or idiom, whether we quote Shakespeare, Dorothy Parker or Old Swedish Proverb.

Then just what is wrong, you may ask, with using the old phrases? Well, several things. We object when a talk is liberally sprinkled with idioms merely to fill up space, when they are used incorrectly or when they are terribly outdated.

Soap operas and some comic strip serials offer sickening examples of stereotyped situations. Perhaps some meddlesome old lady will get herself involved in all manner of domestic difficulties with diverse folk who appear to suffer from tired thought. We are expected to feel better by the knowledge that all's well that ends well. Don't you miss in such text a sparkle and freshness?

Then, there are phrases the true meaning of which has been lost in antiquity so that they are now misused. How often have you heard some fool quote "the excep-

tion proves the rule," when as a matter of fact, an exception has never proved a rule and was never meant to. *Proving*, used here in its archaic meaning, means "testing" as in "Government Proving Ground." Thus, ponder the wisdom of the thought that an exception tests the rule; compare it with the absurd implication that an exception establishes a rule's validity.

Third, many of the oft-quoted sayings belong to a different day and age: a time of pioneering, of farming, of handicraft. In spite of never meeting up with the real thing in our daily lives, we merrily keep on grinding axes, locking barns, counting chickens, as well as bemoaning birds in the bush and flies in the ointment. "The early bird catches the worm" was good advice for the farmer. For me, today, I say phooey! There are thousands of business magnates and professional entertainers who never get up before noon but are healthier, wealthier and wiser than you or I will ever be.

Let us examine some modern idioms, refreshing by contrast. The term "Fifth Column," for example, comes to us from Spain during the Franco revolution in 1936. The city, the informer said, will be attacked by five columns, one from each direction. And the Fifth?, the listener asked. *It will rise within the city.*

Hayakawa, emphasizing the fact that no one reads a magazine story twice, wrote "Pulp magazines are like paper towels; they are fit to be used once and then thrown away." And again, Jim Bishop in reviewing Sgt. McKeon's trial:

"The court was jammed with ladies who metronomed their Japanese fans." You see, it is possible to cloak one's thoughts in modern dress.

You should now have reached the obvious conclusion: Ponder a while about the vehicle for your expressions. If you must use some of the old saws, be sure to use the right ones; better yet, sharpen them first. Best of all, try a new blade occasionally. Memorize them for a talk as you do your opening and your conclusion. Then state your phrase with pride and pause a few seconds to let it sink in.

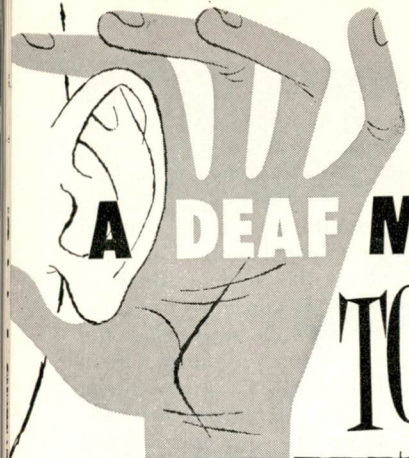
Let's say that something is useless. Surely you have encountered a useless object in your lifetime without having to tell what grandfather found unnecessary. Grandfather had no use for a fifth wheel on a wagon. But you don't have to reach that far back. Why, a fifth wheel is as useless as a hand-brake on a rocket or a rear-view mirror on a roller coaster!

You might also give the metaphors a break: they are caviar to the general. Just omit the comparative conjunction (like, as).

Here's an idea: think of children and use expressions they find familiar. After all, our children

.....
Gunther Cohn is Past President of Pennypot Toastmasters No. 1202, Philadelphia, Pa.

.....
never counted chickens, squeezed turnips or looked a horse in the mouth. So the next time you are tempted to fight fire with fire, remember: the fire department usually uses water. ✻



A DEAF MAN . . . , IN TOASTMASTERS ?!

T

by *elmer h. mateas*

WHY not? Certainly few men need Toastmasters training more than one who, because he cannot hear, has trouble adjusting himself to his surroundings with the result that he frequently speaks softly in a noisy place and at times shouts in a quiet one.

True, our man must have enough hearing to be able to profit by the evaluation in his club. A deaf-mute, for instance, would fail to benefit from Toastmasters more by reason of his muteness than because of his deafness. Very few men, however, other than those born into a world of silence, have no sound-consciousness at all.

Let's examine a case history, that of a man in El Monte Toastmasters Club 352.

This man's natural hearing is practically nil, about a 98 per cent loss. Even with amplification of a five-transistor hearing aid, he has about 25 per cent normal hearing.

Yet he has gained not only the usual rewards — confidence, knowledge of parliamentary pro-

cedure, ability to preside over group meetings, the warmth of fellowship and all the rest of the practically "guaranteed" results of club membership; he has had invitations to speak before such groups as Rotary, Soroptimist, Optimists, Lions, Kiwanis, Exchange, and many other organizations.

This man's hearing became impaired when he was only eight years old. It is not easy for a child to explain to adults why he does not always answer when spoken to, why he frequently gives the wrong answers to questions, why his school work suddenly seems harder. Psychologists say that under such circumstances, the development of an inferiority complex is practically inevitable.

As he grew older, our man discovered that he was extremely interested in civic affairs. He admired

.....
Elmer H. Mateas, Superintendent of the El Monte Foundry, is immediate Past President of the El Monte (Calif.) Toastmasters No. 352.

and envied those men who could stand up and make forceful speeches in behalf of such causes as the Community Chest, Red Cross, and other community enterprises. He became a worker for those causes, but because of his handicap, he remained convinced that he could never advance from the ranks of the workers to leadership or officership.

Then he heard about Toastmasters. He read about their meetings, felt that he would like to join—yet somehow or other, the opportunity never seemed to come. He held back, procrastinated, hoped—waiting for something to give him the final push.

One day he read about the formation of a Speechcraft course, sponsored by the local club. Here it was—the opportunity for which he had been waiting. He joined the group, and upon completion of the course, joined the El Monte Toastmasters.

All men make mistakes when they are learning how to speak in public. Deaf men, perhaps, make more than others. Our man found that Toastmasters gave him a place in which he could make his inevitable mistakes and learn from them; where friends were concerned with helping him to overcome his mistakes. "If you've got to make a mistake, make it in Toastmasters," became his philosophy. Soon he found that he was not reluctant to accept the opportunities for leadership in the community which were being offered to him. Toastmasters had given him the poise necessary to accept and surmount the unusual and

sometimes embarrassing situations which occasionally arose. Deaf men seem to have an unusual talent for getting into such embarrassing situations.

As an illustration: One time this man was being introduced for a speech he was to give over the radio when the wire from the transmitter of the hearing aid fastened to his undershirt at the chest, running around his shoulder, up the back of his ear, became disconnected in the earpiece. In an effort to replace it, he knocked the receiver loose from the ear mold and it dropped to the floor. He bent over to pick it up. As he straightened up, he saw the master of ceremonies pointing at him. He was on the air!

He acknowledged the introduction and started his speech. Meanwhile he removed his coat, tie, and shirt. Still talking, he connected the errant wire back to the receiver, the receiver to the ear mold, and replaced the whole works in position in his ear. Now, with his speech nearly half over, he could hear his own voice.

Can you conceive of him taking things in such an unflustered stride if he had not had Toastmasters training?

What do his fellow members think of a deaf man in Toastmasters? They don't think about it at all. They attach about the same importance to a hearing aid that they do to a pair of glasses.

In fact, they elected our deaf man president of the club.

The writer of this article can attest to the truth of all these statements. *He is that man.*

THESE ARE THE GIFTS

By RALPH C. SMEDLEY

NOT ONLY at Christmas, but throughout the year, we are the recipients of gifts of incalculable value. Because they are so freely given, so constantly available, we tend to lose our appreciation for them. They become commonplace. We need to realize their value.

For example, there is the gift of speech—the power to communicate with others. We accept it as a matter of course, and all too often, we abuse it, or fail to make good use of it.

In your Toastmasters Club, you are working to improve your ability to communicate, to share your ideas with others, and to create better understanding. The gift of speech is given to you in principle, for you to use as you will. If you truly appreciate it, you will wish to make the best possible use of it. That is why we practice speaking, and listen to evaluation. We gain skill by practice, and we improve by heeding our evaluators.

Try to think of a world in which there is no communication. Can you imagine what life would be like if you were unable to speak to others, or to listen when they speak to you? There would be no sharing of ideas, no way to gain cooperation. There would be no

civilization. If we could not communicate our ideas with each other, there could be no understanding, and no working together.

In your Toastmasters Club, you are making use of this greatest of gifts, and as you use it, you discover another priceless gift, the gift of *opportunity*.

Opportunity awaits you in your own club—opportunity to prepare yourself to take advantage of other opportunities which are all around you in your daily life. These are the gifts which last. Accept them with gratitude, and use them with diligence, to make your own life better, fuller, and more worthy in its production.

These are the gifts.

Christmas is the season of giving.

It is also the season of getting, or receiving, for where there is a giver, there must be a receiver.

In Toastmasters, this season of giving and getting is not confined to the closing days of the year. It lasts for twelve months, for in this case we think of the giving and accepting of evaluation, or constructive criticism, which is one of the distinguishing marks of Toastmasters training.

While there is a great truth involved in the principle of ascribing the principal blessing to the giver in general, in Toastmasters it works both ways. Like the quality of mercy, "It is twice blessed; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes."

The evaluator who speaks up in his own Toastmasters Club meeting to suggest ways of improvement to a fellow Toastmaster gives help to the one criticized, and at the same time gains help for himself by his close attention to the good and bad qualities of the speaker.

The one who is being evaluated gains definite help for his own improvement from the friendly, honest, candid critic who offers him constructive suggestions. And then, when his turn comes to serve as evaluator, he both gains and gives by the experience.

The good which one receives

from the evaluation which is given is in direct proportion to his willingness to accept and be helped by it. Thus, the training in evaluation in the Toastmasters Club should give to the member skill in tactfully suggesting to his fellow member how to improve, how to do better next time.

At the same time, it teaches him to accept, gratefully and graciously, the suggestions which are offered. He may not agree with all the criticisms, but he should be honest enough to study them, and to adapt or adopt them so as to help him most effectively.

One of the finest elements in the Toastmasters work is this training in the genuine Christmas spirit of giving, tactfully and in the spirit of friendship, and in receiving gratefully and with appreciation.

In this sense, the spirit of Christmas can last the whole year in every Toastmasters Club.

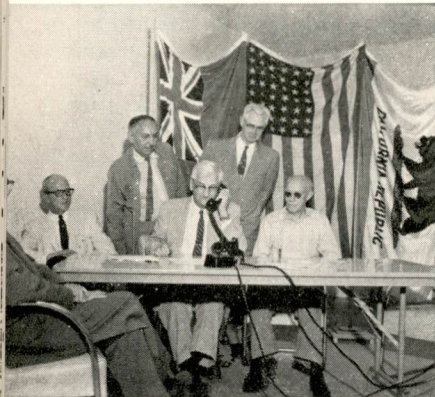
Remember that to change thy mind and to follow him that sets thee right, is to be none the less the free agent that thou wast before.
—Marcus Aurelius

Help Fight TB



Buy Christmas Seals

What's going on . . .



Voice across the nation—Dr. Ralph Smedley speaks from his office in California to a joint meeting of Toastmasters clubs in Jacksonville, Fla. Joining the discussion via speakerphone were: William Sexton, C. E. Soule, Ted Blanding, Seth Fessenden and Ernest Wooster

TMI Director Herman Hoche congratulates David Woody, 15-year-old winner of Optimist-sponsored international oratorical contest. Dave was coached by Toastmasters of Silver Spring (Md.) Club 1314; plans to join club in 1964



Tuesday Bell Toastmasters (Chicago) went over the top in their annual "In the Bag" campaign, collecting over 575 Christmas gifts for underprivileged children. Gifts were turned over to the Juvenile Protective Association for Santa to distribute.

Newly-elected officers of Harlingen (Tex.) AFB Toastmasters stack hands as pledge of team work for ensuing term. Left to right: Lt. Claude Guinhard, Sgt.-at-Arms; Mr. C. W. Wallace, Admin. V-Pres.; Lt. Col. W. B. Westfall, Pres.; Capt. Mike Gurgevich, Ed. V-Pres.; Maj. C. G. Rockey, Sec'y-Treas. (USAF Photo)



Lt. Col. Edwin C. Larson, Base Executive Officer of Gunter AFB, Ala. and Area Governor, Dist. 48, introduces speakers at the Blue-Gray Toastmasters of Gunter play host to the Civil-Military Affairs Committee of the City of Montgomery—Gunter & Maxwell Air Force Bases





Voted "the non-member making the greatest contribution to the club," Dr. Ralph C. Smedley receives Industrial Management Toastmasters 1633 (Dallas, Tex.) annual "Burnt Toast" award. The unusual plaque was presented by Pres. Joe Shirley.

Quonset Toasters (Quonset Point, R. I.) No. 146 watch their "Ah's" and "Uh's" since "Ahs-car" joined the group. Eight-inch "Ahs-car," designed and molded specially for the club, is awarded weekly by the General Evaluator



Captain D. E. MacIntosh, Commanding Officer of the U. S. Naval Station at Argentia, Newfoundland, receives honorary membership in the Placentia Bay Toastmasters No. 45. Presenting the pin is Pres. A. P. Mayne, while LCDR Anthony Nickachos, Admin. V-P.; CDR L. C. Clarke, Sec.; Mr. Al. Freed, Ed. V-P and Lt. P. L. Collicott, Treas., observe. (Official U. S. N. photo)

Toastmasters comes to Landstuhl Air Base, Germany, as Dr. Robert Larson, Ass't Director of the University of Maryland Overseas Program presents Charter 2442 to President Wade M. Fleischer at gala banquet



Second Toastmasters club to be chartered in Italy, the Gateway Toastmasters of Leghorn receive their charter from Mr. William D. Fischer, American Consul in Florence. Pres. Joe H. Huffman accepts the charter. (U. S. Army Photo)



Fort Dodge (Iowa) Toastmasters No. 597 play host to over 100 Toastmasters and wives at annual fall District conference. Attending Toastmasters dignitaries (left to right): Harold C. Lounsberry, Lt. Gov. D. 19; George R. Dane, Gov. D. 19; John B. Miller, Lt. Gov., and Leo McCurnin, Pres. Fort Dodge TM's



Editorially Speaking...

SUCCESS FORMULA OR SELF-IMPROVEMENT?

As we write this, we have before us a beguiling invitation to subscribe to *The Yale Review*. It says, in part:

"The Yale Review has not retreated: we have made no concession to dwindling literacy; we still, after forty-six years of publishing, print no pictures, do no digesting, offer no formulas for success or personality improvement, hold out no promises of easy escape from the problems of the world. We publish for an international audience of literate, responsible adults, and we use every editorial resource we can bring to bear to meet their requirements."

We agree heartily with *The Yale Review* in its distaste for those who offer formulas for success or personality improvement. There is at least this danger inherent in any popularization: it nearly always entails oversimplification. Oversimplification of complexities and subtleties inclines men toward thinking in terms of black and white, although the problems of living and the expressions of culture are rarely found as absolutes.

As *The Yale Review* implies, there is another danger in popularization: it is more tempting to escape than to confront the problems of the world and those faced by the individual. Living and thinking are not easy accomplishments, if men are to be successful at either.

We need to remember that we Toastmasters are to be distinguished from those who seek success through formulas or personality improvement in 10 easy lessons. Such men are indeed escapists, searching for the easy way to maturity and competence. A little charity is called for here. The choice is not always deliberate. Often, the man who honestly seeks success or personality improvement does not realize that there is no easy way to either goal.

Commercially sponsored "personality improvement" should not be confused with the Toastmasters principle of self-improvement. We offer no formula for success or personal improvement of any kind. Neither do we apologize for stimulating men to improve themselves. Material success may result from

self-improvement, but we can only provide the opportunity; we cannot improve for you. As Benjamin Franklin once observed, "You can give advice, but you can't give conduct."

We think that the only way men may become the "literate, responsible adults" solicited by *The Yale Review* is by improving themselves. The men who look at pictures and read digests today may be ready to subscribe to and read *The Yale Review* tomorrow.

With temerity we suggest to our distinguished contemporary that: (1) it distinguish between formula users and those who seek to improve themselves by their own efforts; (2) it should not denigrate picture viewers, digest readers or others who seek to improve themselves through resort to such media; (3) only responsible, mature adults can exercise the self-discipline and tenacity of purpose required for successful self-improvement.

Critics of digest and pictorial magazines should realize that the fault lies not with the magazines but with those who read them as a substitute instead of a stimulant. While some readers are thus easily satisfied, others develop on such a

diet and go on to further exploration. Both are a little better off as a consequence.

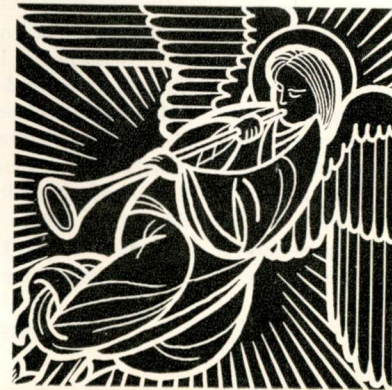
We trouble to discuss this matter because we believe that earnest self-helpers—people like Toastmasters—are important. They are important to *The Yale Review*. In fact, they are important to the world because of their aspirations.

We also have on our desk as we write, the first Christmas card to come through the mail. We find a relationship between the subject of aspiring men and the Christmas card message. It bespeaks that old and ever-new hope of good will toward men and a consequent better, peaceful world.

A better world can only come from the efforts of better men. There will be better men only if men seek to improve themselves. While we have no monopoly on the characteristic, its achievement by our members is the sole purpose of Toastmasters.

So long as men voluntarily seek self-improvement, there is hope—not only for *The Yale Review's* increased circulation but for the world and all men in it. Some day there really may be "peace on earth, good will toward men."

—M. F.





CLUB TO CLUB

Pepperrell Toastmasters No. 1635 Pepperrell AFB, Newfoundland

The Pepperrell Toastmasters are going all out to push the Combined Fund drive at the Pepperrell AFB. Benefiting will be the Base nursery, the Pepperrell Teen Center and the project "Operation Santa Claus," which is the only hope of a real Christmas for some five hundred orphans in the St. John's, Newfoundland, area.

Getting started early, Pres. Don Birney and Ed. V-P Jerry Eastman addressed the PTA and Holy Name Society on the Base on Sept. 9th. Eight more Toastmasters interviewed orphans and invalid children at four institutions in St. John's and recorded the interviews to be used at the Base radio station. We have also scheduled members to address the Chaplain's Character Guidance lectures and various squadron Commander's Calls.

Toastmasters are very enthusiastic about this project. Its success will bring immeasurable joy to the kids on the Base and especially to the homeless kids in the orphanages. We will also experience that warm, contented feeling that comes from seeing a child smile. With all the satisfaction we are getting from this project, we feel that ours will be a long Christmas, extending from the beginning of this project through December 25.

Pontiac "Y" Toastmasters No. 643 Pontiac, Mich.

During the Christmas holidays last year the Pontiac "Y" Toastmasters held an unusual and timely program which is well worth repetition. The program was known as a "Charles Laughton Evening," and created under the direction of Art Canon.

Each program participant sat on a high stool, held a book in one hand and read to the audience in typical Charles Laughton fashion. Selections chosen were: The Christmas Story, as found in the Gospel of St. Luke; "The Ice Storm" by Mark Twain; and "The Gold and Ivory Tablecloth," from "A Christmas Story."

* * *

Lincoln Toastmasters No. 403 Lincoln, Neb.

Recently Hal Dutton of our club was Topicmaster. He brought with him a Montgomery Ward sales catalog. During table topics he called upon various Toastmasters and asked them to pick a number between one and 900 (the number of pages in the catalog). After selection of a page number, Mr. Dutton turned to that page and the items pictured there became the speaker's subject.

Dico Toastmasters No. 595 Portland, Oregon

Dico Toastmasters hold a group Christmas party each year in Portland, Oregon. The theme is "Toy and Joymaker" and each member and guest brings a toy to be given to some needy child at Christmas. Members of the Portland Fire Dept. pick up the toys and distribute them.

* * *

Kisarazu Toastmasters No. 1952 Kisarazu, Japan

We would like to report a tremendously successful and novel program, a mock debate, arranged by Educational Vice-President Charles J. Barnes, Jr., for a pre-Christmas meeting. The subject was "RESOLVED: that children should not be encouraged to write to Santa Claus." Members were divided into teams headed by William R. Neese (aff.) and Den A. Pirano (neg.). Each member had one minute in which to state his argument.

* * *

Triangle Toastmasters No. 1887 Canton, Ohio

Recently we of Triangle Club 1887 were honored by a most unusual guest, Mr. Basil Sarsentis of Athens, Greece. A graduate of the University of Salonika and holding degrees in economics and law, Mr. Sarsentis is employed by the British Petroleum Co. in Greece and was in Canton to study processes and management within the American petroleum industry.

Mr. Sarsentis became very enthusiastic over Toastmasters and stated on leaving, "Possibly, I may become the founder of Toastmastering in Greece."

The members of the club voted to send a subscription to THE TOASTMASTER magazine to Mr. Sarsentis at his home in Athens.

Shreveport Toastmasters No. 718 Shreveport, La.

Toastmaster George McAllenan displayed a novel idea in an interesting table topic he evolved for a January meeting. He passed Christmas cards which he had received to each of the members of the club, and called on them to talk for one minute on anything which the card reminded them of. Results were extremely interesting and amusing.

* * *

New Albany Toastmasters No. 410 New Albany, Ind.

New Albany Toastmasters were proud of the record of member Jerry Fordyce, who placed second in the Zone I speech contest at Toledo, Ohio. The club presented Jerry with a custom plaque listing the four different speech contests in which he participated.

* * *

Knights of Columbus Toastmasters No. 553, Dayton, Ohio

The theme of our meeting was telephone techniques. Topicmaster Elmer Horwarth installs telephones in Dayton, and earlier in the day had connected a phone with a 50-ft. extension.

The first speaker told of the proper way to answer a telephone; the second spoke on how to make a date over the telephone. Elmer then brought the telephone into the club, and told the member to make an actual phone call making a date. A second member was asked how he would talk to his wife, to see if it would be permissible to stay out with the boys after meeting and have a beer. He was then told to make the call. The final phone call was made to an inactive member, who promised to be at the next meeting, thereby proving the success of the call.

BOOK BRIEFS

Before Shakespeare's time, the man who owned a book could trade it for a prosperous farm. Today more books are being sold—and presumably read—than in any previous time in history. This in spite of television!

Reading is more than absorbing facts; it is thinking. A good book should stretch the mind a bit; it should leave the reader a more thoughtful and challenged man. Yet thought should not be difficult, and reading can be fun.

It is a pleasure to introduce a few recent books which are both accurate in fact and warmly human in approach. One of these is *Are You Listening*, by Ralph Nichols (McGraw-Hill, \$3.75). You may have noted an excerpt from this book in the October *Reader's Digest*. Listening is described, its difficulties pointed out, and ways for betterment presented. It is easy to read, accurate and provocative.

Your Most Enchanted Listener, by Wendell Johnson (Harper's, \$2.25), is not a book about listening. It is about language and the way language affects our thinking, our acting, and how we deal with others.

A third book is practically all fun. This is *The Speaker's Handbook of Humor*, by Maxwell Droke (Harper's, \$4.95). Toastmasters interested in the effective use of the over 1500 good stories contained in the book will find much valuable help in the first 75 pages, where the basis for a speaker to choose his stories and the princi-

ples to follow in telling them are discussed.

The Great Peacemaker, by Ralph C. Smedley, is a book about the man who did more than any other man to bring order into meetings, General Henry Martyn Robert. General Robert's life and contribution are brilliantly and interestingly described, and the book is the expression of the depth of appreciation of one man for another that few of us ever reach. The book is priced at \$2.50 and is available through Toastmasters International.

This being the Christmas period, one more book should be considered. *Helping the Bible Speak*, by Johnnie Akin, is appropriately subtitled, "How to Read the Bible Aloud." Here four people whose background in speech is extensive and whose knowledge of the Bible and biblical literature is sound, combine to help the lay reader of the Bible to make it more alive. This book is published by Association Press and sells for \$2.50.

Should you as a Toastmaster wish to give a book to someone who "already has a book," or should you wish to add any or all of these to your own personal library, you may order these books through the Home Office of Toastmasters International at Santa Ana, California. Don't forget to include 10% for shipping and packing charges, and California clubs add 4% sales tax.

Christmas time is a time when a book can be worth a farm, in pleasure if not in money.

PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS FOR DECEMBER

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.
—Charles Dickens

The chief charm of Christmas is its simplicity. It is a festival that appeals to everyone, because everyone can understand it.
—Arthur Reed Kimball

The Month of Christmas

Because Christmas is a busy month for most people, it is a good plan to arrange your Toastmasters meetings for relaxation and enjoyment. Whether to stage a special "Ladies' Night" for this season is a question to be studied in the light of other engagements for the family. What other special activities the club may engage in will have to be determined by circumstances.

Whatever we do in our clubs this month, let us not forget the meanings of the Christmas time, and let us make sure that our programs are in keeping.

Special Types of Speech

This is one of your best opportunities to gain experience in special kinds of talking. Toasts to various people or occasions, speeches of presentation and of eulogy, entertaining talks, speeches about Christmas customs—all such matters may be woven into some attractive, enjoyable meetings. Now is the time to use the imagination in creating situations and programs which will bring into use talents too often overlooked.

Make the month in your club one which will be remembered by its attention to the spirit of Christmas, and by the new experiences

in speech which will come along with the season.

Looking Backward

The end of the year is a fine time to review the past twelve months and seek to learn from the successes and failures which have been encountered. Is your club stronger and more serviceable now than it was a year ago? Have you, personally, made notable gains? Have you formulated plans, both personal and for the club, for the coming months?

For a Good Month

As you plan the month's programs, remember that entertaining speeches need not be humorous nor comical. Serious, thoughtful discussions of pertinent subjects can be blended into an evening of delightful entertainment, filled with information and good fellowship. Some clubs find pleasure in singing. That is not generally the custom with Toastmasters, but since almost every club has some musical talent in it, there is the possibility of varying the procedure by singing carols, and having some speeches based on them.

The quality of your meetings this month will be determined by the amount of thought and imagination put into planning. Make it a good month, and a happy one.

—R.C.S.

Letters to the Editor

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

Thank you for your recent letter and for the September issue of Toastmaster Magazine, containing Mrs. L. J. Z. White's enlightening article, "Getting Across With Teenagers."

I appreciate your making this material available to me, and plan to make the magazine a part of my research files.

With kindest regards and best wishes.

Cordially,
Goodwin J. Knight
Governor of California

I have just finished reading "Getting Across With Teenagers" in the September issue of THE TOASTMASTER. Permit me to say that it ranks as the outstanding contribution to recent issues of the magazine. He deals honestly and frankly with a problem confronting educators. He then proceeds to present an intelligent and workable solution. The need is to find parents who can recognize the problem and who will accept the challenge of the proposed solution. . . . I would like copies to present to all our parents.

C. E. Hertz
Col. USAR
Bremerhaven American School

As an educator and naturally being interested in the youth of our nation, I was most impressed with the message in the article "Getting Across With Teenagers," appearing in the September issue of THE TOASTMASTER.

So much of what the author relates diagnoses so vividly the needs of our youth together with a realistic prescription as to how we, as parents and citizens, can best direct our efforts in attempting to meet this critical problem intelligently. It is no surprise to me to learn that the author is a former teacher, for what he says has the ring of one truly experienced in working with and understanding youngsters.

I'm sending the article to the Instruction Department of the Torrance Unified

School District so that they too may share the wisdom contained in "Getting Across With Teenagers."

Richard Welte, Principal
Former Pres. Arcadia Toastmasters Club 115, Arcadia, Calif.

May I especially commend you and Mr. L. White for printing "Getting Across With Teenagers" in the September issue of THE TOASTMASTER? Mr. White's article was the finest I have read in the past ten years on any subject. It should be required reading for all adults, and this includes those who think of themselves as adults merely because they're over 21. . . .

I can use two or more copies of the issue in which this fine article appeared. One will go to the public library and one I will circulate myself.

John Saemann
Diablo Toastmasters No. 598
Walnut Creek, Calif.

Thank you for the October TOASTMASTER and for the reference to LABOR. You have a lively little magazine.

I note, however, you give the circulation of LABOR as "approximately 250,000." That figure should be 850,000.

Ruben Levin
Editor and Manager
LABOR, Washington, D.C.

An excellent article titled "Getting Across With Teenagers" written by L. J. Z. White appeared in the September 1957 issue of THE TOASTMASTER. We feel that this Authority could use this type of article in our Public Housing program.

Are reprints of this article available, and if so, would you please quote the price.

B. Warner Shippee
Executive Director
Housing and Redevelopment Authority
St. Paul, Minn.

While reading your editorial on Motivational Research in the August issue of THE TOASTMASTER I thought that it was high time somebody should say something on this subject, which has given me much material for thought. It was my intention to drop you a little note expressing my appreciation, but I am a procrastinator. I did suggest to my club (Charlotte Toastmasters 1600) a planned program to discuss your idea, and it will be held this coming Monday. . . .

We learn and teach incessantly in Toastmasters and out of it that democratic constructive criticism is essential to progress. It is also an expression of our free will, the will to choose, and the privilege of choice, which is not only an inalienable part of our and of any democratic system, but also a serious religious issue in almost every religion. . . .

Please rest assured that there ARE a few Toastmasters who agree with you on the subject and I hope that after the coming Monday there will be a few more. In the meantime, more power to you, and let us have more thought-provoking and stimulating leaders!

Marc Ben-Joseph
Charlotte, N. C.

I thought the October issue was the best one I've read in my three and a half years as a Toastmaster. Interesting and helpful articles. Well laid-out features; attractive and easy to read. A comprehensive handling of the big Dallas conference. Congratulations!

Barney Kingston
Salesman's Opportunity Magazine
Chicago, Ill.

For some time I have been meaning to take you fellows at Headquarters to task for propagating this nonsense about "A man graduates from Toastmasters only by his own conceit." It seems to me that you are inferring that all those who drop out are afflicted with some sort of malady such as B. O., lack of foresight or something else.

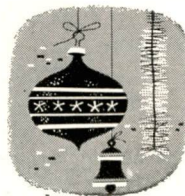
The concept I would like for you fellows to try to generate is comparable to the employer who is trying to hire some high-class talent with an attractive salary. In order to get the best talent you naturally have to pay the highest wages.

Now, then, the club management would like to have intelligent, likeable and energetic members. Normally these fellows are already recognized in their own businesses as being pretty alert too. Therefore, the Toastmasters Club must be in a position to offer—or pay—these fellows something that is definitely worth their time and trouble.

In my estimation the coins that a Toastmasters Club has to pay its members are three: Speech Training, Recognition of efforts by the President, and Fellowship. I don't think our Leadership Training is really developed to the point where it is anything to crow about—particularly for the club member.

I am satisfied that if a real effort is made in these three areas that nobody will need to worry about membership. The only hazard that I can see in this concept is that somebody will start worrying about losing one or two members instead of trying to offer a better salary to his club.

Don C. Harder
Governor Area 3, Dist. 25
Dallas, Texas



SUBJECT INDEX TO THE TOASTMASTER

INDEX TO TITLES

All Wind and Nothing to Blow—Sydney J. Harris.....Feb. p. 13
Anniversary Month, The—Ralph C. Smedley.....Oct. p. 24
Annual Manual Mania, The.....Feb. p. 5
Be Yourself—Don Hughes Sept. p. 7
Book Briefs—Seth Fessenden.....Dec. p. 24
Building a Speech—Ralph C. Smedley.....Nov. p. 14
Canine Chairmen I Have Met—George A. Rawcliffe.....Jan. p. 8
Clubs Are Trumps—H. A. Leckenbusch.....July p. 7
Common Sense Evaluation—Arthur D. Wrye.....Jan. p. 4
Communications Grow By Mail—Walter Myers.....Aug. p. 2
Communication Without Words—Danny Kaye.....May p. 2
Community Service Pays Double Dividends—James A. Hess.....July p. 2
Congress and the American Citizen—Rep. Joseph W. Martin, Jr. Dec. p. 2
Crucify "Ain't" No More—Fred Rutledge.....Aug. p. 6
Culture Club, The—Ralph C. Smedley.....Mar. p. 7
Deaf Man in Toastmasters, A—Elmer H. Mateas.....Dec. p. 12
Don't Be Afraid of Fear—Ralph C. Smedley.....Aug. p. 23
Evaluation Is Everywhere—Ralph C. Smedley.....Jan. p. 14
Evaluation Makes The Difference—Alexander Coon.....May p. 22
Fallacy of the First Name, The—Evelyn Konigsberg.....Mar. p. 9
Federal Toastmasters Hold Capitol Meeting.....Feb. p. 7

Frankenstein's Monster—Oscar V. Armstrong.....June p. 5
Friends In Your Corner—Earl Scott.....Nov. p. 6
Gentleman's Time Has Expired, The—G. W. Kunkle.....Oct. p. 12
Getting Across With Teenagers—L. J. Z. White.....Sept. p. 2
Give Your Speakers 18 Seconds of Applause—H. R. Novros Oct. p. 10
Good Evaluation.....Jan. p. 13
Great Recordings—Keith Oliver.....Aug. p. 9
He Couldn't Stay Long—John M. Lamparter.....Jan. p. 12
H-E-L-P to Better Evaluation—Robert Turner.....Apr. p. 12
High Cost of Low Club Interest—Arthur Harrop.....Apr. p. 18
Human Relations—Al Harmon.....June p. 8
In Defense of Edward—Everett.....Nov. p. 9
I Promise to Pay.....May p. 18
It Is, Too, What You Say.....Jan. p. 20
Language Troubles—Ralph C. Smedley.....July p. 5
Lay That Jawbone Down—Robert J. Scott.....May p. 13
Let's Not Be Good—George D. Finneran.....May p. 5
Let's Suppose—Ralph C. Smedley.....June p. 7
Lovely To Look At, Delightful To Know.....July p. 14
Make Decisions—J. O. Grantham.....Feb. p. 2
Make Them Read It!—H. R. Novros.....Mar. p. 10
Making That Outside Speech—Clifford G. Massoth.....Feb. p. 14
Meeting Competition—T. Vincent McIntire.....Apr. p. 4
Miracle With Words—Phillip Spayce.....Mar. p. 12

New Blades For Old Saws—Gunther Cohn.....Dec. p. 8
Obligations of Able Men, The—Lucius W. Johnson.....Apr. p. 2
Of Men and Books—LeRoy Ford.....Dec. p. 8
Of Being A Mature Person—Royal Bank of Canada.....Apr. p. 5
Operation Evaluation—Dr. Ward J. Jenssen.....Nov. p. 2
Poster Exhibits Help—Arthur M. Frutkin.....June p. 20
Power of Words, The—Victor Mamak.....Mar. p. 18
Publicity a la Toastmasters—Samuel F. Morrow.....July p. 22
Release From Tensions—Frank W. Benum.....Aug. p. 12
Report on Mr. Tamit—Seth Fessenden.....Sept. p. 13
Select 3 Goals—Gunther Cohn.....Feb. p. 26
Semantically Speaking—Ralph C. Smedley.....Feb. p. 22
Should We Stop Him?—Ernest S. Wooster.....June p. 15
Simplicity Is The Badge of Eloquence—H. R. Novros July p. 11
So Much To Read—Tom O'Beirne.....Apr. p. 14
Speech I Would Like to Hear, The—Ralph C. Smedley.....Apr. p. 10
Speech Remembered, A—Ralph C. Smedley.....Sept. p. 11
Summer Is Icumen In.....May p. 11
There Are Two Laboratories—Roger Kleinschmidt.....Apr. p. 8
These Are The Gifts—Ralph C. Smedley.....Dec. p. 14
They Speak A Universal Language—Jack Jungmeyer.....Oct. p. 2
This Is The Capitol—Joe F. Davis.....Feb. p. 9
\$3,000 for \$375—Ed Mercer.....Nov. p. 12

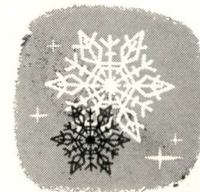
Through Strength We Grow—Paul Haeberlin.....Nov. p. 8
Tomorrow's Executive—Wallace Jamie.....Mar. p. 2
Tonight You're The Arbiter Elegantiarum—A. J. Zito.....Jan. p. 10
Try a Club Gag—James T. Coulson.....July p. 8
Try A Club Weekend—John T. Foster.....June p. 10
Tune Up Your Thinking Machine—Fred DeAmond.....Oct. p. 7
Unsplit That Infinite—Raymond W. Treimer.....June p. 13
Use Notes? Definitely!—Ted Davis.....Feb. p. 11
Use Your Other Two Vocabularies—Frank Versagi.....Dec. p. 7
Watch That Achilles Heel!—Edward D. Gillam.....Aug. p. 14
Weapon Against Fear—John F. O'Connell.....May p. 7
We Need Club Program Insurance—L. A. Thurston.....Feb. p. 18
What of the Farmer?—Floyd C. Wangrud.....Jan. p. 18
What Shall I Talk About?—Keith R. Oliver.....May p. 9
When Minutes Become Hours.....Mar. p. 22
Why Can't We Remember Names.....June p. 21
Why Write Your Congressman?—Sen. James E. Murray.....June p. 2
Words To Fit Your Needs—Adrian D. Smith.....Sept. p. 9
You've Got Just 20 Seconds—Art Baker.....Jan. p. 6

INDEX TO AUTHORS

Armstrong, Oscar V.—Frankenstein's Monster.....June p. 5
Baker, Art—You've Got Just 20 Seconds.....Jan. p. 6
Benum, Frank W.—Release From Tensions.....Aug. p. 12

- Calfee, Maurice**—The Policeman's JobJan. p. 3
- Cohn, Gunther**—
Select 3 GoalsFeb. p. 26
New Blades for Old Saws Dec. p. 8
- Coon, Alexander**—Evaluation
Makes the Difference.....May p. 22
- Coulson, James T.**—
Try a Gag Club.....July p. 9
- Davis, Joe F.**—This is the
CapitolFeb. p. 9
- Davis, Ted**—Use Notes?
Definitely!Feb. p. 11
- DeArmond, Fred**—Tune Up Your
Thinking MachineOct. p. 7
- Fesenden, Seth**—Report on
Mr. TamitSept. p. 13
- Finneran, George D.**—Let's Not
Be GoodMay p. 5
- Ford, LeRoy**—Of Men and
BooksDec. p. 8
- Foster, John T.**—Club
WeekendJune p. 10
- Frutkin, Arthur M.**—Poster
Exhibits HelpJune p. 21
- Gillam, Edward D.**—Watch That
Achilles HeelAug. p. 15
- Grantham, J. O.**—Make
Decisions!Feb. p. 2
- Haeberlin, Paul**—Through
Strength We Grow.....Nov. p. 8
- Harmon, Al**—Human
RelationsJune p. 9
- Harris, Sydney, J.**—All Wind and
Nothing to Blow.....Feb. p. 13
- Harrop, Arthur**—High Cost of
Low Club Interest.....Apr. p. 18
- Hess, James A.**—Community Service
Pays Double Dividends.....July p. 2
- Hughes, Don**—
Be YourselfSept. p. 7
- Jamie, Wallace**—Tomorrow's
ExecutiveMar. p. 2
- Jensen, Ward J.**—Operation
EvaluationNov. p. 2
- Johnson, Lucius**—Obligations of
Able Men, The.....April p. 2
- Jungmeyer, Jack**—They Speak a
Universal LanguageOct. p. 2
- Kaye, Danny**—Communication
Without WordsMay p. 2
- Kleinschmidt, Roger**—Two
LaboratoriesMar. p. 8
- Konigsberg, Evelyn**—Fallacy of
the First Name, The.....Mar. p. 9
- Kunkle, George W.**—Gentleman's
Time Has Expired.....Oct. p. 12
- Lamparter, John M.**—I'm Glad
He CameJan. p. 12
- Leckenbusch, H. A.**—Clubs
Are TrumpsJuly p. 7
- Mamak, Victor**—Power
of Words, The.....Mar. p. 18
- Martin, Rep. Joseph W., Jr.**—
Congress and the American
CitizenDec. p. 2
- Massoth, Clifford G.**—Making
That Outside Speech.....Feb. p. 15
- Mateas, Elmer H.**—A Deaf
Man in Toastmasters.....Dec. p. 10
- McIntire, T. Vincent**—
Meeting CompetitionApr. p. 4
- Mercer, Ed.**—\$3,000
for \$375Nov. p. 12
- Morrow, Samuel F.**—Publicity
a la ToastmastersJuly p. 22
- Murray, Senator James E.**—Why
Write Your Congressman? June p. 2
- Myers, Walter**—Communications
Grow by MailAug. p. 3
- Novros, H. R.**—Make
Them Read It.....Mar. p. 10
Simplicity Is the Badge of
EloquenceJuly p. 11
18 Seconds of Applause.....Oct. p. 10
- O'Beirne, Tom**—So Much
to ReadApr. p. 14
- O'Connell, John F.**—Weapon
Against FearMay p. 7

- Oliver, Keith R.**—What Shall
I Talk About?May p. 9
Great RecordingsAug. p. 9
- Rawcliffe, George**—Canine
Chairmen I Have Met.....Jan. p. 8
- Rutledge, Fred**—Crucify
Ain't No MoreAug. p. 7
- Scott, Earl**—Friends
in Your Corner.....Nov. p. 6
- Scott, Robert J.**—Lay That
Jawbone DownMay p. 13
- Smedley, Ralph C.**—Evaluation
Is EverywhereJan. p. 14
Semantically Speaking ..Feb. p. 22
Culture Club, TheMar. p. 7
Speech I Would Like
to HearApr. p. 10
Let's SupposeJune p. 7
Language TroublesJuly p. 5
Don't Be Afraid of Fear..Aug. p. 23
Speech Remembered, A..Sept. p. 11
Anniversary MonthOct. p. 25
Building a SpeechNov. p. 12
These Are the GiftsDec. p. 14
- Smith, Adrian D.**—Words to
Fit Your NeedsSept. p. 9
- Spayce, Philip**—Miracle
with WordsMar. p. 12
- Thurston, L. A.**—Club
Program InsuranceFeb. p. 19
- Treimer, Raymond W.**—
Unsplit That Infinitive.....June p. 13
- Turner, Robert**—Help to
Better EvaluationApril p. 12
- Versagi, Frank**—Use Your
Other 2 Vocabularies.....Dec. p. 7
- Wangrud, Floyd**—What
of the Farmer?.....Jan. p. 18
- White, L. J. Z.**—Getting Across
with TeenagersSept. p. 2
- Wooster, Ernest S.**—Should
We Stop Him?June p. 15
- Wrye, Arthur D.**—Common
Sense EvaluationJan. p. 3
- Zito, A. J.**—Arbiter Elegantiarum
- INDEX TO DEPARTMENTS**
Across the Desk
..... July, August, November
- Book Reviews**.....January, April,
May, June, December
- Club Program Suggestions**—
R.C.S.each issue
- Club to Club**.....each issue
- Convention**—PublicityFebruary
March, April, May, June, July, August
- Convention—Report**October
- District Governors**—
List ofeach issue
PicturesAugust
- Editorially Speaking**each issue
- How We Talk**—R.C.S.each issue
- Letters to the Editor**.....each issue
- New Clubs**each issue
- Officers and Directors**—
List ofeach issue
PicturesJuly
- What's Going On**.....each issue
- Word Clinic**—
.....January, February, March, April
- Zone Conferences**.....May, p. 16



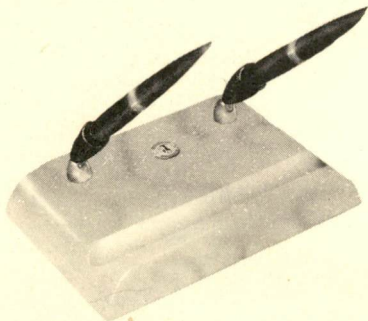
New Clubs

(As of October 15, 1957)

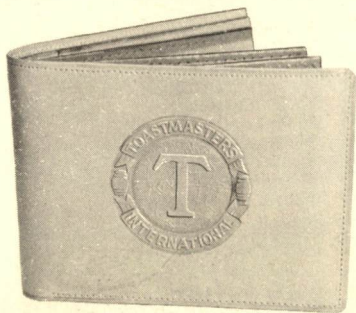
- 341 CHICAGO, Illinois, (D-30), *Washington Park YMCA*, Thurs., 6:30, Washington Park YMCA, 5000 South Indiana Avenue.
- 631 ANAHEIM, California, (D-F), *H.E.C.*, Alt. Thurs., 6:30 p.m., Knotts Berry Farm, Buena Park, California.
- 1383 FORT WORTH, Texas, (D-25), *CONOCO*, Every other Wed., 11:45 a.m., Fort Worth Club, Fort Worth, Texas.
- 1485 SANFORD, Florida, (D-47), *Seminole*, Wed., 6:30 p.m., Phelps Restaurant, Highway 17-92 South of Sanford, Florida.
- 1543 PIQUA, Ohio, (D-40), *0700*, Tues., 7:00 a.m., Fort Piqua Hotel, West High Street, Piqua, Ohio.
- 1804 NEWTON, North Carolina, (D-37), *Newton*, 1st & 3rd Thurs., 8:00 p.m., Community Room, Citizens Savings Bldg., Newton, N. C.
- 1867 CHARLOTTE, North Carolina, (D-37), *Continental*, Mon., 6:00 p.m., The S & W Cafeteria, Park Road.
- 1881 SAN CARLOS, California, (D-4), *Los Oradores*, Tues., 6:00 p.m., The Gold Platter Restaurant, San Carlos.
- 2139 ADAK, Alaska, (D-U), *Great Sitkin*, Thurs., 11:30, Chief Petty Officers' Club, Adak, Alaska.
- 2314 PHILADELPHIA, Philadelphia Naval Base, Pennsylvania, (D-38), *SEA N' AIR*, 2nd & 4th Thurs., 12:00 noon, Philadelphia Naval Base (Comm. Officers' Mess).
- 2465 IWAKUNI, Japan, (D-U), *Commissioned Officers*, Wed., 6:00 p.m., Commissioned Officers Open Mess.
- 2511 AURORA, USAF Academy, Colorado, (D-26), *Cathedral Rock*, Tues., 5:00 p.m., The Town House Restaurant, 12100 East Colfax Avenue, Aurora, Colorado.
- 2515 WILLITS, California, (D-4), *Willits*, Tues., 7:00 p.m., Brocktrails Guest Ranch.
- 2519 NOVATO, Hamilton AFB, California, (D-57), *Defenders*, Tues., 12:00 noon, Hamilton AFB Commissioned Officers' Open Mess.
- 2589 COLUMBUS, Georgia, (D-14), *Columbus*, Wed., 7:30 p.m., Bradley Memorial Library, Bradley Drive, Columbus, Georgia.
- 2590 YAZOO CITY, Mississippi, (D-43), *Yazoo*, 2nd & 4th Thurs., Yazoo City, Mississippi.
- 2592 HOMESTEAD, Homestead AFB, Florida, (D-47), *Blue Skies*, Tues., 7:00 p.m., Officers' Club, Homestead AFB.
- 2597 ROLLA, Missouri, (D-8), *Hard Rock*, Mon., 6:30 p.m., Colonial Village, Rolla, Missouri.
- 2598 ALBANY, Oregon, (D-7), *U. S. Bureau of Mines*, Wed., 12:00 noon, Recreation Room, Bldg. No. 2, Albany, Oregon.
- 2599 DUBLIN, Georgia, (D-14), *Dublin*, Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Rutland's Restaurant, 110 Columbia Street.
- 2600 LANCASTER, Lancashire, England, (D-18), *Lancaster*, Fri., 7:30 p.m., Royal Kings Arms Hotel, Lancaster.
- 2601 DUBLIN, Ireland, (D-18), *Dublin*, Alt. Thurs., 5:45 p.m., Grosvenor Hotel, Westland Row, Dublin.
- 2603 CHINCOTEAGUE, Naval Air Station, Virginia, (D-36), *Naval Airs*, Thurs., 7:00 p.m., Officers' Club, NAS Chincoteague, Va.
- 2604 STARKVILLE, Mississippi, (D-43), *Boot Strap*, 1st & 3rd Tues., Midway Tearoom, 6:30 a.m.
- 2606 LAKEWOOD, Ohio, (D-10), *Lakewood*, 1st & 3rd Mon., 6:15 p.m., Palma's Restaurant, Lakewood, Ohio.
- 2607 TUCSON, Arizona, (D-3), *Eye-Opener*, Wed., 6:30 a.m., Westerner Hotel, 63 South Stone Avenue.
- 2608 WASHINGTON, D. C., (D-36), *ONR*, Tues., 12:00 noon, Conference Room, Office of Naval Research.

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