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Planning and policy

Carroll Dowell, M. Ed.
park administration

David Reed, M.S.
park planning & design

Ben D. Mahaffey, B.S.
interpretation

LECTURER

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EXTENSION

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extension

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RECREATION MANAGEMENT
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"REID'S RUMBLE-SEAT"

The NRPA-sponsored "Forum on Preparation of Tomorrow's Leaders" held in Washington in mid-April should be of equal interest to all educators and recreation professionals. The NRPA should be applauded for convening a national meeting to consider issues and problems relating to the training of tomorrow's professionals.

Conferees included educators, agency executives, and federal and state local administrators. This was the largest group of recreation and park educators I have ever been privileged to catch under one roof for two days. Discussions were frank. Points of view were exchanged—often with some visible heat.

Issues discussed included junior college-university relations, curriculum content, internship programs, accreditation and vocational level training. An overriding concern of many educators was, "Where can I find a person to recruit for my new teaching position?" The scarcity of persons qualified for teaching positions is amazing. How can we hope to have any kind of respectable profession in years to come if there are not enough teachers to train the students enrolled in our degree programs? Substandard or inadequate instructors can make a mockery of any accreditation or professional registration.

Dr. DON HAWKINS of NRPA gave an outstanding—but sobering—summary of his recently completed recreation manpower study. Designed to determine the demand for and the supply of graduates between now and 1980, the study shows:

*160,000 RP personnel (full-time equivalents) in local public jobs in 1967

*Almost all (95%) employers feel at least a B.S. degree is needed for top 10 of 21 RP position titles

*Based on 3 different projection models, demand for personnel by 1980 is for 213,000; 598,000; or 1,100,000 full-time equivalents

*The study reports 183 schools having recreation programs; another 160 are expected to come into being by 1980

If new schools are structured as rapidly as expected, the total graduates in 1970 will be only 4,500; of this number, graduates with advanced degrees will be only half as numerous (749) as the number of new junior college teachers needed in 1970. In other words, junior colleges alone could absorb the total production twice over.

Looking further ahead, only 40,000 R/P graduates are anticipated in 1980, woefully inadequate in terms of positions available. Where will people be found to fill the estimate of several hundred thousand jobs? From allied fields? From unrelated disciplines? What is the answer?

MARCH-APRIL VISITORS

- March 6 Fritz Kioppe —Landscape Architect, Houston P&R Department, Houston
(lecture)
- March 13 Larry Walker —Dean of Forestry, Stephen F, Austin State College
(program review)
- April 1-2 Dr. Tom Goodale —Cortland State College, New York (Seminar)
- April 8-10 Larry Givens —Regional manager, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wild-
life, Atlanta, Georgia (recruiting visit)
- April 14-16 Lon Garrison —Regional Director, National Park Service,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (seminar)
- April 23 Earl Pettyjohn —Federal Extension Service, Washington, D. C.
(faculty staff seminar)
- April 28-30 Dr. Carlton Van Doren —Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
(lectures and seminar)

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS—These last months have seen several articles and papers produced by personnel in Recreation and Parks, These include:

Journal Articles:

- Bury, R.L. "Wilderness Problems of the U.S. Forest Service," Trends, Vol. 4, No. 4, pp. 25-29, 1967.
- Bury, R.L. "Correction of Sticking Doors on Out-Buildings' Grist, Vol. 12; No. 2, p. 11, March-April, 1968~
- Mahaffey, B.D. "Three Keys to Effective Slide Talks," Guidelines, Park Practice Program, March 1968, pp. 119-122,
- Reid, L.M, "Preparation For Resource Administration," Trends, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1968, pp. 23-24.

Reports & Papers:

- Gunn, C.A. "Hawaii-A Lesson in Planned Tourism Development" The Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly, February, 1968.
- Dowell, C.D. "Legislation For Outdoor Recreation in Texas;" Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, mp.-879, (at press).
- Suggitt, F.W. "The Use of Soil Surveys in Recreation and Resource Planning," A paper presented to the Soil Survey Technical Work-Planning Conference, Texas A&M University, April 1968.
- Wood, Thomas, "Regional Planning in East Texas," A report prepared for 4-County Development Association, March 1968.

SECOND EXTENSION POSITION APPROVED—Newest member of our faculty family is JAMES C. STRIBLING, who became our second full-time Extension Specialist on March 21st. Stribling was appointed as an Area Specialist in Commercial Recreation. This position results from a special Resource Conservation and Development grant made to the Texas Agricultural Extension Service by the Federal Extension Service.

Stribling will work in direct support of the Southeast Texas Resource Conservation and Development project, a 10-county area comprising approximately 5,000,000 acres. Primary responsibility of the new position will be conducting educational programs designed to assist individuals, enterprises and agencies in developing a variety of recreation and park opportunities.

Jim was born in San Saba and spent his early years in Texas. He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and until recently was a commercial rancher in southeastern Oklahoma. He is married, has five children, and resides in College Station.

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NATIONAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERPRETIVE NATURALISTS In Gatlinburg, Tennessee as attended by DAVID REED and BEN MAHAFFEY during the first week in April. The setting for the annual meeting at the "Gateway to the Smokies" provided inspirational surroundings and many outdoor areas for study and enjoyment. The keynote address, "Interpretation vs. Neon Guano", given by BOYD E. EVINSON, provided a stimulating introduction to the 7th Annual Meeting~

Challenging panels were presented as well as personal presentation by DR. PAUL SEARS of Yale, DR. P. JACK SPARER, University of Tennessee and ROBERT HOWES of TVA's Land-Between-the-Lakes. BEN MAHAFFEY served as a panel member and discussed Training Standards and Certification for Interpreters.

President STAN ERNST and Program Chairman MACK PRICHARD should be congratulated for a well-planned and executed meeting.

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GOOD OUTDOOR MANNERS ASSOCIATION is gaining recognition and effectiveness. This association titled GOMA is dedicated to providing factual information about the national program of prevention of littering and destruction of outdoor resources. A few recent activities of GOMA are: the showing of slide-illustrated lectures and a documentary movie explaining the need and methods for cleaning and protecting our recreational areas. These presentations have already reached audiences of more than 50,000 persons.

GOMA has also won four awards including a Citation of Appreciation from the National Recreation and Parks Association and the Grand Award in the Washington Governor's Community Service program. Our local representative is DR. R,L, BURY. If additional information is needed, write to Dick, or to GOMA, Box 7095, Seattle, Washington 98113.

USE STUDY OF SELECTED PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS—The city of Bryan has completed a study conducted during the 1967 summer season. The objective of the study was to provide information on participation and use of parks and play equipment within four selected parks. These parks were selected because of location and size within the city.

One park did not have a wading pool. All four parks had a supervised play program. The study was designed to provide information on children's use of parks closest to their homes and to investigate if they traveled to other more distant parks to use wading pools or other facilities. Results were tabulated for each park with total figures and percentages given.. Copies of the study can be obtained from JAY S. WILLIAMS, Director of Parks and Recreation, City Hall, Bryan, Texas 77801.

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A WORTHY CANDIDATE FOR A NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER?—Easter vacation found DR. BURY and a group of students from our Department canoeing the upper 47 miles of the Buffalo River. Situated in north-central Arkansas on the northeastern edge of the Ozarks, the 100-mile long Buffalo River has been a leading candidate among those rivers proposed for a National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The party of four canoes and eight persons was on the river four days. The upper 15 miles was highly scenic, characterized by attractive 100-500 feet limestone bluffs. Many caves, remnants of log cabins, waterfalls, and other local attractions were available within easy walking distance of the river. Timing for the trip was perfect with many wild flowers in bloom and the weather cooperating, resulting in an enjoyable trip for all.

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THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE is placing increasing emphasis on management of broad landscapes and extensive areas for recreation. RICHARD J. COSTLEY and ROBERT LUCAS, Chief and Deputy Chief of the Division of Recreation of the U.S. Forest Service, informed DR. BURY that the Service will not "become bogged down" in the management of development sites such as campgrounds. Although they emphasized the high importance of such sites and Service intentions to improve the already good standards on these developments, they and other Forest Service managers are spending more time with concern for wilderness areas and for manipulation of the landscape as seen from roads and from development sites.

In a related concern, they expressed the importance of ecological understanding so the forester can manipulate landscapes to suit desires of recreation visitors. It was also emphasized the forester has a responsibility to stimulate the confidence of the public so the resource managers can act flexibly to meet the desires of both resource users and recreation visitors.

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RECREATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE—plans are progressing for the fall session with program topics being tailored according to recommendations of KEN BUTTS, the 1967 Institute Director, and the responses from STEVE SMITH'S Institute Demand Study. New topics being considered for addition to the program are: demand analysts and methodology, recreation research needs, outdoor education and financial assistance programs. Other topics covered in last year's program are being updated and refined.

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT R&P CONFERENCE — Program Chairman JACK ASHWORTH and the Ft. Worth R&P Department did an outstanding job of hosting the NRPA Southwest District Conference held in Forth Worth, Texas, March 26-29. Four of our faculty were program participants.

DR. C.A. GUNN addressed a general session on environmental and institutional factors involved in coordinated recreation development. DR. F.W. SUGGITT engaged in a panel discussion dealing with the relative merits of contractual service agreements, and B.D. KAMP served as a panelist discussing the future of professional development. DR. REID provided the closing general session address. His talk challenged each professional to seek positive solutions in leading his community to the realization and practice of a more worthwhile life of leisure enrichment

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AAHPER CONVENTION — The Department was well represented by CARROLL DOWELL at AAHPER'S annual meeting at St. Louis, Missouri, March 29-April 1. Careers and professional preparation in the years ahead received much attention.

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SPRING GRADUATES — Four seniors receive their B.S. Degrees in Recreation and Parks at the close of this semester, Two others are expected to finish at the conclusion of the summer session. May graduates are RAY HOOVER, Houston; CHARLES PEARSON, Montgomery; WILLIAM SONTAG, Beaumont; and LLOYD SURLS, Cisco, all of Texas. Hoover expects to go immediately into the armed services, Surles has accepted employment with the Austin Park and Recreation Department, Sontag plans to enroll in graduate study, and Pearson expects to join the National Park Service.

In addition, JAMES S. SMITH expects to complete his M.S. degree and hopes to work with the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

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A STANDARIZED THESAURUS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION TERMS is being developed by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation with the cooperation of the Department of the Interior Library and the Department of Recreation and Parks, Texas A&M. The Department recently obtained a contract from the Bureau for developmental work on the thesaurus. DR. BURY and JAMES MERTES, Graduate Assistant, are performing the developmental work assumed by Texas A&M.

Building on a group of terms earlier developed by NEIL STOUT and TRUDE TONCRAY of BOR and FRANCES SWIM of the Department of Interior Library, Bury and Mertes submitted an interim draft that was recently reviewed in Washington, D. C. A final draft will be submitted to the Bureau for review by selected experts throughout the nation. Publication is expected in early 1969 and is expected to provide the profession with a standardized list of terms for information indexing and retrieval.

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SUMMER EMPLOYMENT FOR UNDERGRADUATES — Thanks to the excellent cooperation of park and recreation systems across the U.S., as of this date 36 undergraduates have already been offered summer employment this year. Employers include 4 national parks, a wildlife refuge, Corps of Engineers, county parks in Kansas, Florida, Virginia, and the Texas cities of Houston, Ft. Worth, and Bryan. We are most grateful to the many people who have assisted us in this program.

EDUCATION FOR PROFESSIONALS IN PARKS AND RECREATION was discussed at the National Forum on Education for Tomorrow's Leaders in Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Sponsored by the NRPA, this invitational meeting drew about 250 participants to Washington, D.C. on April 19-20. Drs. REID and BURY represented the Department. Most participants were from educational institutions; junior colleges were also well represented.

Dr. SAL PREZIOSO opened with a stimulating challenge to improve education for the profession. Dr. ANTHONY WEINER of the Hudson Institute presented an excellent view of some major trends in American society that will influence our work in recreation and parks.

Concurrent discussion groups of about 15 persons each occupied much of the meeting. Each group reported the results of its deliberations to a final general session of the Forum. Several groups felt need for a statement of recreation philosophies and objectives, widely accepted throughout the profession. In all, the Forum was useful in bringing together an excellent group of persons concerned with the quality and nature of recreation education.

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NEW TEXTBOOK EXPECTED Dr. CLARE GUNN is still receiving requests for copies of "A Concept for the Design of a Tourism-Recreation Region," which is out of print. Fortunately, Dr. Gunn has been working for some time on an elaborated version of this report, in textbook form. Although the publication release date is not known, the book has progressed to manuscript form.

This new book is concerned with the environment of travel/tourism/recreation and illustrations are needed to help graphically describe certain areas of interest. Readers who can furnish photographs of any of the following that are particularly well done will find us most appreciative: Attractive and appealing settings around a park feature; entrances which make the user more receptive to the feature of the attraction; well designed concession buildings which fit a park situation; details of a truly scenic route; community re-development projects which capture the local culture and offer appeals to visitors; creative attempts to give the visitor greater understanding and enjoyment of the feature (Natural or man-made resources), etc.

Please forward to Dr. C.A. GUNN, Professor of Tourism & Recreation, Department of Recreation & Parks, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.

Coming Events

May 30-31 Gulf States Section, Society of American Foresters, Dallas

"One man gets nothing but discord out of a piano; another gets harmony. No one can claim the piano is at fault. Life is about the same. The discord is there, and the harmony is there, Study to play it correctly, and it will give forth the beauty; play it falsely, and it will give forth the ugliness. Life is not at fault."

BRYAN ROTARY NEWSLETTER

Earlier this year, we circulated a suggested design for our newsletter cover sheet among the faculty. The title "recreation administration" drew an immediate reaction from C.D. Dowell. But he assumed Ben was responsible. His hot note, included to show no punches are pulled among any of us, is printed here.

L.M. Reid

Dear Editor,

It is not the intention of this correspondence to extol or demean the recent newsletter of the Department of Recreation and Parks. However, the purpose is to challenge certain mistitled subscripts attached to the Faculty members of this fine department.

Special reference is made to my personal misnomer -- "Recreation Administration" which belittles the blood, sweat and tears poured into the recent merger of six of the leading professional societies in the nation. Your value judgment upon the scope of my career discipline reflects the outmoded thinking that was given the death knell by this merger.

We cannot allow such archaic biases to exist. This gross breach of professional protocol should not be distributed to our peers, at least without challenge or clarification.

Shed the old cloak of mistrust and ambiguity, Mr. Editor and join your new career brothers in the field of recreation and parks, whose motto is "Strength in Diversity" or, ("Divided We Stand").

I hereby warn you that if action is not taken as requested, formal protest will be duly registered. Please correct my personal designation to "Recreation and Parks Administration" or refrain entirely from any titles.

In closing, may I raise a point on the superfluous subscript of professional endeavor following your name? As your designation is known as "Interpretation" are you called an "Interpreter"? If yes, why are you not employed by the Modern Languages Department? If no, what exactly is your function in the Recreation and Park Department, besides harassing instructors with ignominious titles?

C.D. Dowell

Editor's Note — Some people are more concerned with the "handle" than the function involved. Semantics have been a cause for disagreement since time began. Of course, there is the possibility that the strong feelings on this matter resulted from that common infection of universities called "academia".

Ben Mahaffey