

Toastmasters Club May Form Here

Some interest is being shown in forming a Toastmasters Club locally, by men who wish to improve themselves in the art of speech and leadership, as a means of increasing their usefulness in business, social and civic relationships.

Do you feel like a fool when you get up to make a speech? More than 27,000 men in this country claim they have the solution. They say there is no safer place in the world for a man to act foolish than a meeting of a Toastmasters Club.

But for these men banded together in some 1,000 local clubs, this acting foolish has a purpose. They want to learn to speak well, and they have determined that the best way to do it is to make their mistakes among themselves and to teach each other.

In a Toastmasters Club that is exactly what happens. No experts come around to talk about enunciation, gesticulation and modulation. The Toastmasters simply climb shakily to their feet and let loose. Their fellow members are their critics as well as their applauders.

The neophyte orator first goes through what is known as basic training, which includes 12 speak-

ing assignments over 12 to 18 months of club membership. After that he can take a 16-assignment course called "beyond basic training." Or he may go into other projects planned to advance his speaking ability.

A club is limited to 30 active members and 10 inactive ones. Its half dozen officers rotate every six months to give as many members as possible a chance to serve. Costs vary with the club. For each member, the central organization collects \$6 a year, which buys the monthly magazine, the training manual, and reams and reams of literature on speaking.

The learning process works like this: A new member first gets some indoctrination from the club's educational chairman. He is then assigned his first speech. Just like that.

His training manual suggests that he talk about himself in that first one, and tells him more or less how. The main object is to see whether he can live through the ordeal.

If he does, he proceeds through the other 11 assignments as his turn comes up. Each talk is designed to teach him some fundamental of good speaking. For instance, earnestness is the goal in speech No. 2, good organization of material in No. 3, proper use of the hands in No. 4, voice modulation in No. 5, and so on.

Meanwhile, each member is getting a lot of other speech training. At every meeting someone designated as "table topics chairman" for the day thinks up some subject or other, and gets each member to give a 90-second extemporaneous talk on it.

Members are also assigned outside speeches. The clubs offer their members' services to the local Community Chest drive, the Red Cross fund-raising campaign and other similar projects that come along.

All this time, club members are serving as critics of each speaker. After every talk, certain appointed "evaluators" take the speaker's efforts apart in constructive fashion, and their comments are written into his manual for him to brood over later.

After a member has completed his 12 assignments in a manner satisfactory to his critics the home office at Santa Ana sends him a "certificate of merit" attesting to his achievement. (If he wishes, headquarters will pass the word along to his boss.)

And then what? Well, then he goes right on speaking and studying through the advanced courses. As members like to say, "The only thing that graduates you from Toastmasters is your own conceit."

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Annual Agate Show at Delake

The North Lincoln Agate Society will hold its eleventh annual agate show Saturday and Sunday July 25 and 26, in the Delake Grade school on Highway 101 just north of D river in Delake, Ore.

Doors will be open on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Every visitor will receive free a beach agate as a souvenir of the 1953 show.

The show will feature collections of amateur and commercial

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exhibitors, and will include not only agates and minerals from Lincoln County beaches but also specimens from all over the world. Members of other agate and mineral societies throughout the Northwest have been invited to bring displays.

All the steps of polishing agates will be demonstrated continuously throughout the show.

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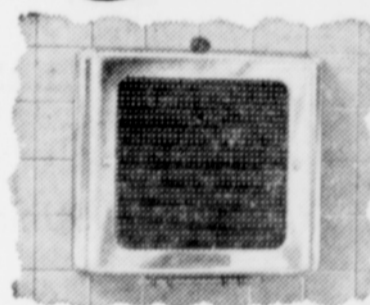
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