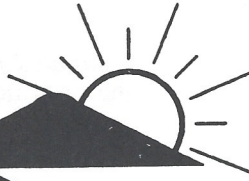




# WVAD Newsletter



Volume 19, No. 3

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

July, Aug., Sept., 1998

## Report From Delegates Concerning the NAD Conference

Veronda and I (Jimmy Harrison) had the pleasure to attend the 44th Biennial National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Conference in San Antonio as delegates in the Council of Representatives meetings from July 4 through July 11, 1998. The Texas Association of the Deaf served as the local conference hosts. It has been a busy, emotional, exciting, and involving conference. More than 2,500 people from all over the United States registered at the conference. Also, there were 116 exhibit booths and more than 85 workshops which kept everyone very busy. We were not able to attend many of the interesting workshops because the Council of Representatives meetings were held on the same days. Hopefully, at the next NAD conference, the meetings and workshops will be scheduled on different days and time. Nevertheless, we enjoyed some of the workshops, exhibits, and special events that we attended.

At the Council of Representatives meetings, we voted on the top thirty priorities from the ten forums different subject areas Civil/Human Rights, Education, Employment, Human Services, Interpreting, Language & Culture, Member Services, Structure and Operations, Telecommunications and Youth. The NAD will work on

*Continued on page 2*

## Letter of Resignation

5221 Kelly Road  
Cross Lanes, WV 25313

June 13, 1998

Jimmy Harrison, President  
West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.  
5 Cordoba Drive  
Hurricane, WV 25526

Dear President Harrison,

I am writing to let you know that I have considered for a good while to resign the position as WVAD treasurer. I have realized that I cannot do my duty as I should since the 1997 Convention was over.

I have tried my very best and it was hard to carry out my duty. It has been very hard for me to give enough attention to WVAD when my family and job need full attention. Becoming a father of my own first child makes it very hard for me to pay enough attention to WVAD.

I am very sorry for causing you and the Board any problem.

As of now I have decided to try to catch up with the rest of my paperwork and to finish the annual registration for the Secretary of the State before I will resign the position by August 3, 1998. I hope that you will allow me to have a little me time to finish the job.

I really appreciate all of your patience and understanding.

I hope I will be able to work better with you in the future. I will always support WVAD.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Jeffery W. Simmons  
WVAD Treasurer

**Editor's Note:** The Board of the WVAD voted to accept the resignation at the June 27 board meeting. Secretary Liz Purvis will act as temporary treasurer. The board would like to thank Jeffery for his good five-year service as treasurer and wishes him a very happy fatherhood.

**Good Bye, Summer! Welcome Fall!**

*continued from page one*  
the priorities over the next two years.

The new NAD Board of Directors was also selected, consisting of Elizabeth "Libby" Pollard, president; Kent Kennedy, vice-president; Daniel Brubaker, secretary; and Mark Apodaca, treasurer. Regional representatives include Philip Moos and Earnest Okwara, Region I; Claudia Bergquist and Tom Kober, Region II; Judith Gilliam and Susanna Bourgeois, Region III; and Leon Curtis and Ron Herbold, Region IV.

We attended the Miss Deaf America Pageant. Amy Wong (Miss Deaf California) was selected as Miss Deaf America. Miss Wong also won the talent competition and platform presentation.

On Saturday evening, the last night of the conference, we attended the Grand Ball. There were dancing, dessert, and a live auction. Also, there was entertainment by several talented deaf performers.

The next NAD conference is currently scheduled to be held in Norfolk, Virginia, in 2000. Also, the WVAD 32nd Biennial Conference will be held in Lewisburg, West Virginia in June, 1999. We encourage you to attend both conferences to share information and participate in discussions, so we can create a better tomorrow for the deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

## Hearing Impaired to get help with calls

Bell Atlantic is in the process of establishing an easier way for the hearing impaired to access the Telecommunications Relay Service, changing the current system to a simple dialing of 711 plus the number they are calling.

Currently, deaf and hearing impaired callers need to dial up to 21 digits to communicate with an operator and place a call.

Bell Atlantic hopes to implement the service in all of its 13 mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia within a year.

Complete installation of the new service requires cooperation with the Federal Communications commission and government officials in each state.

Bell Atlantic has also instituted a new format for customers who need to reach their long distance carrier. Callers must now dial 10-10 before the number required by the carrier.

Beginning this month, the company will also make it easier for victims of unauthorized charges on their bills to have them removed. Complaints about such charges, called "cramming," will result in Bell Atlantic removing the charges without referring the customer to the company that generated them.

*-Charleston Daily News*

## Sign Language is a Daily Exercise for West Virginia Elementary Students

Students at a Kanawha County elementary school are learning the spoken word is not the only way to communicate.

All 265 students at Mink Shoals Elementary are learning sign language, which will enable them talk to 15 students who are deaf or are hard-of-hearing. Mink Shoals is Kanawha County's designated school for all deaf and hearing-impaired students.

"It's a good way to learn language," said first grade teacher Margaret Bays, of the policy to incorporate sign language in all the school's classes.

"It used to be that we kept those children in self-contained classrooms," said Mary Dittebrand, one of three teachers who works with

the school's deaf and hard of hearing students. "I would have hearing students come up to me and say, "Tell her this, or that for me."

All that changed with the county's inclusion policy. At first, interpreters were assigned to the classroom. But over time, teachers learned how to speak to the 15 students directly.

And now, the entire student body is learning.

"Sometimes they can't think of a word, but they can remember the sign," Bays said of her hearing students. "It helps overall in their vocabulary development."

The school's hearing students also are learning a valuable lesson about life.

"And the hearing kids learn that not all kids are equal, but they all enjoy the same thing," Dittebrand said.

In addition to serving the county's deaf and hearing impaired, the school also accepts their siblings, said Mary Ann Moss, the school's principal.

"That way they can learn sign language right along with their sister or brother, and they can take it home," Moss said.

*-Charleston Gazette*

## New NAD President

Elizabeth "Libby" Sparks Pollard of Carnegie, PA was elected as the 1998-2000 President July 11 at the Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Libby and her deaf relatives (her parents and other relatives now deceased) were from West Virginia.

Libby was the first Mrs. Deaf West Virginia at the West Virginia Association of the Deaf Convention beauty contest in Charleston, WV in early 1960.



## Corbin named new WVSD principal



J.D. Corbin doesn't necessarily equate "change" with "revolution."

As the new principal for the West Virginia School for the Deaf, Corbin's vision for the future involves more continuity than transition.

"I don't really look at this move

as a 'change' so to speak," Corbin says, "I'm not going to make any broad-sweeping statements about new goals or new plans.

Corbin began his career in education as a social studies teacher at WVSD in 1979 and has served as the school's Director of Student Living since 1992.

He was named as the school's new principal on June , 1998, replacing interim principal, Pierre Sevigny, who held the position since last January when longtime principal Dan Haught retired.

"I just think we've arrived in an age of accountability in education and we're not going to find many misplaced students in our educational system," says Corbin.

"My primary focus right now is to isolate and identify students who could benefit from being enrolled in our school and see that they blossom here. I've seen so many kids get lost and struggle in the public school system and begin to prosper and achieve their full

potential once they arrive here.

"I just want that trend kept intact. I believe we have the staff to do it, especially through their abilities to motivate the students and come up with fresh ideas for education."

Corbin's immediate future entails extensive involvement in the school's summer enrichment program, designed to acclimate new students and assess their potential for enrollment at the West Virginia School for the Deaf.

"We've really accelerated our summer programs over the past couple of years and have worked very cohesively with the School for the Blind and it has been working well.

"While it would be accurate to say we are actively 'recruiting' new students, that doesn't necessarily mean every struggling student out there will be suited for our school.

"The last thing we want is to take a student from a good, solid program."

*-Hampshire Review*

## 37 deaf Mexicans from slave ring find new home

A year to the day after their plight was discovered, 37 deaf Mexicans who had lived as indentured slaves peddling trinkets in subways were taken Sunday to a city-owned shelter.

As workers loaded their possessions into a semitrailer, the Mexicans smiled, waved and flashed peace signs from second floor windows of the motel where they lived for the past 11 months.

"Brooklyn!" shouted the son of one family, referring to their new home.

The 37 adults, along with six of their children, moved to a renovated three-story house with nursing care, security, 24-hour sign language interpreters, and tutors. They also will receive job training.

Their new neighborhood is run-down with graffiti-smearing buildings, some with boarded-up windows. But the Mexicans will have full-time security.

"I would imagine the neighborhood is pretty sympathetic to what they've been through," resident John Koenig said. "They will be welcome here."

Their move also came a month to the day since the last of 18 other Mexicans was sentenced for the scheme in which the deaf illegal immigrants were held prisoner and forced to peddle key-chains and other trinkets on New York subways and streets.

Operating in New York and other cities since 1993, the setup was earning \$1 million a year, authori-

ties said. It ended when four captives fled a house before dawn on July 19, 1997, and notified police.

*-Charleston Gazette*



## 25th Wedding Anniversary

A lovely surprise, 25th wedding anniversary dinner was given for Lois (Uhl) and Worthy Devericks of Clarksburg, WV by Clarksburg Mountain State of the Deaf at West Milford Municipal Building in West Milford, WV on July 11, 1998. The delicious dinner was hosted by Norma Browning, Florence Johnson, Dennis Browning, Fae Fuller, Nancy Harless, James Stover, and Robert Stewart. The big crowd enjoyed the dinner and fun greatly.

Congratulation!

## 40th Wedding Anniversary



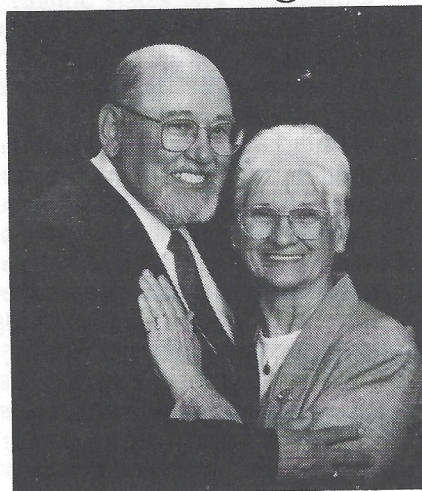
When you start reading this issue of the WVAD Newsletter, Harold and Billie Jean (Dingess) Hamlin of Auburn, GA will have celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on September 14. They are parents of one daughter, Connie Christian. Connie and her husband, James, have three daughters; Candice, 13; Clarissa, almost 8; and Cailyn, 6.

The granddaughters must have made Harold and Billie Jean feel young and able to run more than they should at their ages because they have babysat the little girls for 13 years. They have been their big pride.

Harold graduated from WVSD in 1957, while Billie Jean left the school at the same time.

Congratulations to the Hamlins for their staying married for 40 years.

## 50th Wedding Anniversary



A surprised party was held at the Winchester Park in Winchester, Virginia on June 20 to celebrate the

Golden wedding anniversary of Donald and Wanda (Hensley) McGee of Augusta, WV.

The event was hosted by their 4 children, Johnny and his wife, Barbara of St. Louis, MO; Carolyn and her husband, Craig Payne of Culpepper, VA; Donna and her husband, Robert Keene of Hagerstown, MD; and Mike of Frederick, MD. Donald and Wanda have 6 grandchildren and a great grandson.

Donald and Wanda were surprised at the party and there were 90 guests (mostly deaf) at the celebration. May you have many more years of happy wedded bliss. Congratulation!

## Wedding



Robert L. James of Martinsburg, WV, and Judith Crichton of Lewisburg, WV were married on April 18, 1998 at the Crichton residence. A reception followed at the same site. About 70 guests witnessed the exchange of the wedding vows.

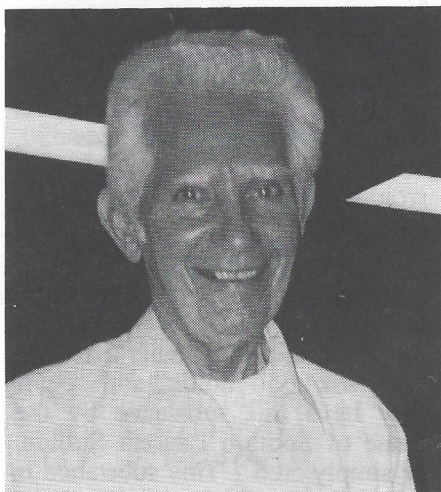
Mrs. James, a native of Johnstown, PA, was educated at Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, Mass., and Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, MO. She is currently an in-home missionary to the deaf and hard of hearing in America, and a prospective missionary to the deaf in one or two of the Caribbean Islands.

Mr. James is a 1970 graduate of Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, attended George Washington University, Shepherd College, and John Hopkins Medical Institution, and is a laboratory employee of City Hospital, Inc. in Martinsburg. He is also a free lance hard-of-hearing preacher, and a prospective missionary to the deaf in one or two of the Caribbean Islands.

The couple travel back and forth between their two homes in Lewisburg and Martinsburg for now.

Congratulations!

## Retirement Party



Rev. Clifford Bruffey was recently honored at a retirement brunch at First Baptist Church Alexandria, Virginia. 200 people attended. Clifford and his wife have moved to Nashville, Tennessee to live near a daughter, her husband, and baby. He will still preach some there.

The Czernicki attended the party.

## State school board meets with educational leaders

The West Virginia Board of Education met on June 12, 1998 on the campus of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

Jane K. McBride, superintendent, welcomed the board to the campus.

Prior to their business meeting, the board chaired by Sheila M. Hamilton, president, enjoyed a presentation about the 127-year old school.

A multimedia black and white photo video, with a background of live hammer and dulcimer music, highlighted the school's philosophy of being "more than a school." The *Mountaineer Melodies*, a group of elementary age deaf and blind students from WVSD, sang and signed the special song "I am

a Promise." Displays of other programs from the Schools for the Deaf and the Blind were available in halls and auditoriums for the board's review.

The Hampshire County School system, represented by Paula O'Brien, also made presentations to the state board.

In addition to Hamilton of Shepherdstown, board members in attendance were Mr. James J. MacCallum, Madison; Ms. Sandra M. Chapman, Wheeling; Mrs. Cleo P. Matthews, Hinton; Mr. Paul J. Morris, Dunbar; Mr. Jim McKnight, St. Marys; Mr. Michael D. Greer, Bridgeport; Mr. J.D. Morris, Clay; Mr. Charles W. Manning, Chancellor; Dr. Henry R. Marockie, State Superintendent of Schools, and various members of the West Virginia Department of Education.

On June 12 board president Hamilton, State Superintendent Dr. Henry Marockie, and board member Paul Morris were honored guests at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind's graduation. The three guests, along with Superintendent McBride, presented various scholarships and awards to the graduates.

WVSD staff, faculty and administration all said they were honored to host the state school board, and welcomed the opportunity to showcase for the board the excellent educational opportunities available there for the hearing and visually impaired students of West Virginia.

*-Hampshire Review*



## Job Program Offers Extra Income for Seniors

A work experience and training program designed for seniors needing extra income and, perhaps little known among deaf seniors, is the AARP's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

The program is conducted nationwide and provides work experience for people aged 55 or older whose incomes fall at or below the federal poverty line.

Eligible applicants are placed in non-profit or public service community agencies, like parks or health centers, where they receive on the job training for 20 hours each week. They are paid at least a minimum wage. During their temporary employment, clients work with the director of the local project to locate permanent employment either on a part-time or full-time basis. Typically, SCSEP clients work on jobs such as grounds keepers, food service workers, bookkeepers, custodians drivers, security guards, or data entry clerks.

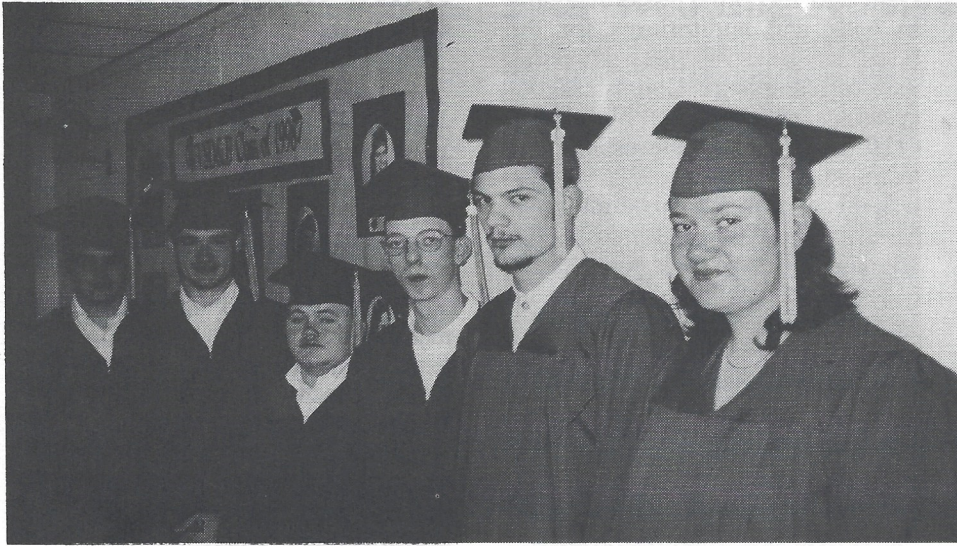
The program is funded by the Department of Labor under the authority of the Older Americans Act of 1963. With office sites in 33 states and Puerto Rico, the program serves 8,000 low income seniors annually. Deaf Seniors wishing to participate in or learn more about the senior Community Service Employment Program should contact one of the regional offices listed below. The regional offices will then direct applicants to the nearest local office.

**NORTHEAST REGION**  
(CT, DE, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT)

One Boston Place, #1900  
Boston, MA 02100  
Phone: 617-723-7600  
Fax: 617-305-0443  
TTY: 617-305-0404

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## Schools for Deaf, Blind hold graduation



The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind held joint commencement exercises June 12, 1998 indoors at the School for the Deaf.

The graduating class of the School for the Deaf consisted of Tammy Mae Ennis, valedictorian, Stephen Gerald Daniels, Jr., salutatorian, Joshua Paul Hamilton, Christopher Lee Remsburg, Edward Joseph Quinn and Lynn Stamper.

The graduating class of the School for the Blind was Jessica Lynn Gallion, valedictorian, Melissa Ann Galraith, salutatorian, Christi Ann Eaton and Miriam Roseanna Miller.

Superintendent Jane McBride presided over the ceremony, and the president and other members of the state Board of Education were present.

School for the Blind, valedictorian Gallion won one of two Robert C. Byrd Scholastic Awards, The Fraternal Order of Eagles Scholarship the Carl D. Stickley Scholarship, one of two United Auto Workers Academic Scholarships and the National Service Scholarship.

School for the Deaf valedictorian Ennis won the other Byrd Scholastic Award, one of two West

Virginia Association of the Deaf Awards, the other UAW Scholarship and the Joe James Memorial Award.

The Deaf School's salutatorian Daniels won the other West Virginia Association of the Deaf Award and the WV Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Award.

Gallion, salutatorian Galraith, the School for the Blind concert band and the school chorus performed musical numbers throughout the ceremony.

## Graduated from Gallaudet University

Paul See of Moorefield, a graduate of WVSD class of 1993, graduated from Gallaudet University on May 15 1998. He received a degree of Bachelor of Science degree and majored in Biology.

He enrolled at Gallaudet University in the fall of 1993. Aside from the studies, he played four years of football.

Also, he wants to thank Nancy Haught, his Vocational Rehabilitation counselor for helping him with financial support through the college years.

Especially, he wishes thank his parents for all of their love and support which has played a big role in his survival through the years in college.

He recently got married to his college sweetheart on June 20, 1998. His future career plan, is would like to work in biology laboratory.

## Cancer Warning

Check the ingredients listed on your shampoo bottle, and see if they have this substance by the name of Sodium Laureth Sulfate, or simply SLS. This substance is found in most shampoos, and the manufactures use it because it produces a lot of foam and it is cheap.

BUT the fact is that SLS is used to scrub garage floors, and it is very strong. It is also proven that it can cause cancer in the long run. I went home and checked my shampoo (Vidal Sassoon), it doesn't contain it; however, others such as Vo5, Palmolive, Paul Mitchell, the new Hemp shampoo, etc., contains this substance.

So, I called one company, and I told them their product contains a substance that will cause people to have cancer. They said, "Yeah, we know about it but there is nothing we can do because we need that substance to produce foam.

By the way, Colgate toothpaste also contains the same substance to produce the "bubbles." They said they are going to send me some information. Research has shown that in the 1980's, the chance of getting cancer is 1 out of 8000 and now, in the 1990's, the chances of getting cancer is 1 out of 3, which is very serious.

So, I hope that you will take this seriously and pass this on to all the people you know, and hopefully, we can stop giving ourselves the cancer virus.

Check your bottles and toothpaste.

*-The Deaf Coloradan*

Continued from page 5

**SOUTHEAST REGION**

(AL, DC, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NC, PR, SC, TN, VA, VI, WV)  
999 Peachtree Street, NE, #1650  
Atlanta GA 30309  
Phone: 404-888-0077  
Fax: 404-888-0902  
TTY: 404-888-7742

**MIDWEST REGION**

(IA, IL, MI, MN, ND, NE, OH, SD, WI)  
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Phone: 773-714-9000  
Fax: 773-714-9927  
TTY: 773-714-9993

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Fax: 214-265-4061  
TTY: 214-265-4062

**WEST REGION**

(AK, CA, GU, HI, ID, MT, NV, OR, WA, WY)  
9750 Third Ave. NE, #400  
Seattle, WA 98115  
Phone: 208-526-7918  
Fax: 206-523-8138  
TTY: 206-517-9344

*-From New Horizons*

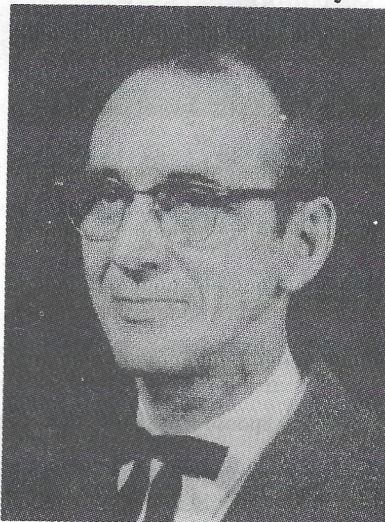


**Death**

Mrs. Delores Smith of Kingsland, GA sent the WVAD a check of one thousand dollars, and explained in her letter that her husband, William Smith, who graduated in 1931, had been a long time supporter of WVAD, and passed away last November 30, 1997, wished to make the donation to WVAD in his name. The donation was deeply appreciated. Thank you, Mrs. Smith for sending the money.

**Obituary**

**Edward Lawson Strieby**



Edward Lawson Strieby, 88, a longtime resident of Delavan, Wisconsin, died Wednesday, October 19, 1997 at Willowfield Nursing Home, Delavan, where he was cared for during his last month of life.

He resided at 237 Boyle Circle in a home he and his wife, Dorothy, had built in 1957. He was married to Dorothy Rhodes Strieby for 46 years prior to her death in 1991.

He and his wife were teachers for the deaf and met in 1940 when Mrs. Strieby took her first teaching job at the West Virginia School for the Deaf, Romney. Romney was Mr. Strieby's hometown.

He was born September 23, 1909 in Spring Gap, WV a son of the late Harry E. and Lucy Dayton Strieby.

He joined the Navy in June, 1941 and was discharged after World War II in 1945 as a chief petty officer. He served in Washington, DC, Treasure Island, Calif., and the South Pacific, notably in New Caledonia Theater of Operations. He returned to civilian life as a vocational teacher and taught in San Francisco, Arkansas, Louisiana and Wisconsin schools for the deaf. He returned in 1974.

He was a member of the Delavan United Methodist Church, the American Legion Post #95, the Delavanian Masonic Lodge and the Shriners.

He was preceded in death by two infant children; a godchild, Eric Graff; three sisters, Carrie S. Munson, Great Cacapon; Alta S. Frye, Westernport, MD; and Viola S. Largent-Snyder, Great Cacapon and Paw Paw.

He is survived by a few nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held for both Mr. and Mrs. Strieby at graveside at Levels, Friday, July 24, at 11 a.m. where their remains will be interred.

The McKee Funeral Home, Augusta, was in charge of the arrangements.

*-Hampshire Review,  
July 22, 1998*

**A New AT&T  
Outreach Manager**

Mitchell Levy is a new account manager for West Virginia Relay Service.

If you would like to talk with Mitchell about West Virginia Relay Service. Here is the following address and telephone:

AT&T  
745 Rt. 202/206  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
(908) 231-6232 (TTY)  
(908) 231-6073 (Voice)  
(908) 231-6193 (FAX)  
Email: levym@att.com



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Norma Czernicki

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\_\_\_ \$5.00 for 2 years students (age 12-18)

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Please check below about yourself/spouse.

I am \_\_\_ deaf OR \_\_\_ hearing. My spouse is \_\_\_ deaf OR \_\_\_ hearing.

\_\_\_ I attended WVSD OR \_\_\_ other school. When graduated? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ My spouse attended WVSD OR \_\_\_ other school. When graduated? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Voice or TDD)

Make check or money order payable to **WVAD**. Thank you for your support!

Mail to: WV Association of the Deaf  
John Burdette  
Rt. 1, Box 12-G  
Ronceverte, WV 24970

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**Announcement From Editor**

Issue for Date.....	Oct.-Dec.
Editor's Deadline.....	Oct. 31
Date You Receive Your Copy.....	Dec.

The WVAD Newsletter is a publication of the West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc., published four times a year. Free subscription with paid membership dues.

All advertisements must be paid for in advance. The WVAD Newsletter reserves the right to reject any advertising. Deadline for advertisements is the same as for editorial copy. Make checks payable to the WVAD. Send ads with payment and any news to Veronda Harrison, 5 Cordoba Drive, Hurricane, WV 25526.

**West Virginia Association of the Deaf, Inc.**

Veronda Harrison, Editor  
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