



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

September and October, 1970

Louis Hodges, Editor

Volume 5, Number 5

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TEACHING AND RESEARCH

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Commercial Recreation

Billie Ingram, Ph.D.
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Parks and Recreation

Ben D. Mahaffey, B.S.
Interpretation

James O'Rourke, B.S.
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David J. Reed, M.S.
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Jim Stribling, Specialist
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Carson Watt, Specialist
Area Development

RECREATION MGMTMENT INSTITUTE

Lon Garrison, N.P.S.
Director

1970 ENROLLMENT GROWTH

The fall semester registration figures show that the Department of Recreation and Parks has enrolled 123 undergraduates, 31 Masters, and 27 Ph.D. students. This represents an increase of approximately 15% over 1969.

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NEWLY APPROVED COURSES OFFERED

Approval this past summer to add twelve new courses came too late to expand the undergraduate offerings for this semester since the majority of students had pre-registered last May. However, two of the graduate courses are being offered due to student demand. Seventeen first year graduate students are enrolled with DR. REID in RP 601 "Recreation and Leisure Concepts," while 15 second year graduate students are registered with DR. SUGGITT in RP 650 "Area Resource Development."

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THIRD RECREATION MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE HELD

Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona, was the site of the third session of the RMI held October 25-November 1, 1970. Again co-sponsored by the Department of Recreation and Parks and the National Park Service, the Institute utilized the facilities of the Albright Training Center, the training academy for NPS ranger personnel. Center Director LON GARRISON and MARION CLARKE, A&M professor, directed and coordinated the Institute program. This year's theme was "Contemporary Problems in State Park Operations." Participants included state park directors and personnel, and senior personnel of several federal agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Forest Service. Outstanding guest lecturers included DR. DOUGLAS GILBERT, Wildlife Science, Cornell University; MR. JOSEPH BISSONNETTE, Pittsburgh Zoo; MR. FRANK RUBINI, Maryland National Capital Parks Commission; MR. WILLIAM PENN MOTT, California State Parks; and MR. MARK GOSDIN, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WAYNE C. EDWARDS, accompanied by MARION CLARKE and MIKE WADDLE, junior major, appeared on the program of the Annual Conference of the National Conference on State Parks, held September 20-24, 1970 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Wayne's general session address, entitled "What Today's College-Age Youth Wants From State Parks" was extremely well done and enthusiastically received by NCSP delegates. Well done, Wayne.

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GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL

Graduate students enrolled in RP 650 under DR. F. W. SUGGITT are seeing lots of country. Organized into research teams, students are involved in on-site investigations at a number of sites in Texas and adjacent states. One team traveled this month with Dr. Suggitt in his new 24 foot self-contained Open Road mobile home. The itinerary included a reservoir planning stop in Arkansas; an opportunity to participate in the Arkansas State Parks Training Conference; a visit to Holiday City in Memphis, Tennessee; and a visit to Land-Between-the-Lakes, Tennessee, to see the TVA recreation demonstration areas as guests of MR. HAROLD VAN MORGAN.

COMING EVENTS

November 5, 1970

DR. ALEXANDER CLARK, Associate Dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, will give two presentations as part of the Recreation and Parks Department Visiting Lecturer Program. Dr. Clark is a recognized behavioral scientist with broad experience in social attitudes, behavior analysis, and leisure preferences. He will address himself to the subjects of "Plans and Programs of the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs" and "Social Attitudes and Recreation Behavior."

November 13-14, 1970

The theme of the Department's Fall Semester Educator's Colloquium on Recreation and Leisure Concepts will be "A Recreation Philosophy for Life in a Leisure-Centered Society." Educators participating in the Colloquium will include:

PATRICIA DELANEY, Associate Professor, Recreation Education, California State College-Los Angeles, and Commissioner, Los Angeles Park and Recreation Department.

ROLF MEYERSON, Professor of Sociology, Lehman College, City University of New York.

H. D. SESSOMS, Curriculum Supervisor, Recreation, University of North Carolina.

L. F. TWARDZIK, Chairman, Park and Recreation Resources, Michigan State University.

December, 1970

MR. DON GREENAWAY, Associate Dean of the School of Hotel and Restaurant Management of the University of Houston, will present an address on "Travel Trends in the USA" in conjunction with the Visiting Lecturer Program.

MR. WILLIAM L. COLPITTS, Director of Public Use for the Division of Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will present an address on "Teaching Environmental Values."

THESAURUS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION TERMS

A comprehensive vocabulary of terms for indexing, storage, and retrieval of information is now available. Working in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, DR. RICHARD L. BURY has compiled the *Thesaurus of Outdoor Recreation Terms—Keywords and Cross-References for the Indexing and Retrieval of Outdoor Recreation Literature*.

The Thesaurus contains approximately 2,200 terms arranged in six arrays, with potentially ambiguous terms briefly defined by scope notes. Terms judged as optimal by the user would be employed in the usual manner for indexing, storage, or retrieval. The user could select one or several terms to index materials for his own collection, and could later search his collection at appropriate times under the same terms. During retrieval, the user can search indexes and bibliographies which have been based on this thesaurus. For example, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation has used preliminary editions of the Thesaurus for indexing items reported in their annual *Index to Outdoor Recreation Literature*. Under such co-ordinate indexing and storage, searches can be selectively narrowed by specifying that documents satisfy one or more indexed terms but not another.

Requests for copies of the Thesaurus should be addressed to the Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., 20240. The initial printing was limited to 200 copies, hence distribution will selectively favor practitioners, academicians, researchers, and librarians most likely to use the thesaurus and to provide constructive criticism for further development. A second printing is now being negotiated with another publisher, and additional copies should be readily available in the near future.

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NRPA CONGRESS

The National Recreation and Park Association Congress, held September 27-30 in Philadelphia, was attended by a sizable delegation representing Texas A&M. A total of four faculty, twenty-two students, and eight former students participated. REX DERR, BUDDY ROGERS, SUSAN WITTENS, and EVA ZWEIFEL were active in Student Society activities; and DRS. R. L. BURY, C. S. VAN DOREN, and L. M. REID appeared on the Congress program.

Following the Congress, two carloads of faculty and students drove from Philadelphia to Wheeling, West Virginia, at the invitation of MR. EARL GAYLOR, General Manager of the Wheeling Park Commission. This group received red-carpet treatment in every respect as Mr. Gaylor and his staff, by both seminar and on-site visits, explained the programs that make Oglebay Park one of America's truly outstanding recreation areas.

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CAMPUS VISITORS

Recent visitors to the Department included MR. WARREN LEDDICK, Austin Park and Recreation Department, and MR. LEONARD EHRLER, Director of the Denton department. Mr. Leddick currently is the past-President of the Texas Recreation and Park Society, while Mr. Ehrler is the President of the Society for 1970-71.

FACULTY NOTES

A Summer in the Field: During the past summer, DR. RICHARD L. BURY was engaged as a Staff Park Ranger at Glacier National Park. His work involved research directed at increasing the professional opportunities for Park Rangers and at providing work opportunities for park technicians. Park managers expect to match personnel abilities more closely to the nature of the jobs, thereby maximizing output per dollar expended on salaries and supportive expenses.

The work involved definition of "professionalism", followed by documentary analysis of jobs involving resource management, resource protection, and visitor protection. Interviews with each permanent Ranger were conducted to determine the individual's conception of his job. Finally, a report was drawn to indicate the number of professional and technical positions that seemed advisable for the Park, and the distribution of staffing through the summer months in comparison to the winter.

October in Florida: Personal business and a vacation combined to give LOU HODGES the opportunity of enjoying Florida sunshine during early October. Photographic excursions through the Everglades National Park, Cape Florida State Park, Crandon Park (Dade County), and several municipal systems were interspersed with visits to professionals and educators in the central and southern portions of the state.

Mr. Hodges extends thanks to all individuals who assisted him in the arrangements and discussions. Special thanks go to MRS. CARRIE MEEK, Miami-Dade Junior College; MR. BOB PERKINS and MR. HANK MORAN, Dade County Park and Recreation Department; DR. NICK SILEO, Florida International University; DR. MAX KAPLAN, University of South Florida; and DR. KENNETH SWINFORD, University of Florida.

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STATE PARK MANAGERS MEET

DR. L. M. REID, MR. JOHN MANNA, and LOUIS HODGES traveled to Petit-Jean State Park in Central Arkansas at the request of State Park Director L. E. (BUDDY) SURLS (A&M '68). The four day training conference is the first scheduled by Director Surles for in-service training of superintendents. These members of the Department participated on the conference program, with Dr. Reid speaking on quality management and John Hanna presenting a triple-screen program on park interpretation.

Arkansas is to be congratulated for instituting a training program to upgrade the quality of management in providing outdoor recreation services.

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TEXAS RECREATION AND PARK SOCIETY MEETS

A total of thirty-six students and faculty from the Recreation and Park Department participated in the Texas Recreation and Park Society's State Meeting. Highlight of the three-day meeting was an address by MR. RICHARD PERIGO on drug abuse, followed by a tour of the federal Clinical Rehabilitation Research Center.

MR. REX DERR, Recreation and Parks graduate student, moderated a session entitled "The Promotion of Commercial Recreation" and MR. WAYNE EDWARDS, a junior in the Department, moderated a session on "Careers in Recreation."

In other actions, the Society gave formal approval to the formation of a Student Branch. Elected officers for 1970-71 are MR. EDWARD NEAL, President (North Texas State University); MR. MIKE WADDLE, Vice President (Texas A&M); MISS TERESA KENNEDY, Secretary (Texas Women's University); and MISS SUE WITTENS, Treasurer (Texas A&M).

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STUDENT CO-OP PROGRAM IN EFFECT

The Recreation and Park Department's newly approved cooperative work-study program is now in operation. The program is structured to permit two students to alternate every other semester after completion of the freshman year. Three four-month periods of full employment alternate with a semester of school residence. The cities of Denton and Bryan, Texas are participating in this program. MR. DENYS GIRARD is working his first employment period with the Denton system, while MR. DAVID CULBRETH is employed by the Bryan city department.

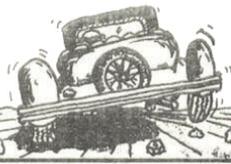
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MASTER OF SCIENCE AWARDED

MR. WILLIAM SONTAG passed the oral examination for the M.S. degree in Recreation and Resources Development, thereby qualifying for graduation in December, 1970. Bill's thesis was an investigation of public attitudes toward recreation on National Wildlife Refuges. Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in Alabama was used as the site for the pilot study.

At a dinner arranged by the Recreation and Park Wives Club, MRS. JO ANN SONTAG received a special certificate recognizing her role in assisting Bill to complete his degree-the "Putting Hubby Through" award.

REID'S



RUMBLE SEAT

By Leslie M. Reid, Department Head

September is always a tough but exciting month for teachers. A new school year begins--always, it seems, before we're ready for it. This year was even more hectic; Texas A&M went on a revised schedule that began classes on August 31, and completes the Fall Semester just before Christmas. The excitement also comes from getting acquainted with the new freshmen and new graduate students. Our program keeps growing, with 200 students from all parts of the country making their way to TAMU--only three of 16 new grad students are from Texas.

This semester my graduate class in Recreation and Leisure Concepts is exploring with me the meaning of leisure in relation to events taking place in America today. We're searching for answers--realizing there are no pat answers. About a dozen of these graduate students agreed to invest extra time, effort, and money to attend the Texas Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference in Fort Worth, October 22-24. Our own added reason was to spend an evening in a Fort Worth city park which was recommended as a place we could find and talk to hippies. One small area is known to be a hangout for transients, many of them moving from coast to coast.

This small park area has largely become a hippie forum--a poorly lighted and badly blighted area adjacent to an open pavilion. Off the walk areas, no turf--shuffling feet had long since destroyed all grass. A drenching rain earlier in the day had converted this entire area to slippery mud. Discarded cans, bottles, and papers completed the picture--more a cattle or pig pen than a park. Cars and motorcycles constantly in motion, parking and leaving, adding to the noise and confusion. Exhaust fumes and the smell of dope hanging like a pall in the air.

The crowd? Big, but composed of small knots of youngsters, ambling along, standing, or sitting, but constantly talking while aimlessly forming and reforming. The age? 'teens and twenties, mostly. The graffiti on pavilion walls? Obscene, partly; mostly variations of "Where is God?", and "Revolution is our only hope!"

We stayed until midnight when most youths had left the park--half an hour after a helicopter had bored in low and spattered the beams of a powerful searchlight through the trees and shrubbery as a reminder of the 11:30 p.m. curfew. We were fortunate the evening ended quietly. In neighboring Dallas that same evening, simultaneous raids by narcotics agents climaxing months of preparation resulted in a massive roundup that included approximately forty arrests.

What did we learn? Not much, perhaps. We were offered more kinds of drugs than I had known existed. These weren't pushers and buyers--these were "passers", exchanging one kind of drugs for another. Obviously, we didn't scratch beneath the surface. But some things stood out; the extreme youth and vulnerability of the very young--boys and girls of 13, 14, 15. The bitterness and feelings expressed that nobody cares for me. The attitude of not being concerned about anything. The rejection of any purposeful action requiring a commitment beyond the "now". We talked to youngsters from good homes, broken homes, and no homes. A 14-year old boy told us he was given \$25 a week by his parents just to stay away from home. A 15-year old girl dressed as a bride--barefoot. An older boy sobbing out his frustrations and feelings to three of my students.

The thing that tore at me was that these were not free, not liberated, youngsters. No joy was evident. Just sadness and melancholy; pathetic. Generalizations come easy, but are likely worthless. Experts and serious investigators of youth have said and written a great deal on the subject. I'd be presumptuous to try to give reasons; but some feelings came through from this experience.

These youngsters, at least, are hungry to talk--to anyone. They want to explain what's bothering them. It's deep often, and hard to get into words. Many of them are smart, well read, and sophisticated. They will listen to older people. But they want honesty. The empty phrase, the put-on, the pat cliché, is quickly rejected. They seem very lonely, and many feel not only rejected, but utterly abandoned. They see the irony of groups of older people gathering with cocktail in hand and puffing on cigarettes to discuss the "drug problem".

I came away with one overriding feeling. Here is an age group that has only known post-war conditions, TV, and no shortage of material abundance. They dwell on the war in Vietnam. And I believe this provides the keyhole through which the central problem can be seen. They have asked the question, "Why should I and my friends have to die in Vietnam?" And this has sharpened the unasked question, "Why should I have to die at all?" And no one has given them a reason, or said, "You don't have to, if you don't want to."

For many of these youngsters, there have been very few "no's." Extreme permissiveness. They have been catered to every step of the way thus far in life, seldom having to do things they object to, doing. It may be only natural that when confronted with the statements, "You must grow up", and "You must die", they resort to a symbolic temper tantrum of rebelliousness.

From their perspective, life does look pointless and bleak. How can their lives be infused with purpose and motivation? Mr. Richard Perigo, admitted heroin addict, thief, and convict for some 17 years, says his reformation is built on faith and belief in God, operational one day at a time. Mr. Perigo spoke at the final workshop on drug abuse, which was followed by an excellent conducted tour of the Federal Clinical Research Center of the National Institute of Mental Health at Fort Worth. Mr. Perigo, now working to establish H.I.P. (Help Is Possible) Centers in major cities to combat drug abuse, challenged recreators to go home and to begin spending more time each week in effective conversation with young people. "There is no generation gap," he stated flatly, "Only a communication gap."

What is it that has so deeply alienated many young people? Are basic values changing? Is a new, dramatically different life style emerging? Can young people be convinced it is worth the effort to invest their uniquely personal possessions--their lives--in a day-to-day effort to improve conditions, both individual and societal, that are less than utopian? I believe young people can be persuaded to accept such a challenge. But only after the temper tantrum is over. And only after the challenge is explained to them in meaningful terms. But the polarization of "good guys" and "bad guys" doesn't explain a thing.

This challenge must be presented to each young person as an individual. Every one of us has an obligation to make a total all-out effort to do whatever he can to help save America's youth. Failure on our part--a shrug of the shoulders and a "let them go down the drain" attitude--will see the best part of our youth with drug-shot lives before they ever reach maturity. The relevance and value of the teaching we're doing at the colleges, the lands acquired for new recreation areas, the beautified parks, the increased budgets and master plans we work on and for mean nothing in the final analysis if we lose our young people by failing to convince them that the rewards and satisfactions they seek are in fact available through committing their energies to an improvement of the straight society.