

## Toastmasters Treasures...Profiles in Performance

by Peggy Lynn, CTM/CL, PR Reporter

When Father Time meets up with a Toastmaster, nothing but annoyance sets in! Turning a page into 2004, we find a couple of "oldtimers" on the

District 22 membership roster. There are many long time members but to the best of the collective knowledge, Area A3's **Cecil Allen** and Area S1's **June Poplar**, are our "oldest" members.

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### CECIL

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#193 Haworth-Wichita's Cecil Allen, DTM, attended Toastmasters meetings until April or May of 2003 as age-related short-term memory began to fail. Cecil will be ninety-one on April 7, 2004! Although he was

not available for interviewing, his daughter, Marilyn, graciously reminisced about Cecil's love of Toastmasters. According to Marilyn he joined in 1954. She couldn't remember her father anytime without Toastmasters.

Marilyn fondly recalls Cecil's love for judging high school debate functions, an opportunity that came to him as a result of honed Toastmasters' skills. Learning all he could and passing along some of that knowledge "kept him young!" If he were to speak right now about this, Marilyn knew Cecil would say that the major impact of his Toastmasters life became "his association with the kids at school." Years after graduation, Cecil might have students track him down to find out how he was doing and let him know that he had impacted their lives. That effort was rewarding enough for Cecil!

Marilyn recalls that he was also a stickler for commitment and follow-through: "if he made a commitment, no matter what - he was there - you could count on him!" The family even had their vacations delayed upon occasion because Cecil was scheduled to judge high school debate somewhere. Just that tidbit provides insight into the leadership skills Cecil brought to his area. Surely between church activities and as an avid member of the LIONS Club, the Wichita community benefited from his civic endeavors for many years.

If Cecil could speak about his experiences today, with the length of time he's been an active Toastmaster we know that he, especially as a Distinguished Toastmaster, has undoubtedly exhibited high performance for the benefit of all in the district! We salute Cecil Allen, that Toastmaster for teens, as a true GEM in our midst! Marilyn will pass along to Cecil and his lovely wife, Nancy, also ninety, any Toastmasters' well-wishes coming their way through her email at [ladysilverwolf@cox.net](mailto:ladysilverwolf@cox.net)