



ITV is a promising tool today for promoting pupil learning and teacher preparation and keeps the College a forerunner.

A 100 FOR THE TEACHER

First state university to have a department for instructing teachers.

First division of the University to receive a special appropriation from the state.

First university in America to establish a chair in education, a Chair of Theory and Practice of Teaching.

One of the first model schools in the country and still one of the most famous.

And first today in granting more degrees than any other division of the University.

One hundred years ago this tradition of firsts and excellence began at the University of Missouri when the Normal College was founded. This month marks the beginning of the centennial observance for the College of Education.

Teacher training existed before 1868, but in a minimal way. President Lathrop had said that a state university should be the "School of the School-Master," and in 1849 an act by the Missouri General Assembly required each

The Model School was a revolutionary trend in education. Here "The children are busy with their plants, full of enthusiasm that drives



county court to select "one boy to every representative, who upon entering the University should sign a pledge to teach at least two years in the schools of the state."

But the Civil War interrupted this educational progress, and it wasn't until 1865 that it resumed. Then a new state constitution prescribed that there should be established and maintained in the state university a department of instruction in teaching. The 1872 University catalog explained, "The Normal Col-

lege, like a Law College, is a professional school. Its distinct design is to prepare teachers for their peculiar vocation . . . the only hope of improving our schools is by improving our teachers."

The connection of a normal college with a university made Missouri a forerunner. As a part of the entire University, the college for training teachers was able to offer the advantages of libraries, honor societies, course variety and campus activities not usually found in a

sons home. They show why the graduates of the School of Education are so sought after," reports a 1912 bulletin.



school isolated from other disciplines.

"Its emergence marked a real change in administrative direction in the progress of education," Dr. Ralph C. Bedell, chairman of the College's centennial committee and professor of education, says. "The country and state were demanding better qualified teachers. The people of Missouri felt it important enough to provide this at public expense."

The beginning of the Normal College was less than auspicious, however. Its scheduled

opening in September 1867 was prevented when M. F. Phelps of Minnesota, elected its first head at \$2500, declined the appointment. And it wasn't until some months later that the first actual principal, E. L. Ripley, arrived from Michigan.

At the very core of the teacher training program was the "Model School," which offered the opportunity of letting students practice teach. Today, known as the Laboratory School, it is still one of the most famous in the country.

Noted for experimental educational programs well in advance of other school administrations and a laboratory for research, the school has had observers from all over the world.

Lacking facilities, the first Model School was begun in an old English building that had been used as President Lathrop's residence for two years after his home burned in 1864. But when the school opened, there were more children than could be accommodated. Two daily sessions were held; one for the intermediate and grammar grades, commencing at eight and closing at noon, the other for the primary grades and high school, commencing at one and closing at five.

By the school year of 1868-69 the College of Normal Instruction led the University's enrollment with 54 students. And in 1869, four students completed the prescribed courses and were awarded the degree of Normal Graduate, soon shortened by college slang to the N. G. degree.

Women had taught in the University previously. Both Ripley's wife and President Read's daughter were assistants under Ripley. But in 1879 it was a woman who took over as acting dean of the Normal faculty. As dean from 1880 to 1883, Miss Grace C. Bibb (later Mrs. T. K. Sudborough) is believed to be the

only woman to have held that title in the history of the University.

The department of Normal Instruction underwent serious difficulties after Miss Bibb left, and the Model School was, in effect, abolished. The work of the Normal College gradually drifted to a departmental responsibility. For the next eight years the direction of the teacher training work was under the Department of English. In a "Brief Historical Sketch of the School of Education," printed in 1928, the difficult years are recalled where there was no normal faculty as such, no model school, no training school, no observation of work in any public school, "and only by the greatest stretch of the imagination could this professional work be looked on as helpful training for future teachers and school administrators."

Again the people of the state played a part. "Apparently not satisfied with the type of teacher-training work which was being done in the University, a strong demand was made for improvement." To meet the demand, the University in 1891, elected J. P. Blanton dean of the Normal Department and professor of theory and practice teaching. Although the model school was not re-established immediately, students were allowed to observe work in the Columbia public schools.



"A pile of bad lumber shivered itself into a severe looking building at the north of the campus, where South Seventh Street opens on to Elm. It was 'The Normal,'" reports the University Missourian. Previously classes were being held in two rooms set aside in the University Edifice.

In the spring of 1904 the Normal Department became a Teacher's College, in great part because President Jesse had felt the college was not "a mere annex to the academic department in the form of a few courses on theory and practice teaching. It is a professional college for the training of teachers coordinate in rank with the Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, Law, and Medicine."

The degree of bachelor of science in education was now conferred upon those who completed the requirements of the four-year course. Graduate work in education also was given a great impetus. The first masters degree was granted in 1905.

Back on its feet, teacher training could now thrust forward. There was scarcely a phase of school work in which the Teachers College did not afford opportunity for specialization. Enrollment increased from 96 in 1903 to 338 in 1907. And the model school was reinstated.

Divided into two laboratories — one for high school and the other for elementary school — it was said that the University High School was "perhaps the most efficiently organized practice school of secondary grade in the country."

These were the years that the school felt the importance of a man named Junius Lathrop Meriam. Exponent of the project method of teaching, Meriam gave a child the chance to develop likes and interests on his own. This experimental research brought visitors from all over the world. "A child undertakes some learning task like discovering how rabbits grow or giving his own version of Louis Pasteur. It is a child-centered curriculum, where the child learns in terms of what he can use and do," explains Dr. Bedell.

Developed along the same lines as Meriam's research is the present senior independent study program in the College. Dr. Bob G. Woods, present dean, says: "This is probably our most unusual program today. The seniors are almost 100 per cent on their own except for music and physical education courses. They proceed at their own pace, advised by counselors." This program has just been begun this year in the sophomore and junior classes in social studies and English courses. It also al-

lows for experimentation of teaching machines, tape recorders and other new equipment.

Dean Woods also talks enthusiastically about their ITV hook up and the inventory of 60 tapes. Video tapes are being made to show various techniques that arise in teaching. The student teachers view them and then critique them. "In the lab school we are able to record a student teacher's performance which then can later be analyzed by the student and his advisor."

The College today is strong in research. There is emphasis on graduate programs. While in 1916 there was one Ph.D. granted, this past year 43 were given. Bachelors degrees numbered 691 and master's, 458.

The College of Education has the only organized study-abroad program in the University and one of the few in the country devoted to the study of comparative education. It was begun in 1961 in co-ordination with the University of Reading in England.

Dean Woods lists other strengths in the areas of industrial education, guidance and counseling, school administration and teaching of reading.

But strong tradition and reputable standing do not mean the College of Education is standing still. "This centennial year will not be spent in celebration alone," Dr. Bedell says. "We feel the purpose of the observance is to plan and implement changes in professional education necessary to meet the needs of the second century of this college."

The year-long program is three-fold. First is the organization of an alumni association of the College of Education. Next May, Education Day will be the largest gathering of education alumni ever held. Second, the college is establishing in their library a fully catalogued collection of historical educational documents to be made available for study, research and display. Third, there will be a series of outstanding lecturers on the significance of the first 100 years of the College, present problems in professional preparation of teachers, and anticipations of the second century.

And again, the people of the state and graduates from all over the world, will have their voice in planning the next 100 years of education on the Columbia campus. □