

Letter from J.E. Gallagher to Alexander Graham Bell, December 30, 1902

BOARD OF DIRECTORS. ESTABLISHED IN 1886. THIS IS A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR THE EDUCATION OF DEAF AND DUMB CHILDREN. IT IS SUPPORTED BY James W. Wartmann, President , United States Commissioner. EVANSVILLE DONATIONS AND PRIVATE SUBSCRIPTIONS. Howard Roosa, Secretary , editor Evansville courier. Joseph Waltman, treasurer , School for the Deaf Schulze, Waltman & Co. File JAMES E. GALLAHER, PRINCIPAL Aus'd Evansville, Ind., Dec. 30, 1902 Dear Professor Bell:—

At the coming session of the Indiana Legislature a bill will be introduced by Representative Adolph Decker, of Evansville, asking for the appropriation of three thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) for the support of the Evansville Day School for the Deaf for two years. It provides that the Board of Education of the City shall furnish a room for a class of Deaf children, as it has done heretofore, and any deaf child from any part of the state can be admitted. The amount asked for would be sufficient to pay for the employment of two teacher for two years, there being at present sixteen pupils enrolled in the school.

For sixteen years, until the fall 1901, the Board of Education of the City of Evansville maintained a department for the deaf in its public school system. Then it suddenly dropped the school on the ground of illegality, (real or pretended), since which time the school for the deaf has been struggling along on subscriptions. Unless we receive state aid, or aid in some permanent form, the school cannot long continue to exist.

Knowing you personally and the warm interest you take in the deaf, as well as your interest in day schools, I write to ask if it will be possible for you to be present at the Legislature and use your influence in favor of the bill. That it will meet with opposition is clear as the Journal-News of this city recently contained an editorial disapproving the measure. But as the editor of that paper happens to be the treasurer of the Indiana

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Institution for the Deaf, perhaps this is only natural. The Evansville Daily Courier is a strong supporter 2 of the bill and its editor is one of the directors of our school for the deaf here.

I took charge of the Evansville school in December of last year, coming here from Chicago, where I had taught for 22 years. The school had never maintained an oral department under the two men who preceded me as principal, much to my surprise. I can talk; my wife can talk as well as a hearing person and is an excellent lip-reader. I, therefore, know the value of speech. I at once made arrangements to have regular oral instruction given to all the pupils in school, and persuaded my daughter to take charge of the department without pay. She had received special training in the McCowan oral School. She has been giving her time to the school ever since. Last September the Directors were in a position to pay her a little—only half, of what she should receive.

All we need is money for the support of the school. Will you kindly let me know if you can come to our aid? Representative Decker will introduce his bill on the 13th day of January.

Yours truly, James E. Gallaher 738 Adams Avenue