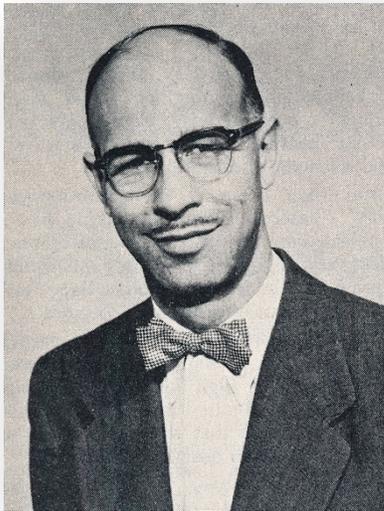


**Sixteenth Triennial Convention
May 25-26, 1951
Newhouse Hotel, Salt Lake City**

A tour of the Geneva Steel Plant in Provo, Utah highlighted the sixteenth triennial convention of the Utah Association of the Deaf during May 25-26, 1951. The following morning, the registration at the Newhouse Hotel showed more than 150 members congregated. They boarded buses for the mass tour in the afternoon (Geneva Steel Tour Features Deaf Meet, 1951; Utah Deaf Society Opens Conclave, 1951).



**Rodney W. Walker, UAD President
The Utah Eagle, April 1955**

Byron B. Burnes of Berkeley California, president of the National Association of the Deaf, was a keynote speaker at the banquet (Geneva Steel Tour Features Deaf Meet, 1951).

Mrs. Justina Keeley, UAD secretary, spoke on the theme, “Know Your UAD” and highlighted the history of the Utah Association of the Deaf (Geneva Steel Tour Features Deaf Meet, 1951).

Rodney W. Walker was re-elected president of UAD (Utah Deaf Return Leader to Office, May 26, 1951).

During the business session of the convention, a motion was made and passed that the Utah Association of the Deaf would become a member of the National Association of the Deaf Century Club. \$100 was to be given to the Century Club from the fundraising parties (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 13).

In 1951, Howard P. Leatham, director of the Driver's License Division, Utah Public Safety Department, was reported in the Salt Lake Tribune on July 15 that most deaf drivers were better than ordinary motorists because they compensate for their hearing loss by being more than ordinarily cautious, and he also said that even motorists who are deaf, dumb and blind are legally driving vehicles in the state, endangering the lives of the citizens (The Salt Lake Tribune, July 15, 1951). Eugene W. Petersen, secretary of the UAD, in his public forum, protested the slur against the deaf drivers of Utah in the otherwise excellent editorial on the Utah driver license law in the Tribune of July 15. He said that it wasn't long ago that the Ford Times published an article on this subject entitled, "The Safest Drivers in the World." There were several reasons why they were a better driver; they tended to be more alert and not to depend on hearing alone to warn them of danger; they were defensive drivers; they were not distracted by radios or conversation while driving. They were proud of their record and realized the importance of maintaining it if they were to retain their right to drive. He also said, "The deaf as a group is to be commended on their driving record. Hearing people smug in their personal assurance of superiority could learn much from them" (Peterson, The Public Forum).



Justina W. Keeley
Golden Anniversary: Salt Lake
City Division No. 56. National
Fraternal Society of the Deaf. 1916-
1966. Prudential Plaza Auditorium.
October 15, 1966

1951 – 1954

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Rodney W. Walker
 John W. Glassett
 Eugene W. Petersen
 Gladys A. Hind

Board of Trustees

Justina Keeley, chair
 Frank W. Stone
 Milo Cutler, new

Did You Know?

What the Deaf Want

The deaf do not want to be supported by the federal government.

They seek only these things and no more:

1. Education to the point of self-support.
2. Guidance in how to “do for themselves” from qualified instructors.
3. Opportunity to demonstrate that they can hold jobs on merit, not pity.
4. The privilege of paying their way and providing for their loved ones.
5. The privilege of sharing responsibilities for the cost of federal, state, municipal and county governments with all other Americans.

There is no question as to the deaf being able to hold jobs. Indeed, aptitude tests have shown that in many instances, deaf workers are superior to unhandicapped workers. Examples: factories in which there is a great deal of unavoidable noise; others where manual deftness, seemingly possessed by all the deaf to an unusual degree, is a prime requisite. – From a NAD publication (The Utah Eagle, October 1951, p. 8).

Seventeenth Triennial Convention May 28-30, 1954 Murray B. Allen Center for the Blind, Salt Lake City

The seventeenth triennial convention was held at the Murray B. Allen Center for the Blind on May 28-30, 1954. On Saturday evening, a banquet was held at the Newhouse Hotel ballroom and a picnic on Sunday (Salt Lake Tribune, May 19, 1954).

At the convention, President Walker emphasized that Utah Association of the Deaf had never sought special favors, only equal social and vocational opportunities and recognition of their capabilities (Society of Deaf Waits Parley, 1951).

Eugene Peterson gave the address of welcome, drawing parallel between the UAD and a volunteer fire department (The UAD Bulletin, 1954, p. 2-3).

Kenneth C. Burdett gave response, appealing for co-operation with the National Association of the Deaf and told how it had been instrumental in defeating a move to bar deaf teachers (The UAD Bulletin, 1954, p. 2-3). He made an urgent request to UAD for



Kenneth C. Burdett, 1958

co-operation with the National Association of the Deaf and asked UAD to give support and encouragement to the NAD and its successful efforts defeating a move to bar deaf teachers from teaching state schools for the deaf. He emphasized the importance of a resolution supporting and praising the work of deaf teachers at Utah School for the Deaf and expressed unfavorable efforts of oralists to make it necessary for a person to have normal hearing before being permitted to teach the deaf (The UAD Bulletin, 1954, p. 1).

Three visitors were introduced: Mrs. R.L. Nixon, California, Miss Mary Eyring, Arizona and Mr. Briggs (The UAD Bulletin, 1954, p. 2-3). UAD noticed the absence of a great many of the younger deaf people at the convention, and they got the idea there was some feeling among them against the UAD. The UAD officers would like to know why, and they invited any and all of those who did not register during the convention to write or see them in person and give their reasons and suggestions (The UAD Bulletin, 1954, p, 1).

President Walker reported the UAD Award had been presented to Peter Green and Donna Mae Dekker since the last convention. No award was given since 1954, there

being no eligible candidates who had not previously won the award (The UAD Bulletin, 1954, p. 2-3).

President Walker reported on the UAD letter to Dr. E. Ellen Bateman, superintendent of the State Board of Education, concerning the UAD stand on the selection of the superintendent for the Utah School for the Deaf and the latter's favorable response (The UAD Bulletin, 1954, p. 2-3).

Joseph B. Burnett was elected president, succeeding Rodney W. Walker (Engineer Named President at Utah Deaf Meet, 1954). It was the aim of the officers to enroll every deaf adult in Utah in the association. They realized there were some who wanted nothing to do with the UAD because they thought the association did nothing for them. They asked that those who did not register during the convention to write – or see them in person – and give their reasons and suggestions. They wondered if the registration fee was too high or if the program needed to be improved. The officers however asked the Utah Deaf community to take a look into the past history of the UAD, and the experiences of other states, should convince them that while the officers were not active every day, they stood ready to swing into action to protect and defend the rights and privileges of the deaf whenever occasion demanded. UAD reminded the Utah Deaf community that in the past, the UAD succeeded in blocking legislation, which would have prevented the deaf from driving automobiles, and more recently nipped another such movement in the bud; it had accomplished a great deal of good in changing several conditions at the Utah School for the Deaf. More recently the UAD gave its support to the National Association of the Deaf in its successful fight to protect the deaf teachers of



**Dr. E. Allen Bateman, State
Superintendent Public Instruction,
Member of the Board of Education**

the deaf from the ill-informed and unjust efforts of certain individuals to persuade the U.S. Office of Education to set up the requirement that all teachers of the deaf have normal hearing. Officers stated that all this cost money. It costs money to hire a lawyer, for instance, to represent the UAD whenever they have dealings with the Utah State Legislature. It also costs money for stationery, postage, printing and duplicating the bulletin or announcements. Officers urged the money deaf invested in the UAD through membership dues was the best insurance they can buy to protect their present favorable status (The UAD Bulletin, 1954, p. 1 & 4).

During the convention, John Glassett made a motion that UAD publish a small paper to maintain interest in the UAD, about three times a year. It was passed and the



John Glassett

newsletter called the “UAD Bulletin” was first launched in 1954 (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 13). Nowadays, anyone, member or not member, can read the UAD Bulletin online at UAD.org. It carries articles about activities in which deaf are involved such as current obituaries, births, weddings, and much more.

During the business session, Bryon B. Burnes, president of the National Association of the Deaf, was a featured speaker (Salt Lake Tribune, May 19, 1954). Miss Rene Epding, personal secretary of Byron B. Burnes pointed out that NAD was established to protect any and all deaf people from unjust, unfair and misguided legislation or executive policies on a national level. Hence, NAD took its



Source: First UAD Bulletin in 1954

efforts to depend directly upon cooperation from state and local associations of the deaf and individual members for support (The UAD Bulletin, 1954, p. 1).

In order to support NAD and in response to Rene Epding's appeal, a few member of the UAD lined up to subscribe to the "The Silent Worker" magazine, a popular deaf magazine for the national Deaf community at that time, and joined the NAD as well. The Silent Worker was the only magazine that was exclusively written, edited, and published by the deaf. It was the voice of the deaf all over the United States in order to educate the public with their problems and successes (The UAD Bulletin, 1954, p. 1). In the 1920s, Harry Sanger Smith, known as Bob White, a printing and linotyping instructor at the Utah School for the Deaf was an author for The Silent Worker magazine (The Silent Worker, April 1925, p. 359).

President Rodney W. Walker submitted the following resolution,

Whereas, the Utah Association of the Deaf recognizes the value of oral training for those deaf children who are capable of mastering oral skills, and

Whereas, it is a known fact that not all deaf children can progress satisfactorily in an educational system where oral methods alone are employed, and

Whereas, deaf teachers of the deaf by their example and their interest and enthusiasm, as well as by their ability to teach, have been invaluable force of good in the education of the deaf, and

Whereas, the services of deaf teachers are indispensable to the proper progress of many of the children,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Utah Association of the Deaf condemns and deplors efforts of certain minority factions in the field of the education of the deaf to install rigid oral methods as the sole means of educating the deaf, and

Be it further resolved that the Utah Association of the Deaf will vigorously oppose any and all efforts to eliminate deaf teachers and replace them with teachers capable only of using the inadequate single-approach oral method of instruction.

The resolution was accepted and unanimously passed. It was in line with the National Association of the Deaf and many other state associations of the deaf (UAD Bulletin, 1954, p. 3; UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 13).

At this time, the Deaf community in Utah did not view deafness as a "personal tragedy." They saw all aspects of the deaf experience as positive and a blessing. Thus, Utah Association of the Deaf published an article entitled, "Count Your Blessings!"

Count Your Blessings!

So you are deaf? Well, are you working and earning a living? Are you healthy? Are you married and raising a family? Have you a good roof over your head, and a warm fire in the stove? Do you have an automobile, a television receiver, a washing machine?

There are thousands – even millions – of people who, even with normal hearing, do not have our blessings, if we may call them that.

Yes, we are deaf - but deafness has its compensations. We cannot hear bad music, nor the sudden, irritating blast of an auto horn; we cannot hear the endless television and radio commercials, the roar of jet planes, nor the barking of dogs and screeching of cats in the middle of the night.

As many employers are finding out, the deaf make better workers than the hearing in certain jobs where noise is a nerve shaking experience.

So, Goodbye, 1954. We have not done so badly after all (UAD Bulletin, January 1955, p. 1).

Two years later on August 2, 1954, the recommendations were included in a thirteen-page report submitted to the Utah State Board of Education by a special sub-committee headed by Representative Oscar W. McConkie, Jr (Deseret News and



Telegram, August 2, 1954). It was recommended that a day school for severely hard of hearing children be established and expanded at the University of Utah as well as

strengthen the state's deaf educational program. It also recommended that the University provide facilities for adequate training of teachers for the deaf. The report indicated that regarding a long controversy as to whether the oral or lip-reading method or sign language method of teaching the deaf should be preferred, it was recommended the use of oralism. It was agreed that the sign language method should be introduced for children who do not progress sufficiently rapid under the oral method. The further recommendations were to set up adequate day classes in public schools on a school district basis, appoint a state director of special education to coordinate all special education programs in the state, to coordinate all agencies dealing with special education, improve the present education program including emphasis on oralist teaching, use of hearing aids, and additional vocation education (Deseret News and Telegram, August 2, 1954).

1954 – 1957

President	Joseph B. Burnett
Vice President	Eugene W. Petersen
Secretary	Robert G. Sanderson
Treasurer	Robert J. Welsh (resigned 5-20-1956) G. Leon Curtis (appointed 5-20-1956)
 Board of Trustees:	 Frank W. Stone Milo Cutler holdover Dora B. Laramie – new

Eighteenth Triennial Convention May 24-25, 1957 Utah Power and Light Company, Salt Lake City

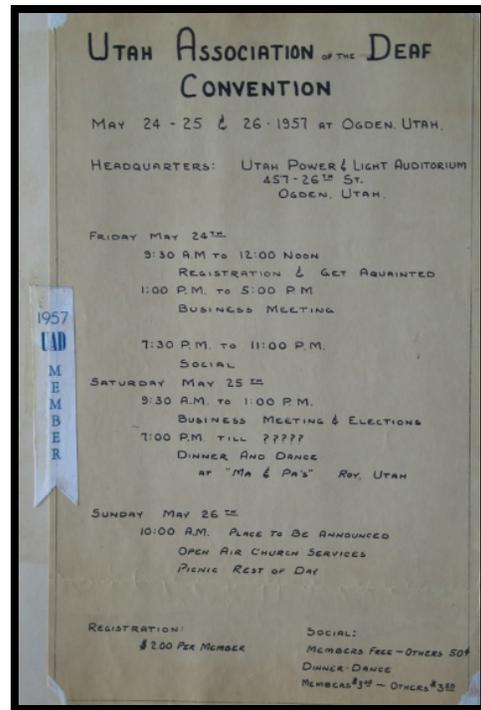
The Utah Association of the Deaf opened its eighteenth triennial convention at the Utah Power and Light Company in Salt Lake City on May 24-25, 1957 with the election

of the new board of directors as principal order of business (Utah Deaf Association Opens Annual Convention in Ogden, 1957).

Ned C. Wheeler was selected as chairman to prepare for the convention and the address of welcome was given by him (Ogden Standard Examiner, May 29, 1957; The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 13).

During the convention, the highlight of the UAD was a symbol of cooperation of the deaf of Utah. The UAD could get things together which individuals could not get alone. The UAD was now modern in keeping with times. The UAD watches after the interest of deaf children, and is ever alert to protect their rights and privileges (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 13).

UAD accepted and established the Arthur W. Wenger Scholarship fund. At that



Robert W. Tegeder, principal of Utah School for the Deaf

time, it was the only scholarship for the sole purpose of encouraging Utah deaf students to aim at a higher education, and the only one having an original principal sum which came from the students themselves at the Utah School for the Deaf (The UAD Bulletin, April 1958, p. 3).

John Glassett cautioned members to vote carefully for directors and not to complain later if their choices were not satisfactory (The UAD Bulletin, Summer 1963, p. 13).



On June 9, 1957, it was announced that Robert W. Tegeder, 34, Detroit educator, was appointed as principal of Utah School for the Deaf (The Ogden Standard Examiner, June, 9, 1957).

On February 12, 1959, Frank Milton Driggs, USD former superintendent passed away at the age of 88 (Former Deaf School Head Dies at 88, 1959).

1957 – 1960

President	Arthur W. Wenger
Vice President	Eugene W. Peterson
Secretary	Robert G. Sanderson
Treasurer	G. Leon Curtis
Chair	Ned C. Wheeler
Board Members	Marlo D. Honey
	John (Jack) F. White
	Kenneth L. Kinner
	Bruce M. Eyre
	W. David Mortensen
	Gladys B. Wenger
Board of Trustees	Milo Cutler

Dora B. Laramie
Gladys B. Wenger