

New center home for three agencies

By Marella Synovec

The Barkley Memorial Center, a \$1.3 million building that opened this summer on East Campus, brings together three agencies from UNL colleges and helps train students and teachers to help children and adults with speech, hearing and learning handicaps.

The three agencies located in the center are:

-The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology of the College of Arts and Sciences. This department was formerly in Temple Bldg. on City Campus.

-The Division of Special Education, within the Department of Educational Psychology and Measurements in Teacher's College.

-The Specialized Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, within the Department of Educational Administration in Teacher's College.

Barkley Memorial Fund

The center was built with money from the William E. Barkley estate. The Barkley Memorial Fund gives UNL annual funding, which began in 1970. The gift generally has been used to develop programs to help persons with speech, hearing, learning and other handicaps, said Robert Stepp Jr., center director.

Stepp said the Barkleys were active in service programs in Lincoln and helped establish agencies such as the Goodwill Industries and the Lincoln General Hospital.

The Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology trains its students in methods of speech and hearing therapy.

Special education prepares teachers to work with students who have specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, mental retardation, or speech, hearing or other handicaps.

Stepp said the special education division is starting a program to train resource people to assist teachers working with special teaching programs.

The specialized office for the deaf and hard of hearing searches for materials for teaching the deaf. Stepp, who also is director of this office, said the office reviews more than 5,000 materials from 1,700 publishers a year.

The office also modifies career education materials so they can be used by the deaf and hard of hearing, and helps handicapped and hearing-impaired students select a vocation.

'One of the best'

The 33,000-square-foot center is equipped with a specialized resource center and a speech and audiology clinic that Stepp said qualifies as "one of the best university clinics in the country."

An instructional media center has booklets, magazines, guides and games for teachers to use with students. This media center, Stepp said, is a cooperative center with the special education section of the State Department of

Education, the Area Learning Resource Center of Des Moines, and the Barkley Memorial Center.

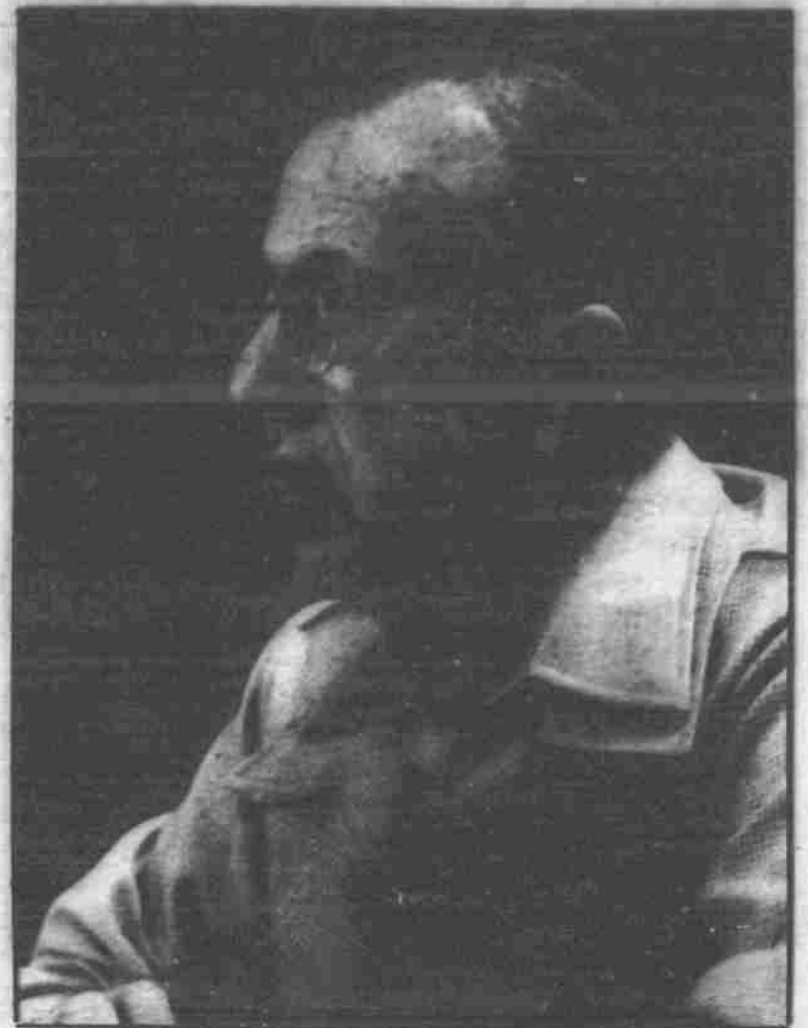
Stepp said a media center of this type, which includes more than 500 educational games, is not common to many schools.

According to Candy Shaw, coordinator of the speech and hearing clinic, the clinic serves two main functions. First, it gives students in speech pathology and audiology practicum experience. In addition, it provides evaluation and therapy for clients with speech, hearing and learning disabilities.

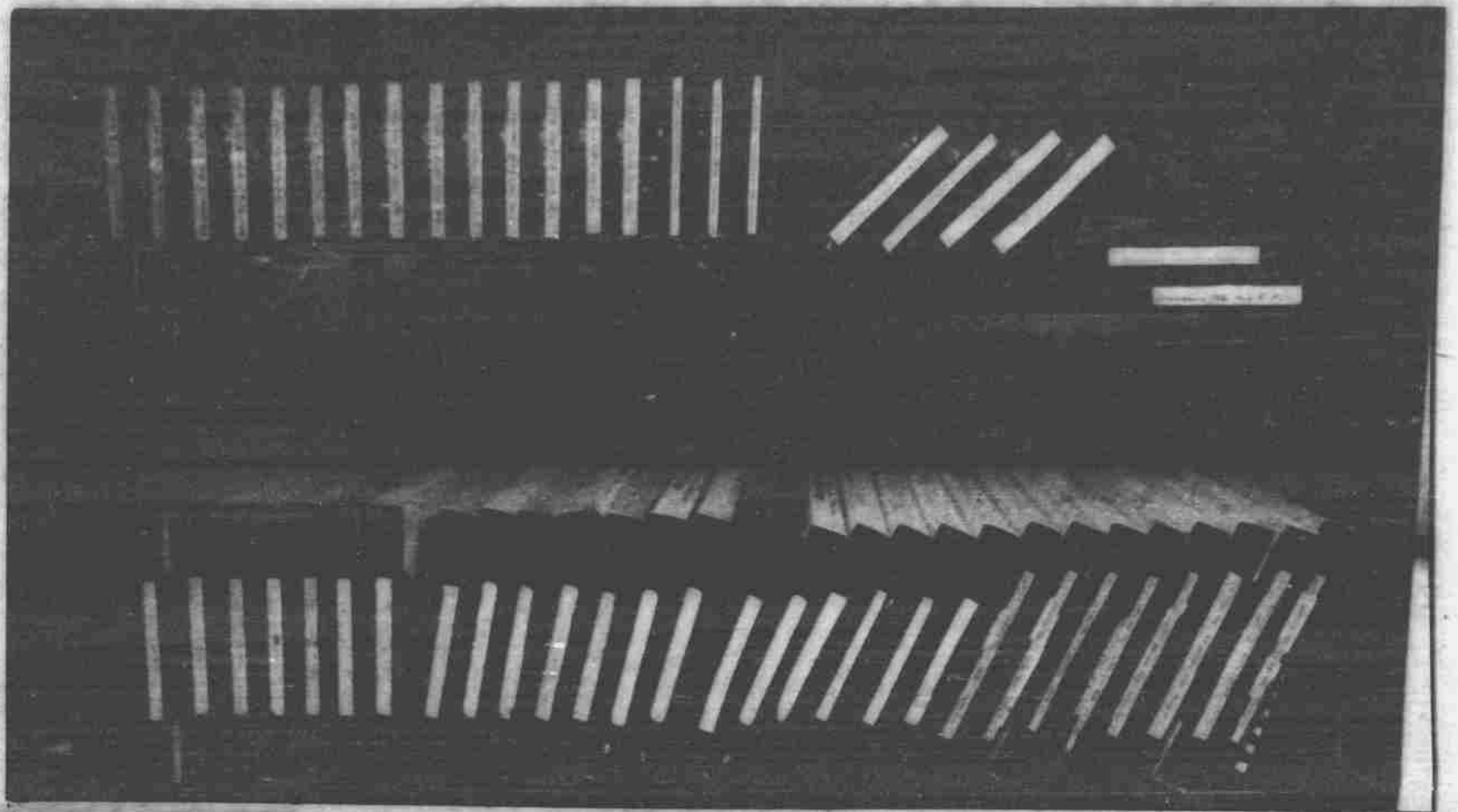
Shaw said the clinic has both on and off campus client programs. About 40 graduate students and 80 junior and senior undergraduate students do practicum work in the center under professional supervision.

The clinic conducts hearing diagnosis, individual and group diagnosis and therapy sessions, learning disability programs, hearing aid evaluations and referrals, and outpatient evaluations.

Robert Stepp, Jr., Barkley Center Director (right). Taped lessons are used in the speech and audiology clinic (below).



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