



YOU TOO CAN BE “STAR TOASTMASTERS”

By Lynne Kobus, Renfrew Toastmasters

Just recently, in a town very, very close by... Fluke Flyswatter has discovered that his long lost father is the ignoble Garth Paydirt. Young Fluke has decided that he wants to know his father despite the fact that Garth has been trying to send him to the “Great Hereafter”. It would seem that Fluke is willing to overlook his father’s bad points.

(Any words in brackets are character thoughts and actions.)

Fluke Flyswatter: *(There’s Garth Paydirt. I must speak to him.)* Oh, um, Mr., um, Paydirt. Ah, um, Garth. Ah, ah, Father.

Garth Paydirt: *(in a booming rich voice)* It’s Lord Paydirt to you, sonny.

Fluke: Ah, um *(looking at the floor)*, Lord Paydirt. I, um, would really, ah, you know, like us, um, to be, ah, um, friends.

Garth: *(looking menacingly at Fluke)* *(No wonder I have been trying to send Fluke Flyswatter to the “Great Hereafter”. No son of mine should speak so haltingly.)*

Fluke: Ah, um, Father. I mean, you know, um, Lord Paydirt. *(staring at the floor)* Um, did you, ah, um, hear me?

Garth: *(The boy has no speaking skills. No one could listen to him and get his message. I, on the other hand, am an eloquent speaker. When I speak, my mastery of the spoken language commands attention. It is a good thing I went to Toastmasters before I became Lord Paydirt.)* Barely, Fluke. Stand up straight. Look at me when you speak. Stop fidgeting! Although you inherited my good looks, you sure didn’t inherit my eloquence. *(I’m not going to tell him that I spoke just as badly before I went to Toastmasters.)*

Fluke: Ah, you, um, um, make me, um, nervous Fath...um, Lord, ah, Paydirt.

Garth: Nonsense, boy! You make yourself nervous. Have confidence in yourself, and have the gumption to go out and improve yourself. Join Toastmasters.

Fluke: *(staring at the floor, then, realizing that his father is taking some interest in him, abruptly meets Garth Paydirt’s gaze)* Ah, um, join, um, Toastmasters?

Garth: Yes, Fluke. Join Toastmasters. You too can become an eloquent speaker, as I am. Toastmasters will boost your confidence. And, those ums and ahs have got to go. Come back to see me when you have joined Toastmasters and you are on the road to eloquence.

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Lynne: So, you’ve read my craziness this far. Read on! Come and visit us at Renfrew Toastmasters on Monday evenings at 7p.m. at 236 Hall Avenue E. in the common room. You can attend three complimentary meetings before deciding to join to start on your road to eloquence. And, have no fear. Garth Paydirt will not be in attendance, nor will there be anyone remotely like him. For more information call 649-2950 or 432-7557.