

Dallas Pilot Institute

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DALLAS PILOT INSTITUTE
FOR THE DEAF, Inc.

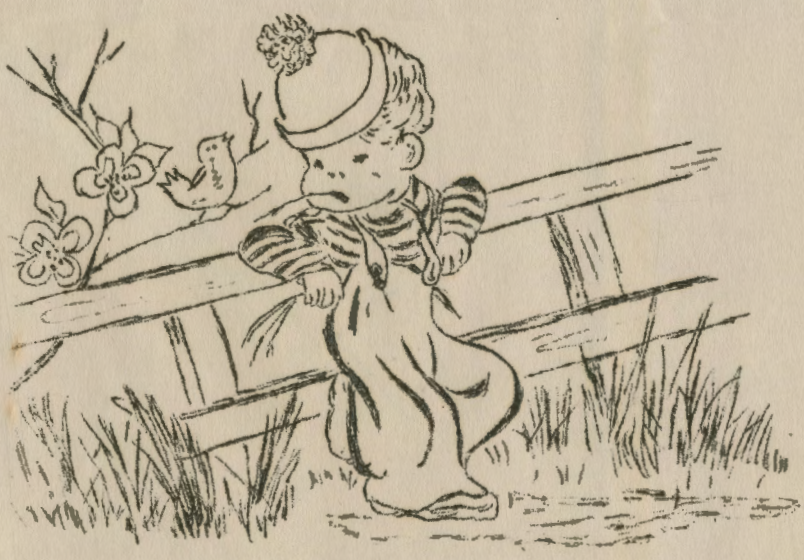
The

PORTHOLE

Vol. 2

October-November, 1948

No. 1



You know, in thinking things over, the thought occurred that it's going to be just about impossible to tell you everything that's happened since the last issue of the Porthole.

Yes, sir, it's really amazing at what can happen in just a few short months. First, there was vacation and everybody getting ready to go away for a while and then there was Camp PI-III right here at our very own school with fourteen of the bigger boys and girls staying for a week. We're acquiring quite a lot of livestock, too. There's our registered cocker spaniel, Blackie Pilot, and Little Pilot, the shetland pony. So far, though, there's been no sheep or cows.

When school started this year, we had forty boys and girls enrolled—from twelve states and just about from all

over Texas. One of the new ones, Sheila Allen, came all the way from Massachusetts. That's not very close to here and they tell us it gets mighty cold there in the winter time.

Doretta Lance is still the "baby"—she's just barely three years old—but Elizabeth Fowler, another new pupil from New Mexico, is the ~~littlest~~ smallest. She has "pig-tails" and big, laughing blue eyes.

We think all the new pupils are going to like our School as much as the older ones, because, to tell you the truth, it was a lot of fun to get back. It's this way: there's so much to see and do that it takes every minute of our time to even try to get around. There's the creek to fish, squirrels in the trees, the bird bath, the playground, flowers, grass, our pets and everything you can think of. When they take us around to see something new, our teachers always slip in a few new words for us to learn to say and lip read. But we don't mind. So we try real hard because they're so nice we wouldn't do anything to hurt their feelings.

How about you coming out to see us this year? Make it a date and we'll show you around.

THE PUPILS

THE PORTHOLE

Official Publication of the
DALLAS PILOT INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF, Inc.
(Sponsored by the Pilot Club of Dallas)

4909 Cedar Springs, Dallas, Texas

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MRS. RUTH FAGAN, Chairman of the Board
Dallas Pilot Institute for the Deaf

MRS. LOLA LEE ENGELHART, President
Pilot Club of Dallas

They're BIG Now

The children in Miss Searight's class this year are Pre-School. Last year as the Nursery group they took naps each afternoon. As Miss Searight entered the room after lunch on the first day of school, she found them stretched out with a toy, ready to sleep. The teacher explained to them that now they were BIG boys and girls and there would be no cots. This recognition pleased them very much, as to be BIG is their present greatest ambition.

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A cordial invitation is extended you to visit the Pilot Institute for the Deaf, 4909 Cedar Springs Road.

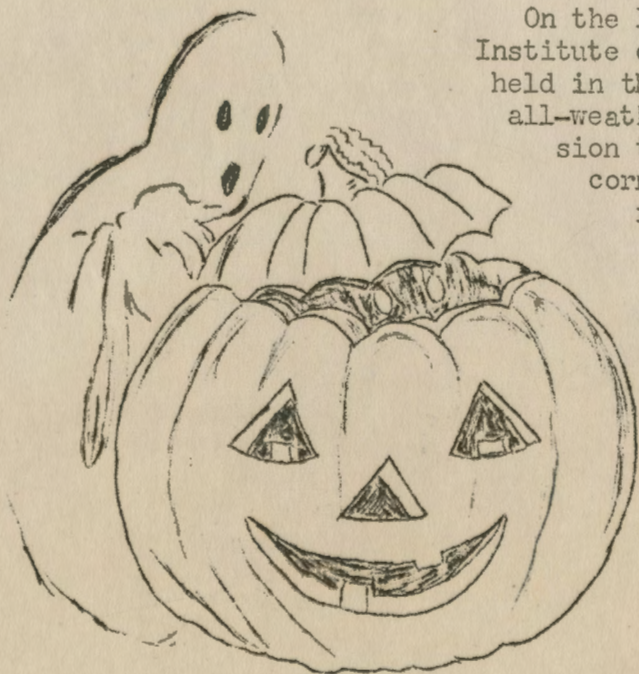
NEW TEACHERS JOIN PILOT INSTITUTE STAFF

The Pilot Institute for the Deaf welcomed two new teachers to its staff at the beginning of the 1948-49 year. They are Mrs. H. B. Le Feaux who teaches the Pre-School group, and Mrs. Betty Tynan who has charge of the Kindergarten children. Both Mrs. LeFeaux and Mrs. Tynan are well experienced in the teaching of deaf children.

ANYTHING
CAN HAPPEN ON

HALLOWEEN

On the last Friday in October, pupils of the Pilot Institute celebrated with a Hallowe'en party. It was held in the garage which had been converted into an all-weather playroom. For a week prior to the occasion the School was decorated with dry stalks of corn, ears of corn, pumpkins, apples, red berries, skeletons and funny faces. New kinds of whistles showed up daily. The lunch menu, posted a week early, contained such items as Witches' Brew, Goblin's Food, Spooks' Delight and Jack o' Lantern Surprise. The children made jack o' lanterns out of real pumpkins whose filling went into pies. During the party, they played such games as bobbing for apples and pinning the tail on the witch's cat. Mrs. Brigance of Goodman's cafeteria sent over some especially decorated cookies which were enjoyed with the refreshments.



PI for Pilot--KI for Kiwanis. That's Camp PI-KI, held for the first time on the School grounds.

Fourteen of the older children attended the camp for a week during July and engaged in all the traditional camping activities. Plans for next summer's encampment program are now being prepared and contain provision for professional supervision of all activities.

Seven of the pupils attended Camp Jack Little at Madill, Oklahoma. This camp is exclusively for deaf and hard of hearing children and is located on the banks of Lake Texoma.

It was the second trip to this camp for all but one of the Pilot pupils who attended, and they still talk of their good times.

Incidentally, they all learned to swim.

REMEMBER RECESS?

Recess is an important period in the school day of a Pilot Institute pupil--and another new word to be learned. There is a recess in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Seen about the grounds during this intermission are:

The older girls, very much grown up these days, sitting in the shade of a tree talking to each other and showing marked annoyance when the "babies" disturb them. . . .

The ever-popular wagons being pulled by two, pushed by more, with perhaps one child and the puppy riding. . . .

The swings flying high. . . the seesaw in fast operation. . . a toad discovered on the other side of the fence by the creek and the kiddies lined up exclaiming in glee. . . .

Mr. Lemons playing basket ball with the older children. . . .

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

The first Friday after school began, a big birthday cake was presented to those children having birthdays during vacation, the honorees being Jim Chism, Frances Nall, Terry Turner, Deanna Cunningham, Herschel Young and Sherry Lemons.

Each month a cake is to be baked for children having birthdays that month. It will be decorated with candles and the honorees are to sit at a special table.

Miss Searight has made small paste board "cakes" out of ice cream cartons, decorated with colored paper and candles added with pins. These are to serve as place cards for the children celebrating their birthdays. Each one will have the proper number of candles for the one whose place it is marking.

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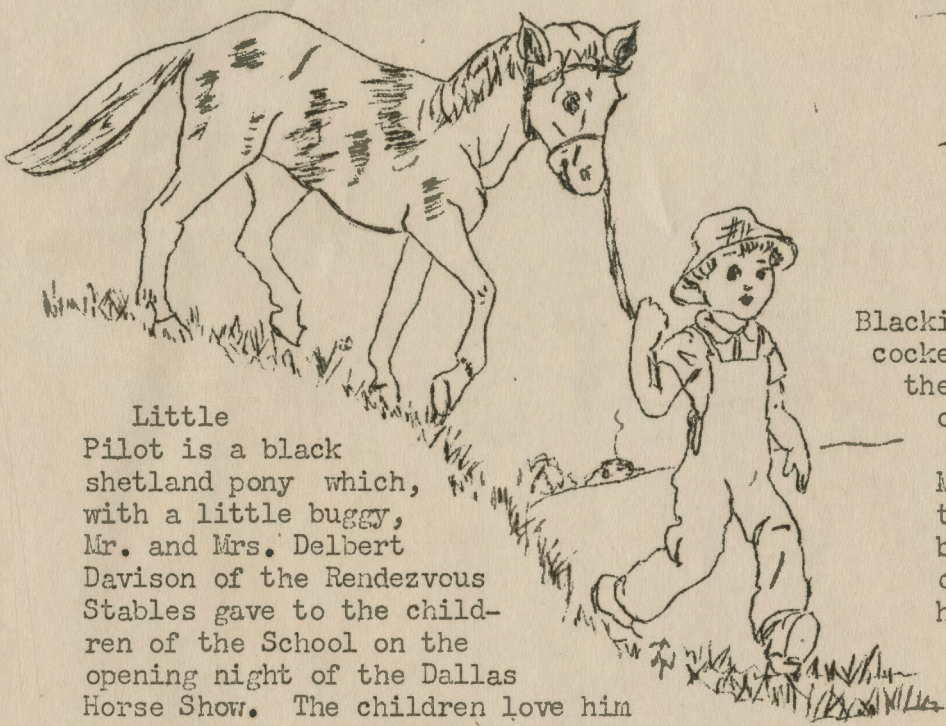
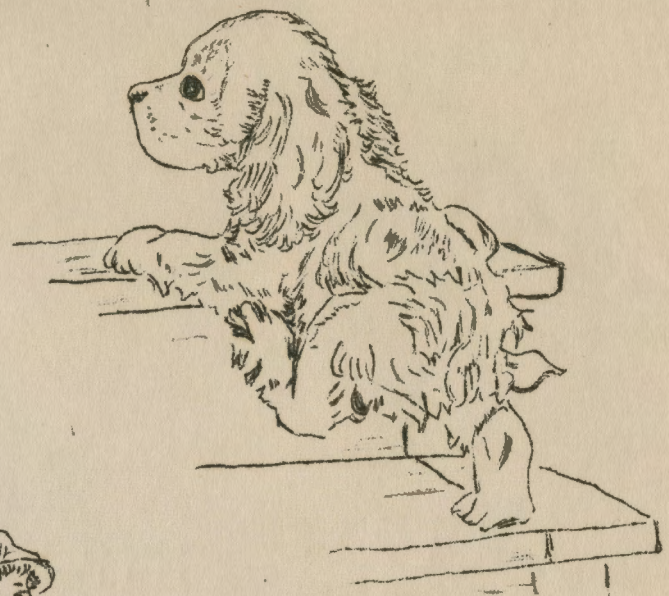
BARBARA PETERSON MAKES BIG SPLASH!

Well, sir, it finally happened. One of the children fell into the fish pond. It was on the very last day of school last June and all the little girls and boys were dressed up for the occasion, when Barbara Peterson lost her footing. Now a wrought iron grille--gift of Mr. Joe E. Vrla in honor of his wife--encloses the pond against future mishaps. As for Barbara--it couldn't have happened to a nicer little girl.



Pilot Pets

Blackie Pilot
and
Little Pilot



Little Pilot is a black shetland pony which, with a little buggy, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Davison of the Rendezvous Stables gave to the children of the School on the opening night of the Dallas Horse Show. The children love him and had great fun taking turns riding in the buggy during the summer. One of their great adventures is a visit from Little Pilot.

Blackie Pilot is a registered cocker spaniel puppy given to the children by Michael Felts, one of our "big boys" who is now ten years old. Miss Orenbaum's father (whom the children call "Bom-Bom") built a house for him and one of the mothers bought him a nice, warm blanket, but Blackie Pilot still thinks he should join the pupils in their studies and slips into the house at every opportunity. He is always caught and ejected, but hope springs eternal in his heart.

"Bom-Bom" Lends A Helping Hand

Building Blackie Pilot's house is only one of the nice things Mr. J. L. Orenbaum has done for the children at the School. He constructed a mail box that looks like a bird house, large enough to hold all the voluminous school mail. "Bom-Bom" also made a tool chest--just like dad's--and in it he put nails, saws, hammers, screw drivers, and even a plane. Another thing he did was paint the doll house and put a new floor in it.

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OUR THANKS TO YOU

The Circle of Czech Women sent a check for \$10 to be used for needed equipment. The money was used to purchase Sunday School supplies.

Mr. L. H. Ridout Jr. of the Ridout Motor Company gave the School six new Fords--toy ones, that is. He also included some dolls for the nursery.

KIWANIAN VISIT PILOT INSTITUTE

The North Dallas Park Cities Kiwanis Club held their regular meeting of October 22 at the Pilot Institute for the Deaf where they were served luncheon under the big tree just below the terrace.

They visited the class rooms and saw demonstrations of various phases of the work.

Enrollment at Pilot Institute Includes Children From Twelve States

Children attending the Pilot Institute this year represent twelve states and Texas cities ranging from the Panhandle to the Gulf and from the New Mexican border to the piney woods of the eastern section. The forty pupils were brought to Dallas for this special schooling from Massachusetts, North Dakota, Michigan, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

In most instances the parents gave up their homes and business interests in order to make this move.

* * *

October is a lovely month,
My sisters and my brothers;
October is a lovely month—
And so are all the others.

—Panzer.

In honor of the occasion, the rhythm band had learned to play the Kiwanis song, and after the band had played it once, the men sang it with the children.

The part of the visit that most appealed to the pupils was when the Kiwanians shed coats and played base ball and basket ball with the kiddies.

These men make up the group which has set up a Trust Fund to be applied on the maintenance cost of the School.

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AGE PROMOTIONS

October:

Judy Allen, Sheila Allen, Ann Farris, Eileen Rogers and Glorietta Sosebee.

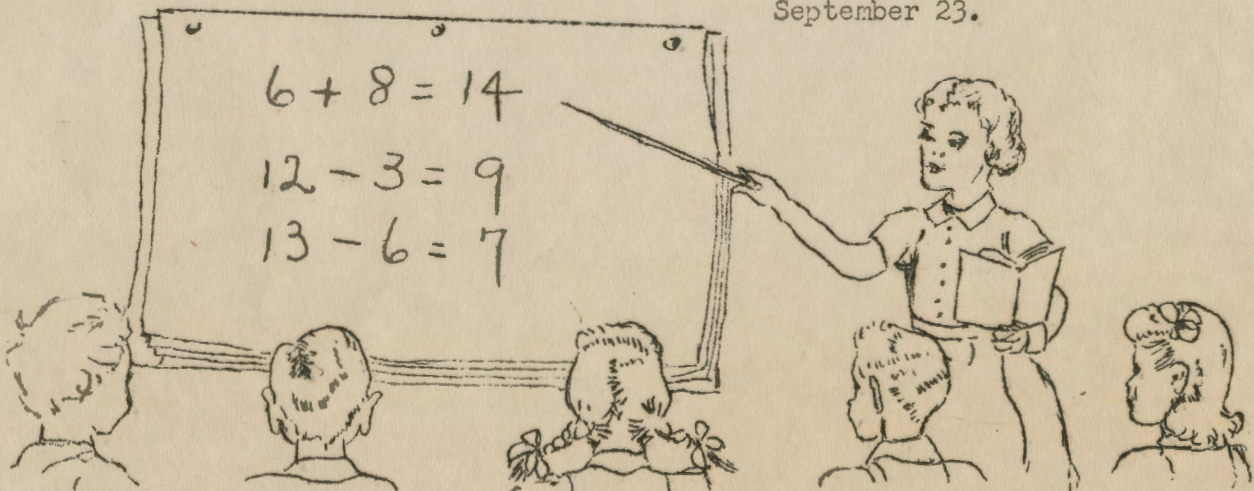
September:

Barbara Miholek, Michael Felts and Mack Fowler.

* * *

The Mothers' Club have their own room on the grounds. During the summer it was redecorated and the members have furnished it.

The group's first activity of the new school year was a covered dish luncheon honoring the new members at the home of Mrs. Charles Lane on September 23.



IN MEMORIAM

The children of the Pilot Institute lost a very dear friend when Mrs. James Oldenkamp, mother of Mrs. Ruth Fagan, passed away in her sleep on July 3.

Mrs. Oldenkamp had done many nice things for the children in addition to the smiles and laughter and love she brought into their lives. No toys are played with more than the little wagons she sent the boys and girls.

Two memorials have been established at the School in deep and sincere appreciation of her kindness and thoughtfulness. The Oldenkamp Library was started with funds sent in by her friends instead of flowers and already many beautiful books have been bought. The other is a tree to be planted soon on the grounds by the school staff in memory of this beloved friend.

* * *

LANGUAGE IS A FUNNY THING

The vocabulary of a deaf child is so limited that each newly acquired word is attained only by long and patient endeavor on the part of both the child and the teacher. A hearing child can understand the use and application of identical words--such as bed, for example. But to a deaf child the word means only what he has been taught--a bed is a piece of furniture where one sleeps.

After moving into the new home last spring, the teacher told the older class they were going to plant zinnias in the bed Mr. Lemons had prepared for them.

The children were perfectly amazed. No--one did NOT plant flowers in a bed. That is where one slept.

Patiently the teacher explained to them the double meaning of the word.

All summer the flowers grew and bloomed in the flower beds planted by the children.

* * *

MISS ORENBAUM ESCAPES INDIANS

While Miss Ruth Orenbaum, teacher at the School, was vacationing in New Mexico this summer, she sent the children postal cards of Indians. Herschel Young received his and was horrified. He had seen moving pictures of Indian warfare. "The Indians had Miss Orenbaum!" His mother had difficulty convincing him Miss Orenbaum was indeed alive and safe.

However, it was not until the opening of school when Miss Orenbaum greeted him in person that a definite look of relief settled over his face.

* * *

MR. ALLEN PASSES

Another face which will be missed about the School is that of Mr. John Allen, grandfather of little Johnny Bob. Every day for nearly two years, rain or shine, he had brought the little boy to school, except during his serious illness.

On the morning of September 27, just as he was leaving his home with his grandson, Mr. Allen suffered a fatal heart attack, and the entire School sorrowed at the passing of this kindly old gentleman.

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