

THE DEAF CHILD'S ADVOCATE

Published at 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 18, O., in the interest of the Ev. Luth.
Institute for the Deaf, 6861 Nevada Ave., Detroit, Michigan

Vol. XIV

AUGUST, 1944

Number 5

ARE YOUR TALENTS WORKING?

In His *Parable of the Talents* our Lord teaches us that the talents were given to the servants in order that they might put them to use for their master. That is the real meaning and purpose of our God-given talents. St. Paul writes: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:10. Our gifts are really not our own, but the Lord's, for us to use. We are to serve and honor Him with them. They are not for our aggrandizement, that because of them we look down on others; nor for us to abuse, debasing them for our evil desires; nor for us to let lie idle, as the wicked servant in the parable treated his talent. Remember what our Confessions say: "Faith should bring forth good fruits, and that men ought to do the good works commanded of God, because it is God's will." Every talent we Christians have is for Christ's service in faith and love. He who understands what the Lord means with this word "talents" will rejoice that he is so honored by Him, and will strive to serve Him faithfully to the full measure of his talent.

Let us be satisfied with the gifts we have, take what the Lord adds to us in His goodness, and use with all faithfulness the gifts He has placed in our keeping.

—Rev. H. R. Wacker.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL COMPLETE SUCCESS

The celebration of our annual festival was held on Sunday, June 11, under ideal weather conditions, and with the picnic grove crowded with friends of the Institute from far and near. The day's financial report was the best in the history of the school. The Rev. Andrew Zeile, President of the Michigan



The Rev. H. R. Wacker, Our New President

district, delivered the festival address, and the choir of Trinity church, Mt. Clemens, under the direction of Teacher T. Hardt, rendered several appropriate selections. Pastor N. E. Borchardt of Our Savior Deaf congregation interpreted the service for his congregation and out-of-town deaf friends. The choir of the Rev. Borchardt's congregation also rendered several hymns in the sign language. Preceding the service, the pupils of the Institute under the direction of their teachers presented a varied program including nursery rhyme pantomimes, soldier and maypole drills.

Our many visitors patronized

the outdoor stands where lunches and other refreshments were sold. A delicious hot dinner was prepared and served in our large basement dining room by the Ladies' Aid for the Deaf. The hotly contested softball game between the teams of Bethany and Peace Lutheran churches held a large portion of the festival crowd close to the foul lines in the late afternoon.

All festivities closed at 7:30 P.M., with a beautiful Vesper service conducted by Pastor O. Riess of Bethany church. Bethany choir under the direction of Teacher Walter Matthes rendered several selections in this service.

We, at the Institute, take this opportunity to thank one and all who gave so generously of their time and talents to make this 1944 festival the best in the history of the school.

PASTOR WACKER BECOMES PRESIDENT

At the annual meeting of the Society of the Ev. Lutheran Deaf-Mute Institute held Wednesday, June 14th, the Rev. H. R. Wacker, Mr. Walter Maul, and Mr. B. Schumacher were re-elected as members of the Board of Directors, and the Rev. Geo. Krach as member of the School Board.

Since Lt. Commander Fred J. Auch, who for a number of years was the very capable President of our Board of Directors, is unable for the duration of the war regularly to attend our monthly Board meetings, the Rev. H. R. Wacker of Covenant Lutheran church in Detroit was elected President, and the Rev. Louis Heinecke of Utica, Michigan, Vice-President. The work of the office of President is not new to Pastor Wacker, since he has been acting president ever since Mr. Auch, who still remains a member of our Board, entered the service of our country.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

On Tuesday, September 5th, our doors will again open to welcome the many happy children who will be returning to us from their vacation holidays, as well as to a limited number of new pupils who were so fortunate as to be accepted for enrollment this year.

During these summer months we have been and still are busy tidying and brightening things up for the comforts and pleasure of our large family.

May we here remind the parents that, in order for the teachers to do effective work, it is of the ut-

most importance that all children be present no later than Wednesday, September 6th. Pupils coming from outside of the Detroit area should arrive on Tuesday or earlier, and those from Detroit and vicinity on Wednesday. Parents who expect us to meet them or their children at the railroad or

bus stations should notify us sufficiently early and state definitely how, where, and when they will arrive. For parents who wish it, we can supply a night's lodging at the school.

Parents, too, should see to it that all their children's clothing is marked with the child's full name.

HISTORY OF THE LUTHERAN INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

III

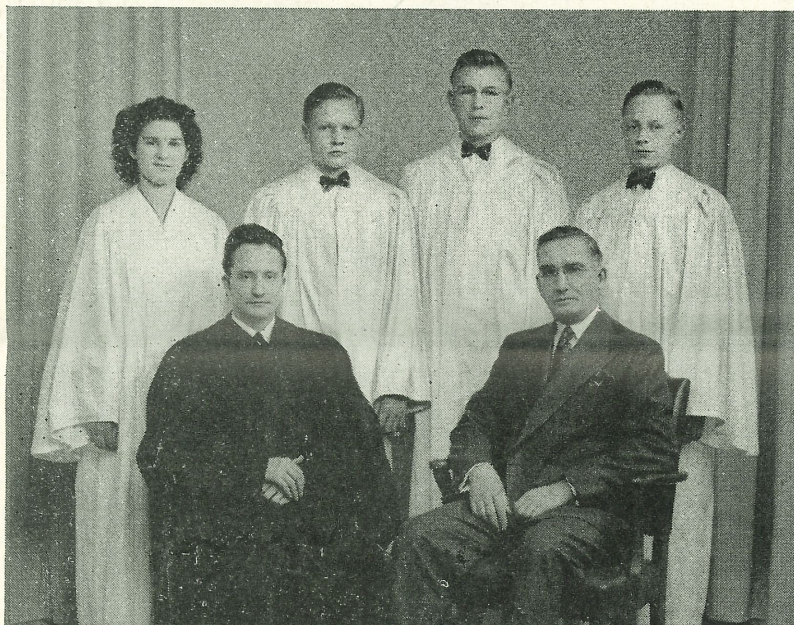
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From the minutes of the many regular and special Association meetings held in the year 1874 one learns of the tremendous difficulties our fathers faced in establishing and maintaining our Institute. They were always short of funds, yet they never hesitated to go forward. They were convinced that the work begun was the Lord's work and as such it had to continue.

In the annual meeting held March, 1874, the following were elected to office: The Rev. Huegli, C. H. Beyer, C. D. Strubel, Fr. Walz, Ernst Glogner, John Keil, Andrew Schieler, Wm. Albrecht, and Hy. Berger. In a special meeting held in the same month, Pastor Dankworth was asked to visit our congregations in Canada for the purpose of soliciting funds for the Institute. — Since the prices of fresh meat in Royal Oak were considered to be too high, it was decided that the commissary committee be instructed to purchase fresh meat twice a week from a butcher in Detroit. This same committee also was authorized to buy the necessary groceries in Detroit and have them delivered to the Institute in Royal Oak as opportunities to do this presented themselves, or as the German minutes state it, "bei Gelegenheit." In the event that these food shipments were delayed too long, Supt. Speckhardt was granted permission to make emergency purchases in local stores. — A committee was appointed to solicit firewood. — For publicity purposes Supt. Speckhardt was asked to appear at Trinity church in Detroit with a class of deaf children to demonstrate his method of teaching the deaf to speak and to read lips. Later he was to invite newspaper reporters to the Institute in order to have its work publicized in the Detroit papers.

Since payments on notes amounting to \$1,175.00 were due and there was no money in the treasury, Pastor Moll was sent to Mil-

waukee and Pastor Dankworth to Saginaw to solicit much-needed funds from the Lutheran brethren in those cities. — It was resolved that henceforth all donations be receipted in the "Lutheraner". — Supt. Speckhardt was encouraged to take several deaf children to



Our 1944 Confirmation Class. Left to right: Genevieve Moeller, Carl Schneider, Elroy Meyer, and Odis Landsverk

Synod's convention and there to demonstrate the work of the Institute. — A committee consisting of Messrs. Thuemling, Runge, Wendt, and Ruhle was appointed to solicit shoes for the orphans in the Institute. (To this day some of these names are prominent among donors to our cause.) — Tailor Rehahn offered to make suits for the boys if he were supplied with the necessary material.

Margarethe Grauf, of Frankenth, Michigan, the first deaf girl instructed in the Institute, was confirmed by Supt. Speckhardt on May 31st, 1874, in the church at Royal Oak. —

By the summer of 1874 there were enrolled in the new orphanage twenty deaf pupils as well as a sizable but smaller number of orphans, causing a seriously overcrowded condition in the home.

The Association, therefore, found it necessary to plan for providing additional room. *expansion*

The need for further building again brought up the question of re-location. *ing* Even though the first new building had just recently been completed, there were still such as felt that Royal Oak was not the proper place for the Institute. But in the May, 1874, meeting, where this question was again discussed at length, it was finally decided to remain in Royal Oak and there erect another building. A building committee was elected which was to engage an architect to prepare plans.

In a subsequent meeting the appointed Building Committee recommended the erection of a brick building 72 x 46½ ft., three stories

and Grand Haven. Individual members of the Association offered to solicit nails, doors, windows, hardware, paint, bricks, stone, etc., for the new structure. They even went so far as to petition the railroad company for a reduction of freight rates on materials and reduced fares for the workmen who were to erect the building.

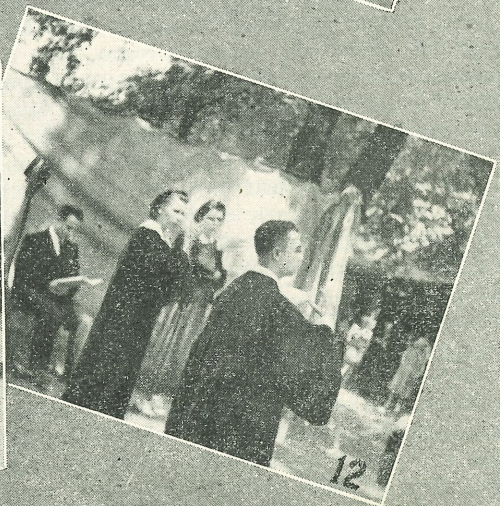
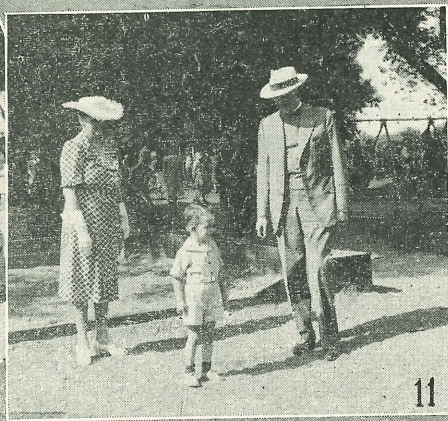
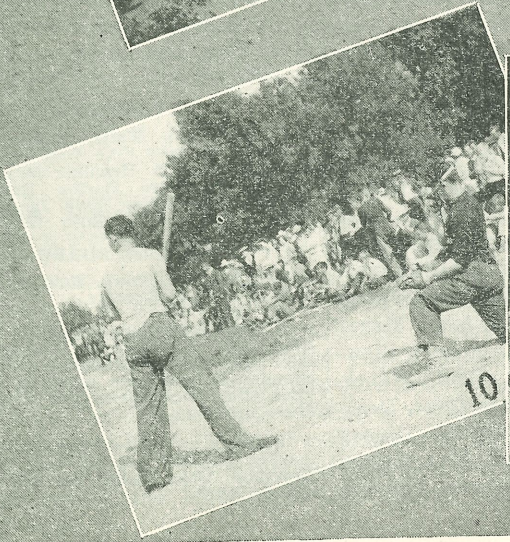
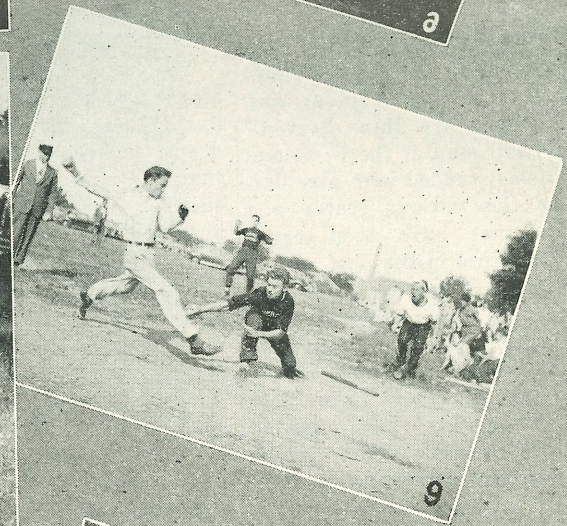
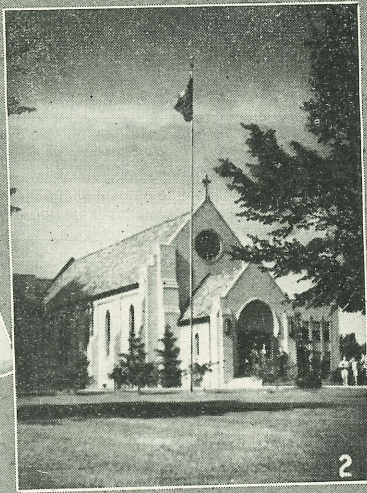
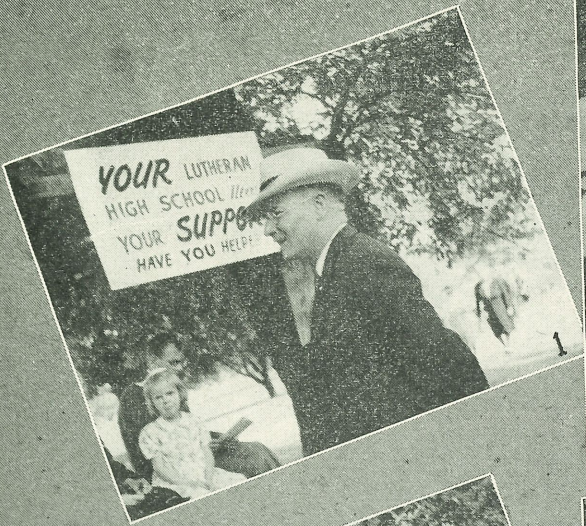
Man proposes but God disposes. How the truth of this statement was borne out in the early development of our Institute will be gleaned from succeeding recordings.

(To be continued.)

DETROIT CAMERA GUILD ACTIVE

For the many scenes depicted in our composite picture we are indebted to the Detroit Lutheran Camera Guild. The picture shows:—

1. The Rev. Paul Boecler sponsoring the Lutheran High School of Detroit. Judging from the smile on his face, we may conclude that he has just received a thousand-dollar check for the new venture which our Detroit Lutherans are entering upon. — 2. The beautiful Institute Chapel. — 3. A partial view of our girls' residence. — 4. Our annual festival as an eventful day for the youngsters, who love to roam in our spacious grove and enjoy the many playground apparatuses. Many of these little tots' fathers and mothers met each other for the first time at one of our annual festivals and here formed friendships which later terminated in happy marriages. — 5. A group of our deaf girls awaiting their turn to go on the platform for their number on the program. — 6. Detroit Walther Leaguers of whom there were many in attendance. When Franklin Schmidt, president of the Michigan Walther League, who is standing between the two girls, orders his leaguers out, they generally respond one hundred percent. — 7. A partial view of our picnic grove near the entrance. — 8. Walther Leaguers receiving their committee badges. These girls were kept busy all afternoon pinning tags on visitors for the benefit of our Institute. — 9. The large festival crowd thoroughly enjoying the hotly contested game between Bethany and Peace soft-ball teams which was played soon after the afternoon service. Only the camera could decide this play. — 10. Spectators enjoying the afternoon soft-ball game. The cheers were quite



evenly divided. — 11. Pastor and Mrs. Gilbert Otte leading their little "hopeful" away from the tempting sand box. — 12. Pastor Borchardt seated with a book in his hand while members of his deaf choir rendered a hymn in the sign language.

HELP WANTED

We are still looking for a cook and two housemothers' assistants. We can use any person regardless of age who is physically well and unencumbered. The work of helping to mother and properly feed our deaf children is most interesting. And we sincerely hope that our dear Lord will send us persons who for His sake are willing to assist us in the serving of these afflicted little ones whom He calls His brethren. It is He who will say, "Whatsoever ye have done unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

EXHIBIT WELL RECEIVED AT CONVENTION

The exhibit of our Institute at Synod's Convention in Saginaw, Mich., was well received by the many delegates and visitors.

The theme of the entire exhibit placed in a setting of pines was, "Those Whom We Have Served." A large wall map of the U. S. and Canada was studded with pins designating the various states and provinces that have been served by our Institute in the past. From the pins, red, white and blue streamers led to a large picture of our school on the table beneath the map. For example, a blue ribbon denoted that anywhere from 21 to 220 deaf pupils have passed through the portals of our school from that particular state or province. Of added interest were the several large murals depicting the purpose of our school and actual classroom scenes.

The part of our exhibit which received the greatest response was the daily demonstrations of our work with several of our deaf pupils. Those in the picture are Mr. Walter Bellhorn, Ronald and Edith Backer of Saginaw, Mich., and Clifford Combs of Detroit. Genevieve Moeller of Filion, Mich., (not in the picture), who was confirmed last April, demonstrated her keen knowledge of Bible Doctrines and other subjects through lip-reading and speech by answering the questions of many visitors.



Our Institute's Exhibit at Synod's Convention at Saginaw, Michigan

Surprise at her expert ability to read the lips of strangers was invariably expressed.

The privilege of bringing our school and its work before Synod during its conventions is indeed deeply appreciated, and we feel that the time and effort put into such an exhibit is always profitably spent.

VACATIONING

In the many rooms in our large building there is profound quiet these days, our children and almost all of our staff members having left us and departed to the four corners of the earth for a well-deserved vacation period. And so we find Miss Jones in Salem, Oregon, Miss Huedepohl and Miss Ketelsen in Iowa, Mrs. Hesckke in Nebraska, Mrs. Prillwitz in Milwaukee, Miss Von Gruenigen in Illinois, Deaconess Marie Bliefnick and Miss Caroline Kruse at a summer camp in Michigan, Miss Curtis in Maine and Kentucky, Miss Jaques in Massachusetts, Miss Bell in Canada, Miss Matz in Wisconsin, Miss Hartos in New Jersey, Miss Twenhafel in Indiana and Ohio, Mrs. Myers in Indiana and Michigan, Miss Forsberg and Mr. Schmitz in Detroit, Miss Kahler and Miss Ludjin in Michigan, and Miss Born in Wisconsin. The lat-

ter attended summer school in the Wisconsin Teachers' College in Milwaukee, where she was graduated with a B.A. degree in July, after which she spent the rest of her vacation at Antigo, Wisconsin. Mr. Williams, our maintenance man, Mr. Bellhorn, Miss Hartos, our bookkeeper, Miss Ludjin, our clerk, and the writer will be kept more or less busy all summer getting things ship-shape for the opening of the new school term.

DEPARTED READERS

Memorial Wreath offerings have brought us information of the passing since April 1st of the following readers of the Deaf Child's Advocate from this vale of tears into the life of glory: The Rev. Wm. Miede of Canada, Albert Hoffmann, Alexander, Ark., The Rev. C. M. Noack, Arlington Heights, The Rev. G. Ferber and Mrs. Minnie Heinrich of Chicago, The Rev. Robt. A. Spletzer, Melrose Park, Mrs. Carrie Spannagel of Strasburg, Illinois, Lillie Roesser, Indianapolis, Indiana, George Brahms, Cumberland, Iowa, Henry Koch, Sr., Auburn, Robert Steward, Ann Arbor, Paul Hauck, Birch Run, Mrs. Dora Ochs, Dearborn, Mrs. Emma Barthel, Henry Behm, William Blank, Mrs. Bertha Brueggeman, Mrs. Anna DeBeau-

clair, Mr. Wm. Gersch, Mrs. Ida Hinds, Wm. H. Kammer, Mrs. Emma Kasten, Edward Lang, Herman Moehring, Mrs. Emma Neils, Walter Reindel, Sharleen Donna Ruhlig, Mrs. Olga Marske Schigoga, Erwin Schwandt, Mrs. Bernice Wright, Mrs. Augusta Zampich, all of Detroit; Wm. C. Rein, East Detroit, W. C. Trump, Flint, John F. Kern and John M. Loesel, Frankenmuth, Conrad Scherer, Harbor Beach, Michigan.

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Published Bi-monthly at Cleveland, Ohio, 2969 W. 25th St., in the interest of the deaf child by the Evangelical Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, 6861 E. Nevada Avenue, Detroit, Michigan

Subscription Price, 25¢ per year

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All communications regarding the editing must be sent to the managing editor. All communications pertaining to changes of addresses must be sent to Circulation Department, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland, Ohio.

"Entered as second-class matter December 13, 1930, at the Post Office at Cleveland, Ohio, under the act of August 24, 1912."