

Virtual classroom visits California museum

RHS students travel across country without leaving seats

By Maisie Ann Loesser
Staff Writer

ROSCOMMON — Students in Jim Perialas' marketing and sales class at Roscommon High School recently visited the Beverly Hills California Museum of Television and Radio.

They did this with the help of COOR Intermediate School District Education Director Teri Dougherty acting as a virtual travel agent.

Without ever leaving their classroom, the students were able to visit the museum via the Internet and talk with Sidney Perlman, education director of the Beverly Hills museum.

Perlman asked the students questions and gave them a tour of many of the things the students would have seen if they'd actually stepped through the museum doors.

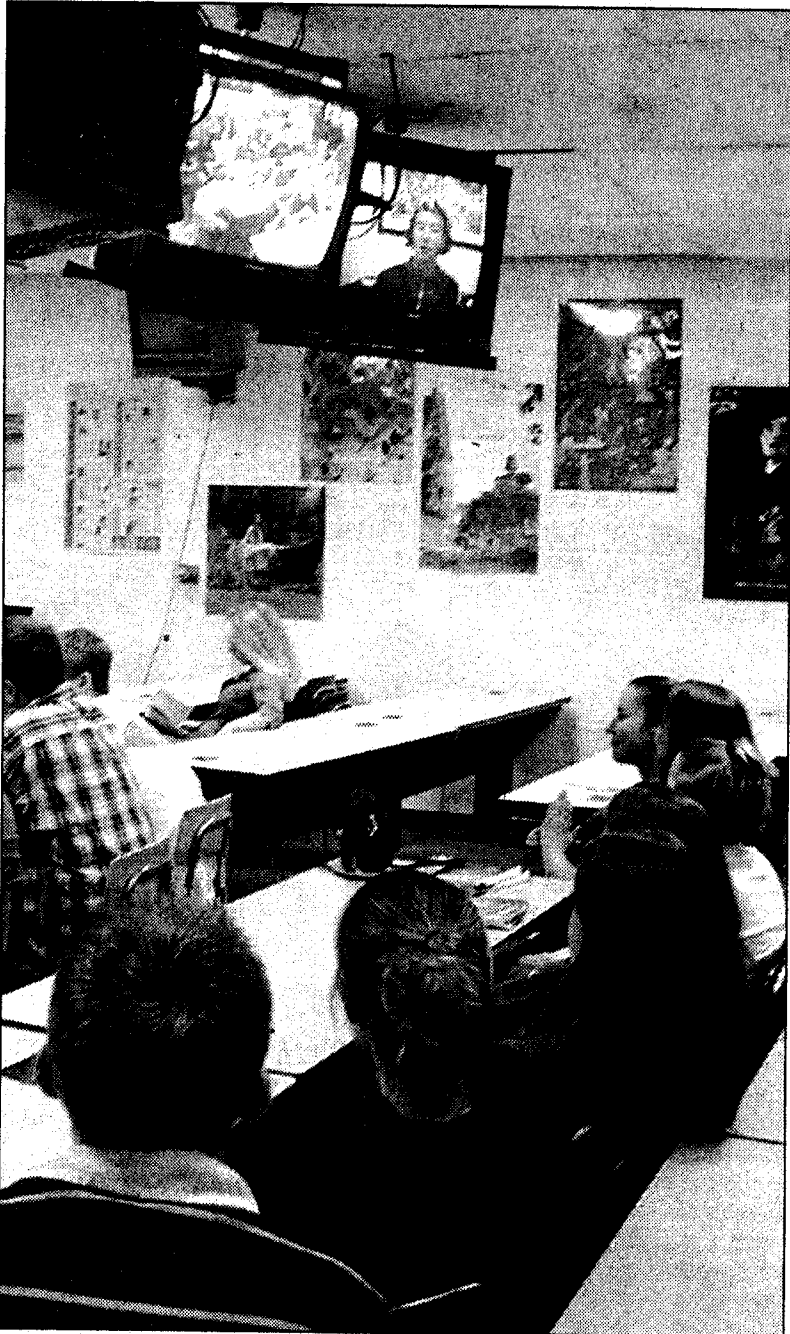
Although the field trip was a virtual one the students were able to learn more by seeing things first hand than they may have by book or any other means other than actually going there.

"It's the next best thing to being there," Dougherty said. "They can explore other countries, speak to people in other languages and it's all interactive."

According to Perialas there are more than 380 field trips available to students.

"This is probably the only one my class can use that applies to the marketing and sales," Perialas said. "It was a good experience.

"The students thought it was great, though it was difficult to



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Roscommon High School students recently participated in a "virtual classroom" exercise which took them to California via the Internet.

deal with the one-second delay in the transmission."

The program is also being used in other schools in the state, such

as Alpena, Alcona and Atlanta.

"Atlanta third graders went to the San Diego Zoo," Dougherty said. "It's a great learning tool."