

DALLAS PILOT INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

(I N C O R P O R A T E D)

SPONSORED BY THE PILOT CLUB OF DALLAS

Speech and Lip-Reading for the Deafened Child

J. W. C.
DEC 19 1949

4909 Cedar Springs

Dallas 19, Texas

December 16, 1949

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Mr. Jno. W. Carpenter
Dallas, Texas

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

Recently the News published a column written by me which I hope you will take the trouble to read again even if you have read it in the paper. A copy of it is enclosed.

The text of the column may have no merit, but the subject of it, I am confident, will reach your heart strings and appeal to your generous impulses.

The value to the community of the Pilot Institute for the Deaf has been established by expert surveys and accepted by the Campaign Screening Committee. Its present needs have been recognized as deserving of community support.

You will wish to consider your responsibility in the circumstances and respond in such way as your heart will dictate.

Every dollar contributed goes directly for the benefit of the children. No one, except the teachers, dietitian and nursery attendant, receives a salary. The Pilot Club members, sponsors of the school, profit only in the satisfaction that they are serving their community in providing training for these fifty-two little deaf children.

The enclosed brochure will show you how the school has progressed from an eight pupil school in borrowed quarters in 1943 to the present time. Won't you sign the enclosed pledge card for any amount you may wish to contribute in cash or for payments during the school year. All checks are to be made payable to the Dallas Pilot Institute for the Deaf. Please return check and/or pledge card in the enclosed envelope to DeWitt Ray, Campaign Treasurer, 607 Wilson Building, Dallas.

Very truly yours,

Harry C. Withers

Harry C. Withers
Campaign Chairman

HCW AP

DALLAS PILOT INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

607 WILSON BUILDING

DALLAS 1, TEXAS

DALLAS PILOT INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

To help support the Pilot School so that deaf children may grow up into useful, happy, self-reliant citizens, I hereby subscribe and will pay to the

DALLAS PILOT INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

the amount of \$_____

Payable as follows:

() CASH_____

() I prefer to pay $\frac{1}{4}$ th down and the balance payable (specify)_____

(All payments should be completed within the nine months school term.)

Date_____

Make checks payable to Dallas Pilot
Institute for the Deaf and mail to Mr.
DeWitt Ray, Campaign Treasurer,
607 Wilson Building—telephone R-5285.

Company

Address

All contributions deductible from Income Tax.

School Appeal For Deaf Child

By *HARRY C. WITHERS*

WARM-HEARTED DALLAS will have the opportunity during the next two weeks to perpetuate an institution which is rendering a unique service to an intelligent but determined group of handicapped children.

For nine years the Dallas Pilot Institute for the Deaf has been teaching children to see through their eyes. It is equipping them with the ability to associate words with objects and to understand the mysteries of their silent world.

The Institute was established in 1943 by the Pilot Club, a group of thirty-seven professional businesswomen. Beginning with a 6-weeks course in speech and lip-reading it now has outgrown its resources and must have more generous public support if it continues its contribution to the well-being of the community in a measure comparable to the needs.

CONVINCED THAT THE INSTITUTE is responding to a real need, that it is intelligently conducted and that its program should be expanded, the Dallas County Campaign Screening Committee has authorized it to appeal to the public for additional funds.

The screening committee approved the requested goal of \$25,000 and fixed the period from Nov. 28 to Dec. 10 for solicitation. An advisory committee of the institute, co-operating with the officers of the Pilot Club, hopes to reach the goal within those dates without a general public campaign.

IT IS NOT EXPECTED that thirty-seven women, who are making their own living, could or should bear the full financial load involved in the enterprise. Indeed, they have interested other generous persons and organizations who have aided handsomely.

In 1947 the T. L. Bradford Jr. family deeded its spacious estate at 4909 Cedar Springs to the institute. The North Dallas-Park Cities Kiwanis Club undertook to provide a permanent home for the school and has established a trust fund to help maintain the property and pay the wages of a caretaker. The Dallas Fashion Group gave the proceeds of its Dallas Alice Award toward furnishing the school as did the Dallas Charity Horse Show. The Roy Munger family financed the building of a combination gymnasium and auditorium.

Many persons who have learned how to use their money wisely for others have by their gifts put their seal of approval upon the enterprise and its achievements.

THE INSTITUTE maintains a staff of seven full-time and two half-time teachers, a nursery attendant, an office secretary, a cafeteria manager, a rhythm and dancing teacher, a caretaker and a matron.

Classes are held in a 15-room building located in the midst of seven and a half acres of landscaped lawn, with gymnasium-auditorium, a caretaker's apartment, a playground and a creek for fishing. Fifty-two pupils are enrolled.

Expenses are relatively high because classes must be kept small, teachers are highly specialized and equipment is costly. It requires \$70 a month to maintain one child in the school.

The purpose of the institute is to help children unable to hear or speak get an oral education that will enable them to communicate with other persons.

Picture the deaf baby at the age of three. It has never heard the babbling words of ba-bee and bye-bye. It does not know its own name nor the words Mama and Daddy. Listen with your heart to its appeal.

There are classes for children as young as three. Their parents are heartened by the improvement of other pupils who once were as theirs but who, after six years in the school, can communicate with their teachers and parents and who know and appreciate all the endearing expressions of mother and home.

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THE CURRICULUM INCLUDES all phases of work designed to enable the pupils to become well-rounded individuals. Subjects include acoustical work, rhythm, handcraft and the social graces.

If the child starts at three and is normally perceptive the school faculty is assured by its experience that it can equip it for entrance in deaf classes of public schools by the time it reaches school age.

There are children in the institute who are more than six years old but they either started before they were eligible for public school or their own peculiar circumstances are such as to unfit them for public school classes.

The fifty-two children in the school are afflicted with varying degrees of deafness. They are divided into classes according to the degree of deafness, according to age and according to progress made in lip reading.

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IT WOULD THRILL YOU to see the eagerness with which the pupil watches the teacher's lips and the light which suffuses his countenance when he has caught the meaning of words he can not hear. It is ethereal, inspiring, heart-warming—the opening of a door which locked up a mysterious world.

It would surprise you to see the progress that has been made not only in lip reading but actually in developing speech power among pupils who are able to make noises with their vocal cords.

When you see those things, when you see tiny children striving manfully to acquire the gifts of hearing and speech you realize it would be tragic if this instruction, which is not and can not be duplicated in public schools or large classes, should cease for want of funds.

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DEWITT RAY IS TREASURER of the campaign. He requests that contributions be sent to Miss Tommie Cross, Hercules Oil Company, Wilson Building, Dallas. She is corresponding secretary of the Pilot Club. Miss Claudie Mae Bowden is chairman of the board and Mrs. Caroline Hiebert is president of the club. Other officers are Mrs. William M. Jeffers, vice-president; Mrs. Thomas J. Guinan, recording secretary, and Miss Ann Plaxco, treasurer.