

Teacher Training by TV



THE TV CAMERA moves in on a special group of students who are studying under educational methods thought to be 25-years ahead of present day techniques.

The University is pioneering in the latest methods of teacher training . . . by TV. Actual classroom situations are telecast to a viewing room where both undergraduate and graduate teachers observe the effects of techniques thought to be 25 years ahead of those used in most elementary schools today.

This special summer laboratory school is in session at the Corl Street Elementary School building in State College. Dr. E. Terry Schwarz, assistant professor of education, is the director of the project which is sponsored by the Department of Elementary Education at the University.

Each day a movable television camera and a stationary one along with an engineer and his control equipment are set up in a different classroom. More than 100 State College children who are enrolled in the summer program are studied throughout the week via these facilities.

The movable camera follows a professional teacher in the classroom who actually picks out the specific children or reaction which she wants televised and is being studied in the viewing room. The stationary camera provides a continuing overall picture of the class on a second monitoring set.

What was particularly surprising was the complete unconcern of the elementary students for the constantly moving camera and microphone. The children have become so accustomed to the "intruders" that they even ignore their own picture on the monitoring screen.

But the beauty of this setup is that the video screen makes it possible for observers to view children's reactions to new and modern methods—without the children being aware of the observers.

The teachers studying the advanced methods and reactions to them, are taken out of the classroom where they interfere with the normal activities and reactions, and are free to observe from a room where they can openly discuss the children and the techniques involved.

The University in its program of continuing education and research is presently the pace-setter in the field of video-study of progressive teaching techniques.



AN ENGINEER sits in one corner of the classroom controlling the transmission of the pictures to the TV viewing room.



THE MICROPHONE is a common object to the students. The youngsters are hardly conscious of the cameras, microphones and personnel moving about the classroom.

Photo Feature by Wayne Schlegel



TEACHERS enrolled in the special course study children's reactions to new and modern methods. The children are not aware of the observers.



THE END PRODUCT OF NEW TECHNIQUES is studied and evaluated by teachers who will perhaps include modern methods in their classrooms in the near future.