



KINDERGARTEN TECHNIQUES

Ray Stevens, only man in a summer kindergarten institute at Texas A&M University, learns how to cope with the younger set, as a technician in the background routinely records the session on video tape.

Ag-Ex Stevens Makes Doll In Kindergarten Course

Few men, especially former football coaches, would be caught dead in an all-gal program dealing with the finer points of teaching kindergarten.

Ray Stevens, however, remains undaunted — even when he was the object of weird looks as he strolled across the Texas A&M campus carrying a rag doll under his arm. The doll, which he made himself, was required for a class project entitled "emergency art."

Stevens, headmaster at Jackson Academy, a private school in Jackson, Miss., is participating in Texas A&M's Early Childhood Education Institute.

The summer program was created to help meet teacher requirements when Texas' public-supported kindergarten program goes into effect, beginning next year on a limited basis. The institute receives federal support.

Now in its second year, the course is primarily designed for persons who hold college degrees but have never taught, or at least not recently, explains Mrs. Lorene Roby, institute director.

With more than 100 four- and five-year-old children enrolled in his school, Stevens decided he should learn more about what makes them tick. While he has two children of his own, they graduated from the pre-school ranks several years ago. Most of his professional experience has been in the upper elementary

level. "If you are going to be in charge," the 32-year-old educator reasons, "you'd better know what you are talking about." This logic led him back to the campus this summer.

Studying at Texas A&M is like "old home week" for Stevens. Although a Jackson native, he received his undergraduate degree in physical education here in 1958 and master's in educational administration two years later.

Stevens also learned football here, as a student trainer during the Bear Bryant area. He successfully applied the knowledge in helping produce winners as an assistant junior high coach at Cameron, Crockett and West before going back to Jackson three years ago. His coaching duties were in conjunction with junior high and elementary teaching assignments.

Being the only man in the kindergarten program doesn't

bother Stevens. He's used to such situations. In Jackson, he has 30 teachers on his staff — all women.

Stevens is enthusiastic about the course.

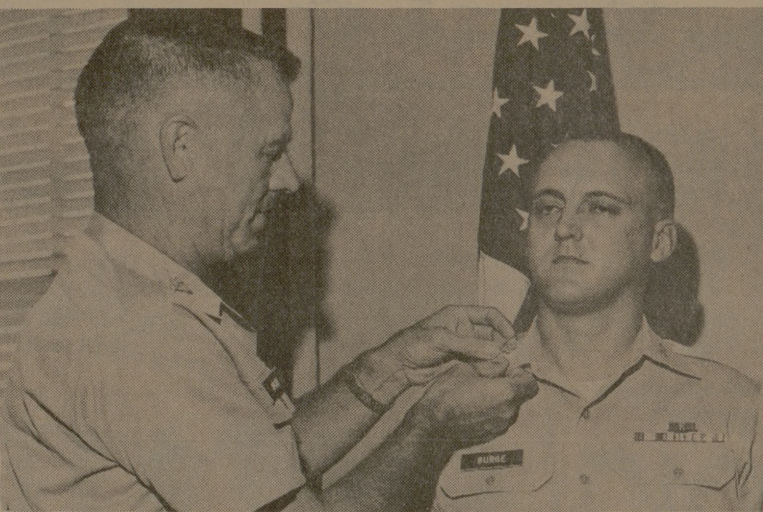
"It covers the spectrum," he observes. "It also has application for students in the first and second grades." His school offers instruction through the sixth grade.

The A&M course, first of its type in the state, emphasizes creativity.

"Involvement" is the key word," Mrs. Roby points out.

"To make sure the students think creatively," she adds, "we generate spur-of-the-moment projects which involve them in science, math, art, music and related activities, much as we hope they will do as kindergarten teachers."

Asked about his reaction to the creative class projects tossed at him, Stevens replies: "I do them."



PROMOTED TO MAJOR

Texas A&M Commandant Col. Jim H. McCoy, left, pins the gold major insignia on Marvin E. Burge during promotion ceremonies.

Burge Now Major

Marvin E. Burge of the Texas A&M University Military Science Department was promoted to Army major during ceremonies conducted by Col. Jim H. McCoy, Commandant at Texas A&M.

Maj. Burge, a native of El Reno, Okla., is an instructor of military history, small unit tactics and map reading for A&M's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Burge of 421 S. Hoff, El Reno, and his wife's parents are Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Arnold of 921 S. Hoff, El Reno.

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