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This is What I Am!!

MILBERT H. KROHN

*Science Instructor
Spirit Lake Community School*

Getting to know science teachers about the state is somewhat of a problem for the teacher in smaller Iowa high schools. I suspect that this is a problem of communication rather than one of design by those of us in the less urban areas. When it was suggested that the *Iowa Science Teachers' Journal* be an avenue for establishing contact I was at first reticent about telling of myself. At a recent ISTA meeting, however, when a couple of colleagues told me they recognized me from a picture I had in the journal, I began to give it more thought. I like knowing people and I hope they like knowing me.



Instructor Krohn and Kent Winter, principal, confer on materials in the BSCS Biology text.

Teaching in a small high school (450) is a challenging and exciting task. There are several problems that accompany the role and not the least of them is the possibility of stagnation. I have found that there is unlimited opportunity to experiment, write, participate in professional activity, and innovate. So, first of all, I am very satisfied with my role here.

I acquired my undergraduate degree from Upper Iowa University in 1950. I majored in zoology and chemistry, and found myself being marked by Dr. Dean W. C. Mongold, a great teacher and intellect. I secured an M.A. degree from Colorado State College of Education at Greeley, Colorado, in 1951 in Science Education and Physics and worked with Dr. Donald Decker on some interesting problems in the lab school. I secured a Master of Science in Geology and Physical Science from the University of South Dakota in 1964 and learned of the nuances and intricacies of earth science from Dr. Robert Stevenson. I have had two summers of work at Iowa State University and was greatly impressed by the dynamic teaching of Dr. Delma Harding. I worked at Oregon State University one summer in ecology and had the privilege of associating with Dr. Stanley Williamson while there. I participated in a summer research project at Iowa Lakeside Lab during the summer of 1966, and worked with Dr. John Dodd

while studying producers of the lakes region.

I teach in the high school at Spirit Lake and am Science Curriculum Coordinator for K-12. I teach BSCS (Green), ESCP (Earth Science), Chem Study, and Physics. I teach a traditional chemistry course, also.



Krohn, Larry Krakawick, radiologist, and Delbert Clark, a student, view a device to be used in a Junior Research Project at the Local Radiology Clinic.

I am busy, of course, but I thoroughly enjoy the laboratory emphasis that we have in our school, and have plenty of equipment and backing from



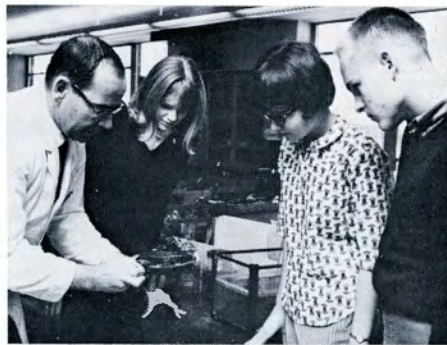
Milbert Krohn contemplating a teaching tool for use in Earth Science.



Instructor Krohn and students in a team approach to the study of plants.

the community and from our administration.

I have introduced a Junior Research course for our more talented people and this brings me into close contact with the scientists of our community, of which we happen to be amply blessed. We have chemists, biologists,



Milbert Krohn and students Pat Larson, Candace Hummel, and Delbert Clark look at an adaptation.

radiologists, physiologists, and professional conservationists who are willing and able to direct the efforts of our high school people.

I have a fine wife, Norma, who is willing to sacrifice her time to fill in for me when I am about getting my laboratories set. My children, there are four, are rather proud that their dad is a scientist. So am I, to tell the



Milbert Krohn and assistant Delbert Clark set up a field study ahead of a class visitation.

truth. It is a "dynamic world" that our discipline is creating from day to day.

I spend a great deal of time creating models in my basement. I am an amateur rock collector and I am in the process of finishing a 12" mirror for a telescope I hope to use in my astronomy club next year.



Instructor Krohn discusses field observations with Sue Foote, Candace Hummel, Cathy Carney, Suzanne Russell, and Don Montgomery.

I like the relationship, personal and professional, that I find in our community. I enjoy most the fact that I

can innovate and experiment when I feel that it is necessary to maintain vigor in our program.

I need to know more people better in Iowa science teaching circles. I take home a great deal from the associa-



Students Marie Yager, Sue Foote, Candace Hummel, Cathy Carney, and Suzanne Russell listen to a post-lab point being made by Instructor Krohn.

tions I have cemented. I am interested in exchanging photographs illustrative of topography, flora, and fauna of the various regions of Iowa. I read the articles that appear in the *Iowa Science Teacher* and I feel that this journal is a valuable and necessary part of our professional growth. I hope others will follow and write of themselves. I need to know them.

Pictures are worth many words. Accompanying shots show some of the things I find myself doing.



Instructor Krohn lies low while a random sample is about to be taken by a team. These are a hazard at times.