

Iowa School for the Deaf History



Cynthia Angerth, Outreach Coordinator for Iowa School for the Deaf, spoke at the Treynor Optimist Club on January 19. She is beginning her 15th year at the school.

The Iowa school for the Deaf started in 1855 in Iowa City. It was initially for ages 12-21 and had 21 students the first year. The superintendent would ride a horse through the country to find deaf students to attend the school. The school mainly did vocational training at that time.

In 1870 the school moved to 80 acres in Council Bluffs. Some of the land owned by the school today is rented for cash rent.

In 2015, Iowa will begin creating regional centers for the deaf, with three initially. Today, larger cities also hire teachers for the deaf.

Today there are 110 students on campus. In the 1970 they had about 400 students. Rubella throughout the country created a lot of deafness.

Some deaf are gifted readers. Many have difficulty reading. Many deaf don't think of themselves as disabled. They think of

deafness as their culture.

Teachers used to live on campus. Today many of the students go home every weekend. They also do a lot of field trips during the week.

The Lied multipurpose complex was built in 2002. It is the first new building in 50 years. The garages were built in 1941 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. The barn was built in 1935. The campus was self sustaining for milk. The milk was famous for its high fat content. It closed in the late 1980s.

The Tom L Anderson careers' building was built in 1950. It was remodeled in the early 1990s. Metals and woods are the only vocational classes today.

The infirmary was built in 1936-1938 as a WPA project. It is not used today. The elementary/lower school was built in 1957-1959. The gym was built in 1929 and is now a science center. Long Hall, built in 1929, is the High School.