



THE DEAF CHILD'S

ADVOCATE

Volume 43

Issue 2 - Lutheran School for the Deaf - Detroit, Michigan

Spring, 1973

Centennial Celebration - Sunday June 10

NOW CONCERNING OUR 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

"And he said to the people of Israel, 'When your children ask their fathers in time to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground'." — Joshua 4:21, 22

"What do these stones mean?" These were the stones that the twelve selected men had taken from the bed of the Jordan when the Lord had dried up the river to open the way for His people into the Land of Promise. Israel's entrance into Canaan was the beginning of a new period in its history, and these stones, "pitched" at Gilgal, were to serve as a memorial for the ages to come.

As God's ancient people set up the memorial stones at the entrance to the Promised Land to commemorate the time when they had crossed over the Jordan River on dry land, so our Lutheran School for the Deaf will mark the first century of its existence (1873-1973) with appropriate centennial observances. Our school now stands on the threshold of its second century of blessed activity. It is only right that we should now pause and reverently give thanks to Almighty God for 100 years of service to handicapped deaf children.

To help celebrate our school's 100th birthday, our committee has planned two major events: an Anniversary Banquet and an Anniversary Festival. The Anniversary Banquet will be held at the German-American Cultural Club on the evening of November 2. Reserve this date on your calendar now! If you live in the Metropolitan Detroit area, your congregation has a "Lutheran School for the Deaf Contact Person" who will be posting more information regarding this event in your Sunday bulletins and on your parish bulletin boards. More details on the banquet will be given in the Fall '73 "Advocate" and in the Michigan Lutheran.

In this issue of the "Advocate" we want to especially remind you of our soon-to-be Anniversary Festival. This festival will be on Sunday, June 10 at the school, beginning with a dinner. Serving time will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The service will be held on the grounds of the school at 2:30 p.m. The Reverend Richard H. Bernthal of Epiphany Church in Detroit and the Michigan District Centennial Campaign Director, will be the speaker for this service. The children of the school will have a large part in this Anniversary Service, as this brings to a close their 1972-73 school year. The combined choirs of the three Lutheran High Schools of our Metro area will sing. It promises to be a truly inspiring service.

An "old fashioned picnic" will be the theme for the afternoon activities. Relics and reminders of the last century will be everywhere—barber shop quartets, Bavarian band, "Gay 90s" costumes, etc. (Dr. Gilbert Otte, author of our Centennial booklet, said that he might even grow a beard to "look like Huegli", the founding father of our school. We'll just have to wait with bated breath to see if Dr. Otte comes through for us!!)

In case of inclement weather, all festivities will be held indoors.

Lutheran Christians of Michigan and neighboring states, come to Detroit on June 10! Attend our 100th birthday celebration. You will never regret it or forget it! There's going to be an "old fashioned picnic" in the old Motor City! If you cannot be with us in person, you can be

with us in spirit. You can pray for us! You can send a congratulatory letter! You can support us financially! Our ministry to deaf children needs your continued support. Teaching the deaf is one of the most costly of all types of child education.

Rev. Maurice G. Shackell, Chairman
Centennial Celebration Committee

A Special Invitation To All Of Our Former Students

Dear Alumnus,

Your School is planning to observe its 100th anniversary with a big celebration on Sunday, June 10. We invite you to come and spend the day with many of your old schoolmates and friends.

It will be a day of thanks and praise to God for His bountiful blessings bestowed upon the school. It also will be a time for fun and fellowship shared with thousands of friends of your Alma Mater.

If you know of former students who do not receive the "Deaf Child's Advocate", please inform them of the coming Anniversary Celebration and then ask them to send us their address so that we can place them on our mailing list. So many have moved over the past years and we have lost track of some.

Thank you for helping us spread the news of the celebration and we shall be looking forward to seeing you at the Festival.

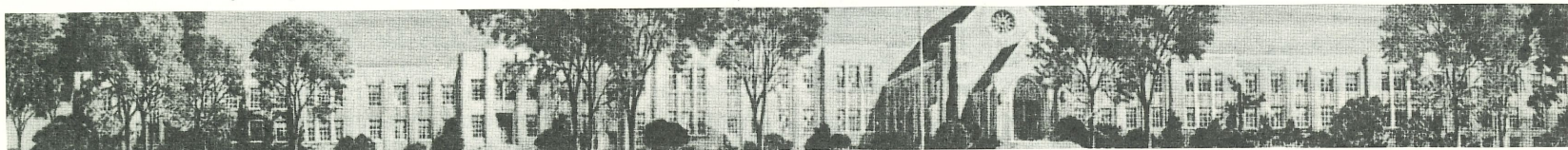
Sincerely,
Walter Bellhorn



THE OUTDOOR STAGE

SCHOOL CLOSING

The Centennial Celebration on June 10 will also bring to a close the 1972-73 School year. Teachers and children are busy at this time preparing a special historical presentation for the afternoon Festival Service. The huge outdoor stage will be appropriately decorated for the occasion. The children are anxious for their parents and family to see the program and take part in the Centennial Service and old fashioned picnic activities. We know the parents of our youngsters will not let them down.



HISTORICAL DATES AND EVENTS

1873 - (Feb. 17) Meeting of a group of individual Christians was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit. Rev. Huegli Pastor and Chairman of the meeting. - Purpose - to found and operate a Lutheran orphanage in or near Detroit. Due to an epidemic, the need was there. Name of the organization was called German Evangelical Lutheran Orphans Assistance Society.

1873 - (Mar. 17) Meeting - Rev. Huegli elected President - First Board of Directors was established.

1873 - (Mar. 31) Meeting - Articles of incorporation were ready and signed by the members present at the meeting. Also, March 31 was designated as Founders Day.

Temporary residence for the Superintendent and orphans was rented in Royal Oak.

A building site was purchased and building operations begun.

These were very active months in the early history of the school.

A Rev. G. Speckhardt of Sebewaing, Michigan, was called to be the first superintendent. Prior to his entering the holy ministry and coming to America, Pastor Speckhardt had been a teacher of the deaf in Germany.

He accepted the call to the orphanage and brought with him two deaf girls whom he was instructing in confirmation.

The news of deaf education spread and by the end of the first school year 17 deaf children had been enrolled and only 10 orphans.

1873 - (Late Fall) The new building was ready for plastering and an outdoor bake-oven had been built but the funds dwindled to zero and so one of the Board members was appointed to raise funds. A letter was rushed to all pastors of the Synod requesting financial assistance. A pamphlet was prepared setting forth the goals of the organization and the financial needs.

1874 - (Jan. 14) The new "Home" was ready for dedication but Royal Oak had no proper auditorium available for the dedication service, so the dedication was postponed to a later time.

1874 - (Feb. 12) Although the plaster was still wet in places and no painting had been done, the Supt. was asked to move in with the children - 5 days less than one year after the first organization meeting. Already the new building was found to be too small and so it was decided not to spend any more money on it.

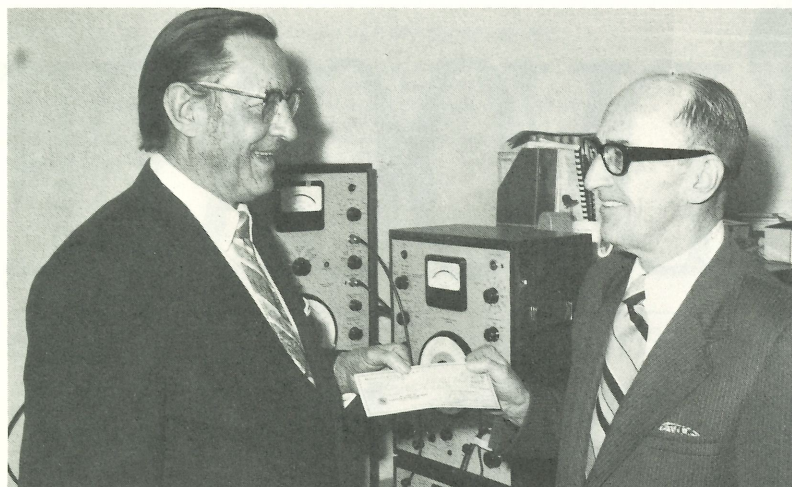
Money was direly needed, so it was decided to sell 400 \$10.00 non-interest bearing bonds. Notes also were coming due. Pastors on the Board were dispatched to different areas of Michigan to solicit offerings from congregations.

The Supt. gave teaching demonstrations with deaf children traveling as far as Chicago, Illinois.

1874 - (June) 20 deaf children and 10 orphans were enrolled by this time.

1874 - (July 27) In the Board of Directors meeting held July 27, 1874 history was made. We quote from the minutes: "The meeting was opened with a prayer. President Huegli reported on a Synodical Church meeting held in Pittsburgh, where matters pertaining to our Institute were discussed. During this discussion the opinion was expressed that too many orphanages are being established in our midst and that there was danger that the support of these institutions would become too heavy a burden for the members of our Synod. Since another new orphanage was being built in Addison, Illinois, at this time, it was unanimously resolved to suggest to our Association that it transfer its orphans to Addison and that it, in the future, operate its institute as a school for the deaf exclusively, and that we devote all of our energy and means to the promoting of this worthwhile endeavor. It was also stated that for the latter venture we will be permitted to solicit funds throughout the Synod. Pastor Huegli further stated that Dr. Walther, President of the Lutheran Synod favored this resolution, urged its adoption, and advised that we locate our Institute in or near the city of Detroit, and that instructions in the English language be begun in order that English speaking people might also become interested in the school."

The logical suggestions of Dr. Walther were accepted, and the orphans were transferred to Addison, Illinois. The conversion to a school for the deaf was made which resulted in this special missionary venture directly and indirectly bringing many incalculable educational and especially spiritual blessings to thousands of deaf people during those past 100 years. — To Be Continued —



A.A.L. CENTENNIAL GIFT - Walter Bellhorn, Executive Director of the school, receives a gift check in the amount of \$8,202.12 from Winifred Graebner, Secretary of the Michigan Federation of Appleton Aid Association for Lutheran branches - This represents a large portion of their \$14,000.00 pledge. Mr. Zack Pokley, General agent, accompanied Mr. Graebner to the School.

LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF Detroit, Michigan

Centennial Steering Committee Report of the Chairman

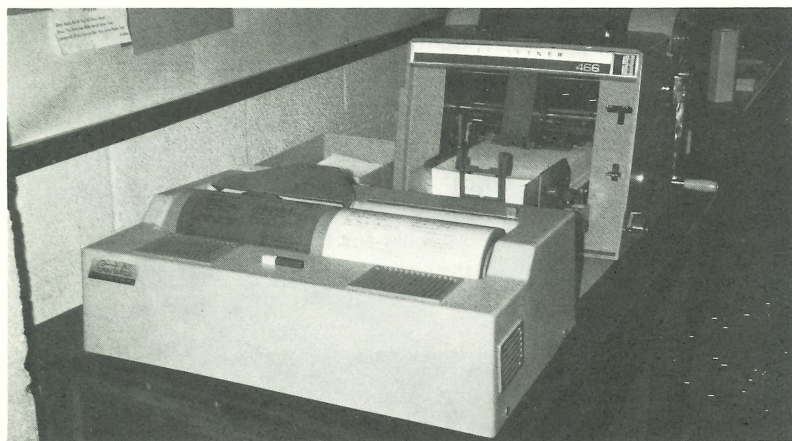
The following is a report of monies received and securities held as of March 31, 1973.

Cash received and deposited	\$898,667.47	
L.S. Deaf - Centennial		
Transfer Acct.	3,525.85	
Stock Securities Held	275.38	
Bank of Commerce		
Canadian Exchange	68.46	
Bank of Commerce -		
Interest Income	<u>11,321.84</u>	
		\$913,859.00

Distribution is as follows:

Hearts for Jesus	\$66,768.53	
Churches	633,014.21	
Individuals	50,336.23	
Church Organizations	23,158.45	
Other Organizations	5,290.89	
Business	17,293.54	
Foundations	105,863.00	
Alumni	653.00	
Miscellaneous Sales	50.00	
Miscellaneous Income - Interest		
Dividends & Exchange	<u>11,431.15</u>	
		\$913,859.00

Respectfully,
Elmer W. Engel, Chrm.



ANOTHER CENTENNIAL GIFT - A complete Gestetner Copy machine was donated to the school by Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Butchart of Detroit and the equipment is serving the school well in its daily operation.



COME TO A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED FAMILY PICNIC

You and your Family are especially invited to enjoy the fun and fellowship of the 100th Annual Lutheran School for the Deaf Festival Sunday, June 10, 11 a.m to 6 p.m.

Don't dress up Bring the entire family. Join your friends in celebrating 100 years of Christian Service by our School for the Deaf.

Come in casual clothes so you can enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the School's beautiful 20 acre grove at 6861 E. Nevada in Detroit.

Take your choice

1. BUY YOUR BEEF DINNER in the gym served by the Lutheran Ladies Auxiliary for the Deaf from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. DONATION \$2.75
2. Hot dogs, sandwiches and refreshments served outdoors.
3. BRING YOUR LUNCH and blanket (or card table we have chairs)

12 noon to 2 pm Open House/Tour the buildings and exhibits

2:30 to 3:30 pm COMBINED CHILDREN'S PROGRAM and FESTIVAL SERVICE. The Reverend Richard Bernthal, Festival Speaker

4 to 6 pm PICNIC GAMES and PRIZES for the entire family

4 to 6 pm FROM THE STAGE

☞ BARBERSHOP QUARTETS

☞ GOOD OLD DAYS FASHION PARADE with AWARDS for best costume

☞ GERMAN BAND

ALL DAY REFRESHMENTS available in Pavilion

HAPPINESS IS BEING A LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF BOOSTER
Let's all get together and have some fun. The Lord has blessed us and our School richly.

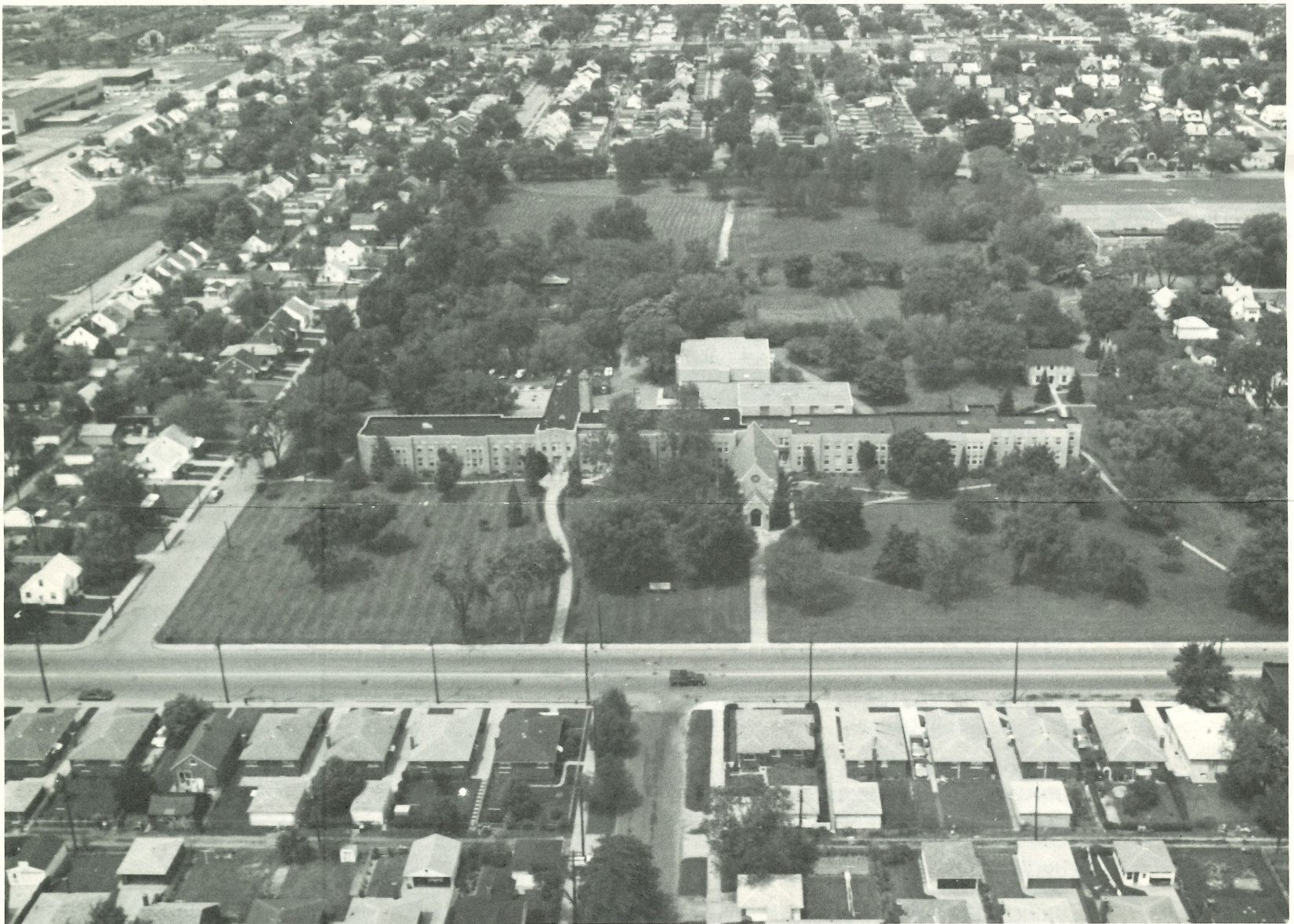
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The Original School Building

SECOND CLASS
POSTAGE PAID
AT
DETROIT, MICH.

An Air View of the Campus as it Looks Today



Plan to Attend the Festival and Bring Your Friends