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THE
DEAF
AMERICAN

City of Ogden Engineer . . .

*Ned C. Wheeler:
Utah's Busy Man*

THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR ALL THE DEAF



SEPTEMBER
1976

The Editor's Page

Line 21—Hidden Captions

As we go to press, news stories tell that the Federal Communications Commission has ruled that television stations must provide visual as well as vocal information when emergency warnings are put on the air. This action comes about three years after the FCC requested voluntary compliance.

Now for Line 21—the space for hidden captions on television sets equipped with decoders. Opposition of the "big three" national networks and their affiliated components has become more outspoken. It appears that they have three objections: 1) the expense, 2) "technical difficulties" (extremely vague and misleading) and 3) possible need for Line 21 for future purposes (again without specifics).

This is an election year. The momentum that has been generated in favor of reserving Line 21 for captions must be stepped up. See Home Office Notes in this issue for additional information.

The White House Conference

The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals is scheduled for May 1977. State level conferences are in full swing—to provide input for the national conference.

While the "action" varies from state to state, the deaf seem to be taking advantage of the opportunities. Quite fortunately the state committees have been realistic in providing for TTY inquiries/comments and in furnishing interpreters.

Again, Home Office Notes should be consulted as to the need of communication, especially in the listing of priorities for the deaf. While the problems are many, the BIG ones must be attacked first.

Bicentennial—Deaf Heritage

One of our readers (apparently one with the memory of an elephant) has asked what happened to our proposal several months back to come up with nominations of great deaf Americans of the past 200 years.

Our answer: We haven't forgotten. More pressing matters got us sidetracked. We have also come to the conclusion that the NAD Centennial Convention in 1980 will be a better time to play up the American Deaf Heritage theme.

Readers will be hearing more about this in future issues.

Deaf Truck Drivers

A wire service story out of Washington, D. C., a couple of weeks ago revealed that considerable prejudice exists against licensing deaf truck drivers for over the road employment. The stand of one state highway safety department in favor of deaf truck drivers helped counteract the argument that hearing is vital while piloting a big highway rig.

Perhaps we do not have many deaf truck drivers making long hauls; perhaps only a few deaf people are interested in such employment. Nevertheless, we must fight for the right to equal opportunities.

Does anyone have the makings of a feature article on the true-to-life experiences of a deaf truck driver? His (or her) story should be enlightening.

DA Staffers Needed

THE DEAF AMERICAN is urgently in need of additional volunteer staff members in several areas. Two such areas are rewriting and sports.

We need help in rewriting (with appropriate research) clippings and rough material. Readers send us a lot of excellent features from local newspapers. These need revisions for our purposes—and acquisition of pictures.

We would like to have staff members all over the country to send in timely sports stories—brief ones—and pictures. Perhaps some sports enthusiasts-writers would be willing to research for features.

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Editor: JESS M. SMITH
Associate Editor: Eugene W. Petersen
Editorial Executives: Charles C. Estes, Frederick C. Schreiber
News Editor:
Associate Feature Editor: Robert L. Swain, Jr.
Assistant Feature Editors: Frank Bowe, Fred R. Murphy.
Sports Editor: Art Kruger

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Hotline Sports: Charley Whisman
Humor Editor: Toivo Lindholm
Foreign Editor: Yerkar Andersson
Culturama Editor: Patricia Dow
Yearly Editor: Barry Strassler

Advisory Editors: Dr. Byron B. Burnes, Dr. W. T. Griffing, Dr. Robert O. Lankenau, Don G. Pettingill, Dr. Robert G. Sanderson.

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SEPTEMBER 1976

Pilipinas



By Carl A. Argila
85-E Kamuning Road
Quezon City
PHILIPPINES

"Technology in Developing Countries . . . and the Deaf"

The applause was almost riotous—in fact a couple of foot stomps could be heard from the back of the hall! Now that's quite a reaction from a staid group of computer specialists! I fairly collapsed into my chair, trying to look cool, calm and collected when actually my hands were shaking and my legs were queasy.

I had been invited to sit as a "panelist" at a session of the second annual DPMA (Data Processing and Management Association of the Philippines) conference. Propriety dictated that I sit on the platform with a plastic smile pasted on my face as the "experts," many of whom came from Australia and the United States, delivered their scholarly treatises on the "state-of-the-art" in computer technology.

Each of these speakers, it turned out, was a representative of the various international computer corporations—and each seemed to be giving more of a sales pitch than an academic presentation. As the speakers marched to the podium it became more and more obvious that they were taking advantage of this occasion to mislead those of us who, being 10,000 miles away from "where the action is," must rely on the good faith of these "experts." We were being told how these hundred-thousand-dollar-and-up computer systems would solve all of our agriculture, social, political, economic, educational and sex problems—the word was "buy, buy, buy" . . . and as they talked, talked, talked, my temperature went up, up, up and that plastic smile on my face began to melt.

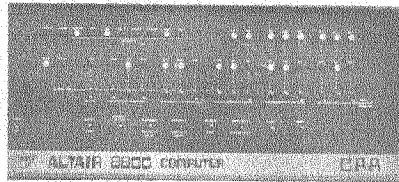
What these "experts" were carefully trying to keep hidden under the carpet was that the past year had seen the birth of a new generation of computers—the "affordable" computer. An off-shoot of "integrated circuit" technology, which brought about the ubiquitous pocket calculator, entire computer systems were now in the price range of under \$1,000; that's about one-tenth to one-hundredth

of the price of comparable computer systems only a few years ago.

The cork finally popped, and that plastic smile went up in smoke, when the principal speaker, a distinguished expert (we were told), sent to the Philippines by the U. S. government

through their USAID office, got up to speak. Not a word did he mention about this new "computer revolution"—indeed he only punctuated what the other speakers had already said . . . "Buy, buy, buy!"

Taking advantage of a pause for questions from the audience, I literally grabbed the microphone and figuratively grabbed the floor and delivered a little treatise of my own! I had fortunately brought with me a pile of literature about the new "affordable"



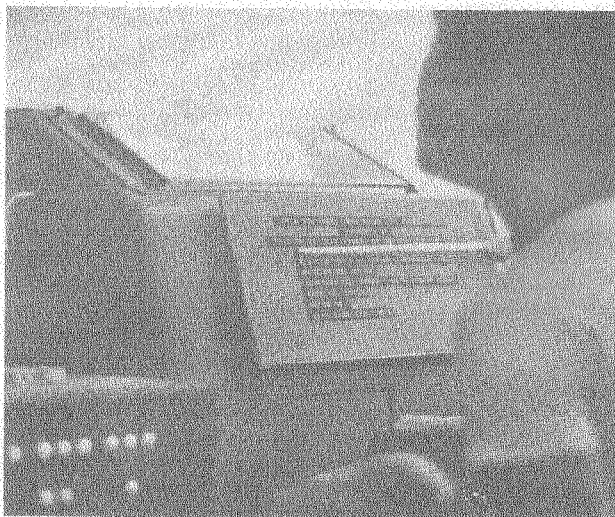
The ALTAIR 8800 computer, the first of the "affordable" computers, has opened up unlimited possibilities for application of sophisticated technology in developing countries.



When connected to a standard cassette tape recorder (the small portable type used for diction) the computer drills Cecilio in associating printed words with their sound. Cecilio attempts to repeat the word and monitors his own voice.

computers—and when I had collapsed back into my chair, the applause reverberating around the room, I knew I had made my point. Our USAID speaker, the color now gone from his face, suddenly became an expert on the "new" computers—he tried his best to belittle the whole matter—but the seeds had been planted. Somehow the conference wasn't quite the same after my little outburst! Even as other speakers took to the podium, people crept to the platform to ask to see the literature I had brought, copy addresses, etc., and if looks could kill, the conference moderator would have shot me dead! I don't think the DPMA will invite me back again.

I mention this incident because it is so representative of what I have seen in the Philippines and other developing and underdeveloped countries around the world—so often countries, which can ill afford to waste their precious foreign exchange reserves, are "fast-talked" into buying expensive, sophisticated technology with little regard, by the seller, as to whether or not this technology will really meet the needs of the purchaser, or for that matter, whether the technology can even survive in the environment of a developing or underdeveloped country. The assumption seems to be, "This is good for us, so it will be good for you." The deaf have been particularly victimized by this philosophy since every school for the deaf in the poor countries longs for audiometric and speech training equipment and parents of deaf children often think that a hearing aid will "cure" deafness. Since most developing and underdeveloped countries have no teacher training programs for edu-



Left: Together with a teletypewriter and a modern (coupler), the ALTAIR computer forms a complete "mini-system" which is used in this application for instructional purposes. Right: Cecilio is drilled by the computer in mathematics, spelling and other areas where repetition is an important element in learning.

education of the deaf: teachers are often trained in the developed countries—and most of the time that means in an oral school. These teachers return home thinking that they just can't teach without audiometric and speech training equipment, and the failure of many an oral program has been blamed on the lack of such equipment.

Once precious funds have been scrapped together to purchase an audiometer or a group hearing aid or some such equipment, then the bubble begins to burst—first it's found that the equipment can't be effectively utilized because the local people are not well-versed in its operation; the instruction book doesn't help much and the factory representative is 10,000 miles away. This leads to the misuse (and often times abuse) of the equipment which, when coupled with the temperature and humidity extremes of many developing and underdeveloped countries (for which the equipment was not engineered to withstand), then leads to the usual state of the equipment—broken. This is particularly true of audiometric equipment whose precision circuits are easily thrown out of alignment.

The equipment usually can't be repaired locally—and if there is some one who can (at least try to) repair it locally, the spare parts are not available locally. The equipment must then be sent abroad for repair—a matter which takes about six months round-trip (most of that being transportation time)—precious funds must again be scrapped together and the cycle begins again.

In our national school for the deaf, for example, I do not know of one occasion in the past six years when the (one) audiometer was functioning or the (one) speech trainer was being used—the school administration cer-

tainly can't be blamed—they have simply fallen victim to the "false god" of technology.

I can say with considerable pride that during my short stint as an educational administrator (as acting director of the Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf, SAID) not so much as one centavo was spent on imported technology nor did we ever solicit the donation of such equipment. (Well intentioned friends abroad often think that a used hearing aid or some such equipment will be of help to us in the poorer countries—there are other more effective ways to help.) This does not mean to say that we did not have such equipment at the SAID—we did in fact have a speech trainer and a crude audiometer—locally made from locally available components. Though this equipment might not come up to commercial specifications—it is useful, durable and when in need of repair can be repaired locally.

We shall discuss technology, and how one distinguishes between the "good" technology and the "bad" technology, in future "Pilipinas" columns, but let us return to the matter of the new "affordable" computers. These machines are an example of the "good" group—they can operate very nicely in any sort of an environment, repairs (which are few and far between) consist of replacing a small plastic-encapsulated "integrated circuit" which can be air-mailed overseas for only a few cents. But more importantly is what they can do—and what they do is bring to our doorstep sophisticated techniques which heretofore we could not afford. For the deaf this means, among other things, that vitally important advancements in educational technology, in particular "Computer Assisted Instruction" are now within the reach of many of us in the developing and underdeveloped coun-

tries. Considering too that these countries have such a deficiency of trained persons in the field of education of the deaf, one can well understand what a "revolution" these "affordable" computers will bring about.

Scrapping together our meager saving (which Cecilio had hoped would be used to buy a TV set!) we recently became the proud owner of an ALTAIR 8800 computer, the first of this new generation of "affordable" computers. Together with our "Phonetype" and TTY (which we already had for telephone communication) our ALTAIR forms a complete mini-computer system. We have been experimenting with educational applications and Cecilio has been using the ALTAIR for drill in spelling and arithmetic. As many DEAF AMERICAN readers are familiar with, such repetitive drill, which is essential for learning in areas such as arithmetic, are trivial applications of "Computer Assisted Instruction"—we hope to continue our work in this area, developing "software," i.e., the programs which tell the computer what to do, for entire lesson "streams" so that the primary learning source is the computer and the teacher only supplements the "standard" curriculum. In one application we've developed, Cecilio monitors carefully pronounced words which have been prerecorded on a cheap cassette tape and simultaneously sees the words printed on the TTY. Using his residual hearing he tries to interpret the word, and must answer a question concerning the word (such as how many syllables it contained); the computer then asks Cecilio to repeat the word so that he can monitor his own voice. This kind of "automated" speech trainer is quite effective for routine drill.

Many DEAF AMERICAN readers will realize that our applications of "Com-

puter Assisted Instruction" are ridiculously trivial by the standards of educational technologists abroad—but what makes them significant to those of us in a developing country is that they are "affordable." In fact, the entire computer system pictured on these pages cost us less than \$500. I have little doubt that the day will come when every village schoolhouse in every developing or underdeveloped country will have some sort of "teaching machine," bringing to the remotest, most inaccessible spots on this globe the knowledge which will help all men to build a better tomorrow. That is the promise of technology.

Author's note: The ALTAIR 8800 computer is distributed by

MTS, Inc.
2450 Alamo S.E.
Albuquerque, N.M. 87106

Much of our motivation for "Computer Assisted Instruction" has been to help Cecilio catchup and keep up with his hearing classmates. Yes, hearing classmates! Cecilio is the first deaf child to have been "mainstreamed" into a hearing class in the Philippines. Our column for next month: "Mainstreaming in Manila."

Sample Lessons

SPELLING LESSON IV-7

WHICH OF THESE WORDS IS SPELL-ED WRONG:

- (1) BUILDING
- (2) GATHERD
- (3) PUPILS
- (4) WOOL

? 2

CORRECT. NOW TRY THIS ONE.

WHICH OF THESE WORDS IS SPELL-ED WRONG:

- (1) CARROTS
- (2) FLUD
- (3) WOMEN
- (4) OWNED

? 3

WRONG. TRY AGAIN.

? 2

CORRECT. NOW TRY THIS ONE.

WHICH OF THESE WORDS IS SPELL-ED WRONG:

- (1) APPEAR
- (2) SOCIAL
- (3) DIVISION
- (4) ATTEMPT

? 4

WRONG. TRY AGAIN.

? 3

WRONG. THE WORD (1) IS SPELLED

WRONG.

ARITHMETIC STREAM 17

DO THESE ARITHMETIC PROBLEMS:

32

+86

?118

H

CORRECT. NOW TRY THIS ONE.

$88 + 73 + 4 = ?166$

WRONG. TRY AGAIN.

?165

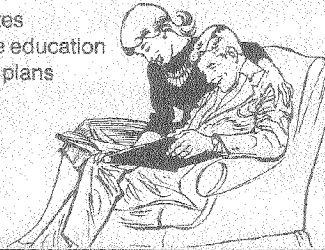
SEPTEMBER 1976



DEGREE WITH DISTINCTION—Don G. Pettingill, a past president of the National Association of the Deaf, is shown receiving his B. A. degree (with distinction) from Dr. Edward G. Merrill, president of Gallaudet College, at the 112th commencement exercises held at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception last May. In the background can be seen Dr. Roy K. Holcomb, who received an honorary doctorate from Gallaudet, and Dr. Tom Mayes, director of Continuing Education. Don, at one time, was carrying a full work load at Model Secondary School for the Deaf, taking a full college course and serving a two-year term as NAD president.

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See one of our representatives or write to:

National Fraternal Society of the Deaf
1300 W. Northwest Highway • Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056

CORRECT. NOW TRY THIS ONE.

622

HEAR

—547

? 2

CORRECT. NOW TRY THIS ONE.

LISTEN TO THIS WORD:

BOTHER

LISTEN AGAIN AND REPEAT THE WORD AS YOU HEAR IT:

BOTHER

HOW MANY SYLLABLES DID YOU

HEAR

? 1

WRONG. TRY AGAIN.

? 2

CORRECT.

WRONG. TRY AGAIN.

?77

WRONG. THE CORRECT ANSWER IS

75.

SPEECH LESSON 25

LISTEN TO THIS WORD:

FATHER

LISTEN AGAIN AND REPEAT THE

WORD AS YOU HEAR IT:

FATHER

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