



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

November-December, 1983

St. Louis, Missouri

Volume 75, No. 5

## Oh, Give Thanks Unto the Lord!

Count your blessings! How often have people told us that . . . but, have you ever really tried? That is a very difficult task simply because of the kind of God that we have. He is a God who is constantly giving. Martin Luther expresses this idea in his meaning to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, where he says, "I believe that God has created me and all that exists. He has given me and still preserves my body and soul with all their powers. He provides me with food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all I need from day to day. He also protects me in time of danger and guards me from every evil."

Luther recognized God as a God who gives great blessings to His people. The greatest of those blessing was the gift of the Saviour, Jesus Christ. He came offering still more blessings . . . forgiveness, an abundant eternal life, filled with comfort, peace and understanding.

We could go on and on with the list of things that God gives, but just as soon as we felt we had a complete list, another

### Eastern District, LC-MS Makes Grant of \$3,000 to ILDA Missions Program

Although we have much to be grateful for this year for all that our Father in heaven has done for us, the ILDA Board of Directors were overwhelmed at the announcement that the Eastern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod had made a grant of \$3,000 to the ILDA for its mission projects.

As an expression of thanks and appreciation for the love and concern shown by the gift, the board unanimously agreed that it should be added to our present commitment to raise \$10,000 for missions during the 1983-1985 biennium rather than subtracted from it.

Indeed, we want to remember the kindness of our brothers and sisters in the Eastern District when we give thanks at this time of the year.

blessing would come to mind, so perhaps the best we can do is say that all we have and enjoy comes from the gracious hands of a good and merciful God. All our blessings are His gifts.

As we remember that, and if we believe that, then it is very easy to give thanks to the Lord as the Psalmist encourages us to do. But, that thanksgiving is to be a continual act even as God gives continually. And it involves more than just saying, "Thanks, God."

Give Thanks

(continue on page 2)

### Rev. Donald W. Zuhn Attends World Seminar in Rome During October

Rev. Donald W. Zuhn, secretary of North American Missions of Blind/Deaf at the LC-MS International Center in St. Louis attended a seminar on work among deaf Lutherans in Rome during October.

Pastor Zuhn had a brief, but very interesting report to give the ILDA Board of Directors at their recent meeting and the editor has requested a report from him for our readers.

It will appear in these pages of a future issue. Watch for it!

### We Want Your Ideas!

The International Lutheran Deaf Association Board of Directors is inviting its readers to submit ideas as to how it can best develop a youth program within the Association.

Recognizing that today's youth are going to be future leaders of the ILDA and that their involvement in our churches is important to their spiritual growth as well, the question as to how this important task could best be accomplished was an item of considerable discussion at the recent board meeting in St. Louis Oct. 27-29.

Got an idea? Send your comments to Ronald Byington, 3324 South 58th St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53219. All letters received by him will be referred to the board.

## LC-MS Synod Convention Honors Two From Deaf Ministry for Service to the Church

From the ADVOCATE  
Lutheran School for the Deaf  
Detroit, Mich.

The 1983 LC-MS Synodical Convention at St. Louis recognized two individuals from its Deaf Ministry for outstanding service to the church during the week of July 8-15.

Don and Lois Fairman of Jackson, Miss. were the recipients of the Ephphatha Award which was created by the Board of Directors of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, to be awarded individuals making significant contributions to the formal education of handicapped children within the structure of the



EPHPHATHA AWARD: Don Fairman and his wife, Lois, with the EPHPHATHA AWARD received at the LC-MS convention at St. Louis. The happy couple showed the plaque during Ephphatha Conference at Mt. Pleasant, Pa.

### Give Thanks

(continue from page 1)

Luther tied thanks giving together with a few other words as he thought about how he might respond to all that God had given to him. He said, "Therefore, I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

That is not only true for Luther. It is also true for us. So, as you prepare for Thanksgiving Day . . . as you get up each morning, as you enjoy all of the blessings of God in your life. . . . "GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD" . . . by the way you use His gifts to you.

church at large.

A graduate of the Lutheran Lay Training Institute of Milwaukee, Wis., Don with the able support of his wife, Lois, serve the deaf in the Jackson area with particular attention to the needs of the students of the Mississippi State School for the Deaf from which over 100 children have been organized into Sunday school classes.

Rev. R. W. Luce of Christ Lutheran, where services are held, states: "It is a wonder to behold the many deaf children attending well-planned Sunday school classes here in the heart of the South. Much of what Don and Lois do goes unnoticed, yet strikes me as being so characteristic of the ministry of our Lord. They receive calls for help any time of the day or night for trips to doctors' offices, social security offices and many other places. They speak on behalf of the deafs' rights in public offices and sometimes in court. We love and admire them for their patient, loving work on behalf of these, the least of His."

The Ephphatha Award, a large plaque with the figure head of Christ showing loving attention to two children, was presented to the couple by Rev. Rodney Rynearson, executive director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf as LC-MS president, Dr. Ralph Bohlman offered his congratulations.

### CHRIST HAS NO HANDS

Christ has no hands but our hands  
To do His work today;

He has no feet but our feet  
To lead men in His way;

He has no tongue but our tongues  
To tell men how he died;

He has no help but our help  
To bring them to His side.

What if our hands are busy  
With other work than His?

What if our feet are walking  
Where sin's allurements is?

What if our tongues are speaking  
Of things His lips would spurn?

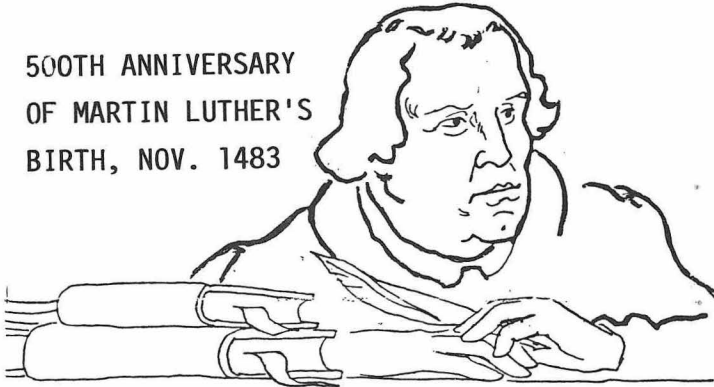
How can we hope to help Him  
Unless from Him we learn?

--Annie Johnston Flint

## 1483-1983: The Martin Luther Quincentenary The Man for All Ages

Each year towards the end of October, many Lutheran churches throughout the world celebrate the Festival of the Reformation which began on October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther posted his list of 95 theses on the door of

500TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF MARTIN LUTHER'S  
BIRTH, NOV. 1483



Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, thus raising these issues for discussion.

Ordained a Catholic priest in 1507 after first studying law, Luther began to have serious doubts concerning the practice of selling "indulgences" as a way of "paying" for sins and lessening time spent in purgatory.

A devout student of the Bible, Luther came upon Paul's words in Romans 1:17 which read, "The just shall live by faith." He came to believe that salvation was a direct gift from God to those who had faith in Jesus Christ--not by doing good works or through priests and other intermediaries. This is the doctrine of "justification by grace, received in faith" which Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-9.

The statements made by Luther, who had an

### MARTIN LUTHER (continue on page 7) WHAT ATTRACTS PEOPLE TO A CHURCH?

Why do people select a church? A convenient location? Yes. A good speaker in the pulpit? Yes Inspiring music? Yes An attractive building? Yes.

But a more essential element in attracting visitors, newcomers, and prospective members is FRIENDLINESS--both in the pew and throughout the community. Where there is a warm, dynamic congregation with an enthusiasm that is contagious, visitors will be found, and will return.

There just isn't any substitute for good old fashioned friendliness, something the world sorely needs.

## ADVENT: A TIME TO PREPARE

The Advent season (often known as the beginning of a new church year) begins this year on Nov. 27.



This season is a time to get us ready to celebrate the fact that our Saviour has come and is coming again as a victorious King and judge. God's Word tells us to be constantly ready for we do not know what hour He will return.

To increase our readiness and to get our hearts and lives prepared for a true celebration of our Saviour's birth, we should plan on attending Advent services and reading our Bibles where His coming is foretold as well as the events leading up to it.

His coming is foretold as well as the events leading up to it.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come,  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven and nature sing.

### Peace Luth., Indianapolis, Celebrates Anniversary Nov. 13

It was 36 years ago that Peace Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind. was formally organized under the late Pastor Martin Kosche, in 1947.

Also, in 1963 under Pastor Daniel Pokorny, Peace became incorporated. This is their 20th year.

And one year ago, Peace dedicated its new church home. So if it is all put together, the anniversary dinner will be 36/20/1=57.

Preaching the anniversary service was Rev. Dan Pokorny and was followed by a dinner at the Holly Hock Hill restaurant.

For members of Peace, Nov. 13 is one of Thanksgiving to God for all He has done for them . . . the gift of a place to worship, the gift of pastors and of people to proclaim His Name!

## SUCCESS

If you have tried to do something and failed, you are vastly better off than if you had tried to do nothing and succeeded.

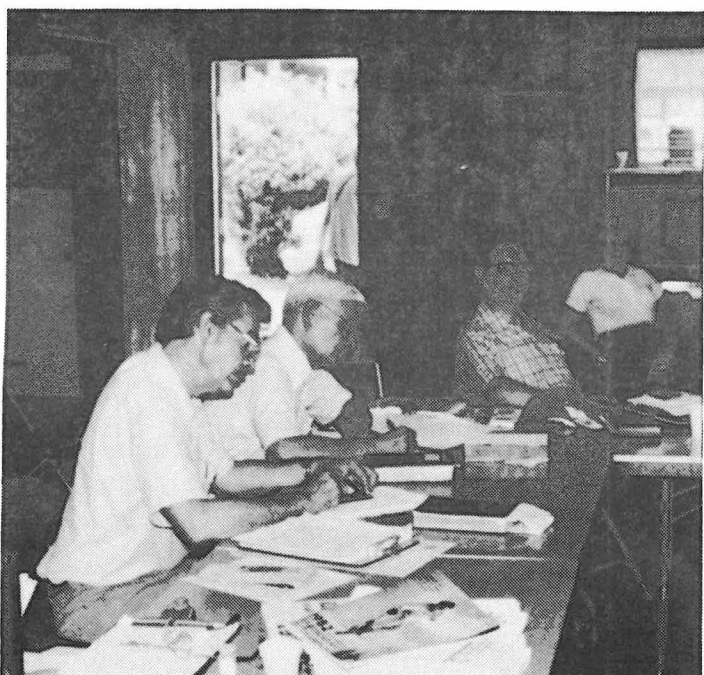
# 1983 ILDA Convention



RIGHT HAND AWARD: Donald Mowl, and his wife, Mary, shown with their Right Hand Award, presented at the 1983 convention. Smiling approving are Henry Walls, convention chairman, and Lester Ahls, ILDA president-elect. Mr. and Mrs Mowl reside in Washington, Pa.



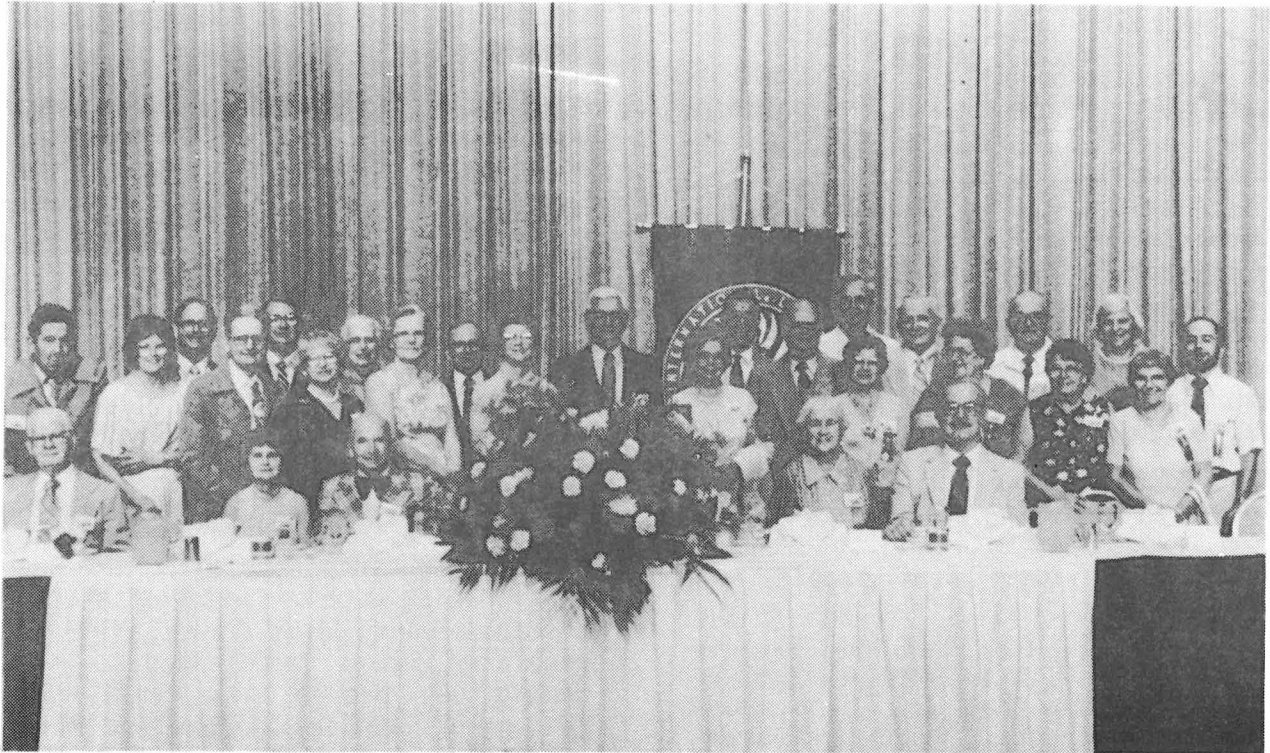
SPECIAL AWARD: Elmer Francisco, Detroit, long time ILDA Board member is honored for service to the Association. Making presentation is Henry Walls, convention chairman as Don Mowl and Lester Ahls look on.



ILDA BOARD MEMBER AT WORK: Lester Ahls and Elmer Francisco appear to be busy as Pastor William Ludwig of Seattle, Wash. meditates.



ATTENDING ILDA convention were Mr. and Mrs Ron Byington, Milwaukee, Wis. Ron represents the Central Region.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR THE DEAF, Pittsburgh, Pa. Host committee, 1983 ILDA convention.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Left to right--Rev. William Ludwig, pastoral adviser; Harold Rife, Northwest Region; Frank Cassese Jr., Great Lakes; David Naumann, Dixie; Elmer Francisco, business manager, Deaf Lutheran; Gerald Ahrens, Eastern; Lillian Long, secretary;

Charles Kotal, president; Lester Ahls, president-elect; Yachtman Sue, Pacific; Jackie Kemper, treasurer; Harry Searles, Midwest, and Rev. Donald Zuhn, LC-MS representative. Not in picture: Ron Byington, Central Region.

## Rev. Ronald Friedrich Installed at John of Beverly Chapel, Dallas, Sept. 11

After being without a pastor for nearly four years, the prayers of the members of John of Beverly Chapel for the Deaf, Dallas,



REV. RONALD FRIEDRICH

were answered Sunday, Sept. 11 when Rev. Ronald Friedrich was installed as the new shepherd of the flock as well as Missionary to the Deaf in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

A native of Midland, Mich., Pastor Friedrich attended Lutheran colleges in Ann Arbor, Mich. and Fort Wayne, Ind. He attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and as part of the seminary program, vicared at Eternal Mercy Lutheran church, Memphis, Tenn. Upon graduation in 1976, he was called by the northern Illinois District of the LC-MS to serve as a missionary-at-large to the deaf.

Shortly after going to Illinois, Pastor Friedrich met Georganne Potter, a speech therapist by profession. They were married in 1978 and have been blessed with two children, Beth, age 2½ and Karen, age 1.

The Friedrich family will reside at 1101 Woodcrest Dr., Garland, Texas 75040.



EPHPHATHA CONFERENCE: Group attending both ILDA Board meeting and Ephphatha Conference at Laurelville Mennonite Church Center, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.

## Martin Luther (continue from page 3)

earned Doctorate in Theology, created a sensation and he was summoned to appear before the Pope in Rome and requested to take back the statements he had made, to which he refused.

In 1521, Luther was excommunicated (expelled) from the Catholic Church and also during the same year, he was called before Emperor Charles V and ordered again to change what he had written. It was at this time he spoke his famous words, "Here I stand; I refuse to recant. I cannot do otherwise." Charles had Luther adjudged a heretic, placing his life in great danger.

Luther, however, was not without friends. He was spirited away and hidden in a castle for a year where he completed his work of translating the New Testament into German.

Luther's works are many. He wrote many hymns, both words and music. Our small Catechism is used throughout our churches as are his commentaries. It is estimated approximately 400 works are attributed to him.

For all that Luther accomplished during his 63 years, he found time to marry Katherine von Bora, a former nun, and to their union were born six children. They also were able to give a home to 11 orphans.

During Reformation, we remember with thanks to our heavenly Father, who throughout history has raised up leaders to lead His people. Luther was such a person, whose works did much to keep God's Word in its purity.

## FOR SALE

The following items, no longer needed by THE DEAF LUTHERAN, are available for purchase from the former editor, Mr. Archie Marshall at his home in St. Louis.

- 3--Two drawer address card file cabinets
- 10 plastic storage bins
- 1 Box cardboard headliner type of various kinds
- Two type container-composers
- 1 Econostat copy machine
- 1 Strip printer table
- 1 Upright chair
- 1 Dark room timer

The Econostat, a machine used to enlarge or reduce the size of a picture or photograph, is in very good condition.

Interested persons can contact Mr. Marshall at (314) 652-1624 TTY or write to him at 3743 Palm St., St. Louis, Mo. 63107.



**Springboard for Discussion . . .**

**A Pastor Asks: "Why Don't the Deaf Give More to Support their Church?"**

By Rev. Mark Seeger  
2090 South Clinton Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Recently, someone asked me, "Why don't deaf people give more money to support their church?" I immediately started to defend the deaf people by saying, "Deaf people don't have very good jobs," and "deaf people don't understand about giving offerings to God," and other answers that pastors of the deaf use again and again. But as I was giving those answers, I thought, "that isn't true." I caught myself lying to defend the deaf. I know many deaf people with very good paying jobs. I know many deaf people who do understand about giving to God. Some of them have told me, "we will start tithing," but they never do.

Now, I am asking you, the deaf Lutherans, "Why don't deaf people support their churches better?" Why don't they give more than a dollar or two to God?" Please send me an answer!

I have seen deaf people spend hundreds of dollars to go to a bowling tournament or a yearly reunion. I know deaf people who have boats, summer cabins, nice homes and cars, campers and other luxuries. I have seen these same deaf people give a dollar a week to God and act like it was a great sacrifice.

As long as I have been associating with deaf people (10 years) I have only known three who tithed (giving 1/10 of their income to the Lord).

So please, you deaf Lutherans out there, send me your answers. The next time a district official, a special ministries board member or a pastor of a hearing church asks me, "Why don't deaf people give more to the Lord?" . . . I will be able to give an honest answer from deaf Lutherans.

God must have loved the common people for He made so many of them.

--Abraham Lincoln

**is It Wrong for a Pastor to Have Personal Friends in His Congregation?**

From PULPIT HELPS  
Submitted by Rev. Jerry Munz  
Indianapolis, Ind.

There are those who claim that a pastor should mix equally with all and have no special friends among the people of his congregation. Let's look at the Lord Jesus, for an example. He had an inner circle of three disciples: Peter, James and John. Could He be accused of favoritism when He chose to take them with Him to the Mount of Transfiguration?

Now look at Jesus in His hour of passion at Gethsemane. Here again the three disciples of the inner circle are with Him. Repeatedly, John, in his gospel, speaks of himself as the "disciple whom Jesus loved, ephilei, which translated, means "befriended."

Among lay people, the family at Bethany made up of Lazarus, Martha and Mary constituted the special home for Jesus.

Pastors must, themselves, judge whether or not they should have an inner circle of friends.

**Mrs. Lydia L. Boll Dies**

Mrs. Lydia Lankenau Boll was taken to her Lord on Oct. 3, 1983. Mrs. Boll, 95 years old, was the widow of the Rev. Arthur Boll, who founded the entire deaf mission in the east: St. Matthew's, New York City; St. Matthew's, Newark, N.J.; St. Mark's, Baltimore, Md. and Washington, D.C.

He also founded Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio. Mrs. Boll was very actively interested in and supported deaf work up until the time of her death.

--Rev. C. R. Gerhold

**WORSHIP AT FAITH**

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming near."

--Hebrews 10:5

Next to surviving an earthquake, nothing is so satisfying as getting a refund on your income tax.

# HALLOWEEN, ANYONE?

They say you learn something new every day. This happened to the editor when he picked up Rev. Clark Bailey's church newsletter in which the good pastor outlined the origins of the custom.

All Saints Day (or All Hallows Day) is November 1st, so the eve in October 31st. In the days when Luther lived, it was thought by many that the devil and his evil spirits did all sorts of bad things from midnight to dawn before this holy day. That is how we get the idea of witches, goblins and skeletons and all those bats flying around on All Hallows Eve--or Halloween.

We thank God that He used that Hallow Eve so many years ago (1517) to bring light to the darkness of the time.

The sad thing was--and is--that the devil does fool many people and play dirty tricks with his evil ideas and plans.

We thank God for sending His Holy Spirit to Dr. Luther thus enabling him to see the truth of His Word and translating it into the language of the people that they could read and live by it.

# TRUE LOVE?

A young man once wrote a letter to his girl friend:

"I love you so much I'd climb the highest mountain to sit by your side. I'd cross the widest sea to look into your eyes. I'd brave the fiercest storm to hold your hand in mine.

Ps: I'll be over to see you Saturday night if it doesn't rain."

# POSITION AVAILABLE

Although THE DEAF LUTHERAN presently has an interim editor, it was decided at the convention at Pittsburgh this past summer to make the position available to others who might wish to apply for it.

Therefore, based on the following criteria, applications will be accepted by the Board of Directors:


1. Applicants must be deaf, lay members of one of the churches (or branches of) the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Deaf Ministry in good standing.
2. Either male or female applicants will be considered.
3. Better than average journalistic ability necessary.
4. Applicants should submit a typewritten article of not less than 500 words at the time of applying.

Inquiries should be sent to Mr. Charles J. Kotal, President, International Lutheran Deaf Association, 18944 Vickie Ave. #78, Cerritos, Calif. 90701.

# American Broadcasting (ABC) to Caption Programs for 3 More Years

Hearing impaired television viewers owning decoders will be delighted to know that the American Broadcasting Companies have agreed, in cooperation with the National Captioning Institute (NCI) to caption program for an additional three years.

Not only that, but such programs will be increased a total of 10 per cent over the previous season.

	<p>November-December</p> <p>OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD FOR MISSIONS, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD. PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY CHRISTIAN ARMY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO 3RD CLASS POSTAGE PD. COLUMBUS, OHIO. SUBSCRIPTION FEES: INDIVIDUAL..\$4.00 PER YEAR. CHURCH BLANKET PLAN..\$3.50 EACH MEMBER PER YEAR.</p> <p>PLEASE SEND ALL SUBSCRIPTION FEES AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELMER FRANCISCO, BUSINESS MANAGER, 6861 EAST NEVADA AVE., DETROIT, MICH. 48234.</p> <p>PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, STORIES AND PICTURES TO LESTER AHL, EDITOR, 1004 CHERRYWOOD DR., CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613.</p>	<p>NON PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT 1444 COLUMBUS, OHIO</p>
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