



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Texas A&M University

College Station, Texas 77843

TEACHING - RESEARCH - EXTENSION



February, 1968

Ben D. Mahaffey, Editor

Volume 3, No. 1 of 5

Leslie M. Reid, *Ph.D.*
head of department

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Richard L. Bury, *Ph.D.*
outdoor recreation

Clare A. Gunn, *Ph.D.*
tourism and planning

Frank W. Suggitt, *D.P.A.*
Planning and policy

Carroll Dowell, *M. Ed.*
park administration

David Reed, *M.S.*
park planning & design

Ben D. Mahaffey, *B.S.*
interpretation

LECTURER

Jay S. Williams, *Director*
Bryan parks & recreation

EXTENSION

B. Dan Kamp, *Specialist*
recreation & park extension

RECREATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Dick Crysdale/Steve Smith

"REID'S RUMBLE-SEAT"

Perhaps this time the title should be "Ramble-Seat". Last month, on the final day of semester exams, I left the campus with a group of students. I had promised our seniors one extended regional tour before their graduation in May, and between semesters seemed to be the best possible time. Traveling with two university station wagons in tandem, we struck east through Louisiana into Mississippi. With the help of Chief Ranger HILLIARD, we were privileged to get into the administration of Vicksburg National Military Park. Then up the delta country, along the Natchez Trace Parkway, and a visit to Shiloh National Battlefield, traveling north through Tennessee.

One of the main objectives of this tour was to spend as much time as possible becoming familiar with the concepts and accomplishments of TVA's Land Between-The-Lakes project in western Kentucky— Tennessee. This 170,000 acre National Recreation Area is unique in many respects. Thanks to ROBERT HOWES, LBL Director, HAROLD VAN MORGAN, planner, and the LBL staff, we had five days for a detailed study of the area, its development and administration. During this period, Mr. TOM NELSON, Assistant Director, Kentucky State Parks, met with the group to discuss aspects of the Kentucky program and conducted a visit to Kentucky Dam Village and Barkley State Parks. The Corps of Engineers, Fort Donelson National Military Park, and Fort Defiance were included, as was a tour of the river towns of Cairo and Mound City, Illinois and prehistoric Indian burials at Wickliffe, Kentucky.

Eastern terminus of the tour was Nashville, Tennessee with Mr. BERT ELMORE and Mr. WILLIAM CROUCH of the Davidson County Metro Park Commission. This visit provided a look at the functioning of one of the newer consolidated park and recreation departments. Visits to the Parthenon and to Jackson's home--the Hermitage-- were bonuses of this visit.

The return trip was highlighted by a visit to Overton Park in Memphis, Tennessee and an overnight stay with Mr. BERNARD CAMPBELL, Superintendent of Hot Springs National Park. After seeing so much, the students were full of policy questions, not only about Hot Springs, but also concerning the proposed Buffalo Wild River project in northern Arkansas. Mr. Campbell proved himself an absorbing discussion leader.

Although a voluntary and non-credit experience, this regional trip extending over nine states and 2500 miles proved the feasibility of first-hand visits for future classes to a variety of outstanding recreation and park developments.

The final three days of the regional tour described above were spent at the 13th Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute at Lake Texoma, Oklahoma. This excellent meeting arranged by the Park Administration Department of Texas Technological College emphasized regional planning, so the experiences of the class were appropriate to the conference content.

This Department was represented by 6 faculty, 8 seniors, and 9 graduate students. I chaired a workshop on "Environmental Development" that featured a presentation by Dr. CLARE GUNN involving conceptual approaches to quality control in environmental design. Copies of the written summary of this program are available on request.

---:---

JAMES STRIBLING, one of our graduate students attending the Texoma Institute hosted a steak fry at his nearby ranch at Tishamingo for some 40 students and guests. BILL LANDAHL, Jackson Co., Missouri parks, WARREN LEDDICK, Austin City Parks, and JACK ASHWORTH, Fort Worth Parks were among those who partook of the charcoaled beef and waxed eloquent during the ensuing seminars.

---:---

FIRST EXTENSION SPECIALIST POSITION FILLED -- The Agricultural Extension Service has approved our initial full time Recreation and Parks Specialist effective June 1, 1968. Mr. B.D. KAMP, currently Assistant Director of Fairfax County Parks, Virginia has accepted this position. Actually, Dan arrives March 1, with interim responsibilities in teaching and research.

This is a challenging position. Although Dan is the tenth faculty member in Recreation and Parks, he is the first whose major responsibility is in Extension. He will be housed with us on the main campus, but responsive to requests for many kinds of educational service throughout Texas. Obviously, one person cannot adequately do all the required travelling, advising, corresponding, publishing, and holding group meetings. Thus, a critical part of Dan's job will be the conscious organization of a total statewide service involving a number of subsequent, regional-based specialists.

Our newest team member brings admirable credentials to this job. As Assistant Director in Fairfax County he had the opportunity, under JAMES D. BELL, to implement an \$18-million bond issue for parks. He has knowledge of Texas as a native, as an SCS Conservation Planner and as former Parks Superintendent of Lubbock, all after graduation from Texas Tech with B.S. and M.S. degrees in Park Administration.

---:---

CORPS OF ENGINEERS MOVES AHEAD -- in an interview with Dr. R.L. BURY recently, GORDON JONES, Head of the Environmental Resources Branch in the Southwestern Division, noted that Recreation Management is occupying more time of professionals in the U.S. Corps of Engineers. This trend has accelerated rapidly since passage of the Federal Water Projects Recreation Act. Corps projects may now include reservoirs built largely for recreational benefits of the public. Mr. MINOR WARD, Landscape Architect, noted an increasing concern with the natural beauty and the development and maintenance of a pleasing landscape.

FIRST EXTENSION COURSE OFFERED -- Another new dimension in the Department's program is the offering of a regular graduate course at an off-campus location. A second section of RP 611 is being taught by Dr. FRANK SUGGITT this semester at Austin. Registration fee for the 3-semester hour course is \$30 plus books. Those not enrolled as a graduate student can receive "Extension" Credit. The course is concerned with concepts and methods necessary for identification and rational allocation of resources for recreation. Professional members of the Austin Park and Recreation Department, Texas State Parks and Austin Board of Education are among those enrolled. It is anticipated that other courses will be offered on a demand basis in several locations, with the intent of making available a series leading to the partial fulfillment of graduate degree programs for those interested.

---:---

An early February visitor to the Department was Dr. KARL MUNSON, Recreation Project Leader for the Federal Cooperative Extension Service. While at Texas A&M, Dr. Munson met with Extension Director HUTCHISON to discuss federal and state cooperative extension programs in recreation and parks. Dr. Munson's aggressive leadership and support is assisting land grant colleges throughout the country in mounting new programs and expanding existing activities.

---:---

SECOND RECREATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE is scheduled for October 20 to November 1, 1968. Numerous requests have been received for information and pre-Institute details will be made available so that 1968 Institute participants can be registered by late Spring.

---:---

SPRING SEMESTER IS IN FULL SWING with 125 students taking advantage of nine courses and three special problem offerings in the Department. Five of the courses are at the graduate level with seven undergraduate classes. RP 101 "Introduction to Recreation and Parks" and RP 201 "Principles of Park Administration" are now offered both spring and fall semesters due to the high demand for these courses.

---:---

GRADUATES ACCEPT POSITIONS. Two majors received Bachelor's degrees and three completed work toward the Master's degree at the end of the fall semester. MORRIS R. MITCHELL and JIMMY D. PRIDDY have been hired by the Houston Parks and Recreation Department. Receiving his M.S. was KENNETH BUTTS, hired by Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife; Atlanta, Ga. KENNETH PRESTRIDGE (U.S.F.S., Routt National Forest, Colorado) and GRANT PETERSEN (who was reassigned by the National Park Service to Fire Island National Seashore at Long Island at the conclusion of his study leave) both finished all requirements for the M.S. but missed the mid-year thesis deadline, so their degrees will be awarded at the May Commencement.

--- FACULTY FORUM ---

News and views of faculty members -- the opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the Department (in some cases they may even antagonize their colleagues!

WHAT PRICE PROGRESS? -- One of the blessings of being a citizen of this great country is the opportunity of continual improvement of our surroundings health, technology, additional leisure time, etc. However, some attempts to improve our efficiency and increase our leisure time become another in the movements to subjugate personality and strip the reward of recognition of individual accomplishments.

One example is a bill proposed in the last four Congresses to shift most of our national holidays to make them fall on Mondays. The bill proposes that we do away with Washington's Birthday and celebrate a "Presidents' Day" on the third Monday in February; set Memorial Day on the last Monday in May; have Independence Day the first Monday in July; observe Veteran's Day the third Monday in March; and shift Thanksgiving Day to the Fourth Monday in November.

This attempt to merge and mix the identity of our former Presidents and to de-emphasize the respect of the history of our country has many virtues and advantages, say the proponents. The change will increase our industrial efficiency, built up morale and help the recreation and tourist industry. Some even claim the changes will reduce the traffic deaths on the highways!

I am opposed to this stereotyping of holidays and the removal of personal reverence of the great leaders and happenings of the past. The date of July 4 has significance with the signing of the Declaration of Independence (John Hancock signed on this day) and generations of Americans have celebrated this great occasion. Why should we change it to a Monday to make it handy for a weekend vacation? Should the Father of our Country have to share his birthday with a group of Presidents, some of whom were inefficient and mediocre?

We should not, as members of society, lose our uniqueness of personality. If we as a group of people need additional leisure time and more long weekends, let us create them and leave the holidays that we presently have undisturbed.

It is time we educators and professional people pick up the banner of nationalism and dedicate enough time and energy to plant the seeds of pride of country, church, home and self into our students and course work. Indeed, it is past time when we must stop the movement for conformity of our lives, our holidays and our historic events and begin to interpret the true understanding of our heritage, including a pride in our genealogy and the unique qualities possessed by the defenders of our freedom and way of life.

by---Ben D. Mahaffey

EDUCATION? . . .

They who provide much wealth for their children, but neglect to improve them in virtue, do like those who feed their horses high, but never train them to manage.

. . . Socrates

LAKE LIVINGSTON RESEARCH PROJECT -- The Lake Livingston-Four County Development Association has asked this Department to assist in preliminary planning for the initial development of this new lake and its immediate environs. This reservoir will be the second largest impoundment in Texas. It lies approximately 70 miles north of Houston and will inundate some 82,250 acres in Trinity, Walker, Polk and San Jacinto counties. Completion of the dam is scheduled for December, 1968, or early in 1969.

Demand for water-based and related recreational areas and facilities exists within a one to two hour drive. The Houston-Galveston-Texas City Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, with an estimated 1966 population of 1,878,960, has two 4-lane, limited access highways extending from the heart of the urban complex to the reservoir. The economic impact of the development of the Lake Livingston area may have a negative or positive effect on the economy of the area. We are interested in recreational development patterns, policies and programs associated with the growth of this erstwhile rural area.

---:---

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT QUESTIONNAIRES. Most agencies and departments have returned the information needed to compile our summer employment opportunity list for students desiring to work in the recreation and parks field this year. Thanks to all of you readers who are cooperating with us in the very important phase of supplying opportunities for summer experience. If we missed corresponding with you department concerning work opportunities please drop us a line and we will add you to our group.

---:---

FUTURE MEETINGS --

North American Wildlife Conference, Houston, March 10-14, 1968.

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

Midwest NRPA Conference, Omaha, Nebraska, April 1-3, 1968.

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

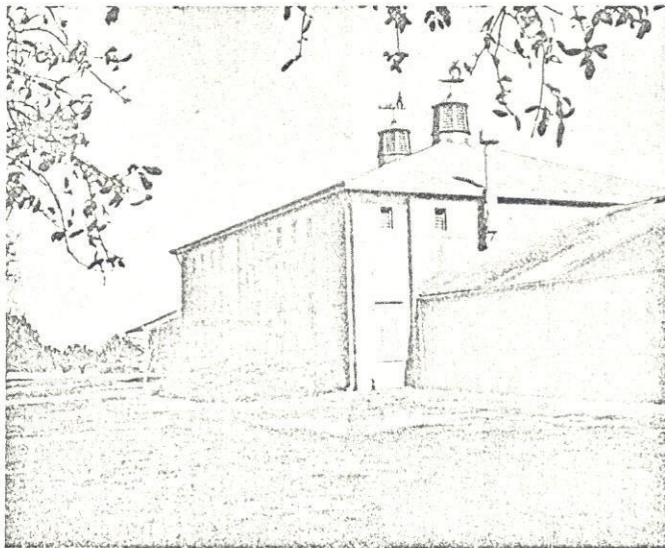
National Forum on Professional Education, sponsored by NRPA, Washington, D. C. April 19-20, 1968.

-- LATE FLASH --

DEAN OF AGRICULTURE APPOINTED -- A significant action taken by the Board of Directors at the February meeting was the appointment of Dr. H.O. KUNKEL as Dean of the College of Agriculture. Dr. Kunkel, Associate Director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station since 1962, was named Acting Dean in September, 1967 to give the Board time to obtain the best possible candidate. After extended review, the Board announced our own Dr. Kunkel by all criteria to be best qualified for the Dean's position.

Dr. Kunkel is a nationally regarded biochemist in his own right, a fine scholar, and unusually capable administrator. Texas A&M is extremely fortunate to have a new Dean of Dr. Kunkel's status and ability to provide the leadership in the College's total program.

---:---



NEW BUILDING FOR RECREATION AND PARKS -- It's true! A&M President RUDDER, and the University Administration proposed to the Board of Directors that the Department of Recreation and Parks be housed in the Ag Information Building to be vacated March 1, 1968. The Board accepted the proposal for renovation and reoccupancy on Feb. 27, 1968.

I can't stress enough the administrative support this action demonstrates. It permits us to regather our department from 4 buildings we partly now occupy on a temporary basis. It provides us with about 15,000 usable square feet of floor space in an attractive brick centrally-located headquarters--with room for expected expansion over the next several years. The building has faculty and administrative offices, seminar and class space, graduate carrels, large lab, cooperative research offices, extension suite and library.

Interior refurbishing will likely go on for several months, after which we hope to announce an open house celebration for all within reach of Texas.

. . . LMR