RIT/NTID Deaf Studies Archive
3rd floor, 3660

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INTRODUCTION

- NTID History
- Deaf Organizations
- Education
- Theater and Film
- Visual Arts
- Poetry and Literature
- Technology
- Periodicals
- Deaf and Holocaust
- For More Information
NTID HISTORY

- Founding of NTID
- NTID Groundbreaking
- NTID Community
- NTID Alumni
DEAF ORGANIZATIONS

- Deaf Women of Rochester
- Empire State Association of the Deaf
- Rochester TTY Organization
- National Fraternal Society of the Deaf
Empire State Association of the Deaf

Celebrating the 150 years of Advocacy and Rights of Deaf People and Many More Years to Come!

October 1-4, 2015
Embassy Suites Hotel Syracuse
6644 Old Commons Road South
East Syracuse, NY 13057
EDUCATION

• Ahira Webster Diary-1859
• L’Epee and Deaf Mutes Banquets
• Tripod School and Films
Ahira Webster Diary

- The Ahira Webster papers includes a diary from 1849-50, with daily entries describing Webster’s life at the New York Institute for the Deaf and news of events and people in the United States during this period, particularly about events preceding the American Civil War.

Also included is a brief biography of Ahira George Webster, a June 15, 1899 issue of Deaf-Mutes Journal, the 1849 Annual Report and Documents of the New-York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, and a photocopied portrait of Webster.
Monday, March 5, 1847.

This was the first day of Mr. Ballard's week of supervision but Mr. Silliman created the office the week before. Friday Mr. Ballard could not go to Boston and had to ask Mr. F. to exchange work with him. He had been sick and now was better. He came home and taught his algebra.

We heard that General Taylor began to act upon this duty of the office to succeed Mr. Silliman, the Ensign of the United States. Mr. Silliman who was the new vice-president was inaugurated at Washington. I like General Taylor better than Mr. Silliman. We rejoiced with great joy on account of his new position. It seemed that most of the people in the town wished the poor President away from his office.

Tuesday, March 6. In the morning school began, my teacher told us the news about the president contained in the newspapers. Yesterday the city of Boston was full of people. It is said that their number consisted of about ten thousand persons. At ten o'clock the old Vice President accompanied Mr. Silliman to go to the chapel to hold an exhibition before a large school of young ladies under the care of Miss Haines, a well known and popular teacher. They all seemed much pleased. Miss Haines asked us several questions which we answered in writing. At intervals while we were writing on the slates, Miss Haines passed little signs and assured them very much. At the conclusion of our exercises Miss Haines requested our teacher to tell us that she had been very much gratified with what we had done. In the afternoon a colored woman from Claye named Mrs. Gage came here with her...
L’Epee Medal and Deaf Mutes Banquet
THEATRE AND FILM

- Robert Panara’s Collections
- Newby Ely’s Deaf Film Collection
- Bernard Bragg’s Collection
- NTID Drama Club
- NTID Performing Arts
- Lights On! Rochester Deaf Theatre
- National Theater of the Deaf
- Australian Theater of the Deaf
- Deaf Rochester Film Fests
Robert F. Panara
Have his Gallaudet undergraduate papers, many photos, his involvement with The Advisory Board for NTID, the Drama Club, NTD, and more. Look at Harry Lang’s collection on Robert Panara as he wrote a book about him.
DEAF PLAYERS' GUIDE
1982-1983

A nationwide directory of talented deaf performers
for Stage, Screen and Television

Published by
The National Theatre of the Deaf
Third Edition
SIGN POETRY AND LITERATURE

Lerners ASL Poetry Collection
Robert Panara Video Collection
Robert Panara Deaf Literature Collection
We have Robert Panara’s papers from his Gallaudet days, his MA thesis, and we think we have his dissertation work from Catholic University.
DEAF VISUAL ARTS

- Deaf Artists from the NTID Community
- International Deaf Artists
- National Deaf Artists
- Famous Deaf Artists
TECHNOLOGY
Vista phone: 1ST Videophone! Stromberg-Carlson company in Rochester—used a TV and phone lines to create a videophone in the late 1960s.
VISTAPHONE AT NTID

- Communication limited to VISTAPHONE users
- NTID had 29 of these VISTAPHONES
- Phased out in the early 1970s….too expensive
- Samuel Holcomb retrieved two of the VISTAPHONES
- We have articles about this VISTAPHONE
DR HARRY LANG AND FIRST TTY MODEM
Dr. Robert Weitbrecht and James C. Marsters
TTY MODEM: THREE DEAF MEN

Dr. James Marsters, Dentist

Robert Weitbrecht, Physicist

Andrew Saks, Engineer
Paul and Sally Taylor
1st TTY Prototype in St. Louis. Involved with TTY repairs, relay service, and donated materials Related to TTY history.
LEE BRODY TTY COLLECTION

• Collection of TTY equipment, business records, posters, and awards relating to telecommunications pioneer Lee Brody. TTY phones allow the deaf to use the phone to communicate.

• He started a non-profit company called Phone-TTY. He sought out donations of teletypewriters, which he would refurbish with modems.

• He developed the world’s first Braille TTY used by the Deaf Blind to communicate by phone.

• His company also designed assistive devices, including doorbell and phone ringing light signalers and wake up devices.
LEE BRODY COLLECTION

- The collection includes records of Phone TTY and vibrator signaler used with the Helen Keller Tactile Communicator
- Correspondence with utilities and patents
- Various models of TTY couplers
- Pocket TTY
- Company records include correspondence, invoices, logo artwork, and advertisements
- There is a Braille tape from the Braille TTY
TELETYPEWRITER helps the Rev. Roger Pickering “talk” with others. Telephones-like instrument, a couple-converter, is part of communications system designed for deaf.

The Deaf Listen With Their Eyes

The Phone Call Rings With a Flashing Light

By STEPHANIE GEORGE

WHEN the Rev. Roger Pickering gets a phone call, he doesn’t pick up the receiver and shout to talk. He listens to the receiver off the hook, which shows, at a teletypewriter, the message or conversation.

He is one of the growing number of deaf persons who are part of a communications system designed specifically for them.

Rev. Pickering is chairman of the Desilco Church for the Deaf, 1321 W. 16th St., which is a mission of St. Stephen’s Church, explained how the system works.

Telephones or telephones-like machines found in the attack market, billing houses and newspaper newsrooms, are used. Stenographers on an ordinary telephone wire, a teletypewriter is connected with a highly skilled deaf tele-telephone instrument, a couple-converter.

Messages set on through the teletypewriter keyboard of the teletypewriter are printed in braille dots. They are then reproduced by the receiver, which changes them into electrical signals that send them to a relayed telephone line.

At the other end, as a message is sent, the receiver signals the “called” party that there is a message for him. He goes to his tele-telephone, reads the message and types his reply.

This system was developed by a deaf engineer, Dr. William in 1961 for easy communication among deaf people. It was first used in the Philadelphia area in the fall of 1961. Mr. Pickering said that it enables the deaf to communicate easily without having to get a neighbor to telephone services for their deaf girls, or having to drive great distances to other deaf communities.

Rev. Mr. Pickering is president of the Delaware Valley Tele-Communications for the Dep. D.Y.K., has two teletypewriter stations in his home and one at All Hallows’ Church.

DELAWARE Valley Tele-Communications for the Deaf was begun in 1961 by Mr. Pickering, the current president.

D.Y.K.O.’s purpose, according to the bylaws, is to furnish telephone machinery for the deaf in their homes and the Deaf who are in their service. D.Y.K.O. has a board of directors, and the tele-telephers and deaf people who are members and to have established “public tele-telephers at points selected as the Bell Telephone Corp. has after.”
ASL ranch proposed to meet needs of convent

Eye Festival project would provide
total accessibility for conferences,
tournaments, camping and retreats

By Shae Finney

LOS ANGELES — The concept of a year-round
conference and training center that serves all
deaf people and is just outside Los Angeles was
announced at the November 1994 ASL Festival held in
The Festival is sponsored by the Eye Festival
Project, a non-profit organization.

Funds raised with a long-range goal of $2 million to
purchase in Los Angeles this year by the Eye Festival
Funding Center, Inc. A non-profit corporation
founded in 1986, is responsible for organizing the
largest Deaf exposition in the country, the ASL Festi-
val. At this festival, EFFC outlined the features of
the ASL Ranch concept.

This would house deaf conferences, conventions,
tournaments, camping, retreats and training sessions.
The design is to be barrier-free and totally visually
accessible for all attendees. It will contain indoor and
outdoor text messaging and telecommunications
devices, in a walled area accessible by freeways in Southern California.

As a permanent facility, it would also welcome
people with vision impairments.

Funds are being raised for the Deaf Ranch. As a
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Patti Durr Collection
Newby Ely Collection
Includes video interviews
documents and related materials
Go to http://library.rit.edu. Click on Search Collections.
Click on RIT Archives
If you want a general idea of what is in the Deaf Studies Archive, click on Collections. If you want to browse specific collections, click on Finding Aids. We collect documents, objects, artwork, clothing, newspapers, scripts, videos, and other related materials.
Finding Aids

You can click on Browse All to find the Deaf Studies Archive collections or if you know what you are searching for. Type in your keywords in the search box.
Finding Aids

You will see this in the left hand column. Click on RIT/NTID Deaf Studies Archives to get an idea of what we have. Note that not all collections have finding aids yet. Note that there are several Deaf Studies Archive links.
Some Collection Examples

**NTID**—History, Drama Club, Robert Panara collections on Deaf Literature, Posters, and Videos, Student Life Videos, Harry Lang collection on Robert Panara, Edmund Booth, biographical work, and NTID History

**Deaf School—TRIPOD**

**Theater**—Rochester Deaf Theater, Lights On, National Theater of the Deaf, Australian Theater of the Deaf, Bernard Bragg

**ASL Poetry and Literature**—ASL Literature conferences, Lerner ASL Poetry collection

**Deaf Holocaust Survivors**—Durr and Newby collections

**Deaf Organizations**—Deaf Women of Rochester, Empire State Association of the Deaf, National Fraternal Society

**TTY and Videophone**—Lee Brody TTY collection, First TTY modem, Vistaphone

**Photography and Artwork**—Melbourne Spurr, Susan Dupor, Paul Johnston, Nancy Rourke, Theresa Coughlan, Pamela Witcher, Paula Grcevic, Arnaud Balard and others

**Deaf Rochester Film Fests**—2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, Deaf Film Posters

**Diary**—Ahira Webster
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