

Tornado Season Of Destruction

"Tornadoes are small but deadly storms that skip across the land cutting a swath of destruction," warns Donald C. Bolton, Michigan Director of the Allstate Safety Crusade.

They are violent local storms with winds that whirl at tremendous speeds. Many tornadoes are accompanied by thunderstorms, especially storms that deposit hailstones. Frequently two or more tornadoes appear in the same area, following more or less parallel paths.

BOLTON POINTS OUT that a tornado usually is seen as a rotating funnel-shaped cloud extending toward the ground from the base of a thundercloud. Tornadoes vary in color from gray to black, but all have one deadly characteristic: rapidly rotating winds that cause them to spin like a top. When close by, tornadoes sound like the roar of hundreds of airplanes.

The average tornado path is about 10 miles long and a quarter of a mile wide. Speeds range from 25 to 40 mph but can have speeds as high as 68 miles an hour. In most cases they move from a westerly direction, usually from the southwest.



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Teaching Gear Hikes Brain Input

ANN ARBOR -- The real significance of the continuing parade of new teaching "hardware" is in the improvement it has brought about in the instructional process, says Lewis H. Hodges, University of Michigan lecturer in vocational education and practical arts.

Change for change itself is not justified, he asserts. "Attempts to introduce computers and closed-circuit television must bring with them real and lasting benefits or they will not win acceptance," Hodges writes in the April issue of School Shop magazine.

HE NOTES that today's stu-

State Gets Patent On Sign

LANSING -- The State of Michigan has been issued a patent on what traffic safety engineers describe as the most effective school speed limit sign ever used in Michigan.

Developed by the Traffic Research Section of the Department of State Highways, Traffic and Safety Division, the sign was patented to enable sign producers to bid on and manufacture the sign for the Department.

More than 20 pairs of the signs have been erected on state highways near school crossings throughout Michigan and more are sure to follow.

The signs measure approximately four by six feet and display a black-on-white "school speed limit" message visible at all times. Below the message is the speed limit in 10-inch-high numbers which are blanked out through use of a lowered screen when the sign is not activated. The sign is surrounded by two aluminum flashing amber lights designed as motorist attention-getters.

The sign is usually controlled by a crossing guard or school official and is activated only when children are near the school or road crossing.

is being exposed at an early age to an ever-increasing array of electronic media everyday. "It is the responsibility of educators, along with guidance personnel, to help the student harness this media know-how to effective learning," he says.

Manufacturers are making instructional hardware "user-oriented." Redesigning equipment is lighter, labeled with better instructions, more accessible to the student, and available at lower cost per unit.

"Most importantly," says Hodges, "the old inventory of complicated equipment is giving way to hardware which re-

quires little training to use. Film loops, automatic-threading projectors, and cartridge tapes are examples.

"Once, use of the computer was considered a visionary idea for the school shop or classroom. Today it is a reality. Computers are being installed in schools across the country. It's up to us to learn to use them effectively."

"The computer has a vast power to catalog, sort, index, and store information. This capacity may be brought right into the classroom or shop by using a remote input-output device."

Hodges believes many benefits can be realized from the innovations.

For one thing, the teacher is freed from routine and triv-

is, he notes. He can spend more time planning, creating, and evaluating.

Devices such as dial-access systems, single-concept films, and video-tape recordings make possible presentation of material when and where it will be most efficient.

Hodges points out that the student is involved in interactive learning. "He can be brought into step-by-step programmed learning situations which require an active and immediate response."

Also he may learn faster and with greater interest. "Visual texts, using overlay pages, revelation pages, and multi-color movable pages can make improvements in the learning rate and quality."

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INDEPENDENT study is emphasized, says Hodges. "Patterns of self-instruction develop an attitude of self-reliance and investigation in the student. He is permitted to take home A-V aids, slides, and tapes. He is encouraged to take initiative in his own learning experience."

Instruction is individualized. "The teacher is not required to follow a single presentation for the entire class. He may select books, programmed materials, tapes, films, slides in a pattern most desirable for each individual student."

"This increase in efficiency is due to the pre-planning and programming of the learning experience," he says.

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