

# A Brief History of Utah School for the Deaf

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**1884** – The Utah School for the Deaf was established in 1884 at the University of Deseret (later renamed to the University of Utah) in Salt Lake City, Utah by parents of deaf children, William Wood and Joseph Beck.

**1896** – When the state of Utah was admitted to Union in 1896, the Utah School for the Deaf was moved to Ogden, Utah in 1896. At the time, a school for the blind was added. The deaf school was located at 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Monroe Avenue while the blind school was at 7th Street and Harrison Boulevard.

**1959** – The Utah School for the Deaf set up an Extension Division to allow deaf students to attend classes near home. The Extension Divisions were eventually established in different parts of the state of Utah in order to provide a day program for aurally deaf children in more heavily populated areas.

**1991** - The groundbreaking ceremony for a new facility of the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind took place October 1, 1991 on the campus at 742 Harrison Boulevard in Ogden.

**1993** – Utah State Board of Education sold the old Utah School for the Deaf campus to the Ogden School District.

**1993** – Both Utah School for the Deaf and Utah School for the Blind were consolidated and the new main Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind campus was built on the new 13.5 acre campus at 742 Harrison Blvd.

**1999** – Jean Massieu School of the Deaf, an ASL/English bilingual program, was established as a public charter school in Salt Lake City, Utah by two parents of deaf children, Minnie Mae Wilding-Diaz (deaf) and Jeff Allen (hearing). The new charter school was named Jean Massieu School of the Deaf in honor of Jean Massieu, a French Deaf teacher.

**2005** – Jean Massieu School of the Deaf was merged with Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in 2005.

**2011** - The ASL/English Bilingual program at the Ogden Campus was named in honor of Kenneth C. Burdett who had a long history connected to the Utah School for the Deaf. Kenneth C. contributed unselfish service to the USD. He served the school for four decades from 1934 to 1974. He spent his fifty-two years at the USD as a student, Boy's Supervisor, Head Basketball Coach, Athletic Director, Teacher, Printing Instructor, and Curriculum Coordinator.