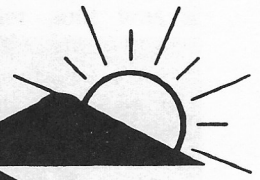




WVAD Newsletter



Volume 22, No. 4

A Publication of West Virginia Assn. of the Deaf, Inc.

Oct., Nov., Dec., 2001

West Virginia Association of the Deaf Board Meeting on August 26, 2001

Board Meeting started 11:40 a.m. at the Super Motel in Hurricane, WV on August 26, 2001.

Present: John Burdette, President; Jimmy Harrison, Vice-president; Liz Leisure, Treasurer; Donna M. Williams, Secretary; Clyde Swartz, Trustee and Charles Tuell, Trustee. Absent: Joey Major, Trustee.

The minutes were read, revised and approved.

President's Report:

1. Received a letter from J.D. Corbin, Principal of WVSD, thanking for giving awards to the graduates.
2. NAD Regional I conference will be in Providence, RI November 2-4, 2001.
3. September 15, 2001 - Deaf Awareness Day in Beckley, WV.
4. 2005 will be WVAD's 90th anniversary. The conference will be in Clarksburg. Need to remember this and think about what to do to celebrate.

Vice-President's Report

1. Membership dues from July 12, 2001 through July 31, 2001, he collected a total of \$380.00.
2. He collected \$40.00 for selling potholders.

Secretary's Report:

1. Letters were sent to all Deaf Clubs in West Virginia requesting names, addresses, etc. of officers and when their meetings are held. heard from Fairmont, Wheeling, Parkersburg, Greenbrier, and Alumni.

2. Read Thank You note from Charity Reedy Hines thanking WVAD for the donation in honor of her father.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Liz will start doing a monthly report to make it easier for reporting.
2. Rooms at the conference was most expensive and we need to consider that for the next conference and workshops.
3. Can use these reports to help develop a budget. Liz stressed we need to develop a budget.
4. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Trustee's Report:

No report.

Committee Report:

Pageant Report by Donna M. Willaims:

Monica Spangler had professional pictures taken. When Donna gets a copy, she will develop flyers to send out and put on jars for donations. We need to decide how much should be charged for honorarium fee. She already has a request for Monica for speak to the students at WVSD, WVDAA Hall of Fame and Social during WVSD's Homecoming weekend. Donna is working on a contract using NAD's contract as a guideline.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

1. Discussed attending the Regional Conference in Providence, RI November 2-5, 2001. The deadline for registering is October 15th. Need to check travel expenses. Registration is \$75 per person plus hotel is \$145 per night. Some

meals not included. Liz talked about the per diem per day. President Burdette wants to attend. Discussed a second person attending Jimmy Harrison said that usually the delegates to the regional conference are the same as to the NAD.

2. Jimmy Harrison (Liz Leisure) moved WVAD send President Burdette to the regional conference in Providence, RI. Passed.
3. Jimmy Harrison (Clyde Swartz) moved WVAD give the most outstanding senior a \$25 scholarship at WVSD in June, 2002. Passed.
4. Clyde Swartz (Jimmy Harrison) moved to set up a pageant honorarium fee of \$100 for non-profit organizations and \$200 for profit organizations. This will be paid to the Pageant fund. Passed.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Next meeting November 17, 2001 possibly in Clarksburg, WV.

Deaf Sports History

Q. What deaf professional boxer twice floored a future heavyweight champion?

A. Hilton Fitzpatrick, a graduate of West Virginia School for the Deaf, twice faced future heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles in the forties and floored him each time. Unfortunately Charles got up and knocked out Hilton each time.

Guess who?



1951 Ground Breaking Ceremony at Romney Deaf/Blind School. Ground Breaking was part for a new gymnasium at Romney, WV. The gymnasium was completed in 1953, where Marzina Lawson Brown graduated.

Mid-Atlantic Bricklayers Gather at Family Reunion



The roots of the Brown-Suttle family's bricklaying legacy go back to the early 1900's, when coal was king in West Virginia and southwestern Virginia. One hundred years later, 10 family members are still active bricklayers or have retired from the trade. Proud of their Union heritage all are members of local 9 West Virginia or former Local 2 Virginia now Local 1 MD/VA/DC. Shown here at a recent family reunion are from left, back row: Brian Canterburg, Finley Canterburg, Gary Brown, Samuel M. Brown, Jimmy Canterburg, and Ronnie Brown. Front row, from left: Benny Hodge, Glendale Brown, Tommy Canterburg, and Kevin Brown.

Death

William Isenhart Cain, Jr.

William Isenhart Cain, Jr., 83, of Morgantown, died Thursday, Sept. 6, 2001, at Monongalia General Hospital.

He was born May 11, 1918, in Fairmont, son of the late William I. and Dorothy Eisenhart Cain.

He was an athlete whose character skills and dedication are to be emulated by all.

He was a 1940 graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney.

He had an opportunity to try out for the Chicago Bears in 1940. He was an outstanding all-around basketball and football player. His team, the Akron silents, was awarded the Tri-State Tournament Championship Trophy in 1955. He had also been an avid bowler since 1970. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame for the WV School for the Deaf and Blind on June 24, 1995.

He was president of the Deaf Association for many years. He was an upholsterer for more than 30 years.

He is survived by his daughter, Linda Rogers, with whom he made his home for the past 12 years; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and six nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Janet F. Cain.

Service was at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, with the Rev. Steve Gocking officiating. Cremation services was provided by Hastings Funeral Home. Donations: WV School for the Deaf and Blind, Main Street, Romney, WV 26757.

Mr. Lyle Wiltse, who taught science at WVSD during about 1945-1952, passed away July 15, 2001 in his home state of North Dakota.

Five Generations



Family members gather around Brookie Lawson Gillispie of South Charleston, who holds her great-great-grandson, Mason Andrew Casto of Fraziers Bottom. With them are (from left) Mason's mother, Jennifer Casto of Fraziers Bottom; grandmother, Molly Smith of Pliny; and great-grandmother, Marzina Brown of Pliny.

50th Anniversary



Ren and Fae Fuller, Jr.

Ren and Fae Fuller, Jr., celebrated their 50th anniversary on Nov. 18, 2001.

Their son, Terry Fuller; Donald and Wanda McGee of Augusta; Sigmund and Marian Epstein of Stafford, VA held a surprise party for them at the Assembly of God Church Gym in Romney on Nov. 17th. Many friends and family members were there for the celebration.

Ren and Fae Fuller, Jr. met at the

Coney Island Restaurant in Cumberland, MD in 1946. They were married by the Rev. Hixon of the Lutheran Church in Cumberland, MD on Nov. 18, 1951.

Ren and Fae Fuller, Jr. reside in Romney, WV.

History lesson Book describes innovation of school for deaf, blind blacks

As A STUDENT at West Virginia State College in the 1940s, Ancella Bickley occasionally crossed the wood bridge at the far end of campus to visit the health center at the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind.

The imposing red brick building still stands. Now, most everybody knows it as part of the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center. Only old-timers recall its original mission.

Throughout her long tenure at State as a student, professor and vice president, not even Bickley fully appreciated the noble history housed behind those familiar pillared walls.

"So this was a learning experience for me, too," she said.

Bickley has chronicled the triumphs and tribulations of the innovative school in a book written for the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center Foundation, "In Spite of Obstacles: A History of the West Virginia Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind 1926-1955."

Of course, she included the murder.

During her research, she uncovered a transcript of the hearing. "That was one of the surprises," she said.

She'd heard about the murder-suicide in the school dining room, but only tidbits. It happened 13 years before she enrolled at State.

The librarian at State mentioned it. "She said her aunt was a student then, and she was so traumatized, she went back home."

Felix Warren, a barbering instructor, was among those wounded in the fray. "He was my landlord for a time," she said, "but he never brought it up. It wasn't something that just came up in conversation."

James Levi Hill was named superintendent in 1927, the year after the school opened, she said, relating the story. During his five-year stint, the school acquired more land, more buildings and more vocational programs.

But then, in 1934, a traveling auditor reported irregularities in the school's financial records and blamed Hill. The investigation uncovered other troubling allegations, some involving his treatment of staff and students.

On an April morning, a Friday the 13th, Hill stood up in the school dining room and defended his honesty. Instructor Fannie Harrell interpreted his remarks for deaf students. Hill closed with a quotation from "Othello":

Then, he pulled out a pistol and started shooting. He killed one staff member, wounded three others, then killed himself, Fannie Harrell, one of the wounded, died four days later.

Bickley regrets that she didn't know enough about the incident a long time ago.

"The people involved are all gone. Mrs. Grider, the home economics teacher, died only five years ago. I could have asked her and so many other people about it."

She did get to ask Algie Davis, a blind student from Wheeling who died last November. He was about 5 years old when he enrolled at the deaf and blind school. He heard about the superintendent named Hill. "I'd lie in bed at night scared that his ghost was coming," he told her.

See History on page 4

Continued from page 3

History

Bickley dedicated the book to Davis, a student at the school while she was there. "He was always upbeat," she said. "He'd come whistling around campus, swinging his white cane. He and another fellow, Bill King, a deaf student, took classes with us at State. This was before mainstreaming. It was such a forward looking thing for them to come to class with hearing and seeing people and to be successful."

That's the kind of thing she hopes people will remember from the book, she said, not the tragic events in the dining room. "The school's unusual relationship with State, Minnie Holley's Girl Scout troop that was so far ahead of its time, all those blind kids running around playing wall ball, those are the important parts."

The location close to West Virginia State encouraged interaction that benefited both schools, she said. They shared some services. State students did student teaching at the deaf and blind school, and some blind and deaf students participated in activities at State. "There was a common concern for the welfare of black children," she said.

A separate school for deaf and blind blacks evolved from a stipulation in the state constitution forbidding the education of blacks and whites in the same institution. Blacks needing specialized care were segregated in sections of white institutions or sent out of state.

As the black population mushroomed with the opening of the mines in Southern West Virginia, more blacks got involved in politics. In 1919, two black legislators introduced a bill to establish a state institution solely for the care of deaf and blind Negroes.

In 1921, the state bought nearly 20 acres that had once belonged to Samuel I. Cabell, a white plantation owner who left the land to his

mulatto children. In the book, Bickley includes Gazette Editor James Haught's story about Cabell's lifelong love affair with his black slave.

Limited funds delayed construction for four years. Opening officially on Sept. 14, 1926, the school had welcomed 20 deaf students and 17 blind students by the end of the term. Gradually, new classrooms opened for beauty culture, barbering, shoe repair, sewing, cooking, dry cleaning, and tailoring. College students and area residents provided customers for barber and beauty students.

In 1930, the school bought 15 more acres from one of Cabell's daughters and constructed a building for music and domestic science. A gym, built in 1950, led to a boys basketball team, the Green Hornets. Blind boys played a specially devised game called wall ball, derived from baseball and played between two buildings with a large inflated ball.

Photos in the book show the students in class and in club and social situations, including a formal school dance. The caption notes that the deaf students kept time for dancing by feeling the vibration of the music.

One chapter details instructor Minnie Holley's role in establishing a Girl Scout troop in an era when Negroes in scouting were unheard of in Charleston. "This was the only deaf and blind Scout troop in the state," Bickley said.

In 1946, when the county Scouting council marked its silver jubilee, Lady Baden-Powell, the first lady of Scouting in England, visited Charleston for the celebration. The deaf and blind troop didn't go, probably because of segregation, so Lady Baden-Powell made a special trip to Institute to visit the deaf and blind girls.

Under the leadership of longtime Superintendent Edward a. Bolling, Jr., the school graduated about 50 students a year until the final

commencement in 1955. At the onset of public school integration, students transferred to the white school at Romney.

Despite ongoing staffing and funding problems, Bickley said, the school achieved its goal, guided by a mandate expressed in the 25th anniversary booklet: "They are not to become educated deaf persons or educated blind persons living in a world withdrawn, but must be educated persons participating in the common interested and activities of their neighbors."

Bickley's book is a companion to a book by Patricia Davis Caldwell, "From a Compassionate Past to an Empowering Future," which traces the history of government-funded rehabilitation services in the state.

For information about the books, call sue Eichelberger at the Division of Rehabilitation Services, (304) 766-4605.

-From Charleston Gazette

Smiles

To retired professor Ancella Bickley, continuing to chronicle West Virginia black history by writing a book on the former state Schools for the Colored Deaf and Blind in Institute.

-From Charleston Gazette

What If Deaf Pilot Had To Land Immediately?

A deaf pilot was asked the question "suppose all airplanes were immediately ordered to land down, then how would a deaf pilot know about this order?"

The reply was "the military jet would fly parallel on the right side and all pilots know it is time to land at the nearest airport."

-From Deaf Digest Gold

*



Barie's Hands Do More Than Throw

Alan Barie has used his legs to run for 202 yards and four touchdowns so far this season.

He has used his right arm to complete 32-of-62 passes for 536 yards and seven more scores.

"He's such a good athlete, he could punt a football 50 yards with either foot," said Bob Lemley, his coach at Poca High.

But Barie, a junior quarterback, shows off his greatest athletic dexterity in his hands.

He bends and rotates his fingers, shifts and contorts his wrists. He uses sign language to talk about the bad plays and the better ones to his parents and stepparents, who are all four deaf.

"I've signed all my life, every day. I mainly remember always messing up when I was little. At the very least, it's definitely given me good hand-eye coordination."

Circumstance has helped Barie in part develop the physical tools to make him a good quarterback. Lemley said his QB lacks only in on-field maturity, but has started to channel his headstrong nature into better decision-making.

During last Friday's 35-15 victory over Buffalo, Barie took himself out of the game as a defensive back by choice, which predictably caused his coaches to explode. Yet on offense, he had the best game of his three-year starting career, completing 9-of-14 passes for 197 yards and four touchdowns.

"I'm gaining more confidence every week," he said. "I'm waiting to look to the second and third receiver. I used to come out and just lock on one guy."

Extra time from his offensive line has helped Barie distribute the ball to Poca's other weapons like

sophomore scat back Matt Santmyer (637 scrimmage yards, six TDs), 6-foot-4 sophomore receiver Tony Sotelo (nine catches for 142 yards) and senior tight end Andrew Shamblin (four catches).

"Now, we can call a play and instead of telling him, 'Throw to this guy,' we can just let Alan hit the open man," Lemley said.

The passing game's emergence will force opponents like Herbert Hoover, which visits O.O. White Stadium this Friday, to prepare for more than senior all-state back Darrell Thomas, who's regaining last season's form with consecutive 100-yard rushing games after missing the first two with academic problems.

"He's taking the ball and trying to run people over," Barie said. "You can tell he's back in the game."

Lemley is just glad to have Thomas in the lineup alongside a healthy Barie, who's missed parts of each of his first three seasons with various injuries, including a leg injury last year that kept him out almost half of the season.

Alan is following in the footsteps of his father Larry, who was a Deaf All-America quarterback from 1975-77 at the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind in Romney.

"Alan has always had the potential, I just didn't know when he would start to show it," Larry Barie said. "He's finally showing it now."

Both Larry and Alan's mother, Melinda became deaf during childhood. They met as students at Gallaudet College, now a university, in Washington, DC, where Larry played defensive back for two seasons. They have since remarried to the current Missy Barie and Howard Hurd.

Alan's parents don't have problems speaking that those born deaf have, and are also expert lip readers.

Growing up, Alan also had signing help from his sister, Julie,

18, a former Dot cheerleader and track sprinter who has no hearing impairment. She's a freshman special education major at Marshall University who also works at Poca Elementary as an interpreter for a 4-year-old deaf student.

"Sometimes when I was young, I thought I might turn deaf," Alan Barie said. "But we've traced the family trees as far back as they go, and nobody's deaf but them. This is just God's gift to Julie and me."

His parents attend every one of Alan's football and basketball games at Poca.

Larry and Alan sometimes sign messages from the stands to the field or court when others couldn't communicate by yelling. His most persistent signed messages implore Alan to keep his head in the games: "Keep it up, Keep going."

Growing up with deaf parents has given Alan insight it may take his classmates years to learn: Of respect and admiration for those handicapped, but without over-compensation or embarrassment.

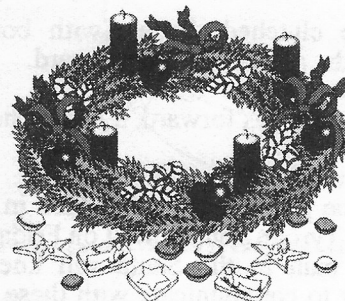
"I'm so happy for them," Alan Barie said. "They're happy even with their deafness. They still do everything everyone else does. Even though they can't hear, they live full lives."

When Alan locks on a target and throws for a score, his parents can't hear the sound of the cheers.

So they wait and watch the officials raise their arms straight up into the air.

That's "touchdown" in any language.

-From Daily Mail Newspaper



A Sign From Santa

Deaf and hearing impaired children get a chance to talk to a Santa who speaks their language - sign language.



Cross Bayou Elementary student Alyssa Kovach, 10, tells Santa Danny Harris she wants a dog on Friday at Tyrone Square Mall. More than 60 youths were at the mall to see Santa and put on skits.

Eight-year-old Melissa Bentley held the back of her hand to her forehead, one finger poking out like a horn--and then smiled, because she knew this Santa Claus understood.

The other children looked on, ready to tell their dreams with their fingers, excited to find a Santa who grasped which toys they were conjuring by the motion of their hands.

Heather Catalano, who is 7 and in second grade, whirled her fists around like feet spinning on pedals.

Bicycle.

A small boy pointed to himself, and Santa understood that, too.

I

He clutched the air with both hands, and drew them inward.

Want

Both hands forward, a few inches apart.

Little

One palm up, thumb folded in.

At Tyrone Square Mall on Friday, the man in the Santa suit knew how to communicate with these

deaf and hearing impaired children. He spoke to them in sign language, asking everyone if they had been good, as they all nodded vigorously.

"It's just like having someone speak your own language," said Deb Newton, who teaches deaf and hard-of-hearing children at several Pinellas schools.

More than 60 children and youths from Cross Bayou Elementary School, Morgan Mitzgerald Middle School and Pinellas Park High School came to the mall Friday to see Santa and to put on skits and other shows. Some of the children wear hearing aids and are able to carry on spoken conversations, but all have some degree of hearing loss.

Friday's event was a good chance for the younger children to interact with the older youths who also are deaf or heard of hearing, said Lisa Blake, a counselor for deaf and hard-of-hearing children in the Pinellas schools.

"A lot of little deaf children think that when they grow up they're

going to hear," Blake said. Events like this help "they younger kids see that they're going to the deaf when they're older, accept that deafness is a part of their lives and be happy with that."

"I'm excited to see everyone here," said Kristina Ullom, 14, an eighth-grader. She said it was a great chance to see some of her teachers from elementary school, and friends.

Jamie Baughman, 10, said she liked watching the singing, and watching is just the word she used, two fingers pointing outward. While some students waited in line for Santa, others gathered on stage and signed the words to Silent Night and other Christmas songs.

The man behind the silvery white beard was Danny Harris, 54, who teaches a deaf men's Sunday school class at the Pinellas Park Baptist Temple. He said he was pleased to be Santa for these children.

"I feel good to be able to communicate with these kids," Harris said in sign language, with Blake acting as an interpreter. "Back when I was growing up, there was nobody like this."

"The kids were very excited to see that Santa can sign."

-From St. Petersburg (FL) Times
Editor's Note: Danny Harris was a graduate of the West Virginia School for the Deaf in Romney in 1967.

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our pathway.
The memories
warm and dear.
Are treasures our
hearts cherish
Every season of
the year.*

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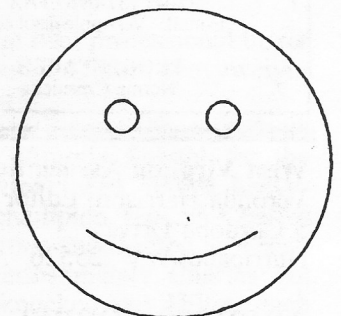
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Announcement From Editor

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