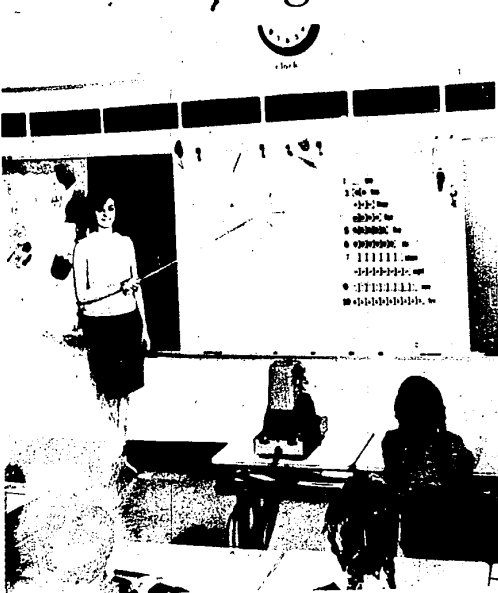


Teaching Turns To Color, Machines, Labs



FUTURE SCHOOLS will call it a "brightboard" or "colorboard."

Mennonites Forming New Colony In Bolivia

PANAMA CITY -- A modern-day hebra is causing hundreds of Mennonites to pass through here on their way from Mexico to new homes in Bolivia.

More than 500 of a colony said to number at least 10,000 in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua have passed through Panama. It is reported that the entire colony intends to follow.

The Mennonites, composed usually of family groups, come to Panama by bus. After the long trip through most of Mexico and all the Central American countries -- an arduous journey at best -- they take steamers. They usually land at Africa, Chile or some nearby port, and then continue their journey inland by train or bus.

LARGELY OF DUTCH extraction, the Mennonites are said to have first settled in Pennsylvania in 1683 to escape persecution in Europe. By the late 1950s, said Panama Canal officials, there were reported to be 160,000 in the United States, 55,000 in Canada, and

10,000 in Mexico.

The Mennonites are said to have settled in Mexico early in this century. Welcome to Mexico at the time, they were permitted to live by themselves as they developed an arid area into productive farm country. Much of the meat, especially turkey, and such things as cheese going to the Mexico City market originate from Mennonite farms.

Distinctive in their dress, the men and boys wear overalls and straw hats. The women and girls wear long skirts, shawls, and white straw hats or scarves.

POSSIBLY because of their long residence in Mexico, the men have brightened the drab Mennonite costume. They have added flowered or printed skirts and ribbons on their hats.

Despite their years in a Spanish-speaking country, the travelers through Panama seem to speak little Spanish and practically no English. They still use Dutch when speaking to one another. Nearly all are blue-eyed and blond and they

often have large families. One couple was noted with 11 children.

The leader of the most recent group said that Mexico was getting crowded and they felt they could have more freedom and a chance to develop in the interior of Bolivia. They are settling in the central plains of Bolivia near Santa Cruz where there is good land for farming and raising cattle.

EMU Plans Pupil Busing Workshop

YPSILANTI--A Workshop on Pupil Transportation for Administrators is planned at Eastern Michigan University from July 7 through July 12. Sponsored by the Field Service Divisions of Eastern and Western Michigan University, the workshop attracts administrators from the entire Middle West.

Home Earl, of Western Michigan, is director of the summer program.

Years from now, students may call a blackboard a "brightboard" or "colorboard," and for a "switch" turn on a teaching machine for the answers to complex problems.

Revolutionary new ideas in education are making teaching easier for teachers, and learning faster and clearer for students.

According to researchers at Eberhard Faber, the "black and white" way of communication may be a thing of the past. New visual aids, such as filmstrips, slides, and plastic models provide stimulating supplements to the old blackboard -- and the blackboard itself is in for some changes.

"GREY IS THE color of all theory," wrote Goethe. But teachers are finding today that color holds the students' attention better, and makes identification of letters and numbers easier. A visual aid panel, tested in color-board experiments for a year, is now being used in classrooms throughout the country. Actually a four-in-one visual aid panel, the new board has a white, glare-free

surface, and is written on with either semi-permanent or washable color markers. The semi-permanent markers can be used for setting up problems that require continued display. Possible solutions may be written with washable color easily erased with damp cloth. When the problem is finally solved it can be removed easily with a cloth dampened in an eraser fluid.

The board is also a movie screen and can be written on while a movie is in progress. In addition, it's magnetic, and a "canvas" for young artists.

ONE OF THE EARLIEST teaching machines, developed in 1925 at Ohio State University, was used during World War II to train pilots and teach technicians how to repair airplanes.

After the war, teaching machines were "honorably discharged" from the service, and began a fruitful civilian life. Research provided ways to put the machines in schools, and work continues today to develop improvements in the systems. Some teaching machines are

no more than test sheets or books. The test sheet looks like any other test sheet -- but a little "doctoring" makes the difference. The correct answers have been treated with an invisible chemical that changes the color of a pencil mark. If the pupil's response steps pencil mark, he knows the answer was incorrect, and he must try until the right answer "blushes" for him.

IF THE "MACHINE" is a book, there may be a question on one page, with the answer (and the next question) on the following page.

A more complex method is used in the "scrambled book." A question will appear on the first page, with different page numbers listed after each answer choice. The pupil turns to the page indicated by his selection.

If it's the wrong answer, the page will explain why, and provide information on that selection. If the right answer is made, the page will "congratulate" the pupil and direct further questions at him.

MECHANICAL TEACHING

machines -- while basically similar in format to the test sheets and books -- can offer more complex possibilities. One electronic machine shows questions on a screen. It will record the mistakes a pupil has made, and the ask him additional questions related to those mistakes. There is even a machine that gives cards to pupils who have done well.

A variation of the teaching machine is the "language laboratory." The student puts on earphones and listens to a foreign word. Then he speaks the word into a microphone -- and can immediately play back his voice, comparing it to the original pronunciation. As the student progresses, the correct pronunciation of whole phrases may be learned this way.

ANOTHER TEACHING aid sometimes brings smiles to faces -- when it's used in the home for entertainment. Television was first developed during World War II, and while educational uses were envisioned for it then, it was not until recently that television became a widespread classroom wonder. Television en-

ables sick students to learn at home or hospital, and in universities, provides a "desk-side teacher" for each student. Lecture halls may have dozens of sets hanging at strategic points, so that all students can see the "star of the show" clearly. Medical schools are able to expose surgical procedures to far more students than could fit into an operating arena.

Keeping pace with new classroom aids are new techniques for teaching the "three R's." "New math" uses the "discovery" method of teaching -- as opposed to the old teach-by-rote. Students find out for themselves how numbers work, and say most teachers, don't forget what they learn.

Cornell Named Head Coach

Pete Cornell, a 1965 graduate of Everett, was named the captain of the University of Michigan wrestling team for the 1968-69 season. Cornell, a 167-pounder, finished third in the Big Ten and fifth in the NCAA meets this past season.

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