



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Texas A&M University

College Station, Texas 77843

TEACHING - RESEARCH - EXTENSION



March and April, 1969

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Volume 4, Number2

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Potpourri ---

NEW MASTER OF AGRICULTURE DEGREE OFFERED -- The Department of Recreation and Parks, in co-operation with Texas A&M University has established two new programs leading to Master of Agriculture degrees in Recreation and Resources Development and in Natural Resources Development. These are professional degrees designed for individuals who desire maximum exposure to specific areas of the field. As such, they require no thesis. In place of the thesis research and report, the student prepares one or more technical papers relating to specific areas of the field. Neither of these degrees is terminal -- qualified candidates may pursue the Doctor of Philosophy Degree if they desire.

Requirements for the Master of Agriculture in Recreation and Resources Development are:
a) Course work -- 32 semester hours; b) Technical papers -- 4 semester hours; c) Internship period -- 3 months. The internship consists of three months service with an approved agency or employer.

The Master of Agriculture in Natural Resources Development is an interdisciplinary degree with major emphasis in Recreation and Parks as an option. Its requirements are: a) Coursework in Recreation and Resources Development -- 16 semester hours (maximum); b) Course work in supporting fields -- 16 semester hours; c) Technical papers -- 4 semester hours. There is no internship period with this program.

Both degrees are approved for immediate offering. If you desire additional information on enrollment in a graduate program, please contact this department. Also note the printed leaflet attached to this newsletter.

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"PRELIMINARY STUDY OF REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS TO RECREATION DEVELOPMENT" has been funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The \$12,000 grant is for one year. The first three months' objectives are: establish the degree of use of remote sensor information by recreation planning, development and operations agencies and organizations, mainly in the state of Texas, and to identify sources of remote sensing data within the state that may be used by these agencies. It is anticipated that at a later state in this effort a seminar will be conducted to introduce remote sensing techniques and technology to personnel in the general field of recreation and parks.

Dr. FRANK SUGGITT has been selected to direct the program, assisted by Graduate Student GEORGE R. HARKER who will join the Remote Sensing Center Staff effective June 1, 1969. Although housed at the Remote Sensing Center, Harker will conduct his research within the Recreation and Parks Department, and will work with students in other disciplines.

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WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT CLASS VISITS BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK --under leadership of Dr. RICHARD L. BURY, ten graduate and undergraduate students journeyed to the unique south Texas National Park during Easter Vacation. The basic objectives of the trip were: study the management of de facto wilderness areas in the park; review and study the planning of such areas for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System; exposure to a wilderness experience under river, desert, and mountain conditions.

The trip was considered an outstanding success and thanks go out to Park Service Personnel for meeting and discussing management policies and procedures: Park Superintendent LUTHER T. PETERSON, JR., and Chief Park Naturalist RO WAUER. Several different activities were enjoyed by the participants, including some faculty families -- hiking, camping, and floating through the various canyons. Although the trip was enjoyed by all, it was not without exciting moments, when several of the group capsized while running Boquillas Canyon!

THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERPRETIVE NATURALIST' 8TH ANNUAL MEETING was extremely well attended at Hueston Woods State Park, Ohio. The magnificent new lodge provided an atmosphere that was as beautiful as it was functional for the annual conclave. Program Chairman RALPH RAMEY assembled an outstanding group of participants and an informative program for the three-day meeting.

A few of the discussion topics were: Interpreting Environmental Changes, In-Service Training Programs, Historical Interpretation in Parks, Enhancing Perception, and Research in Interpretation. A truly outstanding banquet speech was given by RAY MONSALVATGE, world lecturer, traveler and conservationist.

Although this organization is relatively young, the potential for contribution to the profession of interpretation is tremendous. The voice of the AIN will be heard in the future. Many educators and administrators will also be pleased to learn that the AIN is assembling, and will soon publish, the first significant annotated bibliography of interpretive literature and research.

Officers installed at the annual meeting were: President, BERT SZABO; Vice-President, WILLIAM B. STAPP; and PATRICIA EISING was re-elected as Secretary-Treasurer. Hershey, Pennsylvania will be the site for the 1970 annual meeting and Tucson, Arizona for 1971.

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FOREST LANDOWNER DECISION MAKING PROBED -- the Department recently received a grant to investigate the decision-making patterns of owners of large forest tracts in East Texas. Objectives of the study are to investigate the value systems and past managerial decisions of individual landowners as they affect recreation, estimate the extent of any correlation between value systems of individual landowners and their present and past policy decisions affecting recreation, and formulate a predictive model for use by recreation planners if substantial correlations between values and decisions is found. Values will be estimated through the technique of attitude measurement. Considerable background work has already been completed on the project, which is now being supported through McIntire-Stennis Act funds for forestry research. DR. RICHARD L. BURY is Project Leader; JAMES WATERS, doctoral candidate in this Department, is Principal Investigator.

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DR. FRANK W. SUGGITT, PROFESSOR OF PLANNING AND RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT recently returned from a preliminary survey required to more quickly develop the economic contribution of the Bay of Tangier Project. He was a member of a team of consultants retained by the Canadian International Development Agency to advise how Canadian foreign aid could be best used to expedite the objectives of the project. He was associated in this venture with RONALD DAOUD of Jean-Claude La Haye and Associates, planning and development consultants, and CLAUDE SENNEVILLE, consulting engineer, both of Montreal.

Tangier, the most northerly city of Morocco, just across the straits from Gibraltar, is a popular link between Europe and Africa; it weds the Atlantic to the Mediterranean, and blends modern western culture with ancient ancestral folklore. By Royal Decree, the Monarchy of Morocco created the Societe Nationale d'Amenagement de la Baie de Tanger on June 26, 1967. In English terms, this represents a public authority designed to function as a private developmental corporation, for the purpose of stimulating the development of tourist accommodations and attractions in the magnificent Bay of Tangier.

Major recommendations include reorganization and staffing to permit greater autonomy and capability of the public corporation; staff training; creation of thematic attractions to establish a design and promotional concept; concentration upon internal and external transportation innovations and integration of that phase with European and North American travel and promotion and wholesaling; and organize a centralized data bank to aid local entrepreneurs and to encourage foreign investors.

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IMPRESSIVE, ENJOYABLE AND EXTENSIVE are a few of the adjectives that were used to describe the program presented by the Dallas Recreation and Parks Department to undergraduate classes RP 403, 309 and 305 during a recent field trip to that city. Nearly sixty students, and faculty members Dr. CARLTON S. VAN DOREN, Dr. BILLIE INGRAM, ROBERT COUCH and graduate assistant BILL SONTAG, assembled at the recreation center in Samuel Grand Park. There, in a large glass-lined meeting room, the students and faculty were exposed to several illuminating discussions by prominent members of the Dallas Recreation and Parks Department. The day-long program was conducted by Dallas Superintendent of Recreation, W.H. KEELING. Descriptions of the activities of their respective departments were given by the Superintendents of Lakes, Parks, Special Activities and Administration.

HAL KIRBY, Director of Dallas' Natural History Museum, gave a very enthusiastic account of his activities with the museum, the Elm Fork Nature Trail, and other interpretive endeavors. Kirby closed with an inspiring ten-minute message on professionalism, the sincerity which left a deep impression to all who listened. Highlight of the day was the appearance and welcome by the Director of the Dallas system, L.B. HOUSTON.

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SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENTS attended the regional NRPA convention at Little Rock, Arkansas. The group visited Russellville, Arkansas and the campus of Arkansas Polytechnic College. While there CARROLL DOWELL and DAVID REED of the Recreation and Parks Department provided a "cook's tour" of the area.

THE EXTENSION SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS and the Texas Agriculture Extension Service are currently providing field service to agencies and individuals concerned with recreation and parks in the state of Texas. The Services offered are not of a technical assistance nature but must be in agreement with the philosophy of the Extension Service. The Extension Service has traditionally served the public by providing educational assistance and coordination. In keeping with this concept, specialists in Recreation and Parks and Resource Development provide educational field service to private recreation entrepreneurs, industrial and governmental institutions.

Services most often rendered are management consultations on existing and potential commercial recreation enterprises. An increasing amount of information concerning the tourist industry is being distributed to interested parties and communities. Last year the Department offered the first graduate course for college credit, off campus, directed to the professional Recreation and Park personnel in public agency work.

This course was successfully completed by approximately twenty persons. All levels of government were represented in the class and some agencies allowed several employees to participate. There have been numerous requests for similar courses to be offered at various locations throughout the state.

Perhaps one of the most useful functions of Extension is the service provided small communities where a recreation or park program is non-existent. Such communities seldom have professional assistance locally to formulate a plan of action or even to articulate accurately the objectives to the community. The local leadership may enlist the assistance of Texas A&M by any one of several methods. The local County Agricultural Agents, if asked, will request specialist assistance, or printed information. Local leaders may also secure this service by directly contacting the Department of Recreation and Parks at Texas A&M. Some requests for assistance have been directed to other Departments on campus and then referred to the Recreation and Parks Department.

Regardless of the method used for initial contact with the Department, there are four staff members with Extension responsibility in Recreation and Parks who are anxious to be of assistance when needed.

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THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA regional (Gulf States) convention was hosted by the Houston Camera Club on April 25-27 at the Sheraton-Lincoln Hotel. High quality presentations on various topics were made by professionals in several fields.

A session by RICHARD UNDERWOOD, Manned Spacecraft Center representative to NASA Headquarters Office of Space Sciences and Applications was of particular interest. He presented approximately 100 pictures taken by astronauts on the Gemini and Apollo Space Flights. Although not directed at our profession, the implications of his presentation are significant. The photographs were not taken with telephoto lenses, consequently they covered a wide area. However, the clarity was such that one could see and identify sources of air and water pollution, water impoundments, boat wakes, and recreation enterprises such as the Astrodome in Houston. It is conceivable that the near future will see space photography as a tool of every recreation related agency, replacing often out-dated aerial mosaics for park and site planning, conducting surveys of visitor use, and even measuring adverse effect of over-use.

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CONFERENCES AND RECRUITMENT ATTRACTED a fair number of visitors to the Department during the past two months. These included:

DON GARDNER, Director of the Western Division of NRPA.
FREDDIE GLAZE, University of Arkansas.
ALAN WORMS -- University of Kentucky.
CHARLES WARD -- Public Use Specialist, BSWF, Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge.
L.B. HOUSTON -- Director, Parks and Recreation Department, Dallas, Texas.
JACK ELLIS, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Waterloo, Michigan.
WADE HAMPTON, Operations Division, Corps of Engineers.
LEROY MIDDLETON, Personnel Office, Corps of Engineers.

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JAMES STRIBLING, LOUIS HODGES and L.M. REID took advantage of clear weather and excellent flying conditions to photograph the effects of recent heavy rains at Somerville Reservoir. Aerial views provided dramatic shots of multiple-use confrontations. For a period of several weeks, boaters could tie up at a picnic shelter and many park roads were under water. However, the floods did not seem to discourage the tremendous influx of visitors to the newly created recreation complex.

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THE BETA (A&M) CHAPTER OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL AND EPICUREAN SOCIETY held its annual gourmet feast at the San Jacinto Inn in March. Members of this Recreation and Parks organization dined on exotic seafoods and elected to meet again in 1970. Thanks for the fireworks display were conveyed to Dr. ART WILCOX and the Alpha Chapter in Colorado.

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A ONE-HALF HOUR NATIONAL TELECAST TO PARTICIPATING EDUCATIONAL STATIONS featured Dr. L.M. REID as the primary speaker. Taped at the University of Texas, KLRN-TV, the program was directed toward recreation and parks and the role this recreational activity has in today's society.

FACULTY



FORUM

By ROBERT COUCH, Instructor

Recreation -- a deterrent to juvenile delinquency? -- All too frequently the value of a municipal recreation program is based upon the theory that recreation is a deterrent to juvenile delinquency. This idea has been used at various times to justify the creation of a program where one did not already exist, to justify a request for operating monies from the governing authority or possibly to help promote the passage of a local bond issue.

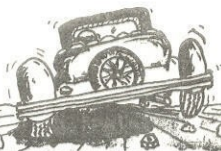
Where such a theory is accepted, we can only assume that the elimination of delinquency has been judged by the administration to be the primary goal of the program. Thus, the leadership employed, the activities offered, and the areas chosen for the conduct of these activities are all a direct result of an attempt to achieve this goal. Assuming the administration to be effective, it is highly possible that a certain level of "success" may be achieved. However, we must realize that conclusive evidence that recreation will prevent or eliminate delinquency is non-existent to date. Mr. George D. Butler, in his book INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY RECREATION tells us that the absence of recreation is not necessarily the cause of delinquency nor is its presence necessarily the basic cure.

We, as professionals, must be cognizant of the fact that even though this type of program may have been successful, in view of the established goal, it was conducted without the realization that there are more positive values to be sought through the offering of recreation to the public. An example of such values are those advocated by the American Association of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation in their booklet entitled "Goals for American Recreation" are as follows: a) personal fulfillment; b) democratic human relations; c) leisure skills and interests; d) health and fitness; and e) creative expression and aesthetic appreciation.

The establishment of these and/or other such values, as those to be sought through recreation, will have a direct bearing upon the type of leadership employed, the activities chosen for inclusion in the program and perhaps even the choice of program sites.

By seeking to attain such values it is possible that a municipal recreation program can create an environment in which anti-social behavior, such as delinquency, will not flourish. Thus, the original goal may well be achieved, but only as a by-product.

REID'S



RUMBLE SEAT

By LESLIE M. REID, Department Head

This is the last mailing before the completion of this Spring Semester and graduation for this year's Seniors in our Recreation and Parks Department.

I'm particularly conscious of this coming graduation because I will attend commencement exercises to watch the young men cross the platform and take their degrees who made up the first freshman class we put together when I came to Texas A&M a little over three years ago. They were already enrolled here as freshmen in other majors, but transferred into this department. They have had the full sequence of professional courses in this major.

With me, they have seen this Department grow from one prof and a secretary housed in two small offices to a dynamic program consisting of more than one hundred graduate and undergraduate majors, more than a dozen full-time faculty, companion research and extension programs -- all housed in an attractive, newly remodeled R&P Building.

This is a poignant, bittersweet time. I am keenly aware of some of the opportunities, challenges, and frustrations these graduates will face. I know they will put the training they have received to good use; aware, too, that they will face situations for which no training was possible. They are going on a journey, and I cannot go with them. In a sense, they are like arrows, and their profs like archers. We can prepare them with infinite love and patience, place them on the bow and aim them at a target; we may see the target clearly, but cannot travel with them. To reach their destination they must be released and watched, as they fly, carrying our hopes and aspirations with them.