

North Dakota School for the Deaf

Chronological History

**The
Early Years
(1890-1895)**

Historical information

Compiled by

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North Dakota School for the Deaf
The First Five Years
(Anson R. Spear, Superintendent)
1890-1895

Preface: Chronicled within this document are some of the events that took place during the first five years of the establishment of the North Dakota School for the Deaf. The historical information was obtained from the following documents: written minutes of early meetings (1890-1895) of the *Board of Trustees*, first biennial reports written to the Governor of North Dakota (1890-1895) and from early issues of the *Banner*, 1890-1895 (Volumes 1–5). The *Banner* is the name of the school newspaper that was printed weekly (and then later bi-weekly) by the editor/teacher and his deaf pupils (mostly boys) in print class. Reading through the chronological order of events recorded within these old documents provides a connection to the past and an appreciation for the people who dedicated themselves to the children. Many challenges were encountered and heartbreak endured as the school struggled to take hold. The few hardy individuals who worked so hard to establish the state's School for the Deaf are remembered with admiration and gratitude. They accomplished a lot during those first five years and their diligence and ultimate success have become an integral part of North Dakota's Deaf culture and history.

Note: The biennial reports are retained in the archives at the North Dakota School for the Deaf. Issues of early *Banners* are retained in the Heritage Center at the North Dakota School for the Deaf. Original ledgers for the minutes of the meetings for the *Board of Trustees* are retained at the North Dakota Archive Library in Bismarck.

1880 – *Dakota Territorial School for the Deaf* was established. Prior to the division of Dakota Territory into two separate states and their admission into the Union, deaf children who lived in Dakota Territory attended the *Dakota Territorial School for the Deaf*. The school was situated in Sioux Falls, located in the extreme southern part of Dakota Territory. Due to poor roads, great distances, meager railroads and financial inability, only few deaf children living in the Dakota Territory were able to attend the *Dakota Territorial School for the Deaf*.

1883 – A small town named **Creelsburg**, situated on the shores of Devils Lake, was incorporated as an official city in Dakota Territory. In **1884** the town was renamed Devils Lake.

February 22, 1889 - Members of Congress drafted the *Enabling Act of the United States of America* because they foresaw the necessity of developing schools in the growing Union. Congress wrote a provision into the *Enabling Act*. It stated that when Dakota Territory was divided and the two states admitted into the Union, the states would be required to provide education for deaf and handicapped children. South Dakota already had a school for the deaf located in Sioux Falls however the newly formed North Dakota needed to establish its own school. The federal government purchased 40,000 acres of land and donated the land to the state of North Dakota. The constitution framed for North Dakota provided the manner in which the land should be sold and the disposition of the funds arising there from. The land should not be

sold for less than ten dollars per acre, and the money received from such sale to be held in trust for the use of the school, the interest only to be used, and the principal never to be decreased.



Figure 1 Early photo of A.R. Spear

In **September, 1889**, Mr. Anson R. Spear, a deaf man from Minneapolis visited northern Dakota Territory (Devils Lake). He had long taken an interest in the deaf of Dakota Territory and was informed of a plan to establish a school for the deaf for those living in the north as soon as North Dakota was admitted into the union. State legislators enticed Mr. Spear to come to Devils Lake and promised him their aid in securing the enactment of the necessary laws by which a school for the deaf could be established. Spear's political sponsors included Ramsey County Republican Senator Doctor William E. Swanston, and Representative James McCormick.

November 2, 1889 - Dakota Territory was split and the newly established states of North Dakota and South Dakota were admitted into the Union. On **November 19, 1889**, shortly after statehood, the legislature met in Bismarck. Senate bill number thirty-one, calling for the immediate establishment of the school for the deaf in Devils Lake, was introduced by local legislators. Senator Swanston introduced the bill in the senate and Representatives McCormick and Currier, in the house. On **March 15, 1890**, the bill to establish the school passed both houses (over the veto of the Governor). It carried an appropriation of \$5,000 for the maintenance of the school for one year. The law took effect the following July, 1890.

May 13, 1890 – entry from the minutes of the meeting to establish a *Board of Trustees* for the School for the Deaf

The following persons shall compose the *Board of Trustees* for the *Deaf and Dumb School*. Governor John Miller, W.J. Blapp, *ex officio*, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. H.H. Ruger, T.T. Lee and H.R. Diekieson. The following officers were elected: Dr. H.H. Ruger, President, H.R. Diekieson, Secretary, and T.T. Lee, Treasurer

July 1, 1890 - Minutes of the first meeting from *Board of Trustees*

Devils Lake, North Dakota. The *Board of Trustees* met and, at a conference with the City Council of Devils Lake, agreed to accept the vacant former Bank Building as a School Building - situated on the corner of 3rd Avenue and 5th Street. The building to be put in suitable condition by the city council for the occupying of the *school for the deaf and dumb* free of rent and without any expense to the state of North Dakota for a period of two years. The appointment of the Superintendent was then considered and on motion by H.R. Diekieson, Mr. A.R. Spear was chosen as the Superintendent for the school – his services required on the first day of August, 1890. Board then adjourned the meeting at the call of the Secretary. H.R. Diekieson, Secretary

Fall, 1892 – Following is portion of an article written by A.R. Spear and submitted (in 1893) for entry into a soon-to-be-published book at that time entitled *Histories of American Schools for the Deaf* by Edward Allen Fay. Spear's article regarding North Dakota's school: "Prior to the division of the Territory into two States and their admission into the Union, the deaf children of that part of the Territory now North Dakota were sent to the School for the Deaf at Sioux Falls, in the extreme southern part of now State of South Dakota. With the beginning of statehood came the necessity of establishing within her own borders a school for the education and instruction of the deaf in North Dakota. This necessity was foreseen by the framers of the enabling act, for that act made the magnificent grant of 40,000 acres of land to the future School for the Deaf to be established. In this recognition of the rights of the deaf and splendid provision for their education by the National Government, we have a most pleasing contrast to the difficulties and discouragements attending the establishment of the first school for the deaf in this country. No one, especially no deaf man, can reflect upon this great change in sentiment towards the deaf without profound gratitude and respect for those noble-hearted men who have labored so earnestly to bring about improved educational conditions. The National Government having thus made a grant of and to the School for the Deaf, it became the duty of the State government to make the necessary provisions for the establishment of the School. Accordingly, the constitutional convention which met in the city of Bismarck, July 4, 1889, for the purpose of framing a constitution for the new State, located at the city of Devils Lake a School for the Deaf, and accepted the land granted thereto by the National Government. The constitution framed by the convention also provided the manner in which the land should be sold and the disposition of the funds arising there-from. The land should not be sold for less than ten dollars per acre and the money received from such sales to be held in trust for the use of the School, the interest only to be used, the principal never to be decreased. This the new School, even before its establishment, had in prospect an endowment that would in time, render it nearly self-supporting. Up to this time, all was easy, but now the difficulties began-the work of securing the passage of a bill by the legislature establishing the School and making appropriation for it support. This was no light task. It must be kept in mind that North Dakota had but just been admitted to the Union as a State. The expenses of putting an operation the State government was heavy. There was but a limited amount of money in the treasury. No statistics of the deaf in the State could be had but it was popularly supposed there were not more than help a dozen such children, if so many, in the whole State. It is not to be wondered at, then, that many members of the legislature opposed the establishment of a school for the deaf on the ground that there was no need for one. Prior to this time, in September, 1889, Mr. A. R. Spear, of Minneapolis, who had long taken interest in the deaf of Dakota and who was fully informed of what had been done, visited the city of Devils Lake for the purpose of interesting the citizens in the early establishment of the School, which the constitution had located there. He was welcomed by the people and leading men promised their aid in securing the enactment of the necessary laws by the legislature, soon to meet. The city of Devils Lake further agreed to furnish, free of charge for two years, the necessary building in which to pen the School. The legislature met at Bismarck November 19, 1889, and shortly thereafter Mr. Spear went to Bismarck, taking with him the bill which he had drawn up for the establishment of the School. The bill was introduced in the senate by the Honorable W. E. Swanston, and this gentleman was untiring in his efforts to secure its passage. In the house, the bill was in the hands of Honorables Jas. McCormick and C.A. Currier, and these gentlemen worked diligently and with success for its passage. Mr. Spear remained at Bismarck during the time the bill was before the legislature and by his presence did much for the success of the

measure. The bill finally passed both houses, only to be vetoed by Governor John Miller. It now seemed lost, for it would be almost impossible to muster the necessary support to pass it over the governor's veto. But the originators of the bill did not give up, but set to work once more to secure its enactment. After a hard fight, the bill again passed the senate, on March 15, 1890, and on the last day of the session, March 18, 1890, it passed in the house and became a law, the "objections of the governor to the contrary notwithstanding." The bill carried an appropriation of \$5,000 for the maintenance of the School for one year. The law took effect July 1 following, and the first board of trustees consisted of the governor of the State, Hone John Miller, and the State superintendent of Public Instruction Honorable W.J. Clapp, *ex officio*, and Dr. H.H. Ruger, Mr. H.R. Dickieson, and Mr. T.F. Lee. At the second meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mr. A. R. Spear was appointed superintendent, and on August 1, 1890, he took charge and superintended the preparations for getting the School in readiness to receive pupils. Mrs. A. R. Spear was appointed matron of the School by the trustees at the same time Mr. Spear was appointed superintendent. The necessary arrangements had been made by the appointed time for opening the School, September 10th, and on that day one solitary, forlorn-looking, but bright deaf girl arrived. Each week saw additional arrivals, and soon the number had increased to twenty-three pupils. This was far more than had been expected for the first year. By the end of March, it became necessary to employ a teacher to assist the superintendent, and Miss Clara M. Halvorson was engaged. The school is now in its third year; it has passed the doubtful stage, has accumulated valuable property, and has before it a career of constantly increasing usefulness. It has the support and confidence of the people and of those who at first doubted its necessity."

August 6, 1890 - Minutes from the *Board of Trustees* meeting to establish **rules** of the school

The Board of Trustees for the School for the Deaf met on August 6, 1890. Present, H.H. Ruger, Governor John Miller, W.J. Blapp, Superintendent of Public Instruction, T.T. Lee and H. R. Diekieson. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The matter of matron was then considered for the school and on motion of Governor John Miller, Mrs. A.R. Spear was chosen at a salary of \$200 per annum – her services to begin on the first of September, 1890. The following rules for admission of pupils were then adopted:

Applicants should not be under age six or over twenty-five years of age. The beginning of the term is the proper time for the admission of pupils. The term begins the second Wednesday of September and closes the second Wednesday in June. All the students will be required to labor a portion of each day. The girls in performing the light kinds of house work and various kinds of needle work, plain sewing, ornamental hand work, dress making or millinery. The boys to work at various trades that are necessary work about the school and the cultivation of the farm and garden (as soon as necessary grounds and shops will be provided by the state.) Pupils from North Dakota are admitted to all the privileges of the school free of charge being provided with board, washing, tuition, books and everything necessary except clothing and traveling expenses. For case of extreme poverty, assistance may be rendered in the purchasing of clothing while at school upon further certification of the fact upon a blank form furnished by the Superintendent upon application - the sum to be charged to the county of which the pupil is a resident. Each student should come provided with sufficient clothing to last one year or with money to procure it. He should also have a trunk with a good lock and key and large enough to contain all his clothing – each article of which should be distinctly marked with his name.

In addition to the above outfit, a small sum of money should be deposited, say not less than five dollars to meet incidental expenses such as repair of shoes, postage, etc. any part of which remaining on hand at the close of the session will be returned. Except in cases of severe sickness, all pupils are expected to remain at the school from the beginning to the close of each session at which time parents or friends shall be prepared to take them home for summer vacation.

Pupils may be suspended and returned to their homes by the Superintendent when in his judgment it is necessary to maintain discipline or promote the health of the school.

If money is sent directly to the Superintendent for use of pupil, stating for whom and for what purpose the same will be acknowledged by him. Relatives or friends of pupils attending the school cannot be entertained over night. The pupils are required to write letters home once a month and may write oftener if desired. Letters shall be written for those who are unable to write for themselves. Any neglect of pupils to write or any misunderstanding or complaints of pupils concerning their schooling or treatment should be made known at once to the Superintendent.

Parents, in furnishing their children with spending money, are requested to deposit it with the Superintendent. The Superintendent cannot be responsible for money sent directly to students. Express packages or money to the amount of fifty-cents and upwards, when sent to the Superintendent, will be daily acknowledged by mail. All letters or packages sent to the members of the school should contain words "School for the Deaf of North Dakota" as the address in order to secure proper delivery. Express (postage) should always be paid.

The Superintendent is not responsible for the safety of pupils traveling to and from school and in case of truancy. A reasonable amount of assistance in care of the pupils however, will be cheerfully rendered by the officers in the school.

The parents and guardians of the pupils will please bear in mind that there is no vacation or recess of the school during holidays hence they should not expect their children home or encourage them during the school year. The use of tobacco in any form by the pupils is strictly forbidden hence parents should see that good habits are formed while at home.

Parents, relatives and friends of the pupils should learn the manual alphabet and encourage the pupils when at home during the summers and encourage the children to associate with hearing children. By so doing the pupils may learn much and their progress at school reinforced at home.

The Board moved that the term of school shall commence on the second Wednesday of September and close the second Wednesday in June - carried. Moved that school's bond be fixed at Five Thousand Dollars - carried. The Board moved that H.H. Ruger be the purchaser of supplies and A.R. Spear be the accountant officer - carried. The Board moved that Dr. H.H. Ruger, T.T. Lee and H.R. Diekieson be the executive committee to purchase the furniture and necessary articles for the furnishing of the School building suitable for the occupancy of scholars

– carried. It was moved and carried that the executive committee in making purchases should buy at such places where, in their judgment, they can do best for conserving the finances of the state. Adjourned meeting at 8:10. H.R. Diekieson, Secretary

August 1, 1890, Anson R. Spear, a graduate of the Minnesota School for the Deaf and part-time student at Gallaudet College began the task of establishing a school for the deaf children of North Dakota. The opening of the school was made possible by the citizens of Devils Lake who furnished free, for a period of two years, an old large-frame vacant building (former bank building) which enabled Mr. Spear to begin the work of organizing the school. The teachers and pupils found a home in this building during the first three years of the school's existence. It was not much to boast of in the way of a building, but it served its purpose.

September 10, 1890, the school opened its doors for the reception of pupils. That morning, one lone little girl named May, the daughter of the Honorable W.G. Newton, put in an appearance. By day's end, four pupils had enrolled. Before the first year was over the enrollment had reached twenty-three pupils. In **January, 1891**, an appropriation of \$10,000 was made for a building a new school and an additional \$16,500 to support the operation of the school for two years. After obtaining the appropriation, the next question to be settled was a site for the new school. Several sites were considered but were all turned down except the one offered free by the *Great Northern Railroad*. This site consisted of eighteen acres of land about a mile north of the city. The only recommendation for this site was the fact that it was free - this consideration was one not to be overlooked for dollars were dollars and the appropriation made for the buildings was so small that every turn had to be made that would save money. So the donation was accepted and work was begun on the new school building. It was designed by Mr. Olof Hanson, a rising deaf architect from Minneapolis. Mr. Hanson was a graduate of the Minnesota School for the Deaf and Gallaudet College. In the fall of 1893 the main part and one wing of the new school was finished in so far as the funds would allow. At that time, the school was moved from the old frame building in town and out to its new quarters north of the city.

The following is an account of the first three years of the school's existence inside the city (1890-1893) and also the first two years in the newly erected school (1893-1895) north of the city of Devils Lake. All five years were under the direction of Superintendent A.R. Spear.

The 1890 biennial report from the *Board of Trustees* to the Governor of North Dakota appears first. The report provided the Governor with an overview of the first two months (September and October, 1890) of the school's existence. Within their report, the trustees included information of the school's educational program and daily function provided by Mr. Spear. The Superintendent summarized, more specifically, the events that took place during the first two months of the school's opening. Following the biennial report of 1890, in chronological order, are some of the day-to-day events that occurred in and around the school.

Report to the Governor of North Dakota from the Board of Trustees of the School for the Deaf. The following report covers the two-month period of the school's establishment from September 10, 1890 to October 31, 1890

To the Honorable John Miller, Governor of the State of North Dakota

Sir: in accordance with law, the *Board of Trustees* of the North Dakota School for the Deaf respectfully submit their report covering the period from the opening of the school on September 10 to the close of the fiscal year ending October 31, 1890.

The officers of the school are Mr. Anson R. Spear, Superintendent and Mrs. A.R. Spear, Matron. There are, at present time fifteen pupils in the school and we have every reason to believe the number will be increased considerably before the close of the term. Twenty-two have applied for admission and quite a number are known to us who have not yet made application. We think there cannot be less than thirty-five to forty children and youth at the present time who are entitled to admission.

The health, discipline and general care of the scholars is excellent and considering the brief time the school has been in operation, the progress made and general efficiency is all that we could desire. The children are happy, contented and obedient and show a willingness to learn and make the most of the opportunity offered them.

We consider the building occupied at this time entirely inadequate for the needs of the school. It has been donated by the city for use until September 1, 1892. The facts show that the number of deaf children increases from year to year and this, taken with the information already in our possession as to the number of deaf in the state, justifies the belief that not less than forty will be knocking at our doors for admission inside of two years. The necessity of providing larger and better accommodations, therefore, becomes imperative.

The number of pupils is on the increase and before a permanent home can be provided for them our present quarters will be pressed to their fullest capacity. Teachers and other help must be secured, proper school-room appliances purchased, and the school put on a basis that will enable us to carry on the work so well begun, commensurate with the growth that we may expect.

Industrial training forms a most important part of our education and until some provision is made in this direction the state will not be doing its full duty to these children. Industrial training is needed. Of course, this work cannot be begun in our present school quarters. Furthermore, located as we are, in the center of the city, the school is subject to many little disturbing influences that have a decided tendency to hinder the work. Then, too, at the end of another year, a very considerable rent will accrue should the present building be retained. This, in our judgment, is neither for the best interests of the state nor the deaf children for whom we are to provide.

The board, therefore, having nothing in mind but the best interests of the state and the children, most earnestly recommend an appropriation for the purpose of purchasing a site of not less than 160 acres of land and erecting thereon a school and shop buildings large enough for our needs for some years to come. This appropriation should be made available in such manner that the work on the buildings may be begun and pushed to completion as early as possible.

In making this recommendation we feel that we are consulting the best interests of the children as well as the state and are guided by a desire to provide sufficiently for the former with the

greatest possible economy to the latter. This estimate is not made with comfortable margin to be cut down – it is a statement of the money actually necessary.

The appropriation for current expenses for the ensuing two years must by necessity be largely increased over the last appropriation. Five thousand dollars, while sufficient to begin the work, is not enough to push it with the vigor and earnestness that its importance demands. To meet these demands, the *Board* recommends an appropriation of \$25,000 for the two succeeding years ending March 31, 1892. This is a very considerable increase of the last appropriation of \$5000 but if the state is to educate these children, and do them justice, \$25,000 will be needed.

The Superintendent's report is submitted as a part of this report. We beg to call your earnest attention to it. Mr. Spear has taken hold of the work and pushed it with earnestness and success. Everything about the school under his charge speaks of good management. Nothing is left undone that might contribute to the general good for the school.

We also present the *Board's* and Superintendent's report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. This report respectfully submitted by the *Board of Trustees*: H.H. Ruger, President, H.R. Dickieson, Secretary, T.T. Lee, Treasurer

September 10, 1890 to October 31, 1890 - Superintendent Spear's Report to the *Board of Trustees* (Spear's report was attached to the *Trustees* biennial report which was sent Governor Miller.)

To the *Board of Trustees* of the School for the Deaf of North Dakota:

Gentlemen: Pursuant to law, I have the honor and pleasure of handing you herewith my first annual report of this school, covering the period at which I began my duties on August 1, 1890, up to October 31, 1890. Were not this report required of me by law, I should still deem it my duty to lay before you for your consideration, a statement of the condition of the school.

I am pleased to invite your closest investigation. I feel confident that the work of educating deaf children, which our young State has thus early begun, cannot but impress you most favorably. That North Dakota should have established this institution in the beginning of her career as a State shows a knowledge and appreciation of the work we are doing not often met within young states. I believe a better understanding of the work and of the deaf will lead to a keener appreciation and, guarantee to us, a careful and favorable consideration of our best interests on the part of the State. The happy, intelligent faces of the pupils, in whose minds the light of knowledge is just beginning to shine; the willingness to learn and ready obedience, are an argument in favor of the continuance of the work thus happily begun. Watching the pupils in happy pursuit is more powerful and convincing than any words of mine can be.

Attendance

The school opened Wednesday, September 10, with four pupils. This number has since increased to fifteen. Of these, nine are males and six females. The number of males always exceeds the females, a fact that should not be lost sight of in constructing buildings for the use of the School.

Of this number, ten were formerly in attendance at the school for the deaf in South Dakota, varying in point of time from six months to six terms. The other five are new pupils, pupils who have not attended school until entering here.

The following tables show names, ages, post office address, causes of deafness and nationality of the pupils.

1890 List of pupils to first enroll in School for the Deaf

Anderson, Christopher	age 6	Willow City
Bill, Thomas	age 19	Bathgate
Gilman, Charles M.	age 20	Fargo
Gorseth, Annie	age 15	Belleville
Gerkey, Melica	age 11	Grand Forks
Hagen, Hendrick	age 22	Horace
Larson, Lorents	age 14	Reynolds
Lageson, Louis	age 19	Thompson
McMurphy, Murdoch	age 9	Harwood
Masters, Etha	age 19	Gilby
Newton, Mable	age 10	Mapleton
Olson, Bennett	age 24	Carrington
Odegard, Ida	age 18	Bae
Peterson, Peter	age 16	Hastings
Wojeik, Julia	age 27	Jamestown



FIRST NORTH DAKOTA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

In the picture, left to right—Thomas Bill, Henry Hagen, Lorentz Larson, Selfred Boissert, Peder Heen, Peter Peterson, Louis Lageson, Bennett A. Olson, Murdoch McMurphy, Willie Messner, Herman Schroeder, Morris Gilman, Christopher Anderson, Superintendent A. R. Spear, Etha Masters, Annie Rure, Miss Clara Halverson, Teacher, Carrie Lemke, Milley Gerke, Annie Gorseth, Julia Wojick, Hazel Spear, Maude Iverson, Rosella Wagar, Ida Odegard, May Newton, Bessie Spear, Rose Slaughter, and Mrs. A. R. Spear, Matron.

Cause of Deafness

Spinal Fever	3
Teething	2
Measles	1
Whooping cough	1
Application of ice	1
Brain fever	1
Rheumatism	1
Sickness	1
Unknown	3
Born deaf	1

The ages at which deafness occurred are as follows;

Deaf at 6 years	1
Deaf at 4 years	3
Deaf at 3 years	1
Deaf at 2 years	1
Deaf at 9 months	1
Deaf at 6 months	3
Deaf at 3 months	1
Born deaf	1
Unknown	3

Nationality

Norway	8
American	3
Scotch	1
German	2
Canadian	1

Health

I am glad to be able to report that the health of the pupils has been excellent. No indications of sickness have appeared in our little family, and I trust a Divine Providence may continue to grant us this great blessing.

The Pupils

The social life of the pupils has been most happy. The obedience and willingness has been marked and is a source of much pleasure to me. Pleasant games are indulged in and the pupils have developed a brotherly and sisterly regard for one another. I may properly remark that the matron has won their affections and that they regard her almost as a mother.

The habit of reading is greatly to be desired in the pupils affording them a source of profit and pleasure, contributing to the efficiency of the School and rendering their social life happy and pleasant. As a stimulus in this direction, a small library of books suited to their understanding would prove admirable and I would recommend a small appropriation for this purpose.

Work in the School Room

The School has been in operation but two months, and owing to the previous attainments of the pupils, and the irregularity of the mission, I have been unable to divide them into classes as of yet. I have however, so far as possible, classified the pupils and assigned them such studies as I deem them fitted to grapple with. The books so far used include the books; "Miss Sweet's Asylum Series," Harper's Second Reader, Elementary Geography, Milnes' Elementary Arithmetic, Penmanship and Drawing. For religious and Bible instruction on the Sabbath, "First Steps for Little Feet," is used.

The great end to be attained in the education of the deaf, and to which all studies should be made to contribute, is a mastery of the English language. This is the problem that has occupied minds of the ablest educators of the deaf for more than half a century and which today is far indeed from solution.

There are those who maintain that this end can be best attained by the oral method, while others equally learned affirm the contrary – that signs and the hand alphabet are the only proper medium. I believe, however, that the majority favor the latter method, with an introduction of the oral method in cases where it is found that it can be used to advantage. This is termed "combined method." I favor this method, and believe it the best yet devised. Speaking as one totally deaf from early boyhood, I put a far lower estimate on the value of speech to the deaf than the ability to understand and freely use the English language. No time should be wasted in teaching a child to speak if the time can be used to better advantage in teaching him to correctly express his thoughts in the English language.

Employment of the Pupils

In the absence of suitable shops for teaching trades, the pupils have been employed, out of school hours, at various work assignments about the school. Each one is assigned some duty and expected to perform it. The girls, under the direction of the matron, do the necessary housework, and are also given instruction in plain needle work. They have made a number of articles of wearing apparel for some of the pupils who came insufficiently supplied, and have done other sewing for the school. As the number of pupils increases, it becomes evident that the work about the school will not be sufficient to keep all of them busy and an undue amount of idleness is demoralizing. The subject of trades becomes of the highest importance; not only as offering a remedy for this but also giving them the direct means of attaining a living after school.

Manual Training

The importance of this subject cannot be overestimated, and for a consideration of it, I beg to refer you to my report to the State Superintendent which is appended hereto.

Our Needs

Aside from the appropriation necessary for current expenses for the coming two years, an increase sufficient to provide for at least two teachers and two assistants will be necessary. The deaf require more attention than hearing children, and it is impossible for a teacher to handle a large class and do the pupils justice - the smaller the class, the better the results. Experience has proved this. It is the economy, in the truest sense of the word, to provide the School with enough teachers to bring about the best results. We also need certain school room appliances such as are found in every well regulated school of this character.

The Uneducated Deaf in the State

While fifteen are now in school, twenty-two have made application for admission and I expect about twenty will be in attendance before the term closes. It is greatly to be regretted that parents do not sufficiently realize the importance of sending their children to school promptly at the opening of the term.



Besides the twenty-two who have applied for admission, I have information of others who have not applied, but whom I believe to be entitled to the privileges of the School. In some cases they appear to be kept home through sheer ignorance or cupidity on the part of the parents. Parents who neglect to send their children to school do them a grave injustice. At the present time I believe there are not less than thirty-five or forty children in the state who should be in school.

Buildings The building now occupied is furnished by the City of Devils Lake free of charge for the term of two years. While it affords very good accommodations for the present, it is evident that it will not answer the purpose for any considerable time. At the end of two years it will not

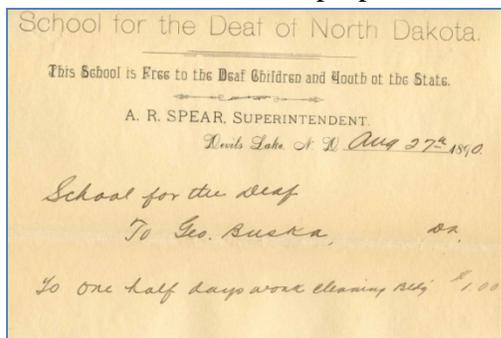


Figure 2 - Scanned copy of receipt for \$1.00 paid to Geo. Buska for a half-day's work to clean the donated building before occupancy by teachers and pupils

be large enough to accommodate the number of deaf children in the State. Then, too, as the number increases and classes are formed, it will be necessary to assign them to different classrooms or the work will be seriously hindered. Moreover, a more complete separation of the sexes will be necessary to promote proper discipline and training than is possible in our present quarters. Also, the School, being located in the city, is subject to disturbing influences from outside. For these reasons and for others that will occur to you, I beg to suggest the advisability of asking the next Legislature for an appropriation

sufficient to put up and complete a new school building within a stated period to cost not more than \$30,000 to \$35,000.

In considering school buildings for the deaf, the idea to be kept in mind is utility as well as economy. Expensive styles of architecture are to be avoided and unnecessary decorations should be left off. The structure should be so built as to promote the health, discipline, training, and in every way contribute to the efficiency of the School.

It will be impossible to begin a system of industrial training until suitable shop buildings are erected and furnished. We should begin as early as possible to teach one or two trades - it is a very important part of a deaf child's education. I would therefore most earnestly recommend that the next Legislature be asked for an appropriate sufficient to put up and furnish a building with apparatus necessary to teach at least two trades.

Finally, gentlemen of the Board, I return to you thanks for the kind assistance and encouragement you have rendered to me and for the watchful care you have manifested in promoting the interests of the School. I shall rely upon you in the future, as in the past, for advice and guidance in the discharge of the trust in my hands. I respectfully submit this, my first report, A. R. Spear, Principal

Devils Lake, Dak. Nov 1st 1890		
Mr. Spear & Son - School		
Bought of F. W. COCKBURN,		
ALL KINDS OF FRESH AND SALT MEATS.		
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.		
Oct	3 25 6 th 50 2 1/2 th Pork 25	85
"	" 11 " 10 th C. Beef 50	50
"	" 4 " 5 th Beef 60	60
"	" 5 " 5 th Pork 50	50
"	" 7 " 7 th Beef 70 2 th Pork 20	90
"	" 8 " 14 th Beef 40 1 1/2 th Mutton 15	55
"	" 10 " Beef 20	20
"	" 6 th C. Beef 35 2 th Pork 10	45
"	" 11 " C. Beef 20	20
"	" 13 " 3 th Pork 20 2 th Pork 25	45
"	" 14 " 12 th Beef 10	120
"	" 15 " 9 th Mutton 90	90
"	" 16 " Beef 20	20
"	" 18 " 10 th C. Beef 50	50
"	" 19 " 2 th Pork 20	20
"	" 20 " 3 th Pork 20 1 1/2 th Mutton 15	35
"	" 21 " 7 th Beef 70 3 th Pork 30	100
"	" 22 " 4 th Mutton 45	45
"	" 23 " Beef 20	20
"	" 24 " 4 th Pork 40	40
"	" 25 " Corn Beef 60	60
"	" 27 " 4 th Pork 40	40
"	" 28 " 7 th Beef 70	70
"	" 29 " 2 th Pork 20	20
"	" 30 " 4 th Pork 40	40
"	" 31 " 3 th Pork 30 10 th Beef 20	50
		122-00

Figure 3 - bill of sale for food items purchased for the school November, 1890

The Banner, 1891 locals - December 5 (Volume 1 – Issues 1 and 2)

School for the Deaf of North Dakota

Officers of the school: A.R. Spear, Superintendent and Mrs. A.R. Spear, Matron

Teachers of the school: P.L. Axling and Clara M. Halvorson

The school for deaf children is located at the City of Devils Lake, on the main line of the Great Northern Railway. It is free to all deaf children and youth of the state, who by reason of such

deafness; are unable to receive proper education in the public schools, the only expense to parents being for transportation to and from the school, clothing and incidental expenses. The school is supported by the state. Instruction is given in the common school branches and those pupils who show ability are taught speech and lip- or speech-reading. A printing office is maintained in which the more advanced pupils are given instruction in the printing trade. Plain sewing and housework are also taught.

The regular term embraces forty weeks beginning the second Wednesday in September and ending the second Wednesday in June. The only proper time for admission of pupils is at the beginning of the term and admission may be denied any pupil by the Board of Trustees, if not present at the beginning of the term. For full information, blank application papers, etc. apply to: A. R. Spear, Superintendent, Devils Lake, North Dakota.

Dear Parents: It gives me great pleasure to be able to write that your children are well. Since the opening of school in September not one of the children has known a day of illness. Each face glows with health and happiness.

The *Banner* will be published every two weeks and each number will surely contain something interesting to you. It is our intention to publish actual school-room work in each *Banner* issue, but by no means will this class of work be confined to our own school. We invite similar work to be submitted from the public schools of the state. Each pupil will be given a copy free, but the paper cannot be sent to parents free. I, therefore, would advise you to purchase a subscription to the *Banner*. Very respectfully yours, A.R. Spear, Superintendent

Christmas, that happy time so welcome to old and young alike is approaching. Your children know it. Often they come to me, faces aglow with bright anticipations, to ask me some question about Christmas or to tell me of the good time they will have. The school will make preparations to render the occasion a happy one, but you must do your share. Do not disappoint your little ones. I want every parent to send a present for his child. Nothing makes them so happy as to receive things from home.

Since the blizzard of two weeks ago, the weather has been quite warm, and the boys have had some good times snow-balling. One day nearly all of the boys were outside when some of the city children began to snow-ball our boys. Our boys came around and entered the sport with such vigor that the city boys beat a hasty retreat.

The well from which we get our supply of water belongs to the *Inter-Ocean* people. It is one of the best wells in town, and the people from blocks away often come to it for water. We use a very large quantity of water and the well sometimes runs dry. It takes several hours before we can get water from it again. If it should run dry and remain so we would have to get drinking water from a well two blocks away which would be very inconvenient. Something ought to be done to prevent anything of the kind happening.

The Banner, 1892 locals - January (Volume 1, Issues 3-5)

Shortly after Christmas our dog, Old Scout, became sick and never recovered. He was slowly failing and seemed in great pain. So, to put an end to his sufferings, he was taken out and shot last week.

La Grippe (influenza) and whooping cough have caused a great many absences from school during the past few weeks.

An old gentleman, Mr. George H. Tuxbury, from Michigan, was in Devils Lake this week with a phonograph. He was asked to come to our school and try the hearing of some of our pupils. A thorough testing was completed on most of our students. Two of the small boys tried to make out what this soulless thing was saying, but failed miserably. The day after the phonograph test, a sort of makeshift ear-trumpet was made, and some of the pupils were tested again in regard to their hearing. It was discovered that they could hear and distinguish spoken words with much more ease with the ear-trumpet than they did with the phonograph. We came to the conclusion that the phonograph is of no value whatever in assisting the partially deaf to grasp the spoken word. A speaking tube would do the work much better and be more convenient.

Last week Superintendent Spear bought a large wood-saw for the boys. They are happy now because they can do twice as much sawing as they did before. During the cold weather the big boys had to keep sawing and splitting wood most of their time out of school. They could not stack a big pile, as the wood was taken and used as soon as it was sawed. When the warm weather came, less wood was used and the boys got a pile sawed and stacked. The wood-shed is full of split wood and there is a big pile of wood sawed but not split on the outside.

To the Readers of the *Banner*, February, 1892: Allow me to friendly salute you through the *Banner*. I shall not tire your patience with a voluminous letter but shall simply use that warm and well-known salutation, "How do you do?" Since September, 1891, I have held the position of teacher in the School for the Deaf of North Dakota, and it gives me pleasure in stating that I am gradually gaining my wish; a desired closer intimacy with those seeming shut out from a great many of the pleasures of this world. I have, through kind providence, landed here at the school where there is ample scope for me to teach and learn. The deaf children are a happy little band, ever and always cheerful. Regardless of the fact that they are deprived of hearing, they are as affectionate, obedient and bright as the average pupil I have met with elsewhere. I have no hesitation in saying that some of them, I do not say all, will if allowed a fair chance, equal, if not surpass, many a so-called intelligent Jim or Susie in other schools, who are busy all day with eyes, tongues and ears. There is to be found in these few determined deaf children, a will to learn and incredible continuity, the lack of which is the father of all failures. Bless their little hearts! Nothing too much can be done in helping them reach for and grasp what yet to them is unknown. I say, anyone lending a hand to further their education and promote their happiness does an angel's work. Miss Clara Halvorson, Teacher

The Banner, 1892 locals – February and March (Volume 1, Issues 6–9)

The younger students are rejoicing in the possession of new composition books and pencils.

The past two weeks Thomas Bill and Lorents Larson, two of our printer boys, have not been working in the office. They have stayed outside to saw and split wood.

Last week Murdoch McMurchy received a nice warm overcoat from his mother. He was glad to get it. Murdoch wore it every time he went out to coast with the boys. He looks well in the new coat - it has a cape on it.

Little Hazel and Bessie Spear, daughters of our superintendent, each have a new pair of felt shoes and they both are feeling very happy.

Our pupils will have a holiday a week from Monday, it being the birthday of George Washington. A shadow pantomime will be given to amuse the children in the evening.

This week Superintendent Spear ordered a number of new parlor games for the use of the pupils. Some of them are; the *Telegraph Boy*, *Merit Rewarded*, *Merry Christmas*, *Goosey Gander*, *Logomachy*, *Kings and Queens*, and *Cuckoo*. They are proving a source of great amusement to all the pupils that play with them.

One day Carrie Lemke was made very happy by a visit from her father. He gave her some candy, some money and a pair of shoes. Carrie is very proud of her new shoes.

Our pupils are used to seeing wagon load after wagon load of wheat going to the market, but sometimes they cannot help calling our attention to the quantity of newly threshed wheat brought in. Threshing is not yet begun in this area.

The reading room is very popular with the students.

Last week Willie Reid's mother went up town and bought him a new ring. He is feeling very proud of it.

Recently Lorents Larson was out on the ice chasing the dog and fell. He sprained some of his fingers and his hand was very lame for several days. Next time he will be more careful on the ice.

The high school department has been adorned by a picture of Benjamin Franklin-a gift from Mr. R. W. Bennett.

About two weeks ago little Willie Reid, age seven, was taken suddenly sick with what the doctors called 'peritonitis', inflammation of the bowels. His father was telegraphed and on Sunday, February 28, he came accompanied by Mrs. Reid. By this time Willie had just begun to change for the better. His father stayed until Wednesday, March 2, then went home, leaving Mrs. Reid here with Willie. In a few days he was well as ever and his mother left for home.

On Tuesday the first rain of the season came. It was drizzling from two to seven o'clock, but a few minutes after seven the drizzle changed to a snow-storm, which was worse than the blizzard of December 3. Several deaths by freezing occurred near town.

Dr. Ruger, president of our *Board of Trustees*, traveled to Grand Forks on business in connection with our new school building. Mr. Dickieson, secretary of our *Board of Trustees*, went over from Reynolds to meet him at the Forks and to help him transact necessary business. They made a contract with a Grand Forks firm for the brick to be used on the school building.

Mrs. M.J. Sutton of Bottineau, a lady who visited our school last fall wrote an interesting letter. Among other things, she said: "I hear there are two children in the Turtle Mountains who can neither talk nor hear, and as soon as the sleighing is better, I will go and see them and tell them of your school."

On March 31 we had a visit from the Lutheran Clergy of North Dakota. There were eight ministers in the crowd and all seemed much pleased with what they saw here.

The Banner, 1892 locals - April, May, June (Volume 1, Issues 10-14)

Last week Effie Smith fell on the side-walk and got a little bruise on her left cheek.

The past three weeks several of the pupils have had teeth pulled, not by the dentist but by one of the teachers here.

Wednesday evening we called in the "mop-and-broom brigade" and requested them to polish up our floor a little. The next morning we found the floor as white as a gentleman's cuffs.

One of the teachers, Miss Clara Halvorson, had a beautiful canary bird but about two weeks ago it flew out through an open window. Of course it did not return and now Miss Halvorson is feeling a little lonesome without her bird's singing.

Gophers are numerous now but our boys have not yet done much at snaring them however, the town boys have begun to snare gophers. A few days ago the sheriff's son and another boy came to the school, each carrying a gray gopher which the boys showed to the pupils. The little rodents came near having the life taken out of them by our dog, Rex. He was sleeping quietly under one of the desks when he saw the gophers and made a spring for them. The boys quickly moved them out of Rex's reach just in time.

For Easter Willie Messner received a box of fruit, candy, nuts and a good many boiled eggs from home.

Milley Gerkey lost her breast-pin yesterday morning. She looked for it but could not find it. It was a nice pin and she is feeling quite sad.

Monday, May 12, is our next letter-day (pupils write letters to their families the first of each month). The older pupils will write and ask their parents to remember to send money for their

railroad fares. Parents must make ready to receive their children home for three months vacation.

The number of persons in our school building was increased by the arrival of a little girl who will call Superintendent Spear "papa". The baby arrived kicking and screaming. She weighed nine pounds and a half, and is of the blond type like her mother. The baby is named Maude.

Last Saturday most of our younger children walked out into the country, the girls for picking flowers and the boys for snaring gophers. The girls found but a few flowers because it is quite early in spring. The boys drowned out a gopher which our dog Rex killed. The children came home rosy-cheeked but tired; they said they had a good time.

The pupils in Mr. Axling's class were using their new books to recite "The wren is a tiny bird, but it is a bold one." The door to the school room stood open and at that moment, and much to everyone's amusement, a little wren flew into the school room. It was caught and shown to each one then given its freedom again.

Monday morning there was a wagon stuck in the mud in the street which our school building faces. The children crowded to the window to watch the men work to get the wagon out of the mire. The wagon was drawn by a yoke of oxen but they were unhooked and a team of horses was hitched to the wagon. The horses struggled for some minutes and at last pulled the wagon out of the mud.

It is said that editors love the paste-pot and shears but such is not the case with the editor of the *Banner*, Mr. Axling. A few evenings ago he had just finished applying the brush to the paper and was putting items back to the shelf, when, lo, the paste-pot fell from its high perch and emptied most of its contents upon the editor's Sunday suit-coat, vest and pants.

Mrs. Spear's baby, Maude, has been out in her little carriage every pleasant day the past week.

Tuesday afternoon the pupils were much disturbed by the mosquitoes swarming in and biting everyone. They have become very numerous all at once.

The past two weeks we have had two hard dust storms. The wind blew so hard that everybody had a time of it keeping on the sidewalks.

A note from a teacher before school closing for summer vacation: Dear parents, the time is nigh at hand when I shall bid farewell to the many little ones who will return home for the summer months. The parting will prove to be a sad one. I shall miss their smiling faces. May they not be disappointed in their anticipation of a happy vacation. I beg you to make it as pleasant for them as possible. Do not scoff or sneer at their signs if you think them strange; and above all, do not discourage them from their attempts to speak; rather encourage them and urge them to try. Practice makes perfect. If folks at home would continue teaching them during vacation, they would do great good and these pupils would, in the near future, not be deaf and dumb - simply deaf. Will you do it and favor a friend? From a Teacher

School closes June 17, with the exception of the Kindergarten department, which will close on July 1 for a vacation of four weeks. School will resume in September, 1892.

***The Banner*, 1892 locals - September and October (Volume II, Issues 1-7)**

Summer vacation is over. The school opened on September 14, 1892. Twenty-five students arrived the first day. With a larger attendance than ever before, it was necessary to secure the service of an additional teacher, Miss Alto Lowman. Miss Lowman is a graduate of the National Deaf-Mute College in Washington, DC.

P.L Axling, printing teacher and *Banner* editor, resigned his position to accept a more lucrative position at the School for the Deaf in South Dakota. His position has been filled by the appointment of Martin Taylor, B.A., of New York. Mr. Taylor is himself a deaf-mute and shall take over the editorial duties left vacant by Mr. Axling's departure. A follower of the proverb, "A new broom sweeps clean," might expect the new man to make a radical change in the form of the paper but such is not his intention. His only change will be to issue the *Banner* weekly instead of semi-monthly.

Our new school building is still in construction. We hoped it would be ready for occupancy this fall but the scarcity of help on account of busy harvest work has made its progress slow. The school's cornerstone was laid on September 7, 1892, but without, we regret to say, any appropriate celebration of its placement. Inside the cornerstone, to commemorate the school's establishment, were laid the following: a copy of the original announcement to parents of our State regarding the establishment of school for deaf children; a copy of the first report of the Superintendent and *Board of Trustees* of this school to the Governor; a copy of the first biennial report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, a copy of each newspaper of this city; *Inter-Ocean*, the *Free Press*, and the *News*; a map of the State; two copies of the rules and regulations of the school; two circulars of information; and the first and last issues of the *Banner*, Volume I.

A well-equipped party of hunters from Minneapolis poured into this region in quest of ducks, chickens, geese and any other game which comes within the range of the law and guns of hunters. About 30 guns of different bores and patterns, a dozen dogs of various breeds, a hundred or so decoys and eight duck boats made up the combination. Last year a gentleman remembered our School with thirty-two fine geese. Devils Lake is fast becoming the hunter's paradise.

Miss Lowman took some of the little girls out the other day to see the boys dig potatoes. "Pursuit is sweeter than possession." The boys enjoy digging potatoes more than eating them.

Bennett Olson, a former student of this school, is employed on our new school building as hod-carrier (mortar-and-brick carrier). He earns \$2.50 a day.

Superintendent Spear turned the schoolroom into a barbershop last week and made monkey heads of the little boys.

The North Dakota School for the Deaf, now in course of erection, located about three quarters of a mile north of the city, will when completed, be one of the finest structures in the state. The building was designed by Olof Hanson, M.A., a deaf-mute architect of Minneapolis, Minnesota. The site contains twenty acres of land which will be beautifully graded and planted to trees, and with the lake in full view, the place will be very pleasant and attractive.

The trustees took advantage of the cooler September temperatures to break ground for the foundation of the grand new school structure soon to dazzle the eye. The pleasure of the ceremony of 'ground breaking' was somewhat marred by little Johnny DeFear, a pupil of the school, who was trodden under the feet of the oxen whose approach was earlier than expected. Johnny was too deaf to hear the approach of the oxen. Poor Johnny!

Willie Reid thinks he is quite a man now. He has a pair of new overalls.

The flies are as thick as chaff at a thrashing machine. Otherwise Dakota is all right.

Peter Heen was the happy recipient of a box of plums from his folks on Tuesday. Seeing how much he enjoyed them, we imagine they were as luscious as they looked.

Louisa Ritz found a young screech owl which had sought refuge under the sidewalk. It was the same one that Mrs. Spear had tried so hard to tame during vacation. We kept it in the wood shed for a few days, but to our great sorrow, it died. "So many hands spoil the pie."

Sunday evening, just as our teachers were about to sit down for supper, flames were seen to leap from the roof of a house on the next block adjoining our school. One of our teachers stuffed his mouth with a biscuit or two and rushed off to the assist at the scene. No great damage was done to the house. The prompt response and energetic efforts of the local fire department won the praise of the town.

There is no playground that adjoins the school building so the little ones frequent a vacant lot opposite, and play see-saw, hide and seek and various other games, while the lover of machinery finds pleasure among the old thrashing machines dumped there.

Willie Lang is fond of playing checkers. It is said that he can beat his teacher, Miss Halvorson, at the game.

On Sunday afternoon the teachers and pupils took a walk north of town to the site of the new school building. All were much pleased with the progress they saw and live in happy hopes that some day in 1893, they may breath the air of 'peace and plenty' rather than enduring the broken bricks and howling prairie winds of the current inadequate school building.

The boys played "soldier" every night after study hours, using paper caps for helmets and broom sticks for guns.

Of late we have had windy nights, frosty mornings, and Indian summer afternoons.

There is a small river running close by our school from the artesian well. The boys and girls find it a source of great amusement. They make all sorts of dams, sail ships, etc. The teacher of geography class finds it useful in the way of illustration.

Last Monday night was Halloween. The teachers gave the pupils a treat of nuts and apples, which were good, indeed. A tub full of water was placed on a low box and a dozen nice apples were set to sail on the water. Tempting as you know fruit is to little ones, they were not allowed an apple unless they fished it out with their teeth. There was some lively diving going on and many of the pupils won a prize. Miss Halvorson, childish as ever, had to try the game as well. She got more than an apple; she got her whole head wet.

Superintendent Spear is busy preparing for his first biennial report to the board of trustees. Note: Superintendent Spear's report follows the report from the Board of Trustees below.

Report to the Governor of North Dakota from the *Board of Trustees* of the School for the Deaf. This report covers the completion of the first full fiscal period at the School for the Deaf (two years beginning and ending October 31, 1890 to October 31, 1892)

To the Honorable Andrew H. Burke, Governor of the State of North Dakota

Sir: the *Board of Trustees* for the deaf have the honor to submit to you their first full biennial report of said school covering the two years from October 31, 1890 to October 31, 1892. Also submitted is a report from the Superintendent of the school, Mr. A.R. Spear.

The report of the treasurer shows the financial condition of the school from the date of the last report and accounts for all moneys received and disbursed during said time and may be verified by reference to vouchers on file with the State auditor. The report of our superintendent, has given careful study to the interests and needs of the school and is well qualified to speak upon the subject. He has set forth in his report certain recommendations which we approve and ask that you take in to careful consideration.

The pupils have made excellent progress notwithstanding the fact that the officers and teachers have been greatly hampered in their work by insufficient accommodations for the large number of pupils who have been in attendance at the school. We wait with anticipation for our new, larger school.

A printing office has been established and a number of the pupils are engaged in acquiring knowledge of the printing trade. We deem it of the greatest importance that provision be made for the instruction of the pupils in other trades as well as that of printing.

We desire to call your attention to the Superintendent's report on this subject: In the fall of 1891 there was generously donated to the State by the *Great Northern Railway Company* a tract of eighteen acres of land adjoining the City of Devils Lake as a site for our future school building. In the spring of 1892, as soon as it was practicable to begin building operations, the trustees commenced the erection of a school building upon the site above referred to, using for that purpose, the \$10,000 appropriated by the last legislature. The plans as originally drawn

contemplated a building more in accord with the needs of the school than the one now in process of erection, but the trustees, on discovering that the funds appropriated were insufficient to complete the original plans, had the plans reduced so as to erect a building within the limits of the sum appropriated. The building in process of erection under the reduced plan is almost completed but will not, in the judgment of the trustees, be adequate to the wants of the school.

We earnestly urge, in behalf of the large number of pupils now in attendance and those who are prevented from attending by reason of insufficient accommodations, that our appropriation be sufficiently increased to complete the present unfinished school building and also a wing or addition thereto. We also recommend that at least forty acres of land adjoining the site of the new school be purchased so that the larger pupils may be instructed in the art of farming and gardening. We believe, too, that with this additional tract of land sufficient vegetables and garden stuff can be raised for the use of the school. At present we are compelled to purchase garden produce at a considerable expense.

At the date of our last report we did not own any real estate or buildings, but we now have eighteen acres of land that was donated (worth \$900) and a new school building nearly completed which cost \$10,000 and is worth that sum. The number of pupils in attendance, their names and residences, the number that have entered school and those who have left since the last report is provided in the Superintendent's report. No deaths have occurred in the school since last report. The health of the pupils has been fairly good and the discipline has been excellent. There has been a marked mental improvement in the pupils in attendance under the painstaking efforts of the teachers. There is also attached hereto a list of the officers, teachers and servants employed in and about the school. In order that the good work which has already been done by the school may continue and that its sphere of usefulness may be extended further, we recommend that the following appropriations be made for the school by our next legislature;

For the maintenance and support of the school for the next two fiscal years and for the finishing of the building now in process of erection and additions thereto, the following:

For maintenance	\$10,000
For salaries and wages	\$13,000
For household good, etc.	\$2,500
For fuel and lights	\$3,000
For incidentals	\$2,500

For an additional wing to the new building, for barn and other outhouses, purchasing additional land and incidental and contingent expenses \$15,000

We further recommend that the salary of the Superintendent be increased by at least \$500 per annum.

Respectfully submitted by Trustees: H.H.Ruger, President, H.R. Dickieson, Secretary, Geo Juergens, Treasurer, Judge F. O'Brien, member

Note regarding the members of the Board of Trustees for the School for the Deaf (October, 1892): H.H. Ruger, M.D., was a local doctor with residence/office at Fifth St. East in Devils Lake, N.D. H.R. Dickieson was the owner/operator of a General Merchandise Store in Reynolds, N.D., Geo Juergens was a cashier at First National Bank of Devils Lake and James F. O'Brien was a Judge/Attorney at Law)

Superintendent Spear's Report to Governor Burke – fiscal year ending October 31, 1892

Gentlemen: the time has now arrived when I am required by law to lay before you a report of the affairs of the school during the two years since my last report and indicate the needs of the school during the next two years. In undertaking this duty I cannot but feel that it is made extremely pleasant to me by the knowledge that during the time under review the school has made steady progress. You have always stood ready to carry out any measure tending to the advancement of the scholars. Officers, teachers and scholars have worked harmoniously together, the minds of the pupils have been reached, and they who came to us but a few short months ago in a state of ignorance hard to conceive have received a degree of enlightenment most gratifying. The young scholars have steadily and surely advanced. The school has become known throughout the State and has won the confidence and support of all. It has widened its sphere of usefulness by adding industrial training and in many ways progressed toward a complete fulfillment of its duties to the deaf of this State.

But while the work accomplished during the two years of the school's establishment may afford good cause for pleasant reflections, it must not be forgotten that there is much yet to be done. Justly measuring the progress so far, we may turn our faces to the future with confidence. Unless all signs fail, the next two years will be years of improvement and constantly widening usefulness for this school.

My first report was published in 1890 and covered the period from the opening of school, September 10, to October 31 1890, less than two months. It will therefore be seen that the present report practically covers the entire period of the existence of the school up to October 31, 1892.

The fiscal year for which a report is made ends on October 31. The fiscal year for which appropriations are made ends on March 31. The school year begins in September and ends in June. It will be well to keep these distinctions in mind.

Attendance

At the time my former report was submitted the attendance was fifteen but rapidly increased until the number reached twenty-three pupils. They come from ten different counties in the State. Fourteen new pupils were admitted during the term of 1891-92, and five during the term of 1892-93. Up to present date, the total number in attendance is forty-three (twenty-five boys and seventeen girls.) Eight additional applications for admission are on file. It will thus be seen that the increase in attendance has been rapid. In the past year the building has been uncomfortably crowded. At the opening of the present term additional room became absolutely

necessary and two rooms, a block away, were rented and are now occupied. The follow is a catalogue of the pupils who have been in attendance:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post office</u>
Anderson, Christ	Willow City
Anderson, Inga	Fort Ransom
Boisnent, Selfred	Bottineau
Bill, Thomas	Bathgate
Collins, James	Inkster
Flugekvan, Nekolai	Silvista
Gorseth, Anna	Niagara
Gerkey, Melica	Grand Forks
Gilman, Chas.	Fargo
Heen, Peder	Mekinock
Hagen, Hendrick	Horace
Iverson, Elsie	Fargo
Kercklaw, Albert	New Salem
Kreidt, George	New Salem
Lageson, Louis	Thompson
Lombnes, Henry	Grand Forks
Lemke, Carrie	Cando
Lang, Willie	Mandan
Larson, Lorents	Reynolds
Masters, Etha	Gilby
Miller, Hunert	Binghamton
Magnus, Annie	Osnabrock
Mallett, Fillmore	Chinook, Montana
Messner, Willie	Casselton
McMurchy, Murdoch	Harwood
Nordhougen, Emma	Aneta
Newton, Mabel	Mapleton
Olson, Bennett	Carrington
O'Hara, James	Carlisle
Odegard, Ida	Bue
Pederson, Jens	Portland
Pederson, Mary	Portland
Peterson, Peter	Hastings
Slaughter, Rosa	Bismarck
Reid, Willie	Hamilton
Ritz, Louise	New Salem
Smith, Effie	Portland
Schraeder, Herman	Sheldon
Wagner, Rosella	Forest River
Williams, Leister	Forest River
Wojick, Julia	Jamestown

Ziegler, Claud	Grand Forks
Ziegler, Grace	Grand Forks

Health

There have been two severe cases of sickness and a number of pupils have had the chicken pox, whooping cough, and the measles, but in each case recovery was complete. The two severe cases referred to were those of Annie Gorseth, who was sick with the pleurisy in the winter of 1891, and Willie Reid, who was dangerously sick with inflammation of the bowels in the winter of 1892. Thanks to the careful nursing and the attention of Dr. Ruger, the attending physician, they entirely recovered and now enjoy good health.

Teachers

Three teachers are engaged at the present time, two female and one male, the latter being also instructor in printing and editor of *The Banner*, the small paper published at the school. Miss Clara M. Halvorson was appointed April 1, 1891 and still retains her position. She gives instruction in speech to a number of scholars and by her close application, gentleness and patience with the pupils has become a most successful and valuable teacher. Mr. P.L. Axling was appointed teacher and instructor in printing at the beginning of the term in 1891. He filled the position with marked ability and success for one term. After the first school term, Mr. Axling resigned in order to accept a similar position at the South Dakota School for the Deaf. In 1892, at the opening of the term, Mr. Martin Taylor, B.A., was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Axling. The number of scholars having increased so rapidly an additional teacher became necessary. Miss Alto M. Lowman, Ph.B, was appointed. These two latter teachers have been with us for only a short time but have taken hold of the work with vigor. I have no doubt they will make efficient teachers.

Qualified teachers who can make a success of the work are not easily found and when we get them it is for the best interests of the school to pay them such salaries as will induce them to stay with us. I believe a comparison will show the salaries we are paying are lower than paid by similar schools for similar work in other states. My own salary is, as you are aware, much less than paid for like work in other states. A sense of modesty might require me to be silent, yet I think I may properly ask that you recommend an increase in my salary by the next legislative session.

School work

This, I think, is the most important subject I shall touch upon in this report, for it is by an intelligent study of the work done in the school-room that we may best judge the progress we have made. Outside the school hours the children are, of course, undergoing training, and there is, or ought to be, no time in their school life when they are not growing intellectually and morally. It is in the school-room with the teacher, surrounded by her pupils, that the telling work must be done. And it is a noble work. I cannot too highly exalt the work of a teacher of the deaf nor too highly pride and value a successful teacher. Receiving, as they do in most cases, children whose minds are closed to the sound of the voice – to whom the “winged words” that mean so

much to their hearing brothers and sisters mean naught - it is their great mission to awaken their little souls and plant in them the intellectual life which shall go on increasing and change their lives from darkness to light - to happiness, usefulness and sweet contentment in the love of God.

As to methods employed for teaching deaf pupils, a great deal has been written on the subject. I can but say two marked opinions seem to prevail; that the deaf should be taught orally, and, on the other hand, that only a small percent of the deaf can be properly so taught. The latter view requires the use of signs, the manual alphabet and other conveniences. This is called the "combined" method and, in my opinion, it is the only means of attaining satisfactory results all around. Speech is not the end to be attained in educating the deaf. It is of far less value to them than a ready command of the English language. Parents frequently desire that their children be taught to speak but they do not always understand that to attempt to do so would be a waste of precious time. Yet in every school for the deaf there is a certain per cent of pupils who should be taught by the oral method.

We are teaching one class orally and several pupils are given instructions in articulation daily. I do not think the best results can be attained in this line until an additional teacher is provided. Speech teaching is slow and difficult work and if the teacher is compelled to divide her attention among numerous classes, as our articulation teacher has been obliged to do, it must be evident that her labor will be but partially rewarded.

And this is the proper place, I think, for me to call your earnest attention to the unsatisfactory results that come from requiring one teacher to handle a numerous class size. Whatever methods may be devised for aiding the pupils in acquiring a language, they will never overcome the evil of large classes, especially in the primary department. I am of the opinion that one teacher should not be required to handle more than six or eight pupils for the first two or three years in school. After the pupils have acquired some language and learned how to help themselves then classes may be enlarged. It is the feeling of utter helplessness, when the deaf child on first entering school, renders the teacher's efforts so barren of results if she is compelled to spread her work out over a large number of pupils. Every deaf child on first entering school must receive the persistent attention of the teacher. She must get down to their level and work with them. She must give each one her personal attention, constantly devising ways and means to interest, help and encourage them along the difficult path they must go.

It is to the schoolroom that we must look for success in our work and with a high sense of duty to the deaf children entrusted to our care. We must strive earnestly to provide every facility for successful work there. The time a deaf boy or girl has for receiving an education is at best short and what we may do for them during that time should be of the best.

The Industrial Department

I now come to a part of our work that has for its end, the teaching of a useful trade to the pupils. How important the knowledge of a trade is likely to be to them after leaving school. Deafness makes the struggle for comprehension more difficult, even as it renders the acquisition of knowledge in the school room a slow and tedious task.

The arrangements of our school are peculiarly well fitted for the teaching of trades to our pupils. Remaining, as they do, at the school the greater part of the year, they have leisure time that can be employed most advantageously in learning a trade. The interchange of manual with intellectual work is healthy and stimulating and tends to produce good results.

At the opening of the term in 1891, by your authority, a job printing press, type, and other necessities for teaching printing were purchased and a number of scholars were assigned to work in the printing office at regular hours. At present four boys and one girl are at work in this office. A small weekly paper called *The Banner* is printed. The typesetting and mechanical work is all done by the pupils. A great deal of job printing for the school has been turned out here. I take pride in this department and believe the results in the end will more than repay the expense of its maintenance.

However, all our pupils cannot learn the trade of printing – other instructional industries must be organized. It will require some outlay to teach other trades. I trust this matter will receive your most serious attention.

There is one department that can be put in operation at a small outlay, namely, dress and cloak making for the girls. The need for providing instruction for the girls in such work is most urgent. The cost would be but a trifle compared to the great benefits it would confer upon the girls. I recommend that a competent person be employed and this sewing department be organized at the earliest time possible.

The Deaf in the State

Owing to the fact that proper schedules for statistics of the deaf were omitted from the assessor's books for 1892, no returns of the deaf census were made by the county auditors, as required by law. I am thus obliged to rely on the returns for 1890-1891 which are incomplete. From various private sources I have learned of about twenty deaf children in the State who are not yet attending school and the actual number is probably greater than this.

During the next two years we may expect and should provide for an increase of from fifty to sixty pupils. The State law requires attendance under penalty of a fine but no effort has been made to enforce the law because of inadequate buildings for receiving pupils at our school. But with the completion of the new building now under construction, the attendance under the law referred to shall be enforced.

Buildings

The last legislative assembly appropriated \$10,000 for a school building and expenses. A site was procured north of the city. Plans for the building were made by O. Hanson, a gentleman thoroughly familiar with the needs for a building of this kind. In July, 1892, work of construction began. At the present writing, the walls are up and the roof on. It cannot be finished to occupy this year. Meantime we continue to occupy temporary quarters within the city of Devils Lake. The time for which the city agreed to pay rent for temporary quarters expired last August 31. Since that time we have paid for the school's rent from our maintenance fund.

The \$10,000 was insufficient to erect a building large enough for the school. It became evident, if the money was to be judiciously expended, that it would be necessary to leave out heating apparatus, water closets and other conveniences that ultimately must be provided. The present building, therefore, in order to be complete, requires an additional wing on the west side. The completion of the wing and the finishing of the building throughout so that it may be occupied at the opening of the term in September, 1893, is, in my opinion, a necessity. If it is not done I do not see how we are to do our duty to the children. The work of the school cannot advance. I therefore respectfully urge that the matter be presented to the legislature and the necessities of the case fully set forth to the honorable body. To finish the building and necessary outhouses will require an appropriation of \$8,000. Thus completed, the building will be a model of its kind and serve us for a number of years to come.

Conclusion

To you, gentlemen of the *Board of Trustees*, belongs the chief credit for the high degree of success the school has attained during the two years just passed. Under your care, you have labored for the upbuilding of the school and always stood ready to carry out any plan within our means to promote its welfare. For all of which I acknowledge my obligations and return sincere thanks. Respectfully submitted, A.R. Spear, Superintendent (October, 1892)

***The Banner*, 1892 locals - November and December (Volume II, Issues 8 -15)**

A *Literary Society* was organized among the older boys and girls. Etha Masters was elected president.

The walls of the new school building are almost completed and the carpenters have the roof half on. One of the men, while at work on the roof, whipped out a revolver and brought down two geese from a flock that was flying overhead.

Mr. Taylor, *Banner* editor, was laid up Friday with a cold sweat and typho-malarial fever. Miss Lowman suffers a bad cold and trundles about wrapped up in an Indian blanket. Mr. Spear's daughter Hazel and pupils Annie Gorseth and Mary Pederson are down with the measles. The rest are in good health.

Note to the boys – those wagons in the vacant lot opposite the school belong to *Garner and Cleveland*. Mr. Cleveland keeps a big giant with horns and sharp claws to watch those wagons – look out!

The boys' dormitory bedrooms are directly over the kitchen. There is a register in the floor to allow the heat from the kitchen to pass up. Recently one of the little boys thought he would play a joke on the cook. He caught a mouse and dropped it through the register. It narrowly missed a dish of oatmeal the cook held in her hand. In fright, the cook climbed onto a table. It amused the little joker who watched from above.

Willie Reid while playing Friday afternoon, stumbled and fell, striking his head on a sharp projection and received quite a severe bruise.

The following article was taken from the *Park River Gazette-Witness*. The editor of that paper visited our school recently and made a close study of the methods of teaching and work accomplished. The clear and interesting account which he gives is one of the best descriptions of our work that we have seen come across. He wrote: The state School for the Deaf at Devils Lake, under the direction of Superintendent A.R. Spear, is an admirably conducted institution. The daily routine of the exercises must be witnessed to convey an adequate idea of the aims of the teachers and the work that is actually being accomplished. The smallest pupils are adept in reading and speaking by means of fingers. They write their exercises on the blackboard with a precision that could not be equaled by pupils of similar experience in our common schools. The spelling is very perfect; the children seem to see for themselves when they make an error. Their handwriting is superior and even punctuation appears to be well understood. No doubt the faculty of memorizing is, from the necessities of the situation, wonderfully developed. The intent look of the children as they watch all the movements of the teacher's fingers shows the whole mind concentrated upon the subject. But the attractive and novel feature of the exercises to most visitors is the instruction in vocal articulation. Though many children are born deaf, all are born with the capacity for speech, but cannot learn to speak simply because as they cannot hear sounds, they cannot imitate them. An idea of the patient effort and wise persistence that are required to develop spoken words out of the elementary cry of pain or the natural laughter of a child who does not even hear the sounds he makes cannot be formed unless the effort is actually witnessed. The teacher with distinctness and precision speaks the sound of the consonant or vowel and the pupil watches the movement of lips, tongue, jaws and indeed the whole face and tries to imitate these movements and to make sounds that are consequent there upon. Out of these elementary sounds, which in the pupil are at first hardly more like speech than the babble of an infant, is slowly evolved the power to converse fluently with anyone. Every pupil is also to be taught a trade. The institution has a printing-office attached and publishes a weekly paper under the direction of M.M. Taylor, himself a deaf-mute. Other industries will be added when the splendid new building now under construction is finished. There are at present thirty-three pupils in the school, the number being limited by the scanty accommodation currently being provided.

With the coming of snow what a scampering among the pupils for overshoes - how they do delight to play in the snow. It looks like winter is here to stay and we fear there will be no more long walks to the lake shore until next spring.

Jens and Mary Pederson received a package from home this week containing a lot of nice warm clothing.

Bennett Olson, pupil, age 24 years, has been appointed night watchman and with lantern in hand he makes his rounds every half hour.

On November 6, a blizzard prevailed in this area. The north gable of the new school building under construction was blown in, falling on the chapel floor. The floor gave way, falling with a crash onto the dining room floor below. The floor broke beneath the weight and took with it all

of the north and part of the west wall into the basement. The walls blown down had been newly erected and ready for the carpenters to put on the roof. Had the accident not occurred we would be able to announce the completion of the outside portion of the building. However, this unfortunate occurrence, coming as it does with the advent of winter, will stop further work on the new school building until spring.

It was fun to see Misses Lowman and Halvorson, plow through the blizzard with their sled last Sunday. One pulled the other pushed. The snowstorm lodged a large snow drift in front of the school building. One day the boys built two embankments and a snowball fight ensued. What sport!

Mr. Taylor is beginning to take his regular meals. We have hopes of his recovery from typhomarial fever - he has been laid up for four weeks. Pupil Lorents Larson has been the head man in the printing office during the absence of Mr. Taylor.

Last Saturday afternoon four of the large boys went to the pond to skate. The ice was quite nice. A race ensued and Claude Ziegler came out best.

Mr. Pederson is here nursing his little daughter Mary, who was very sick but now improving. As soon as she recovers, he will take her and his son Jens home, they being too young to attend school.

Sleighting and skating activities have been very fine of late.

No sooner had Mr. Taylor recovered from his fever when Superintendent Spear and teacher, Miss Halvorson, went down with the same fever. Mrs. Spear is Acting-Superintendent and manages the Institution affairs admirably.

The children enjoyed their Thanksgiving dinner immensely. There were five roasted turkeys, weighing sixty pounds in all. The tables were full of good things. In the evening apples, nuts and candy were distributed. All were happy. They now look forward to Christmas with eager anticipation.

For the first time in the history of the school, Death came in among our midst. On Saturday afternoon, as the clock struck four, Death took away the soul of little Mary Pederson. Mary was nearly seven years old. She was a bright, gentle, lovable girl. Mary's illness lingered for six weeks. She rallied a number of times but being of weak constitution, relapsed as often and finally sank into death. The sickness of the deceased was a complication of diseases and was beyond medical skill. Her father came four weeks ago and stayed with her to the end. The teachers and pupils sympathize with her grief-stricken father and her little six-year-old deaf brother, Jens, whose inseparable companion she was. A funeral service conducted by Reverend Aaberg was held in the schoolroom Sunday morning at 11:00 A.M. Mary's remains were interred at the Devils Lake cemetery.

Note: Reverend Aaberg was the Lutheran pastor of the Aaberg Academy which was located two blocks southeast of the School for the Deaf. It was often referred to as the Norwegian School.

Reverend Aaberg built and opened the boarding school to instruct (hearing) children in the fundamentals of the Lutheran faith. Pupils lived at the Aaberg Academy from early January through March. Most of the pupils came from farm families who could spare their sons and daughters during slack winter months. Children came from as far as 200 miles to attend the Aaberg boarding school. Reverend Aaberg and his teachers used the Norwegian language to teach religion classes. The school was in operation every winter from 1891-1903. Reverend Aaberg took a keen interest in the School for the Deaf and learned to use some sign language. Teachers from the School for the Deaf often visited Reverend Aaberg's school. Pupils from Aaberg's School and the Deaf School often played outdoors together.

Baby Spear has a new pair of shoes and also a pair of front teeth.

We were very glad to see Mr. Taylor skating last Saturday. That was his first outdoor exercise since his illness.

This week we bought about twenty cords of good, hard poplar wood from the Indians.

Christmas is next week. We will have a Christmas tree Monday night.

Willie Reid, one of our brightest little boys, is school monitor this week and his duty is to collect pencils at close of school day. This week his mother sent him a dollar to buy a new sled.

The huge pile of wood, the buzzing of the saw, the flying of wood chips in the back yard makes our weather-beaten structure take on the appearance of a sawmill rather than a 'seat of learning.'

Claude Ziegler's rabbit-trapping business has proved a dire failure. He set traps within a radius of two miles of the school but the rodents did not care to pay their respects to those strange, yawning objects with only a bit of turnip to feast on.

The school is infested with those dear little things – mice. One night they held a meeting in Superintendent Spear's cozy office. They made a raid on the superintendent's desk, nibbling away papers, postage-stamps, bills, etc. The sticky stuff on the stamps was so good that the mice resolved to store them away. After a search, the stamps were discovered hidden away inside a crevice. The superintendent was overjoyed to find his stamps again.

Christmas was celebrated by the pupils with a prettily decorated tree. A merrier Christmas was never enjoyed before. The flow of boxes and parcels during the past week was a pleasant surprise. Santa Claus was personated by Mr. Taylor.

The Banner, 1893 locals - January, February, March (Volume II, Issues 16-25)

Here is a letter written by Willie Lang with very little help from his teacher. Willie is ten years old, a semi-mute, and has been in school only six months.

My Dear Mother,

I will write a letter to you. It is snowing today. We had a Christmas tree on Monday night. I got a soldier's suit from you, I thank you very much. I play soldier now. I got a sled from Mr. Spear. I like it very well. I skate on the ice now. Mr. Taylor gave me an orange, an apple, candy, nuts and popcorn. The girls and boys got boxes and candy and sleds. There came an old Santa Claus. He had a basket on his back with some things in it. He came in through the door. He had a white overcoat and red cheeks on his face. Rosa Slaughter and Etha Masters came back to school again today. They were sick. I want Michael to write me a letter. My teacher and Mr. Spear are very well. I did not read. Now I read every day. Write me a letter soon. Your little son, Willie Lang

We had a holiday on New Year's Day. The boys took to ice-skating. Lorents Larson had a chilly bath when he broke through the ice however there was no danger of drowning as the water is only knee deep. The girls contented themselves with their sleds. In the evening candy, nuts and apples were distributed. All had an enjoyable time.

While washing dishes Louisa Ritz had her left hand badly scalded.

It was Superintendent Spear's birthday on Tuesday, January 10. He received many congratulations and well-wishes. He is thirty-three years of age. We believe that he is the youngest superintendent of a state school in the country.

We are again called upon to chronicle another death in our school. Albert Kercklaw departed this life on Wednesday night a little before eight o'clock, at the age of eighteen years, eight months. Taken slightly sick on New Year's, he began to fail until that dreadful disease, typhoid fever, set in and carried him away. Albert came to school for the first time, last fall. Tall and robust, he seemed able to withstand any slight case of sickness but when measles broke out in school last November, he was an easy victim. In about a week, he was around once more, apparently in the best of health. About two weeks ago, he began to complain of a pain in his side, caused, as he said, by sawing wood. The day after New Year's he was put to bed, having typhoid fever. The institution physician was summoned and the usual prescriptions were administered but they were of no avail. His life continued to ebb away. The last two days he was partially unconscious and remained so to the end. His parents were early notified of his sickness but, being very poor, were unable to respond to the call. A reply to a telegram, announcing his death, came Thursday morning from his folks telling us to bury his remains in Devils Lake cemetery. Albert was a good boy and he will be keenly missed. We extend sympathy to his parents and relatives in their bereavement.

The boys do not skate much now. The heavy snow storm has spoiled the ice.

Rex, our house dog, is rendering the school valuable service in slaughtering tramp cats that find their way into the school yard.

Some of our boys have made a number of large bobsleds from old boards. An inquiry as to how they made them without the use of tools brought to light the fact that they labored patiently for weeks using only a jackknife.

A bottle containing water from our school well was sent to Minneapolis University for analysis. It was found to contain ammonia and chlorine and, in the opinion of the chemist, is unfit to drink. The use of the well has been discontinued. We are now buying water by the barrel.

Murdoch McMurchy absented himself from school this week on account of sore eyes and Willie Reid is laid up with a slight attack of fever.

Pupil, Inga Anderson, is the latest addition to the already overcrowded school hospital, which is, by the way, only a bedroom.

We are watching our school's request for appropriation with great anxiety. Rumor has it that enough money will be given to complete the first wing of our new school building.

If you see those flies buzzing above our dining room table with that intolerable placid serenity in this very cold weather, smash them.

We had a howling blizzard last Monday. It came down with a swoop and in a jiffy made mounds of our streets. Not a footprint was seen that day.

Saturday morning a half-frozen, half-starved bird made its appearance into our kitchen, begging alms. The large bird was Mr. Cockburn's tame eagle. Mr. Cockburn is our meat man. The bird stood in the middle of the floor in a most majestic attitude, not the least bit scared by the eager looks and mysterious inarticulate cries of the children who rapidly gathered round it. Pieces of raw meat were thrown to it, and one by one, they quickly disappeared down its voluminous gullet. After the bird had eaten its fill, it gave a nod of satisfaction then perched upon a barrel and commenced its morning toiletry.

It is Valentine's Day next Tuesday.

Mr. Taylor and Miss Halvorson took a long buggy drive to Fort Totten last Saturday. The twenty miles was covered in four hours with half an hour for rest.

Very few valentines were received at the school. The mail train from the east on Valentine's Day was eight hours late. We all hoped in vain that it was heavily laden with valentines.

Superintendent Spear returned from Bismarck Monday noon very much disappointed but not discouraged in his efforts to get the school bill through the legislature without being scaled down. Fully one-third of the amount that we requested was stricken out. This means no increase in the teachers' salaries, the employment of a boys' supervisor much needed and an additional teacher is out of the question. And worse than all, no admittance of new pupils for two years to come – there are twenty waiting applications on file.

The people around Devils Lake are storing away ice. The thickness of the ice is enormous, averaging four feet. A few such cakes of ice will last a small family all summer.

Last night May Newton had a glass of milk on a chair by the side of her bed. She drank up all the milk. In a short time a little mouse jumped upon the chair and climbed into the glass. The girls jumped upon the bed and laughed. Rex heard the noise and ran into the girls' room, wagging his tail. (Story written by one of the pupils for the *Banner*)

It becomes our painful duty to announce another death. Morris Gilman departed this life Monday night of typhoid fever at the age of nineteen. His death was unexpected. Thursday, last week, he was thought dying, but rallied wonderfully and showed signs of improvement. Last Monday his condition took a sudden turn for the worse and he passed away peacefully. The relatives of the deceased, being poor, asked that his remains be interred in Devils Lake cemetery next to the other two pupils (Mary Pederson and Albert Kercklaw) who had gone before him.

Letter to Parents from Superintendent Spear, March, 1893

Dear Parents,

The continued sickness of the pupils, bad sanitary conditions of the building and poor facilities for caring for the sick make it necessary, in the opinion of the *Board of Trustees* and the Superintendent, and acting on the advice of the attending physicians, that the school be closed for the balance of the school year and the pupils be sent home. I, therefore announce that all children will be sent home at once. Parents who can do so are kindly requested to come to the school and take their children away. Those who cannot come will meet their children in Grand Forks, Friday, March 17 and in Fargo, Saturday, March 18. I beg to assure you that I will remain at the school during the summer to monitor work on the new school building and will push for completion by the middle of the summer. Everything possible will be done for the safety of the pupils. The school will reopen again in September at the usual time in our new and beautiful building. I hope that I may once more welcome all of my old pupils and that never again will the work be so sadly interrupted, necessitating the close of school in the middle of the term. Asking your kind indulgence and assuring you that the welfare of your children will be the constant study of the *Trustees* and myself, I am sincerely your friend, A.R. Spear, Superintendent

During the school closure, Mr. Taylor will go to Fargo, Miss Lowman will return to her home in Maryland and Miss Halvorson will return home to Minnesota.

Goodbye to all, we have a long vacation. Rex will miss you all. The eagle will miss you too. See you on your return to school in September, 1983.

Olof Hanson, the deaf-mute architect for our new school building, has been summoned by the *Board of Trustees*.



THE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF OF NORTH DAKOTA.

***The Banner*, 1893 locals - September and October (Volume III, Issues 1-5)**

With this issue, the *Banner* commences its third year. Our little periodical suffered hardship and encountered general ill-luck last year. However, as long as parents appreciate the purpose of the *Banner*, it will continue to visit homes weekly. Terms: fifty cents per school year which lasts nine months. Due to the temporary suspension of school last March, the time of paid up subscribers of the *Banner* will be extended three months.

From the *Devils Lake Free Press*, September 23, 1893

The school for the Deaf opened its full term in the elegant new building last Tuesday, with two teachers and twenty-two pupils. Ten more students are expected before January 1. This will nearly fill the new school to its upmost capacity which at present is about thirty-five. It was thought that with the present dormitory capacity the school could accommodate about forty-four but on placing the beds, this was found to crowd the occupants too much. The pupils were delighted when they saw the elegant, well-lighted and well-furnished rooms and the teachers say the new building leaves nothing to be desired. The parents of the pupils need have no fear that their children will not be well cared for in this new school. It will be a pleasant home for the children.

Mrs. Spear, who officiated as matron for the past two years, resigned the position last July, greatly to the regret of the school. However, she continues to help build up the school in various ways. Miss Catherine Fair is the name of our new matron.

Miss Halvorson is the proud owner of a bicycle. She paid one-hundred dollars for it.

About twenty barrels of potatoes were dug from the school yard by the boys.

Lorents Larson is at home, sick with diphtheria. He is missed and we hope he will recover soon.

In June, one of our teachers from last term resigned her position due to failing health. Miss Lowman now lives in Maryland where her family resides.

Superintendent Spear's unexpected announcement of a holiday Tuesday morning threw the boys and girls into ecstasy. There was a scramble for hats and cloaks and it made the teachers' hearts feel good to see how delighted the children were. A large basket of good things to eat was sent along with the party. Superintendent and Mrs. Spear and Miss Fair followed in the surrey while another surrey, hired for the occasion brought Miss Halvorson and Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. By half past twelve, the Chautauqua grounds were reached. Luncheon was spread. The boys and girls enjoyed sandwiches, bologna, pickles, cheese and crackers, hot cups of tea and last but not least, delicious grapes. The lake was very pretty with its hue of deep blue and numerous foam balls. It was fun to see what a coward the waves made of our dog, Rex, but before long he became brave and swam to fetch sticks thrown into the water. Bags of acorns were picked to be roasted and eaten but they have since found not as delicious as imagined. Instead, the acorns will be strung and used for wall decorations. Tired but happy, we arrived home about seven o'clock.

While at the lake, the steamer, '*Rock Island*', on its way to Fort Totten stopped at Chautauqua and attracted the attention of our boys and girls. We think the Indians on board enjoyed the sight of our scholars as much as our pupils enjoyed the sight of their nationality.

The morning after their visit to Chautauqua, the pupils were made to write a description of where they went and what they did and saw on their day at the lake.

The pupils are divided into two classes under the charge of Mr. Taylor and Miss Halvorson. When the new teacher arrives next week there will be three classes.

George Kreidt, pupil, is our new print compositor. He is a new hand but is getting on finely. This makes our type-setters number four.

Miss Mary A. Whedon, our new teacher, arrived on October 18 from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is a hearing lady and has never been to a deaf school before but this fact did not prevent so intelligent a person from seeking a teacher's position here. Years ago it was thought essential for an applicant to be conversant with the sign language in order to teach deaf pupils but nowadays anyone possessing the power and faculty of making a deaf child understand what is wanted may be accepted by nearly all deaf schools. Frequent use of the blackboard and plenty action work are all that is required in primary classes. With the advanced classes the sign language for lectures is, to our mind, a necessity, for how could one obtain so much knowledge otherwise except by reading.

The boys play football every day after working hours. The larger boys must be careful and not play recklessly with the little ones in their midst.

We have discovered a hill back of the new school building. If the path leading to it is not drifted too deep with snow it will make a good toboggan slide in winter.

Miss Whedon is making observations alternately in the schoolrooms of Mr. Taylor and Miss Halvorson. She will begin her own teaching duties with her own next week.

Ghosts stalked about the school on Halloween night. The windows in the basement clattered and the servants cried 'thief'. A strange face was seen to peep in the girls' room. The furniture in the rooms of Mr. and Mrs. Spear was turned topsy-turvy. All heaved a sigh of relief when November dawned. The ghosts cannot return until next Halloween.

The Banner, 1893 locals -November and December (Volume III, Issues 6-13)

We like to see our boys and girls run and play and have a good time but they must learn to keep quiet in the house. The girls are all right but our boys make more noise than necessary. When they go up or come down stairs they must not stamp like horses. When they are in their study room, they must not kick the chairs or shuffle them along the floor. They will break by and by. They must not move their bedsteads so often and too roughly. It makes the matron's head ache and they will spoil the bedsteads. All of our boys must learn to be gentlemen before they go home so that their friends can see how nicely they behave.



Leister Williams received a large sled from home last week. It is the handwork of his father and Leister is very proud of it.

One of the cows was killed last Wednesday. We now furnish our own meat.

A pack of dogs, about ten in number, come to our yard once in a while. They look like wild dogs and one is tempted to throw stones at them.

We have a new barn for the hay, the work of our watchman, John Goozee. Our yard now looks very orderly and pleasing to the eye. The cows and the horse are thriving under the care of our new hired man.

Willie Reid likes to imagine that he is in a boat. He stands in a large box in the yard and uses a long stick for a paddle. We are sorry there is no boat, nor pond on which he can try one of his launches.

Lorents Larson is patiently waiting for some rabbit to stray within the box which he has set as a trap.

We fear Miss Halvorson had her last ride on her wheel (bike) last Monday. It is cold now and the snow is too deep.

To be by one's self in the limitless fields, amongst the waving trees in the densest wood, or to be on the prairie itself, is to be with nature and God. It is a feeling of companionship. But to be jostled by the crowd or seated by the family fireside of one's own home and feel the loss of human companionship which the others enjoy, this is being alone - it is the most utter loneliness one can know. So, with this issue of the *Banner* we enclose a copy of the manual alphabet and we urge upon every parent the importance of learning it. Mothers and sisters, pin it up over your dishpan or sewing machine and when working, familiarize yourselves with the forms of the letters, it will afford you greater returns than sighing for a dress you cannot have or borrowing next summer's troubles. Some of the fathers and brothers can slip one in their coat pockets and when spinning your winter yarns over some store counter and comes a lull, just think how your little deaf one can't communicate; then take it out and study. You can learn the manual alphabet.

Miss Halvorson and Miss Whedon used some old cardboard boxes to coin some money for the purpose of teaching its practical uses to the pupils. The pupils much enjoy trading with their toy-money in the school room.

Hazel and Bessie Spear do not go to the public schools any more. A private tutor comes to them every afternoon. The teacher's name is Miss Brainerd.

The weather has been in a very ugly mood this week.

Our teachers have been paid only once since September. Hard times are still with us. If the money due us is not forthcoming, the Christmas counter in the city stores will suffer.

Willie Messner overloaded his stomach with sweetmeats and as a consequence he is in bed quite sick. Be careful in the future Willie.

Lorents Larson still watches his rabbit trap morning and night to no avail. If his patience is not soon rewarded, we teachers are afraid he will lose faith in the motto "If at first you don't succeed, try again."

Busy hands are sewing and embroidering - the girls are preparing for Christmas.

The next issue of the *Banner* will appear January 6 with a full account of the holiday entertainment and a complete list of the children who received presents.

The Banner, 1894 locals - January, February, March, April, (Volume III, Issues 14-26)

It is Eighteen hundred and ninety-four! What resolutions shall we make? Shall we review our career and resolve to correct and reform the evil habits that we had allowed to take root during 1893? It is easy to resolve but to act and stick to it is hard. Unless you have an unusually strong will, you will fail again and again as of yore. Let us attempt to make the New Year better than last.

Our dog Rex received a new collar for Christmas.

A few days ago one of our pigs was killed for pork.

Claude Ziegler received a razor and mug for Christmas. His folks understand the needs of a young man. The gift was timely for 'the down of manhood' was just starting to bristle out from under his chin.

The Christmas entertainment given by the pupils was a very enjoyable affair and elicited applause from everyone. The dialogues were done in the sign language. It was the children's initial effort and we hope to see more of it. Much of its success is due to Miss Halvorson. The Christmas tree in our school was prettily decorated with colored candles. Here and there, hanging from its branches, were dolls with their chubby hands stretched out as if waiting to be taken into the arms of their future mistresses. Under the tree was a pile of boxes, packages, books and other things too bulky to be hanged. Nearby was a bushel-basket full of apples, candies and nuts. Promptly at 7:30 P.M. Santa Claus rapped on one of the windows in the room where the tree stood. What followed can only be imagined. After Santa's departure, distribution of presents commenced. Everyone was happy and satisfied with what he received. We are indebted to Mr. Goozee for the valuable assistance rendered in making the children merry that night.

Superintendent Spear bought a new pair of shoes for little Carrie Lemke last Tuesday but they were too small for her. The next day he changed them for larger ones.



Superintendent's office

The first blizzard of the season greeted us last Wednesday. It was very blinding and lasted the whole day.

January 10 was the 34th birthday of our genial Superintendent Spear. In the evening one of the teachers *stole a march* on him while he was quietly puffing away fragrant clouds from his meerschaum (tobacco pipe) and escorted him to his parlor where the other teachers and the matron had gathered. Cake, candy and oranges and sweet cider were served. At 10:00 P.M. the party broke up with wishes of "many happy returns." Long live our Superintendent.

Our Cows: Mr. Spear bought our cows from a farmer some time ago. They are pretty, large, brown cows. We keep them because they give us good, sweet milk. Bennett (a pupil, age 24) takes care of them. He feeds them hay and oats three times every day and lets them drink water from a tub near the pump. He milks them every morning and night. They are gentle cows. By Annie Magnus

Last Saturday was a nice, warm day so Mr. and Mrs. Taylor took a long drive to Fort Totten. They came back in the evening. On their way across the lake they saw a grey wolf running to the hill, stopping several times as if in doubt whether to follow them or not. There are plenty of wolves in this area. A gentleman in the city was chased by a pack the other day. Mr. Taylor says next time he goes he will take his Winchester gun along.

Deaf children have a hard struggle against the tide and when they must be subjected to the ebb and flow of every political whim of state politicians they are placed under a double disadvantage in acquiring their education.

Did you ever hear someone say that patience is a virtue? Ask him if he ever taught at a school for the deaf. If one needs a daily motto such as "Let patience have her perfect work," it is when that one is trying to impart English language knowledge to a deaf pupil. The humble angst that comes from those little minds, bright eyes and erring fingers should melt the haughtiest impatience into the kindest patience.

Note taken from the *Kansas Star*: Superintendent Spear of the North Dakota School for the Deaf at Devils Lake protests against his school being called a Deaf and Dumb Asylum. He states, "School for the Deaf is in every way preferable."

Effie Smith, Annie Gorseth and I made some aprons for the little girls. Some of us girls have bad coughs. The boys are building a toboggan slide west of the school. They will let the girls slide on it. Written by May Newton

Mrs. Spear's baby, Maude, is a cute little tot. At the table the tot furnishes the teachers with endless amusement by her way of imitating signs. She is not yet two-years-old but has sufficient vocabulary of silent language at command to make herself plainly understood. A few days ago she had a boil on her knee and the tot suffered greatly.

Nicholas Flugukvan, with pardonable pride, displayed to one of the teachers, a pair of wooden skates made with his own hands. This shows that Nicholas is a pupil for the shop and it is matter of regret that we have none to keep boys of similar talents busy.

Valentine's Day has come and gone - very few of us received Valentines.

The story of *Evangeline*, told to the pupils by Mr. Taylor, was a decided success.

Lent has begun – it will last forty days.

Learn to say no; not snappishly but firmly and respectfully.

The pupils received a letter from Miss Lowman, a former teacher at our school. She wrote to the boys and girls of her new kitten.

During the cold evenings the boys have been playing dominoes every night.

Did you see the *Aurora Borealis* last Thursday night? It was very beautiful. A teacher made comment that, it seemed as if the heavens were opened for airing. If that was really heaven some of our little boys and girls think they all will want to go there.

I received a letter, two stamps, six handkerchiefs, six ribbons and a bottle of perfume from Aunt Anne last Wednesday. I was glad to get them. By Elsie Maude Iverson

Mrs. Spear, Mrs. Taylor and Miss Fair visited the Norwegian school in Devils Lake last week. (Note: The Aaberg Academy of Devils Lake was often referred to as the Norwegian school)

Claude Ziegler is a graceful, swift skater. Last Wednesday he easily out skated the boys of the Norwegian Academy. We would like to pitch him against the best skater in Devils Lake.

Grace Lemke said the *Lord's Prayer* in signs last Sunday.

Last Tuesday a blizzard blew in quite quickly and lasted one day. Fickle March! The red flag which indicates a blizzard ahead should have been up at the signal station in place of the white and blue flag that was displayed and indicated local rain.

Miss Halvorson takes daily exercise on her wheel up in the attic.

Two boxes of garden seeds and roots were received this week and Mr. Goozee promises us a fine garden this summer.

Will the discovery of gold along the shores of Devils Lake prove a boon for the city? We hope so.

The boys can no longer enjoy that exhilarating sport of ice skating. During the thaw this week, they disobeyed Superintendent Spear's order not to skate in the water on the ice. As a consequence their skates were all taken away. A good lesson for the boys.

The sun sets a little before seven o'clock now - the lengthening days are a great lamp oil saver.

Gophers can be seen playing tag all over the meadow, a sure sign of spring. Rain and mud unpleasant to us teachers is a blessing to the tillers of the soil.

Inga Anderson picked a nice bunch of violets the other day.

Miss Halvorson should give her wheel an airing. The ground is dry enough now and a spin to the city today will do both the wheel and rider a vast amount of good.

Superintendent Spear is the proud new owner of a full-blooded St. Bernard, the noblest of the canine tribe.

A kite-flying craze has seized some of our boys.

Mr. Goozee is getting our garden plot in shape for seed.

Boys, Mr. Hale pays two cents for a gopher tail. Any smart fellow can catch ten or more gophers with a trap in one day. Catch as many as you can and take the tails to Mr. Hale's office next Saturday for your well-earned reward.

Summer vacation will soon be upon us.

The Banner, 1894 locals – September, October, November, December (Volume IV, Issues 1-15)

The ever moving wheel of Time has rolled one year of work into the past and brought another to fill its place. Our teachers stand upon the threshold of a new school year, ready to greet familiar faces and meet new ones. No class of children are more peculiarly distanced from all other influences and have more devoted faith in their teachers than are deaf children; their utter dependence upon them for their every thread of outside life begets this unlimited faith. A child's ideals are built much by the measure of its youthful teachers. Let our teachers strive to help their pupils to form true aspirations and noble ideals.

On the threshold of a new school year we pause and calmly reaffirm our abiding faith in the sign language, sign methods and sign schools.

Miss Halvorson, on her return to the school this fall, brought with her two peacocks. They are of the genuine three-eyed feather breed.

During summer vacation a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Taylor.

This past summer, Rex, our black dog, was accidentally poisoned and laid his bones on mother earth for an eternal sleep.

Our gardener, Mr. Goozee, has successfully raised many kinds of vegetables on our little plot of land. He has demonstrated that diversified farming is worth pursuing.

Mrs. Spear is studying china painting. Her kiln arrived from Ohio last week.

Mr. Goozee has blossomed into a full-fledged mason. He has devised and is setting up a small brick house with a conical top for Mrs. Spear's kiln.

Boys, here is a rule that must be obeyed: Keep out of the barn! Our horse, 'Old Prince', is getting ugly.

Miss Katherine Fair, our matron, has tendered her resignation. This will not create any surprises as her health has been failing for some time. Though she has been with us only a year, she has endeared herself to all, especially to the little ones fresh from the embraces of their mothers' arms.

A nice large hanging oil lamp is an improvement to one of our school rooms.

The hens are proud of their new chicken coop and we hope they will lay lots of eggs now.

Mr. Taylor requires his pupils to write compositions every week. They have written about the lives of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Andrew Jackson and Abraham Lincoln.

The peacocks are pretty to look at. They are getting tame. What are their names Miss Halvorson?

A Story written by Leister Williams: Yesterday Mr. Goozee piled up rubbish in the garden. He erected a scarecrow in the center. Mr. Goozee set the rubbish on fire. The boys danced around it – they laughed and swung burning sticks above their heads. They pushed the scarecrow down and dragged it around the fire. They saw Mr. Spear's big dog and chased him with the burning sticks. The dog was afraid and fled.

The boys play see-saw every day now. What next? They have tried all other amusements except leap-frog.

Selfred Boisvert has set two traps in a badger hole. He goes there every morning but has not yet been successful in trapping the critter.

The explosion of a potato almost killed the cook. On opening the oven door, the potato exploded, knocking the cook over. The potato flew all over the kitchen floor. Upon examination it was found that the cook was more frightened than hurt.

Leister William's mamma sent him a pair of warm woolen stockings.

Mr. Taylor walked his class to the windmill near the school and explained its operation and use.

Lorents Larson, while operating the printing press, had two of his fingers badly smashed.

Letter to the *Banner* by Leister William's mother: I read with much sadness, in the *Banner* on September 22, 1894, an item concerning a deaf man who was operating a buzz saw and, while doing so, accidentally cut off both his hands. What a dreadful thing to happen to someone who is deaf, for he not only loses his means of support but also his only means of communication with friends. What a vast amount of pleasure is conveyed to the deaf by the hands forming all those pretty, graceful motions. Pupils, be warned, please take care of your hands.

Magnus Johnson suffered with the tooth-ache one night and the next day he was a one-eyed lad.

Mrs. Taylor called last Thursday. While crossing the road, she found a horseshoe and entering Mr. Taylor's schoolroom, spelled with her fingers, "Good luck to you all" and presented the shoe to the class. Lorents will cover it with gilt paper and hang it up in the school room for good luck.

The superintendent's big St. Bernard seems to take a fancy to the deep snow.

Willie Reid is only ten years old, but smart and determined. In a conversation with his teacher one day he said he had already made up his mind to be a teacher and a democrat when he becomes a man.

John Clark and Joseph Upham, the two new pupils from Montana, bid fair to do good work.

Our horse, "Old Prince," was in a bad mood last week and with a nasty nip, pulled the hired man's ear.

The girls have been sewing curtains for the boys' and girls' dormitories to keep the dust off their clothes.

It snowed very hard last Saturday. The snowflakes were very large and fell slowly covering the ground to a depth of four inches.

Instead of the customary Thanksgiving entertainment, a candy-pull was given. The children greatly enjoyed it. Popcorn was also furnished.

Nicholas Flugukvan was told one day to go into the barn with slate and chalk and write what he saw there. He came back with his slate full. His teacher patted him on the head but upon reading it, she asked, "Nicholas, where did you get those foreign words?" Nichols said the hired man, who came from Norway not long ago, helped him name the things in the barn.

The boys are building a snow fort and when done, some will put in to defend it while others will endeavor to capture it. This is a good sport.

At the candy pull on Thanksgiving, Hazel Spear had a strange experience. The taffy pulled out one of her teeth and she did not notice the tooth gone until the next day.

Willie Reid made comment, "I am like Isaac in the Bible. I am my parents' only child."

Ida Carlson suffered with a sore throat for a few days. Following is a note she wrote, "Yesterday I had a rag around my neck because my throat was sore. Today Inga has one around her head because her eye is sore."

It is a Herculean task for the deaf child to limber his mind and adapt and apply it to things about him but in addition to that, he is also obliged to limber up his fingers at one and the same time. It is requiring a double effort from him.

Letter from Alto M. Lowman, former teacher:

Hagertown, MD, December 2, 1894

Dear Boys and Girls: I presume that you have forgotten one who was formerly a teacher at your school. I began my teaching assignment at your school in 1891 and completed my assignment in spring of 1893 at which time I moved home to Maryland to be nearer my family. I am writing to tell you that, although I am far away from you, I have not forgotten you. I have been getting the *Banner* since the re-opening of school last September and enjoy reading it very much. It is a bright, newsy little paper and besides giving one the general news of the day, it also gives a person some idea of the progress that you are making in school. I trust that you are all enjoying good health, as that is one of God's greatest blessings to us and something for which we should be sincerely thankful. It is very wet and rainy, and looks gloomy and cheerless out of doors. We have had some snow here but it did not last long. I wonder what kind of weather you are having in North Dakota. Well, Thanksgiving has come and gone. Did you enjoy the day eating your turkey, mince-pie, pumpkin pie, and cranberry sauce? I hope you all had a nice time and above all did not forget to be thankful for all the many good things with which God has blessed you. Are you getting ready for Christmas? It is not very far off and it is time to be making preparation for this joyous time of the year. Let each one of us try to make somebody else happy by way of some little token of remembrance, no matter how slight it may be. I presume that you would like to know what I am doing this winter. I am living with my relatives in the city and am assisting my aunt with her housework so as to let my cousin Mamie go the school. I like it here and feel very much as though I were in my own home. I seldom think of every teaching school again - I believe I can lead just as useful a life in my present way as by teaching and, besides, my present occupation agrees with me so far as my health is concerned. I am gaining a great deal of useful knowledge which, whatever a woman's station in life may be, never fails to be of use to her. For remember, girls and boys, that what we learn in school is not all we should learn. Books are very well in their way but a person's life should be more than what can be obtained in books. We should have a good home education as well. Know how to make good bread, pies and cakes. Know how to cook and to be brief. Know how to make a home happy, since it is the home that makes the nation. So improve your time while in school and prepare yourselves to go forward and fight life's great battle. Be industrious, get your lessons well, and mind what your teacher tells you and then he shall be both glad and willing to help you all he can. I was sorry to hear that Rex died last summer. Poor Rex, you all missed him, did you not? How is Major, Mr. Taylor's dog? I suppose that I would not know him as he was a mere puppy when I last saw him. We have no dog here but we have a cat. She was a stray kitten and came here last summer. We adopted her and gave her a good home and now a nicer, more playful and gentle creature would be hard to find. How are Miss Halvorson's peacocks? I should like to see them. They must be beautiful creatures. Well, I think that my letter is long enough for this time - I hope it may prove interesting to you. I wish you all a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year." I am your former teacher, Alto M. Lowman

Christmas is a week off and now is the time for parents to send something for their children.

One of the Sunday school classes was asked, "What are you going to give the Lord for his birthday on December 25? Most of the pupils did not know. One of them asked the teacher how he could go to heaven to give the Lord a present. The teacher said nothing would please the Lord more than to present one's heart to Him.

Our superintendent bought a large white owl yesterday from a man who had just killed it. He expressed it to Mandan to be stuffed. It will be an ornament to the office – a sort of raven perching above the chamber door.

Leister Williams' mother writes him letters almost weekly. No wonder Leister talks about his papa, mamma, brothers, his horses, cows, pigs, etc. He feels as though his home is but a mile from the school. We do not see many of the other boys talk about their homes. Why? Simple enough – they do not hear from their home for a long, long time - poor fellows.

Earl McAdam does not know which he would rather do – go home for the Christmas holiday or stay at school and take in the fun here.

The class was studying about the habits of flowers one day. The teacher expanded the lesson on habits and explained the habits of boys and girls. After the lesson was completed and the pupils had left the classroom, the teacher found Willie Reid's slate. He had written, "I have a habit. It is to fight the boys."

Last Wednesday, Senator Day and Representatives Walker and Prosser called at the Deaf school and were made acquainted with the pressing needs of the Institution. Some of the things the legislators are being asked to provide include the completion of the west wing, a heating apparatus, a water supply, a barn and facilities for teaching students trades.

Henry Lombnes has a taste for drawing original pictures on the blackboard. His teacher encourages his efforts. Henry received a letter from home and showed it to his teacher. His eyes were bright and his heart glad. His teacher told him all what was said in it. He was delighted when his father said he would send him a pair of skates for Christmas. It makes his teacher sad for others, who have not heard from home for months. Parents should write once a month, at least.

We are having the finest weather for December since 1877! There is hardly enough snow for a sleigh-ride. We all hope it will snow by Christmas so we can enjoy ourselves more. What is Christmas without snow?

The Devils Lake city skating rink is crowded every night. They have a brass band there.

Leister Williams lost one of his skates last Saturday on his return from the pond. He said it dropped from his strap somewhere in town. Too bad he could not hear it drop.

Willie Reid lost one of his overshoes while skating last Saturday. He charges the hearing boys with stealing it. See here Willie, why did not they take both instead of one?

John Clark had been in school but a few days when letter day rolled around. For his letter home John wrote the letters of the alphabet, a half dozen or so words he had learned and one sentence that he had copied. Here is the reply John's letter brought from his father: My Dear, Dear Son, How thankful I am that a kind Providence has provided you the means to make known your thoughts. I trust that by spring you will be able to write understandingly and intelligently. This letter of yours, being the first, I will cherish and keep always. Be good and industrious and Santa Claus will not forget you. Horace J. Clark

Merry Christmas to all! We will have a Christmas tree Tuesday night.

Our matron, Mrs. Rowell, was kept busy during the holidays making her little charges merry. She also showed around a host of visitors. A better entertainer can hardly be found.

Miss Spear received a present from her sister, Miss Halvorson, a teacher in the Faribault, Minnesota Deaf School. The gift came in the shape of a bunch of paper sweet peas in full blossom.

Our matron gave a Christmas present to all the pupils in the form of a letter – it was written on the blackboard near the tree. She wrote; My Dear Children, I wish that I could express here all that I would freely bestow upon you were it in my powers to do so. I know that the path of life has for all, many thorns as well as roses of joy. I wish that you might be guided through it safely; firmly grasping the right and shunning the evil all the way through. Your friend and Matron, Mrs. Rowell

The children are very thankful for the popcorn balls which Mrs. Taylor remembered them with on New Year's Day.

The third biennial report of our school (from the *Board of Trustees* to the Governor of North Dakota) has been completed. It is a very interesting document.

Following is a portion of the third biennial report (1892-1894) to the Governor - Honorable E.C.D. Shortridge from the Board of Trustee. Sir: The *Board of Trustees* of the School for the Deaf submit herewith their report covering all points required by law. (Itemized treasurer's report is omitted here). Upon taking possession, we found the school in the midst of a distressing sickness and deeming it necessary for the safety of the pupils, we ordered the school closed for the balance of the term. The order was carried out by Superintendent Spear. The school remained closed from March 17 until September 12, 1893 at which time it reopened in the new school building. The legislature appropriated the sum of \$6,500 to complete the building. The *Board* set about the work as soon as possible in the spring of 1893. The building, having stood through the winter in an unfinished and unprotected condition, sustained considerable damage by severe storms. It soon became evident that to repair the damages and complete the structure would require a larger appropriation than was at our disposal. Accordingly, the work was carried as far as our current appropriation would permit. When the money was depleted,

work on the school building stopped. At the present, therefore, part of the basement and all of the attic remain unfinished. Work on the west wing as not yet begun. Fortunately the money was sufficient to finish the first and second floors and put the building in condition for occupancy in the fall. Due to lack of funds, a heating plant and storm sash for the windows were not provided. A barn and other outhouses were absolutely necessary so temporary structures were erected and paid for out of the incidental fund. The fund was also used to dig a well and purchase a 200 gallon cistern for water. The cistern has never been filled so water must be hauled in barrels from the city, half a mile distant. It was not the intention to use the incidental fund to pay for these improvements so the money in the fund has been used up and we have been compelled to forego the purchase of things for carrying on the school work. On occupying the new school building, it became necessary to purchase a large amount of furniture and bedding. The furniture and bedding on hand was worn out and worthless. Forty new single iron bedsteads and bedding were purchased. New desks were purchased for the schoolrooms. A few books for the beginning of a library were secured but we were not able to purchase enough to meet the needs of the pupils. We, the *Board*, recommend the following: the west wing be erected and that a heating plant be provided and that a supply of good water be secured. During the past year wood-burning stoves were used to heat all of the rooms. The need for a heating plant and water supply must be perfectly evident. The school building is not piped for steam heat but it is so constructed that pipes may be easily put in. The water for drinking and cooking comes from a well, but water for all other purposes is hauled in barrels from the city. A plentiful supply of water is a necessity. More school rooms are needed and also dormitories. The present dining room in the basement was originally intended for a shop (trades) room but is being used temporarily as a dining room. It is already over-crowded. The completion of the building will remedy all of these problems as well as provide a hospital, additional schoolrooms and living quarters for teachers and matron. We invite your earnest attention to these needs. As it is now, scarcely more than thirty-five pupils can be admitted into the school. However, when all work has been completed, the school building will accommodate those who apply for admission for a considerable number of years to come. The school must possess more land in order that we may have a farm. This is desirable not only for the raising of produce and stock for the school but also that a number of the pupils may be instructed in such farm work. The *Board* recognizes the importance of giving every pupil instruction in manual work of one kind or another in order that when they leave school they may be prepared to enter some useful occupation that will enable them to earn a livelihood. The two acres belonging to Reverend Aaberg (Norwegian Boarding School) should belong to the school for the deaf. Until it is made a part of the school grounds, the symmetrical laying out and improvement of our grounds will be impossible. The advancement of the pupils during the past year has been of a very satisfactory character. They have applied themselves to their studies and the teachers have devoted themselves to the work with much earnestness. The method employed is well adapted to the needs of the pupils and meet with our entire approval. Instruction includes the use of sign language as well as finger-spelling, writing, natural actions and speech; all of which we regard as indispensable in the proper and complete education of the deaf. Not so much has been accomplished in the way of manual work or trade teaching as we could wish due to lack of funds. The pupils should receive instruction in a trade in order to earn a livelihood after leaving school. Our normal schools, universities and agricultural college afford 'hearing' young men and women opportunities for professional study and preparation. Deaf boys and girls should be trained in the same. The Board recommends the following action by the legislature: the erection of the west wing and completion of the school building throughout, the

purchase of a steam heating plant, the provision of an abundant water supply, the purchase of additional land for a farm, the purchase of the two-acre lot from Reverend Aaberg and the improvement of roads and grounds (tree planting).

A portion of Superintendent Spear's Third Biennial Report (1892-1894) to the Governor and the Board of Trustees follows: Gentlemen: the time under review has been, in many respects, the most eventful in the history of the school. The term of 1892-1893 was a most trying one. The pupils were stricken with a terrible fever and, within a short span of time, three of our pupils died despite the efforts of the attending physicians. Officers and teachers, with the single exception of the matron, Mrs. Spear, were prostrated by the fever. The work of the school was practically suspended. In January, 1893, Dr. DeVaux, state health officer, visited the school and pronounced the sanitary conditions bad and the building overcrowded. Not, however, owing to the neglect of the board or officers, but the school was located in temporary building unfit for the purposes. The conditions were so poor that only a removal to our new building could remedy. Therefore, at your order, in March, 1893, the school was closed and the pupils sent home. It came as a relief to everyone. But though we have been saddened by sickness and death and the work suspended for a time, yet there is a bright side and we have much for which to be thankful. The occupancy of the new school building was the beginning of new and better times. Since moving into our new home, the pupils have been free from sickness. The healthy, happy surroundings have inspired both teachers and pupils in the work and I can say with confidence that the term which closed June 13, 1894, was the most successful in the history of the school. Nothing occurred to interrupt or hinder the pupils in their studies and their progress has been steady. I have received numerous letters from parents telling of their high appreciation of our efforts in behalf of their children and their advancement. There has been in attendance during the time covered by this report, forty-six pupils; twenty girls and twenty-six boys. Pupils may be admitted at the age of six years but none have yet been received under the age of seven. Eight new applications for admission are now on file. A number of cases are known where parents deliberately refuse to send their children to school and, as no good reason for such action is given it would appear that, in justice to such children, the compulsory education law, which was designed for such cases, should be rigidly enforced. Health Report: In September, 1892, measles broke out among the pupils and from that time until the mandatory close of school in March, the school was scarcely free from sickness. Matters were made infinitely worse by an utter lack of hospital accommodations. There was no separate room for the sick, and at the time the fever was at its worst, it was with difficulty that we were able to provide separate beds for the sick. I must remark here that our new building, because it is not yet completed, is entirely without hospital. Space on the third floor has been set apart for the hospital but the third floor is not finished. If prolonged sickness or contagious diseases occur, we would be very poorly equipped to cope with it. This matter is of such grave importance and the necessity for a hospital is so evident that I need not touch upon it further here feeling sure that it will receive your attention. After the run of the measles, a fever broke out among the pupils, nearly all of whom were sick. All of the teachers and the superintendent were also down. This sickness resulted in the death of three pupils. The three were buried in the Devils Lake cemetery as that was the wish of their parents. I cannot refrain from expressing my deep gratitude to one of the teachers, Miss Halvorson, for her untiring care of the sick, frequently sitting up all night with a sick pupil and then taking her place in the schoolroom the next day. Since moving into the new school the pupils have been entirely free from sickness. As the legislature made no appropriation for a

heating plant, we have been compelled to make use of wood-burning stoves to heat the building. Twenty-five stoves are used. In an institution like this, and especially where the winters are long and severe, I need scarcely say that a first-class heating plant is a necessity. To make the matter worse, none of the eighty windows in the building are provided with storm sash. No fire escapes and no fire extinguishers of any kind have been provided in case of fire. We ask that appropriation be made to remedy this dangerous situation.

The Banner, 1895 locals – January, February, March, April (Volume IV, Nos. 16- 28)

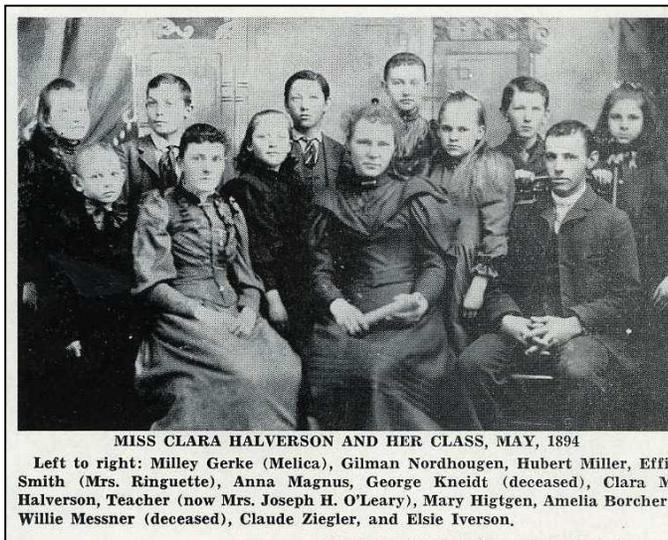
All eyes are on our legislators in Bismarck. We anticipate their financial support.

The farmers are hauling to town tons of thick ice from Sweet Water Lake, eight miles north of town.

The girls of the Domestic Department had a party yesterday. The odor of molasses candy which pervaded the corridors was so strong that the mouths of the little boys watered.

Why do not the big girls learn fancy sewing during leisure moments? There are some very plain doilies at a certain store in town which sell at 35 cents apiece. The girls can make money while in school and much more during the summer.

G.W. Newton, one of the Cass county commissioners, was in Devils Lake over Sunday visiting his daughter May, who attends the school for the Deaf. May was the very first pupil to enroll in the school. She is one of the brightest. Mr. Newton is more than pleased with the progress she has made and cannot say too much for Superintendent Spear. He says that if there is one thing the people of this state should be proud of, that is its school for the deaf. He has visited deaf schools in other states and says that none are conducted with more careful and competent teachers than the North Dakota school. Such remarks are highly complimentary to Superintendent Spear who assumes the entire management of the school and leaves nothing undone that will advance the education of the children.



In Miss Whedon's class the pupils are kept as busy as bees. They must be making lots of 'honey'.

No stone should go unturned to keep the family and its deaf child in close communication. The pupil does not realize that lack of communication between parent and self, over time may slowly sever family ties. When school days are ended, what then parents? The eight or ten years of gradual sundering cannot be easily or quickly remedied for your child's impressionable years

have passed. If parents would stop to consider this fact, letters would scarcely be so slow in coming as they often are.

The people of Devils Lake will send a train car load of provisions to the starving people in South Dakota and Nebraska.

Governor Shortridge, in his message to the legislators, spoke kind words about the management of our school. His encouragement ought to guarantee the passage of our appropriation request now under consideration. Governor Shortridge's remarks: The report of the *Board of Trustees* of the institution shows a most gratifying condition of the School, considering the limited amount of fund at their disposal. None of our State institutions have been more economically and carefully managed, nor any of the appropriations more judiciously expended than by this *Board*. The parts of the new building have been substantially built and tastefully finished. Laboring as they do under the disadvantage of having to practically rebuild the entire structure, they surely deserve credit for the ability, good judgment and careful supervision of every detail displayed. The general and educational supervision of the School has, under the management of Professor A. R. Spear, received the most painstaking attention. The rapid advancement of the scholars under his care, the hearty approval of the *Board of Trustees*, and the high esteem in which he is held by citizens and officials of the State are more expressive than words of mine could be.

Leister Williams' mother is a warm friend of the school. She wrote to a number of the members of the legislature at Bismarck and to His Excellency, the Governor, praying them to help this School. The governor wrote her a nice reply. We hope her prayers will be heard and granted.

Henry Lombnes was favored last week with a letter from home. His teacher took great pleasure in reading it to him. Henry said he had received five since September and showed them to his teacher. It is doubtful if he has, in his possession, anything he cares for more than these five epistles in the handwriting of his papa and mamma.

May Newton will be fifteen next Friday.

The school will host a masquerade on the night of George Washington's birthday. Washington was born on February 22, 1732, and died on December 14, 1799.

Some of the older boys and girls will watch for the planet Mercury which will be visible next Tuesday morning just before sunrise.

Jack Frost has nipped George Kreidt's left ear twice within the last week.

Murdoch McMurchy regularly receives the *Harper's Young People*, which is interesting to youth. With this and his little Bible, he likes to spend his leisure moments.

A very enjoyable time was had yesterday at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Taylor in honor of May Newton's fifteenth birthday.

Annie Magnus and Minda Amundson appeared in their new dresses last Sunday morning. Both girls seemed much pleased. The dresses were as perfect as new pins, which prove that the girls are doing well in sewing class.

Roll of Honor for the month ending January 31, 1895: Annie Gorseth, Effie Smith, May Newton, Ida Carlson, Louisa Ritz, Grace Ziegler, Lorents Larson, Inga Anderson, George Kreidt, Mary Hingtgen, and Emila Brochert.

Article from the *Advocate*: If the North Dakota school started a tailoring department, it would, providing the instructor was a tried and efficient man, turn out some successful graduates at this business. It is one of the trades in which the deaf-mute's chance of successful competition with his hearing brother is on par with any trade taught the deaf, and it is a trade that requires but little capital for the deaf-mute tailor to set up a business of his own.

There will be a full eclipse of the moon on the evening of March 10. Look for it all ye astronomers.

Some of the pupils returning from the skating rink in the city were badly frozen about the ears. They will not likely go too far from the school limits again without providing themselves with extra wrapping.

It was a pleasure to meet and entertain the investigation committee from the Legislature and show them the work we are doing. We ask that the legislators of North Dakota do well by her charges.

The following address was delivered orally by one of our pupils, Effie Smith, on the occasion of the legislative visit: Gentlemen, on behalf of the pupils, I welcome you. Our school is unlike the other schools that you have visited and the instruction methods are different because the pupils are deaf. I hope you will be interested. The state has provided us, at no cost, with this beautiful home and furnished us with things needed for our education and comfort. We feel that we will be called upon to account for our conduct in life after we finish school. With the training and education that we receive here, we will try to do our school and State honor. The school is now in its fifth year and you can judge for yourself how much we have advanced in that short space of time. We fully appreciate the School's goodness and you, who are its representatives. We are ever so thankful for your kind efforts in our behalf. In return for your kindness we will endeavor to lead a life becoming good men and women. On your return to Bismarck please give to His Excellency, the Governor, our love and esteem. Thank you.

Saturday was Ground Hog day. On coming out and observing his shadow on the snow, Mr. G. Hog discreetly went into retirement for another six weeks - hence the profound joy of the coal dealer.

Wednesday night the thermometer dropped to 43 below zero. This is the coldest weather reported for this winter.

Selfred Boisnent was intensely excited yesterday when he received two letters, one from his brother and one from his sister. He searched for his teacher and found him in the printing office. Selfred writhed his hands with joy and anticipation as his teacher read the letters. But when he was told that his friend George was dead, his eyes welled with tears. Someone dear to him had died and the news was sufficient to break his heart. It was a sad day for him. Selfred rarely hears from his friends and relatives. I do not believe he has received more than half a dozen letters from home since he was admitted to this school in 1891. Think of it parents!

Miss Halvorson presented each of her pupils with a valentine.

The boys want to know, who was the kind person that put the apples under their pillows one night last week?

The coal dealer scowls and shakes his head at the approaching warm weather.

Willie Reid is beginning to make use of money. One day Selfred Boisnent was seen with a nickel in his hand. "Where did you get it?" his teacher asked. "Willie Reid gave it to me." Teacher asked, "Why did Willie give you the nickel?" Selfred responded, "To dust the erasers till June." Willie Reid knows a thing or two.

The investigation committee that visited our school two weeks ago has recommended only \$23,550 for our school – that is less than half of what we asked for from the legislators. We cannot do anything except to keep on grinding and sawing in the same old fashion. The Senate Appropriation Committee has since recommended an additional reduction to the balance of \$19,500 - this is for the next two years. The pupils must eat up the bones and every crumb that is used to go to the chickens and pigs.

The other day Mr. Hagan called our Superintendent's attention to what resembled gold lying at the bottom of the water bucket. The Superintendent poured the dust into a saucer and placed his powerful microscope over it. The dust proved to consist of metal. "Gold is metal, therefore it must be gold" was the logical conclusion, so he took the stuff to town to be confirmed. The man who tested the shiny samples confirmed the earlier conclusion – he said it was the purest of pure gold. Our Superintendent is a man not to be easily excited however he thought of the vast improvements that would result from the discovery and eagerly nudged his nag homeward. While on the way, he suddenly remembered that two years ago a lot of sand from Devils Lake was cast into the well to keep down the dirt. "That settles the problem. There is no gold on the lot. It came from the lake." Arriving home, he took up a Havana and read his favorite paper, the *Minneapolis Journal* and thought of it nevermore.

Last night Mr. Taylor went down town on business. As usual his dog, Major, was trotting by his side. Nearing the town, his canineship suddenly stopped and assumed a frightened position. Mr. Taylor's eyes turned to the direction the dog was looking and saw another dog coming down the road dragging behind him a sled with a child on it. Major was no coward, for he is big enough and is used to fighting but he could not make anything out of the mysterious combination of dog, sled, and child coming like a locomotive toward him, so lowering his tail between his legs, he started on a dead run homeward. In pursuit, the other dog increased his speed with the poor child

wildly swaying this way and that on the sled. Rounding a curve, the child lost her hold and was thrown rather heavily on the ground - fortunately she sustained no injury. Now see the fun. The chasing dog, being released of its load, doubly increased its speed. Far ahead was Major whose legs, like the rapidly revolving spokes of a wheel, fled quickly. He leaped over a wire fence and ran, for a shortcut, toward home. The other dog attempted the same but failed to clear the sled over the fence. The sled and dog hung there - the chase ingloriously arrested. The scene presented a most laughable spectacle.

March has come in meek as a lamb. Let us see how it will go out.

Kent, the Superintendent's big St. Bernard dog, made a tour of inspection throughout the county for two days. He turned up yesterday with an expression of complacent satisfaction on his face.

Leister Williams received from his thoughtful mamma a printer's apron.

The boys have killed, up to date, nine tramp cats.

At the Sioux Falls Deaf School, the legislative committee who visited that school left a large box of choice candy for the pupils. Our pupils were not so fortunate upon the visit from our state legislators.

The motto, "*In God We Trust*" is on the wall in Miss Halvorson's school room. Mr. Taylor will have a motto in his room too. It will be, "*Act, that each tomorrow will find us farther than today.*" It is from Longfellow's *Psalm of Life*.

North Dakota is one of the unfortunate States "groping about trying to grasp at straws" but how about all those train-car loads of provision that were sent down for the starving, stricken people of South Dakota. Devils Lake and North Dakota stand well.

Glad tidings were received here yesterday. The House, under the lead of our representative Prosser, secured an increase in appropriation for the School for the Deaf. The amount which had been reduced to \$20,000 has been increased to \$23,000 (that is the amount that was recommended by the legislative committee that inspected the School.) It is due to the determined efforts of our representative, Honorable F.H. Prosser, that this amount was obtained. To him especially, and to Senator Day and Mr. Walker, we wish to express our thanks for their efforts in behalf of the school. With the appropriation they secured we will be able to keep up the work to the high standards we have attained. A great many deaf children scattered throughout the state who have not heretofore attended school, will be brought in next year. It will also be possible to make some changes and improvements in the industrial department that have long been recognized as a most urgent necessity but which could not be carried out for lack of means.

Every pupil should learn early the importance of putting things back in their right places. Take tools for instance. It is a bad habit to drop them down just where you may happen to have used them. We shall continually remind our boys of this error and exercise all patience in pointing out to them the trouble and inconvenience it causes others to search for tools misplaced. It is a good

rule to have “a place for everything and everything in its place” and at this school each pupil should remind his schoolmate if he is neglectful.

Superintendent Spear received as a gift, a nice pointer pup. Mr. Spear is going to train the dog to his gun. We fear that Superintendent Spear will have to train himself to his gun first.

The spirit of progress in the education of the deaf points towards lowering the age at which pupils are admitted into school and at the same time providing different method and almost wholly different treatment for the little ones. Past experience has taught that we must begin to teach the deaf child at a much earlier age than heretofore and that different methods must be resorted to if we are to accomplish the greatest good to the child. It is now very generally recognized that the old time “asylum” idea where boys and girls of different ages are herded together by the hundreds has taken a back number in the education of deaf.

John Goozee’s duties as watchman will soon cease and he will devote his attention to the garden.

Aaberg’s boarding school closes next week for vacation.

William Messner stepped on a nail yesterday and it penetrated the flesh of his foot. The wound is quite painful.

Carrie Lemke was suddenly seized with croup Thursday night but pulled through thanks to the doctor’s skill.

Quite an excitement was created throughout the State this week by the governor’s threat to veto all institution appropriations. Unless the governor changes his mind, this School will have to close its doors for two long years. We are awaiting the news from Bismarck which will be made public today.

A telegram to our *Board of Trustees* was received last night saying that the Governor has allowed the School \$16,500 for the next two years. We are greatly disappointed that the \$23,000 we had anticipated was so reduced.

Elsie Iveson suddenly disappeared one day this week and upon inquiry it was found that she was ill. We miss you Elsie. Your books and pencils are lonely without. Don’t stay long in the hospital. We do not like the appearance of vacant seats in our schoolroom.

Goodbye to windy March.

The boys are getting ready their traps for the poor little flickertails.

Pupils, it is not the time to take off your long underwear. Too warm they may be, but your body is not prepared yet for sudden changes in weather that are liable to occur within the next few weeks.

Some of my pupils have a high standing in their weekly and monthly reports. This they may be rightly proud of. Those who have earnestly endeavored to do well during the term will be worthy of promotion – Miss Halvorson

One of our peacocks had its leg broken a few days ago. Mr. Goozee reduced the fracture and it is now doing nicely.

Willie Reid killed two small snakes near the pond. He is not afraid of snakes.

Leister William's mother sent him one dollar. Leister feels rich but if he knows how hard his parents earned it, he would not spend it lavishly. No one can know the value of money till he has earned one with the sweat of his own brow. It is hard to climb up a hill, but very easy to come down; so it is with money, easier to spend than to earn.

From Mr. Taylor, Editor and Teacher-Printing Office: This week the boys printed 1000 envelop heads for the School. I have under my charge a boy whom I admire for one trait. When he has nothing to do, he invariably takes up the oil rag and busies himself about the press. This is the kind of man an employer hates to part with. He is a shining example and his chosen motto seems to be, "Never be idle."

Mother Earth has a pretty green cloak. The crocuses are nearly gone. Soon wild roses will appear.

Shall we have a picnic on Arbor Day? Let us go to Fresh Water Lake for a change.

Willie Messner received a box of sweet meats from home for Easter.

Most of the girls were pleased to assist Mrs. Taylor in ornamenting her lemonade booth at the fair by making several delicate bouquets of sweet peas.

Near the school yard is a race course and the fine thoroughbred horses in town can be seen flying around every evening, to the great delight of the boys.

Mr. Taylor sold his horse last week to people residing 23 miles west of Grand Harbor. His dog, Major, followed the horse and has not been seen since.

Many of the girls have been busy patching the boys' trousers. I think when Gracie Ziegler gets home and mamma sees how well Gracie can patch, she will be kept busy.

May Newton has just finished sewing a pretty blue plaid gingham dress for Minda Amundson. If anyone should doubt May's neatness let them look first at the dress and then at her workbox. She has a place for everything and everything in its place.

Note: There were no issues of the *Banner* printed in May and June due to the resignation of Superintendent Spear. The notes below were taken from the minutes of the Board meetings regarding the matter of Spear's resignation.

March 7, 1895 Board minutes

Certain charges brought by Miss Mary Whedon (teacher) against A.R. Spear, Superintendent and counter charges against Miss Whedon by A.R. Spear. The Board proceeded to examine allegations made by calling the following witnesses: Miss Whedon and A.R. Spear.

March 9, 1895 Board minutes

Certain charges have been brought by A.R. Spear against Matron, Mrs. Rowell. The Board proceeded to investigate, examining both the plaintiff and the defendant as to said charges. The examination continued throughout the entire day without reaching a decision.

April 1, 1895 Board minutes

The Board took up the matter of charges deferred from March 9th meeting. Mr. Spear was called and examined as to said charges.

April 2, 1895 Board minutes

The Board met. The following persons were examined as to their knowledge of said charges. Mrs. Rowell, defendant, Mr. Spear, plaintiff, John Goozee, Frank Sullivan, Julia Sullivan, Dora Hovergen, Julia Thompson and L. Haugen.

April 3, 1895 Board minutes

The Board met. Charges were made by John Goozee against the matron, Mrs. Rowell. The Board examined said charges and the following witnesses were examined: Julia Sullivan, John Goozee, Frank Sullivan, and Mrs. Rowell.

April 4, 1895 Board minutes

Charges were brought against Spear by Mrs. Rowell. The Board examined into said charges and the following persons were examined: Mary Whedon and M.M. Taylor. This completed the matter of charges and the Board after due deliberation came to the following conclusion; that these several charges were not well founded and do not reflect upon the moral character of this institution; and while there may have been acts of indiscretion on the parts of the several defendants and many acts of petty spite, the Board, after hearing all the testimony, did not deem it of sufficient weight to cause the removal of any said defendants.

May 1, 1895 Board minutes

Miss Clara M. Halvorson appeared before this Board and asked for leave of absence for the balance of this school year. The request was granted.

May 2, 1895 Board minutes

The Board called to order and proceeded to discuss the internal trouble without reaching a satisfactory conclusion whereby the following resolution was proposed:

Resolved that this school close on May 13, 1895 and Board to dispense with the services of the whole of the present faculty including Superintendent Spear, Matron, Teachers and Servants. Building and grounds to be placed in charge of the watchman under the supervision of the Board of Trustees until other arrangements can be made. This action is taken for the best interest of the school. Those Board members voting for this resolution were: C. Somiger, O. Aaberg, J. McCormick. Those voting against said resolution were L.P. LeMay and C.H. Morris.

Moved by Mr. McCormick and carried that the part of the resolution referring to the discharge of the Superintendent be rescinded for the purpose of allowing him to tender his resignation.

Mr. Spear appeared before this Board and presented his resignation. A motion made by Mr. McCormick moved the acceptance of the resignation of A.R. Spear as Superintendent and that it take effect on May 13, 1895. Motion carried.

May 23, 1895 Bismarck Newspaper Article

The management of the deaf mute school at Devils Lake has not been as harmonious as a surface view would indicate. Rumors of a scandal and immorality on the part of the professor and others connected with the school demanded an investigation which has continued over the past four months. This resulted in a complete vindication of the superintendent and teachers. The superintendent resigned owing to dissention and the trustees called for the resignation of the balance of the faculty. They refused and were discharged and the school closed. The present troubles arose over a class between the superintendent and the matron.

Note: the next two entries were taken from the fall issues of the *Banner*, 1895.

***The Banner*, 1895 locals – September (Volume V, Issue 1)**

It is with feelings of deep regret that we chronicle the death of one of the pupils of our school. Willie Reid, of Hamilton, was accidentally killed while watching some men at work in a brickyard. Just how it happened will never be known. In his eagerness to learn how bricks were made, he in some manner got his head in such a position that a passing sweep struck it and crushed it before the machinery could be stopped. His death was instantaneous. Willie was one of the brightest and most promising boys at our school – he was full of life and always ambitious to learn. During the past year he had endeared himself to us all by his manly bearing, studious habits and pleasant disposition. All at our school send sympathy to his bereaved parents. The accident occurred only three short weeks after his arrival home for summer vacation.

Saturday, September 21st, 1895

In the early part of last May, the *Board of Trustees* accepted the resignation of Mr. A.R. Spear as Superintendent and closed the school on the 13th of May, 1895. At the regular meeting of the *Board of Trustees* in June, Mr. D.F. Bangs, for the past seven years, a teacher at the Minnesota School, was offered and accepted the position thus made vacant. He comes highly recommended.

Note: Superintendent Bangs worked at the School for the Deaf from 1895-1912.