THE GOLDEN EGG

From Hill to mountain

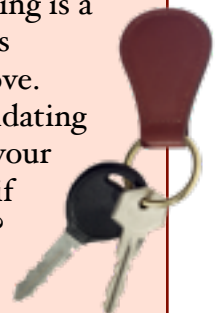*Father of positive thinking: Single-minded goal focus gets results*

One of the most popular self-improvement books ever written was published during a time of economic crisis. Many today have never heard of Napoleon Hill's Depression-era "Think and Grow Rich." As also described in his "Success Through a Positive Mental Attitude," the main idea is: "If you can conceive it and believe it, you can achieve it." His method: "Keep your mind on the things you want and off the things you don't want." Use "auto-suggestion" -- today's "affirmations." He cleared a path to the pinnacle of success that many climb. To go to that mountain, start with the Hill.

Present Yourself!

When my employer came looking for volunteers to teach a class on Total Quality Management, I raised my hand. It wasn't that public speaking was fun for me; it was terrifying! Putting myself in an uncomfortable situation that day was the key to overcoming what at the time was a fearsome situation. It wasn't unusual for me to experience shaky hands or to hold my breath, leading to shortness of breath, while speaking in public. Yet I had the desire to improve. My experience has shown that public speaking is a skill, one that it is possible to improve. When is it intimidating for you to "raise your hand," and what if you do it anyway?

-Jennifer Lader

WORDLIFTING: DOUBLE QUOTES V. SINGLE QUOTES -- WHICH WOULD WIN?

A series of children's books pits ferocious creatures and prehistoric animals against one another, theoretically. Let's try it for these two often-confused symbols:

Double quotes are strong! Consider double quotes the default form, used when quoting a speaker or highlighting a word that is then explained. They can be used

for article or book titles, especially in newspapers.

Single quotes are most often for quotations within quotations: The teacher said, "When I told my student he should usually use double quotes, he exclaimed, 'I never knew that!' and corrected the mistake."

Between double quotes and single quotes, double quotes almost always win.