



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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On to St. Louis in 1997

A CONVENTION TO REMEMBER

The 13th biennial ILDA convention ended Sunday, July 2 with nearly 500 convention worshippers lining up for communion served by eight pastors from all around the United States. It ended several years of elaborate planning for a celebration to memorialize the first 100 years of deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and a quarter century since the International Lutheran Deaf Association was formed in the same locale way back in 1971. The founders whose vision gave birth to the association would have been mightily pleased to see what their labors had wrought and how much our Lord has blessed those efforts.

The best news of the convention was the announcement that the \$23,000 goal for mission projects set at the previous convention in Austin, Texas in 1993 had been exceeded by \$2,844.04, thus surpassing all expectations. The convention approved a new high for missions projects of \$31,000 that will

continue a trend set several years ago to increase giving to support missions. The largest project in the new goal for 1995-1997 will be \$20,000 to purchase a tract of land in India for a new school. Other projects receiving substantial support were the Lutheran Church--Ghana, \$3,000 and the Zacharias Fund for scholarships for the students aspiring to the pastoral and teaching ministries in deaf work, \$3,000. New applicants will receive \$750, increased from the previous level of \$500. An amendment that would have raised this amount to \$1,000 failed to pass.

In order to comply with Roberts Rules of Order as mandated in the ILDA Constitution and By-Laws, important changes were made in the Association's election process. Beginning immediately with this convention, presidents shall serve one term of two years. The president-elect will then move up to the office of president and also serve one term of two years. The same would hold true of all executive, committee positions. This would not, however, deter an officer from running for some other office he/she had not previously held. The change will, hopefully, encourage more qualified individuals to seek office and enhance growth of membership.

The establishment of a committee on Necrology was passed after a motion to do so was carried. Future conventions will record members who have departed and their names will be read during assembly.

One of the Association's most loyal and hard working members decided it was time to retire from his labors as official ILDA historian and have someone younger to succeed him. After 12 years of doing some outstanding



TAKING OVER THE HELM--Larry M. Gorton, Spokane, Wash., (right) accepts the gavel from outgoing president Ronald L. Madding, Portland, Ore. The new president will serve one term.

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work and research, Mr. Donald S. Mowl and his wife, Mary were honored Saturday evening with an appropriate plaque and bouquet of red roses. The convention gave the couple a standing ovation which was slightly more than Mary Mowl could handle emotionally and complete her words of thanks. A letter from the couple will be found in the pages of this issue.

Mrs. Mae Madding, wife of outgoing President Ron Madding, was chosen to succeed Don Mowl and will be the new historian. Mae comes well qualified for her work, long having an interest in genealogy as a hobby.

Another change voted and passed at this convention will allow either the president or president-elect to travel to Regional ILDA Conferences at association expense. Two thousand dollars will be set aside for these expenditures and should result in closer ties between the regions and the parent organization.

The Hyatt Regency-Woodfield, headquarters for this convention, was entirely sold out and some late registrants found it necessary to stay at other nearby hotels, inasmuch as the Hyatt was hosting at least one additional meeting. Also sold out was the much publicized tour of Chicago and the cruise on Lake Michigan. The comments heard about the on board cuisine were "out of this world" and a visit to the first Evangelical Lutheran Church in downtown Chicago where the first service for the deaf was held 100 years ago was very interesting. Despite the heat, most visitors disembarked from their buses to visit the historic church, which was founded in 1871.

The banquet on Saturday evening was also sold out and the hotel management did their best to accommodate as many additional persons as possible, finally cutting off the total at 359, which was beyond their usual stated capacity.

ELECTION RESULTS

President-elect Larry M. Gorton, Spokane,

NOTICE

This issue will be last for subscribers who did not pay for several years.

Wash. will succeed outgoing President Ronald L. Madding, who completed two terms in office. It is interesting to note that Spokane has, over the years, given the ILDA two (2) presidents, one (1) business manager for THE DEAF LUTHERAN, two (2) Right Hand Award recipients and hosted one (1) National ILDA convention.

Chosen as president-elect was Dennis R. Konkel, who just finished a two-term stint as treasurer. Mr. Konkel comes from Gaithersburg, Md. which is in suburban Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Susan are members of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Silver Spring, Md.

Another member of Christ Lutheran, Alice L. Hagemeyer, was elected secretary of the Association. Better known as a very competent librarian, she has long been involved in the Eastern Region and in her home church.

The work of the treasurer of the ILDA has become more complicated over the years, requiring computer and bookkeeping expertise, making the choice for treasurer much more difficult. Two persons on the ballot were nominated, but one was not present to accept the nomination and the second made a last minute request to be dropped from balloting. With something approaching a crisis on hand, a motion was made and passed to suspend the constitutional rules, and invite former treasurer Russel L. Healey of Olive Branch, Ill. to run. He was originally on the ballot but, the new rules adopted to conform with Roberts Rules of Order tended to exclude him. Mr. Healey will serve until the 1997 convention.

Three well known pastors were in the competition for adviser to the board. From the west coast was Rev. Donald Leber; from the Midwest, John P. Reinke and from the eastern area, Rev. George Natonick. All three pastors were excellent choices, but the honor went to Rev. Don Leber.

AWARDS

The Association's prestigious "Right Hand Award" was conferred on Mr. John Riddlebaugh of Westerville, Ohio, who was not present at the convention.

First place in banner competition went to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, West Allis, Wis. (Milwaukee). Second and third places went to Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa

Please see ON TO ST. LOUIS IN 1997: Page 3

"MESSAGE FROM MY HEART"

On Saturday night, July 1 during the banquet at the ILDA convention, I was surprised when my husband, Don and I were called to the floor. Don received a plaque that was presented by President Ron Madding in appre-

ciation of his untiring and devoted service as historian. I was shocked and speechless when I received the lovely bouquet of roses. I cried and panicked and was unable to say the words that would personally describe how much Don really deserved the honor.

Don had been working hard the past 12 years, researching important happenings from **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** and other periodicals. He often spent many sleepless nights, working and looking for articles to type and put in the computer. Many nights I would go to bed without him and wake up in the middle of the night to urge him to stop and come to bed. I felt bad that I failed to speak up about his work, but Don said not to worry and mentioned the words of the late Uriel C. Jones who said, "he did not want praise, he wanted to show his love." So deep in my heart, I know Don doesn't want praise, either, but to only show his love, too. Hopefully, he will get the crown and praise in heaven when the Lord calls him home. This message was from my heart while standing on the floor. Our love will always be with the ILDA and you all. I love you all. Thank you!

--Mary E. Mowl



ILDA HISTORIAN RETIREES--Pictured are Don and Mary Mowl accepting plaque in recognition for his outstanding contribution to historical archives of the association over 12 years. Mary is just regaining her composure following surprise presentation. ILDA president Ron Madding is at left.

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and Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas, respectively.

In choir competition, Ephphatha Lutheran of South Chicago captured two firsts, both in deaf and hearing led singing. Other runner up were Christ Lutheran of Cleveland, Ohio and Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church of Houston, Texas.

Former host cities that had held conventions of the ILDA the past 25 years were recognized at this convention with appropriately engraved plaques. Representatives from these cities came forward to claim their awards.

In skit competition, first place went to Holy Cross of Columbus, Ohio and second place to Christ Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio.

Banquet speaker at the convention was Rev. Bill Ludwig, Seattle, Wash., who filled in many of the details of the early years of the ILDA and of the events that led up to its formal organization. Those were the early years of Pastor Ludwig's ministry and he was serving in the Great Lakes region at the time, and more particularly, in Ohio and had

some involvement, starting in 1969.

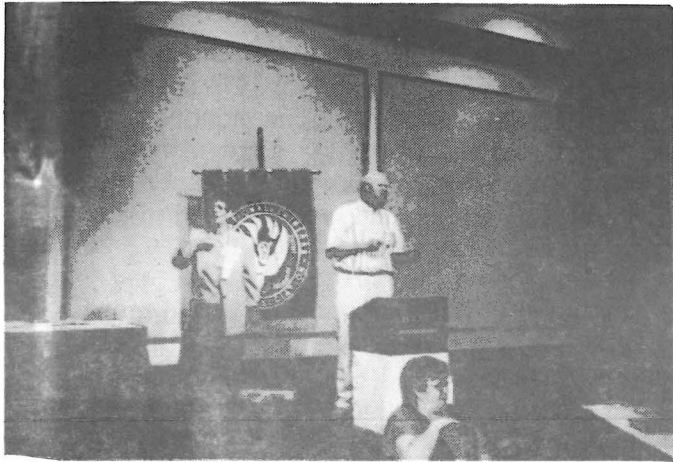
LOOKING AHEAD . . .

St. Louis, which will host the 1997 convention has barely two years to plan and raise funds to float the next gathering of the ILDA. Mr. Irwin Bowlby, president of the Central Region, announced that his region would donate \$500 to the St. Louis convention fund. The convention also approved a loan of \$2,500 to their local committee, realized, too, that time was so short. Mr. Archie Marshall commented, "that it takes money to make money" and was very appreciative of the convention's support and promised repayment at the conclusion of the next convention.

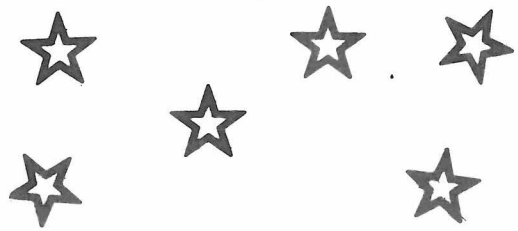
A motion was made and passed to approve having the 1999 convention in Cleveland, Ohio.

Another motion carried by the convention allows for convention sites to be chosen six years ahead to allow hosts greater time to plan and begin fund raising. Charlotte, N.C. made a bid to host the 2001 meeting. A formal letter is expected by the Board of Directors making it official.

THE CONVENTION



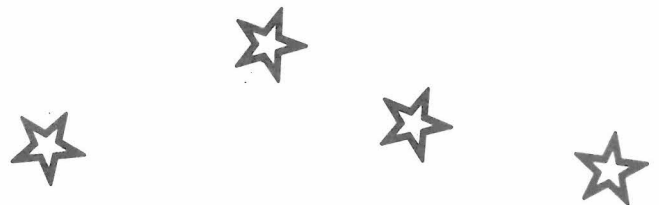
ADDRESSING THE CONVENTION--Roger DeMeyere, superintendent of Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Detroit (formerly Lutheran School for the Deaf) makes a brief talk.



FORMER HOST CITIES RECOGNIZED--Shown are 13 representatives from 13 cities which have hosted ILDA conventions the past quarter century.



REV. PRENTICE MARSH, pastor of Ephphatha Lutheran Church, Chicago, poses with two members of his choir. Ephphatha captured two firsts in choir competition.



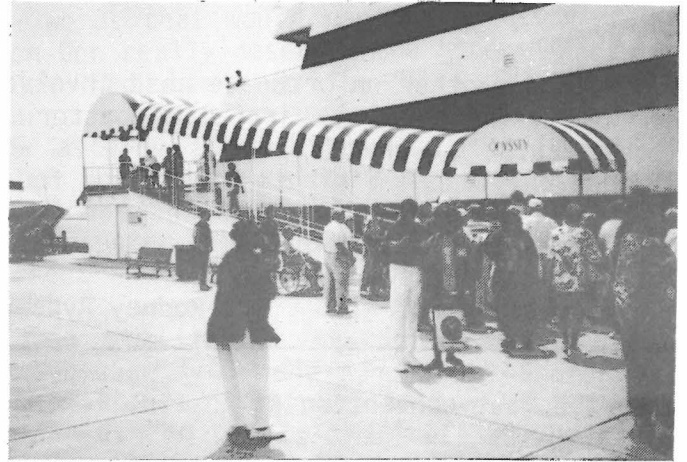
PRESIDENTS, PAST AND PRESENT--Pictured at the left is Marion J. Van Manen, Des Moines postal worker, who was the first president of the ILDA. Shaking his hand is outgoing president Ron Madding, Portland, Ore., who is also a postal worker.



N IN PICTURES



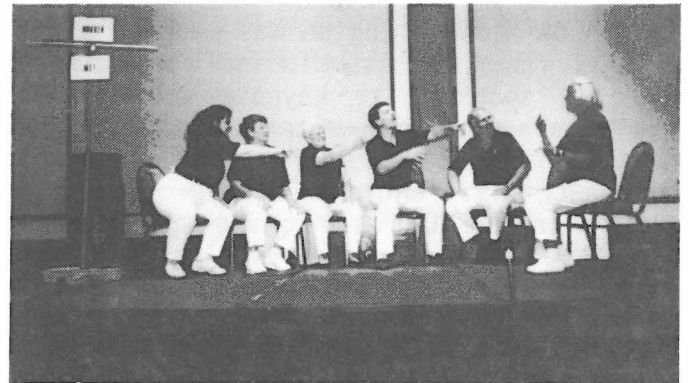
BREAKFAST UNDER THE BIG TOP--Members enjoy free complimentary breakfast under a large tent just outside convention headquarters. The same tent was also used for some meetings and devotions.



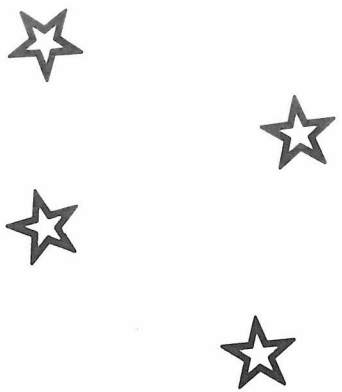
WAITING TO BOARD ODYSSEY--ILDA members line up to present passes in preparation for two-hour cruise on Lake Michigan. The cuisine was simply marvelous!



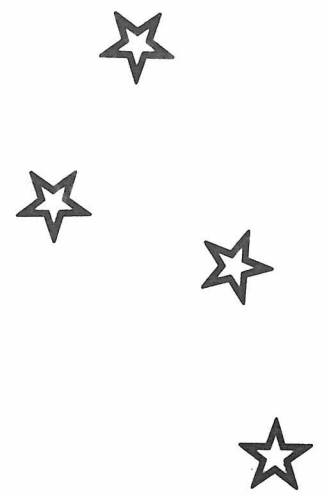
GOOD FRIENDS AT FESTIVE BOARD--Shown clockwise, Ralph and Maxine Rose, Rockford, Ill; Annette and Bill Binn, Madison, Wis. and Lois and Richard Nelson, Rockford. Lady in foreground is not identified.



SKIT COMPETITION--This group, from Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio, goes through their routine during intense competition.



ONLY PART of the large crowd of convention goers can be seen in this picture taken during one of the many devotion services.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION . . .

At least two people we know about had luggage problems at the recent ILDA convention . . . **Inger Ammon** of Brooklyn, N.Y. got the wrong suitcase filled with baby boy's clothes. . . .

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. . . and another unfortunate case involved **Rev. Brian Smith**, newly installed pastor at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Los Angeles who was gone only a brief minute or two and found a suitcase gone. We hope all these mix-ups got straightened out.

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On a positive note . . . **Dr. Rodney Rynearson** told convention goers that more people have joined the church than have passed away since the last convention at Austin, Texas.

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Larry Gorton, who was just elevated to the presidency of the ILDA, began his first duty at the convention by leading a seminar on leadership training lasting 90 minutes. It was well attended.

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The ILDA Midwest Region was awarded a grant of \$750 from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) to sponsor its keynote speaker, **Rev. Dan Kunkel** who was a missionary to the deaf in Ghana for 22 years. The Conference voted to donate its entire Sunday offering of \$412.00 to the Lutheran Church in Ghana and also moved and passed a resolution to purchase \$500.00 in Bibles and materials for the work there.

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People might not know that there is an organization in **Henderson, Colo.** that trains dogs for use by deaf people, similar to dogs trained to assist the blind. Since 1979, it has trained and placed more than 640 dogs in 42 states and Canada.

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Rev. Mike MacDonald, who serves the deaf in Charlotte, N.C., returned to Iowa briefly after the convention to perform a wedding in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, July 8 and attend a reunion and picnic with his former members at the Lester Ahls home before returning to North Carolina.

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In spite of the not-so-new ADA regulations passed sometime ago, it often takes time to institute change for the better. Three complaints filed with the **Department of Justice** in Chicago finally resulted in 911 service for deaf TTY users, but only after one caller

had a close call with death, and another was assaulted and the city did not respond. ADA regulations prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities. Under a settlement reached with the city, it will insure that its services to TTY users will be as good as those with normal hearing.

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The members of **Chapel for the Deaf**, Charlotte, N.C. will be holding a Fall Retreat in the mountains near Asheville on the dates of Sept. 15-17. All are welcome and persons interested in attending should register with Pastor Mike MacDonald, 1225 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, N.C. by Sept. 1.

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We are sure that many deaf people must be asking if any of their friends were killed in the April 19 bombing of the **Alfred Murrah Federal Office Building** in Oklahoma City. As far as we know, no one who is deaf were among the victims. But we do know that at least four Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod members from around Oklahoma City were killed in the blast and three were injured. One lady, who escaped the disaster because she was late for work, had been on time Monday and Tuesday. Her best friend, who worked in the same department she did, was among those who died.

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We ask your prayers for **Ms. Rhoda Rynearson**, who underwent major cancer surgery recently. She is the wife of **Dr. Rodney Rynearson**, who also had minor surgery recently. Rhoda needs to have chemo for at least a year. Both attended the recent ILDA convention in Chicago as well as the Midwest Conference in Emporia, Kan. and were looking good despite their experiences.

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Layworker Richard E. French, of Seattle, had minor heart surgery June 20 to reopen blocked arteries. This undoubtedly explain his absence in Chicago during the convention.

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Rev. Jerold Munz, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Indianapolis, will offer the opening devotion at the Synodical Convention in St. Louis on July 15. This is in commemoration of the Centennial of Deaf Ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

Marriage is either holy wedlock or unholy deadlock.

MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE MEETS AT EMPORIA, KAN. JUNE 23-25

It was wet, cool weather in many areas of the Midwest with drenching downpours June 23-25 as the Midwest Conference of the ILDA met for its annual convention. A total of 47 were registered for the three day meeting, which occurred a week before the national ILDA convention in Chicago.

Central to the conference was an exceptionally well prepared and interesting workshop by Rev. Dan Kunkel, a former missionary who went to Ghana in west Africa in 1973 and just returned after 22 years of work there. Pastor Kunkel gave a lecture on the work there with a slide presentation. An AAL grant of \$750 made his appearance possible, for which the

conference proffered its thanks and appreciation.

In the business sessions presided over by President Ken Derby, the conference approved an expenditure of \$500 for the purchase of Bibles and teaching materials for the Lutheran Church work among the deaf in Ghana and also approved a resolution to donate the Sunday morning offering of \$412.00 to that country, too.

The 1996 conference will meet in Sioux Falls, S.D., and in 1997 at Mahoney State Park, about 25 miles west of Omaha. If at all possible, a 1998 meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

NORMAN L. DAVIS DIES

A life-long California resident, Norman L. Davis, 77, of Lodi, was called from this life by our Lord on June 6 and mercifully releasing him from suffering and a variety of health problems.



Mr. Davis was a devoted student of the late Dr. George Gaertner and dedicated his life to the service of our Lord and His church. He contributed articles frequently to the CHN (Calif., Hawaii, Nevada) Lutheran. He had many varied interests besides his church work and these included the deaf community, scientific and geology and astronomy pursuits.

He was united in marriage to Loretta E. Schmidt on June 3, 1944. After residing in the Bay area about 25 years, they purchased a home in the Lodi area in the early 70's. Mr. Davis worked for the Lawrence Berkeley

Laboratory as a machinist and was officially recognized by former President Harry S. Truman for his work in development of the atomic bomb. He retired on Aug. 1, 1973.

A memorial service was held on June 9 before a standing room crowd of friends and relatives at Cherokee Memorial Park in Lodi and he was laid to rest next to his wife and mother.

Blessed are they who die in the Lord.

NEW PASTORS IN DEAF MINISTRY

Three new vicars from our seminaries will be entering the Holy Ministry this summer, which is very encouraging news.

In Great Falls, Mont. will be Vicar Henry Drummond. In Pittsburgh, Pa., Vicar Mark Rupert will fill the vacancy left by Rev. Ed Bergstresser who accepted a call to Columbus, Ohio. And Robert Wurst will take up work in Evansville, Ind.

Rev. Brian Smith, a new graduate from the seminary in St. Louis, will be installed at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, on July 30.

Another recent graduate, Vicar Roger Altenberger of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, will be ordained into the Holy Ministry on Sunday, Aug. 13. He will serve the East Iowa District as missionary-at-large.



THE ALBERT ARNESONS OBSERVE 50TH

Albert and Ramona Arneson of Milwaukee celebrated the 50th chapter of their marriage which occurred near the end of World War II on May 27 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in West Allis, Wis. The couple repeated vows before Pastor Bud Palmer and approximately 90 invited guests. Both are long time members of the ILDA and are active in their congregation in Milwaukee.



Albert and Ramona Arneson
50th Wedding Anniversary

REGARDING MISSION PROJECTS

With the 1995 ILDA convention fading into history and new mission projects scheduled reaching a new level of \$31,000, it has been suggested that THE DEAF LUTHERAN publish letters from the recipients of this new program for the benefit of its readers. It is also our belief that an informed membership will be more responsive to the needs of the many foreign missions which rely on this support for their work.

While the articles outlining how the funds are used are not absolutely required as to maintain continuing support, it is believed that this information will be beneficial to both the recipients and members of the ILDA.

It is suggested, therefore, that letters be sent to the editor for publication and that beneficiaries of the program be encouraged to do so.



NEW MEMBERS AT HOLY CROSS, DELAVAN, WIS.--Shown are 12 of the 15 new members of the congregation with Rev. Steven Schlund in the far upper left hand corner. To the far right is Vaughn Hallada, dean of students at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf and his family.

1995-1997 MISSION PROJECTS

Zacharias Fund (Scholarships)	\$ 2,000
Ghana Lutheran Deaf Church	3,000
Concordia School, Macau	1,000
Silent Word Media Resources	1,000
Child of Nazareth School	1,000
India Lutheran School for Deaf	1,000
Pax Natura Ranch, Clyde, Alberta	1,000
School for Deaf, Lebanon	1,000
India Lutheran Church (House)	20,000
Total Mission Projects, 1955-1997	\$31,000

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