



THE DEAF CHILD'S ADVOCATE

Volume 43

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Fall, 1973

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RETIRES



Walter Bellhorn, Executive Director.

Walter Bellhorn, after 43 years of efficient and faithful service as teacher, principal and executive director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, announced his retirement to the school's Board of Directors effective December 31, 1973. Mr. Bellhorn is a graduate of Concordia College, River Forest, Illinois and Wayne State University, Detroit. He took special training in Pittsburgh, Penn. and Wayne State to become a teacher of the deaf. He recalled that when he and his wife, Alma, arrived on the 20 acre campus the original farm house and barn were still in use. The old three story red brick school building would serve as school and home for the students for nine more years before it would be replaced by the present complex of buildings.

He notes that during these same years, hundreds of deaf children became students of the school so that they might receive a Christian education which would prepare them for this life and for heaven.

He stated that this was the joy and privilege of his calling, to bring the "good news" of salvation to deaf children.

101st SCHOOL YEAR IN PROGRESS

On Tuesday, September 4th, the school began its 101st year of education and training deaf children — thus preparing them for this life and for heaven. For several days before the opening of school, combined and separate meetings of the faculty and household staff were held in preparation for the busy year ahead.

New pupils accepted for enrollment this Fall are the following: David Ducoli, 7, Belleville, Mich., Sandra Hadley, 6, Taylor, Mich., Jeannie McKay, 8, Detroit, Mich., Linda McKay, 7, Detroit, Mich., Tim McKay, 4, Detroit, Mich., Philip Muhme, 4, Detroit, Mich., Tracey Mumford, 6, Belleville, Mich., Richard O'Dell, 4, Harrison, Mich., Lynda Stevens, 6, Rose City, Mich., Demetrius Underwood, 6, Detroit, Mich.



New Pupils - L. to R. front row, Tracey Mumford, Lynda Stevens, Linda McKay, Sandra Hadley, Jeannie McKay. L. to R. back row, David Ducoli, Tim McKay, Philip Muhme, Richard O'Dell and Demetrius Underwood.

OUR ANNUAL APPEAL

Dear Readers, soon after Thanksgiving day you will receive our annual appeal letter in the mail. This appeal is considered the school's "lifeline" upon which it depends for approximately 80% of its operational needs. Our paper, The Deaf Child's Advocate, reminds you from time to time that your prayers and your financial support are desperately needed so that the school's program of bringing Christ to deaf children might continue.

With an annual budget of more than \$500,000.00 of which the parents pay on the average about 20% of the total in the form of tuition payments, the school must look to all possible sources for financial assistance in supplying the greater share of its budget requirements. So, when the APPEAL arrives in the mail, please give it your prayerful consideration and then respond to it in the measure in which the Lord has prospered you.

The School's management will deeply appreciate your contribution, the parents of our students will be eternally grateful to you for assisting them in bringing their little ones to Jesus and God will bless you richly for your remembrance.





Mrs. Ralph Carey, President of Lutheran Ladies Auxiliary for the Deaf presents a thousand dollar gift check to Vice-President of the School Association, The Reverend John Gagern. L. to R. Reverend Gagern, Mrs. Carey, Walter Bellhorn.

CENTENNIAL PROJECTS

The following centennial projects have been completed or are in progress now:

- a. The Kresge garage and storage building was completed during the year.
- b. A new gas dryer was purchased for the laundry.
- c. A new Dodge Van Wagon (12 passenger) was purchased by the Detroit Ladies Auxiliary for the Deaf.
- d. Auditory testing equipment was purchased.
- e. Carpeting for rooms will soon be installed.
- f. New kitchen refrigerator was purchased.
- g. Metal storage shelving is being installed in the storage and media rooms.
- h. Outdoor flood lighting completed.
- i. Diesel generator and emergency lighting completed.
- j. Drywall treatment in 6 rooms.
- k. Heating system checked and repairs made where necessary.
- l. Dining room redecorated.
- m. Caulking and glazing of windows.
- n. Lintels repaired.
- o. Outside wall cracks repaired.
- p. Resetting stone trim.
- q. Tree trimming and removal.

Other projects scheduled for next year will be reported on in future issues of the "Advocate".

Our beautiful Memorial Wreath folders are always available free and postpaid.



Our cook, Mrs. Jessie Hale, says our pantry shelves are just about empty but she knows that Pound Day donations and monetary gifts from our readers will help us to fill our shelves for the winter.

OUR LADIES REPORT

Greetings! It is just a year ago since our last writing. I am deeply grateful and also highly honored to again have the privilege of representing the "richest at heart" group, The Lutheran Ladies Auxiliary for the Deaf.

It has been a very busy year so far and no doubt will be the same until June.

At our last December meeting the Ladies undertook the project of purchasing a Dodge "Carry All" as a Centennial gift in the amount of four thousand dollars and seven cents. After making several payments of one thousand dollars each, the Ladies voted in October to pay off the remainder. At the Annual Meeting of the Association, held October 10th, our Ladies presented the final check to Vice-President, Reverend John Gagern. While this meeting was going on, our Ladies were preparing a delicious meal for the assembly. One thousand dollars also was donated to the School to start the Centennial Drive, making our Centennial contribution five thousand and four dollars.

As always, our Ladies worked very hard at the Festival serving dinners. Because of the Centennial Celebration it was an especially busy day. They ended up very tired after serving over nine-hundred people but very happy knowing they played a very important role in the success of the Festival. To everyone else who donated their services to help us, we extend our deepest gratitude.

Since the Schools' beginning, the Ladies have mended the children's clothing each week of the school year. This Fall a change was made to mend twice a month due to so many children spending weekends at home.

All of the proceeds from our parties, memorials, dime folders, etc. are allocated to the Student Fund. This is a project which we have had for many years. Each year we pay the full tuition for one student which amounts to about \$5,000.00.

Our next big event which we always look forward to is our "Christmas Tea". It is held following the Children's Christmas Program for the parents and friends on December 20th. The children have their punch and cookies with us. This year we are stressing our Christmas Booth of home made gifts. Donations to this project are always welcome and appreciated.

Our meetings are held ten months of the year. The September, December, January and April meetings are held at the School. April is our anniversary month which we always celebrate with a church service in the Chapel conducted by our Pastoral Counselor. Our present Counselor is Pastor D. E. Hasse, Redemption Lutheran Church, Detroit.

The other monthly meetings are held at various churches by invitation from the Ladies Societies. They serve us a delightful meal after which the proceeds of the luncheon are donated to our treasury as a gift. A gift of a Bible and Prayer Book is always a must for each member of the Confirmation Class.

In regards to our Fair on April 30, 1974, any hand work of any kind or donations to help make our Fair a huge success will be appreciated. To all who have given of themselves in their own way, also to Ladies Societies, we express our humble thanks.

Our attendance is greatly improving. It shows our members do care and enjoy attending and working together. These are labors of love for our deaf children.

We extend a warm welcome to all who find it possible to join us. To our Lord we sing praises for his abundant blessings showered upon the work of our Society.

In Christian love,
Hermine Carey (Mrs. Ralph)
President

FILM AVAILABLE

Complete the following form, clip and return it to the Lutheran School for the Deaf, 6861 E. Nevada Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48234.

CLIP — RETURN

Please schedule your 27 minute all color sound movie titled: **A New Life for Jennifer** for showing on the following date:

Preferred Date _____ Second Choice _____

Third Choice _____

Name of Congregation or organization requesting film:

City _____ State _____

Send Film to _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zip _____

LETTER BOX

Dear Mr. Bellhorn: Lutheran School for the Deaf has long been dear to my heart.

My late brother William received his Christian training there. The conditions at the school at that time were not as good as compared with the improvements that have been made since those days. Yet I know there is always need for help with operational expenses.

I am 72 and on retirement income, so it isn't possible to give very much, but I know God also hears our prayers, and will make others willing to give, who are able to give more.

May God abundantly bless all of the Staff and the children in your care.

A very blessed Christmas and New Year to all of you. Sincerely, Hilda M. Knoelk, Chicago, Illinois.

* * *

Dear Mr. Bellhorn: Well, I thought I'd write you this letter because after what I saw there at the school I really have to tell you how much I appreciate what you're doing for those kids.

Someone there told me you might be looking for a housefather. I'd just like you to know anytime you need someone, and if you want them to work for even the smallest wages, I'm available. I would gladly quit my job at the post office here where I make good wages, cut my hair if you wanted, shave my scraggly beard and anything else because to me a job like that would be a thousand times more rewarding than the job I have now. I've always wanted to serve my God a lot better than I have and I could think of no better way. Please write and give me some kind of answer and even if you cannot use me, if you know of any other kind of Lutheran deaf school that can, I'm more than willing to help.

Thank you, God Bless, Bill Kaufman, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

* * *

Dear Mr. Bellhorn: The enclosed check is a gift for the Anniversary Fund. I am sending it this way because I felt there was such a different reason for it being given and I would briefly like to tell you about it.

It was brought in to me by one of my young ladies who is an instructor at Eastern University. During the summer months she is driving a "shuttle-bus" at Detroit Metropolitan Airport. On one of her recent trips she got into conversation with a passenger headed for Grand Rapids, who in her excitement left her purse on the bus. This young lady saw the purse too late to catch the lady traveler, but turned it over to the proper people of the North Central Airlines. They in turn saw to it that it was returned to the lady. The lady was so thrilled on the receipt of her purse that she sent this young lady a check as reward, even though my young lady had not revealed her identity to the North Central people. This lady had gone to great pains to determine who the driver had been and to give her this reward. She in turn came to my office this morning bringing the check and declaring "the Lord doesn't expect me to be rewarded for being honest, he just expects me to be honest". Will you see to it that it is used for this children's program? Just a little different twist, isn't it? Sincerely yours, Rev. A. Firchau, Taylor Mich.

THANKSGIVING MEANS —

1. giving thanks for a land where many different races are welcome,
2. a special time to thank God for many blessings,
3. a beautiful day with lots of food and reunion with family and friends,
4. remembering that the Indians shared dinner with the Pilgrims,
5. giving thanks to God for life, family and friends,
6. remembering the Pilgrims, who came to America to have freedom of worship,
7. remembering how much they suffered their first winter.
8. going home for Thanksgiving vacation,
9. living "a thank you" every day.

By Class I —

Jennifer Freed
Lee Latimer
Shawn Birkett
Bonnie Kaufman

Norbert Irion
Judy Manik
Barbara Stanz



Our new teachers: Miss Risé Steglich, graduate of Texas Woman's University, Kristine Nitz, Eastern Michigan University graduate and Ervin Daugherty of Wayne State University.

FALL, 1973



The Parent-Staff Organization of our School is always busy with projects and personal service to provide our School with the best possible educational program for deaf children.

Officers of the P.S.O. this year are President, Sam Riccobono, Vice-President and Treasurer, Fred Reese; Secretary, Dorothy Skurda. Members at large: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Green and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Petersmarck; Editor of the P.S.O. newsletter, Mrs. Ilona Arntzen. Teacher representative is Robert Schweitzer. Left to right Mrs. Phyllis Green, Mrs. Glenda Riccobono, Harry Petersmarck, Sam Riccobono, Fred Reese, and Mrs. Frances Petersmarck.

HISTORICAL DATES AND EVENTS

(Concluded from previous issue)

- 1947 - (June) 75th anniversary celebrated - Addition to Boys Bldg. dedicated by Dr. Behnken. Cost \$221,350.70
- 1948 - Film "The World of Silence" completed.
- 1951 - Pavilion was built. Cost \$15,426.85.
- 1951 - Mr. Bellhorn appointed Principal.
- 1957 - Mr. Holste called as teacher.
- 1958 - (June) New Kitchen dedicated (Linda Ritter). Cost: \$100,000.00.
- 1959 - (June) Wm. Ludwig, former pupil, enters ministry.
- 1961 - (April) New stained glass Memorial windows in Chapel dedicated.
- 1962 - (June) Dr. Klein retired - 54 years as teacher, principal and Executive Director.
- 1962 - (June) Mr. Bellhorn became Executive Director, Mr. Holste, Principal.
- 1964 - (Sept.) New Film "A New Life for Jennifer" completed. Cost \$30,000.00.
- 1966 - (March) Klein Wing dedicated - Dr. Harms preached. Cost, \$391,000.00.
- 1968 - Annual Meeting date changed from June to October.
- 1968 - (Nov.) Rev. Biesenthal elected President of the Association and Chairman of the Board.
- 1970 - Rev. E.J. Rossow elected President of the Board.
- 1972 - Centennial Thank offering gathered. (\$900,000+)
- 1972 - (June) Dr. H. Holste resigned as principal.
- 1973 - (May) Mrs. Fenton appointed Principal.
- 1973 - (June 10) Centennial Celebration. (Festival)
- 1973 - (Dec. 31) Walter Bellhorn retires - 43 years as teacher, principal and executive director.

BEQUESTS

Following is a short form for a bequest in behalf of the Lutheran School for the Deaf:-

"I give, devise and bequeath to the Lutheran School 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 of my executor for same."

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DETROIT, MICH.
AT
SECOND CLASS
POSTAGE PAID

ADVOCATE READERS

In order that you might receive prompt delivery of "The Deaf Child's Advocate", we ask that you check your address as it appears in this issue and, if there are any inaccuracies in the address or if you receive more than one copy, kindly clip the address from this paper, indicate corrections, deletions or duplication and return it to us.

Your cooperation will save the school an appreciable amount of money.

**FRIENDS OF GREATER DETROIT
HELP US RESTOCK OUR PANTRY SHELVES
— REMEMBER POUND DAY —**

CENTENNIAL GIFTS AT WORK

