



NOVEMBER, 1965

THE TOASTMASTER

FOR BETTER LISTENING, THINKING, SPEAKING



DR. RALPH C. SMEDLEY

1878-1965

IN MEMORIAM

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FOUNDER

DR. RALPH C. SMEDLEY 1878-1965

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL IS:

... a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian educational organization which has helped more than one million men through its program of self-expression and self-improvement. There are now more than 3600 clubs in 50 countries and territories throughout the free world.

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

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

The TOASTMASTER

G. B. Urias
Editor

Phil Interlandi
Art Director

For Better Listening—Thinking—Speaking

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

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Number 11

November, 1965

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Dr. Ralph C. Smedley

His life...His work...His legacy

He died 41 days before the 41st Anniversary of Toastmasters International.

He left a heritage of almost one million men as better men because of the ideals and aspirations he expressed, the methods and materials he provided, and the personal example he offered . . .

*“ . . . His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him that nature might stand up
And say to all the world, ‘This was a man.’ ”*

—JULIUS CAESAR, ACT V, SCENE 5



Legacy From the Founder

Dr. Smedley's last general message to the membership appeared in the 40th Anniversary issue of The Toastmaster, October, 1964. Since it reflects and summarizes his principles so well, it is reprinted below...

WHEN OUR Executive Director asked me for a special message for the 40th anniversary issue of THE TOASTMASTER, it reminded me of the minister who was asked if it wasn't about time for him to prepare a new sermon instead of harping on the same old subject every week. The minister replied, "I have several new sermons but I don't think I will give them until the congregation uses the old one first."

I would like to remind you of some of the principles that have helped us reach our 40th anniversary and to suggest that if we continue to practice them they will help us to reach our 60th, at least.

1. Let's "keep it simple." Our Basic Training program presents the fundamental principles of public speaking. These are the eternal verities of effective oral communication. Quintilian and Aristotle recognized them. Many men have written about public speaking in the intervening centuries, but they have not changed the simple basic principles, nor have they added very much to them.

2. Toastmasters is a "do-it-yourself" activity. We don't have an instruction manual for everything you do or say in your club. Nor should we have such manuals. Don't be afraid to use your imagination and initiative. Our motto encourages better listening and better thinking because these habits result in better speaking. Nobody can listen for you and nobody can do your thinking for you. Listen to others and evaluate their thinking—then form your own conclusions and speak for yourself.

3. Toastmasters is based on *belief in the individual*—and his ability to improve himself by developing to the fullest those abilities God has given him. Many organizations ask the individual to subordinate himself to the group. Ours is the only organization I know that is dedicated to the individual. We work together to bring out the best in each of us and then we apply our skills to help others.

4. Let us never forget that *we learn in moments of enjoyment*. Fellowship is important in Toastmasters. Our members stay in their clubs because they like each other and they are learning together.

If you observe these principles, I won't need to prepare a new message. Toastmasters will serve men for years to come!



Dr. Smedley presented citizenship awards each year at Ralph C. Smedley Junior High School in Santa Ana.

"He was more than a man-- He was an age..."

By CHARLES C. MOHR
President, Toastmasters International

SEPTEMBER 11, 1965, a man died. He departed laden with years, laden with work, laden with the most illustrious and fearful of responsibilities, the responsibility of the human conscience informed and articulate. He went blessed, blessed by the future, and this is a superb form of glory. On his deathbed, Ralph C. Smedley had the acclaim of contemporaries and of posterity. He was more than a man; he was an age. He had exercised a function and fulfilled a mission. He had been evidently chosen for the work which he had done by the Supreme Will, which manifests itself as visibly in the laws of destiny as in the laws of nature.

In the presence of this society of ours Dr. Smedley, virtually alone, declared war against that coalition of all the social iniquities, against that enormous and terrible world of intellectual stagnation, and he accepted battle with it. And what was his weapon? That which has the lightness of the wind and the power of the thunderbolt—the spoken word. And so Toastmasters was born.

With that weapon he fought; with that weapon he conquered, conquered the reticence of man to communicate with man. Dr. Smedley waged a splendid kind of warfare. He had the tenderness of a woman and wrath of a hero. He was a keen mind and an immense heart; one whose presence dominated a group with its quiet and dignified manner.

To all Toastmasters, present, past, and future, Dr. Smedley will be remembered for his contributions toward better understanding in the world community through improved communications. As he so ably stated, "The power to communicate is one of man's greatest endowments. I believe that the improvement of man's ability to communicate his ideas is a means of improving life in all its phases and that the progress of civilization depends on this improvement."

This man had the uncanny facility of being able to understand and be understood. We will all remember so well his frequent admonitions, "Keep it simple, boys, keep it simple."

For Toastmasters — the greatest accomplishments are yet to come, for his guiding hand will forever be upon our shoulders, giving direction and purpose to the child he nurtured so tenderly.

The faithful marble may preserve his image; the engraven brass may proclaim his worth; but the heritage that he has left us is a prouder mausoleum than kings or conquerors can boast.

"Whatever your grade or position, if you know how and when to speak, and when to remain silent, your chances of real success are proportionately increased."

—DR. RALPH C. SMEDLEY



Dr. Smedley and Executive Director Maurice Forley look over the grounds at the newly completed World Headquarters in October, 1962.

"He loved his fellow men..."

By MAURICE FORLEY

Executive Director, Toastmasters International

FROM THE RICH STOREHOUSE of memories of many hours of professional association and close personal friendship with Ralph C. Smedley, it is difficult to select those that are most comforting to us who feel keenly a personal loss, and those memories that are most meaningful to fellow Toastmasters.

So many oft repeated reflections of his own philosophy, which influenced thousands of men, crowd into mind: "Boys, keep it simple"; "Toastmasters is do-it-yourself"; "We believe in every individual and his ability to improve himself by developing to the fullest those gifts God has given him, that he may serve himself by serving others"; "We learn in moments of enjoyment"; and, above all, his favorite from the Book of Proverbs, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths." All together, they give us the precious memory of a warm human being who loved his fellow men and who enriched their lives by dedicating his own to their service.

For the last 10 years Dr. Smedley limited his Toastmasters activity to direction of the Beyond Basic Training program, participation on the Board of Directors, and a vast personal correspondence with friends all over the world. However, he came to the office often. He never failed to offer a word of encouragement or a gentle but direct reproof, if needed. Everyone whose life was touched by his is better for having enjoyed his friendship, all have been deeply affected by his influence. The sum of his virtues, expressed in his conduct and counsel, have, in some humble measure, become a part of us here at World Headquarters.

We also acknowledge our great debt to Mrs. Smedley and to their daughter, Betty, who so generously shared a loyal and devoted husband and father with our organization. With many shared memories, and gratitude to them, Toastmasters are closely tied to Dr. Smedley's family.

Some may ask: "What will be the effect of Dr. Smedley's loss on Toastmasters International?" For us, the answer is simple, sincere and clear. Imbued with his influence and with intimate knowledge of his philosophy, bred by long association, we have not "lost" Ralph Smedley. His precepts and example are our heritage. For years we have followed the path in which he led. Nothing will change except our increased determination to help Toastmasters adhere to the basic philosophy with which Ralph Smedley endowed it.

When asked directly what memorial he would prefer some day, with characteristic honesty he said, "The perpetuation of Toastmasters should be my memorial; I want nothing more than that and nothing less than that." Our finest tribute to Ralph C. Smedley must be the realization of his dearest wish—that the organization he founded shall adhere faithfully to the spirit and aspirations he gave it. With the help of every member, we shall keep that faith.

"A speech without a specific purpose is like a journey without a destination."

— DR RALPH C. SMEDLEY



In August, 1927, the first joint meeting of Toastmasters clubs was held in Santa Ana at the invitation of Ralph Smedley. The men made speeches to each other at this meeting and decided to form a simple federation for mutual benefit. Meeting with Smedley, right, that night were representatives of Toastmasters clubs in Anaheim, Fullerton, Santa Ana, Los Angeles and Ontario, Calif.

“Let’s keep it simple, boys...”

IT WAS RAINING as about two dozen men met in the basement of the Santa Ana Y.M.C.A. They had accepted an invitation offered to men interested in forming a club that would afford practice and training in the art of public speaking.

There was the editor and publisher of the local newspaper, several teachers and a junior high school principal, a scattering of businessmen, a contractor, and a lawyer.

Simplicity was the keynote of

Ralph C. Smedley's talk to this small group of men that night and "let's keep it simple, boys" remained the keystone during his lifetime—a lifetime during which he watched an idea blossom into a club and a club bloom into a world-wide organization of more than 3600 Toastmasters clubs.

Ralph C. Smedley was born in Waverly, Ill., February 22, 1878. He attended local schools and graduated from high school in 1895.



Founder Ralph C. Smedley appearing before the Oklahoma City Toastmasters Club October 23, 1946.

He taught in country schools to earn money for college and in 1903 graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill. While in college, he was a member of the debating team, editor of the *Wesleyan Argus* and manager of the Wesleyan Glee Club.

"When I graduated from Illinois Wesleyan in 1903, I soon found my way into Y.M.C.A. work," he wrote in "The Story of Toastmasters." "Here I had frequent occasion to make speeches and conduct meetings, matters which had long been of interest to me. As educational director, I saw the need for training in these matters all around me. We had a number of special interest clubs and groups among the boys and young men in the association in which there was evident need for training in speech. Since the need was there, it seemed proper for us to try and meet it."

This was Dr. Smedley's first attempt to form a Toastmasters club and it prospered as long as he was associated with that Y.M.C.A.

Unfortunately, this club, as well as clubs he formed at Freeport and Rock Island, Ill., and San Jose, Calif., prospered only as long as Dr. Smedley was associated with each Y.M.C.A.

It was during these early years, in 1905, that Dr. Smedley mar-

ried the former Miss Frances Bass, in Bloomington, Ill.

In 1922, Dr. Smedley moved to Santa Ana, Calif., where he was responsible for the financing and construction of the Y.M.C.A. building.

"For two years my hands were full with building plans and finances and with superintending construction of a beautiful building. Organization of a comprehensive Y.M.C.A. program waited until the building was completed. The dedication of the building came in April, 1924, and by September I was ready to introduce the Toastmasters idea to my new friends. They were not unresponsive," he wrote.

At the first meeting October 22, 1924, which opened with dinner (at a cost of 50c apiece), a one-page memorandum of organization for a Toastmasters club was adopted. Its purpose was "to afford practice and training in the art of public speaking and in presiding over meetings, and to promote sociability and good fellowship among the members."

Late in 1925 a young Anaheim businessman, J. Clark Chamberlain, was a guest at the Santa Ana club. His interest led to the second Toastmasters club, formed in Anaheim in January, 1926. A third club was formed in Los Angeles in the spring of 1927 and on July 14, 1927, Dr.

Smedley invited representatives of the six clubs then operating to a meeting in Santa Ana. The meeting was held on August 11. It resulted in the adoption of a resolution expressing the opinion that steps should be taken to form a permanent federation for the clubs; and that proper action should be taken to protect the name and the idea of the organization.

During this time Dr. Smedley had been producing many educational aids for the clubs. The first "Manual for Toastmasters Clubs"—the forerunner of the "Basic Training Manual"—was published in October, 1928.

Toastmasters International was organized at a meeting held July 26, 1930, by representatives of all clubs at Whittier College, Whittier, Calif. The addition of a club at New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada, led to the addition of "International" in the name.

For the next two years periodic meetings were held among representatives of clubs in the federation. Finally, on December 19, 1932, Toastmasters International was incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under California laws.

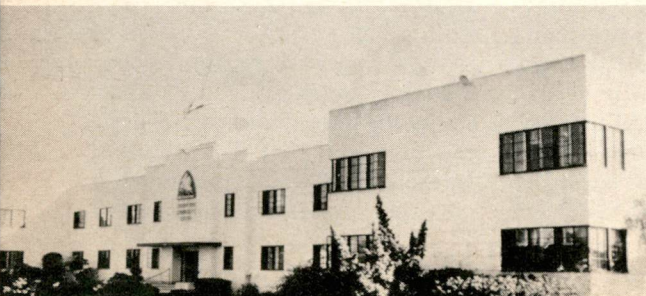
At the time of incorporation Dr. Smedley assigned all his copyrights to the corporation with the proviso: "that Toastmasters International shall operate as a nonprofit, non-commercial move-



Ralph Smedley used to run the addressograph machine when this photograph was taken in 1950.



Dr. Smedley laid a wreath on the grave of General Henry Martyn Robert in Arlington Cemetery August 26, 1954. To the right of Dr. Smedley is Mrs. Sara Robert, daughter-in-law of the general. Dr. Smedley wrote a biography of Robert, "The Great Peacemaker."



Until 1962 the home office of Toastmasters International was in the first floor of the right wing, and the basement, of this building.

THE TOASTMASTER

ment, for the benefit of its members, and that if it ever should engage in profit making, the rights shall revert to me or to my estate."

Dr. Smedley wrote, "I have always found satisfaction in this arrangement. There have been occasions when someone recognized the money-making possibilities in our work and started talking about capitalizing on it, but an explanation of the facts was enough to stop him. I have been pronounced various kinds of fool for not making a fortune out of it, but my reply has been that I would rather be rich in friendship than in money. It is a privilege to make a contribution to the welfare of my fellow men, and I have never regretted the assignment which I made on that day in 1932 which transferred all the controls to the corporation."

At the time of incorporation, Dr. Smedley was made a member of the board of directors for life.

The organization grew slowly during the depression years. Club number 50 was chartered in Los Angeles in February, 1936. Two years later Century (now Business Men's) Club of Santa Ana received Charter 100.

Toastmasters expanded across the Atlantic Ocean in October, 1935, when the first club in Great Britain was chartered in Southport, England.

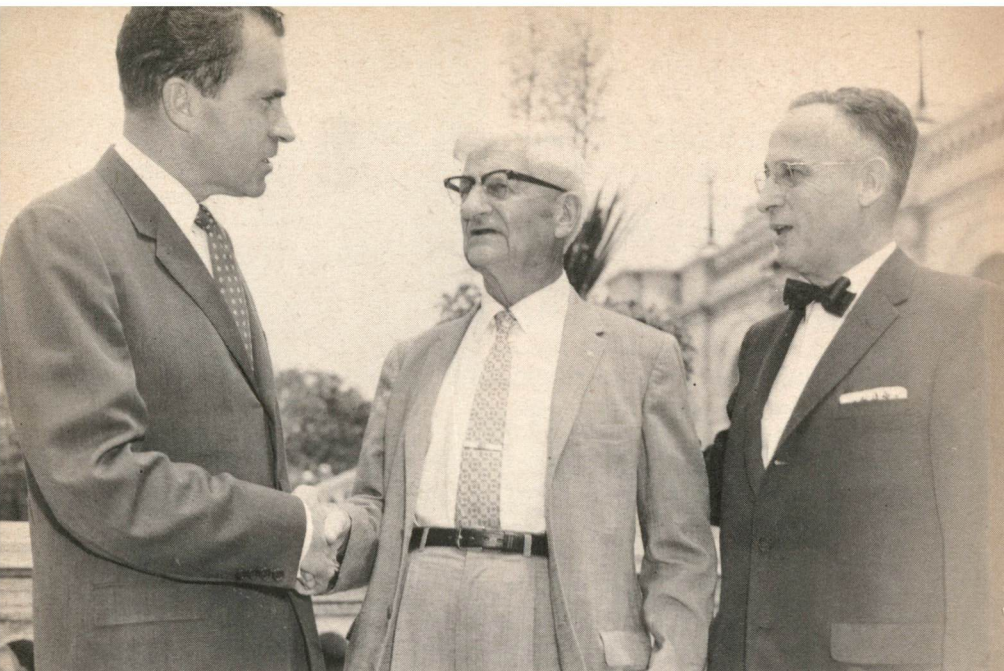
NOVEMBER, 1965



In 1955 California's Governor Goodwin J. Knight signed a proclamation making August 17th "Toastmasters Day" throughout the state. The day marked the opening of the 24th annual International convention in Los Angeles. Looking on was John W. Haynes, International president in 1955-56.

Founder Ralph Smedley posed in front of a statue of Nathan Hale on the campus of Yale University during a trip in 1947. With him is Leonard Fish, a local Toastmaster.





In 1960 Dr. Smedley visited Washington, D.C., where he met with Vice-President Richard M. Nixon and U. S. Representative James Utt.

In 1937 Dr. Smedley was elected secretary of Toastmasters International and held this position while continuing as general secretary of the Santa Ana Y.M.C.A. He also was editor of *The Toastmaster* magazine, which had first been published by mimeograph in 1930 (as "The Gavel").

In 1941 Dr. Smedley resigned as general secretary of the Y.M.C.A. to devote full time to his duties as secretary of Toastmasters International.

Dr. Smedley wrote in "The Story of Toastmasters," "It was a difficult decision, but I made it, conscientiously and after most careful consideration. On August 1, 1940, I presented my resigna-

tion to the Y.M.C.A. board. They considered it, and then declined to accept it, asking me to carry on at least for a time. I agreed, but kept the necessary change in mind for renewal at a later date.

"The resignation which had been rejected by the 'Y' board in August was renewed later in the year; and in January it was agreed that I might quit on February 1, 1941.

"I had already opened an office for Toastmasters in the First National Building in October, 1940. It was a very modest office, consisting of one room, about 12 by 16 feet, on the fifth floor. I had a desk, a typewriter, a telephone, a filing cabinet, and a hand-



Toastmasters assembled for the groundbreaking for the World Headquarters in April, 1961. Dr. Smedley and President George J. Mucey turned the first spadefuls of earth.



Executive Director Maurice Forley, President Herman Hoche and Dr. Smedley inspected the progress of the World Headquarters building in November, 1961.

Dr. Smedley speaks at dedication ceremonies for World Headquarters.





Students in the front of Ralph C. Smedley Junior High School in Santa Ana.



Dr. Smedley received a gift from Club No. One on his 85th birthday. Presenting it was D. H. Tibbals, an old friend and Toastmaster since 1929, and a staff member at World Headquarters.

Dr. Smedley and Executive Director Forley admire an 85th birthday card sent to the founder by Westinghouse Club 2667-40 in 1963.



operated secondhand addressing machine. I had a young woman as helper. She did typing and some shorthand, and we managed to keep up the correspondence while I did quite a considerable amount of creative writing, trying to provide the materials which seemed to be needed by the clubs."

By the middle of 1941 Toastmasters International had eight districts and 205 clubs but the war years slowed down the organization's progress. However, it was during this period that both the "Basic Training Manual" and Speechcraft were introduced.

In 1945, Ted Blanding, who had served as International president in 1942-43, returned from the Navy and joined the staff as executive secretary, freeing Dr. Smedley to his educational activities.

Membership increased rapidly during the years following the war, jumping from just over 300 clubs in 1945 to almost 700 in 1949 — 25 years from the time the first club was founded.

The year 1950 was significant in two ways for Dr. Smedley. It was the year he wrote "Beyond Basic Training," and his alma mater, Illinois Wesleyan University, conferred upon him an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters.



Founder Smedley received the key to the City of San Francisco from Mayor George Christopher during the International convention in 1959.



Dr. Smedley arrives at Glendale (Calif.) Club 8-52's 30th Anniversary dinner in 1964.

In 1953 Dr. and Mrs. Smedley visited Toastmasters clubs in Scotland and then took a trip through England and Europe.

The City of Santa Ana honored Dr. Smedley in 1955 with the dedication of the Ralph C. Smedley Junior High School. Each year Dr. Smedley gave citizenship awards to outstanding students at the school—gifts that Toastmasters International will continue in his honor.

Dr. Smedley was editor of *The Toastmaster* until 1956 and from that time until shortly before his death September 11, 1965, he remained actively interested in the educational program of the organization.

He was the author of numerous books in the fields of public speaking and parliamentary procedure. Among his best known publications are "The Amateur Chairman," "Speech Evaluation," "Basic Training," "Beyond Basic

Training," "The Voice of the Speaker," "The Great Peacemaker" and "The Story of Toastmasters."

The organization that Dr. Smedley founded now reaches across the globe and it is doubtful that the thought crossed his mind on that rainy night in 1924 that Toastmasters would ever reach its present heights. But he must have realized the promise it held when he wrote:

"We know that we have the plan and the means for serving men of the world in the promotion of better communication. We ourselves have been helped by the training which we share with others. We have laid substantial foundations for future growth in usefulness. We may look to the coming years with great hopes and ambitions for Toastmasters, hopes which will be realized if we hold to our main purpose of service."

In Memory Of

DR. RALPH C. SMEDLEY
1878-1965

Place and Time of Services
Smith & Tuthill Chapel
Tuesday, September 14, 1965
at 2:00 p.m.

Clergymen

Dr. Harry E. Owings Rev. Fred W. Niedringhaus

Organist

Esther M. Gordon

Pallbearers

Paris S. Jackson	Lothar Salin
John B. Miller	Maurice Forley
Earl M. Potter	Sheldon M. Hayden

Honorary Pallbearers

James Stephenson	Wilbur Smith
Alex Brownridge	E. B. Sprague
D. H. Tibbals	R. Carson Smith

Entombment

Pacific View Memorial Park

Dr. Harry E. Owings delivered the following eulogy at services for Dr. Smedley

AS DR. RALPH C. SMEDLEY leaves us, we recognize the passing of a very distinguished and highly esteemed citizen of our community and a man whose name is held in honor in many parts of our own country and in a number of other countries.

Here we gather up our tributes of appreciation of him and of the honors that have been accorded him because of his usefulness and the influences and inspirations that have issued from his life for the enrichment of many, many people. We are here also to express our sympathy to and our friendly regard for the family in their deep sorrow.

Likely his major distinction is that of being the founder of Toastmasters International. Initiating that educational and cultural organization by gathering small groups of men in this area with a view to training them to stand on their feet and express themselves well in public groups, and to develop themselves and their respective potentials, he watched and helped in the development of an organization that has had phenomenal growth. Today it has a membership of almost 80,000 members in 3600 clubs reaching out through 50 countries and territories. Countless men have realized rare benefits from their participation in these clubs in the way of self-development. Dr. Smedley expressed himself in later years as being especially "happy in having some part in these Toastmasters clubs, the chance to help men to build themselves better."

Toastmasters International is an on-going and ever-growing living memorial to Ralph Smedley's noble vision, high purpose, and love for his fellow-man.

In this community, however, we claim him as our own. For many years he exerted his strong influence as secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association.

For him it became a channel for community leadership and effective service for his fellows both inside and outside the "Y" organization. The present Y.M.C.A. building was constructed under his direction. It was during this time, also, that the first Toastmasters clubs were started.

He participated most actively in the Ministerial Association and served as secretary for many years. It was the good privilege of the ministers to "rub elbows" with him and to enjoy a close fellowship with him.

How proud he was of his membership in his beloved Rotary Club of Santa Ana. So frequently he showed his joy and delight in this fellowship. His active and loyal participation was indicated by his years and years of perfect attendance and by his serving for more than a decade as the club secretary and as editor of Rotary's weekly publication, "The Wheelbarrow."

Dr. Smedley was a very active and faithful member of the First Presbyterian Church of Santa Ana. For years he was the teacher of a Sunday School class and served as an elder of the church. What close fellowship he enjoyed with the ministers of those days, Dr. O. Scott McFarland and Dr. William E. Roberts. They were his choice friends as well as his pastors. In later years the Smedleys took up residence in Corona del Mar and gave themselves loyally to the Community Congregational Church of that city.

To be associated with him was to prize him as a man of culture and fine capacities, keen of mind, highly intelligent, of valued counsel, skillful and facile in expression in both the spoken and the written word, a choice spirit of strong Christian character and convictions.

A signal honor which brought him great joy was the conferring in 1950 of the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by his alma mater, Illinois Wesleyan University. Here in our own city, the name of Ralph C. Smedley was chosen for one of our junior high schools.

Ralph Smedley felt that he was most privileged in enjoying a lovely family life with his devoted wife, Frances, and their daughter, Betty Stephenson; and her husband, James. Mrs. Smedley has been ever a loyal helper and encourager, sharing with deep interest in all his undertakings, experiences, and successful achievements — the true woman behind the man. The daughter, too, has entered lovingly, joyously, and proudly into all her father's good endeavors. He was grateful to and for them.

In some written suggestions as to any memorial service held for him, Dr. Smedley stated that such a memorial service should be a "testimony to my Christian faith." We may summarize today that fuller expression as to his practical religious experience in fellowship with his God in three words that he capitalized: Guidance — Confidence — Peace.

Some of the scripture verses that had become a part of him were Psalm 90:12: "So teach us to number our days, etc." Isaiah 30:21 "Thine ears shall hear a voice behind thee saying, this is the way; walk ye in it," Proverbs 3:6: "In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." He also referred to a number of other scriptures that guided his life.

Two other statements from his "suggestions" should be noted. Expressing appreciation of his fellow workers and friends in church, Toastmasters, and Rotary he wrote, "They will remember me as one who loved his fellow men."

As to his passing he spoke of "the joy and excitement of stepping into a new phase of life where opportunities will be greater, I hope, than those of the present."

Thus now we think of him as being ushered into "the house of many mansions."

"The ability to approach an audience in a friendly style is partly a gift of nature, and partly a cultivated art.

— DR. RALPH C. SMEDLEY

And there were tributes . . .

FOLLOWING HIS DEATH, tributes to Dr. Smedley were received from throughout the world. Tributes were delivered in the United States House of Representatives, at a meeting of the Ventura County, Calif. Board of Supervisors, and at a meeting of the Santa Ana City Council.

Messages were received from James H. Moyers, an assistant to President Johnson; from Canadian Prime Minister L. B. Pearson; California Governor Edmund G. Brown; and Rotary International.

U. S. Representative James Utt of California reported to the House on Dr. Smedley's death. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors adjourned on September 14 in memory of Dr. Smedley and the Santa Ana City Council passed a resolution honoring him.

"The President was deeply saddened by your news of Dr. Smedley's death.

He has asked me to convey to you and to his family and friends his profound sympathy.

"As founder of Toastmasters International, Dr. Smedley did much to encourage effective communication and understanding among the peoples of the world.

His dedicated public service will long be remembered, and his contributions will, I am confident, be perpetuated in the organization which he established."

James H. Moyers
Assistant to the President
White House
Washington, D.C.

"In Canada, where there are Toastmasters clubs in every province, we join in acknowledging the public service of the late Dr. Ralph C. Smedley. Through the establishment of Toastmasters clubs, he helped produce better understanding among men. These clubs set an example by encouraging men to listen analytically, to think for themselves, and to speak effectively and freely. Dr. Smedley's

tireless and unselfish work in creating this atmosphere will long be remembered."

L. B. Pearson
Prime Minister
Canada

"Dr. Ralph C. Smedley's death is a loss not only to Toastmasters throughout the world, but also to the people of California. The organization that he started in Santa Ana and that spread throughout the world has brought honor to our state and has helped countless individuals to lead richer lives."

Edmund G. Brown
Governor
State of California

"World of the passing of your founder, Dr. Ralph C. Smedley, is received with deep regret. The accomplishments and growth of the Toastmasters organization are a tribute to Dr. Smedley's leadership and foresight. As a Rotarian for many years he demonstrated a dedication to the ideal of service to others. The loss of this fine man will be keenly felt."

Rotary International
Evanston, Ill.

I Remember . . .

"Prior to, and during the 35 years since the International was created, Ralph Smedley and I kept close contact with each other, through my own continuous active membership. His "Idea" from the beginning has profoundly enriched all those who embraced it, and will continue to do so. He was a remarkable man whose works will not be forgotten."

J. Clark Chamberlain
International President
1930-1932

"All of us who have benefited by our experiences in Toastmasters owe Ralph C. Smedley more than can be measured. We have learned to think upon our feet, to organize and express our thoughts, to take criticism and profit thereby, to assume leadership in our communities.

These benefits will continue and spread throughout the world as men everywhere continue to grow through Toastmasters. Ralph Smedley's idea shall continue to benefit mankind so long as we shall continue upon the earth."

Paul H. Demaree
International President
1932-1933

"Dr. Ralph Smedley was a citizen of the world, and benefactor to hundreds of thousands of ambitious men. Just what will we do without him? Just as he would wish. We will follow his plans for better communication through speech. His inspiration will help us to carry on and his unselfish aims will spark our efforts and assure success."

Olin H. Price
International President
1934-1935

"The passing of Dr. Ralph Smedley leaves a void that will be hard to fill. Many great men have left behind them monuments of granite and steel in testimony of their intelligence and artistry. Dr. Smedley has left a greater monument. The results of his world-wide intellectual contacts with the minds of men will live on and leave a more lasting impact on the future than any material monument could achieve. He was truly a humble and devoted leader in the art of effective self-expression."

W. A. Dunlap
International President
1937-1938

"I met Dr. Smedley in 1935 at the Santa Monica convention and really came to know him when I visited him in his office at the Santa Ana Y.M.C.A. the following year on our way to the Santa Barbara convention; and at many subsequent conventions.

"His friendly and sincere explanations of his hopes and plans for developing a much needed service inspired me to become continuously active until my health prevented. We have lost a dear friend and a great man."

Ralph R. Guthrie
International President
1939-1940

"A good teacher and leader is first of all a good human being. Someone who, in personality, character, and attitudes, exercises a wholesome and inspiring influence on others. This Ralph Smedley did for me, and many others, by sharing his ideas for self-improvement. He will go down with such great American teachers as Horace Mann, Mark Hopkins, Charles Eliot, and John Dewey."

Sheldon M. Hayden
International President
1940-1941

"Had he but written at a later period, Elbert Hubbard, in his 'Little Journeys to the Homes of Great Teachers,' in which he included Moses, King Alfred, Booker T. Washington, Mary Baker Eddy, and others, most likely would have had a place for Dr. Ralph C. Smedley; for here was a man who so dearly loved liberty and independence that, with iron determination, he taught men to become articulate, outspoken, upstanding and fearless.

"Though firm of principle, Smedley, the 'teacher', made it both easy and pleasant to learn."

Harry W. Mattison
International President
1943-1944

"From close acquaintance with Dr. Smedley for more than 30 years in his office in the Y.M.C.A. in Santa Ana and in Toastmasters headquarters, I gained a priceless education in a new phase of life, the development of one's personality through speech.

"This concept of his has stood the test of time, and will, I am sure, be everlasting."

Robert M. Switzler
International President
1944-1945

"In creating the idea of the Toastmasters Club, Ralph Smedley provided a priceless gift for men who wish to succeed. With the help of hundreds and then thousands of other men, that idea was spread throughout the world, has become a challenge to personal achievement and an aid to the furtherance of democracy."

Franklin McCrillis
International President
1945-1946

"Dr. Ralph C. Smedley is now in the company of the comparatively few truly great and good men whose lives were devoted to the betterment of mankind. He was a man worth knowing. Selfless, humble, reverent, considerate, warm, friendly, understanding, witty, perceptive, intelligent — all these and many other words of like import can, and should, be written of him. Nevertheless, if he were sitting across my desk, he would say: 'Keep it short and simple, Joe; and never mind extolling my virtues, if I have any. You and the other men should get on with the work.' Very well, Ralph, that we will do."

Joseph P. Rinnert
International President
1946-1947

"He was the exceptional man, whose life was truly dedicated to the service and benefits of others. Rare indeed is such as he, whose talents, ideas and ideals, whose heart and mind, are given without thought of personal gain.

"The Toastmasters club was his gift to mankind, and its value is beyond measurement. Toastmasters will grow and go on forever, as, in eminency, will the memory of Ralph C. Smedley."

George W. Benson
International President
1947-1948

"He was a genuine gentleman of the old school. Memorials of various kinds will be proposed, and rightly so. However, he already has a memorial in the hearts of nearly a million men whom he has helped to become better and more efficient citizens of the communities in which they live. It would please him very much to have us put forth our best efforts to see that thousands of others have the opportunities that we have had."

Lewis C. Turner
International President
1949-1950

"The most memorable experience in my active years in Toastmasters was a 10-day tour through the eastern states with Ralph Smedley during my presidency. Ralph was, as always, so filled with a desire to be of help to all Toastmasters and with an unrelenting stamina to keep going. Traveling late nights, attending meetings, and speaking, morning, noon and evenings.

"Always passing on to others his wealth of knowledge and wonderful philosophies of life, filled with kindness and regard for everyone always, imbued with the thought that it was greater to give than receive. Indeed a true champion of free speech — who surely filled his destiny."

Nick Jorgensen
International President
1952-1953

"My life is enriched by great gifts from three men. My father gave integrity and honor. My senior partner, George Frazer, gave creative imagination and courage. Ralph Smedley, through his lasting idea — Toastmasters — gave ability to express the other gifts; from him, gifts of forbearance, understanding and steadfastness of purpose.

"Few in their lifetime have erected so noble an institution for self-improvement by man. No memorial could be greater or more enduring than the men who improved and will improve themselves because of him. I have lost a close friend and leader, but not his inspiration; that will forever live."

Russell V. Puzey
International President
1953-1954

"Dr. Smedley breathed life into Toastmasters International. He guarded it through all of the formative years to its present international status, making sure the purpose and high ideals that were so much a part of him remained its foundation.

"Toastmasters is both a continuing memorial to him and a heritage to the world. I remember my friendship with Ralph as one of the grand experiences of my life. Nothing will ever dim the memories of that friendship."

Charles H. Griffith
International President
1954-1955

"Our beloved founder was prevailed upon in 1955 to set down, from his personal records and memory, the beginnings and growth of our organization. The work is now published as 'The Story of Toastmasters.'

"Within the story is an inspiring truth. A persistent man, dedicated to an idea, can, by instilling enthusiasm in others, build it into a thing of greatness. Dr. Ralph C. Smedley did that with Toastmasters International."

John W. Haynes
International President
1955-1956

"He would have been described as small, yet we who stood in his shadow knew his true dimension. Neither prophet nor seer, he gave the Golden Rule a forum we call Toastmasters. His credo was 'keep it simple'; his purpose to release our muted tongues, that each of us might say, 'I am the voice of the voiceless. Through me the dumb shall speak!'"

T. Vincent McIntire
International President
1956-1957

"Dr. Smedley was a 'millionaire.' Yes, a millionaire, though not in the ordinary sense. But he could have been had he wanted to capitalize personally on his 'idea.' Instead, his 'idea' was given to Toastmasters International and has benefited close to a million men, producing leaders throughout the world. My life would not have been as full, successful, and beneficial to others if it had not been for Dr. Smedley. Yes, he was a 'millionaire.'"

Emil H. Nelson
International President
1959-1960

"Toastmasters International has suffered an irreparable loss with the death of Dr. Ralph Smedley. All Toastmasters who have known him will continue to cherish the inspiration of his leadership that was so well exemplified in his founding of Toastmasters International and in his guidance of its spectacular growth."

Aubrey B. Hamilton
International President
1958-1959

"Words are inadequate to describe our feelings of sorrow at the departure of one of the great men of our time. His contributions will live forever.

"The seed of self-improvement which he has sown throughout the years as our leader has fallen on good ground; his words and his example have guided thousands of men to realize their fullest potential and to attain their greatest stature as citizens of freedom loving countries.

"Our selfish feeling of personal loss is tempered by the hope and the belief that he has received his just reward for his altruistic contributions to mankind. It is our sincere hope that God will bless and keep him with Him forever."

George J. Mucey
International President
1960-1961

"Ralph Smedley had a profound effect on me. Ralph's writings and teachings of the Toastmasters idea opened up new vistas to me and hosts of others.

"Yet my greatest blessing was to know him as a friend. His kindly and perceptive guidance during my time as director and officer was priceless. His precepts shall be with me always, but I treasure most the memory of his friendship."

Frank I. Spangler
International President
1962-1963

"During the years I knew Dr. Smedley I found him to be an educator who believed in the dignity and simplicity of all men. He felt Toastmasters had a niche in man understanding man; that the spoken word would conquer the sword. With penetrating vision and courage he challenged men to find themselves, and thousands have. Let us live up to the heritage he left us. I only hope I can."

Alex P. Smekta
International President
1963-1964

"It was possible for me to work closely with Dr. Smedley throughout my 15 years with Toastmasters International.

"I suppose I will remember him most of all for his keen wit and wonderful sense of humor and the related belief that a man's experience in Toastmasters should be an enjoyable one and not a mere academic adventure. It was also his belief that, as an organization, we had a responsibility and an obligation to the community as a whole wherever our clubs were located.

"My most memorable experience with the founder, however, was on his 87th birthday last February 22. At this time I attended a birthday party for him in his hospital room, which was also attended by members of his family; by Mr. D. H. Tibbals, a close friend of many years and a member of the World Headquarters staff; and by Executive Director Maurice Forley.

"After the others had left the room, I stayed on to talk with him and during the course of our conversation he made the following statement: 'Paris, I don't believe I will be here much longer and I would like to believe that I have left some mark on the world

during my sojourn here on this planet.' With a man of so many accomplishments a simple reply was not easy to give, but I answered that I was sure he need have no fear in this respect as he had given 'dignity' to almost a million men.

"He replied that dignity was an all-important word. He went on to say that 'integrity' was a word of equal importance. He was tiring rapidly by this time, but he did manage to say that there were really only six words that we should live by. When I asked him what the other four words were in addition to dignity and integrity he was almost asleep, but he aroused himself to say: 'Tell the boys (his pet name for all Toastmasters members) that if they live by the two words we have just discussed (dignity and integrity), the other four will never really be important anyway.'

"This, I feel, was Dr. Smedley as I knew him — a man of great dignity and integrity and possessed of a humility that is inherent to all greatness."

Paris S. Jackson
International President
1964-1965

**RALPH C. SMEDLEY
TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL FUND**

While Dr. Smedley was a member of the Board, it established a Toastmasters Memorial Fund, and policies were promulgated for its use.

Following the death of Dr. Smedley, on September 14, 1965, a special meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, pursuant to its authority as interim Board, voted to change the name of the existing fund, to be known hereafter as "The Ralph C. Smedley Toastmasters International Memorial Fund," and instructed the executive director to so notify the membership.

Communications or gifts should be addressed to:

Ralph C. Smedley Memorial Fund
c/o Toastmasters International
2200 North Grand, Santa Ana, California

Contributions may be treated as such on Federal income tax returns.

At present the fund is limited to use for educational purposes, but at the November, 1965, Board of Directors meeting, the Board will review its policy to determine the most appropriate methods of honoring Dr. Smedley.

“We had our first meeting March 27, 1907 . . .”

By **LESLIE F. FARGHER**

I HAVE BEEN BLESSED by having had a number of very good friends who have been near and dear to me over long years. One of these was Ralph Smedley, who had been a faithful friend for almost 60 years.

Now, in my old age, for I am in my 90th year, I look back in memory to the enjoyment of these friendships.

Ralph was a man of many good qualities. Away back in the early part of 1906 we found that we needed to find a new general secretary for the Y.M.C.A. here in Freeport and from our state secretary we were informed that Ralph, then in “Y” work at Bloomington, might be available and that he would be a good man for the position. I was the secretary of our board and I think that all of the correspondence was between us two. He accepted the position and we soon knew that we had a man who had all the qualifications that we needed.

It was early in 1907 that he told a group of us of the boys’ club which he had organized in Bloomington and named Toastmasters. And when he said that he wanted to start such a club here for boys, someone in the

group said he thought it too good for a boys club and that we ought to take it on for ourselves.

So it was organized by business and professional men. We had no fixed membership but about the same ones were in the habit of attending. We had no summer meetings and ended up each season with an evening party for the ladies.

We had our first meeting on March 27, 1907, and the program was planned by Ralph to be a supposed “farmers’ meeting.” He assigned topics to six of us as follows: Eugene Phillips — “Old and New Methods of Farming”; George Korf — “Good Roads”; L. F. Fargher — “The Hen and the Egg”; Charles Green — “How to Keep Boys on the Farm”; Frank E. Furst — “The Hog”; and Chester C. Wells — “Unionizing the Farmers.”

Of those who took part, I am the only one now living. There is one thing of which I’ve always felt certain, and that was that it was our club here that brought to Ralph’s mind the fact that he had something for men to be interested in. Unfortunately, our club did not last long after he left us.

“His modesty was an outstanding trait . . .”

By **W. F. CRITES**

First President, Club No. One

AS A TRIBUTE to the memory of a grand, kind and farseeing man, may I, as the first president of Toastmasters Club No. One, recall a few experiences with Ralph Smedley?

It was in the fall of 1924 that Ralph called together a cosmopolitan group of men for the purpose of considering a plan for improving the abilities of self-expression. It was a dinner meeting and during the meal he outlined his idea.

All present at that first meeting were not only interested, they were enthusiastic to become members and strongly desired to take part in the program he outlined.

In the entire discussion that evening, very little direction was given by our host — only to subdue over-enthusiasm or to give reasons why some suggested plan would be impractical. His leadership was evident in this organizational meeting. He wanted certain items included in the following meetings, yet he would not impose his position

into the situation nor allow, by subtle hints, any one member to dominate the meeting.

Before the evening was ended a set of officers was duly elected and the program for the following meeting was announced. It was decided, by unanimous consent during the discussion, that we would meet once a week for dinner followed by the program. Being tyros in the art of public speaking, we elected Ralph as our chief critic. In this capacity he often demonstrated his patience and sympathy. An adverse criticism was always followed by one of encouragement. No speaker was allowed to end his part of a program by being unable to “deliver.” By kind words and encouraging remarks Ralph would get the man on his feet again and cleverly assist him in “selling his product.”

His modesty was an outstanding trait during his entire career, yet when a need arose he was ready and willing to take a stand for what he believed was right. Club No. One was a success from that first night.

Messages were received from all over the world . . .

"His very presence imparted in us all a keen and lasting interest in Toastmastering."

Trail & District Club 2776-21
Trail, B.C., Can.

"In every province of our country we mourn the passing and stand in respect of a great American. Ralph Smedley will be remembered in history for his huge contribution to international understanding."

A. E. Pallister, International Director
Calgary, Alta., Can.

"Dr. Smedley's vision and accomplishments have reached thousands like myself and is reflected in the better life which we enjoy."

H. M. Anderson, Past Governor,
District 40
Columbus, Ohio

"All Toastmasters owe a debt to Dr. Ralph Smedley for giving us all a new way of life in thinking, speaking and spreading the ideals of Toastmasterism so profoundly introduced and fath-ered by the late doctor."

Air-India Club 3043-U
Bombay, India

"It was with regret that we learned of the death of Dr. Ralph Smedley. Please convey our sympathy to Dr. Smedley's family."

Wellington Club 1046-U
Wellington, New Zealand

"He was a great champion of the individual, a devoted teacher of Toastmasters, and a friend who inspired many of us to a better way of living."

Eugene Haluschak,
International Director
Milwaukee, Wis.

"A man such as Dr. Smedley, who has contributed so much to so many, is missed very greatly."

Livingston County Club 1538-62
Howell, Mich.

"Not only Toastmasters, but also the free world will be mourning the loss of this great man."

Melbourne Club 3362-TCA
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

"His passing marks the end of a great contributor toward the betterment of mankind. May his ideals and principles continue to serve our great organization."

James Sonstelie,
International Director
Spokane, Wash.

"We can take comfort in knowing that Dr. Smedley is gone only in the physical sense. Each of us who are Toastmasters represent a part of him to the world in our work of carrying out the ideals which meant so much to him."

Sheppard Club 3066-25
Sheppard AFB, Texas

"His idea stemmed from God's word, to love thy fellow man. His entire life was devoted to communicating this idea to men of good will throughout the world, through the best in speech, and in better listening. He has taken his rightful place in the hearts of all his Toastmasters, and will forever be an inspiration to all present, and to those who follow."

Anthony C. Neri, Governor
District 53

"Toowoomba Toastmasters join world wide brotherhood in extending sympathy to Dr. Smedley's family. We remain in his debt."

Toowoomba Club 1688-TCA
Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia

"Deepest sympathy with passing away of Ralph Smedley."

Nickerie Club 3208-U
Nickerie, Surinam, Dutch Guiana

"Four decades of association with him served to increase my admiration and respect for the early day 'Mr.' Smedley, and the 'Doctor' did not change the calm, quiet, humble and deeply religious man — a giant among men."

"He many times spurned sugges-tions that he capitalize financially on the growing Toastmasters program, choosing rather to increase services to members."

"His desire was to develop the potential, latent in each man, and im-prove literary tools produced for their use."

"Proudly we say: 'We knew him, he walked with us — a World Citizen!'"

D. H. Tibbals
Smedley Club No. One

"The good which Dr. Smedley did will not be interred with his bones. Toastmasters is two generations old, but there are generations yet unborn which will garner the harvest to-morrow as we garner it today. And all from an idea — the seed planted, nurtured, and brought to fruition by a modest man of noble purpose."

Allis Chalmers Club 1995-8
Springfield, Illinois

"The members of the Arbroath Toastmasters Club wish to express their sincere regret on learning of the death of the founder, Dr. Ralph Smedley."

Arbroath Club 1720-TCBI
Arbroath, Scotland

"Knowing Doctor Smedley was a great pleasure for me. I'll always have fond memories of him and his great work."

George J. Flannery, Jr., Past Director
Collingswood, New Jersey

"District 44 will miss his guidance and evaluation, but we all know he has gone to be with the greatest eval-uator of them all."

Sam R. Hershey, Governor
District 44

"The success of TMI throughout the world serves as an example of Dr. Smedley's ability to envision the power of oral communication through the simple process of speech."

Philip D. Bosarge, Founder
Civic Speakers Bureau, Inc.
Mobile, Alabama

"We express our sorrow at the pass-ing of Dr. Ralph C. Smedley. But, by the same token, we must also express our thanks; thanks for the life's work of a man whose name will not be for-gotten. In our case especially, since we had lost a great deal of self-respect, a program such as Gavel Club is in-finitely appreciated. Gavel Club, and Toastmasters International, has done much to make us realize that we can be useful citizens; that we can really achieve Better Living through Better Speaking."

Gavel Club 157
Chino, California

"It is with very deep regret that we heard recently of the death of Toast-masters founder, Ralph Smedley, and we join Toastmasters all over the world in expressing our condolences to you all at World Headquarters and to the family of the late Dr. Smedley."

Algoa Club 2457-U
Port Elizabeth,
Republic of South Africa

"Our banner shines less for loss of him, our inspiration. Requirescat in page."

Yokata NCO Club 3253-U
Yokata AB, Japan

"Tamaraw Toastmasters join you and Mrs. Smedley in your bereavement over irreparable loss of our founder, Dr. Smedley."

Tamaraw Club 1164-U
Manila, Republic of Phillipines

"His work will live forever and will stand as a monument to one of this century's truly great personalities."

SEC Roughriders Club 1867-46
New York, N.Y.

"I have never known such a dedicated person, and probably never will again."

Ellis B. Arnold, Mayor
City of Decatur
Decatur, Illinois

"Please accept our condolences on Dr. Smedley's demise and convey them to his family."

Bangkok Club 2010-U
Bangkok, Thailand

"The passing of Dr. Ralph Smedley leaves a void in the hearts of Toastmasters throughout the world and in the organization which he founded. We all feel a keen sense of loss in his passing."

Ahti A. Mackela, Governor
District 62

"We thank God for the wonderful work that Dr. Smedley was able to do during his lifetime."

Madrid Club 2378-U
Madrid, Spain

"The world is better for his having been here and his influence will live forever in the lives of others."

Richard V. Keim, Past Director
Nampa, Idaho

"We must offer our sincere sympathy on the loss of our founder, Dr. Ralph Smedley. We can imagine how the staff, whose good fortune it was to be closely associated with him for a number of years, will miss his guiding hands and good counsel."

Bridgetown Club 2660-U
Bridgetown, British West Indies

"Doctor Smedley's immeasurable gifts to man will far outlast any physical monument to his memory."

Donald Gregg, Governor
District 68

"With a profound sense of loss we learned of the founder's death. Please convey our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Smedley and family."

Rhein Main Club 2617-U
Frankfurt, Germany

"The passing of Dr. Smedley must be termed an enormous loss to thinking men all over the world."

Greater Cleveland Club 2825-10
Cleveland, Ohio

"His life was an unequalled contribution to the adult education of this country."

Savannah Club 705-14
Savannah, Ga.

"We express our deep sympathy and certainly share with you the sorrow which Toastmasters throughout the world must feel at the passing of our founder."

Georgetown Club 2687-U
Georgetown, British Guiana

"We, the members of District 52, mourn the loss of a great benefactor. His contribution to society will be everlasting."

Ben Steinmetz, Governor
District 52

"In the passing of Dr. Ralph Smedley, Toastmasters International has lost its pillar of strength and the clubs a great benefactor."

Manama Club 2916-U
Manama, Bahrain, Arabian Gulf

"Toastmasters International has not lost its founder and leader, for his ideals will live forever in the hearts of Toastmasters all over the world."

Ted Castrodale, Governor
District 13

"We convey to you our very deepest sympathy at this time. New Zealand is a very new country in the Toastmasters movement and we have a very sincere and deep respect for everything that this movement stands for and, in particular, for everything which Dr. Smedley has done over the last forty years."

Auckland Club 3593-U
Auckland, New Zealand

"He has, in his life, given so much to so many men. I know that through those that worked with him the high ideals of Dr. Smedley will continue."

Austin O. Walpole, Governor
District 40

"His contributions to improved oral communication will stand unparalleled in the annals of public speaking and human relations."

Fort Lewis Club 690-32
Fort Lewis, Wash.

"Although he has left our midst and ascended to greater heights, the knowledge and ambitions with which he has endowed us will continue to flourish."

Laurentian Club 866-61
Montreal, Que., Can.

"His guiding light will always shine in the hearts of Toastmasters everywhere."

Douglas Ingram, Governor
District 16

"Our deepest sympathy on loss of our founder which will be profoundly felt by Toastmasters throughout the world."

Victoria Club 2787-U
Hong Kong

"He is gone, but the world has been made better because of him. He has left behind a cultured heritage of legacy for learning and inherent desire among Toastmasters everywhere to grow in stature."

Anthony C. Bertocchini, Governor
District 32

"His life was devoted to the cause of communication and closer understanding among human beings everywhere through the spoken word and the personal art of speech. It was, and remains, a cause well justified by the divisive and troubled times in which we live."

DWR Club 243-51
Los Angeles, Calif.

"Let us all take up the torch of challenge and carry it upright for self-improvement via Dr. Smedley will cause his memory to be alive with us for years to come. Our respect and admiration were his."

Minnesota Sales
Executives Club 2019-6
Minneapolis, Minn.

"The members of the club heard with deep regret the sad news of the demise of Dr. Ralph Smedley."

Y.M.C.A. Club 2416-U
Hyderabad, India

"Dr. Smedley's greatness is reflected by the huge Toastmasters International organization which he founded and guided for so many years."

Tuesday Club 1161-63
Nashville, Tennessee

"Toastmasters everywhere in prayerful meditation during this period of sorrow. We rededicate ourselves to the principles he exemplified."

O. A. Parks, Governor
District 20

Appreciation

World Headquarters and the family of Dr. Smedley wish to express their appreciation for the many telegrams and messages they have received. The number does not allow us to acknowledge them all in print but they are sincerely appreciated.

His Expressions Ranged from the Philosophical to the Fundamental...

The following articles are from a commemorative book, "Personally Speaking," which will soon be available from World Headquarters.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

(The Toastmaster, September, 1950)

THE CONTINUED SUCCESS of the Toastmasters movement is due, in no small measure, to the simplicity and directness of its purpose, and the fidelity with which we have adhered to that purpose.

The original statement of purpose, adopted by the Number One Club at Santa Ana, 26 years ago, read like this:

"The purpose of the Toastmasters club is to afford practice and training in the art of public speaking, and in presiding over meetings, and to promote sociability and good fellowship among the members."

That simple statement has been amplified in its application. Through experience we have discovered many implications which were not even thought of in the

beginning. We have found out what a force for development there is in speech, and we have discovered countless methods for improving our training. But our fundamental purpose has not changed. We still seek to give our members training and practice in speech. The additional applications and benefits are just the extra dividends they receive.

There have been many opportunities to expand the scope of our purpose and our activities, but they have been consistently rejected. We have been faithful to our task.

We train men for leadership. We help them to discover and develop their latent powers. We encourage them to make the most of themselves in all the relations in life.

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS

(The Toastmaster, July, 1948)

A Toastmasters club is not a propaganda organization.

It does not adopt resolutions, sponsor candidates, nor go out for "causes." It cannot commit its membership to support of any controversial matter, for its members come from all elements of society, and unanimity of opinion is hardly to be expected or desired. Different groups, social, political, religious, racial, occupational, are represented in the typical club. It is a cross-section of its community.

A Toastmasters club is definitely a training organization. It welcomes men of all sorts of opinions into its membership, and undertakes to train them to think logically and to speak honestly in behalf of whatever cause or procedure they may believe in. The work of a Toastmasters club is to help each member to be his best self, as a member of society and as a protagonist of the things which seem to him most worthwhile.

But in the Toastmasters club, certain principles are held inviolable. Like our forefathers of 1776, "We hold these truths to be self-evident," although our list of "truths" may differ slightly from theirs.

We hold that every man is

entitled to freedom of thought as well as freedom of speech. He must be permitted—even encouraged—to study, learn, think, and reach his own conclusions.

Every man, having thought, is entitled to freedom of speech. But his hearers have the right to demand that he speak intelligently, reasonably, honestly, if he expects them to listen.

Every man, speaking his well-considered thoughts, has a right to be heard. His right to be heard is in proportion to the worthiness of his thoughts, and the effectiveness of his speaking.

Every man, having spoken, has a right to listen to others. His listening must be with open mind, with analytical attitude, with a purpose to accept what is true and to reject what is untrue.

Every man has a right to disagree with what other people say, but he must learn to disagree without being disagreeable—to listen to the opposition calmly and without losing his temper or his balance.

Finally, every man has a right to share his thoughts, his ideas and his convictions with everyone who will listen, but he has no right to force his opinions on anyone who will not accept them, nor to compel anyone to act unwillingly under his dictation.

SELF DISCOVERY

(*The Toastmaster*, November, 1964)

The first result of speech training is self-discovery.

The man finds that he has in his own mind information which is of interest to others. This discovery leads him into studies which help to develop a consciousness of abilities of which he may have been completely ignorant. He taps new resources as he shares his thoughts with other people. He begins to understand the meaning of the words: "Having ideas in your mind and not putting them into circulation is like having money in your pocket and not investing it. The potential value is there, but neither money nor ideas will buy anything until you put them into trade."

Self-Revelation

The second by-product is self-revelation.

As one speaks, he reveals himself to those who listen. They discover that he has ideas, ambitions, talents which are valuable. While he remained silent, they may have counted him a nit-wit, a dullard, a drudge. As he reveals himself through his good speech, they discover that he is intelligent, resourceful, inventive, discerning, creative in his thinking. He shows himself in a new light.

Self-Advancement

This readily leads to the third by-product, which is self-advancement. His employer, or his customers or business associates, find that he has capacities for leadership, or for service, and they choose him for promotion or advancement in whatever may be his line of work.

Self-Control

Along with these three by-products come two others of inestimable value. One is self-control. The speaker has to learn to command himself, to direct his thinking, to steady his nerves, to quiet his quaking knees. He must compel himself to do the thing he fears. He learns to control himself, for he who would direct or control others must first become master of himself.

Personality Development

The other is personality development—the enlargement of life.

We grow through self-expression. Our characters are integrated as we put ourselves into our work. Speech is the most convenient and universally available means of self-expression; therefore, speech is a means for growth and development. It teaches us to get along with

other people, one of the most important lessons of life. The earnest student of speech learns to adapt himself to his situation. He can avoid or prevent friction. He broadens the horizons of his life through study and speech. "If you would learn anything for yourself," said Horace Mann, "teach it to another," and the speaker is a teacher in that sense.

Leadership

All these things tend to one end which is attractive to every normal man—leadership. Through developing skill in speech, men learn to know them-

selves, to control and direct their abilities, and to do more and better service for themselves and others. They are prepared to lead when leaders are needed.

If ability to make a speech were all that one gained through speech training, it would be eminently worthwhile, but when all these other benefits are added, as part of a career of life-long learning, the values are so great and attractive that no right-minded man should think of neglecting his opportunity to gain and grow in a Toastmasters club.

"Toastmasters is learning through doing and improving through criticism."

—DR. RALPH C. SMEDLEY

COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME TO BE PUBLISHED

To honor Dr. Ralph C. Smedley and to perpetuate his philosophy and counsel, a commemorative volume of his selected writings has been authorized by the Board of Directors of Toastmasters International.

The book will bear the title, "Personally Speaking," which headed Dr. Smedley's monthly comments in *The Toastmaster* magazine. "Personally Speaking" will contain approximately 150 pages and will be published in a limited edition.

Pre-publication orders for the book should be sent to Department A, Toastmasters International, Santa Ana, California. The price of the volume is \$3 plus postage.

Please use a separate order blank and remittance for "Personally Speaking."

Net income from the sale of the volume will go to the Ralph C. Smedley Toastmasters International Memorial Fund.

CHRONOLOGY

- February 22, 1878 — Ralph C. Smedley born in Waverly, Illinois.
- 1903 — Graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University.
- October, 1903 — Entered Y.M.C.A. work at Peoria, Illinois.
- March 24, 1905 — Helped organize group in the Y.M.C.A. at Bloomington which was the first to use the name "Toastmasters Club."
- October 6, 1905 — Married the former Miss Frances Bass in Bloomington, Illinois.
- March 27, 1907 — Toastmasters club formed at Freeport, Illinois. (Disbanded 4 years later, a year after Smedley left for Rock Island, Ill. Y.M.C.A.)
- September, 1919 — Went to work as Y.M.C.A. Secretary in San Jose, California. Formed a Toastmasters club (lasted only a short time after Smedley left in 1922).
- 1922 — Moved to Santa Ana, California, to supervise the planning, financing, and construction of the Santa Ana Y.M.C.A. building.
- October 22, 1924 — First meeting of Toastmasters club in Santa Ana, which became the foundation for present organization.
- January 19, 1926 — The starting of the second Toastmasters club at Anaheim, California.
- August 11, 1927 — First meeting of representatives of five Toastmasters clubs at Santa Ana, California, to plan for the formation of a "Federation of Toastmasters Clubs."
- October 25, 1928 — First Manual for Toastmasters Clubs copyrighted by Ralph Smedley.
- July 26, 1930 — Toastmasters International organized in meeting at Whittier College, Whittier, California.
- December 6, 1930 — First issue of "The Gavel," a mimeographed bulletin designed to keep clubs in touch with each other, later to develop into *The Toastmaster*.
- December 19, 1932 — Toastmasters International incorporated.
- January 9, 1933 — First Toastmasters club in the United States outside of California established at Seattle, Washington.
- July 6, 1935 — District organization instituted with organization of District No. 1, California and Arizona, and District 2, Pacific Northwest.
- February 1, 1941 — Smedley retired from Y.M.C.A. work to devote full time to Toastmasters.
- July, 1946 — First complete district organized outside the United States: District 18 of Scotland.
- 1950 — Beyond Basic Training was introduced.
- June 5, 1950 — Smedley received an honorary degree of L.H.D. (Doctor of Humane Letters) from Illinois Wesleyan University.
- 1955 — City of Santa Ana honored Dr. Smedley with dedication of Ralph C. Smedley Junior High School.
- 1957 — Formation of Gavel Club program.
- 1961 — Territorial Councils created in Great Britain and Australia.
- October 27, 1962 — Dedication of new World Headquarters.
- September 11, 1965 — Dr. Smedley died in Santa Ana.

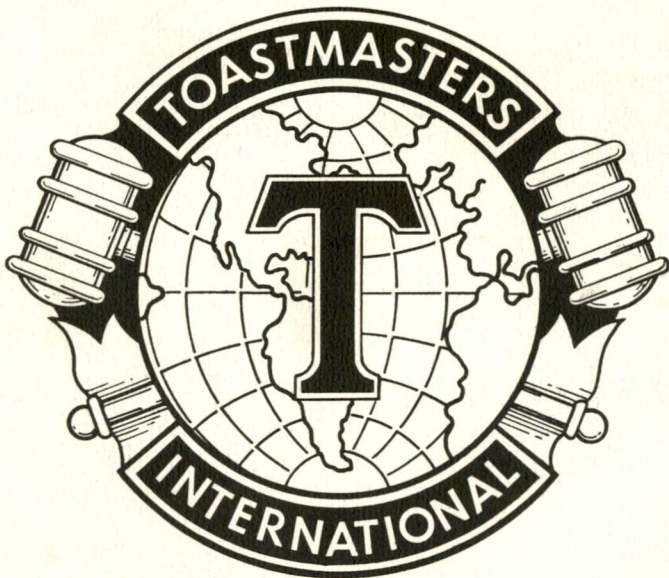
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