

# Lightning Known To Strike Twice In the Same Place

Washington — Contrary to popular belief, lightning frequently strikes twice in the same place.

A lightning bolt is not a single spark, weather scientists say, but a salvo hitting one spot in rapid succession. Furthermore, the bolts favor certain targets year after year. They have hit New York City's Empire State Building hundreds of times. But occupants aren't worried: the steel-ribbed building acts as a giant lightning rod.

Less well protected are the nation's forests where lightning starts about 7,500 fires a year at a cost of more than \$25 million. In addition, some 400 Americans are killed each year by lightning.

## Scientists Seed Clouds

To save lives and property, meteorologists are studying the growth of thunderstorms in the hope that man can some day control lightning. This year scientists will seed clouds with dry ice and silver iodide, record electric currents, and count lightning strokes. Some scientists believe they can now modify the form of a cloud and its electric field, though they aren't sure they can really avert lightning.

Lightning has long struck fear in men's hearts and produced strange superstitions. In the first century A.D., terrified Roman emperor Tiberius wore a laurel wreath during thunderstorms in the belief that lightning never touched the plant.

In medieval times, church bells rang to repel the "malignant demons" of the storm. Many bell-ringers were killed — the high church steeples attracted lightning bolts. But the demonic belief persisted.

## Unemployment Claims Decrease

Salem—UP—The State Department of Employment said Tuesday that last week's initial unemployment claims, totalling 1,044, were at the lowest level since the Korean war. First claims denote periods of new unemployment.

The number of persons reporting a week of unemployment during the week dropped to 7,218—which is 10 per cent below the preceding week and 44 per cent below last year at this time.

The department said the basic reason for the drop was an increase in jobs, but said a contributing cause was the drop-out of persons who have used up all their benefits.

Industries on the uptrend are agriculture, food processing, logging, lumbering, and construction.

## Tiny Baby Now Weighs 'Husky' Six Pounds

A girl, weighing 3 3/4 pounds, born May 17 to Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Moran, 854 East Ninth st., is now described as a normal 6 pounds, 1 ounce baby, according to her mother.

The baby, born prematurely at Rogue Valley hospital, has been named Laura Karen, and is the third child for the Morans. Her two older brothers are Dean, 2 1/2, and Bill, 11 months. Moran is employed by Oregon Veneer company.

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# The Inquiring Mind

This series of articles, on many different subjects, results from work by senior students at the school of Journalism at the University of Oregon. Each is a condensed version of a full-length thesis written as partial requirement for graduation at the school.

## THE ADVANCE OF TELEVISION IN THE CLASSROOM

By Judith Anderson

Whether educational television has a future in the classroom may soon be decided—and very possibly in the negative. Despite the acceptance of television in the classroom as an instructional tool, the problems of finances and programming are serious enough to thwart this progressing medium before it reaches full maturity.

## Griffith Hermit in Psychiatric Ward

Los Angeles — (UP) — Dennis Farrell, the hermit of Griffith Park, was under observation today in the psychiatric ward of General hospital.

The 32-year-old World War II veteran voluntarily left the bush-studded hills of the 4,200-acre city-owned park Tuesday for the first time since turning his back on civilization six years ago.

Bearded and in tattered clothing, Farrell would say only that he wanted to talk to a policeman who had questioned him briefly on a prowler complaint last April but then released him to return to his lonely life.

The North Platte, Neb., man said he lived off wild fruit and picnic leavings in the park during his long stay there. He was committed Tuesday for 72 hours to determine his mental competency.

## Beaverton Hunters Kill Large Bear

Beaverton—UP—A seven-foot bear that scared two housewives Monday was tracked down and killed Tuesday by a hastily-assembled group of hunters that shot the animal on a farm near here.

The bear, which weighed 245 pounds, was killed on the Harold Lehman farm one mile off the Sunset highway. Seven bloodhounds were used in the hunt.

A volley of seven shots by A. M. James and Chet Everest stopped the big bruin.

Glacier national park has more than 250 lakes.

The solutions to these problems are not easy to find, as more than 100 experiments have shown. But most educators and students alike feel that the success of educational television in the classroom is worth their greatest efforts.

Just eight years ago educators from all parts of the United States witnessed the establishment of the first educational television channel at Iowa State college. Soon petitions from educational institutions for similar non-commercial television channels were heard by the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC answered the requests in 1952 by setting aside 242 channels solely for educational purposes.

Since 1952 over 100 experiments with televised courses for credit have indicated very definitely that television can be a boon to education. As everyone knows, schools are becoming more and more crowded, and more and more teachers are needed. The demand will soon be critical at the college level.

Beside the steady increase in the number of students, there has been a demand for an uplift in the quality of education. Students, as well as their parents, demand the most educated teachers and the most diversified and expensive audio and visual aids. Television has brought to the classroom instruction enriched as never before with outstanding professors and illustrated lectures. Where it would be impossible for individual schools to obtain rare pieces of art and live presentations of fine drama, television has succeeded in presenting such visual experiences to thousands of students at the same time.

Minimizes Shortages  
Television has also offered an invaluable means of minimizing the problem of teacher shortages. With television the same lesson can be given to thousands of students at one time. On the university level, where much teaching is straight lecture, this can mean great savings both in dollars and personnel, as has been shown in many experiments with television in the classroom.

Despite the great advantages of educational television in many respects, some students

and educators question its effectiveness as a teaching medium and its acceptability in the classroom. Can students really learn anything from television? The answer is echoed again and again in the results of experiments with the medium: yes, students learn as much from television classes as from regular classroom instruction.

An experiment at Pennsylvania State university with 225 chemistry students, some taught by traditional classroom methods and some by television, showed no important differences in achievement. At Chicago Junior college, the numerical final grades of television students were about 10 per cent higher than those of non-television students.

## Psychological Effect

There still remains the question of the psychological effect of televised instruction on the student as well as the teacher. Generally students have admitted that a televised course requires more concentration because the instructor is not in the classroom to watch them. Some feel that they are being deprived of close contact with, and individual attention from, the teacher.

Many faculty members at once feared television because it threatened the teaching positions of the less talented. Some suspected that they would be demoted to the role of classroom monitors if their personalities were not adaptable to television, as shown in several surveys of faculty members. Teachers also felt the lack of class response when instructing over television. In several surveys instructors voiced the need for class discussion and individual instruction.

The doubts of instructors and students have been gradually eased as television experiments have been completed. College teachers have found that television is most effective when used only as a supplement to classroom instruction. There is little possibility that television will ever replace the teacher. Students will have their classroom in-

struction and discussion periods. And teachers will still hold their own as leaders in the classroom.

## Finance Problem

There remains a basic problem which cannot be overlooked, that of paying for this new means of instruction. From the very beginning the Fund for the Advancement of Education, supported by the Ford Foundation, has demonstrated its whole-hearted support—over \$23 million worth—to the establishment of educational television in the schools.

The federal and state governments have been extremely cautious about allocating

funds for educational television, doubting that educational television would last long. As television experiments have proven successful, however, state governments have slowly added to the supporting funds.

Directors of the Fund have recently announced that they will soon withdraw their support of educational television experiments now that their purpose of getting educational television on its feet has been fulfilled. If television is to continue as a means of instruction some permanent means of support will have to be developed.

(To be Concluded)

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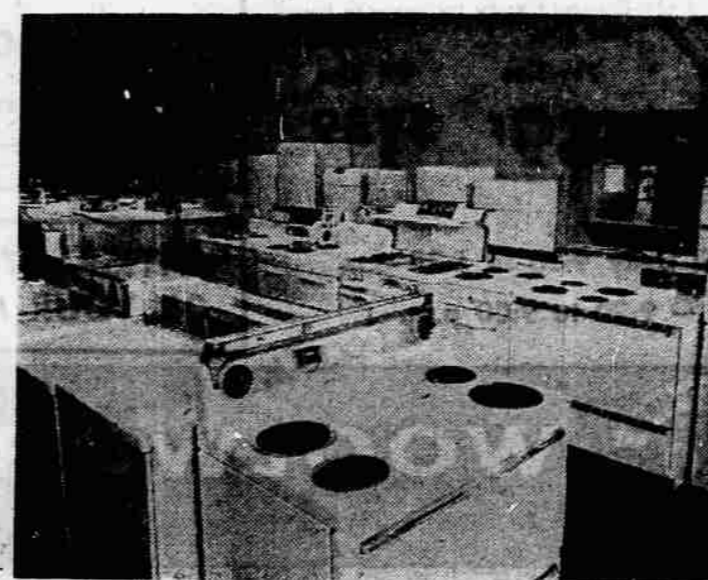
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