

Chronology

of USDB

- 1880** Parents petitioned the legislature to fund a program for the deaf.
- 1884** A class for deaf-mutes was established with Professor Henry C. White, a deaf man, as the first teacher. School opened August 26th with an enrollment of 14.
- 1888** The legislature enacted laws to establish and maintain the Institute of Deaf-Mutes at the University of Deseret (University of Utah).
- 1889** The enrollment increased to 37 students and work began on a building at the cost of \$50,000. Frank W. Metcalf (1889-1901) was appointed principal; he later became the School's first superintendent.
- 1894** The State Legislature enacted laws which provided for establishment of the School for the Blind which became operational two years later.
- 1896** Members of the Constitutional Convention decided that the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind should be combined into the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (USDB), and they should share the property which was formerly the Territorial Reform School, located in Ogden at 20th Street and Monroe Boulevard.
- 1901** Dr. Frank M. Driggs, L.H.D. (1901-1941), became superintendent. During his administration four new buildings were added to the campus: the Infirmary, Primary Hall, Driggs Hall (girls' dormitory), and Woodbury Hall (boys' dormitory).
- 1941** Dr. G. Oscar Russell was superintendent from 1941 to 1942.

- 1942** Dr. Boyd E. Nelson (1942-1954) served as superintendent for 12 years.
- 1953** The State Legislature appropriated funds to construct a new administration/classroom building to replace the old Territorial Reform School building at the campus on 20th Street and Monroe Boulevard. The new building was completed in 1954.
- 1959** Robert W. Tegeder (1959-1978) served as superintendent for almost 20 years. The Primary Building and the Industrial Arts Building were completed, and the School for the Blind was moved to the Harrison Boulevard campus during his tenure in office.
- 1969** An administration-classroom complex designed specifically for the Blind was completed on the Harrison Boulevard property. It is on this property that our new facility now stands.
- 1983** George G. Howell (1983-1986) served as superintendent for three years during which time the USDB administration began looking into the feasibility of consolidating the two campuses into one.
- 1986** During the three years that Thomas S. Bannister (1986-1989) served as superintendent, planning was completed, programming was performed, and a request for funding for construction of this new facility was proposed to the State Legislature.
- 1990** Since David L. West became superintendent of USDB in 1990, the design and construction of phase 1 of our new facility has been completed. The facility was substantially completed in March of 1993 and staff moved in during April.