

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Texas A&M University

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TEACHING - RESEARCH - EXTENSION

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REID'S RUMBLE SEAT

It's difficult for me to realize my third full year at Texas A&M is almost complete. Doesn't seem possible. Yet on the other hand, so much has happened it sometimes seems like I've always been a part of this University and Department. Those of you who have had the interest--and patience--to keep track of my activities at Texas A&M have been privy equally to my thrills of accomplishment, and the frustrations that are a normal part of any undertaking--especially one like this in which I see so much that needs to be done.

As I look back over the rapid growth we have experienced thus far--in faculty appointments, in student enrollment, in appropriations and research grants, in cooperation with other agencies--and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that are so obvious in the months and years just ahead, I clearly see that we are just at a beginning point. How fortunate this Department is to have been allowed such rapid growth. But what a responsibility we now face, being fairly well organized and operational now, to identify and tie into those areas in which useful contributions can be made.

All of us who have some small part in the park and recreation profession surely must feel there could not be a more exciting and stimulating era in which to be working. Established credos, standard approaches, familiar solutions are all around us being questioned, challenged, and threatened. I feel this situation deserves our best collective and individual efforts--a response on the part of all professionals to mount a never-flagging campaign to improve recreation services to all citizens and to increase the relevance of recreation and leisure in American life. What are the fundamental needs? Where are we going in recreation, both as a national force and as individuals? What are the important problems that cry for solution, and what are the apparent priorities? These things demand our finest energies and efforts.

Whoops! Down off the soapbox, Reid! I hope as you read this you are looking to the year just ahead. I hope, too, that you see problems facing you in the year ahead, for without problems there would be little need for our services. But I hope you see your problems as I see mine, opportunities for learning and achieving and aspiring, and as situations that can be resolved to your eventual satisfaction.

In this particular spirit, I want to wish you a most happy, and prosperous, and successful New Year.

OUR THANKS TO YOU!

As 1968 draws to a close and we reflect on the progress and objectives that our Department has accomplished we realize that much of the credit must go to our many friends across the State and the Nation. Our appreciation goes out to you in the various agencies and departments who gave your time and talents to meet and work with us as we traveled on regional and state fieldtrips; to the instructors who came from all over the country to make our Recreation Management Institute successful; to employers who supervised our students during summer employment; and to guest lecturers for their dynamic and motivating contributions to our course offerings. Our wish for 1969 is that we may be of service in some way to you.

--- Ben D. Mahaffey

TEXAS RECREATION AND PARKS SOCIETY MEETS AT A&M: The 31st Annual Meeting and Workshop of the Texas Society was hosted by the Department on November 7-9, the first time the Society has met at a university. Approximately 175 persons attended the conference, which began Thursday with a gold tournament.

Conference Coordinator for the 3-day meeting was Extension Specialist B.D. KAMP, who did a superlative job of the arrangements necessary for a successful meeting. Mr. WILLIAM SCHEIBE, Director, Houston Park and Recreation Department, presented the Keynote Address, setting the tone for the program to follow.

The program stressed the interdisciplinary nature of Recreation and Park Administration. Several Texas A&M departments assisted in the program. Architecture and Environmental Planning, Floriculture, Soil Science, Health and Physical Education, and Sociology all provided special interest sessions, demonstrations, or seminars. Mr. VAUGHN EUTENEUER, Game-time, Inc., hosted a social hour prior to the 31st Anniversary Banquet. Mr. CAYCE MOORE, widely-known humorist, was the banquet speaker, while the A&M Consolidated Bengal Belles provided high-stepping precision drill dancing as added entertainment.

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AREA RECREATION SPECIALIST JAMES STRIBLING assisted in a unique experience for Texas legislators and resource planners. Working with Mr. TROY BERRY, Southeast Texas Resource and Development project coordinator, Soil Conservation Service, and Mr. B.J. JONES, Director of the RC&D, Stribling helped arrange an AERIAL SHOW-ME TOUR of recreation developments and facilities in the 5,000,000 acre region. Local rice farmers made available nine light planes to transport the 30 people making the tour. This birds'-eye view of land developments was so well received that similar tours are being planned for other cooperating groups.

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COMPUTERIZED PRE-REGISTRATION HAS COME TO TEXAS A&M! For 20 days last month, students reported to their various departmental advisors to select the courses they will attend next semester. Course selections were then fed to the central University computer, which parcelled students out to equal-sized sections, identified potential conflicts, and printed out final class schedules. Now if those of us on the faculty can only learn to read the computer's instructions, we can give the student his schedule weeks in advance without the agony of the usual registration confusion.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST RECREATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (September 24 to October 6, 1967) have been received from the Texas A&M Press. The attractive paperbound publication consists of 20 professional presentations in separate chapters, totaling 203 pages. Graduate assistants RICHARD CRYSDALE and MARION CLARKE had the major responsibility of working with the Press to produce the finished product. Topics included range from Ecological Foundations to Land Use Planning and Resource Management and Operations. Copies are available at \$2.00 per copy by writing the Department.

OKLAHOMA RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY'S 13th Annual Conference and Workshop was attended by Dr. LESLIE M. REID, Dr. BILLIE I. INGRAM, Dr. CLARE A. GUNN, Mr. B. DAN KAMP, and Mr. JAMES C. STRIBLING November 12-13 at Oklahoma State University. Dr. REID was guest speaker and chairman of the workshop session "Recreation in the Total Sense." C.D. DOWELL (Arkansas Polytech) and Dr. GUS ZAZO (U. of Missouri) participated in this session. President ALVIN EGGEING (Oklahoma City) introduced the conference theme "Problems, Trends and Opportunities in Recreation." The Oklahoma Society is vitally concerned with professional upgrading and is undertaking a study of professional educational needs under the leadership of incoming president JACK HANS of the Muskogee Park and Recreation Department.

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TWO-WEEK RECREATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE COMPLETED: The second annual R.M.I. was conducted October 20-November 1 by the Department for state and federal recreation administrators and technical assistance specialists. Participants represented a total of eight state and federal agencies, while nineteen federal, state, county, municipal, private, and professional organizations supplied the instructors who took part in the teaching sessions. Co-sponsored by the Department of Recreation and Parks and the National Park Service, the Institute was directed by Mr. LEMUEL A. GARRISON, NPS Regional Director, Northeast Region, with the assistance of Mr. RICHARD CRYSDALE, doctoral student in Recreation and Parks.

Participating park and recreation administrators were presented an overview of the new thoughts and developments within the field. Emphasis was placed upon the exchange of concepts and philosophies and the value of interagency cooperation. Open discussion of common problems yielded new ideas and novel solutions. Discussions ranged from considerations of the natural and human resources, through planning, interpretation, and administrative concerns. Fieldtrips to recreation developments at a nearby Corps of Engineers reservoir and to public and commercial parks in Central Texas provided the opportunity for first-hand evaluation of current developments.

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CAMPUS VISITORS--recent visitors to our Department and Campus are:

ALAN WORMS -- Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky presented an informative seminar for students and faculty on "Recreation Development Activities in Western Kentucky and Land-Between-the-Lakes."

DAVID J. REED -- Assistant Professor, Arkansas Polytechnic College, spent several days with us in November. Dave's main mission was to work with our research administration in preparation of a sizable grant proposal, but while on campus he conducted an outstanding seminar with our graduate class in Recreation Organization and Policy.

Mr. VAUGNN EUTENEUER and Mr. JOHN BATCHELDRE, Game-time, Inc., visited the Department recently to discuss several new designs for mobile equipment. The Fun-on-wheels concept included trailer-mounted wagons for use as puppet shows, art and craft centers, natural science exhibits and many other uses.

DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL THESAURUS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION TERMS. A two-year joint effort by the Department of the Interior Library, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and this Department is nearing completion. Preliminary versions of the Thesaurus have been used for classifying materials in BOR's Index to Selected Outdoor Recreation Literature. During the past month, Dr. BURY has submitted final drafts of the Thesaurus to the BOR.

These drafts encompass a vocabulary of about 2,000 descriptors, words or phrases intended for indexing, storage, or retrieval of information in outdoor recreation. A classified arrangement presents the descriptors in an indented, classified arrangement of ideas and related concepts. The alphabetical arrangement features a listing of all terms, each of which is compiled along with the terms closely related to it in the classified arrangement. These drafts are now being sent to reviewers in various agencies and educational institutions. Publication is anticipated during 1969.

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NEW DEPARTMENTAL COURSE OFFERINGS. As part of a total reappraisal of the curriculum in Recreation and Parks, 11 new courses have been proposed by members of the teaching faculty. Eight of these new courses, mostly electives would be added to the undergraduate degree program, while three others are designed to give added breadth to the graduate programs.

Specific recommendations at the undergraduate level include Wilderness Management, Community Recreation Programs, Historic Reconstructions, Economics of Outdoor Recreation and Regional Administration Studies. The expanded graduate offerings are expected to include formal courses in Recreational Travel, Leisure Concepts, and Recreation Resource Development.

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RECENT FIELDTRIPS COVER BROAD AREAS OF INTERESTS -- Dr. BURY's class in Outdoor Recreation Management recently visited various recreation areas of the U.S. Forest Service, Texas State Parks, U.S. Corps of Engineers and Texas River Valley authorities in the piney forests of East Texas. At each area, managers or planners from the hosting agency discussed management philosophies, budgeting and management problems; students then spent time evaluating area aspects such as design, maintenance, activity suitability, etc.

Various aspects of interpretation were studied and evaluated by Mr. MANAFFEY's class in "Interpretive Methods" during a three-day fieldtrip to Austin, New Braunfels, and San Antonio. LOUIS HODGES greatly assisted in making the trip successful. Special thanks go to ROBERT FRAZER and DALE LEGGETT of the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department for their efforts in guiding and assisting for a full day's activities.

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OCCUPANCY OF THE NEW RECREATION AND PARKS BUILDING scheduled for early November was delayed because of a 5-week interruption in work while the contractor finished another construction job on campus. Consequently, we are still trying to work in temporary offices that house as many as three instructors, each attempting to retain his composure in a bedlam of student advising, lecture preparation and personal study. Hopefully, we will be moved and settled by the start of the Spring Semester.

THE 1968 N.R.P.A. CONGRESS held in October in Seattle, Washington offered an excellent program and hosting. General Session speakers were considered outstanding. From the University standpoint, a significant highlight was the attention given to students attending the Congress. Special arrangements were made for visiting students, special sessions arranged, and a large enough number of students were on hand to see the beginning of a student organization which can be instrumental in improving interchange of information and ideas among park and recreation students on various campuses.

Three members of the Department presented papers at various sessions of the NRPA Congress at Seattle. Dr. C. S. VAN DOREN presented a paper entitled, "Measuring and Evaluating Use of Recreation Resources", Dr. C. A. GUNN participated in a panel with a paper entitled, "Public-Private or Public Versus Private?", and Dr. F. W. SUGGITT's address was entitled, "Innovations In Emphasis of Continuing Education for Recreation and Park Administrators".

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A NEW SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION, THE JOURNAL OF LEISURE RESEARCH, was introduced at the Seattle NRPA Congress. The result of several years of discussion and dedicated effort, especially by Dr. DONALD E. HAWKINS, Vol. 1, No. 1 was received from the printer just prior to the Congress. This new Journal is already finding enthusiastic acceptance by scholars in many disciplines closely related to recreation and parks. The quarterly J.L.R. is destined to be a prime medium for reporting significant research and scholarly endeavors of interest to professionals in our field. Copies are part of NRPA membership. Subscriptions are also available at a price of \$10.00 per year, by writing directly to the Washington NRPA office.

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COMING EVENTS:

Annual Meeting, American Association for the Advancement of Science and Participating Affiliated Societies. Dallas, Texas; December 26-31, 1968.

Marine Science and Sea Grant Conference, Texas A&M, January 16-17, 1969.

Annual Meeting, Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute. Lake Texoma State Park, Kingston, Oklahoma; February 2-5, 1969.

International Shade Tree Conference, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; February 5-7, 1969.

Texas Chapter, Society of American Foresters, Texas A&M; February 14, 1969.

California and Pacific Southwest Recreation and Park Conference, San Francisco; February 22-25, 1969.

Texas Social Welfare Association, San Antonio, Texas; February 23-26, 1969.

Revenue Sources Management School, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, W. Va., March 9-13, 1969.

S.W. District N.R.P.A. Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas; March 25-28, 1969.

Annual Meeting of the Association of Interpretive Naturalists. Hueston Woods State Park, near Oxford, Ohio; March 27-29, 1969.

--- FACULTY FORUM ---

Continuing the policy of providing our faculty members an opportunity to present a topic of their choice or a piece of favorite philosophy, Dr. CLARE A. GUNN, Professor of Tourism and Recreation Planning, has submitted the following.

WHEN IS A TOURIST NOT A RECREATIONIST?

A tourist promoter once shocked a group of park managers by telling them that they were in the tourist business. Why were they insulted?

Who visits our National Parks? Who makes recreational use of our National Forests? Who visits our national shrines, most of which are in public or private parks, by the millions each year? Who spends hundreds of thousands of dollars on photographing our natural wonders, usually found in our parks? Who makes heavy use of our state, county and regional parks? Who pays user fees and taxes that greatly support park and recreation areas? Who pays for services and products that begin the economic chain of investment and employment which in turn supports government park and recreation activities? Tourists do.

When tourists travel highways and appreciate the scenic appeals of the roadsides, what are they doing? When they stop and visit cultural centers and learn of the unique contributions of localities, what are they doing? When tourists stop at a roadside park to stretch legs and have a picnic, what are they doing? When tourists hike mountain trails and feel the exhilaration of topping the crest, what are they doing? When tourists lounge on the beaches, swim in the waters, surf on them, fish them, and boat them, what are they doing? When tourists visit botanical and zoological parks to learn more about the mysteries of nature, what are they doing? When tourists aggregate by the thousands in outdoor theaters, what are they doing? They are recreating.

If tourists are recreationists and if tourism encompasses much of what is called recreation, what is being done about it, either on the ground or in administrative policies? When we look at a region, do we plan the transportation system to meet the needs of visitors as well as residents? When we locate and design a new park, do we consider the many desires and habits of the throngs of tourists who will surely visit the park?

When we purchase vast areas or small pockets of land for recreation, do we recognize that many tourist functions may need to be incorporated into them? When we talk, teach, research write and act about recreation or tourism, do we exclude those who have prejudices other than our own?