

divided among various educational institutions and the Miners Hospital at Raton. Much of the land held by the New Mexico School for the Deaf is held jointly with the New Mexico School for the Visually Handicapped. Much of this land is barren, but in the 1920s oil was discovered on some of it. Royalties from the sale of the oil are placed into a permanent state fund under the management of a state land commissioner and the income is used to support the school. In recording this incident, Dr. Thomas J. Dillon wrote: "Little did Congress realize how bountifully it was providing for New Mexico's deaf children."

Since its founding the school has had only four superintendents. Dr. Thomas J. Dillon, a New Mexican, was the first principal employed at the school. He held the position for 32 years. He was hired as principal in 1943 at a time "when deaf administrators were practically non-existent." At one time in the 1940s Dillon was the only deaf principal of a school for the deaf in the United States. Marvin Wolach, the school's supervising teacher before his retirement, called Dillon "Mr. NMSD." Dillon attained national prominence as an educator and for 20 years was an officer of the Convention of American Instructors of the Deaf. Gallaudet College awarded him a Doctor of Humane Letters in 1966. He and his wife, Florence, who began her teaching career in 1943 and who was the school's first librarian, retired at the close of the school year in 1975. In 1979 Dillon was appointed by the governor to a six-year term on the school's Board of Regents. Shortly afterwards he was elected secretary-treasurer of the Board.

The school's gymnasium is named for Lars M. Larson, the founder. The school has a large oil painting of him, a gift to the school from the Santa Fe Chapter of the Gallaudet College Alumni Association.

Washington State School for the Deaf

Vancouver

Opened: 1886

Founder: Territorial Legislature

The Washington School opened in 1886 as the Washington School for De-

fective Youth. At that time the school enrolled deaf, blind and mentally ill students. George Layton, a graduate of the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind and Gallaudet College, was hired as the first teacher. For many years since the school has maintained a consistently high percentage of deaf teachers. The school's current superintendent, Archie Stack, is hearing impaired.

A year before the school opened, the Rev. W. D. McFarland had started a private class for deaf children in Tacoma. Prior to that some students were sent to the Oregon School which had opened in 1870. McFarland later moved his class to Vancouver and they stayed in a hotel until the school opened.

The school's 17-acre campus is located on the original site of Fort Vancouver, high above the Columbia River. Fort Vancouver was once the headquarters of Hudson's Bay Company.

Watson Hall, the school's main building was designed by Olof Hanson, the deaf architect. Hunter Gymnasium, Divine Hall, Deer Hall, MacDonald Hall and Northrop Hall are named for deaf people. William S. Hunter, a graduate of the Michigan School for the Deaf, was the school's first coach. He taught at the school for 49 years. The gymnasium was named for him in 1938. Divine School, which houses the junior and senior high school departments, was named in honor of Louis and Belle Divine, a deaf couple who taught at the school for many years. Deer Hall honors Dewey H. Deer, an alumnus, an outstanding athlete, community leader, teacher and coach. Another residential hall is named for Della MacDonald, a houseparent and an employee of the school for nearly 40 years. Northrop Hall was named for Dr. Helen Northrop, a teacher for many years and the first principal of the school. Northrop Hall houses the elementary school department.

Emil Rath, who was a statistician with the U.S. Air Force and Alan B. Crammatte, author of *Deaf Persons in Professional Employment* and a former faculty member at Gallaudet College, are alumni of the Washington State School for the Deaf.

Eastern Iowa School for the Deaf

Dubuque

Opened: 1888

Founder: William M. DeCoursey French*

French was connected with the Nebraska School for the Deaf in Omaha, where he was principal from 1869 to 1871. He moved to Wyoming, where he persuaded the State Legislature to pass legislation founding a school for the deaf in 1885. A building was erected the following year, but no provisions were made for the continuing support of the school, which never opened. French moved to Iowa where he started a day school in Dubuque named the Eastern Iowa School for the Deaf, which was supported by contributions and other means. French was principal. The school folded some years later.

Born, raised, and educated in Indiana, French taught for six years (1860-1868) at the Indiana School for the Deaf before his move west to Omaha. He claimed credit for starting the Nebraska School for the Deaf, but school records give the credit to the State Legislature. Little else is known about him.

North Dakota School for the Deaf

Devils Lake

Opened: 1890

Founder: Anson R. Spear*

The enabling act which divided the Dakota Territory into two states, North and South Dakota, and admitted them into the Union in 1889 included provisions for the education of deaf and other handicapped children. Since the southern part of the Territory, which became South Dakota already had a school in Sioux Falls, it remained for North Dakota to start one. To encourage this, the federal government granted 40,000 acres to the state. The land was sold, the money placed in a trust, and the income used for the school.

A bill drawn up by Anson R. Spear, a graduate of the Minnesota School for the Deaf, to establish the North Dakota School for the Deaf passed the State Legislature, but was vetoed by the governor. Supporters of the bill persisted and on the last day of the legislative