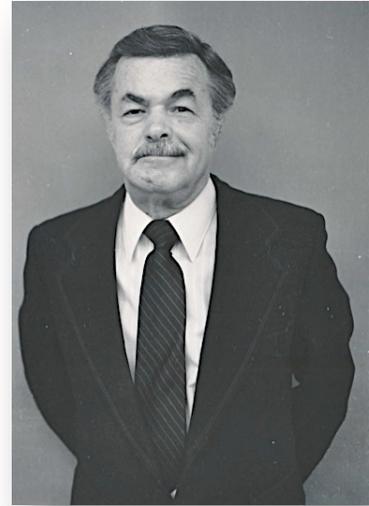


The First Utah School for the Deaf Alumni Reunion, 1976

**Written by Celia May L. Baldwin (Quoted with permission)
Layout by Jodi B. Kinner**

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The topic of having a reunion for classes dating as far back as 1908 on the school campus had been discussed and suggested by numerous Utah School for the Deaf alumni. This desire materialized when Peter M. Green, 1952 alumnus of the Utah School for the Deaf voluntarily assigned himself as the general chairman and formed a committee of five alumni (Baldwin, The Utah Eagle, November 1976).



Pete M. Green, chairman

In the early 1970's, Peter brought up the idea among some deaf friends, and took a leading role in organizing a committee, for the first reunion of the Utah School for the Deaf Alumni. He eventually appointed twenty deaf alumni of that school to serve on his committee, and assigned them specific duties (Baldwin, UAD Bulletin, July 1976).



Celia May L. Baldwin, publicity director and consultant. Source: The UAD Bulletin, Fall 1969.

Realizing that lots of work would be involved, the small committee eventually enlarged into a

group of 20 hard

working alumni. Duties and responsibilities were shared among them. Co-chairman Robert Bonnell took charge of various areas with assistance of six chairpersons in Salt Lake City, and co-chairman Roy Cochran supervised nine areas in Ogden. The executive officers were composed of Peter Green, Robert Bonnell, Roy Cochran, Rodney Walker as secretary, Jerry Westberg as



Robert Bonnell, co-chairman

was treasure and Celia May Baldwin as publicity director and consultant. The Baldwin's residence was the headquarters for numerous executive officer's meetings.

Secretary Rodney Walker and his wife, Georgia, spent many, many hours at the Utah



Rodney W. Walker, secretary.
Source: The Utah Eagle, April 1955.

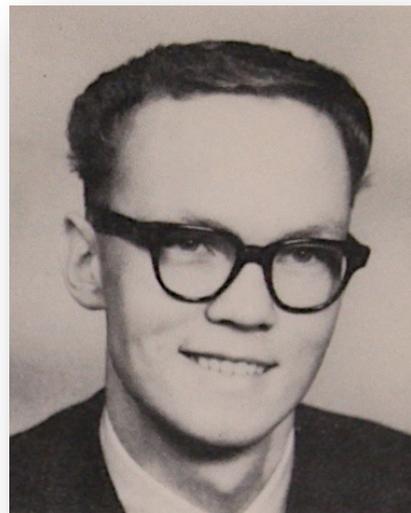
School for the Deaf earlier in the year compiling a list of all students who enrolled back to the year 1884. That list was printed in the Reunion Book. He also collected addresses of our scattered alumni needing information on this reunion.

The Reunion Fund was nil to begin with. The committee chairpersons paid for their combo tickets in advance so the organization could get the ball rolling and begin assignments. The publicity director solicited many advertisement spaces for their Reunion Book in order to defray the overall expenses. Various

organizations and clubs for the deaf in Utah were very cooperative in this respect.

The news of the first reunion was spread widely through the distribution of flyers at local social events. Letters with numerous informative sheets, prepared by the executive officers, were mailed to nearly all alumni (Baldwin, The Utah Eagle, November 1976).

The reunion was held at the Utah School for the Deaf in Ogden, Utah on June 24, 25, and 26, 1976. USD alumni excitedly met and said the following comments:



Roy Cochran, co-chairman

Sharing Memories

“Haven’t seen you for 29 years!”, “You haven’t changed much!”, “Great to see you again!”, “Remember the terrible prank that we did...?”, “How many children do you have?”, “What, 6 already!” These were the common “signed conversations” among the alumni at the first reunion held at the Utah School for the Deaf. It was a happy, pleasant, and memorable occasion for every alumnus (Baldwin, UAD Bulletin, July 1976; Baldwin, The Utah Eagle, November 1976).

Thursday Afternoon, June 24

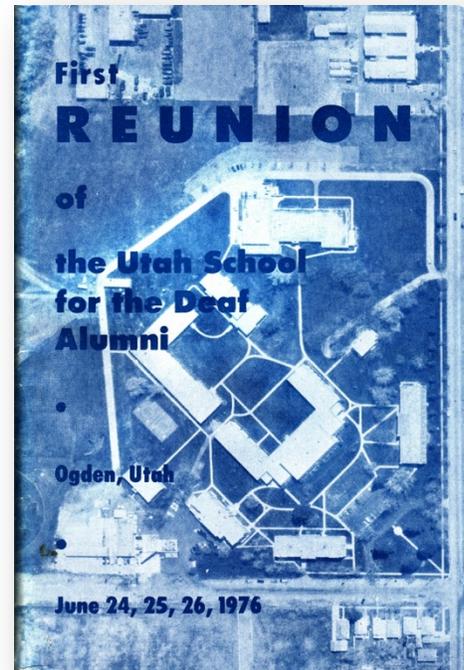
The first day of the Reunion drew a pleasing number of alumni! Arriving on the campus of the Utah School for the Deaf, this time as alumni, they could not miss the directions to the registration desk. There were many signs with hands pointing here and there. In the registration room at the USD gymnasium eight capable and cheerful alumni, namely Glen and La Rue Ross, Varian and Lila West, Jerry and Donna Westberg, Bruce



Jerry Westberg, treasurer

Van Kampen and Nellie Sausedo were on hand to assist everyone with registration, information and assignment of reserved rooms in the dormitories.

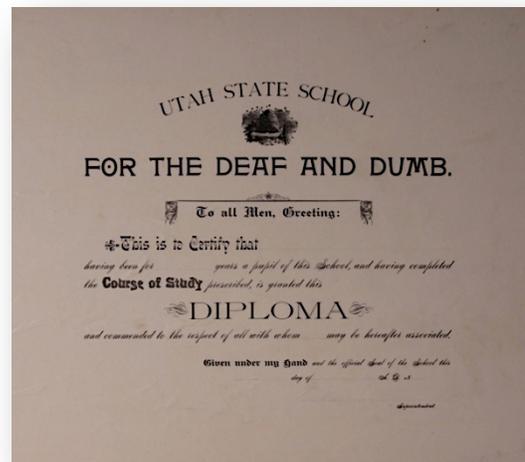
The gymnasium was filled with so many happy people hugging and shaking hands! Alumni immediately buried their noses in the Reunion Book. Finding themselves in the pictures, many tapped their friends’ shoulders and exclaimed, “That was me, when I was 7 years old” or likewise. Included in the book was the history



of the alma mater. Much delight was shown by most alumni in reading the souvenir books. They had been prepared by around-the-clock men, George Laramie, Kenneth Burdett, and Lynn Losee, along with their wonderful helpers. Those superb books could be considered a collector's item (Baldwin, UAD Bulletin, July 1976; Baldwin, The Utah Eagle, November 1976).



Kenneth L. Kinner, Campus Tour



Thursday Evening, June 24

The highlight of the evening was a “Night of Memories.” The variety show under the direction of Kenneth Kinner and Lillian Freston swept the audience of approximately 220 people.

The program opened with short remarks from general chairman, Peter Green, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Carlos C. Seegmiller, a young 79-year-old alumnus, took them all back to 1918 with narration of his first day's experience at the USD. Then, Kenneth Kinner surprised many of them with an oversized diploma. The younger generation of alumni was grateful that their diplomas did not have the wording, “Deaf and Dumb.”



Kenneth C. Burdett, History & Movie



George Laramie, Program Book



G. Lynn Losee, Printing

Bruce Eyre gave imitations of several former administrators and teachers. The audience was able to identify them all. A great drama-story, “Hero, Heroine, and the Villain” was performed by Joseph Burnett. Not one person stirred throughout the act. The fashion show on different styles of clothes dating back to the 1900’s was enjoyed by all. The variety show concluded with a very colorful skit, “Secret Lovers at Saltair in 1905.” The costumes had been made entirely by the cast.



Smiling for the “1905” group picture. Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.

Sharing memories of good old school days continued during the social hour. Sally Green and LaVern Burnett were in charge of tasty refreshments, which Hilary House had prepared. Bidding each other good night was quite a task that evening (Baldwin, UAD Bulletin, July 1976; Baldwin, The Utah Eagle, November 1976).

Friday Morning, June 25

Good morning! Fabulous tours of the campus were led by “well trained” guides! Many marveled at all the changes and improvements. Most exciting part of the tour was the visit to the home of the superintendent Robert W. Tegeder. The alumni were impressed by the Tegeder family’s hospitality. A bicentennial cake in red, white and blue along with red fruit punch was served. In addition, the tour was



Refreshments at Superintendent Tegeder’s Home. Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.



Movies revive memories. Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.

made more pleasant with a copy of an up-to-date map of the school campus, which was the superintendent’s project for the reunion (Baldwin, UAD Bulletin, July 1976; Baldwin, The Utah Eagle, November 1976).

Friday Afternoon, June 25

The scheduled picnic prepared by Cleo Peterson, LaVern Burnett and their committee was in the Dining Room Hall. Everybody enjoyed eating indoors. Later in the afternoon, a one-hour historical movie of old school days, which had been taken many years ago by Kenneth Burdett was shown. The place was so packed it had to be shown again for a second group (Baldwin, UAD Bulletin, July 1976; Baldwin, The Utah Eagle, November 1976).

Friday Evening, June 25

Did the committee forget those wonderful people who taught the right from wrong and strong from weak? No! They devolved an hour of tribute to staff members who had retired or who had served over 20 years and were still at the school.



Katherine Seegmiller is honoring USD staff members

The committee sent over 50 invitations, thanks to Marlo Honey who printed the invitations. They were elated that seventeen of them were able to show up. There were Kenneth



Peter Green, Karen, interpreter and Jean Russell. Sitting (L-R): Dora Laramie, Marjorie Jones & Donald Jensen. Profound gratitude expressed.

Burdett, Tony Christopulos, Miriam Cooper, Kate Fenton, Duane Harrison, Donald Jensen, Marjorie Jones (Lucas), Dora Laramie, Rosa Mosteller, Jean Russell Petrick, Ellen Russell, Katherine Seegmiller, Robert Tegder, Isabella Thatcher, Thomas Van Drimmelen, Elmo Mankin, and Mrs. Lamb, the school nurse.

They all were called upon the state and honored with blue carnations, and words of appreciation. Each staff member gave a few words, which varied in emotions – humorous, serious, philosophical, and nostalgic. Peter and Sally Green and Celia May Baldwin exchanged several memories of school days involving some of the staff members. Laughter could be heard and seen everywhere!



Viewing the pictures of the Utah School for the Deaf.
Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.

At the closing of the program, Celia May captured everybody's heart by singing a revised rendition of "To Sir, With Love."

The second part of the entertainment for the evening was the presentation of mock awards to the alumni in attendance. The following winners were:

1. **The Older Person Attending the Reunion:** Kate Keeley, 83 years old.
2. **The First Person Purchasing a Combo Ticket:** Beverlee Hansen.
3. **The First Person to Register for this Reunion:** Selma Worsley
4. **The Person Traveling the Farthest to this Reunion:** Paul Baldrige of Indiana, 1,400 miles.
5. **The Person Traveling the Shortest Distance to this Reunion:** Superintendent Tegeder, ¼ block.
6. **The Person Having the Most Members in the Family:** Robert Frye, 12 children
7. **The Person Having the Most Grandchildren:** Albert Bray, 24
8. **The Person Having the Most Great Grandchildren:** Lee Hunter, 13
9. **The Present Teacher Teaching the Most Years at the U.S.D.:** Donald Jensen, 35 years.
10. **The Retired Teacher Who Taught the Most Years at U.S.D.:** Kenneth C. Burdett, 40 years.
11. **Couple Having the Longest Marriage Life:** Arnold and Zelma Moon, 47 years.
12. **The Person Giving the Best Theme for This Reunion:** Georgia Walker, "To Share Memories."
13. **The Tallest Alumni:** Alumnus – Chem Sevy, 6'4"; Alumna – Kay Curtis, 5'10."

14. **The Shortest Alumnus:** Alumnus – Wayne Stewart, 5’3;” Alumna – Irene Cook and Darlene Cochran – 4’11.”
15. **The Alumnus Having the Longest Beard:** Carl Farnsworth.
16. **The Alumnus Having the Handsomest Mustachio:** Edwin Lewis
17. **The Alumni Having the Most Freckles:** Alumnus – Robert Dr. Sanderson; Alumna – Kleda Quigley.

Each was awarded a beautiful certificate printed by Robert Bonnell. Sharing memories continued with another social hour

afterwards. Delicious refreshments were also served (Baldwin, UAD Bulletin, July 1976; Baldwin, The Utah Eagle, November 1976).



Dora Laramie and her daughter, Celia May Baldwin. Modern captioned TV lesson. Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.

Saturday Morning, June 26

There was no generation gap when it came to the “back-to-school” program. “More

Meat for your Money” was a mini-course prepared by the Continuing Education of Gallaudet College which drew 75 participants from 22 years of age to 83! Dora Laramie and Celia May Baldwin conducted this class in the Multi-Purpose Room of Primary Hall. A 24-



Learning is forever. Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.



Kenneth C. Burdett

minute captioned videotape of an economist explaining how to be economical was shown. Then, edge on how to save money on meat. A demonstration on how to cook Spanish liver followed. The aroma of liver and onions attracted many outsiders nearby who were not attending

this workshop. Surprisingly, many who loathed liver liked this dish. Materials such as recipes and booklets were distributed. According to evaluation it was highly enjoy by all. What did some of the men do when the ladies attended “back-to-school”? Men prefer to play so there were several chess competitions for them.

Their lunch was detained for an hour because the catering service guy simply could not locate their school! Ogden has grown!



Participating in questionnaire

Part two of the historical movie of “Ol’ School Days,” was shown in the afternoon. Again it was a packed house! Afterwards, the alumni were given a questionnaire to fill out, which helped to determine the feasibility of future alumni reunions (Baldwin, UAD Bulletin, July 1976; Baldwin, The Utah Eagle, November 1976).



“Oh, I know the answer!”
Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.

Saturday Evening, June 26

Powdering their noses or straightening their ties, the alumni found themselves at the Hilary Hose for the buffet dinner. Veteran hostess, LaVern Burnett did a fabulous job of making the banquet arrangements. 309 friends were on hand to witness the climax of the reunion. Each table was decorated with a special drinking glass for each person to keep as a souvenir. The drinking glass had a solid blue eagle imprinted on it with “USD – First Reunion” and “1976” in gold. The creative chairperson, Lois Jones, was in charge of reunion novelties. She arranged the letter “USD” into the shape of an eagle and had it



Mary Sanderson (L), Ilene Kinner, David Mortensen, and Shanna Mortensen

silk-screened on white towels. They sold like hot cakes and made money for the reunion fund.

Joseph Burnett, the master of ceremonies, began the program with several spicy jokes. A beautiful song, "Climb Every Mountain," was sung by Beth Jensen (Lola Elizabeth).



Beth Ann Campbell, interpreter voicing for Beth Jensen

Tony Christopulos, the current school principal, held their attention with his historical speech. He identified each graduation class with an historical event of the United States. It was a very absorbing "education review" for all alumni.

Dr. Jay J. Campbell was the next speaker on the program. His two jokes had the audience rolling in the aisle. He told them ten

good reasons why he is proud to be an American. Naturally, they agreed with him.

Superintendent Tegeder remarked how pleased he was to see so MANY alumni attending this great event. He also appreciated the way the school facilities were left so neat. Credit was due to their great maintenance man, Elmo Mankin. He cleaned up after each event and saw to it that everything was in order for the next activity. The Superintendent also commented on the different breed of students,



Beth Ann Campbell is interpreting for Dr. Jay J. Campbell. Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.

teachers, and houseparents. In conclusion, he professed that there would be always be a "welcome" mat at the USD

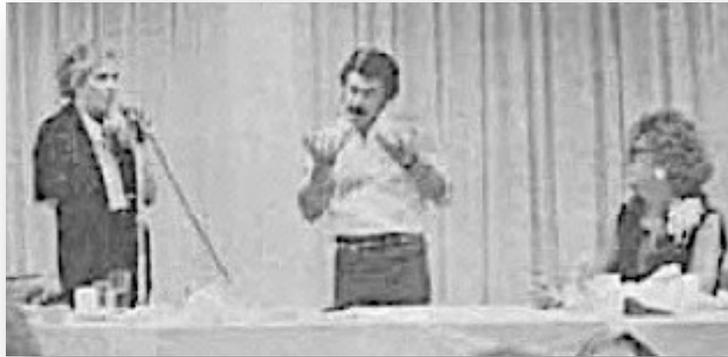


Superintendent Robert W. Tegeder

General chairman Peter Green announced the results of the alumni questionnaire. He also made several comical remarks. Dr. Robert G.

Sanderson gave a few words regarding the voting power on their part for the Utah Community Center for the Deaf.

As the finale, Beth Jensen rendered the song, “Alma Mater” which sent goose implies among the audience. Then, Dora and Celia May recited, “So Long, Farewell.” This song apparently made many people weep for they hated to bid one another goodbye.



Peter Green is announcing the results of the alumni questionnaire. Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.



Banquet Attendees. Kenneth and Ilene Kinner are sitting on front of the table. Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.

Three interpreters at the banquet were Beth Ann Campbell, Betty Jones, and Jeannette Farnsworth.

A total 370 people registered at the USD Reunion. Approximately, seventy-five alumni came from other states such as Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, California, Nevada, Arizona, and Indiana. Will this record be

broken in 1984 when USD marked its 100th anniversary with the second Reunion? Hopefully so! So long, farewell, auf wiedershen, goodbye till the 1984 reunion (Baldwin, UAD Bulletin, July 1976; Baldwin, The Utah Eagle, November 1976)!



Reunion Attendees. Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.



Celia May Baldwin and Dora Laramie saying, "So Long, Farewell!" Source: UAD Bulletin, July 1976.



Utah School for the Deaf Reunion, 1976

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