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World's first Telidon field trial begins in Toronto

The world's first field trial of Telidon, Canada's new videotex TV technology, began January 31, in Toronto.

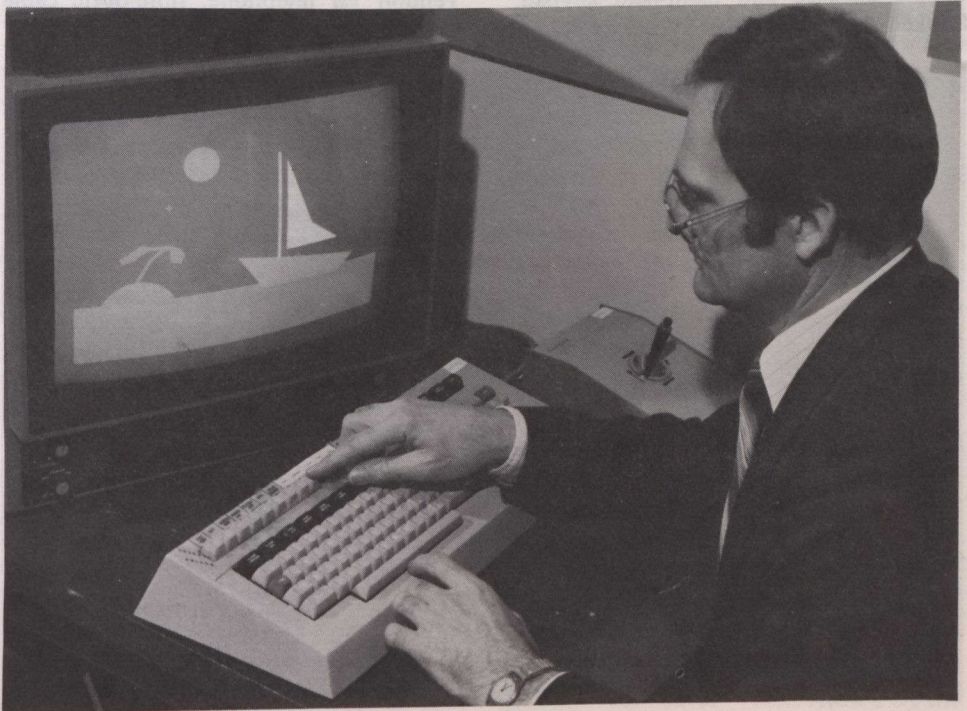
The federal Department of Communications (DOC) and the Ontario Educational Communications Authority (OECA) announced the launching of a one-year trial program encompassing both technological field tests and development and exploration of potential educational applications of broadcast and interactive Telidon. Under the program, 55 user terminals supplied by DOC will be installed this spring throughout Ontario, mostly in schools, community colleges, universities, libraries and a few private homes.

Thirty-five "pages" of Telidon text and graphics are now being experimentally broadcast in a continuous cycle by TVOntario, OECA's educational television network. (The coded information is contained in an unused portion of the TV signal that appears as a horizontal

black line, just outside the normal picture.) First public demonstrations of this one-way, broadcast Telidon distribution were made at the recent two-day 1980 television conference of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, in Toronto. No phone lines or cable connections are required. The information is broadcast over the air in a continuous cycle. Users, working from an included "menu" page, simply key in the numbers of desired pages and wait a few seconds for them to be re-broadcast and displayed on their screens.

This field trial of broadcast Telidon will run in parallel with OECA evaluations of the service in its better-known interactive mode. All 55 terminals in the DOC-TVOntario trial will be capable of both "grabbing" pages from the repeated broadcast file and ordering up others from a computer by telephone line.

Potential educational applications to



The Telidon system will allow a user to retrieve a potentially unlimited number of pages of information with a small electronics package hooked to a TV set.

Fifty-eight years ago this week...

Dr. Frederick Banting and Charles Best announced their discovery of insulin, in Toronto.