

MSU Freshmen View Film Experiments

Some 1,100 Michigan State University freshmen are learning about experiments usually reserved for seniors and graduate students, thanks to the movies.

The experiments are ones which freshmen can readily understand but require intricate manipulation, involve expensive equipment, or are dangerous in inexperienced hands.

MSU put the experiments on film this summer for students in basic chemistry who need only a general chemistry background. Students see one of the films every other week in lieu of their three-hour laboratory period.

A total of 337,485 school children were given tuberculin tests during the 1961-62 school year, and only 13.7 per cent reacted positive.

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Use of Books By Collegiates On Increase

The shape of the future of our educational system is observable in our present dislocations and difficulties, says Frederick Wagman, director of University of Michigan libraries.

"It is abundantly clear that the use of books per student is increasing rapidly in our colleges," said Wagman.

"More and more we will accelerate the process of education," he said. "We will admit the undergraduate earlier to graduate level courses and expect him to be able to work on his own in the library when he enters college."

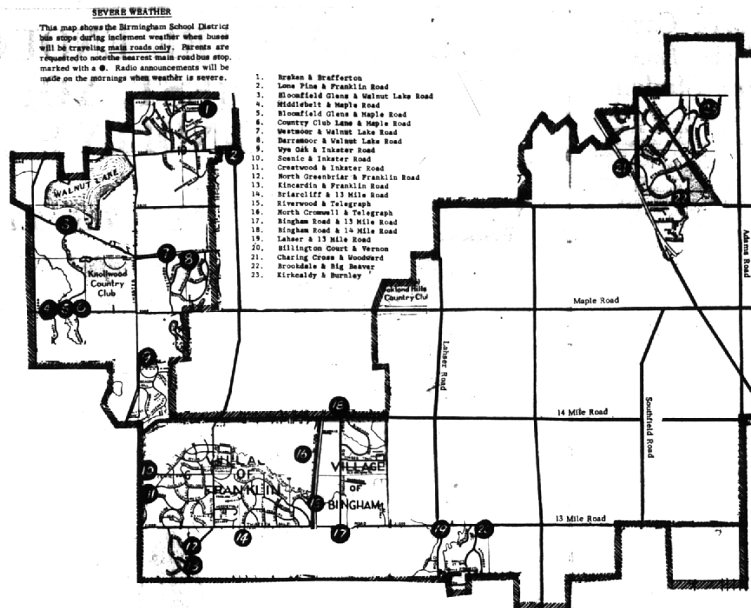
"We will expose students to a wider range of reading in place of the pre-digested text-book, introduce college-level work into the high schools and expect the high school student to learn the techniques of seeking data and opinion in the published record."

"ALSO WE WILL introduce the junior high school student to reference materials and the technique of using bibliographic tools, stimulate elementary school students to read by encouraging them to use home room book collections, and to subscribe to juvenile paper-back clubs, and we will give better grades to children who read unassigned material."

"No doubt we will see a great many improvements in the use of audio-visual materials: films, kinescopes, recordings," said Wagman.

"PROGRAMMED instruction will undoubtedly be employed in the learning of languages, mathematics and how-to-do-it subjects. Elementary school, high school and college buildings may be designed to give each student his own T.V. receiver, tape recorder, teaching machine, and to accommodate his library books," he said.

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B'ham Schools' Bad Weather Bus Routes

The Birmingham public schools' policy during severe weather conditions has been released by Superintendent John B. Smith. Dr. Smith said there are two conditions which affect normal school operation: (1) if buses cannot travel safely on any of the main roads in the morning schools will be dismissed for the day and (2) if buses can travel safely on main roads, but not on secondary roads trucks will be in session at all schools. Pupils' living on

impassable secondary roads are asked to walk to and from main road stops until weather permits buses to resume normal schedules. The map shows the bus routes and stops which are in effect if secondary roads are impassable. Weather conditions are broadcast on radio stations WJR, WPON, WEXL, WCAR, WWJ, WXYZ and CKLW during the morning hours. If a specific building is closed for a day parents will be notified either by radio or by telephone.

INCLUDING TWO THAT DISAPPEAR

11,037 Lakes in Water Wonderland

There are 11,037—or maybe 11,035—lakes in Michigan, according to the Michigan Tourist Council.

The reason for the uncertainty is the mysterious meandering of two lakes in Michigan's Presque Isle county. At varying intervals, the lakes have the uncanny habit of disappearing.

The region, in northeast lower Michigan, abounds in odd phenomena. The only waterfall of any consequence in the lower peninsula, a river that vanishes into the ground, immense sinkholes, and the disappearing lakes make the area an outdoor museum of natural curiosities.

THESE QUIRKS of nature are in a region of attractive wilderness which provides travelers a special bonus in the fall as the rolling hillsides explode with brilliant foliage. Deer, partridge, pheasant and rabbits abound and area streams and lakes offer excellent fishing.

Robert Kelley, Michigan Conservation Department geologist, describing the region says, "It is undelimited by a vast limestone and dolomite layer of great depth. Tunnels, crevasses and underground chambers are created by the action of ground water that is charged with carbon dioxide."

"On occasion, the chambers collapse, creating huge sinkholes. These sinkholes, plugged by sediment and debris, form lakes. The continuing action of the ground water sometimes 'unplugs' a lake and it drains."

AN EAST-WEST LINE of sinkholes, some 200 feet across and 150 feet or more deep, crosses Presque Isle county. Legend has it that a subterranean network of streams stretches all the way from Gaylord in the central part of the state to Lake Huron.

Geologists are skeptical but agree that waters draining from sinkholes in Presque Isle county are emptied into Lake Huron through an underground channel at Misery Bay.

Rainy lake is the larger of the area's two water worlds—the wispy Some 200 acres in size, the lake is large enough to be shown on the Michigan highway maps.

In 1893, 1925 and 1950 the lake was almost completely drained of some 210 million cubic feet of water. Local residents recall other instances of severe drainage in 1931 and 1935. Pictures taken in 1925 show muddy canyons 70 to 100 feet deep.

THE PERAMBULATIONS of the lake apparently do not seriously affect the fish population. Rainy lake, in 1958, produced a 15-pound rainbow trout.

Southwest of Posen is a basin known as "Mystery Valley." A 30- to 50-acre lake usually occupies the valley from early spring to late summer.

The valley is a fascinating place when the waters disappear. A road winds along the top of the slope, and the valley floor is a series of hundred feet long and descends to the valley floor. Rust-brown seaweed is everywhere and each step sends dozens of frogs skittering in every direction.

Trees clustered on the slopes of the valley serve as guinea of the highest marks, for their bark is a discolored gray from submersion. The most prominent feature is a wall of limestone that

looms in an 80-foot high semicircle. This giant funnel and a smaller sink close by are the means by which a lake more than 300 feet deep fills and drains from the valley.

TONY KRAJNIAK, a lifelong resident of the area who presently occupies a farm on the property, recalled with amusement the year that the late owner decided to beautify the floor of the valley with an extensive flower garden. The lake had not appeared the previous year and he felt it was gone for good.

Birney Schedules Holiday Program

The public is invited to attend the annual holiday musical program of Birney Junior high school, Southfield, Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 8 p.m.

The program, "Holiday Collage" will feature 250 students of the chorus, band, and orchestra. As the name suggests, the program will be a mixture of songs from many countries revealing various phases of the holiday season.

There is no admission charge.

Militaryman Makes Korean Retreat

Specialist Four James W. MacDonald, whose wife Diane, lives at 1515 Mansfield, Birmingham, attended a religious retreat at the eighth U. S. Army religious retreat center near Seoul, Korea, recently.

The purpose of the retreat is to provide the soldier with an opportunity to meditate and to discuss religious matters with a chaplain of his faith.

The 35-year-old soldier is a graduate of Birmingham High School.

"SILENT NIGHT" FROM TYROL
Father Joseph Mohr, village priest in the Austrian Tyrol, wrote the poem on which the Christmas hymn, "Silent Night, Holy Night" was based. The year was 1818 and the words came to him in the stillness of a winter night with the Christmas stars shining on the snow. The melody for the hymn was composed by the local church organist, Franz Gruber.

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