

Beth Ann Stewart Campbell

Written & Compiled by Jodi B. Kinner
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Beth Ann Stewart Campbell was born in the Murray Maternity Hospital on December 9, 1937 to deaf parents, Arnold and Zelma (Lindquist) Moon (Beth Ann Campbell, September 18, 2012). Beth Ann, always called "B.A.," has been a well-known figure in the deaf community (Campbell, *UAD Bulletin*, March 1992).

Beth Ann's father, Arnold Henry, was born in Woodland, Utah on March 7, 1905. He was what was referred to as a "blue baby." Beth Ann and her family members assume he was deaf at birth. At age six, Arnold was placed at the Utah School for the Deaf (USD) in Ogden, Utah. Arnold's mother helped him with his education and really cared for him. He graduated from USD in 1928. He took up shoe repair as a vocation. Beth Ann assumes he studied shoe repairing while he was at USD. Arnold was active in basketball (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012).

Her mother, Zelma was born in West Jordan, Utah on January 6, 1908. She was born with measles and contacted diphtheria at age 2.

This closed off her ears and she became deaf. At the age two and half, her parents enrolled her at the USD (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication September 18, 2012). She also graduated from USD in 1928. She was an expert seamstress. Beth Ann assumes she studied sewing while at USD (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012).



Beth Ann Campbell
Photo by Robert L. Bonnell

At the time, the students at the USD only went home on certain holidays during the year, so they not only were taught the regular school subjects but learned homemaking skills also. There, they learned to clean the home, sew and cook.

Since the USD had many deaf students, they learned to get along together and friendships for life began at the USD. This school is where Arnold and Zelma met, dated, and were married on June 19, 1929. The newlyweds first lived in Hanna, Utah where they lost Beth Ann's two elder brothers, Delbert and Deloy. Arnold and Zelma later moved to Salt Lake City where they obtained better employment and had social opportunities with other deaf people (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012).



Marjorie, Arnold, Zelma and Beth Ann,
1972

Beth Ann's folks were hard working people and provided the necessities of life for Beth Ann and her older sister, Marjorie. Her first language was "sign language" which she learned at home from her parents. At the same time, she learned English from her playmates, the radio, and relatives. She doesn't remember not being able to sign or speak English. She learned like all children (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012).

Because Beth Ann's folks were deaf, it became her duty to assist her parents with interpreting, which was common for hearing children of deaf parents back then. She did it much more than her older sister. She had to make phone calls for her folks. Back then, they didn't have a phone at home so she was always going to the neighbors and asking them if she could use their phone making doctor appointments, ordering medicine and other needs. Sometimes she was embarrassed to do some adult phoning at the neighbors with everyone listening to what usually would be considered a "private conversation." Currently, she really does not like using the phone

because she had to do it so much as a child and young adult (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012).

Beth Ann's unexpected fate occurred in 1963 that forever changed her life when her first husband, Wayne Stewart, a police officer called her and asked her to help find an interpreter for them at the Salt Lake City Police Department (Campbell, *UAD Bulletin*, April 1992). They had a deaf man from Colorado in custody and he was being mistreated. They needed an interpreter so they could communicate with him. Beth Ann called a friend, who was an interpreter, but she could not get off work. She encouraged Beth Ann to go and see if she couldn't help out. She was really scared because she didn't think she had the skills for such an undertaking. She finally agreed to go to the police station and do what she could. When Beth Ann got there, the deaf man was chained and was really scared. They left her alone with him and soon they were able to communicate so she was able to assist.



Beth Ann Campbell
Photo by Robert L. Bonnell

They finally put him on a bus back to Colorado. This was her first experience in interpreting outside of her home with her parents (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012). Since that time, she had worked with deaf people and assisting them with interpreting in many types of situations (Campbell, *UAD Bulletin*, April 1992).

In 1964, Dr. Robert G. Sanderson, a well-known Utah deaf leader attended a workshop, "Interpreting for the Deaf," at Ball State Teachers College (Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana (UAD Bulletin, Spring 1964). Soon after, he sent a letter to deaf parents and invited them to notify their children who were commonly known as a "Child of Deaf Adults" (CODA) of an upcoming meeting regarding interpreting. Beth Ann, as one of the CODAs, went to this meeting where she had ever seen what an interpreter does for the first time. She never thought she would one day become an interpreter (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication,

September 18, 2012).

Beth Ann had the distinction of being the first nationally certified interpreter in the United States and the story was interesting (Campbell, *UAD Bulletin*, April 1992). While she was trained to be a professional certified interpreter working with Dr. Sanderson, she was sent to a National Registry to Interpreters of the Deaf training program in Indiana in 1965 (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012). Beth Ann's husband, Dr. Jay J. Campbell, a former Deputy Superintendent of Utah State Office of Education and an ally to the Utah deaf community, shared that part of the training was to select and certify interpreters on a national basis. All the participants were tested and were asked to draw straws to determine the order to be tested. Beth Ann was selected to be the "last" one to be tested and the lady next to her drew "first." She turned to Beth Ann and said: "I don't want to be first." Beth Ann replied: "I don't want to be last." They just exchanged numbers and Beth Ann ended up being tested "first." It then happened that she became the first one tested and the first one who passed the examination. She then became the first nationally certified professional interpreter (Campbell, *UAD Bulletin*, April 1992). From then on, Beth Ann was a pioneer in the interpreting field.

When W. David Mortensen, a deaf man, was a student at the University of Utah in 1970, he needed a part-time interpreter. Beth Ann as a free-lance interpreter went to work with him. This was the first time the University had ever used an interpreter. At first, both she and David were scared, but they improved as time went on (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012). In fact, Beth Ann became the first interpreter at the University who assisted Dave with interpreting (Campbell, *UAD Bulletin*, April 1992).

While Beth Ann was working as a free-lance interpreter for the Division of Rehabilitation in 1972, Dr. Sanderson, who served as a statewide coordinator for deaf adults at the Utah Division of Rehabilitation, was in need of an interpreter on a full-time basis. He invited her to come and see him. Although she loved her job with David Mortensen, she asked Dr. Sanderson if she could do both jobs. He said: "No, if you worked for me, you would have to leave your job with David." Beth Ann then went to work for Dr. Sanderson on a full-time basis (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012). Her first responsibility was to assist

him with interpreting and accompany him to all the meetings he was responsible to attend. During the communication for the April 1992 UAD Bulletin issue, Beth Ann shared, “I owe a great deal to Sandie. He was my mentor and teacher. He was patient with me and very kind. He was a great boss” (Campbell, *UAD Bulletin*, April 1992). Dr. Sanderson complimented her by saying “Beth Ann Campbell, my long suffering and patient interpreter and colleague, a tenacious advocate of the deaf, who was always ready” (Sanderson, 2004).

Beth Ann was one of the first hearing individuals who joined the Utah Association for the Deaf (UAD) when Utah was the first to break tradition with the change in name of its association from “of” to “for” in 1963 to allow hearing people to join the board (UAD Bulletin, Spring 1963, p. 2). Dr. Jay J. Campbell noted in the March 1992 UAD Bulletin issue that “Beth Ann is well known in the UAD. When David Mortensen was first appointed president of the UAD in 1971, she was named secretary. She was an active board member for many years” (Campbell, *UAD Bulletin*, March 1992).



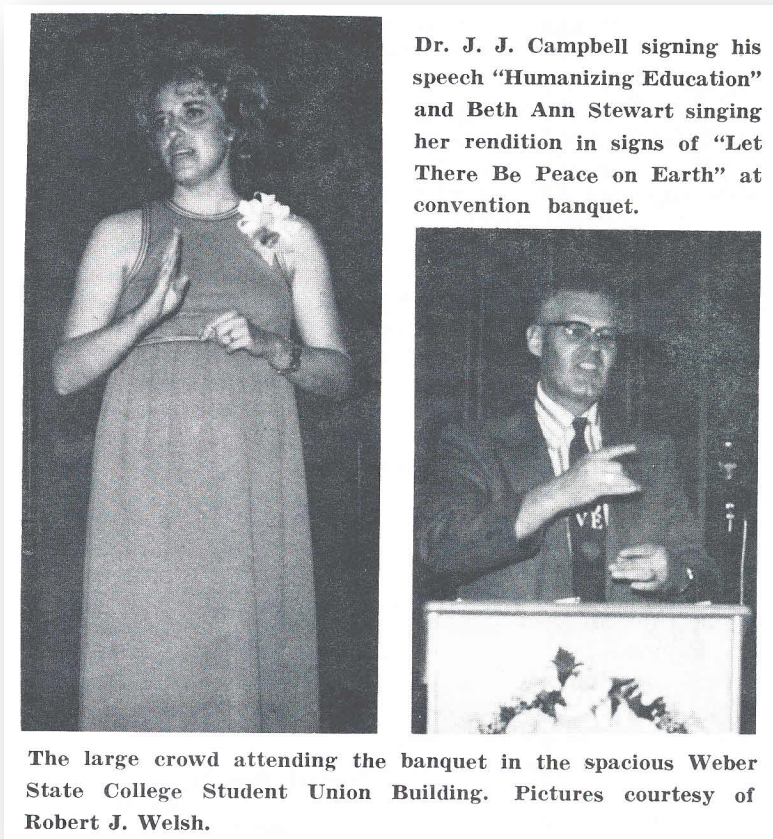
Dr. Jay J. Campbell, 1973
UAD Bulletin, June 1973

On October 5, 1968, Beth Ann was one of the interpreters who assisted in establishing the Utah Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She was elected secretary (UAD Bulletin, Fall 1968).

The Utah State Board of Education hired Beth Ann’s future husband, Dr. Jay J. Campbell as an associate superintendent with Utah State Office of Education in 1966. One of his duties was to supervise the Utah School for the Deaf. During the controversy between oral and total communication he became interested in the welfare of deaf children (Campbell, 1977). In January 1973, David Mortensen, as UAD president, wanted to meet Dr. Campbell, an ally of the deaf community, and asked him to speak at the annual convention of the UAD. He asked Beth Ann to go with him to interpret. At that time, she was the secretary for the UAD. She and David

met with Dr. Campbell and he agreed to speak at the convention, which was scheduled six months later. Dr. Campbell thought it would be a good idea to give his "talk" using sign language and went to Beth Ann's boss, Dr. Sanderson, and asked him if there was someone that could teach him enough "signs" to give the talk. Dr. Sanderson assigned Beth Ann to teach him. She accepted the task and they became good friends (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012). At the 25th Biennial Convention on June 16th, Dr.

Campbell delivered his entire talk, "Humanizing Education" in sign language (UAD Bulletin, June 1973). He said, "I gave a ten minute talk that took me 30 minutes to deliver it in "signs" (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012).



Beth Ann and Jay at the 25th Biennial Convention of the Utah Association for the Deaf in 1973
UAD Bulletin, November 1973

Three years later on March 20, 1976, Dr. Campbell and Beth Ann were married by their local Bishop and were sealed in the Manti Temple on September 5,

1981. Beth Ann's children are: Mark, Dennis, Steve, Michael, Michelle (Brown) and Gregory. Jay's children are: Candice, John, Tamara, Woodrow and Nola. Beth Ann has nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Jay has twelve grandchildren and six great grandchildren. When people ask them how many children do they have, they answer: "Five and a half dozen." They then explain that "Jay has five and Beth Ann has a half dozen." All of their children are from their first marriages (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012).

Beth Ann's interpreting duties expanded a great deal over the years. As explained in the "The Deaf Education History in Utah," during the rapid growth of the oral movement and decline of sign language in the educational system, Beth Ann often assisted deaf educational advocates, Dr. Sanderson and David Mortensen with interpreting while they engaged in a constant battle with proponents of oral methods of instruction of the deaf in 1970s. In 1977, Dr. Campbell, then associate superintendent compiled a study entitled, "*Education of the Deaf in Utah: A Comprehensive Study*" to solve the constant controversial issues between oral and total communication. This study however stirred controversy among parents who advocated oral education.

In 1975, Beth Ann took a trip to Los Angeles, California with four Utah deaf volunteers to serve as an interpreter touring the Ear Research Institute where Joseph B. Burnett, 62, one of the volunteers, got his new cochlear implant (UAD Bulletin, June 1974). Beth Ann had to opportunity to witness this event when Joe became the world's first person to get cochlear implants (Kinney, *UAD Bulletin*, November 2001; Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012).



**Beth Ann interpreting the Channel 4 News, 1972
UAD Bulletin, February 1972**

Between 1975 and 1980, Beth Ann gave her time without pay serving as the interpreter down in the right-hand corner of the TV screen on Channel 4 for the news broadcasts. The Deaf community remembered seeing her on the news (Campbell, *UAD Bulletin*, March 1992). Judging from the photo posted on the February 1972 UAD Bulletin issue, Beth Ann also interpreted the News in 1972.

Upon Dr. Sanderson's retirement as the director of Utah Community Center of the Deaf (UCCD) in 1985, he noted in his book, "A Brief History of the Origins of the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing" about Beth Ann becoming the new director shortly thereafter, as follows:

"Dr. Judy Ann Buffmire, executive director of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, appointed Beth Ann as director of the Utah Community Center of the Deaf. Beth Ann had worked for the Division of Rehabilitation as a



Beth Ann Campbell - Director of the Utah Center for the Deaf
(1985 – 1989)

professional level interpreter and aide for over 15 years, and was closely associated with the Center for the deaf programs. She was also a "CODA" – (Child of deaf parents) – and enjoyed considerable support among the deaf community, reflecting her advocacy and activism in behalf of deaf people (Sanderson, 2004)."

Looking back, Beth Ann said, "This was a great honor for me and I served in this position until I retired March 13, 1992" (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012). As explained in the "History of the Robert G. Sanderson Community Center of

the Deaf and Hard of Hearing," she served for years as an interpreter assisting deaf leaders lobbying for funding for UCCD through the legislative process before she became the Director (Sanderson, 2004).

As the new Director of UCCD in Bountiful, Utah, Beth Ann listed the activities that were a part of the educational and social events that went on at the UCCD:

- **Cooking Classes.** Many of the young deaf mothers had very little experience in this area. UCCD brought in people from the community to teach cooking classes of all kinds.
- **Income Tax Preparation.** Experts in this field were solicited and they gave of their time without pay to teach the deaf how to prepare their tax returns.
- **Women on Target.** Beth Ann conducted this class. Most deaf women wanted to improve themselves in parenting and social skills. These classes became very popular.
- **Lectures.** Beth Ann went to the public and asked professional people to come and speak to deaf consumers. They covered any subjects that the deaf wanted. She was truly surprised and happy to see how many "hearing" people were willing to come and offered their expertise to the deaf.
- **Athletic Events.** The deaf loved athletics.
- **Senior Citizen Lunches and Outings.** The staff at the Center prepared a monthly luncheon for their senior citizens. This was a popular event and a big turnout occurred monthly.
- **Parenting Classes.** Young married couples were more than pleased to have classes available so they could learn how to be effective parents.
- **Socials.** It was probably the most successful thing they did during Beth Ann's tenure. Under her leadership, the staff would recommend a theme for an upcoming social and then turn it over to the deaf to plan, set up committees to paint decorations (They had several great artists), build booths, advertise, and put on these social events. It was always a great event and the entire deaf community supported these socials. There was always good food, sometimes dancing.
- **Utah Organizations.**

Beth Ann coordinated with the Utah

Organizations to send out a yearly calendar of activities throughout the state.

- **Monthly Newsletter.** This was published and distributed throughout the state



Utah Community Center for the Deaf in Bountiful, Utah
Pencil drawing by Robert Winkelkotter

in order to keep the deaf informed of the activities at the UCCD, and other things of interest to the deaf.

- **Money Contributions.** There was a need to raise money for things needed at the Center. As the spokesman for the Center, Beth Ann asked many organizations to contribute money to help purchase needed items. They raised approximately \$80,000 and the Telephone Company painted the building and fixed the bathrooms.

During Beth Ann's tenure working for Dr. Sanderson and then becoming the Director of the Utah Community Center for the Deaf, she received the following awards:

- **Division of Rehabilitation Services, 1986.** For Exemplary Program Continuation and Development on Behalf of Deaf/Hearing Impaired People of Utah. Presented to Beth Ann Campbell.
- **Golden Key Award. October 7, 1987.** Beth Ann Campbell, Service Provider. For Your Exemplary Service to Persons Who Are Deaf. Your Dedication Has Resulted in Increased Independence and Productivity By These Citizens With Disabilities. Presented by the Utah Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped.
- **Golden Hand Award, 1989.** Presented to Beth Ann Campbell in recognition and appreciation of dedicated and meritorious service in behalf of the deaf community (This award meant the most to Beth Ann because it came from the "deaf")
- **Earl Conder Award, June 28, 1990.** Governor Norm Bangerter presented this award to Utah's "State Employee of the Year. 1989". She received a plaque and a \$1,000 U. S. Savings Bond in recognition of going the extra mile in serving the deaf and the public. Governor Bangerter said: "Beth Ann Campbell has enhanced the cause of the deaf Community almost since childhood" (UAD Bulletin, July/August, 1990).

Last but not least, Beth Ann has many "firsts" under her list of accomplishments, which include:

- First Nationally Certified Professional Interpreter in Utah and the United States,
- First hearing female to be voted as member of the Utah Association for the Deaf Board of Director, and
- First interpreter to develop the concept of co-therapist (interpreting for both psychiatrist and patient (UAD Bulletin, July/August 1990).

By the time Beth Ann retired, she shared her thoughts about the UAD in the April 1992

UAD Bulletin issue, 'Regarding my service with the UAD Board for many years,' she says: "I have very good feelings toward the UAD. I have developed close relationship with many board members and believe the Association has been a strong force for the deaf in Utah. I hope they will continue to be a strong advocate for the deaf in the future, and I wish them well" (Campbell, *UAD Bulletin*, April 1992).

After her retirement, she and Jay escorted both deaf and hearing people on cruises and bus tours. This was a great experience for them. They also served as full-time missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Family and Church History Mission for one year starting January 3, 2003. They then served as missionaries at the Utah State Prison from March 2004 to July 22, 2009. They keep busy with reading, church work, Utah Daughters of the Pioneers. Jay still directs the "Swanee Singers" and does some traveling (Beth Ann Campbell, personal communication, September 18, 2012).

In conclusion, the Utah deaf community as well as the Utah interpreting community are very fortunate to gain recognition through Beth Ann as our first nationally certified interpreter in

Utah and United States. In addition, Beth Ann, as interpreter and director is greatly appreciated for going the extra mile to provide exceptional service to the communities. She made an impact on deaf-related services and interpreting structures. Most of all, her dedication and contributions have been a major part of the continued success of all of the above.



Beth Ann and Jay Campbell
Photo by Robert L. Bonnell

Note

Beth Ann Campbell, e-mail message to Jodi B. Kinner, September 18, 2012.

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