

# Oklahoma Educator

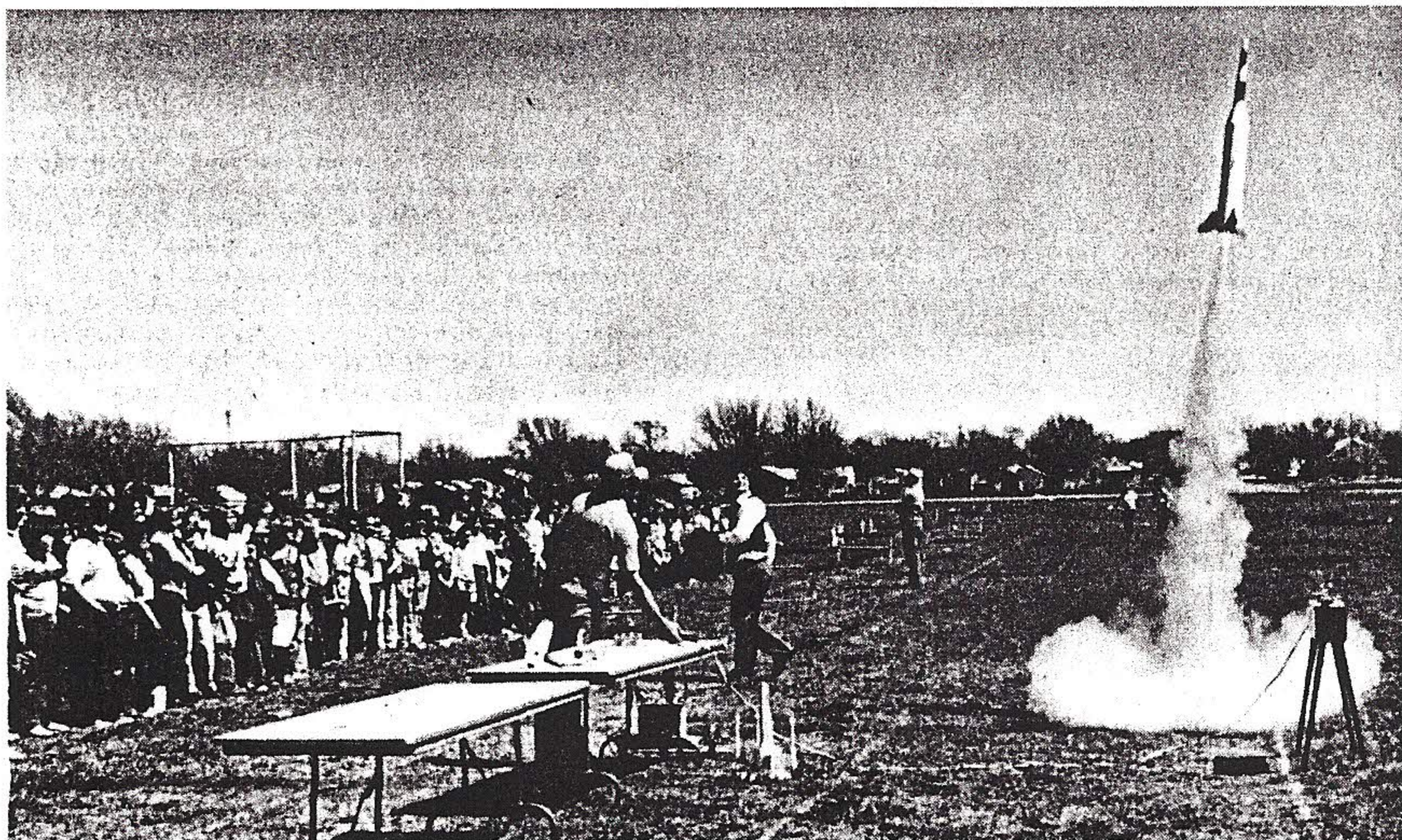


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Leslie Fisher, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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## Gifted And Talented Students Enjoy Science Day At Lindsay

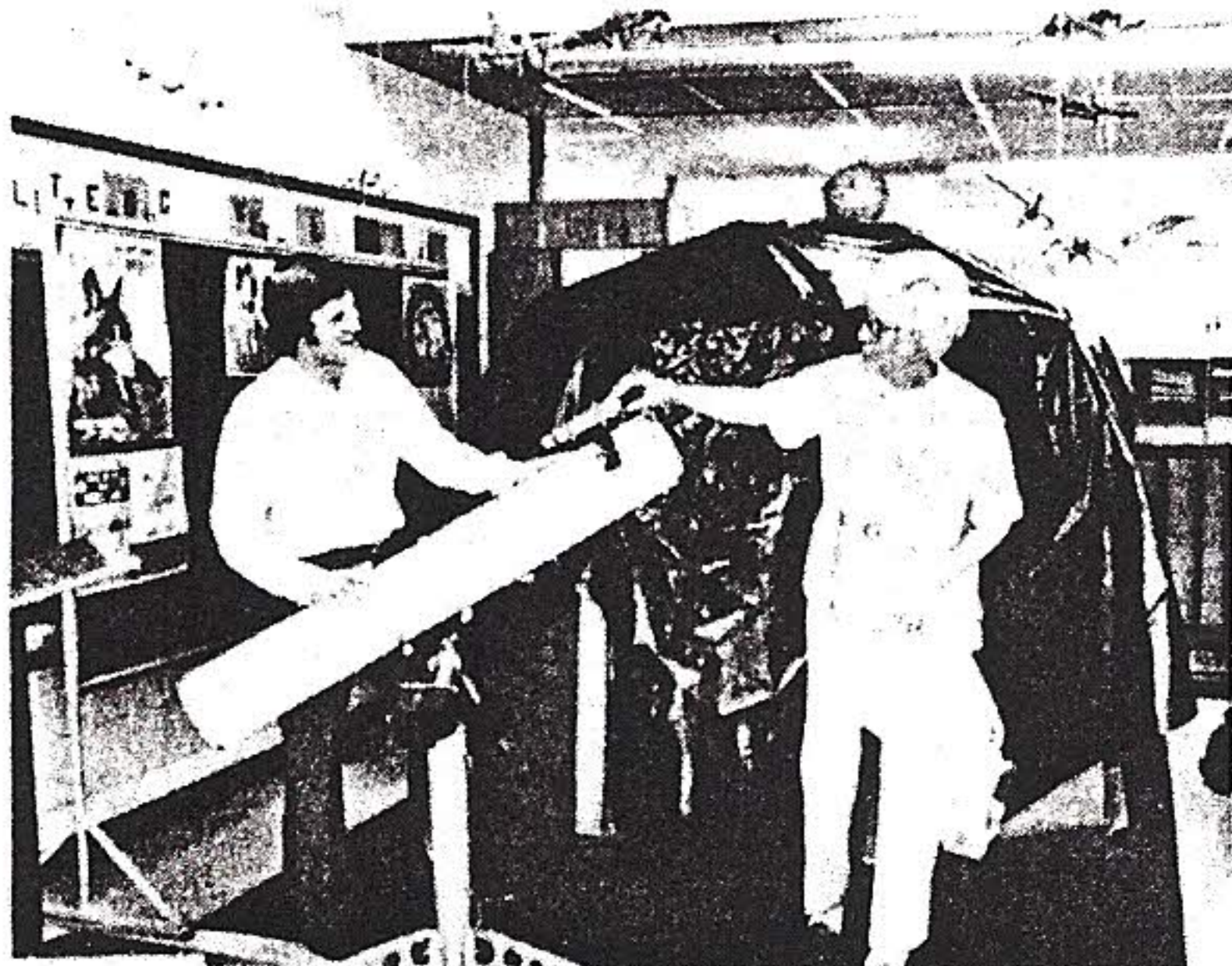


LARRY LAWRENCE launches one of several rockets during a rocket demonstration.

By BONNIE MC DONALD - CAUSEY

Science is an intriguing subject for many, and gifted and talented students attending the one-day SPACE (Special People and Class Enrichment) Program at Lindsay were no exception.

The Lindsay Elementary Enrichment Program sponsored the day's activities which included an impressive list of science-related agencies. Programs were presented by Paul Frank, Purcell, Astronomy; Danny Overdeer and Mel Deering, Oklahoma State University, Energy Awareness; Carol Suttles, Bell Telephone Company, Solid State Connection; Sherman Kent, Omniplex, Health; John Donaldson, NASA, Aerospace; and Larry Lawrence, Coweta Middle School, Rocket Demonstration.



MIKE KING and Barbara Lackey coordinated SPACE Day.

More than 190 students, primarily from grades three through six, registered for the program. The eight area schools represented were Purcell, Whitebead, Ada, Washington, Wanette, Adventures, Cross Academy and Lindsay.

Solar cells, air and sound waves, light waves, laser beams, types of energy available, energy conservation and how students can help conserve energy were among the many and varied aspects of science discussed. During and at the end of the programs, students were invited to ask questions and interact with the presenters.

The youngsters were given an opportunity to experiment with liquid crystal thermometers, reaction time, measuring body proportions and exploring for heartbeats with stethoscopes.

Programs on NASA and astronomy were conducted, and students were taken out of the classrooms to view the launchings of several small rockets.

Coordinators for the program were Barbara Lackey, who also heads the Lindsay enrichment program, and Mike King, an elementary teacher and the science teacher for the program.

Plans were begun last November to determine other schools' interest in such a program and to schedule speakers. The theme SPACE was chosen because it coincided with the areas in science that had been stressed in the Lindsay gifted and talented program throughout the past year.

SPACE Day was only one aspect of the two-year-old Lindsay program, which has an enrollment of 32 elementary students.

The program has stressed science and math concepts, as well as self-concept, according to Lackey. The subject areas stressed were selected as a result of evaluations from students, parents and teachers at the end of the first year of the program.

Students meet in a room called the enrichment lab. The lab houses a variety of teaching tools, including a planetarium built by the two teachers. The most expensive part of the cardboard-walled planetarium is a projector which pinpoints various planets and stars on the domed ceiling. One of the more expensive purchases for the lab was a telescope.

Students do not spend all their time in the lab. An archeological field trip and visits to Omniplex, an airpark and various other places have been provided.

Students had to meet four requirements - IQ, achievement tests, grades and be in the top 10 percent of their class - to be admitted to the enrichment program. Some students meeting only three of the four requirements were allowed to participate after further testing. Lackey talked with the students and then their parents, individually, before placing the youngsters in the program.

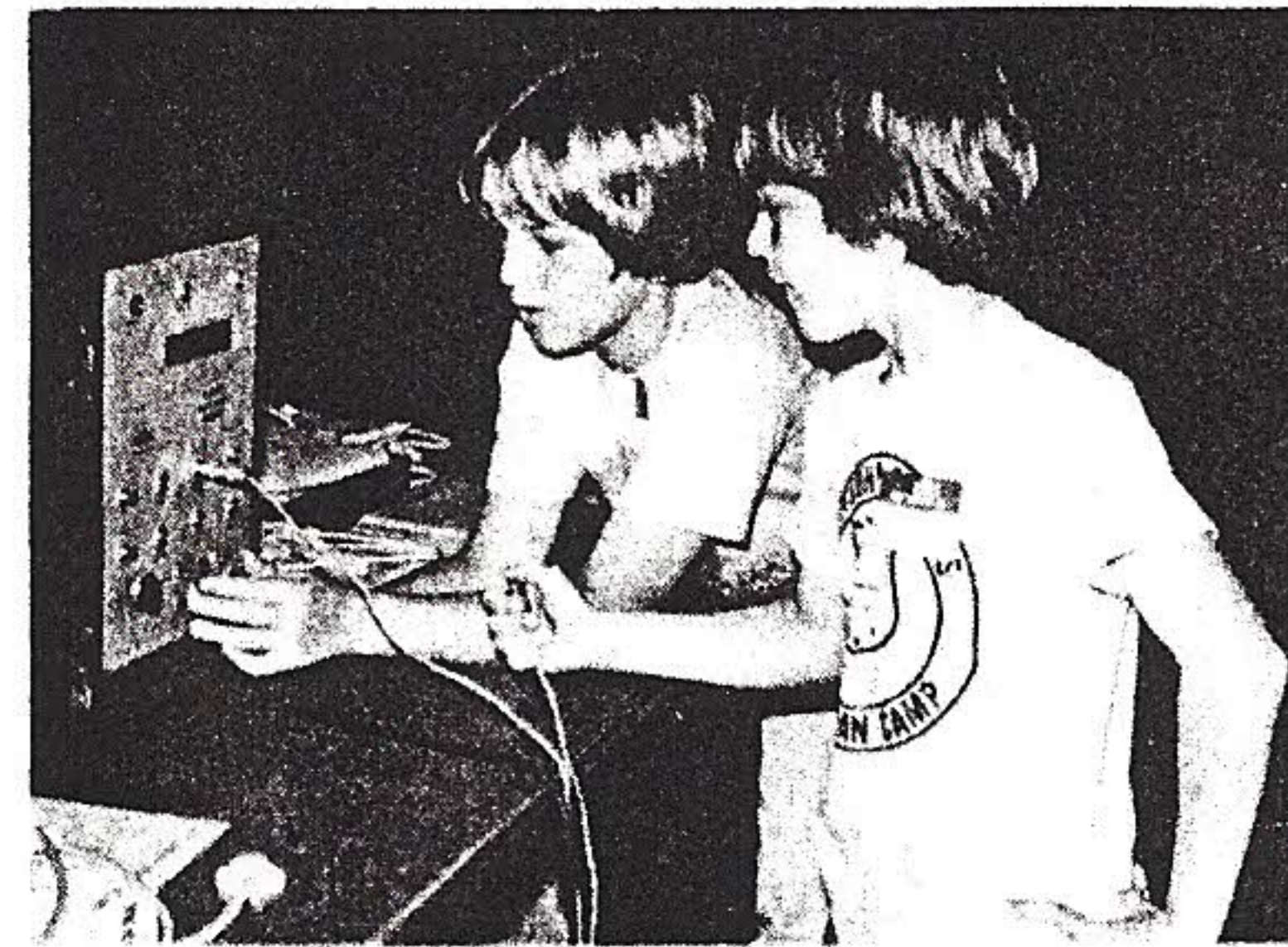
"The parents have been just great. A good number of them attend monthly meetings," the coordinator said. The meeting time was changed from afternoon to evening after working parents expressed an interest in attending. Parents who assisted with SPACE Day included not only mothers, but fathers as well.

The students seem to be very enthusiastic about the program, Lackey said. "We have our own Magic Circle, where they can express ideas and talk about anything they want, and they have shown they can keep a confidence. The students feel free to express themselves.

"We all sit on the floor in a circle for our talks. I join the circle with the students. I like to be on the same level as the students so they aren't intimidated. We do a lot of thinking in here."

Lackey keeps activities flexible. "Plans for the day are easily changed. You have to feel the mood of the kids and flow with it."

The coordinator has observed changed attitudes in many of the students and she has seen improvement. "One way I can see improvement is that those who were in the program last year can express themselves better than those who are new to the program this year."



STUDENTS TEST their reaction times with an automatic performance analyzer.

Each of the 32 students is in the class one hour, four days a week. Lackey also works with a few second graders.

Parents, community and faculty all play an important part in the program. "We work closely with the faculty. The music teacher gave lessons, on her own time, to a student whose parents couldn't afford lessons, and she practices on the school's piano during lunch." A similar case happened with the art teacher.

The total cost of the Lindsay program to date has been approximately \$16,000, according to Guy Robberson, superintendent.

"Regardless of what some people say, these are special children and they have special needs," Lackey said. "In meeting those needs, we work with the total child. Elitism was one concern for many of the children's parents, but so far this hasn't been a problem."

Evaluations will be made at the end of the year to aid in determining the program's direction, and plans are already being discussed for future "special" days for the gifted and talented students.