

# The deaf child's ADVOCATE

Vol. 17

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No. 1

## Joyful Christmas greetings to you all

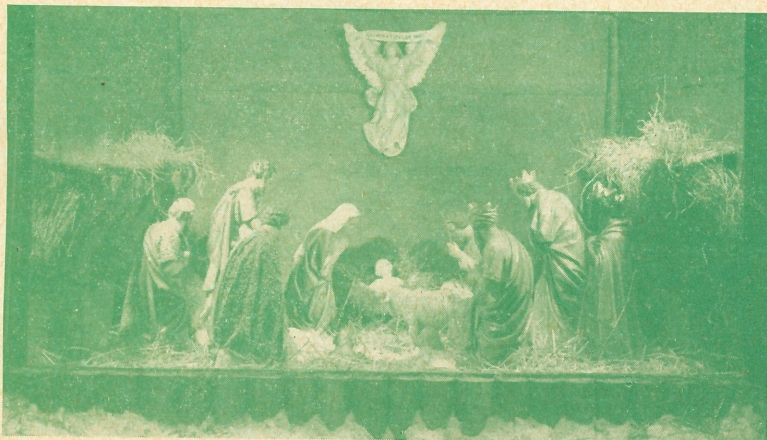


Photo by Windhorst Studio

### A Christmas sound to remember

Christmas, the season of sounds, is here . . . Christmas, when Memory's ear hears once more those pleasant, intimate, personal sounds that can mean only Christmas . . . sounds that conjure up, once more, joys of faraway childhood days . . . sounds that make vividly alive a happy moment of yesteryear. Remember, too, the sound of treble, childish voices singing "Silent Night, Holy Night" in the hushed darkness of church with only the glow of a Christmas tree for light?

Can you remember the sounds that re-echo over twenty centuries? The sound of an innkeeper's voice telling a harried Joseph that there is no room in the inn . . . the sound of lowing, restive cattle as Jesus Christ, Son of Almighty God, is born into a world, whose only hope is this Infant on His makeshift bed of straw . . . and can your memory hear the greatest hallelujah chorus of all time as angel choristers fill the world's night with "Peace on earth, good will toward men"?

Remember one more sound as you prepare for this time of Christmas . . . that not too distinct and sometimes pathetic sound of the deaf child's prayer which entered your home not so long ago in the form of our annual appeal for funds to help these deaf . . . that sound which sent heavenward asks that gentle Jesus extend the hand of providence over the children who through being deprived of hearing and speech, are exposed to so many dangers of body and soul.

And may the sound of our Savior's voice enter into your hearts asking you to give generously for the near one hundred thousand dollars a year it requires to maintain and educate these deaf. Make this your gift of gratitude for the wonderful eternal salvation Christmas brings. And if you do, you'll hear a new sound this Christmas time, the heart-warming sound of the deaf child's voice saying,

"God bless you and a very merry Christmas."

### These have walked with Bethlehem's shepherds

"God bless us everyone," that happy cry of Charles Dicken's crippled of foot, Tiny Tim, re-echoes through the halls of our Institute home this Christmas season. And we send this greeting on to you, touched with the beauty and brightness of faith only a child can possess.

Oh, yes, you may have to listen twice before you can understand the happy greeting in our halls because our little Tiny Tims are crippled of ear, you see, and find speech a difficult process even when happily voicing the Christchild's story.

Hesitant and stumbling though it be for some of them, these children who have never heard, tell the story well . . . tell it with eyes shining and full of faith and hearts filled with belief . . . tell it with the sincerity, the simplicity and the beauty of a Luke . . . tell it as though they had been eyewitnesses to the event. Indeed, in spirit, these have walked with Bethlehem's shepherds and viewed that miracle of time.

These have been told the significance of the Nativity and though they have not heard they **know** and **believe** this story which means salvation.

And as Tiny Tim hoped that the people in church saw him because he was a cripple and they might like to remember on Christmas Who made lame men walk and blind men see, our children hope that you will hear their deaf little voices raised in Christmas greeting and remember on Christmas Who spoke that miracle making word, "Ephphatha."

## Incidentally yours

Very soon our children's study and living rooms and the director's office will be brightened with new and very necessary fluorescent light fixtures at a cost of \$1128.00.

Parents of our pupils will please take notice that Christmas vacation this year will begin December 20th at 3:15 P.M. and continue through January 5. Classes will begin on Monday, January 6. However, children compelled to travel by train or bus will be permitted to return on January 6 in order to avoid Sunday traveling.

Before our pupils leave for the Christmas holiday our Ladies' Aid will arrange a Christmas party for them at which time each child will receive a gift.

Cold weather will not curtail the play activities of our youngsters this winter. In addition to the new "Y" health program, a skating rink and a toboggan slide have been built which will provide many recreational facilities during the winter months. The toboggan slide is high but safe, being built entirely of soil.

The Willing Workers of Trinity Congregation, Mt. Clemens, Michigan, supplied our kitchen with an electric mixmaster, and our Macomb County Ladies' Aid replenished our copboards with much-needed china ware. Sincere thanks, kind friends.

—Legacies recently received were \$1809.90 from the Minnie Rosenow estate, Lyndon, Illinois, \$472.66 from the Paul Weimer estate, Kendallville, Indiana, and \$672.68 from the Rosina E. Zinke estate, Grafton, No. Dakota.

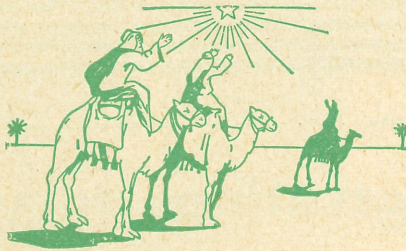
The writer greatly enjoyed attending the Ephphatha Conference in Chicago and participating in the 50 anniversary service commemorating the establishment of missions among the deaf.—October 21 brought us 17 visitors from the teaching staff of our State School for the Deaf in Flint, Michigan. We always welcome these professional friends and enjoy the opportunity for an exchange of ideas pertaining to the education of the deaf.

## Another applicant

Our Institute is becoming international in its service. We always have a group of children from Canada enrolled and recently we also received an application for enrollment of a little girl from Mexico City, Mexico.

## No room in the inn?

Stars look down on Bethlehem town . . . while the Psalmist's city sleeps in dreamless slumber . . . and Mary's promised Son is born . . . not at the inn, but in a manger, because the inn is full . . . no room for Christ, because the inn is full.



The Magi with gifts turn westward, worshipping . . . shepherds that watch their flocks in many fields are brought anew the good tidings of great joy . . . the same small, quiet stars of that first night look down as Mary's Son stands at your door.

Within that door are Pride and Envy and Despair and their profane companions.

And without He waits once more, this Babe of Bethlehem and seeks to enter.

Host, will you make room?

## As others see it

Subject of much debate in circles of deaf education at present is the value and advisability of nursery schools for the education of the pre-school deaf child. Opinion is divided. The following are quotations taken from statements made by prominent educators. They represent both viewpoints.

"It is our experience that our nursery school children become the leaders both in and out of school, make more rapid progress, and turn out to be more normal individuals." John Yale Crouter, Principal Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

"Under prevailing conditions, the nursery school is of questionable value." John A. Gough, Superintendent, Oklahoma School for the Deaf.

"I say, 'Residential Nursery Schools? YES!'" Mrs. Spencer Tracy, Director, The John Tracy Clinic.

"It is hardly necessary to stress the need for nursery school training for deaf children." G. De La Bat, Superintendent, School for the Deaf, Worcester, South Africa.

"If it seems best to begin the deaf child's education at a younger age . . . we shall have to re-design our physical plants and most of our teaching technique." Howard M. Quigley, Superintendent, Minnesota School for the Deaf.

"It is entirely wrong to take so young a child from its mother and board him among strangers, and for so little time under instruction, which at best is informal." Elwood A. Stevenson, Superintendent, California School for the Deaf.

"Heartily in favor of nursery schools, our school has long been accepting and educating children of the pre-school age." J. A. Klein, Superintendent, Lutheran Institute for the Deaf.

## Readers Please Note!

Anyone receiving duplicate copies of The Advocate kindly report the fact to us at once. We prefer that you clip the name and address label from the copy itself and mail it to: The Deaf Child's Advocate, 6861 E. Nevada Ave., Detroit 12, Michigan.

## Form of Bequest to Our Institute

I give, devise and bequeath to the Evangelical Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Michigan, and located in the city of Detroit, the sum of . . . . . dollars and the receipt of the Treasurer of said corporation shall be a sufficient discharge to my executor for same.

## For earlier education

In a recent issue of Volta Review many prominent educators of the deaf presented various viewpoints on the advisability of earlier education for the deaf child. The following is a summary of arguments presented by the prominent English educators, Irene R. and A. W. G. Ewing of Manchester University, England.

There seems to be very widespread agreement that deaf children should be given the opportunity to acquire speech and language during the pre-school years. The hearing child learns to talk before he is five years old . . . and the deaf child is without language during the pre-school period, hence his mind is handicapped and he can be socially adjusted only to a very limited degree.

In America and England children under five are being educated with conspicuous success.

The best way to accomplish this training is through the establishment of nursery schools or on home basis guided by a school or clinic.

## Well worth seeing

The beautiful picture of the Nativity scene featured on the front page of this issue appears there through the gracious courtesy of Epiphany Lutheran Church, E. T. Bernthal, pastor.

Those of you who live in the Detroit area can see the real thing by simply driving over to Epiphany Church, Seven Mile Road at Woodward, where a full scale reproduction of the manger scene is on display. The entire scene is life-size and is beautifully illuminated in the evening.

## THE DEAF CHILD'S ADVOCATE

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### From the classroom

I am going home this afternoon.  
I did not take a bath last night.  
I did not get a letter this morning.

No one got a box this morning.  
I played outside yesterday afternoon. I played on the giant stride and ocean wave.

Sidney, Dean, Robert and I had a race Monday afternoon. Sidney said, "One, two, three, go." We ran. I won.

I went to the dime store in Miss Forsberg's car Wednesday afternoon. I bought a black mask, a toy horn and a red balloon. I broke my balloon.

Estelle Provov (8) First Grade

### America

I read in My Weekly Reader about the America. It is a very large boat. Columbus came across the Atlantic Ocean to America in a small boat many years ago. He would be surprised to see the America.

It is a very large passenger ship. It was built about six years ago. Then war came. The ship carried soldiers to many parts of the world.

It is very comfortable. It is safe too. For long ocean trips big passenger ships are more comfortable than small ones. The America is longer than two football fields. It does not toss in a storm like a small boat.

Passengers have good times on the America. There are big dining rooms, a swimming pool, and places on deck for outdoor games. I would like to ride on the America.

Gayle Knospe—Sixth Grade

### Aural Guild plays host to children

The Aural Guild, a group of hard of hearing people, once again played host to our children when they treated them to their annual party during National Hearing Week.

Candy, cookies, pop and ice cream made it a perfect party for the children.

The Institute extends its thanks to this worthy group for the interest they have shown in the children of this school.



It was a real pleasure to have the Rev. H. A. Bentrup, a former director of our Institute and now retired, as a visitor. He was at the head of the school from 1899-1902, and interesting were the many stories he told us about those days.

## Nielsen trucks bring twenty tons of Thumb produce



The kind of work our boys do gladly

For many years Lutherans of the Thumb area of Michigan have set aside some of the produce of their harvest fields for the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf.



Even the girls lend a helping hand

### Loyal alumni keep in touch with school

Recently we received letters from the following former pupils: Peter Merutka and Ruth Fabry, Chicago, Dick Tuccinardi, Washington, D. C., Anna Nissen, Kankakee, Ill., Vivian Moeller, Filion, Jean Armour and Jacqueline Rylander, Flint, Shirley Hubbard, Royal Oak and Doris Krist, Detroit, Michigan, Richard Kelsey, Huntington, West Va. All are attending high school. Doris, Peter, Ruth, Vivian and Richard are in schools for hearing students. — Victor Kohn, also a former pupil, announced the arrival of a healthy son in his home in Baltimore, Md. Two other former pupils, Donna Lee Beck and William Noel, were happily married recently. They now reside in Moberly, Missouri. — It may be of interest to our former pupils to know that our son, Robert Klein, was married to Miss Marion Myers on October 12.

### Optometrists give annual eye test

Doctors J. V. Dueweke, R. T. Hugo, C. W. Johannes, H. R. Bunge, B. B. Wisney, H. R. Hecox and J. A. Park, Jr., and their assistants Misses Shirley Lehman and Marian Andres and Mrs. Charlotte Bunte again spent an entire half day with us examining and testing the eyes of all our pupils. This is an annual event. — Dr. Carlyle Rueger and Dr. Augusto de Goenaga, our dentists, are also with us again, giving our pupils free dental service one half day each week in our well-equipped dental office.

Once again, this year, the fruits of their faith have been brought to our school to nourish our children during the coming winter. Over twenty tons of produce and 2,800 quarts of canned goods have been delivered to our school.

A vote of thanks also goes to the C. and H. Nielsen Cartage Company who again gave gratis the services of a large semi-truck and trailer to transport the generous offering of farm produce and canned fruits from our friends in the Thumb area. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nielsen and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Nielsen have for years made this two-day trip of ingathering for our Institute larder their personal contribution to our work. This service of love can only be evaluated by our dear Lord Jesus Christ Himself. And He alone can reward it properly and adequately.

### Generosity of readers aids school in its work

Anonymous gifts recently received were \$5.00 from the Central District, \$1.00 from Chicago, Illinois, and a \$20.00 Thankoffering from Rock River, Ohio. We publish these gifts because it is the only way in which we can receipt them and express our gratitude.

One of our rooms in our contemplated addition will be furnished by Mrs. Linda Ritter of Los Angeles, California, who sent us an offering of \$300.00 for that purpose. The writer of these lines has the distinction of haling from the same county in Texas in which Mrs. Ritter was born and reared as Miss Linda Kropp.—Many thanks, Mrs. Ritter. We want "you all" to come to see us some time.

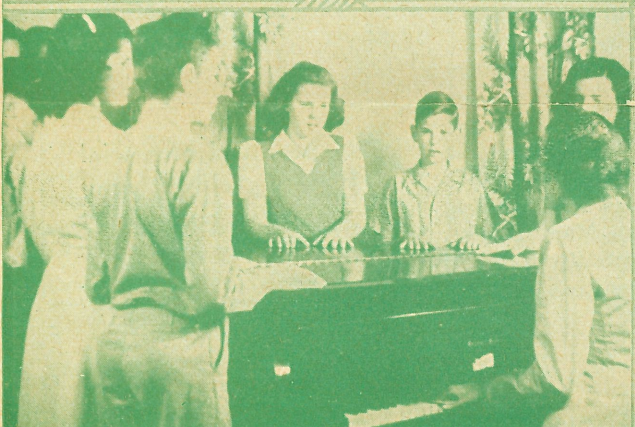
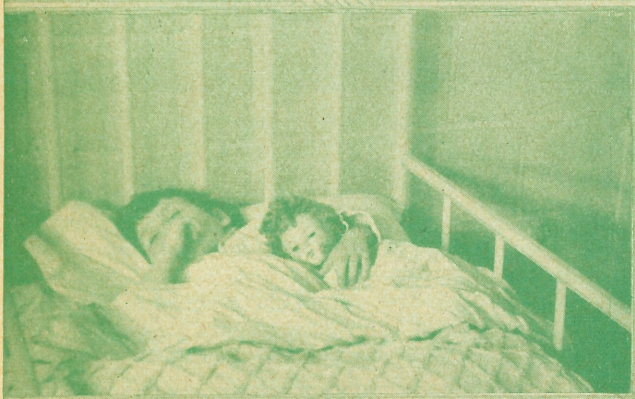
## The eternal reward

Information reached us through memorial wreath gifts that the friends and supporters of our cause and readers of the Advocate listed below were privileged to celebrate the birthday of our Lord with Him in heaven and everlasting glory, where, St. John tells us, "God will wipe away all tears from their eyes: and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying."

Marie Lange, Campbell Hill, Ill., William Jostman, Chester, Ill., Mrs. L. Ford, Detroit, Mich., Henry Row, Detroit, Mich., Mrs. Adam Krauter, Frankenmuth, Mich., Mrs. Emma Wendt, Lenox, Mich., John Tews, Mt. Clemens, Mich., J. Henry Dirker, Saginaw, Mich., Charles Fahrner, Sebawaing, Michigan, Mrs. H. B. Hemmeter, Rochester, N. Y., Charles Dethloff, Toledo, Ohio, and Mr. C. T. Berg, Santa Cruz, Cal.

Our Savior says, "Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory which Thou hast given Me." John 17:24.

**Our beautiful Memorial Wreath folders are free. Why not order a supply now?**



*They've never heard—  
The song of the bird  
Their mother's voice  
The sweet gospel message*

## Dear Friend in Christ,

We ask that you whom God has blessed with hearing and speech join us in a prayer for our deaf children.

O most merciful Jesus, who didst show tenderness towards little children, and didst say that whosoever receives one such little one in Thy name receives Thee, extend, we pray Thee, the hand of providence over the children, who through being deprived of hearing and speech, are exposed to so many dangers of body and soul. Diffuse the spirit of Thy charity into Christian hearts, that they may come to the aid of these little ones who here at our home and school learn to know Thee, their Savior and Redeemer. We pray it in Thy name. Amen.

We are confident that Jesus hears and answers our prayer. He will do this through His Christians of whom He expects the shepherding of the many afflicted little ones placed into our care. The continuance and the so necessary expansion of this work of mercy conducted in our home and school, therefore, depends almost entirely upon your offerings. And let us always remember that whatever our dollars can buy in works of charity will go to heaven as evidence of our love for Him who gave Himself for us.

Our annual operating budget is \$80,000.00 and the proposed building program, so necessary to accommodate in a measure the many applicants now on our waiting list, calls for approximately \$100,000.00.

Publicity literature and additional collection envelopes for distribution in your congregation are available upon request.

With cordial greetings, I am,

Your co-worker in the Lord's vineyard,

*J. A. Klein.*  
Director

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF  
6861 E. Nevada Ave., Detroit 12, Michigan