

Regional Dates of Interest:

March 11-12, CAREER DAY For High Schoolers, Texas A&M

March 12, Texas Chapter, Society of American Foresters,  
Nacogdoches

March 29 - April 1, S.W. Recreation & Park Conference,  
Albuquerque, N. Mex.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS:

This is the second month of operation. Happily, the second faculty appointment has been filled as of February 14th and two additional half-time secretaries hired, for a total staff of five people. Each person added to the Recreation and Parks team allows us to crank up additional phases of our total program.

Faculty Expansion: On February 14, Mr. CARROLL DOWELL joined our faculty as an Instructor in the Department of Recreation and Parks. Carroll's ability to move right in and start working at a high level of enthusiasm and ability is a pleasure to behold. Carroll's home is Amarillo, Texas, although his college work was taken in Arkansas with majors in recreation education and biology. Carroll resigned from the Louisiana Bureau of Outdoor Recreation to come to A&M. Earlier, he had for seven years served as Director of Parks and Recreation in Bossier City, Louisiana, so his professional experience fits our overall scheme of organization nicely. We want everyone nearby to have the opportunity to get acquainted with Carroll as quickly as possible.

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It's difficult to remember that some northern parts of the Nation are still locked in Winter's unyielding grip. Almost all of February here was above freezing, a mixture of cloudy wet weather interspersed with periods of beautiful, sunny days. I notice dogwood and Japanese quince blooming, tulips adjacent to our building are up about three inches, and shade trees buds are swelling fit to bust.

Speaking of trees, there's an attractive street here in College Station named Winding Road that kind of rambles around several large oak trees. It reminded me of a poem Mrs. D. Yerkes, wife of the then Parks Commissioner of Topeka, Kansas once sent me. As trees and shrubs "come alive" in the warmth of spring, it seems appropriate to pass on to you.

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"I LIKE A REVERENT TOWN"

I like a reverent town that sees  
The sacredness of trees,

Acknowledging their right  
To whisper half the night

And all the day to talk  
Above a shaded walk.

I like a reverent town  
That hews no tree trunk down,

But lets it stand to know  
Sidewalks around can go;

As if: "I comprehend,  
You were here first, my friend!"

---Charles Devine---

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REGIONAL CONFERENCE:

February 1-3 was spent at the Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute at Texoma State Park, Oklahoma. Mr. TYE BLEDSOE, Director of Oklahoma State Parks, genial host, did his always excellent job of finding space for ever-increasing numbers of conferees -- even boobs like me who had altered their arrival plans without letting him know.

The conference qualified as another in a series of excellent annual meetings due largely to the amount of prior arrangement work done by Prof. ELO URBANOVSKY and Dr. BILL KITCHEN of Texas Tech's Park Administration Dept. A conference head count revealed 286 in attendance, with professionals visiting from 14 states, Canada, and Washington, D.C.

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TEACHING:

I'm very pleased to report that our initial undergraduate course offering "Principles of Park Administration" was launched successfully. This course was not listed in the hourly class schedule booklet. We took the only room and hour available; the only publicity given the decision to go into the classroom this Spring was by word of mouth and a single-page mimeo notice -- yet, we filled up a 24-seat classroom with 23 students.

During the community phase of the course, JAY WILLIAMS, Bryan, Texas Director of Parks and Recreation, did a fine job of lecturing on aspects of urban recreation. This was followed the next week by a field trip inspection of Bryan facilities arranged by Instructors DOWELL and WILLIAMS. Traveling in one of A&M's "blue ghost" buses, the students got an excellent first-hand exposure to administrative problems, facilities, use, and a choice site slated for future acquisition.

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CAMPUS TALKS:

Continuing my plan to make our recreation and park program better known and to get acquainted with co-workers, three speeches were presented this month.

February 7 - Student Agricultural Council

February 15 - Agricultural Economics and Sociology  
faculty and staff

February 25 - Headquarters personnel, Texas  
Agricultural Extension Service

The Student Agricultural Council, represents all College of Agriculture Students. As noted in the "dates" on page 1, the Ag Council voted to make the theme for the 1966 Agricultural Convocation the establishment of recreation and parks at Texas A&M. Plans are to hold this formal meeting the evening of March 22 in the Main Ballroom of the Memorial Student Center. Texas State Park Director, WM. M. GOSDIN, has agreed to furnish an outstanding 3-projector film on outdoor recreation and preservation of open space. Recreation and Park professionals have been invited to attend as honored guests of our Department.

Chaired by Extension Director JOHN HUTCHISON, the Extension conference included over 150 central office staff, specialists, and district personnel. It was especially rewarding to speak to this group of Extension leaders. Distributed widely throughout the State, Extension offices and personnel constitute a valuable informational service arm of Texas A&M University. If you aren't already, I urge you to get better acquainted with your local Extension staff.

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OFF-CAMPUS VISITS:

February 10 - Traveled to Mexia (Mah-hay'-ah) to visit the Confederate Reunion Ground with Mr. TOM CHATHAN. Tom is a native of Limestone County ,who, along with a sizable local group, is spearheading preservation and restoration of the site where Confederate families camped during annual meetings after the Civil War. After a reconnaissance of the area and lunch, the afternoon was spent meeting with and addressing a joint meeting of three area garden clubs interested in the project.

February 18 - Traveled to Austin for several meetings. Met with Director BEV SHEFFIELD and staff, Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Incidentally, the attractive modern headquarters building was designed by Mr. Sheffield, himself. Good Job!

We witnessed the installation ceremony for 19 game wardens who had successfully completed the Texas A&M qualifying course. Mr. WILL ODOM, President of the Texas Park and Wildlife Commission gave the commissioning address. Incidentally, I was privileged to talk with Mr. Odom later in the day. Here is a gentleman with keen perception of recreation needs, and a driving concern for continuing beEterment of Texas recreation at all levels.

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GOVERNOR JOHN CONNALLY, speaking at the County Judges and Commissioners Conference, February 8 at Texas A&M, cited Recreation as one of Texas' selling points. With its many recreational resources and the fact that park appropriations are up 31%, he stressed the need for vast expansion.

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HAZEL GRUBES, Departmental Secretary, brought additional honor and recognition to the Department of Recreation and Parks this month as she served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the 8th Annual Seminar of the Bryan-College Station Chapter of the National Secretaries Association.

The Aggies of Texas A&M, tied with Southern Methodist in the race for the Southwest Conference title, were hoping for the second Championship in 3 years. A last game loss to Arkansas dashed those hopes as S.M.U. clinched the title.

February 12-13 saw the meeting of Former Students on campus. A highlight of the Sunday morning breakfast with about 400 graduates was the introduction of Head Football Coach GENE STALLINGS and a preview of pigskin prospects for next Fall. Things are definitely looking up and Spring practice now is right around the corner.

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MATERIALS RECEIVED:

Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District, Ohio  
Maricopa Regional Park System, Arizona  
Illinois Conservation Department  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Topeka Recreation Commission, Kansas  
Albuquerque Park and Recreation Department, New Mexico  
Houston Parks and Recreation Department, Texas  
Louisiana Bureau of Outdoor Recreation  
Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Special mention is deserving of the sizable shipments of reference materials sent our way recently by:

VIC FLICKINGER - Chief, State and Federal Assistance,  
National Park Service  
WALT HOPKINS - Chief, Recreation Research  
U.S.Forest Service

These are valuable additions to our reference library.

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LAST-MINUTE FLASH!

The revised undergraduate curriculum has received final approval! More on this later.