

R E C R E A T I O N A N D P A R K S A T T E X A S A & M

College Station, Texas

No. 6, September 1966

Consider this--

THE NECESSITY OF FRESH AIR

When we speak of recreation in this magazine we mean OUTDOOR diversions, with a big, big "O." It is a common expression to speak with the utmost contempt of a hog, and we frequently hear people say, "as dirty as a pig." Yet

A WILD BOAR

is as clean, fierce, independent and self-reliant an animal as is found in the forest, and its habits are every bit as cleanly as those of the other forest creatures. Its food consists of nuts, acorns and succulent roots, a bill of fare to which no objection can be made by the most captious critic; but when the wild boar has, through ages of overfeeding and confinement, become

A DOMESTIC HOG

it gorges itself with swill, half-fermented garbage and the refuse from the kitchen, and wallows contentedly in its own filth. It is then a civilized pig. The

WILD BEE

makes its honey from the sap flowing from the storm-broken branches of the sugar maple and box elder. The nectar stored in the blossoms of the forest trees, wild flowers, mints, nettles, wild thyme and other aromatics and delightful materials, and, consequently,

WILD HONEY

has as distinctive a gamey flavor of its own as do the game animals which shelter themselves under the foliage of the big tree or the grouse which roosts in its branches. But

THE DOMESTIC BEE

lives in an artificial hive, often deposits its honey in an artificial comb, and, in place of the spicy wild flowers to gather its honey from, the chemically prepared syrups furnished it by the owner of the hive and the civilized honey is oversweet, flat and insipid.

The lesson to be drawn from this is not that all men should revert to savages, but it is that all men should have elbow room, fresh air and be unconfined, mentally and physically, before they can develop the highest condition of manhood and produce the best work. Our CITIES, without exception, are

HUMAN PIG STYES.

In making this statement I speak by the book, for I have personally made a map of almost every town and hamlet between the Mississippi River and the Atlantic Ocean. And on these maps I located every house, barn and shed, and I can state emphatically that, although there are parts of every city in which the individual residents have the appearance of cleanliness, there are also whole sections of every city where the filth, moral and physical, is worse than that of any pig sty. This comes from overcrowding and herding people into limited quarters. Pigs, as a rule, have plenty of fresh air, which is denied to the people inhabiting the human styes: and the contamination of these places spreads in the form of impalpable dust, loaded with microbes, spores, bacteria, which float on the tainted atmosphere and enter into and pervade even the neat appearing mansions of the rich. It is evident to the most casual observer and thinker that

MEN ARE NOT INTENDED TO LIVE IN PIG STYES.

Every city is a pig sty, and the products of the men who labor in them are likened unto the product of the bees fed on glucose. They are flat, unwholesome and insipid.

Of course, we are now running up against one of the most difficult and intricate of social problems: but it is not one that cannot be solved.

However, it is not the province of the editor of Recreation to advance any economic theory, and whatever his private beliefs and convictions may be they will not be imposed upon the readers of this magazine; but it is the province of this magazine to preach

FRESH AIR

and to point out the evils which come from the lack of it. Take a man like Abraham Lincoln, whose early life was spent in the open air of the wilderness, who was born in a log house, through the chinks of which there was always a free circulation of ozone, and compare this man and his work with some of the gentlemen who have lately, most unwillingly, been placed in the limelight of the public. And you will see the difference, both morally and physically, between the man who

split rails and the man who cuts coupons. We cannot all live in a wilderness: but there is no good reason why every city should not be filled with parks and breathing places, and they will be if the people demand them, for there is nothing in the powers of a government like ours that will not be produced when called for by a stern, emphatic demand from the public itself.

Strong language? Relevant today? The surprising thing is that the above article was published as an editorial written by the Editor of the monthly magazine RECREATION. The Editor? Dan Beard. The issue? January, 1906 (pp. 76-77)!

The Month Ahead

October 5-7	Texas Agricultural Experiment Station Annual Conference, Texas A&M
October 8-13	Congress, National Recreation and Park Association, Washington, D.C.
October 28-29	Annual Conference, Texas Recreation and Park Society, Abilene, Texas

Dean J. WHITNEY FLOYD, School of Natural Resources, Utah State University, deserves a great deal of commendation for the excellent arrangements and content of the National Outdoor Recreation Policy Conference held early in September. Professor JOHN HUNT spared no effort to keep things running smoothly and efficiently and provided incalculable assistance in directing out-of-state delegates to attractions of great interest near the campus area.

I believe some of the conferees got in on the football team's training table, but all meals served were excellent--which almost requires a special comment on the outdoor steak fry provided by the hosts under the stars in beautiful Logan Canyon.

The papers and discussions on recreation policy highlighted the work that must yet be done in the areas of financing, visitor services, control of environmental quality, and area development.

RECREATION AND PARK EXPANSION:

As reported last month, increased staff, faculty, and graduate assistants necessitated a move to larger quarters. The move of our entire Department to new and larger offices is now accomplished, although much unpiling, sorting, and indexing must now be done in order to get well organized. The Department address is 216 Herman Heep Building, between the Plant Sciences and Data Processing Buildings.

Faculty members number 5 and 6 have this month been added to the Department of Recreation and Parks, strengthening our teaching and research program in several key areas.

First is Mr. DAVID REED, appointed as Instructor in Recreation and Parks. David is a native of Midland, Texas and a graduate of Texas Tech with a B.S. in Park Administration. His recently-completed M.S. in Park and Recreation Administration was earned in the Department of Resource Development at Michigan State University. We're pleased to have David, with his knowledge of Texas and his previous teaching experience, join our team.

Second new faculty member is Dr. PRANK W. SUGCITT who joins the Department as a full professor in recreation planning and development. Dr. Suggitt holds a B.S. in land use planning, with Master and Doctor of Public Administration from Harvard University. He brings to Texas A&M a national reputation in resource development, recreation area planning and community development. In 1959 he resigned his position as Chairman of the Resource Development Department at Michigan State University to devote full time to requests for consulting and contractual assistance in comprehensive planning and economic development studies. As principle planner, Dr. Suggitt has completed over 30 '701' planning projects and a host of other developmental and economic feasibility studies for public and private recreation developments. Dr. Suggitt is just now completing a recommended plan for expansion of outdoor recreation in Michigan, under contract with the Michigan Department of Conservation. He is enthusiastic at the prospect of applying his knowledge and experience to graduate teaching and to solution of recreation problems in Texas and adjacent states.

Requests for information regarding the new Department of Recreation and Parks have been so numerous that our supply of curriculum folders is already depleted. I have just received from the printer a quantity

of our new program description--a single illustrated sheet for use in answering mail requests and prospective student questions. If you would like a copy, just drop us a line.

Fall Semester registration is now complete and Texas A&M has posted a resident enrollment of 10,500 students, approximately 12% above 1965-66. Of this number, 2,040 are enrolled for advanced degree work.

Here is a summary of the first semester of class offerings in Recreation and Parks at Texas MM, a total of 234 hours of undergraduate instruction.

RP 101	(1 hr.) Introduction to Recreation and Parks	24 students
RP 201	(2hrs.) Principles of Park Administration	24 students
RP 301	(3hrs.) Outdoor Recreation	23 students
RP 305	(3hrs.) Management of Urban Parks	29 students
RP 485	(3hrs.) Special Problems in Recreation	2 students

Final count of Recreation and Park majors for this semester is 32 undergraduate students, and 8 graduate degree candidates.

I'd like to mention specifically a graduate experiment that is beginning very well. This semester I am conducting a graduate seminar-lab class in cooperation with the Institute of Regional Planning under the title "Environmental Studies." The problem I have structured deals with identification and investigation of the elements which must be included in a compulsive program of state responsibility for recreation. The course involves team-teaching and seminars led by professors in recreation and parks planning, economics, government and landscape architecture.

I feel the key is having 14 graduate students enrolled from a variety of background disciplines. This kind of exposure will help to ensure that these students bring a knowledge of broad people-resource interrelationships with them to later career jobs.

MATERIALS RECEIVED:

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
Michigan Department of Conservation
Cleveland Metropolitan Park District, Ohio
Sport Fishing Institute, Washington, D. C.
National Park Service
Columbus Metropolitan Park District, Ohio

Just because I missed a few (would you believe "a good many"?) shots while dove hunting with a group of friends (?) last Saturday, I got an anonymous post card in the mail this week with the following news item pasted on the back.

"There's a College Station dove hunter who's such a bum shot that the Audubon Society is planning an appreciation dinner for him."

FOOTBALL:

(I'd like to leave just half a page of empty white space here, but like a good Aggie, I'll step up and take the medicine). "Yes Virginia-there will be a next year!" After holding their own-and a 3-0 lead for the first half, our young team was buried 38-3 by Georgia Tech. Those are the facts.

It's also fact that later that same evening when the DC-7 rolled to a stop at the campus air terminal, over 300 students were on hand, and when the plane door opened, these lads burst through the gates, vaulted the restraining fences, and carried the players into the terminal along a corridor of cheering Aggies.

Monday night at an All-University program to welcome new students, I saw 5,000 roaring Aggies thunder out a standing ovation to Head Coach Gene Stallings that went on and on prior to his introduction of team members. With such support, the heads come up, and you can feel the resolve to give more than the best. It may take awhile, but look out! The Aggie's will yet be heard from.

L M. Reid, Head