

Elementary Teachers At Play

What do rubbing hands smeared with lotion, putting marbles under a book and turning a piece of chalk to dust on sandpaper have in common?

One answer is elementary school instruction, through an activity-centered approach as taught in a science education course at Texas A&M.

More than two dozen prospective and practicing elementary teachers are checking out the method in the course instructed by Mrs. Helen Weekes.

"The objective," she says, "is to let the child learn by his own experience."

Mrs. Weekes noted the approach is characteristic today of elementary science instruction.

Teachers in the class have

taken unusual routes to produce learning experiences through projects handled individually by other class members, serving in this case as the "elementary students."

Before the six-week course ends July 11, each teacher will have set up three projects and instructed the "class." Four youngsters will meet with them during the last week to provide a more realistic elementary class.

Demonstrating how burrowing animals breathe, one teacher packed earth in jars and poured on water that forced air in the dirt to bubble to the top. Another showed increased buoyancy in salt water by floating an egg in a container of water to which salt was added.

"Many teachers don't want to do these things in class," Mrs. Weekes pointed out. "They can be messy. And most classrooms do not have storage space for paraphernalia involved."

Once a teacher has tried the activity-centered approach and seen the child's response, worthwhile aspects of the method can be discerned, the A&M instructor added.

"We're seeking a behavioral objective, a measurable result in the way a child goes about doing something after such a lesson,"

She noted the instructional approach induces in the child self-reliance, resourcefulness and ability to recognize and solve problems on his own.

"Science is observing a basic

process, drawing inferences, making measurements and predicting results," she defined.

"A lot of us were brought up through a system of being taught facts. Being able to remember facts still provides the measure of success in learning," Mrs. Weekes commented.

"We want these teachers to see the activity-centered approach side of the coin too," she explained.

Mrs. Cheryl Mackin used hand lotion, marbles, book, chalk, and sandpaper so her "youngsters" could observe one form of energy, friction.

Friction produces heat, wears rubbing objects down and can be reduced by lubrication or inserting "ball bearing" marbles.



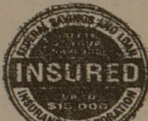
MARBLE 'BALL BEARINGS'

An elementary classroom technique of explaining friction is demonstrated in a Texas A&M education course by Mrs. Cheryl Mackin. Her "students" used marbles, a bottle cap and heavy book to individually discover that friction, a form of energy, can be reduced between a sliding book and table top by inserting "ball bearings".

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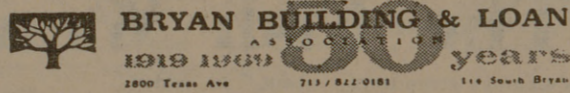
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NSA Prexy Announces B-CS Secretaries' Plans

"Plans for the 1969-70 Chapter Year are already well formulated for the Bryan-College Station Chapter of the National Secretaries Association (International), although the year has just begun," according to Chapter President Bettye Kahan.

"Miss Lee Synam, administrative assistant to General A. R. Luedicke, was initiated as a new member into the Chapter at the June 17 meeting at the Ramada Inn," added the president.

Plans for July include the initiation of at least three additional local secretaries who are

being accepted into the Association, according to Mrs. Kahan, who is administrative secretary to Texas A&M Vice President for Programs, Dr. John C. Calhoun.

"The programs for the year will include the traditional Secretaries Seminar, annual Secretaries Week, and Program of the Year," said Mrs. Pat Batten, Chapter Program Chairman. "In addition to these annual events, the NSA Chapter is also planning to have top speakers from Oceanography, Management, and Education Departments during 1969-70," she added. Mrs. Batten

is secretary to Mr. Bookman Peters, President of the City National Bank of Bryan.

Mrs. Kahan advised that all local secretaries who are eager to broaden their professional education, whose educational background and secretarial experience qualify them for membership in the National Secretaries Association, may contact her or any other Chapter member for information about applying for membership. "This year will be a great one for a secretary in Bryan-College Station who wants to be inspired in her career," she said.

VN Vets Enroll At A&M In Fall

Texas A&M should have about 700 Vietnam war veterans enrolled at the university this fall, estimates Bennie A. Zinn, associate dean of students and student affairs director.

Zinn said there were 555 veterans attending A&M during the spring semester and 300 are attending the first session of summer school.

He expects the fall enrollment of veterans to increase by about 150.

Under the June, 1966, cold war GI Bill, veterans receive a check from the Veterans Administration on the 10th of each month. The amount of the check depends on the number of dependents," Zinn explained.

A&M also has 11 veterans enrolled under the disability bill. The disabled vets get all fees, books and supplies paid, plus \$120 a month.

Vietnam veterans taking a full academic schedule and having no dependents receive \$130 a month, Zinn said. A married veteran receives \$155 a month and a married veteran with one child receives \$175 a month.

Veterans with more than one child receive \$10 a month for each additional child, Zinn reported.

Veterans not taking a full load receive less money. For example, a single man taking a three-quarter load receives \$95 a month.

Zinn noted that there were not as many veterans going to school as the government thought would take advantage of the benefits. He said there are approximately 10,000 Vietnam veterans attending college in Texas, and about one million throughout the nation.

Exams Star 3 Days After Holiday Ends

The July 4 holiday break will serve as the calm before a storm at Texas A&M.

A&M's 5,970 first summer session students will have only three class days after the three-day weekend before taking final examinations for the first six weeks of summer study.

July 4 also is a faculty-staff holiday. Classes and regular working hours resume at 8 a.m. Monday, July 7.

First session finals are scheduled July 10 and 11. Second summer registration for classes July 15 through August 22 will be held Monday, July 14, at Sbis Hall, Registrar Robert A. Lacey announced.

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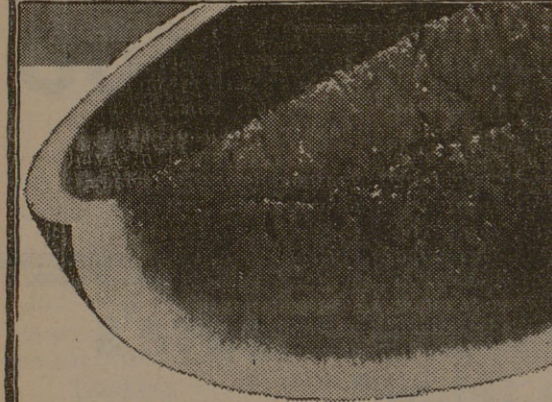
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