

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



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Lois Beach, Editor

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Head of Department

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RECREATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

Lon Garrison, Director
Visiting Professor
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REID'S RUMBLE SEAT

A new spirit seems to be stirring in SPRE (Society of Park and Recreation Educators). There's an awakening, a willingness to assess the forces flowing in and around college campuses, and asking "Just what are we trying to do--and for whom?"

These are the main thoughts I brought back from the mid-April meeting at the University of Illinois. SPRE President, DR. A. V. SAPORA, head of the Illinois R&P Department, hosted the country-wide gathering, and DR. H. D. SESSOMS, University of North Carolina, organized 5 workshops to analyze the problems, challenges and opportunities facing educators in the field of parks and recreation. These sessions of SPRE, I feel, have significance for all persons in recreation and parks--not only those who are actually involved in teaching.

Discussions revealed that much more attention needs to be given to questions such as these:

- * What can University training in recreation and parks equip a person to do, and how can we better equip these students to find their place in the profession?
- * How can educators, practitioners and students cooperate for maximum effectiveness in internship programs?
- * In the light of anticipated tighter budgets, should we screen applicants more carefully?
- * Are University curricula as responsive as they should be to external pressures for change--from employees, students etc?

I, for one, am convinced that an increasing number of teachers feel that the time has passed when colleges are going to admit all applicants--including those who present only a warm body and minimal qualifications. Wet-nursing young people who are attempting to adjust to life away from home, who are seeking to discover who they really are, or who are experimenting with various life styles, and political, moral or philosophical value systems is no doubt a commendable activity. But, faced with the fact that curricula in parks and recreation are highly career-oriented, and that time and resources are always limited in preparing young people for positions of trust and responsibility in this profession, I feel a maximum effort must be made to assist the truly committed and able student--even if it leads to enrollment cutbacks or exclusion of those students for whom professional competence is a secondary consideration.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR TEXAS A&M

"A and M's Man of the Seventies"--this was the way DR. JACK K. WILLIAMS was described at his April 16 inauguration ceremonies as 17th president of Texas A and M University and 4th president of the University System. Since assuming his duties last November 1, Dr. Williams has shown deep interest in all facets of University life, and has gained the respect and friendship of students, faculty, staff and former students across the state. He came to the University from the University of Tennessee, where he was vice-president for academic affairs. Dr. Williams is not new to Texas, however, for he came to the state in 1966 to become the first commissioner of the Co-ordinating Board, Texas College and University System,

Five members of the faculty of the Recreation and Parks Department marched as delegates in the inaugural procession honoring Dr. Jack Williams. One faculty wife, Mrs. Clare Gunn, was an official delegate in the procession representing her alma mater, Western Michigan University.

Two of this year's four Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., Scholarships have gone to TAMU Parks and Recreation students, according to an announcement made May 3. The recipients are ROBERT STARNES, a junior from Pasadena, and THOMAS HALFMANN, a graduating senior from Rowena. The scholarships, which are awarded on the basis of academic record, ability, character and aptitude, are made annually to students in fields related to parks and recreation.

A new research project to determine the selected knowledge and proficiencies desirable for interpretive naturalists has been launched by the R&P Department. This pioneering effort is being co-sponsored by the Association of Interpretive Naturalists and the Western Interpreters Association. BEN MAHAFFEY research associate in the TAMU department, has been appointed primary investigator for the project.

DR. H. O. KUNKEL, Dean, College of Agriculture, Texas A&M University, has announced approval of MR. LEMUEL E. (LON) GARRISON's appointment, effective March 17, as Visiting Professor (N.P.S.) in Recreation and Parks. Dean Kunkel stated that this appointment recognizes Mr. Garrison's outstanding contribution for the past several years in the teaching and research programs of the Department of Recreation and Parks. A psychology graduate of Stanford University and senior administrator in the National Park Service, Mr. Garrison is currently Director of the National Service Academy maintained by the National Park Service at the Albright Training Center, Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona. He has served since 1968 as director of the Recreation Management Institute, which is sponsored jointly by the N.P.S. and the R&P Department of Texas A&M. He also lectures in R&P classes at TAMU, counsels students relative to National Park Service careers and assists in graduate research.

A special award was made by the Michigan Forestry and Park Association on February 25 to DR. LESLIE REID, in recognition of his "outstanding service and notable achievements which have furthered the objectives of the Forestry and Park Profession". The award also cited his dedication to the park profession and his accomplishments in the field of education. Dr. Reid came to Texas A&M from Michigan State five years ago to establish the Recreation and Parks Department

Newest face around the R&P Department is that of Mrs. William Beach (Lois), who will be doing some writing (this newsletter, for example) and editing for the department. A Journalism graduate from the University of Iowa, Mrs. Beach has experience in weekly newswork, college public relations and radio newswriting. (Editor's Note--At the moment, I am undergoing a saturation course in Recreation and Parks and finding it a fascinating experience.)



Open House exhibit depicting the four specializations in the R&P Department.

Friends and colleagues were guests of the R&P Department on April 30 for a well-attended Open House. It was the first time that many had visited the renovated "horse barn" which is our headquarters. Faculty and graduate students acted as guides through the department--regular classrooms were open, along with special displays portraying the growth of recreation and parks at Texas A&M. throughout the five years of its existence. Faculty wives, with MRS. DAN KAMP and MRS. JACK JONES as chairmen, manned the refreshment table. Responsible for coordinating exhibits, guides and other facets of the event, was Miss Eva Zweifel, department technical assistant. We hope that those of you who weren't able to come to the Open House will visit us whenever you are in our part of the world.



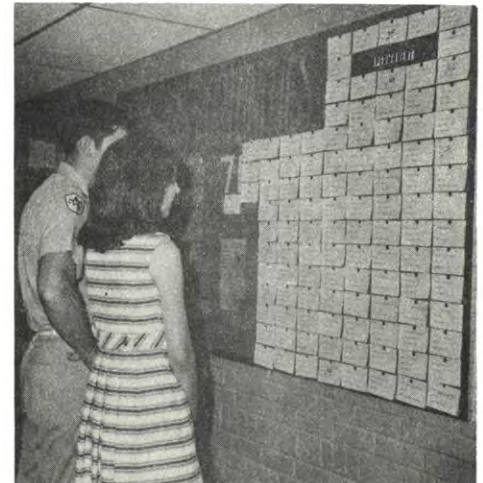
Everyone had a good time!



Miss Eva Zweifel welcomes visitors in the entry hall.



Dean Lawrence C. Walker of the School of Forestry, Stephen F. Austin University chats with Dr. Richard Potts, Associate Dean, TAMU College of Agriculture.



Two visitors check the employment board.



FACULTY ACTIVITIES



DR. CLARE A. GUNN and ALLAN WORMS, R&P doctoral student, participated in the first national conference on Marine Recreation and Conservation in Long Beach, California, March 11-14. Mr. Worms discussed recreation with several hundred high school and junior college students who visited the Texas A&M Recreation and Parks Department exhibit. Dr. Gunn appeared on a panel, "Major Trends and Future Uses of Recreation in the Ocean", and presented a paper "Coastal Tourism--Meeting the Needs of the 70's". This conference was sponsored by the American Society for Oceanography and supported by other marine and natural-resource oriented organizations. Last May Dr. Gunn received a Certificate of Commendation from the Interim Study Committee on Oceanography, Texas House of Representatives, for his testimony on tourism on the Texas Coast.

The International Union of Forestry Research Organizations held its first meeting in the United States at the University of Florida during mid-March. The Department was represented by DR. RICHARD BURY. Canadians, Germans and U. S. representatives were most often found in the Forest Recreation meetings. A tri-language glossary of recreation terms is being developed by several researchers. Dr. Bury discussed his recently-published "Thesaurus of Outdoor Recreation Terms" as a possible source of words to be considered for the glossary.

BEN D. MAHAFFEY represented the R&P Department at the recent annual meeting of the Association of Interpretive Naturalists at Land-Between-The-Lakes, Kentucky. The meeting was well-attended by 500 naturalists and environmental interpreters from across the nation. Mahaffey was reappointed to the Board of Directors, and asked to serve as Chairman of newly-formed Research Committee for the organization.

MR. DAN KAMP, Extension Specialist, was elected secretary-treasurer of the Southwest District Advisory Council of the NRPA at the annual district conference held March 28-30 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Also attending from the Department were DR. MARION CLARKE and MR. ROBERT COUCH. All three participated as panelists and moderators of educational sessions during the conference. Accompanying the staff members were about a dozen R&P students, who were also panelists during the meetings.

DRS. MARION CLARKE, CARLTON VAN DOREN and LESLIE M. REID journeyed to the University of Illinois April 19 and 20 for a national workshop concerning the relevance of recreation and park curricula in preparing students to meet the social crises of the 1970's. The workshop was sponsored by the Society of Park and Recreation Educators, a branch of the National Recreation and Park Association. It attracted about 90 R&P educators from the United States and Canada, and focused upon the role of recreation in meeting the crises of racial relations, urban living, environment pollution and youth values. WILLARD BROWN, president of the NRPA, and JOSEPH CURTIS, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks, Boston, gave the keynote addresses. Dr. Reid and Dr. Clarke served as resource persons for seminars in "A Systems Approach to Professional Preparation" and "Youth Values".

On March 12, DR. MARION CLARKE, R&P Department, DR. ROBERT BRADLEY, School of Architecture and a recent graduate of the Department, and LEROY SHILLING, R&P doctoral student, presented papers at the annual meeting of the Texas Academy of Sciences held at Stephen F. Austin University. The presentations by Drs. Clarke and Bradley were on recreational vehicles and vehicular park design. Both subjects were studied intensively during doctoral dissertation research. Mr. Shilling dealt with large forest landowner's attitudes toward forestry and fire use.

VISITING LECTURERS

DR. NEIL CHEEK and MR. HUGH BEATTIE were visiting lecturers at the Recreation and Parks Department April 5 and 6. Dr. Cheek, who is research sociologist for the National Park Service in Washington, met with the graduate-faculty seminar on socio-behavioral research methods. The Graduate students had an opportunity to present their own research topics to Dr. Cheek for evaluation and critique. Dr. Cheek also participated with Mr. Beattie in the RP 481 seminar on professional employment and training. Mr. Beattie, superintendent of Isle Royale National Park in Houghton, Michigan, met with several classes and spoke to Dr. Van Doren's RP 375 class on "Plant, Animal and Human Interactions on the Isle Royale National Park". "Management of an Island Paradise" was the topic of his talk to the student Recreation and Park Society in the evening.

On March 9, MR. EARL E. GAYLOR, General Manager, Wheeling, West Virginia, Park Commission, came to the Department as a Visiting Lecturer. Mr. Gaylor, a recognized authority in park and recreation administration, spoke on "Design and Organization of Park Facilities to Enhance Park Operations", "Recreation Finance" and "The Wheeling Park Commission". He brought a wealth of information, for under his able direction, the Wheeling Park Commission has become an essentially self-sustaining park and recreation operation with a plus \$2 million a year budget.

MR. LEMUEL GARRISON, Director, Albright Training Center, Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, visited the Department April 26-29. He conferred with DR. MARION CLARKE on plans for the Recreation Management Institute to be held again this year at Grand Canyon. Mr. Garrison also lectured to RP 309 on "Political Realities and New Concepts in Park Operation" and met with a graduate seminar.



Dr. Cheek



Mr. Beattie



Mr. Gaylor

R&P HEAD NAMED COLLABORATOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DR. GEORGE B. HARTZOG, Director, U.S. National Park Service, has appointed R&P Head L. M. REID as a Collaborator with the National Park Service. This appointment is made on infrequent occasions to persons who serve in an advisory capacity to the Director in policy formation and matters of administrative or operational nature. In the appointment letter, Director Hartzog stated that the action was in recognition of Dr. Reid's long-standing interest and involvement in park and recreation education and research programs of mutual interest to the Service and the community.

MR. JOE PAT PLOCEK, '69 R&P graduate, was a Department visitor in early April. Mr. Plocek, Superintendent, Maryland State Parks, interviewed students for summer employment. His fiancée, Miss Regina Norton accompanied him on his visit here.



"On-the-job-training" was the feature for DR. BILLIE I. INGRAM's RP 311 class, "Community Recreation Programs", offered for the first time this semester. The Bryan Boys Club, under an agreement with the Bryan Parks and Recreation Department, provided the setting at Sue Haswell Park. The sixteen students completely renovated an old, vacant building with materials and equipment donated through their efforts, and since there was no budget for the operation of the program, the students once again relied upon their own initiative to obtain supplies. Policies, procedures, scheduling and on-the-spot supervision were all the responsibility of the students who provided a range of activities--crafts, kite building, campfire arts and popular sports to name a few. The class rated a "superior" from Dr. Ingram, who also reports that the students had a good time while giving a valuable service and gaining valuable experience.

LOUIE J. BARTON, freshman R&P student from Waco, is working this semester in the Parks and Recreation Department of the city of Denton, Texas, under the Cooperative Education Program. This work-study program permits a student to work a semester and then attend school the following semester. The student not only has a source of income for school expenses, but also gains experience in his field.

MR. ROY WOOD, Regional Director, Southeast Region, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR), Atlanta, Georgia, was the principal guest at a faculty-grad seminar held at DR. FRANK SUGGITT'S "ACHIN ACRES" Tuesday evening, April 20. Mr. Wood discussed BOR's recreation planning activities in the Southeast Region. The following morning he met with students who were interested in employment with the BOR, either permanently or with BOR's internship program.

DALE BRANSFORD of San Antonio was elected '71-'72 president of the Student Parks and Recreation Society at the April meeting. Also serving as officers will be GERALD COFFEY, Waco, vice-president; CAROL LIVELY, Griswoldville, Mass., secretary; MIKE ERWIN, Pasadena, reporter; RAY SARNO, San Antonio, social chairman; ROBERT STARNES, Pasadena, representative to the Ag Council, and NED OCHS, Taylor, treasurer. This new executive committee is planning a bar-b-que for the May meeting.



Miss Eva Zweifel of Bryan, a graduating senior at Texas A&M, was awarded "The Silver Chapparral", given each semester to the outstanding undergraduate student in the Parks and Recreation Department, by Dr. Leslie M. Reid, department head, at a student bar-b-que May 4.

Miss Zweifel has served as a representative to several district and national Parks and Recreation conferences and is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Student Recreation and Parks Society. In April this year she was named the Bryan Rotary Club nominee for the International Rotary Foundation Scholarship to support graduate study at a University of Europe. She has served on the Department Liaison Committee and has worked for the Department as a technical assistant and previous to that, as a secretary, besides being a full-time student. She has also coordinated and planned several symposiums for the Department.

After graduation Miss Zweifel will be employed as a recreation research technician at the University of Quebec at Three Rivers, Canada, and the department, students and faculty alike, will miss her!

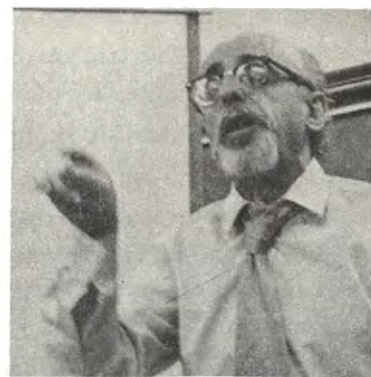
R&P graduate teaching assistant, JOHN HANNA, traveled 8 states during April to establish field contacts for the May 16-23 trip of RP 466-Regional Recreation Studies. This senior course provides students with an exposure to a variety of management situation on the 8-day field trip. DR. MARION CLARKE will direct 8 seniors making the trip.

Spring Symposium

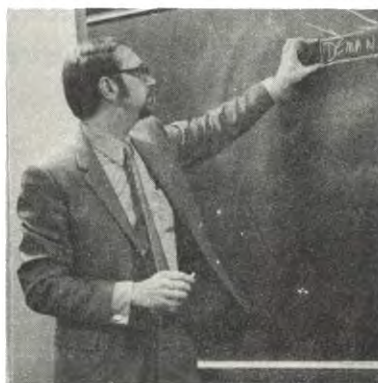
The Recreation and Parks Department's Spring Symposium brought four outstanding speakers to the campus to discuss "Creating Environments for Leisure Use."



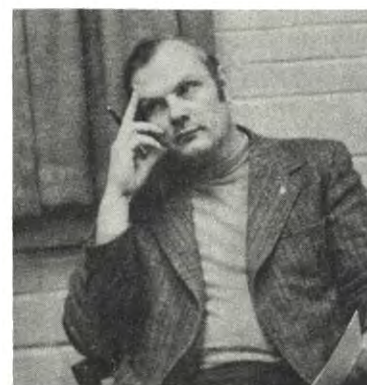
PROFESSOR PHILIP H. LEWIS, JR., chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Wisconsin, described his concepts and methodology of landscape evaluation, as well as action programs in Wisconsin employing these processes and techniques. His talk was entitled "Environmental Growth Strategy for the 70's".



DR. ROY WOLFE's topic was "Reversing the Friction of Distance in Long Distance Travel Modes". His main thesis was that for long distance recreation trips, after a certain threshold distance, the farther people go, the farther they want to go. Dr. Wolfe was a researcher for the Ontario Department of Highways until 1969, when he accepted a position with the Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Canada.



DR. JACK ELLIS also came to us from York University in Toronto, where he is with the Department of Environmental Studies. Dr. Ellis, who considers himself a "social engineer", spoke on "Recreation Planning and the Computer: Friend or Foe?" His comments were addressed primarily to a structuring of recreation behavior in terms of supply and demand.



MR. DONALD G. BRAUER related the effectiveness of his unique professional "studio" approach, in which his organization of engineers, planners, architects approach each project on a team basis. Mr. Brauer is president of Brauer and Associates, Inc., Eden Prairie, Wisconsin. He and his organization are sensitive to the ecology of natural resources.



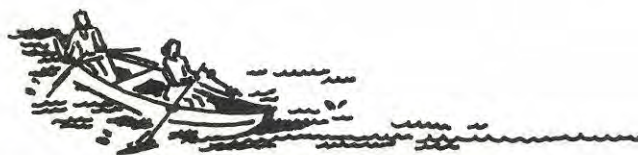
During March, the graduate class in Dynamics of Tourism (RP 636), under the guidance of DR. CLARE A. GUNN, visited New Orleans and other tourist attractions in southern Louisiana to study that state's tourist industry. The trip involved a look at Louisiana's statewide program of tourist promotion and service and a first-hand look at some major attractions, including the Vieux Carre (French Quarter). The eleven tourism students making the trip were interested in seeing and experiencing the tourist attractions, not only as the typical tourist might, but also, by looking behind the scenes into the actual development operation and coordination of this major tourist area. The ways that business, monuments, parks, the famous French Quarter and a busy city all combined to make a tourist attraction were of special interest.

Graduate students in DR. FRANK SUGGITT's Recreation Resource Development class (RP 650) made a trip to Austin on Sunday, April 16 to present a progress report on their feasibility study for a proposed Natural Science Center. The class has worked both semesters on the study for the Natural Science Association in Austin, which is attempting to establish the center.

DR. CLARE A. GUNN's graduate Dynamics of Tourism class met with state officials and representatives of private organizations on March 4 in Austin to discuss the overall tourism development effort in Texas.

Reprints of the article on the R&P Department, which ran in the February issue of THE TEXAS AGGIE, are available to interested persons. The complete and lively six-page story tells about our beginnings and progress over the past five years. If you desire a copy, please drop us a note and we'll be happy to send you one.

Eighty students from R&P classes 305 and 309 toured the recreation and park facilities of San Antonio and Fort Sam Houston on April 30. The classes, Management of Urban Parks and Park Maintenance and Operation, are taught by DR. MARION CLARKE and MR. ROBERT COUCH, who accompanied the students on the all-day trip. The group seminared with MR. ROBERT L. FRAZER, director of the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, his staff and with City Manager JERRY HENKEL. Special services personnel from Fort Sam Houston also met with the students.



Strong head winds and shallow water tested the mettle of canoeists from the R&P Department on March 27 when they competed in the second annual Brazos River Canoe Race. There were 10 canoes in the event, sponsored by the TAMU Student Recreation and Parks Society. The winning canoe, handled by JERRY DYE and JEFF HELDENFELS, completed the 12-mile course in 3 hours. Brothers JOE and LES BRUSSE took second place; SCOTT KELLY and MIKE GADDIS won third; and SHERMAN LEE and LOUIS WARREN were fourth. First place in the women's class went to CAROL LIVELY and SUE WITTENS.

FAMILY CAMPING AWARD TO DR. VAN DOREN

DR. CARLTON S. VAN DOREN of the Recreation and Parks Department, Texas A&M, has just been named recipient of the first annual Family Camping Federation Award for excellence in research related to Family Camping. Dr. Van Doren's award-winning paper was based on research done while he was a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Geography at Michigan State University. It measures the attraction of Michigan State Parks and relates a "park attraction index" to visitation rates and to recreational travel throughout Michigan. Dr. Van Doren's award will be presented at the FCF Camping Congress on June 8 in Chicago.



Graduating Seniors



Eva Louise Zweifel
Bryan, Texas
R&P Society
Student Liaison Committee
Department Technical Assistant
Employer: University of Quebec



Bill Cook
Van, Texas
R&P Society
Wildlife Biology Society
Student Liaison Committee
Distinguished Student



Claude Renner Glover
Houston, Texas
R&P Society
ASLA Student Chapter
Distinguished Student
Employer: Hederhorst/Kioppe,
Landscape Architects, Houston



Gregory Allen Hale
Houston, Texas
R&P Society
Corps of Cadets
Freshman and Sophomore
Honors, Cadet Officer
Employer: Dallas Parks and
Recreation Department



Tommie Halfmann
Rowena, Texas
R&P Society
Tryell of Leggett Hall
Intramural Sports
Employer: Corps of Engineers



Edward R. Jameson, Jr..
Mansfield Massachusetts
R&P Society
Hart Hall President
Civilian Student Council
Employer: Briggs Nursery
North Attleboro, Massachusetts



David L. Koch
Uvalde, Texas
Phi Theta Kappa, Honor Society
R&P Society



David Mel Rapp
Mineola, Texas
R&P Society--Reporter
Ag Council Representative
Distinguished Student
Employer: Dallas Parks and
Recreation Department



Rembert Zell Stevens
Longview, Texas
R&P Society
Distinguished Student
Employer: Longview Parks and
Recreation Department



Ivan Dean Welker
Brownsville, Texas
R&P Society
Student Representative,
Dormitory Council
Employer: The Zoo, Brownsville



Jim Edward Wiese
De Soto, Texas
R&P Society
Distinguished Student



Russell Wright
Silsbee, Texas
R&P Society
Student Liaison Committee
Employer: Orange Parks and
Recreation Department