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1-25-1988

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 $\label{lem:communications} University\ Marketing\ and\ Communications, "01/25/1988 - Valco\ Donates\ Synthesizer\ To\ EIU"\ (1988).\ 1988.\ 22. \\ http://thekeep.eiu.edu/press_releases_1988/22$

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88-19

January 25, 1988

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VALCO DONATES SYNTHESIZER TO EIU ATHLETICS

CHARLESTON, IL.--Eastern Illinois University's Lantz Gym will have state-of-the-art sound at 1988-89 basketball games with the addition of a synthesizer as part of the entertainment.

Linda Vala of Valco Awards and More, Inc., Springfield, is donating \$5000 to the EIU Foundation to purchase a synthesizer, which is an electronic instrument capable of producing the sounds of a variety of instruments.

"We are extremely appreciative of the support from Linda
Vala and Valco for the generous donation which enables us to buy
this equipment," said EIU Athletic Director R.C. Johnson.

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"We have relied on a volunteer pep band which has done a fine job but the versatility of the synthesizer will relieve some of the burden from them."

Vala says she wanted "to do something to help the University, the team and the athletic department. We believe this is a worthy cause for a worthy school.

"I think anyone who has been to a major league baseball game knows how much pep it can add. It's a modern item that will add some entertainment to an exciting game. We're just pleased that we could help out," she explained.

Linda and her husband, Frank, an EIU Alumnus ('79), reside in Springfield.

They are also charter members of the EIU Foundation President's Club, which is composed of individuals who donate a minimum of \$1000 annually.