

History of MoAD

(Author unknown)

This year will mark the 27th Biennial and Diamond Anniversary Convention of Missouri Association of the Deaf and the Third Miss Deaf Missouri Pageant at the time in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 5-7, 1981. This year's meeting promises convention goes super facilities and entertainment which we trust will have parallel with any past convention.

Missouri Association of the Deaf in the state of Missouri in 1907 is a non-profit, tax exempt organization, incorporated, which works for the advancement of the deaf.

Certain to be of interest to many Missourians and former Missourians and friends from coast to coast is the new workshop with Melvin Carter, Communications Skills Director of N.A.D., co-sponsored by M.A.D. and Gallaudet College Extension Center at JCCC. David S. Rosenthal, Project Consultant, Missouri Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in Jefferson City, Mo. is the Technical Assistant.

Whenever we think of associations it is with the thought of the first national convention that was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 25, 1880. It said then that "We have interest which can be taken care of by ourselves." It would not have been possible for state associations to spread over the United States had it not been for the fact that many deaf people across the country, realized that they had to organize a state association of the deaf in order to meet N.A.D.'s requirements and to further their own interest.

The deaf citizens of St. Louis had plans to host the 7th Triennial Convention of National Association of the Deaf and the World Congress of the Deaf in the Hall of Congress at the World's Fair during August 20-27, 1904.

When the first meeting of Missouri Association of the Deaf was held in the Schuyler Memorial House in the afternoon of the 23rd of August, 1904, the members set up the object of the Association and the necessity of organizing to promote the welfare of the Deaf in our state.

Two most important projects of that time was to establish a home for the aged and disabled deaf of Missouri and for the purpose of promoting general welfare of the Deaf of Missouri.

The fifty-four charter members and the other members and also the friends of M.A.D. have been hard at work almost seventy-five years gathering funds for this Home. Now many of the workers are old and infirm and depend on charity because the Home was never built.

Our primary object now is to establish a Retirement Center for the aged and disabled deaf of Missouri. 15 acres of land have already been purchased in Fulton, Missouri. Actual construction of the Home is indefinite waiting for approval of the Housing and Urban Development.

We have aided many of our older deaf citizens with dental, optical and medical expenses when needed and when not in conflict with state welfare rules if such citizen was a welfare recipient.

We have fought for the right of the Deaf to drive automobiles. They could be deprived of that privilege. We have constantly urged T.V. stations for use of captions for very important announcements – for instance, tornado warnings. We support the National Association of the Deaf when there was a concerted effort by some states to deprive deaf of the right to teach. We have encouraged our state legislators to establish a law requiring all courts to appoint an interpreter for the deaf when they appear in court.

Three of our very important projects at this time are to establish a youth program within M.A.D., to encourage our younger deaf to become actively interested in M.A.D., and their future welfare, and to help get a deaf person appointed on the Board of Advisors of the Missouri School for the Deaf. Also to encourage the Superintendent to replace retiring deaf teachers with deaf teachers to insure a continuity of deaf in the teaching professionals, is a project of the M.A.D.

Our by-laws permit us to have other deaf organizations of the Deaf as cooperating members organizations who pay a yearly fee to the M.A.D. Such organizations may send a representative to our Executive Committee meeting and such a representative may take part in discussions but will have no voting privilege. If, however, the organization's membership take out a 100% individual membership in the M.A.D. (\$2.00 per year effective in June 1975) then the representative shall have all privileges including voting, except holding office.

We are entering a new and complex period wherein good leaders will be needed. The problem is that demands which people are making for involvements, or more direct representation...and for an "a place of the action"...require more leaders and broadening minds.

We need leaders who can work with and through people. We need leaders who can understand complex problems. We need leaders who value the opinions of the people. We need leaders who, rather than make arbitrary decisions, bring people together and work out a course of action which will solve a problem or get a job done.

We know these leaders can be effective because we have seen them work and we have seen the results which they have produced. They know how to listen, even though they are deaf. They know how to bring people together. They know how to get results.

Whenever we think of organizations, the idea that automatically comes to mind is "a place of everything, and everything in its place." That is what a good organizer does—find a place for everything and has everything in its place.

This is a call for every Missourian to get off his apathy and start caring. It is awfully easy to sit around and decry the Deaf movement. Or it is easier to lay back and blame everyone else in the state for your problems.

The Seventies have been labeled by many as the "ME" decade. Let's all do what we can to change the "ME" to "WE" in the 80's and learn to make the often unpleasant sacrifices that might be necessary to make the M.A.D. one of the best organizations in America.

1906 – The Second Convention, in St. Louis, favored the most satisfactory up-to-date solution to the problem of providing for the worthy aged and infirm of our class through a state home, supported by the deaf themselves, aided by the generosity of their hearing friends. The voting showed each and everyone to be very enthusiastic over the project. Rev. James Cloud started the Home Fund by donating the first one dollar first.

The association set up their objectives which were four fold: to advance the social, educational and industrial status of the deaf in Missouri, and the establishment of a Home for the Aged and Infirm Deaf. The Home Fund, under the jurisdiction of the Association, was empowered to receive bequests for the Home.

1909 – The Third Convention in Kansas City...Our association was granted a Pro Fracisas Degree of Incorporation in 1907...then plans to build a home in the Ozarks for the aged deaf was discussed and \$800 was subscribed.

1911 – At the Fourth Convention was in St. Joseph. The Executive Committee was directed to use its influence with the Legislature and Governor to the end that a law be enacted making it a serious misdemeanor for persons who are not deaf-mutes to pose as deaf mutes.

1913 – The Fifth Convention, in St. Louis, authorized the general treasurer of the Home Fund, instead of the President of the Association, to appoint the local chairman and to make the Home Fund treasurer responsible to the Association's local chairman and their assistants appointed by him.

1919-1923-1926 – The Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Convention were held jointly with the Alumni Association of the Missouri School for the Deaf and the Missouri Association in Fulton. Joint meetings, insuring a larger attendance, make it possible and the devising of practical means for the advancement of the deaf and the maintenance of a Home for the Aged and infirm Deaf and Blind Deaf of Missouri. Mr. Henry Gross spoke of the slow growth of the Fund in the past few years due to the activities of the deaf having been turned to war relief work.

1929 – At the Ninth Convention was held in St. Louis, Miss Dosa Grimmert of Fulton had the Home of the Deaf much at heart. In her will she made bequests to her relatives and left the balance of her estate, which amounted to about \$4,000 to the Home Fund.

Professor Henry Gross, who was treasurer of the Home Fund for 15 years, was an honored and valued teacher at the Missouri School for the Deaf. Through his wise and careful management, that fund amounted at his death to over \$17,000. Dr. James Cloud also was with the M.A.D. for 32 years. The Executive Committee with Peter T. Hughes had looked over several prospective places in Callaway County near Fulton, but they could not find anything suitable.

1933 – The Tenth Triennial Convention occurred in Kansas City. The Home Fund, amounted to only \$25,000, was insufficient to obtain a building and land and then to have enough money left over to form an endowment that would support the Home. Peter T. Hughes stated that the Deaf of the state and their friends had been hard at work for almost thirty years gathering the fund, and that some of the workers are now old; and other worthy old deaf of this state, they should be given pensions, or some other kind of permanent or temporary relief

1937 – The Eleventh Triennial Convention was held in St. Louis...The Home Fund was now 31 years old. We had two funds in our Home Fund-one, the Principal Fund, including everything received except coupons and dividends. The other is the Interest Fund, into which all

coupons from bonds and interests are deposited. This fund is used for relief.

1940 – At the Twelfth Triennial Convention held in Kansas City proposed a revision of the Constitution and By-Laws was called for.

All graduates of the Missouri School who were given one year's membership in the Association as a graduation present were also accepted.

1946 – The Thirteenth Triennial Convention took place in Springfield, Mo. A new record of 400 registered. Employment chances for the Deaf were good during and after the Second World War, but there may be a time when we should need a Bureau for Employment of the Deaf.

A plan had been proposed for closer cooperation between the Association and the Federal Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. The Clara Belle Murphy Fund was accepted and placed in the custody of the Association Treasury.

1949 – The Fourteenth Triennial Convention occurred in Jefferson City. The Association was instructed to proceed to establish a Home for the Aged and Infirm Deaf when the Funds should reach a sum equivalent to \$75,000.

1952 – The Fifteenth Triennial Convention took place in Columbia, Mo. An amendment to the By-Laws excluding from payment of dues those members who reached the age of 70, and have paid dues for 15 years. They are classified as Life Members.

1954 – The Sixteenth Triennial Convention occurred in St. Louis, celebrating the Golden Anniversary of its founding.

The revised amendment as to object, Article II: *The object of the Association shall be the establishment and maintenance of a Homes for the Aged and Infirm Deaf of Missouri, the advancement of the general welfare of the Deaf, the state, and the maintenance of an automobile service fund for deaf drivers.* Also, the Association vigorously opposed any and all misguided efforts to eliminate deaf teachers of the deaf and replace them with instructors who can use only the inadequate, single approach, oral method of instructions.

1958 – The Seventeenth Triennial Convention was in Kansas City, Mo...The Association ratified the Reorganization Plan of N.A.D. and became a cooperating member of a new N.A.D. Amendment to the Constitution provided that the Association meets every two years. The Association favored instruction at the Missouri School for the Deaf that strongly supported the continuance of the Combined System of instructions at this school.

1961 – The Eighteenth Triennial Convention in Jefferson City...President Fred Murphy gave a "final report" as president of the Association from 1937 to 1961, a span of 24 years and eight terms.

The Association assisted deaf persons for optical, dental or medical aid for those who could not afford it.

1964 – The Nineteenth Triennial Convention in Kansas City, Mo. Celebrated the 60th Anniversary of M.A.D. It was proposed to hire a Licensed Public Accountant to audit the Home Fund every 6 months and have the President appoint three Home Fund Trustees who shall have general oversight of the transactions of the Home Fund Treasurer.

1966 – The Twentieth Convention in St. Louis, Mo....The Law Committee took up the amendments submitted and seconded for changes in our By-Laws. One change affected the M.A.D. Newsletter. It was to be printed quarterly, i.e. four times a year.

1969 – The Twenty-First Convention....The amendment were submitted and second for change in our By-Laws....the amendment on the object Article II: Membership: *He shall pay his N.A.D. quota of \$1.50 per year or such amount as may in the future be levied by the N.A.D.*

1971 – At the Twenty-Second Convention occurred in Independence, a Law Committee was appointed to revise the Constitution and By-Laws one year from then at a place to be designated by the Executive Committee.

1973 – At the Twenty-Third Convention in Springfield, Mo....Ratification of the revision on Constitution and By-Laws and the Law Committee's recommendations were accepted by a majority vote.

1975 – At the Twenty-fourth Convention in Sedalia, Mo....A \$300,000 campaign was proposed to raise the amount in the next ten years to build the Home.

1977 – At the Twenty-Fifth Convention in St. Louis, Mo....A new proposal was passed..."*The President of the M.A.D. shall have the power to appoint two members (hearing impaired) to serve as advisors to the Executive Board of the Missouri Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.*"

1979 – The Twenty-Sixth Convention at Columbia, Mo....that President of M.A.D. Inc. shall establish an advisory council of the officers and members who live in his or her home town.