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ON THE COVER

For over one hundred years the old Main Building provided living accommodations as well as classroom facilities for deaf students in Maryland. The building was torn down in 1967.
This is a special Historical Edition of *The Maryland Bulletin*. This commemorates the first Hazel McCanner/Maryland School for the Deaf History Contest.

Ms. Hazel McCanner worked for the Maryland School for the Deaf a total of forty-seven years. She worked as secretary, as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, and upon the death of Mr. Lloyd Ambrosen, served as Superintendent of the school until Dr. David M. Denton could come to Frederick to assume responsibilities as Superintendent. Ms. McCanner was always interested in the proud history of the school and did research and writing along these lines. It was fitting that upon her death her family and friends set up the Hazel McCanner Memorial Fund in order to award prizes for a Maryland School for the Deaf History Contest.

In this first Historical Edition we are printing the six award winning essays, along with pictures demonstrating various phases in the history of our school.

We, here at the school, are proud of MSD’s rich heritage and we hope you will enjoy our sharing a portion of it with you through this edition. We further hope that future Historical Editions will be possible following each year’s Hazel McCanner/Maryland School for the Deaf History Contest.

Miss Hazel McCanner receives an award from Governor J. Millard Tawes, in the spring of 1962.
The Maryland School for the Deaf

Kenneth W. Kritz

The State of Maryland recognized the need to provide special educational services to deaf children very early in its history. A Joint Committee of the Legislature met with the Reverend Mr. Galdauter, Principal of the American Asylum at Hartford, Connecticut, and Lewis Wild, Principal of the Pennsylvania Institute, to gather information regarding provision of such educational services. In 1808, a bill was passed in the Legislature providing funds for the education of deaf children. A sum not to exceed $160.00 per child was authorized to send deaf children from Maryland to the Pennsylvania Institute for the Deaf and Dumb. For many years, deaf children from Maryland were educated in Pennsylvania. In 1860, a new law required the governor to send deaf children to the Columbia Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, located in Washington, D.C., and to provide $200.00 per child, per year, for this purpose.

By this time, Maryland had the need for providing facilities to educate its deaf children within the boundaries of the State and on March 1, 1867, Henry Baker, of Frederick, reported a bill to incorporate the Maryland Institute for the education of the deaf and dumb. It passed both Houses on March 22nd of that year. The Maryland School for the Deaf was thereby established.

A Board of Visitors was established with the following officers: President, A. Fuller Crane; Vice-President, William J. Ross; Treasurer, Lawrence J. Bremig, and Secretary, H. Clay Nail. These officers appointed a committee to draft bills for the School and applied to the Legislature to satisfy and confirm the actions of the Board and to grant additional powers.

In the January, 1868, session of the Legislature, the action of the Board of Visitors was confirmed. The original action set apart the "State Grounds" at Frederick together with the building thereon for use of the School and gave it an annual endowment of $5,000.00 with an initial $25,000.00 for furnishing and building purposes. On April 26, 1868, the Board met and chose the following officers and teachers: William D. Cooke, Principal; Charles M. Grow, Mrs. L. E. Grow; and Charles L. Cooke, Teacher of Deaf Children. The first permanent building, known as the Old Building or Old Main Building, was completed in February, 1867. During the 1860's enrollment at the Maryland School for the Deaf continued to grow. The School was filled to capacity and frequently there was a waiting list of deaf children needing services. The State of Maryland again recognized its obligation to deaf children and in 1864 two new dormitories were constructed and occupied in 1866. These were later followed by additional facilities for the deaf. The Old Building was completed in February, 1867. When the administrative offices moved, the old Main Building ceased to serve any Campus function. Since then the building was in need of repair. The old Main Building was again reoccupied during the summer of 1867. The new facilities made it possible for the school to meet the increasing demands of deaf children. However, the Rubeola epidemic of the middle sixties brought new problems. The estimates of children who would be deaf as a result of this epidemic were very high and the headmaster began making plans to meet the needs of these children. The School adopted a two-prong plan, building additional facilities at Frederick and establishing a branch campus to be located near the population center of the State. On the Frederick Campus, a large new educational facility provided accommodations for the Intermediate and Advanced Departments, some vocational classes, and also provided a large auditorium to serve the entire campus. The building, the Ely Building, was occupied during the fall of 1972.

Meanwhile, in 1968, the Maryland General Assembly had passed a law establishing a branch campus of the Maryland School for the Deaf. This was located in Howard County near the city of Columbia. Plans were for this campus to be developed in three phases. Phase I, the elementary unit serving students ages 4 through 12, was completed and opened in the fall of 1973. The staff had been hired during the summer and furniture had been ordered. However, when the new staff and students arrived in September, there was no furniture to greet them. They had to make do by working on the carpet and with a few necessary pieces of furniture on loan from the Frederick Campus, in 1974, a new program was established on the Columbia Campus to provide services for multi-handicapped deaf children. Four through twelve years of age. A special building to accommodate these children was built and the program moved into these facilities in January, 1975. The goal of this portion of the program was to enable these children to transfer into the regular program for deaf children later in their school careers. Small student-staff ratios make true individualized education possible in this program. Now, Phase II on the Columbia Campus have been completed and the School has classrooms, dormitory rooms and dormitory space for Intermediate Department as well as auditorium and swimming pool.

The program on the Frederick Campus continued to expand and the vocational and gymnastic building was inadequate to the School's needs. Plans were made for the replacement of this facility. The University Gymnasium was nearly completed and through special arrangements the Maryland School for the Deaf was proud to host to the E.S.D.A.A. Basketball Tournament in February, 1974. Classes officially moved into the building in April, 1974. During this same period, construction was progressing rapidly on the vocational building. We anticipated being able to move into this facility in the fall of 1974 and based on this assumption, the old building was demolished during the summer of 1974 to make room for the A. Fuller Crane Memorial Mall. The building was not ready for the opening of school that fall and vocational classes found temporary quarters in the Ely Building. On December 2nd, the Vocational Department did move into...
the Veltz Building; however, because of time requirements for moving, setting up, and so forth, classes were not actually held there until later in the year. To meet the needs of future expansion and to provide additional facilities for vocational training, the Lots farm was purchased in 1979 adding 28 acres to the Campus. In 1966 and 1980, additional maintenance buildings were completed to provide facilities for the expanded functions of that department.

Throughout its years of existence, the Maryland School for the Deaf has been very fortunate in being governed by a Board of Visitors who were actively interested in the provision of educational services to deaf children and who worked diligently for the welfare of the School and its programs. Over the years many Maryland citizen unsparingly gave time and energy in serving on the Board of Visitors. To this date, there have been twelve men who offered leadership and guidance; as President of Board of Visitors. They are: A. Fuller Crane, Enoch Pratt, William R. Berry, Fairfax Schley, John Black, Bernard C. Steiner, John K. Shaw, John H. Baker, Charles E. Moylan, J. Vincent Jamieson, 3rd, Jacob Yingling and Richard Mul- linix. The School has also been fortunate in having dedicated Superintendents capable of providing the leadership under which the School and its programs flourish. The eight Superintendents have been: William D. Cooke (1866-1870), Charles W. Ely (1870-1912), Charles R. Ely (1912-1913), Thomas C. Fores- ter (1913-1918), Ignatius Björk (1918-1950), Lloyd A. Ambrosen (1955-1965), Hazel K. McCauley (1965), and David M. Denton (1967-presently serving).

Throughout its years of service to deaf people in the State of Maryland, the school has not been content to simply maintain programs, but has sought to improve and expand educational opportunities. Activities have not always been confined to services for deaf students but have included the general welfare of deaf people. A vocational program was begun early in the history of the school and offerings have been consistently expanded and now include work/study opportunities and job placement. It was Superintendent Björk who helped pioneer the cause of deaf drivers in Maryland and throughout the United States. Under Superintendent Ambrosen tremendous strides were taken to provide audiological evaluations and auditory training for deaf students. The school recognized the need for young deaf children to get an educational headstart and established a Preschool/Parent Counseling program to provide services for these young deaf children and their parents. While the school had recognized the importance of using all methods of communication in instructing students, including audition, speech, speech reading, signs and finger spelling, reading and writing, it was Superintendent Denton who, in 1968 formally announced use of this throughout the entire school and officially marked it as part of the school’s policy, thus giving birth to Total Communication at the Maryland School for the Deaf. The school is continuing to develop broader services for deaf students and to create innovative programs to meet the individual needs of students and it looks forward with confidence in serving future generations of deaf citizens of Maryland.

This is a rear view of the Old Main Building with the old heating plant in the foreground (now the site of the Mall). The Hessian Barracks are located to the right, out of the picture.

MARCH 1991
“Changes at MSD” as told by Mr. Kenneth Kritz

One windy March morning Mr. Kritz our school Assistant Superintendent and I sat down for a lengthy and worthwhile interview. I wanted to know what was different at MSD long ago and today. Mr. Kritz has been at MSD for 31 years. So I thought he was a perfect candidate to interview.

My first question was why he was living in the Hessian Barracks. He gave me three reasons. The first reason was that a long time ago in 1775 the Hessian Barracks needed repairs before it became a museum and could be open for the public. There were many displays in the museum that belonged to the history of the Barracks. A book that kept records of food and supplies that were used is one example. The school was concerned about who would take care of the Barracks and look out for the valuable things in case a burglar breaks in. They decided to let the carpenters who were repairing the museum build an apartment on the second floor on the right wing. They chose Mr. Kritz to live in it and look out for the things. The second reason is in case there is a problem after school hours on campus, and it is a serious problem Mr. Kritz will be there to help the dorm counselors if needed. The last reason is that when people are here on the weekends and they want to look inside to see what it looks like in the Barracks, Mr. Kritz will be there to guide the people around the building and serve as a tour guide. I went back and did some more research on the Hessian Barracks and information I found was very interesting. I found out that in 1776 Frederick asked that a military post to be established in the town. So in 1777 the state ordered that two Barracks be built at the southern end of Frederick. Through 1777 to 1779 captured German troops were kept at the Barracks after the battles of Bennington and Saratoga. Through 1780 to 1781, there were captured British soldiers staying at the Barracks from December 15, 1780, till the spring of 1781. Later the Ansbach troops were taken as prisoners and forced to march to and stay at Winchester, Virginia. In 1782 these troops were sent to the Barracks on January 31, 1782. The next day they left for Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In 1783 on April 24, there was a peace celebration because all the prisoners were freed. The Revolutionary War had ended. In 1802 through 1803 Lewis and Clark’s western expedition started here. From 1812 to 1845 other military functions were held at the Barracks. In 1853 to 1869 fairs and exhibitions were held at the Barracks. From 1861 to 1865 it served as a hospital during the civil war. In 1868, MSD opened in one of the Barracks. In 1875, MSD used it for different reasons. Right now Mr. Kritz lives in the Barracks because the Barracks needs protection and it is a valuable history Landmark in Maryland.

When Mr. Kritz first joined MSD there were less than 200 students. The old main building was not big enough for the vocational classes so they had to build a new vocational building. The vocational classes were print shop, shoe shop, and wood shop for boys only. Sewing and cooking were for girls only. Later the old vocational building was torn down and moved across the street to the new Veditz building. It has more vocational classes and are a mixture of boys and girls. The old gym had only one shower for all the students. Sometimes students had to go to the dorm to take a shower. Sports were for boys only. They played basketball, track, and soccer. Later the gym was moved to the new Benson Gym. It has an indoor pool, four lane bowling alley, a weight lift room, and a huge gym. The sports today are for both boys and girls. They are basketball (both), football (boys), volleyball (girls), track (both), and cross-country (both).

We did not have a lot of equipment for the school to use for a long time ago. We did not have a lot of money. The equipments were a movie projector for the whole school and an opiate. That was all for the whole school. Also we only had one station wagon for the whole school. The Superintendent of the school didn’t even have a car. If a class went on field trips they had to rent a bus. It cost a lot of money to pay for renting a bus. The dorms had limited space. There was one huge room where all the girls slept. It was the same for the boys. Back then we did not have a lot of privacy. Now you do have lots of privacy. Our rooms have four beds, four desks, and four closets.

Today we are very lucky to have many school buildings, a private room, and good teachers that are both deaf and hearing. Our school is established in the heart of a very valuable history of Maryland, the Hessian Barracks.

—Erich Himmelmann

MILITARY DRILLS

The Maryland School for the Deaf and many other residential schools were operated similarly to military schools at one time. The boys wore uniforms and were officers for the Corps. There were also daily drills and for special occasions, like graduation, the boys put on a military demonstration.
Students who attended MSD many years ago did not have the comfortable living arrangements that students have today. Pictured above is a dormitory consisting of a large room with beds lined up in rows. There was very little privacy and students had to go down to the basement for bathroom facilities. Pictured below is the dining room in the Old Main Building, where the girls ate on one side and the boys on the other. Note the huge copper coffee urns in the picture. Several of these are now on display in the Barracks.
2nd Prize—Intermediate Department

“MSD SPORTS as told by Bob Padden”

I had an interview with Mr. Bob Padden on the history of MSD Sports. Mr. Bob Padden came to MSD in 1959 at the age of nine. He graduated from MSD in 1968 and went to Gallaudet University. After graduating from Gallaudet University he returned to MSD to teach and work as a Career Advisor for the high school students.

Mr. Bob Padden explained about the very old gym that used to have vocational classes on the first floor and the gym on the second floor. He explained that the gym was very small. Sometimes you could feel the ball bouncing and feel all the noise upstairs in the gym while in the vocational classes. Mr. Padden said that there were not many physical education teachers. The classes were of boys only and girls only, not a mixture of both.

Sports were different from today. We did not have a football team. Instead we had a soccer team. Other sports for boys were basketball and track. The girls had only basketball. Sometimes they had a volleyball team and a badminton team. They played against Virginia School for the Deaf, West Virginia School for the Deaf, Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, and Kendall School.

The number of games were about the same. We had about 10 soccer games, 10 track and field meets, about 15 basketball games for the Intermediate Department basketball team, and about 18 games for the Advanced Department basketball team. The Primary Department did not have teams. They just made up their own intramural teams to play for fun, the same as today. The Intermediate and Advanced Departments also have intramural sports in the dorm.

The school did not have a bus a long time ago to drive to other schools and play against them. So sometimes we had to use the city bus that would pick up our team and bring them to the other school and back.

In later years a new gym was built. It was built with better facilities. It has four bowling lanes, which we did not have long time ago. When Mr. Padden was a student, he had to walk downtown with his friends to bowl. The present gym also has an olympic size swimming pool, which we did not have long ago also. It also has classrooms, a training room and a large gym for games. The gym seats can hold about 300 people. We also have many physical education teachers and an athletic director, which is more than a long time ago. Other sports are football, which changed from soccer. Indoor and outdoor track has been popular as well as cross country. The newest sport established is girls volleyball.

Mr. Padden said we did not win a lot of games a long time ago. He said for the past years we have won many championships and good winning seasons. He said some of our students have gone to the Deaf Olympics because we have good sport programs and coaches.

Mr. Padden explained that the gym was named in memory of a deaf man. Mr. Harry G. Benson. Mr. Benson was a student at MSD and later taught here as a physical education teacher. He was at MSD for 60 years.

The football field is also named in memory of another deaf man, Harry T. Creager. He was a student at MSD from 1883-1900. He was an outstanding athlete. He often played with Mr. Harry Benson as a teammate. The field later added a new pavilion for picnics in the spring.

It was fun doing my research on MSD Sports. Mr. Bob Padden had a lot of information to share with me. I hope MSD will have a swimming team some day and still keep a lot of the other sports too.

—Nicholas Hawkins

MSD GYMNASIUM

For many years, MSD did not have a separate gymnasium building. A gymnasium was located on the third floor of the Boy’s Wing of the Old Main Building. This is a picture of that gymnasium. Note that the gymnasium was not set up for team sports, but was aimed more at gymnastic activities. The wooden Indian clubs and wooden barbells are on display in the Barracks.
Black History of MSD

In 1968, when MSD first opened there were no deaf black students at MSD. During that time the deaf black students went to a deaf school in Baltimore which is now known as the Maryland School for the Blind.

In 1949, 13 of the residential schools for the deaf in the United States were segregated. Most of the classes for black (colored) students were vocational classes. The kinds of vocational classes were sewing, cooking, welding, and carpentry. Most of the students did not graduate with certificates or diplomas. They just graduated and got a job.

In 1963 some residential state schools were still segregated. MSD was segregated until 1955, then the colored students moved to Frederick.

At first the black and white students were separated in rooms and desk arrangements in classrooms. But some years later the students were no longer segregated.

Some of the colored students that graduated from MSD were among the first colored students to attend Gallaudet College (now Gallaudet University).

From looking at our MSD yearbooks many of the deaf students played in various sports. Some of them were very good players and went to the Deaf Olympics such as Leroy Dixon.

My research on the deaf students in Maryland and at MSD was a hard research. It would take a year to finish my research. Most of the information is not written down or is only found verbally among different people. Thanks to our MSD yearbook and The Maryland Bulletin for pictures and stories on some of our deaf history. I hope in the future someone will be able to write a book and put all the information together.

I enjoyed my research and found all the information very interesting. I would like to thank Don Phelps, The Maryland Bulletin, the MSD yearbooks, Gallaudet Today—March issue, and several people who could give me as much information as possible.

—Tannisha Jordan

Here are two pictures of MSD students from years gone by. In both pictures you will note that the light fixtures used gas. The student's desks in the picture on the bottom may be seen in the classroom display in the Rarracks.
"Reflections of the School Year 1918-1919"

Wowl don't believe how fast this school year flew past my own eyes. There were a lot of events occurring in Maryland State School for the Deaf. When I sit down and recall the moments I had, I must say the school year, 1918-1919, was indeed terrific for me.

During the summer I couldn't wait to return to school. I missed school and my friends terribly. I even came early for the Alumni Reunion of the 50th anniversary of the opening of this school because my mom is one of the alumni. About 350 people attended. I met several of MSSD's earliest graduates. They told me lots of fascinating stories. I was amazed to find that Maryland State School for the Deaf wasn't the original name. This school used to be Maryland State School for the Deaf and Dumb. I'm so glad that isn't the name for our school anymore because deaf people are not dumb! Coming to the reunion was a wonderful experience for me. It made me feel fortunate to be a student of Maryland State School for the Deaf.

The school opened on September 18 with 17 new pupils which brought the total of the enrollment to 123. Our school welcomed our fifth superintendent, Dr. Ignatius Blythe. I was filled with joy to see my friends again, but I missed my friend Jane. We spent the whole summer together. Jane had to go to school for the deaf in Baltimore because she is colored. We feel so sad. We really hope that the colored and white kids can go to school together in the future.

I didn't see Jane often during the year because the school didn't provide free transportation to go home. My parents couldn't afford to send me home on the train every weekend. I only went home for Thanksgiving. I even stayed at school during Christmas vacation with only five other girls and 10 boys, but I didn't mind. It's probably because I'm older now. I know my parents still love me. Also we didn't have Easter vacation again this year.

There were two new additions to our school program. They were Military Training and Rhythmic Vocal Exercises. The military training was open to boys only. They had to practice 30 minutes everyday during recess. I was allowed to practice with them sometimes. It was fun! All the kids had to take Rhythmic Vocal Exercises. The exercises were given to strengthen our lungs and vocal organs so we can talk or sing longer. I don't really like this class, but I'm required to go. My favorite class is still dress-making, just like last year.

Going to Frederick County Fair in October was one of the year's high-lights. All of the pupils went except those who were sick with Spanish influenza. About 114 pupils got sick, but fortunately nobody died! Despite lousy weather, I still enjoyed seeing different crafts and animals.

I joined basketball and the Ely Literary Society this year. Playing basketball was a lot of fun. Our opponent was Penn Hall. The game was close, but we lost. The score was 16 to 19. There was only one game this year. Hopefully, we will have a lot more games next year. The basketball uniform was a little uncomfortable. I had to wear an oversized sailor suit. I really wish that we could use the same uniforms that the boys are wearing. Anyway, I am so glad that I decided to join Ely Literary Society. We had meetings at the chapel every Saturday evening instead of having a study hour. We did nine lectures, nine plays, 11 mixed programs, and three story nights this year.

Last but not least, Doug is the gentleman I have dated for several months. He has made my school year more exciting even though it was difficult for us to see each other. We had to sit separately during the mess times and study hour in the library. We did find some time to be together during our free time after school everyday.

Again, I still can't believe school will soon be over. I'm not really looking forward to the arrival of June 11, the last day of school. It is when the school year really ends. All of the pupils tend to cry when we have to leave each other. There is not much we can do during the summer. Most of us live far away from each other. I will miss my friends, especially Doug. However, next year I will be a senior. It is something I will be looking forward to through the summer.

—Heather Herzig

VOCATIONAL: COOKING

Homemaking skills were important for girls enrolled in MSD and here are two pictures of cooking classes. Note that the girls are wearing smock-type aprons and that the stoves were wood-burning stoves. Also note in the picture above, the iron is one which had tig be heated on the stove before being used. The stove in the picture is presently on display in the Barracks.
AUDITORY TRAINING

The Maryland School for the Deaf has always tried to help deaf students utilize whatever residual hearing they might have. Pictured above is a speaking tube which the teacher spoke into and the students attempted to hear through use of an individual earphone. This speaking tube is on display in the Barracks. As soon as electronic amplification devices became available, MSD utilized these in attempts to assist students. Pictured below is a group amplification system which the teacher utilized and the students had individual ear phones. Note that the ear phones were placed only on the better ear. Also note the electrical wiring on the floor leading to each desk. This made flexibility within the classroom difficult. This group amplification machine is on display in the Barracks.
A Stone Building With Lots of Historical Happenings

The building at Maryland School for the Deaf with the oldest and richest history is Hessian Barracks. It was ordered by Legislature of the State to build two stone barracks in 1777 to serve as military post. Abraham Faw was contracted to build the barracks for 2,500 pounds.

The barracks played an important role during the Revolutionary War when the struggling colonists fought for independence from Great Britain. Hessians, German soldiers fighting for Great Britain were kept in the barracks as prisoners. That's how the Hessian Barracks acquired its name.

After the Revolutionary War, the barracks were used for several reasons. While French and British were at war at 1799, the French misunderstood America's intentions. They started capturing our ships, so we captured theirs, too. French sailors captured by the U.S.S. Constellation were sent to be imprisoned at the Hessian Barracks. In 1801, it became a main arsenal for arms depository for Maryland Militia. Lewis and Clark used this building as a staging point in 1802-03 before they started out to explore the Louisiana Purchase.

The barracks continued to be a storage facility for arms for thirty years. The legislature let Jenks and Ramsburg use the Barracks as a cocoonery to do an experiment on silk culture. Three years later, it was used as a military encampment known as Camp Frederick. Beginning in 1853, Frederick County Agriculture Society held its exhibitions and fairs for three years on Barracks' ground.

Soon after the Civil War had started, the nurses used barracks as a hospital for the wounded from the north and south. Finally, the barracks were used for an everlasting purpose: a school for the deaf! It opened its doors to deaf children on the first Wednesday in September 1874.

One of the barracks was torn down in 1874 to make room for the north wing of the Main Building for the new school for the deaf. After construction of the Old Main Building, Barracks were put to various uses by the school including storage, living quarters for staff members, and a school museum.

The Barracks are made of stones except for one wall at the far end of the Hessian Barracks which is made of bricks. It was built about the same time as the Old Main Building erected. The reason for building a brick wall at one end of the Barracks was cosmetic. The purpose is to make it blend with other buildings in Frederick. It was taken down in the 1930s during the Great Depression. The people without jobs needed something to do, so the government told some of them to take down the brick wall. The Barracks had been remodeled several times. The new porch was built at about 1919. The original floor in a portion of building was replaced in 1921. The building had been converted to storage room, and some rooms served as a museum. Today, all the rooms are used for museum except for two rooms in which Mr. Kritz, a principal of the school, lives.

The Hessian Barracks have become well-known across the United States. Tourists from almost every state in United States have traveled to see the Barracks in Maryland School for the Deaf. It is included in the walking historical mark on the map in Frederick that encourages people to stop by and visit Barracks at Maryland School for the Deaf.

As you've read, Hessian Barracks has had a rich history! Hessian Barracks had three major uses since the establishment. They are: held Hessian prisoners during Revolutionary War, used as Civil War hospital, and it was the first establishment for the Maryland School for the Deaf. Maryland School is so lucky to have a building like that.

—Melissa Herzig

The Maryland School for the Deaf opened its doors in 1866 in two old stone barracks that were built in colonial times. This picture shows both of the Barracks Buildings. The nearest one was torn down to provide space for the north wing of the Old Main Building but the one in the background is still on campus to remind us of the beginning of the School.
After the Old Main Building was built, the remaining Barracks Building was given a brick face so that it would harmonize with the bricks of the Old Main Building. After many years, this was taken off and the Barracks restored to its original condition. The picture below shows the modern Barracks which was restored and renovated around 1976.
Finally, the Ambrosen Building is named after Mr. Lloyd A. Ambrosen who was the sixth MSD superintendent. MSD's administrative offices are located in the Ambrosen Building. Mr. Ambrosen's family were deaf; he was the only hearing person in his family. He was a former coach and teacher at Minnesotta School for the Deaf. Also, he was the principal at Minnesota School for the Deaf, WISS, and FSDB before he came to MSD to be the superintendent in 1955. Mr. Ambrosen served as a MSD superintendent for 12 years; however, he died suddenly on June 18, 1967 in his home on the MSD campus. When the administration building was erected in 1967, the MSD people named it after Mr. Ambrosen to honor him.

Miss Hazel McCann, who was a former MSD Administrative Assistant and a good friend of Mr. Ambrosen, was the superintendent for a short time after Mr. Ambrosen. Miss Hazel McCann retired after Dr. David Denton became MSD superintendent in 1968. She served here for more than 45 years. She had a wonderful personality and devotion to the deaf people of MSD. When the Primary Building was completed in 1960, the MSD people named it after Miss McCann to honor her.

There have been only eight superintendents at the Maryland School for the Deaf since it first opened in 1868. These four long-lasting superintendents served MSD for a total of 91 years. Charles Wright Ely served as superintendent for more years (42) than any other superintendent. All four of these superintendents had demonstrated devotion to the MSD students and staff. That is why the buildings were named after them. It is very important for MSD students and staff to know who these people were and why MSD buildings are named after them.

—Michael Knapp

VOCATIONAL SEWING

Sewing was an important class for girls and in this picture you will see girls learning this skill. Although there were some sewing machines for the girls to use, they were not electric and had to be driven by foot power. The basis of the sewing machine in the picture is on display in the Barracks. In addition to using sewing machines, hand sewing skills were stressed and in addition to embroidery, mending skills were developed, especially darning socks.
Woodworking shop many years ago at MSD.