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MSU Radio-TV Studios to set up trailer with Transcontinent Communications Systems, Inc. equipment

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

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A big red trailerhouse will enable Montana State University students to see what goes on in the 1962 model of the little red schoolhouse when a novel experiment in educational television is launched by the University winter quarter, according to Dr. Erling S. Jorgensen, director of the MSU Radio-TV Studios.

The trailer containing $15,000 worth of equipment has been loaned to MSU for the school year by Transcontinent Communication Systems, Inc., Beverly Hills, Calif., parent company of Missoula TV Cable Co. The 28-foot trailer houses a studio and control room with lighting and audio equipment, two cameras and a film chain that provides facilities for projection of slides and other film materials.

Visual and audio signals will be picked up in public-school classrooms by the mobile unit and transmitted by closed circuit to the campus, Dr. Jorgensen explained. The Missoula TV Cable Co. is providing the hook-up. Journalism students majoring in radio and television will operate the TV controls. Dr. George H. Millis, associate professor of education, will be in charge of the educational use of the facility.

Students in Dr. Millis' course, "The Elementary School Child," will be able to watch teachers and pupils in actual classroom situations without leaving the campus. Instead of personally visiting classes in Missoula schools, MSU students will all observe the same class in action on the TV screen. All members of the MSU class will then be able to discuss their common experience on equal terms.

Dr. Jorgensen noted that Archer S. Taylor, director of electronic equipment maintenance at MSU, was instrumental in obtaining the loan of the trailer. He said the University is grateful to Transcontinent executive vice president Lee Papernow, who came to Missoula to arrange the loan, and to Leland Hallett, general manager of Missoula TV Cable Co.

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Montana State University, Missoula