

# The Deaf Child's ADVOCATE

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## THOUGHTS

### THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Among the most valuable paintings in all the art galleries of the world is Raffael's Christ Child and His mother. Five million dollars, we are told, could not buy this picture. But if you receive and believe God's Christmas gift and have Christ in your heart, you have a blessing that makes five million dollars look like mere pebbles on the beach . . .

That is why we join the apostle to declare: "Thanks be to God for His Unspeakable Gift."

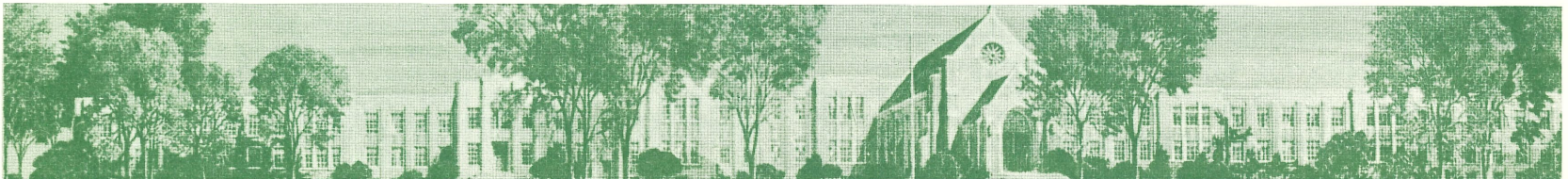
But our gratitude must induce us to do more than to take and enjoy God's Unspeakable Gift. And if at Christmas we will not in vain hear the bells ring out — the organ peal — the choir sing — the children hum — if we will not in vain view the decorations and hear our pastors proclaim: "Christ, the Savior is born," then we will, in love and gratitude, cast off the old man, his disagreeableness, his unkindness, his love of sin, his hate — and put on the new man and walk in joy, service, loving obedience, patience, hope, — and all for the sake of God's Unspeakable Gift to the world, Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem.

And in order that our thanks might be more than mere words, we ask you to come and as you attune your voice to the angelic chorus: "Glory to God in the Highest," — repeat with us this resolute promise that you will translate your gratitude into action — by giving yourself to your Savior in regular service to Him whenever His Word is preached to you in God's House, — by giving of your time, your talents, your energies and your gifts that the blessed spreading of the Kingdom of God may prosper — and by giving your all that this Unspeakable Gift of Christmas may be, more than ever, brought to hovels and mansions, to darkened sick rooms and radiant living rooms, to dingy basements and towering apartments, to old folks homes and homes for the friendless, to asylums and prisons, yes, also to the Children of Silence in your Detroit Lutheran School For The Deaf — so that additional thousands of sin-sick souls throughout the world may join in this chorus of Christ-centered praise: "Thanks be unto God for His Unspeakable Gift."

Adapted from Charity Thermostat.

So this is now the mark by which we all shall certainly know whether the birth of the Lord Jesus is effective in us: If we take upon ourselves the need of our neighbor.

Luther



### THINK ON THESE

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3, 16.

"Let us now go unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." Luke 2, 15.

### A Blessed Christmas To All

Dear Reader:

Your continued interest in the temporal and spiritual welfare of God's "Children of Silence" and your loyal financial support truly is a wonderful Christmas Gift which is deeply appreciated. May God richly bless you and may the joy which comes from the true Spirit of Christmas be yours throughout the New Year.

With sincere Christmas greetings,

The Children and Staff  
Lutheran School for the Deaf



Blessed Christmas to all.

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

A Christmas Pageant will be presented on Thursday, December 18th beginning at 1:30 P.M. in the School's Gloria Dei Elizabeth Knudsen Chapel. It will feature the Christmas Story which our deaf youngsters each year so beautifully and reverently recite and portray in colorful scenes.

All parents and friends of the School are cordially invited to attend this impressive service and to remain for the Christmas Tea which our Detroit Ladies Auxiliary for the Deaf will serve immediately following the program.

Parents who are present for the program may take their children home after the service and tea. All other pupils will be sent by plane, train or bus as directed.

PARENTS, kindly take note: All children are expected to return to school on Sunday, January 4, 1970. Classes resume on Monday at 8 A.M.



Coach Bob Schweitzer makes a few points to his football team prior to a game. Apparently what he had to say was effective — his team won the game that day.



Girls' volleyball captain Jan Russell, holding the ball, encourages her team mates to win, just prior to going away for a game, which they won. Coach Reeve observes from behind the group.



The happy smiles are not of children being released at the end of a school day, but rather, as they extend classroom activities to the outdoors.

## THE AMAZING DOCTOR MARSTERS

by Harry Cimring, D.D.S.

The many talents and achievements of Pasadena orthodontist Dr. James C. Marsters were acknowledged not too long ago by his appointment as a member of the National Advisory Committee on Education for the Deaf in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Profoundly and irreparably deaf himself since infancy, he has had a rich and varied background in helping handicapped children and adults.

When not conducting his practice and devoting time to a hearing wife and their four hearing children, he enjoys flying airplanes as well as soaring gliders, the latter usually over the High Sierras. As the president of two electronic corporations, he has invented or helped to invent many helpful devices for use by deaf persons, most in communication systems. He is Vice-president of the Oral Deaf Adults Section of the Alexander Graham Bell Association, a national service organization dedicated to helping deaf children, their parents and teachers.

Those born deaf (or deaf in earlier childhood) have a herculean task in learning to talk. Dr. Marsters mastered the art to the point where public speaking is one of his hobbies. Those who have heard his presentation will attest to this fact.

"I was told from my earliest childhood that I couldn't talk, but I do. I was told I couldn't drive, fly, go to college, become a doctor, but I have done all of these. I was told I couldn't be drafted, but my papers say that 'I'm fully inductable as a practicing dentist.'" So states Dr. Marsters.

The normal infant learns to talk through imitation. He hears the speech of others in a meaningful context and later checks on his own progress by hearing himself. The child, deaf from birth, cannot hear others and therefore has no model. He cannot hear himself. Speech-reading (lip reading) is the most useful method of unlocking a child's mind from the prison of deafness and social deprivation. This is understandably far more difficult in the child deaf from birth.

Today Dr. Marsters conducts his active orthodontic practice, belongs to study clubs, and has taught at the university. In his office he has developed a unique method of conducting telephone conversations. His secretary, using a phone minus a mouthpiece, softly repeats the conversation while the doctor reads her lips and answers back on the same line.

Being an airplane pilot for many years has required the same sort of ingenuity. Most airports do not require radio communication and he gets his necessary information from the radio dials. As he approaches an airport, he asks the tower to use light signals. On long trips, his wife acts as his radioman and receives weather reports. He met his wife Alice, at the John Tracy Clinic, a project of the Spencer Tracy family. Alice was director of the nursery school there.

As to helping the deaf child, Dr. Marsters feels that over-protection and pity (thinking, speaking, and doing for him what he can do himself) rob him of self-confidence and induce him to look for easy ways out of situations without making any effort in his own behalf.

Likewise, rejection by the parents as a "lost cause" forces the child into isolation, confusion, and frustration. He lacks self-confidence and initiative to fit in.

Given abilities, willingness, encouragement, and opportunities, there is almost nothing the deaf child cannot do. Fortunately for Jimmy, his family was understanding and had the means to guide him properly. He was made to feel part of the family and to experience what they did, even if vicariously.

He found he could attract attention and approval by pleasing those he was fond of, by following the rules, and doing what was expected of his equals. He learned manners, succeeded in school, took up magic, and became an Eagle Scout with Palms. At 15 he entered the Wright Oral School for the Deaf to prepare for college. He attended Union College in Schenectady and persuaded the New York University College of Dentistry to "give it a try" since they had never had a deaf student. In class he transcribed notes from other students and so kept up with the class. He succeeded in all this because he had convinced himself that he would not expect any consideration for his deafness.

In Dr. Marsters — whose philosophy is that "You become handicapped only when people consider you as such" — we find an accomplished individual who was willing to go an extra mile to find his place in the sun. Ironically, or perhaps remarkably, the man who had to labor so hard and so long to learn to speak in the manner of his fellow man has for a hobby — public speaking.

Excerpts from CAL

### FRIENDS OF GREATER DETROIT

To help us restock our pantry shelves, please  
**REMEMBER POUND DAY!**

# the LETTERBOX

Dear Mr. Bellhorn: After receiving our last issue of the "Advocate" I thought you might be interested in the attached copy of a letter our son Bob, now 21, received!

He left the Lutheran School for the Deaf at age nine, and continued his education in the Evanston, Illinois, school system. In June 1968, he was graduated from Evanston Township High School with a diploma, and since that time has been employed as a junior draftsman in a loop firm of consultant engineers. He first applied to RIT last April and is tremendously enthused over the prospect of college. We drove to New York for an interview and were so impressed with the lovely new campus, and more than impressed with the program NTID is offering. Incidentally, Bob is the very first one out of Evanston High to be accepted in NTID. (Rochester Institute of Technology).

Also, I must tell you that when we drove to Rochester, Bob wanted to drive through Detroit so that he could see the school again, and we did. He has some very happy memories of his years there, I am sure. He really loved Mrs. Hance, and we all were saddened when we learned of her passing.

We appreciate receiving the "Advocate," many thanks!

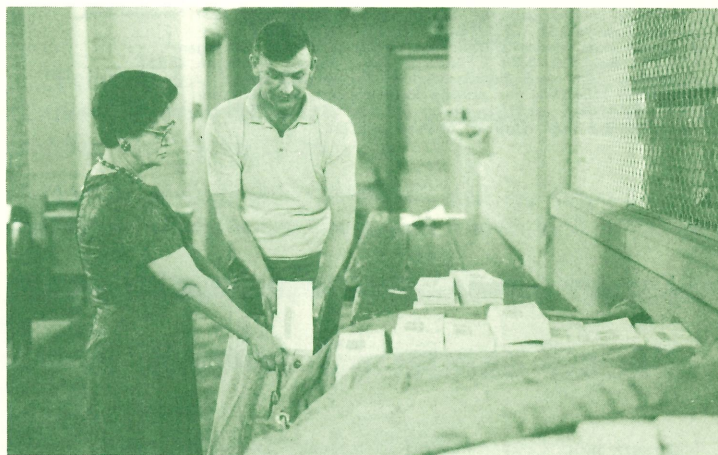
Sincerely, Janet R. Fuller—Evanston, Illinois

Mr. Robert Fuller—Evanston, Illinois

Dear Mr. Fuller: It is my pleasure to inform you that your application for admission into Rochester Institute of Technology under support of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf has been approved. You have been accepted for the program indicated above. On behalf of the Admissions Committee, I wish to congratulate you on your achievements to date and to express our confidence in your potential for success in college.

We are looking forward to your enrollment and membership in the RIT student body and look forward to a productive and enjoyable experience together.

Sincerely, Joseph V. Dengler, Admissions Coordinator R.I.T. - N.T.I.D.



Miss Ruth Haase, assisted by maintenance man Stanley, completes the final step of preparing the Annual Appeal Letter to send to the friends of the school. Miss Haase is responsible for all address changes and bulk mailings.

## DEAF CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP

As a reader of our school paper, you are reminded from time to time that your prayers and your financial support are desperately needed so that the program of bringing Christ to deaf children might continue. The parents of these hearing handicapped youngsters do their best in making tuition payments but they cannot begin to carry the full financial burden. And it is for this reason that we appeal to you for help.

Recently you received our annual letter and return envelope asking for support of the Detroit Lutheran School for the Deaf. Since this "once-a-year" appeal is the school's "life-line" upon which it depends for almost six-sevenths of its operating needs, we hope and pray that, if you have not yet responded, you will open your hearts and hands out of love for the Savior and return your gift in the self-addressed envelope. The Lord "hath need" of your generous support in order to carry on this very necessary and blessed mission endeavor.

To you who have responded, we say "thank you" sincerely and may God richly bless your gift of love. All known donors receive our acknowledgement by mail. But, now and then, an anonymous giver remembers the needs of the school with an offering. To these, we can only say through this column "Thank you" sincerely and may God richly reward you.

Together, the donor and the worker serve the Lord by serving some of the least of His brethren.

## HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

The School film, "A New Life for Jennifer" is available for scheduling. We sincerely hope that every congregation and/or related organizations will include a showing of this outstanding 27 minute, all color sound production in their 1970 schedule of meetings, educational programs and social events. There is no rental charge. However, it is our hope and prayer that a contribution at the time of showing or at some later date will be forthcoming.



**Deaf PKs** Sons of Lutheran pastors stand with arms locked in friendship before the statue of Thomas Gallaudet and Alice Cogswell on the campus of Gallaudet College, Washington, D. C., where they are students. From left are: James Pokorny, David Naumann, Chaplain Daniel Pokorny, Ralph Bergstresser, and Stephen Luke. Another student, Elizabeth Paananen, whose father is a Lutheran pastor in Ohio, was not present when the picture was taken. The world's only liberal-arts college for the deaf, the 100-year-old school has an enrollment of 990. The Gallaudet campus has included a Gamma Delta chapter for the past 11 years. — The Reporter.

Ed. note: David Naumann, whose father is a pastor in McAllen, Texas, is a graduate of our school.

## READERS — PLEASE TAKE NOTE

An appreciable sum of money will be saved annually if the school is notified immediately of any address change. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated. When making the correction or change, always include the old address. The best way is to clip the old or incorrect address from the mail received and write your new or corrected address next to it. Then mail it to the school.

Thank you.

### FORM OF BEQUEST

I give, devise and bequeath to the Lutheran School for the Deaf, 6861 Nevada Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48234, a duly organized and incorporated, non-profit corporation, the sum of \$..... and/or the following described real estate and/or stocks and bonds. The receipt of the Treasurer or Executive Director of said corporation shall be sufficient discharge to my executor for same.



Mr. Harry Severson, Detroit, fastens the last screw to hold a cement baby bear onto a pole. He has a sufficient number of "helpers" in the deaf children who displayed keen interest as this one, along with another small bear and a life size mother bear, were made, donated and brought by him to our playground.

# HIRE THE HANDICAPPED DEAF WORKERS ARE RELIABLE

DETROIT, MICH.  
AT  
POSTAGE PAID  
SECOND CLASS

## GLEANINGS FROM THE REPORTS RENDERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

**ENROLLMENT 1969-1970 SCHOOL YEAR** — The 97th School Year opened with 114 pupils enrolled, 56 boys and 58 girls. This enrollment represents an increase of 8 children over last year's enrollment and includes one more class. Because of the large application list for this year, two classes were added. This extremely high number of applicants on this list for enrollment is primarily due to the Rubella epidemic of 1964-1965. Of the 114 pupils, there were 21 new enrollees, 16 of them at the beginning level, in two classes. The children are from many areas of the United States and Canada.

**CONFIRMATION** — On Palm Sunday, 3 children were received into communicant membership of our church by the rite of Confirmation. The Rev. Norbert Borchardt performed the Confirmation ceremony. A confirmation dinner was held at the school following the church service at which the parents eagerly expressed their thanks to the school for having provided a fine Christian Education over the years. It was on this memorable day that the children made public oral confession of their belief in their Savior.

**TEACHING STAFF (1969-1970)** — The teaching staff for this current school year consists of 18 teachers. Of these 18, 5 are new to the school. 3 have had previous teaching experience and one of the other two completed her student teaching at our school in the previous semester. The necessity for this number of new teachers is due primarily to the fact that several of the last year's teachers will be beginning their families at home, and the addition of one new class to our school this year.

**TEACHER RECRUITMENT** — During the 1969-1970 school term, the school provided partial scholarships for three students to become teachers of the deaf. One has now been added to our staff; another has moved away from the Detroit area and is reimbursing the school for the scholarship; and the third is continuing with the partial scholarship and will be expected to teach for us upon completion of the training program.

**TEACHER TRAINING** — During the 1968-1969 school term, the school continued its working relationship of teacher training with the Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Mich. During the first semester, two students participated in the student teaching program at our school. In the second semester, we had one student from Eastern Michigan and one from Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. The student from Michigan State was first from that University to participate with us. These students are under the direct supervision of our staff. It is expected that these cooperative programs will continue. Currently there is one student from Eastern Michigan University participating in the Student Teaching Program at our School.

**FAMILY HEALTH AND CARE** — Due to the Lord's rich blessing and the excellent care of our housemothers, the school's large family of deaf children enjoyed good health. Generally we expect an epidemic or two of the so-called childhood diseases during the school year but, except for some cases of measles, very few of such cases were experienced this term.

Professional people who volunteer their services in order that our family might have the best possible health care are the following:

Medical — Drs. C. Sharrer and W. A. Huegli  
Dentists — Drs. C. Rueger and W. Bruland  
Optometrists — Drs. J. V. and O. R. Dueweke  
Dermatologists — Drs. A. Palmer and A. Ulbrich  
Chiropodist — Dr. L. Kreis  
Otologist — Dr. L. Seyfried

The school is signally blessed in that it has these professional friends who serve on our "health team" without ever expecting remuneration.

**ASLEEP IN JESUS** — On Monday morning, September 22, five year old Joseph Adams, one of our new little boys very suddenly fell asleep in Jesus

altho there was no indications of illness at the time. Death was caused by bronchial pneumonia combined with a congenital throat defect.

**RETIREMENT** — Two former employees are benefiting from the School's special retirement fund. These are Housemother Miss Vera Handschin and office secretary Mrs. Winifred Schuman.

**HOUSEHOLD HELP** — At present, the School employs 49 people. Of these, 23 are household employees. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find competent domestic help, especially in the Houseparents category. Any referrals by Pastors and lay delegates will be deeply appreciated.

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE** — The school's property is being kept in fine condition. We can expect maintenance time and cost to increase as the buildings grow older.

Besides taking care of the spacious lawns, the 3 maintenance men are kept especially busy during the summer doing outdoor and inside painting and general repair work.

**INSPECTION** — The State Department of Health made its annual inspection of all school facilities and found them in good order. The Detroit City Department of Health inspects several times a year. These Departments always commend the school on its neat and well-kept buildings and appointments. Two boiler inspections are made annually. Fire inspections are made regularly.

**PUPIL COST** — The Annual cost to educate, house and feed a deaf child in our school now stands at approximately \$4000.00 which is on a par with other schools of a similar nature. Since the school can expect to receive on the average only about 1/7 of its annual total financial needs from parents in the form of tuition fees, much publicity for financial support is required.

**PUBLICITY** — The school's publicity work so necessary for the ingathering of operating and legacy funds consisted of the following —

1. Four issues of the quarterly periodical "The Deaf Child's Advocate" (90,000 readers).
2. Annual appeal letter and envelope to all the readers of the "Advocate" which includes all pastors and teachers including A.L.C. pastors.
3. Motion picture "A New Life for Jennifer".
4. Special annual appeal to all pastors requesting them to include our school's coin envelope in their membership's individual packets.
5. Picture and informational materials provided for mission fairs and other church activities.
6. Speakers and demonstrations.
7. Visiting groups on Thursdays.
8. "Jennifer" film on T.V.

During the past year the School was remembered in 26 wills.

**ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEES** — In three years the school will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. Committees are planning for this special observance which should be a Synod wide celebration.

**LADIES AUXILIARY FOR THE DEAF** — The financial assistance and volunteer services rendered the school by its wonderful and everwilling Ladies' Auxiliaries during the past year were tremendous and varied. Each Chapter President renders an activities report at this meeting.

Detroit Chapter — Mrs. Richard Deierlein, President  
Ephphatha Chapter — Mrs. Emil Teschler, President

**ELECTION RESULTS** — The Rev. John Gagern, Elmer Engel and H. H. Auch were reelected to the Board of Management for a three year term. The Rev. M. Schackell was elected to the Board of Education.