



**Incidentally Yours... ISOLATED? -- THERE IS ALWAYS AN EXCEPTION**

By David M. Welling, Principal, Utah School for the Deaf

VACATION—A time for rest, recuperation, retrospection, some regrets, reforms, and especially planning to render our many deaf children ever better service in the new school year both educationally and otherwise. --

**An additional school room has been readied to accommodate more pupils. --Two new multiple hearing aids were acquired. Now all fourteen rooms are equipped with these very valuable teaching aids.**

Instructors Tegeder, Ravell and Kaiser did the installing, thereby saving the Institute a tidy sum of money.

Service Clubs, Lions, Kiwanis, Exchange and others have contributed towards the purchase of this costly equipment. But more is needed to cover the entire cost. ---

**A partial pupil scholarship of \$300.00 was voted by our Macomb Ladies Auxiliary. Full Two Thousand dollar annual pupil scholarship was again voted by our Detroit Ladies Auxiliary and the Michigan Lutheran Women's Missionary League resolved to provide a Two Thousand dollar scholarship to be spread over two years. -- We are most grateful to these women's organizations for being so mission minded in behalf of our handicapped youngsters. -- Their reward will be great.**

Ladies Aid and other group visits continued until the close of the school term. Dates for such visits this fall are rapidly being filled. -- Visitors remarks: - "Looks inviting; looks interesting; very nice; so homelike; beautiful place; amazing; wonderful. ---"

The annual school closing festival on June 10th for which the Pastors Weller from Rogers City and Looker

*(Continued on Page Three)*

One of the current educational philosophies which is being given more and more emphasis is that all handicapped children should be kept in the normal group. They should live in the normal family. They should play in the normal way with the normal neighborhood children. They should go to school in the normal school. They should attend their church just as a normal member. This I believe stems from the great grass roots American heritage that all men are created equal and as equals should all be given the same chance for happiness. We see this philosophy expressed in our lives as civic groups move to do everything possible to aid the handicapped. We see it in national drives to employ the handicapped. We see it in the new concern which modern man has for his fellow man. This without concern for race, creed or color. -----

We have come to feel that to isolate any person with a handicap is to further add the misery of social ostracism to the misery of the handicap and thus double and redouble our problems. This is true of heart victims, polio victims, amputees, cerebral palsied children, the orthopedically handicapped and may even include the slow learner and the gifted. **BUT . . . . WHEN WE CONSIDER THE DEAF WE SHOULD STOP AND TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.**

When we measure the deaf child in this frame of reference we can see that what looked like a panacea for all the handicapped to give them a better advantage is NO panacea at all. It is no advantage. It is exactly the reverse. We are one hundred eighty degrees off course. We can do untold damage to the deaf child by forcing him into the mold we have created for the other groups.

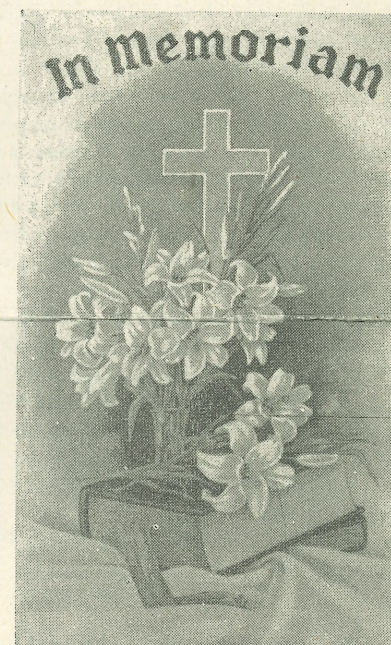
**THE DIFFERENCE IS LANGUAGE!**

All the other handicapped children can listen to language. They can speak it. They can read it. They can write it. They can communicate with it. They say in effect "I can't play football in my wheel chair, but I'll be happy to hear you tell me about football. Let's talk about it. Tell me all about it. My wheelchair doesn't prevent me from talking about football."

The deaf child can do anything with the football. There is no restriction placed on how well he can run or kick or pass. **BUT** when the words start flying he is isolated a little. We say a little. He comes to know an isolation so bleak that the only way one can appreciate it is to experience it. We as hearing talking people cannot ever completely know what it means to be deaf. The child who can't use words is blocked by the terrible fact that he can't join society because he has no language. He cannot understand the thing that is triggering the actions of his society wherever he goes. He may begin to retire. He may withdraw. Go into his shell. He makes a brave play at pretending to understand. He begins to try to fool his way through. All of these characteristics are bad for the hearing child. They are also very bad for the deaf child.

When deafness hits a child before his language develops, which is more and more the case these days, he will develop no natural language. He doesn't understand what you ask him and he doesn't know how to answer you. To compensate for this lack of understanding he puts on a sham much the same as a mother bird who goes into her act to lead your attention away from

*(Continued on Page Two)*



**A Laudable Practice**

Friends in ever greater numbers are remembering our Lutheran Institute for the Deaf with gifts in memory of loved ones now with the Savior so that its important missionary endeavor might continue. Cognizance of this fact was taken in our Annual Meeting by the Rev. H. R. Wacker, President of the Association. He again announced that a free supply of our memorial wreath folders is available for the asking.

As other avenues of income shrink we are compelled to look more and more to the memorial wreath contributions as a constant source of financial help. Such gifts can be likened unto a seed of mercy that dies not but grows and bears eternal fruit in the lives and souls of our children at the Institute.

To all our generous donors we say a hearty **THANK YOU** and a sincere **GOD BLESS YOU.**

## ISOLATED?—There Always is an Exception

(Continued from Page One)

the nest. He tries to focus your attention on something solid which is at hand and which he can show you. He does not demonstrate an intellect in this way, but he tries to feign the demonstration of an intellect. The tragedy is that the intellect cannot be fed or satisfied by anything less than complete understanding. Understanding of the words involved.

This is the child who should stay in his normal home? He is isolated there. This is the child who must learn to play and be happy with the neighborhood kids? He is isolated there. Hearts are quickly broken. This is the child who should go to the normal hearing school with normal hearing six year olds armed with several thousand wonderful words in a hearing speaking vocabulary, who sit in four groups of nine or ten and read around the ring? He is so isolated here that the result is absolutely tragic. This is the child who should go to church with his hearing brothers and sisters and somehow act well even though he understands nothing? He will rebel. Small wonder. We think that we can try these fancy theories without hurting the deaf child. In practice these educational theories cripple the deaf child far more than his original deafness. We begin his education handicapped by a personality which must be rebuilt. This rebuilding is very much more difficult than just building.

Today many experts feel that if the deaf child can only be immersed in the wonderful normal society of the hearing child for a time something wonderful will rub off on him and save him.

Others feel that lip reading is so wonderful that one need not take time to learn the language. Just watch it long enough and suddenly a miracle. The child will understand it.

But the greatest cry comes from these theorists against isolating the deaf child with other deaf children in a residential school for the deaf. This is considered the worst isolation of all. We should do everything we can to prevent this tragedy.

I submit that it has been my experience that the place in all of society where the deaf child is isolated the least is in the residential school for the deaf. Here they are not isolated at all. Here the sociological law that LIKE ATTRACTS LIKE begins to function. I have seen deaf children so driven by the hearing society which they were forced to enter, and that they could not compete with that they were almost wrecks—Tantrum children—Nervous—Thin—Withdrawn—Sullen—Demonstrative—Unhappy, all of them terribly unhappy. I have seen these personality cripples join other children who carry their same burden and be remade in a few short weeks.

I have seen the joy that comes to this distorted face when understanding comes to the mind.

I have seen the peace of mind which comes with the ability to compete.

I have seen a new acceptance come to families who only tolerated the child before.

I have seen the pride that comes to the graduate when he knows he can work with any man.

I have seen awe in the faces of hearing children who come to learn from the deaf.

I have seen the honor that comes to the heart when the disciplines of life are mastered.

It is true that the residential school is a protected environment. It offers the child time to learn to read the language on the lips—Time to develop speech—Time to learn to read and write—Time to build all the concepts in a modern education. It equips him with a knowledge of his natural environment. It gives him the rich concepts of history. It gives him skills he can sell. It does all of this in the relaxed atmosphere of the normal group under normal pressures with the personality reacting to exactly the same stimuli in exactly the same way as the hearing child is reacting in his group. He is not abnormal here. We are all deaf. We expect to do everything that a hearing child can do.

As he takes his place back in competition with the hearing man he is a much different case. He has confidence instead of fear. He has a try again attitude that makes him almost unbeatable. You feel he will win a happy fruitful life and he will. Thousands have for the past one hundred and fifty years.

No! You do not isolate deaf children by placing them all together all day and all night in a residential school. Far from it. Rather you offer the deaf child a chance to grow under normal pressures as all children grow.

The move to classify the deaf with all the other handicapped children is the most dangerous educational philosophy being fostered in modern education. It can do irreparable damage to a fine group of intellects that must somehow get an education even though they do not possess a natural language. These children must pay more for their education than any other group of human beings. They richly deserve as President Eisenhower said "that their education be good and that it be free"—Free from the fear that comes with isolation and good enough to lighten the load of the deaf child.

## Historical Institute Display

For sixty years, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been engaged in organized work among the deaf in America. Individuals within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod began working among the deaf already in 1873 when the Lutherans of Detroit established the first Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, the oldest educational charity in the Missouri Synod.

A display commemorating sixty years of organized deaf work is shown in the Waltke Museum of the Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, Mo. Various pieces of literature, such as the catechism for the deaf, the Book of Forms, and the lectionary are shown. A large map of the United States and Canada dominates the exhibit. It indicates, through colored tacks, the various preaching stations, missionaries and deaf schools in the country. The map shows that the heavy concentration is in the midwest and in the northeastern part of the United States. At present there are 36 organized congregations, 228 preaching stations and 40 full time pastors in this service.

An interesting chart has been prepared which shows the comparative work of Protestants. The visitor can see at a glance that the Missouri Synod is far ahead of all other denominations, with more than twice as many full time workers in the field.

The Institute for the Deaf in Detroit has contributed several interesting pieces for the display. Among them is the cornerstone box of the original building, constructed in 1874. A document listing the contributions of various Lutherans for the Institute in 1877 shows that the largest contribution was made by Mr. C. W. Beyer in the amount of \$5.00. The original constitution of the Institute, adopted in 1873, is also displayed.

Interest is sustained in the exhibit through the wide use of full sized photographs indicating the various signs and symbols used in the preaching of the Gospel. Hearing aids of various types and vintages further enhance the display.

The special commemorative display will continue throughout the summer until September 10. The public is invited daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 2-5 p.m.

### FORM OF BEQUEST TO OUR INSTITUTE

I give, devise and bequeath to the Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf-Mute Institute, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Michigan, and located in the city of Detroit, the sum of .....

## THE LETTER BOX

St. Anne, Ill.

Dear Dr. Klein:

I will call at the school to pick up Jane. We have planned to come to Detroit on Saturday. ---

I would like to tell you how very pleased I am with the progress Janie is making in school. Two years ago I wouldn't have believed it possible. Mrs. Hance has been wonderful. Both Janie and Romeo love her. She seems to have a way of getting through to the children that is almost magic. As you know Janie had almost no vocabulary when she came to you. Now she can both understand and express her thoughts. So many times I wondered if she would ever be able to do this. I can't tell you how grateful I am, to you, to your whole organization (Janie is so well cared for at your school, I never have to worry about her physical well-being) and especially to Mrs. Hance, who gives the children her special interest and understanding and gets such remarkable responses from them in return.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you again. Thank you.

Yours truly,

Madeline Hopkins

Owatoma, Minn.

Dear Dr. Klein:

The film "The World of Silence" was shipped back to you by special delivery, insured parcel post.

In behalf of the Ladies Society we wish to thank you. We also had quite a number of visitors at this meeting and everyone thought the film was excellent and very inspiring and that it certainly must be a wonderful school for deaf children.

We plan on having or sending a donation at a later date.

Thanking you again for everything.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Herbert Schley, Secy.

Dear Dr. Klein:

Enclosed is a check for seventy-five dollars towards Chris' tuition. Some day, I hope to be able to make up to the school for the great service it has done us. We shan't forget.

Two of our neighborhood boys have been a 'God send' to us. They have shown a genuine interest in Chris and he is with them almost constantly when he is home from school. They play basketball and football together. It has been a wonderful association for them, as well as for Chris.

Barry and Ronnie are very much interested in visiting your school. Wish I could bring them on a school day so they could observe the meth-

## THE LETTER BOX

ods used in teaching deaf children. However, that is not possible.

Bob and I will come for Chris' birthday. We will attend Church services at school. We will have to start back home fairly early Sunday afternoon.

Regards to your wife and the school staff.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Konsbruck.

Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Klein:

Never in my experience as a Pastor's wife have I witnessed a film of such outstanding quality and produced by one of our Church Institutions. That may seem a very strong statement, but I'm willing to back it up with the enthusiasm and deep appreciation the women of our Grace Guild manifested at the end of the showing.

In enclosing the small check we are merely covering the expenses of mailing. But I'm assured your institution will receive special gifts during the year as well as our usual remittances.

Thanking you for your fine cooperation, and if I tell you once again how touched we were, it's only because the film is a truly excellent one. Thank you.

Mrs. C. M. Wismar

## Incidentally Yours. . .

(Continued from Page One)

from Detroit delivered the sermons was a grand success. We were happy to see so many of our former pupils who came from far and near to celebrate with us. --

Our school's exhibit at the St. Paul convention compared well with all the others. It was the handiwork of our instructors Messrs. Tegeder, Ravell, and Kaiser. The latter two transported the exhibit to St. Paul in our new station wagon and were in charge of it in the exhibition hall. --

**For the new station wagon we owe thanks to our good Detroit Ladies Auxiliary which always meets our needs in emergencies. --**

The Institute's spelling champions were Gary Blumerick, 5th grade, Sandra Braszko, 6th grade, and Karen Dienst, 7th grade. The school champion was Patricia Regan, Janice Logan was the runnerup. All received fine Webster dictionaries for their efforts. --

Wedding bells rang August Fourth when teacher, Roy Kaiser and Miss Eileen Heldt, teacher in East Bethlehem congregation, joined hands in the bride's home church in Chicago.

Upon their return to school our pupils will meet thirteen new enrollees and two new teachers; a total of one hundred twelve pupils

(Continued to Column Four)



THIS BEAUTIFUL "CARRYALL" is the gift of our Ladies Auxiliary who so faithfully and generously promote and support the work of our Institute.

## "MINUTE WOMEN"

The extreme importance of a ladies' auxiliary to a residential school such as ours was once again brought forth recently. Our auxiliary has on numerous occasions through the years come to our aid with advice, labor and finance. It stands ready and willing at all times to assist us in a moment's notice.

In 1950 a great need was felt for a motorized vehicle which would act as a small bus to transport children to various activities and as a truck in gathering the valuable food donations in the fall as well as the thousand and one small chores which must be performed during the course of the year involving transportation. Our ladies' auxiliary was appealed to and they responded with the gift of a "carryall", an enclosed truck with removable seats. This vehicle served faithfully for almost six years. It became indispensable to our school. In June of this year we were forced with a task a bit too difficult for our old and well depreciated "carryall". Therefore, a new S.O.S. was sent to our understanding ladies and once again they were speedy in their response with a nineteen fifty-six replacement. It was immediately put to use as our school display was transported first to St. Joseph, Mich. for the Mich. District Women's Missionary League convention and then to St. Paul, Minnesota to the Triannual Convention of the Lutheran Church—Mo. Synod.

We are grateful to our ladies' auxiliary and herewith again extend to it sincere thanks.

Newly revised film:

**World of Silence**

is available

**Order Now!**

## OUR ST. PAUL EXHIBIT

Together with approximately 55 other Lutheran Agencies, our Institute had a display at the 43rd. synodical convention at St. Paul, Minn.

This unique display was made possible only because of the generous gift of our Ladies Auxiliary of a new "Carryall", which allowed us to transport our materials to this distant city.

The highlight of the display was the showing of our sound movie, "The World Of Silence". This was done by operating a concealed projector against a translucent screen which enabled the public to view the movie as one would view a program on television.

Other equipment used for demonstration purposes were a group hearing aid, an audiometer, a chromalizer, and a chromovox. All our class rooms are equipped with some or all of these valuable teaching devices.

The audiometer is an instrument used to measure the amount of hearing that an individual has.

The chromovox is a visual aid used for the development and building of speech and language.

The chromalizer analyzes sound in terms of brilliant color pattern.

It was our objective, through the use of our movie, instruments, and literature, to familiarize visitors and delegates with the equipment and methods used in teaching deaf children.

Our school was further publicized on the convention floor proper when Dr. Klein, speaking as the representative for several Lutheran Agencies, informed the assembly about the special work that is being done at our own Institute.

We sincerely hope that pastors and delegates who viewed our booth during the convention days will take advantage of our free film.

## Incidentally Yours. . .

and a teaching staff of sixteen. --

Principal Walter Bellhorn and his family had the pleasure of being present at the graduation exercises of two of their children, their daughter, Donna, from High School, and their son Roy as Veterinary Doctor from Michigan State University.

The Institute's Boards, Staff and Volunteer workers, gratitude party held in June was well attended and seemingly greatly enjoyed by all. --

**Our film, "The World Of Silence" is free for the asking as are informative pamphlets, collection envelopes, and Memorial Wreath folders. --**

We enjoyed reading all the letters and cards received from our pupils. All writers will receive our replies in due time. --

The Northwest Airline extended the courtesy of a personal escort for two of our pupils on their flight home to Vancouver, British Columbia. --

**Deaconess, Ada Mundinger, having completed her special teacher-training course in Pittsburgh, Pa., will join our teaching staff in September. - We have two more scholarship students in training at present. And we would like to have one more to join them. Who will volunteer? - Scholarships of \$300.00 and \$600.00 are available. --**

**Our friends in Janesville, Wisc. and Kendallville, Ind. and Minnesota, again remembered our cause with substantial cash offerings. God bless them. --**

We enjoyed being able to attend Synod's Convention in St. Paul where we made new friends and renewed many old acquaintances. --

Two of our instructors, Miss Helen Szajna and Mrs. Agnes Hance represented our school at the convention of the Alexander Graham Bell Association To Promote Oral Education For The Deaf held in Los Angeles, California June 18-22nd. We are confident that they will return with a comprehensive report and new and valuable ideas which we may want to incorporate in our educational program for an ever better school.

## THE DEAF CHILD'S ADVOCATE

Published bimonthly by the Evangelical Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, 6861 E. Nevada Avenue, Detroit 34, Michigan.

### EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

J. A. Klein, Director, 6861 E. Nevada Ave. Managing Editor

### FACULTY

Dr. J. A. Klein, Director; Mr. Walter Bellhorn, Principal; Miss Elsie Forsberg, Miss Helen Szajna, Mr. Robert Tegeder, Mrs. Agnes Hance, Mr. Donald Ravell, Mrs. Isabel Karus, Mrs. Ruby Murrell, Miss Mary Stack, Mr. Roy Kaiser, Mrs. Margaret Zimmerman, Mrs. Mae Moffatt, Miss Frances Seiz, Miss Ruth Wood.

### SCHOOL BOARD

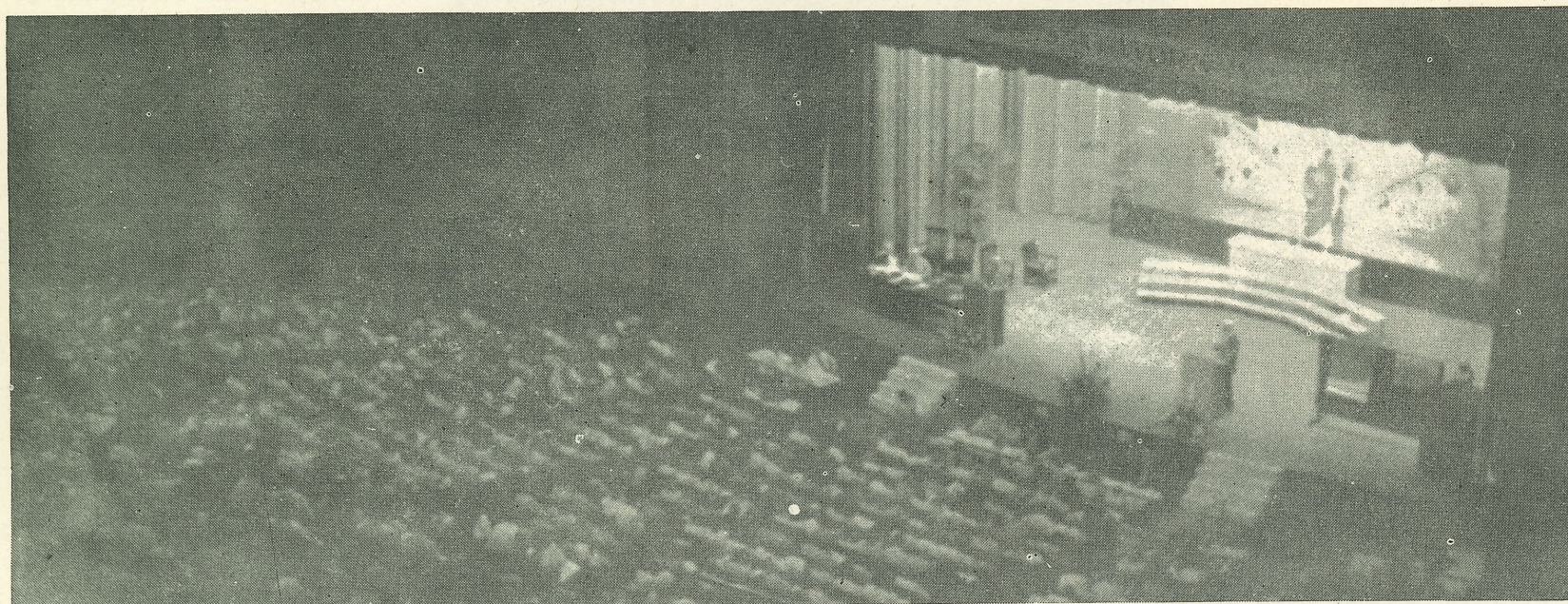
Rev. Geo. M. Krach, Rev. N. E. Borchart, Rev. C. L. Thalacker.

All communications regarding the editing must be sent to the managing editor.

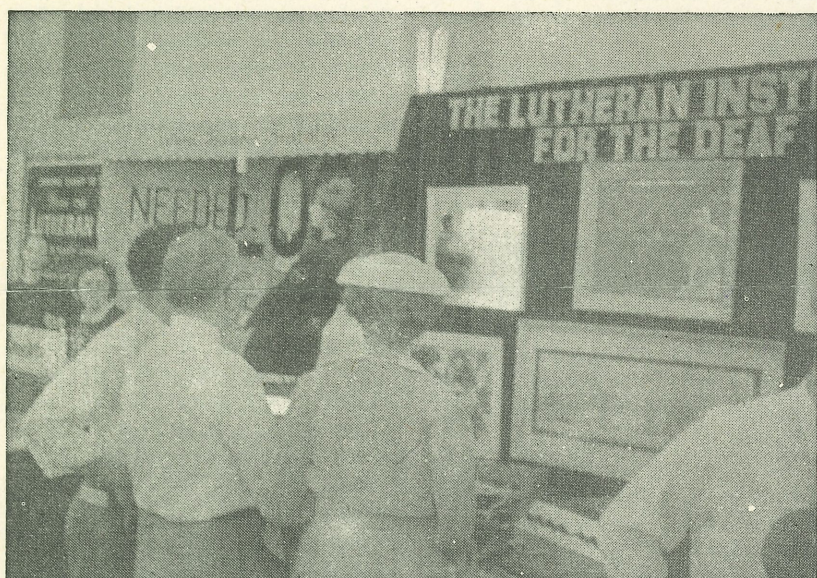
**ALL ADDRESS CHANGES** must be sent to the Evangelical Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, 6861 East Nevada Avenue, Detroit 34, Michigan.

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Valparaiso, Indiana.

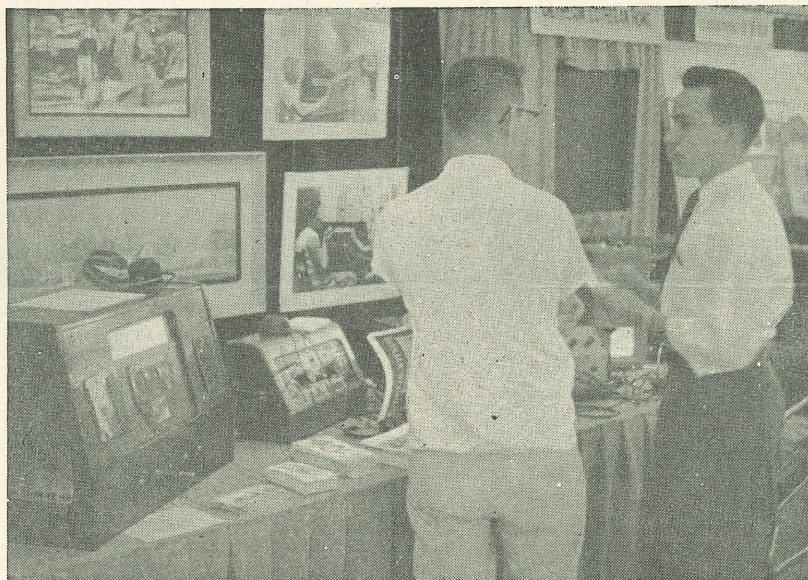
# YOUR INSTITUTE REPRESENTED AT ST. PAUL CONVENTION



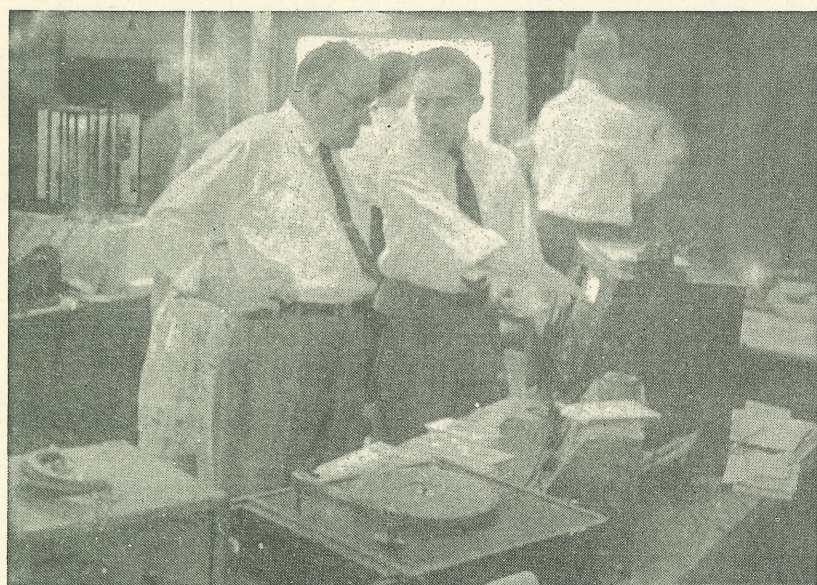
THIS SCENE DEPICTS Synod "in Assembly" at the 43rd. Triannual Convention of the Lutheran Church - Mo. Synod at St. Paul, Minn.



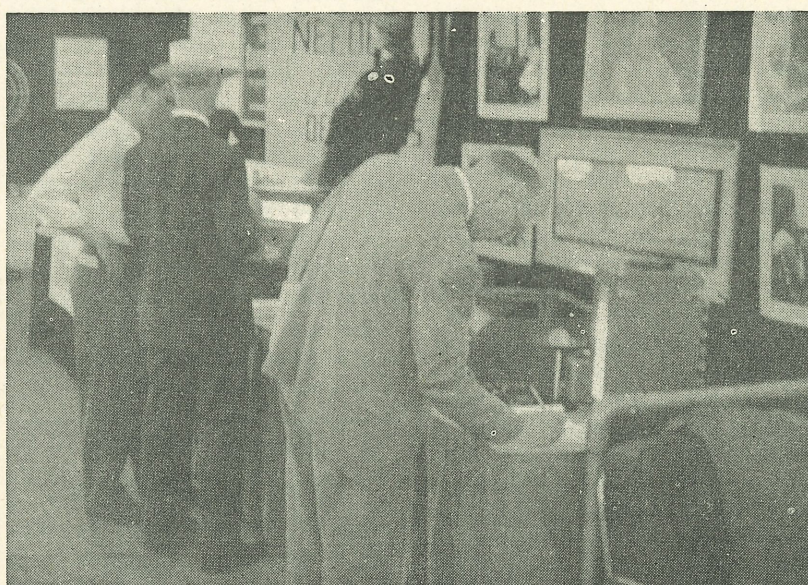
AN INTERESTED COUPLE VIEWS our sound movie, "The World Of Silence" which was visible in the center of our display at the St. Paul Convention.



AT ST. PAUL many visitors and delegates familiarize themselves with the equipment and special methods used in teaching deaf children at our Institute.



VISUAL AIDS are a "must" with deaf children. Mr. Kaiser is saying just that as he explains the functions of the Chromovox.



PLEASE REGISTER! Many new friends were gained for our Institute at the convention where they signed their names in our guest book.