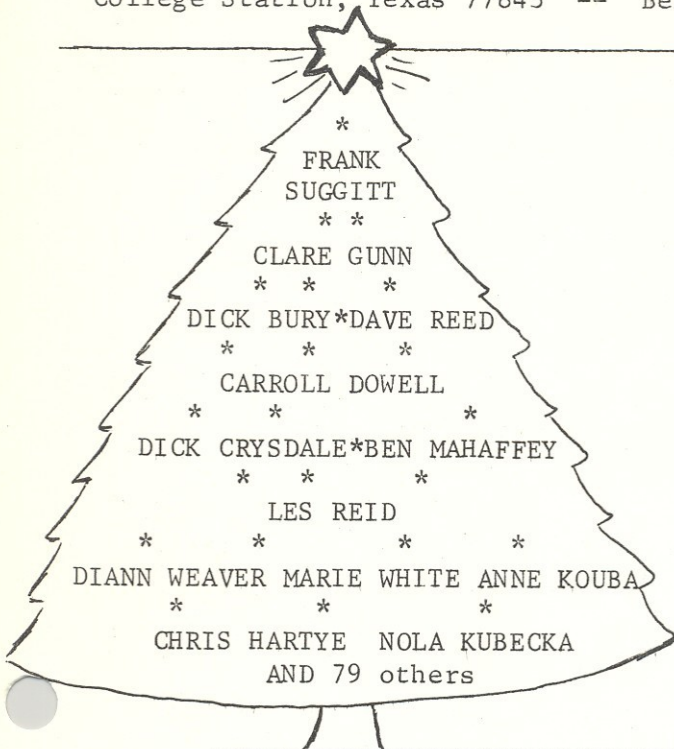


# RECREATION AND PARKS AT TEXAS A&M

College Station, Texas 77843 -- Ben D. Mahaffey, Editor -- No. 3, December, 1967



"Then pealed the bells, more loud and deep;  
'God is not dead; nor does he sleep!'  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail  
With peace on earth, good will to men!"

. . . LONGFELLOW

MAY ALL OF US HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT  
OF RECREATION AND PARKS WISH YOU THE  
MOST JOYOUS OF HOLIDAY SEASONS . . .

REID'S RUMBLE - SEAT

. . . By L.M. Reid, Head

The NRPA Congress just completed at Miami Beach, Florida was the largest meeting yet of its kind. John Poulas and all the host staff did a bang-up job. Irritations were minimal considering the tremendous logistic problems involved. (Being a Texan now, I have to comment briefly on the raw, cloudy weather and the lack of sunshine). The headquarters hotel (Fontainebleau) handled the educational sessions and exhibits with no apparent strain, but facilities of this size are mighty scarce.

I'm convinced major changes must be made in the conference format--and content. Used to be the national meeting was a place for peers to meet and exchange views and information. The Congress as presently constituted is not the most efficient way to do this. Due to the very size of the Congress many delegates felt like a stranger or intruder. Like a giant sieve, people had to be "screened" in large numbers to locate participants having similar interests. Everyone concerned--members, officers and board members, and NRPA staff--are interested in a streamlined and effective organization. Each person has an obligation to assist.

There is little time (nine months) to prepare for the Seattle Congress. The NRPA annual meeting must be more than "just another conference". It needs to be the high-water mark of the year, the distilling of accomplishment and charting of an action program for the ensuing year. Can it more completely involve members? Can it lead the profession? I think it can.

TRAVEL TO OTTAWA, EXPO '67, AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Dr. Richard L. Bury

"I had the good fortune to attend, as the Department's representative, the annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters. This year's meeting was in Ottawa, Canada as a joint venture with the Canadian Institute of Forestry. Although many of the special Section meetings were interesting, I spent most of my time in the meetings sponsored by the Recreation Section and the Education Section. Most of this year's papers were high-quality and of considerable usefulness in classwork here. I hope to report on my current research in recreation education at next year's meeting in Philadelphia.

While in Ottawa, I spent considerable time at the Canadian Branch of Natural and Historic Parks. Their research work was explained to me by Gordon Taylor, who heads up that effort. I also was fortunate in being able to attend several sessions of their biennial meeting of National Park Directors, and in leading a two-hour seminar discussion with the Planning Division staff on philosophies of recreation as applied to National Parks.

I spent a day at Expo '67 enroute from Ottawa to Washington, D.C. I think we can learn much about interpretive methods by studying large national expositions, and have suggested that Mr. Mahaffey conduct a research project along these lines while HemisFair is in operation.

I visited with Neil Stout and A. Heaton Underhill at the Washington Office of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as part of an effort to upgrade our Departmental Library. BOR and the Department of the Interior Library have cooperated to produce a Thesaurus of Outdoor Recreation Terms for the classification of literature and other such uses. We hope to base our classification of departmental library materials on this Thesaurus and are working with BOR and the Interior Library to improve the Thesaurus."

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At the Miami Beach Congress M. Foss Narum, Superintendent of Look Park, Massachusetts and I "traded wise words of philosophy". I promised to repeat one here so he would see it in print. Here it is . . . "SUCCESS IS THE MARK IN THE FOREHEAD OF THE MAN WHO AIMED TOO LOW!"

. . . LMR

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RECENT VISITORS TO DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Dr. Marion Clawson, Director, Land Use & Management Studies, Resources for the Future, Inc., Washington, D.C. Several appearances were made by Dr. Clawson during his four day visit. Topics were: "The American Environment: A Pattern for Development", "Recreation in America's Future", and "Desired Changes in the Role of Recreation Management Agencies". He also met informally with graduate and undergraduate students to give personal help and added interest to the recreation field.

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Robert L. Frazer, Director of Parks and Recreation, San Antonio, Texas spent a day discussing plans and potential for post-use of HemisFair facilities. Dr. Suggitt is helping with these guidelines.



Representative David Crews, Attorney from Conroe, Texas represents District 6 in the Texas House of Representatives. Representative Crews toured the Department and met with Dr. Frank Suggitt and several graduate students discussing a wide range of topics dealing with legislative aspects of resource planning and development in Texas. Mr. Crews has agreed to return soon for a formal seminar.

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Dr. William R. Burch, Jr., Professional Research Associate, New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University. After touring the Department he met with the faculty discussing the sociological aspects of recreation. Burch has recently returned from Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand where he was instructor in sociology. While on campus he also spoke to a graduate seminar on levels of industrialization in relation to recreation and to RP 301 on influences of social institutions on the selection of recreation activities by individuals. Burch also toured several recreation developments in Southeast Texas before his return to New York.

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#### FUTURE MEETINGS

American Association for the Advancement of Science, New York City -- Dec. 25-29, 1967

Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute, Lake Texoma -- Feb. 4-7, 1968

NRPA Southwest District Conference, Ft. Worth -- March 26-29, 1968

Association of Interpretive Naturalists, Gatlinburg, Tennessee -- April 3-5, 1968

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JANUARY GRADUATES -- Five men will be graduating from the Department of Recreation and Parks -- three with masters and two with bachelors degrees. Masters -- Ken Butts, from Ardmore, Oklahoma. Ken has had several years experience in personnel management with Shell Oil prior to his joining our department; Grant Peterson, from Skokie, Illinois. He is currently on leave from the National Park Service; Ken Prestridge, from Olton, Texas. Ken previously was employed by Texas Forest Service. Undergraduate degrees will be received by Morris Mitchell of Bryan, Texas and Jimmy Don Priddy of Amherst, Texas.

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SUMMER EMPLOYMENT -- Time is fast approaching when our students begin thinking about summer work opportunities. If any of you expect to employ our majors next summer we will be pleased to hear from you and help work out application and other preliminary information.

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FOOTBALL -- Texas A&M will play in the Cotton Bowl for the first time in 25 years! After a poor start of four straight losses the Aggies caught fire and went on to gain the Southwest Conference Championship and an opportunity to play in the famous bowl. Watch the game on New Year's Day and view our "Fightin' Texas Aggies" and also our splendid Aggie Band. The game promises to be most entertaining as Texas meets Alabama. The Aggies are Back in the Cotton Bowl!!



NEWSLETTER EDITOR APPOINTED -- The growth of the Department and the volume of activities have prompted the appointment of Ben D. Mahaffey as new editor. Mr. Mahaffey's background as a newspaper printer for many years in Colorado and Wyoming prompted his new assignment. The newsletter will get a face-lifting in the next edition and will be published six times a year instead of sometimes.

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NEW STYLE IN TEXTBOOKS -- Undegraduates in Recreation and Parks are now enrolling in the Park Practice Program when they become juniors. The program is jointly sponsored by the National Park Service, National Conference on State Parks American Institute of Park Executives. Students "buy in" and receive a basic library of designs for recreation facilities, articles on various aspects of recreation management and short maintenance operation suggestions. The program materials are being coordinated by Dr. Richard Bury through his Outdoor Recreation class and are being used by students in several Departmental courses.

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BURY PUBLISHES -- The current issue of the quarterly journal TRENDS: in Parks and Recreation carries an article on wilderness management problems of the U.S. Forest Service. Dr. Richard Bury developed this article from materials used in his presentation to a Graduate Seminar as a guest lecturer here last May.

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INFORMATION PLEASE! -- "How does the Recreation and Parks Department help Texas people through Extension Service?" . . . asked a television interviewer. This question and many others were asked Dick Crysdale at the Annual Press Day Conference at College Station December 6th. Television audiences and nearly 300 extension specialists and news media people learned that our 22 month old Department is actively engaged in 34 assistance projects to provide recreation opportunities in Texas. Literature describing the Department's curriculum, staff, student growth and assistance programs was distributed by graduate students from the rustic display.

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MEETINGS -- All Department faculty and many students attended the recent Annual meeting of the Texas Recreation and Park Society in Austin. Dr. Leslie Reid was chairman of a seminar on "Budgets, Planning and Development"; Dr. Frank Suggitt presented "A Panorama of Inter-departmental Planning, Federal-State-Local Funds"; Carroll Dowell was chairman of a panel discussion of the recently passed 75 million dollar bond issue for state parks; David Reed gave a presentation "New Concepts in Municipal Park and Recreation Planning". Ben D. Mahaffey was certified "Professional" by the Association, the first recreationist with a forestry background to be certified. The meeting was very well attended by park and recreation workers from over the state. The highlight of the meeting was an address by Governor John Connally at the closing banquet. Texas A&M University will host next year's annual meeting at College Station.

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BURY TALKS DOLLARS AND MAKES SENSE TO GRASS-GROWERS -- Sources of financial aid and technical assistance from the Federal government were discussed by Bury at the recent meeting of the Texas Turfgrass Conference here on campus December 4th. In his comments titled "Federal Outdoor Recreation Programs -- How They Affect You", Bury discussed the use of several catalogs where programs are described for assistance to developers and operators of outdoor recreation facilities. Several examples were given to show the usefulness of Federal assistance in area planning, land acquisition, site design, construction and operation.