

THE DEAF AMERICAN

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Board Member Block, Illinois President Forrestal, Board Member Olsen



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The Editor's Page

Crumbs . . . Nice Crumbs . . . But Still Crumbs

Television as mass media is nearly three decades old in this country. During the last decade deaf TV viewers have been able to enjoy more and more "special" programs—signed or captioned.

But—crumbs . . . nice crumbs . . . but still crumbs! For the most part local stations have added visual clues to storm warnings; a score or so local news programs have interpreters (but only for short "spots" or at times when few deaf people are watching). Network sports telecasts have come a long way in identification captions and frequent camera panning in on the clock or scoreboard. PBS stations have been carrying the Evening ABC News, with the originating station in Boston adding items of special interest to the deaf to fill in the time otherwise devoted to commercials.

"Hidden captions" have been tried out on a limited experimental basis. Current efforts are directed toward getting the Federal Communications Commission to reserve or allocate a certain "channel" or wave length for development of such hidden captions.

Network captioning of newscasts and selected programs—at the time they go on the air—is the "cake" that the deaf need and desire. The same is true of local programs. The networks and local stations continue to plead "technically impossible" or "prohibitive in cost." They have a good argument on their side. But . . . it's high time we advance from crumbs to slices—if we cannot have the cake.

Adventures in Editing

AE-9: In our October issue pictures got transposed on pages 3 and 4. Readers may have looked for a couple of invisible passengers aboard James Ebnetter's air boat at the bottom of page 3, while on page 4 the air boat, supposed to have been beached, is cruising up the Wisconsin River. We cannot explain that error but appreciate the fact that several of our readers do read cutlines as well as look at pictures.

AE-10: On page 19 of our December issue, Maryland somehow got into a headline as co-sponsor of the

Region I conference. Our apologies to the New Jersey Association of the Deaf!

Some Observations on Leadership

Some people are born leaders. They have the natural flair or knack to win others to their side and to keep them on their side. They may be good, bad or indifferent leaders. Mankind can only hope the good leaders will be more numerous and/or more influential than the bad or indifferent leaders.

Unfortunately, born leaders are all too few. They tend to become overburdened; they get confused as to priorities and goals because they are unable to analyze problems and work accordingly toward realistic solutions. Their personal charm may keep "blind followers" in line.

Inasmuch as born leaders are too few, and because born leaders are not necessarily good leaders, we need leadership training for those who have the potential, energy and, above all, "level heads" and flexibility. Goalsetting, procedural activities and evaluation become an eternal triangle.

Up until recently, leadership training was centered around the so-called elite—the intellectuals with proven academic qualifications. We are now witnessing more leadership training aimed at the "middle level." This level may and may not be the so-called "grassroots" segment of the deaf population. If we have a "lower level" of leadership potential, it should also come in for attention. It doesn't make sense to expect such a "lower level" to remain content to provide "followership."

Speaking of "followership," we are more and more aware of the disinclination of people to accept leadership unless it comes from their superiors or peers. Can leadership develop and exert itself from a lower level? Perhaps not often, but still possibly. In some areas yes; in some areas unlikely so or never. This does not negate the value of good leadership, however, on any level, or across levels. The more trained leaders, the better; we have enough problems to occupy all the leaders we can develop.

(Continued on Page 37)

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