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Demonstration Given in Ulster County

THE ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL AND THE State Education Department cooperated on May 3 to demonstrate instructional television to teachers and administrators of Ulster County. The county educators viewed the practical application of the electronics aid in classroom work. The demonstration and conference were called by Superintendents Reginald R. Bennett, Clarence A. Johnson and Lester J. Roosa of the first, second and third supervisory districts of Ulster County. Participating in the conference were 750 Ulster County teachers and administrators.

The program opened with band selections by the Onteora Central School under the direction of Harry Simon. The audience gave the pledge of allegiance and sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Reverend Edwin E. Egan, M. S., pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church, gave the invoca-

tion. This was done over the television circuit. Also, over the television circuit the conference was welcomed by Robert Cantine, member of Onteora's Board of Education. John H. Moehle, principal of Onteora Central School, served as chairman and introduced Francis E. Almstead, Special Consultant in Educational Television to the Commissioner of Education, who described the Education Department's program in educational television and introduced the demonstration which followed his talk.

Mr. Almstead told the conference about the assumptions underlying the design of the Department's experimentation in closed-circuit television. These are: (1) that no pupil shall be in any way sacrificed or have his learning opportunity damaged because of the experiment; (2) that the experiment aims to discover



MARGUERITE HARE teaching third grade science lesson from a studio; Alan Stephenson, electronics technician, instructional television project, State Education Department, operating television camera



THIRD GRADE PUPILS viewing a science lesson being taught by Marguerite Hare, third grade teacher, Campus School, State University Teachers College at Brockport. Students were supervised by Marion Gagliano, third grade teacher, and Ronald Vanni, elementary principal of Onteora Central School.

ways by which television equipment can help teachers improve the educational process at all levels, and (3) that the design of circuits and equipment would make it possible for the teacher to use classroom methods.

He added that instructional television operation was chosen instead of other phases of educational television because the Department believed experimentation in the classroom would produce some results which will be of greatest benefit to teachers generally and, at the same time, improve the learning process. He pointed out that the educational effects of telecasts and reading a book are similar because both represent one-way communication. Instructional television and classroom teaching are similar because the communication is two-way, that is, there can be feedback immediately from learner to teacher, he explained.

With the built-in talkback system designed in the Department's equipment at State University College for Teachers at Albany and State University Teachers Col-

lege at Brockport and Union Free School District No. 5 at Levittown, it is possible for students to question the teacher at any time during the lesson and the teacher can control the learning process through the question and answer method. The number of classrooms used during a lesson is determined by the type of presentation and the amount of feedback opportunity required.

For situations bordering on the lecture method, as many as seven can be served by one teacher, but for lessons requiring more student participation it may be necessary to reduce the number of rooms to two or three. Mr. Almstead reported both pupils and teachers are adapting their learning and teaching methods to TV in a very satisfactory manner. There is some evidence that the pupils of the third and fifth grades adjust more rapidly than do college students. This may be because college students have years of traditional teaching as a part of their educational background.

The conference showed interest in the techniques being used at the two teachers

colleges in teacher preparation. The audience was told that the use of a kinescope recorder to produce 16 mm. film of a practice teacher seems to have great potential for the development of capable beginning teachers.

Mr. Almstead introduced Marguerite Hare, assistant professor on Campus School faculty of the State University Teachers College at Brockport, who demonstrated how third grade science can be taught by using television equipment. Miss Hare was in a studio room with the television cameras, and her 15 third grade pupils of the Onteora Central School were in a classroom some distance away. The third graders viewed the lesson on a 24-inch receiver. More than 750 teachers in the auditorium followed the lesson on similar receivers. They heard the two-way conversation between teacher and pupils. By utilizing the advantages of the television camera, Miss Hare was able to give each youngster a closeup look of small objects such as sprouting bean seeds. Miss

Hare integrated spelling and science during the 32-minute lesson. Miss Hare is one of the regular campus teachers using television equipment at the State University Teachers College at Brockport.

Following the demonstration, Miss Hare, her pupils, Robert C. Rowe, consultant for instructional television; Alan Stephenson, electronics technician from Albany; Lawrence Costello, educational research aide of Levittown, and Mr. Almstead answered many questions raised by the Ulster County Teachers Association. At the end of the question and answer period, the teachers were invited to inspect the equipment used and the classroom arrangements. Following a lunch served in the cafeteria, administrators of Ulster County met with Mr. Almstead in a workshop to discuss the potentials and value of using television equipment to serve education.

This conference is the first of its kind where county educators and the State Education Department cooperated in the demonstration of instructional television.



INSPECTING one of the television cameras used in the Demonstration are, left to right, Francis E. Almstead, Special Consultant in Educational Television, State Education Department; Marguerite Hare, third grade teacher, Campus School, State University Teachers College at Brockport; John H. Moehle, principal, Onteora Central School, host school, and Mrs. Mary Cawston, president, Ulster County Teachers Association.