

## **FOIISN filmmaker will be "Artist in the School"**



**Filmmaker and journalist Marian Marzynski will be at Glenns Ferry School for a month, starting Jan. 18.**

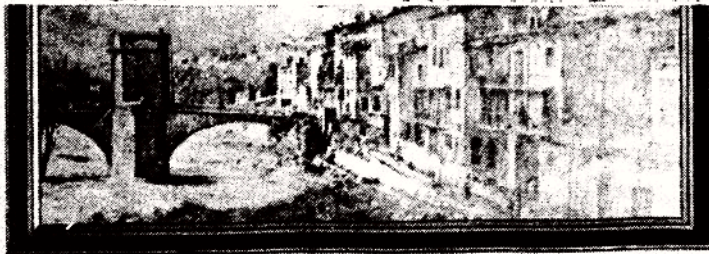
Glenns Ferry has been awarded its second grant by the Idaho Commission on the Arts to participate in the Artist in Schools Program. This program, sponsored by Xi Alpha Alpha Sorority and School District #192, will make it possible to have an outstanding artist in our school and community from January 18 to February 19, 1982. Mr. Marcus Marzynski is an outstanding professional in the art area of film video. He is presently a professor of Media Comm. at Governors State University, Park Forest, Ill. He has taught at the elementary and high school levels as well as college students. Mr. Marzynski was born and educated in Poland and came to America in 1972 after many years of successful work in film and television in Poland. During his career he has directed more than 40 films and was awarded the best producer/director of the Polish Golden Screen Award in 1967. The school is looking forward to an outstanding experience with Mr. Marzynski. Everyone in the community is encouraged to become involved in this program.

# FERRY PILOT

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FERRY, IDAHO 83623

APRIL 1, 1982



**Bitsy Bidwell, consultant for the Idaho Commission on the Arts, meets with filmmaker Marian Marzynski (2nd from left), Ronald McDonald, Marzynski's assistant, and Matthew Marzynski. Marzynski is the guest "Artist in**

**the School" this week and will shoot a lot of film in Glens Ferry with the help of graduate students from Illinois and students at Glens Ferry School.**

# Filmmaker to produce documentary in glenns ferry

The Artist in the School visit of Polish filmmaker Marian Marzynski has been postponed. His visit was originally scheduled for January, but circumstances have necessitated rescheduling in March.

Marzynski, a professor of media communications at Governors State University, Illinois, is an independent film producer. He was born in Warsaw 2½ years before the Germans invaded Poland. As a Jew he was condemned to death by the Nazis, but his life was saved by "heroic men and women of Warsaw."

He left Poland in 1969, along with many other Polish Jews, in protest to the anti-semitic campaign kindled by the Communist Party. In Poland, in the 60's, he worked as a reporter and national radio news anchorman and as a television host

and producer. In the spring of 1981 Marzynski was allowed to re-enter Poland, where he made a film entitled "Return to Poland", a chronicle of that homecoming. Return to Poland was aired in the United States last November 1 over the Public Broadcasting System.

Marzynski now plans to be in Glenns Ferry, along with several graduate students who will assist him, for about a week and one-half in March. While here he intends to shoot a documentary film with the theme Rural Life in America. Along with the full length documentary there will be separate segments shot as teaching aides for schools, businesses, etc. When the film has been completed, he will bring it back for showings in Glenns Ferry.

## "Family Portrait" of Glenns Ferry

This week is an exciting week for the students and teachers of the Glenns Ferry School system. They are helping a film producer to put together a documentary on a week in the life of Glenns Ferry.

Marian Marzynski, a former reporter, national radio news anchorman, and television host and producer in his native Poland, is the guest Artist in the School in Glenns Ferry this week. He has continued his filmmaking since leaving Poland in 1969, when he and hundreds of others left that country in protest of an anti-semitic campaign instigated by the government. He is presently professor of media communications at Governors State University in Illinois. He is accompanied by a group of graduate students from his class who will assist in the Glenns Ferry documentary.

School students have been active in recent weeks gathering basic research material in Glenns Ferry for Marzynski. Their suggestions form the basis of what vignettes the film crews will shoot. A novel "feedback" system is also involved. The crews are using video tape recorders. They can film any number of short scenes and, the same day, play them back to the students. The students can then make comments

be done.

Marzynski said, "It is an interesting subject for a filmmaker. In a town of this size you can almost film everybody. It's like a family portrait."

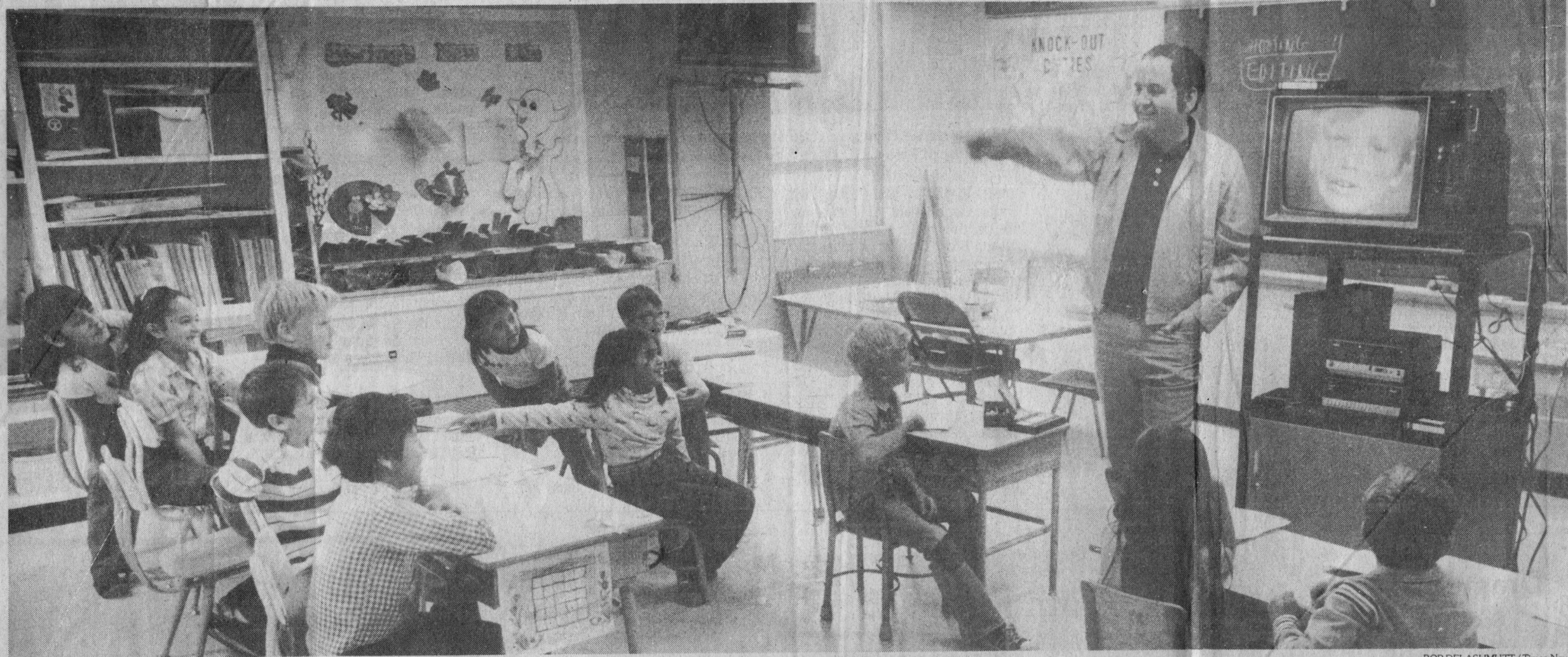
Marzynski arrived in Glenns Ferry last Sunday, and will depart next Sunday. The many rolls of video tape that have been used during the week will be edited into a one hour TV documentary. A copy of this, along with copies of the unused portions of the tapes will be presented to the school.

"This will give the children a different way in which to see their world," said Bitsy Bidwell, consultant for the Artist in the School program sponsored by the Idaho Commission on the Arts. She said that while we have five senses with which to work, our present educational system is basically oral. She believes that bringing various artists into the school program, whether filmmakers, pottery makers, or whatever, will increase students' awareness and promote creative thinking.

Marzynski's son Matthew is also in Glenns Ferry this week. He's a student at Monee, Ill. High School and is a member of a photography club. While here he is also taking pictures, sort of a

# Friday Special

Friday, May 28, 1982



BOB DELASHMUTT / Times News

Filmmaker Marian Marzynski points to the subject of a scene while showing his film to a class of Glens Ferry students

# . . . But school plans to censor some sensitive scenes

By GLEN WARCHOL  
Times-News writer

GLENN'S FERRY — It came as a surprise to Marian Marzynski that soon after he left Glens Ferry, a decision was made to censor his film.

"At the screenings there was a reaction of a few isolated voices," a baffled Marzynski said in a telephone interview Wednesday. "But no requests from the people involved."

The decision to edit out offending parts of the film was made by the Glens Ferry school administration.

Superintendent Jim Reed said that he personally was impressed by the quality of film.

"It was startling and it was bold," said Reed. "My gut-level reaction is to leave it alone. But politically, I think we better not foster resentment."

Carlene Viner, director of special services, who coordinated Marzynski's work in Glens Ferry, said that the film contained some sequences where children had said personal and potentially embarrassing things about their parents.

"Children have a way of saying things," Viner said,

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**'Children have a way of saying things.  
They're naive. . . and they don't understand  
the effect they can have.'  
— Carlene Viner, director of special services**

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"they're naive and innocent, and they don't understand the effect they can have."

In the interest of good taste, Viner said, about a minute and a half of the film will be edited out. The questionable material will not only be removed from the shorter versions of the film, according to Viner, but from the 11 hours of archive tapes.

One of the questionable statements, she said, came during a discussion with an unwed mother. A student said that her own mother had been pregnant at the time of her marriage. Other parts of the film objected to were references by a student to drug use and a boy's recounting of his father's death.

"It's kind of private information, and it's a small community," Viner said. "Sometimes it's pretty hard to live in a small town."

"I think it was impact he (Marzynski) was looking for. We really don't want impact. We have enough trouble."

Marzynski said that he would have removed anything from the film at the request of the embarrassed party. But he said he is certain the individuals involved are not aware of the censorship.

"It's not a complaint of the people involved," he said. "It's just a protective measure. They (the administration) are overreacting to the fear of controversy."

"If 'Madam X' had complained," he said referring to

the student's pregnancy statement. "I would have taken it out."

"Madame X" was contacted by The Times-News Wednesday. She said she was unaware that the statement had been made in the film or that it was to be censored.

"It doesn't offend me. It's a fact," she said. "They really think my rights have been violated."

"We've always been open with our daughter and she's not ashamed of it."

Her husband, however, did not agree. He said that the statement embarrassed him, and he would rather it be edited from the film and their name not appear in print.

In explaining his philosophy as a producer of documentaries, Marzynski had said, "Whatever is honest and spontaneous is the best thing to show. If you can afford to be open about the rough aspects of life — you are a good person."

Reed tried to explain the documentary expectations of a small town in Southern Idaho.

"A lot of people wanted a 'Walton's story,'" Reed said. "Thirty minutes long, and everything ends happily."



Trib photo by Gabe Puniska

Filmmaker Marian Marzynski, (foreground), directs graduate students Howard Gladston (left), and Jean de Segonzac while-filming in the YMCA at Governors State University, Park Forest South.

# New impulses

## Filmmaker strives to liberate minds from binding media manipulation

By Phyllis Feuerstein

PROFESSOR MARIAN Marzynski, 44, clasped his hands behind his head, crossed his legs, and spoke easily in English about his international experiences as a filmmaker. His working address has changed from Poland to Denmark to the United States in 11 years.

His latest address, Governors State University in Park Forest South, is far in miles and culture from his alma maters, the University of Warsaw and the Polish Film Academy in Lodz, Poland. Yet, Marzynski views his new position as professor of media communications much like Daniel Boone saw Kentucky — a place to be a pioneer.

Early in 1979, he blazed a path to cultural awareness by starting a new film program designed on two levels. One is based on the demonstration of technique and esthetics of film-making. The other stems from his personal experience as part of a minority in Communist Poland.

"I WANT to liberate people from the power of the media," said Marzynski, a trained journalist and broadcaster. "I want to make them more culturally aware of its power of manipulation."

These are strange words coming from an author, producer, and director of award-winning television series tackling controversial subjects such as criminal trials and police investigations of murder cases including the infamous Dreyfus case.

(Dreyfus, a French-Jewish army officer, was sent to prison for spying, but was released after public protest.)

"I was of the generation of film makers in Poland during its most favorable, liberated climate," said Marzynski who, as a 2-year-old, survived the Warsaw ghetto when the Nazis took control of Poland.

"BUT IN 1968 and 1969, Jews were led to understand they

were unwelcome in Poland. It was a complicated matter begun by random attacks by government and aided by the media. We were given the freedom to leave if we renounced our Polish citizenship, thus implying we were disloyal to the country."

Although Marzynski wasn't personally attacked, he left Poland as an act of protest against the repression of Jews, which was aided by television people who created "media events."

"Simply put, they wanted to get rid of the 5 per cent who hadn't been liquidated in the Holocaust," Marzynski said. "I

*While in Denmark, Marian Marzynski read books about the film curricula in American universities and spied a gap between the film industry and students.*

realized I was part of the television establishment helping in the campaign against Jews and didn't want to be associated with it."

DENMARK ACCEPTED Marzynski, his wife and child, and his parents as political refugees, granted them citizenship, and permitted him to continue his career as a producer and director, this time on the Danish National Television Network.

"I was Denmark's first foreign producer," Marzynski said. "It's a cute, small country with a mono-culture."

While in Denmark, he read books about the film curricula in American universities and spied a gap between the film

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industry and students. Few American film makers, he realized, had learned their craft in schools. Most had gained their knowledge from life experience.

"I THOUGHT of becoming a teacher to fill the gap between wanting to become a film maker and entering the film industry," Marzynski said.

Looking back, Marzynski realized he "always had an interest in the United States." His first film was made in Poland and was about emigrants going to America. It familiarized him with the phenomenon of immigration and the American dream.

"Even then, I knew that I'd like to live in a country without

a mono-culture," he said. "During my stay in Denmark I looked for professional opportunities in the United States, introducing myself as a professional looking to teach."

IN 1972, Marzynski became an associate professor of film at Rhode Island School of Design in Providence without knowing how to speak English. His first language was Polish, his second, French, and his third, Danish. Although he never had formal English instruction, it was "large" in his ear and he learned it through dialog with his students.

He considered the six years spent in Rhode Island his "graduate studies about America" but knew there was more to learn than he could find out in a private school in a classical setting of all white, middle-class students.

"That's just one line of this country," Marzynski said. "I wanted to enlarge my experience and looked for a university with a broader humanistic base."

THAT'S WHAT he likes about Governors State University, he said. Students are a mixture of old and young with an average age of 30, are of different races, and bring with them varied life experiences.

He's still "in the joy of a new situation," still setting up his living conditions on a 17-acre farm in Monee, and feels his creative juices flowing.

(Marzynski "encourages all" to visit his open class and asks potential visitors to reserve a seat by calling 534-5000, extension 2420.)

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# Family portrait

## Film looks at week in Glens Ferry

By GLEN WARCHOL  
*Times-News writer*

**GLENN'S FERRY** — A grant from the Idaho Commission on the Arts will enable the town of Glens Ferry get a "family portrait."

Marian Marzynski, a television documentarian and professor of media communications at Governors State University in Illinois will make a television documentary on rural America in Glens Ferry, and instruct the community's children in television production at the same time. The video crew will arrive March 27, and stay a week.

Marzynski, a Pole who fled to this country in 1969, is excited about the project.

"It is an interesting subject for a filmmaker," he said. "In a town of this size you can almost film everybody. It's like a family portrait."

Students in the Glens Ferry schools will provide the docu-

mentary crew with the basic research material on the town, Marzynski said. Their work will form the basis of the documentary on a week in the life of Glens Ferry, which Marzynski feels is a microcosm of rural American life.

When the filming is complete Marzynski will return copies of the video tape to the community. The tapes will form a historical archive.

"Glens Ferry will be maybe the only town in American with a video-taped history of one week," Marzynski said. "It will be very valuable."

In the 1960s Marzynski worked as a reporter and television producer in Poland. In 1969, along with hundreds of other Polish Jews, he left the country in protest of an anti-semitic campaign begun by the government.

After working in television in America for almost a decade, Marzynski was able to re-enter Poland in 1981 to make, "Return to Poland," a film chronicling his return to his homeland.