



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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TEACHING

DR. MARION CLAWSON, Director of Land Use and Management Studies, Resources for the Future, Washington, D. C., visited the Recreation and Parks Department on January 8, 1970, presenting a faculty-graduate seminar on problems involving conversion of non-metropolitan resources to urban uses. While on campus, Dr. Clawson also participated in the Annual Meeting of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

WALT DABNEY, A January 1970 graduate of the Recreation and Park Department, is presently serving as aide and traveling assistant to interpretative naturalist and author FREEMAN TILDEN. On assignment with the National Park Service through the Harper Ferry center, Walt will tour the National Parks with Tilden, coordinating schedules, meetings and accommodations, assembling and preparing background material for the author and maintain journals of the tour.



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JIM Blackley, a former Abilene policeman and student in the Recreation and Park Department saved a young mother and her infant child December 21, 1969. A smoke filled apartment at 511 Boyett almost claimed the lives of Mrs. Mary Ann Harrigan, 23, and her five-week old son, Garyson David Lee Harrigan. Blackley removed the mother and child from the apartment and administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to the baby until it began to breathe. The 26 year old Blackley plans a career as a national park protection ranger after graduation.

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The Recreation and Parks Department now has a functioning student liaison committee. The purposes of the Committee are to reflect the opinions of the students on matter of concern to them or to the faculty of the department; function as a mechanism for transferring topical information from the faculty to the students and to serve as a sounding board or forum for the presentation of any additional proposals which might be beneficial to the students, the faculty, or the department. Members of the Committee include: BILL SEAL, Executive Committee Representative; MARION CLARKE, Graduate Student Representative; MIKE DAVIS, Senior Class Representative; DAN MUZYKA, Chairman; Senior Class Representative; JIM ELLIS, EVA ZWEIFEL, Junior Class Representatives; WAYNE EDWARDS, TOM SHELTON, Sophomore Class Representatives; MIKE ERWIN and BILL STUEWE, Freshman Class Representatives.

The March meeting of the R&P Club was highlighted by the presentation of the annual Recreation and Park Student-Faculty Golf Tournament trophy. This was the first year for the tournament. DR. L. M. REID, head of the Recreation and Parks Department, is shown presenting the trophy, which he donated for the tournament, to MIKE DAVIS, WINNER OF THE Championship Flight (left, below). MIKE, a graduating senior from Elgin, Texas, qualified with a 77 on the Bryan Municipal Golf Course and finished with an 83 to win the tournament. Below center, Mike is shown receiving his individual trophy from PETE HANSEL, Social Chairman of the R&P Club. Two weeks prior to the tournament, Mike scored a hole-in-one on the same course. Second place went to MIKE COWART, a graduate student from Pecos, Texas. Second flight winner was MR. DAN KAMP, Agricultural Extension Specialist, with the Recreation and Parks Department (shown right, below).



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GRADUATION DINNER. On Friday evening, January 9, 1970, DR. and MRS. L. M. REID hosted at their home, Recreation and Park seniors scheduled to graduate at mid-year. Of the January graduates, only LOUIS BRUNETT, who was out of town, and FRED BLUMBERG, in New Orleans for his wedding, could not attend. Special guests of the evening were wives and fiancées of the graduating seniors, MRS. GINGER ARMOUR (Ray's wife), MRS. OLIVIA REYNOLDS (J. T.'s wife), MISS MARY ALICE BROWN (Steve Beachy), and MARY RUBLE (Walt Dabney). MR. W. E. NEILL, in town for an administrator's conference, came with his son LARRY. An evening of reminiscing and discussion of future plans was enjoyed by all.

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Recreation and Parks Department doctoral candidate MARION CLARKE was inducted into Gamma Sigma Delta at the Society's February Annual Awards Banquet. A life time membership to this national honor society is given to individuals recommended by the faculty in recognition for outstanding leadership and academic excellence. Marion has accepted a position with Western Illinois University as director of the graduate program in Recreation and Park Administration, effective September 1.

VISITORS

Recent visitors to the Recreation and Parks Department included: HUGH JOHNSON, Agricultural Research Service, Washington; COLONEL FRANKLIN MOON, Galveston district commanding office, Corps of Engineers; KEITH KINGBAY, Cycling Activities Chairman of League of American Wheelman; STAN and EMA CHLADEK, Prague, Czechoslovakia, who showed film of outdoor recreation attractions in Czechoslovakia, and answered questions about recreation and tourism there; PAUL HELF, V. A. Hospital, Houston; RAYMOND L. HOLT, Consultant-Agricultural Education, Texas Education Agency, Austin; CAROL LIVELY and SUE HALE, prospective students. On January 26, 1970, the Texas Recreation and Park Society Board of Directors met in the Recreation and Parks Building. Those present were: WARREN LEDDICK, President of T.R.P.S., Austin, BOB MODLIN, Corpus Christi; LEONARD EHRLER, Denton; DOROTHY NAN MCLEAN, Austin; DICK CASTLEBERRY, Houston; HOWARD NORRIS, Austin; and BILL MCLAUGHLIN, Austin.

PUBLICATIONS

An "Annotated Bibliography of Resource Use of the Texas Gulf Coast," prepared under the direction of DR. CLARE A. GUNN, Recreation and Parks Department, has been published by the Texas A&M Sea Grant Program. This is the first of its kind and will be useful to students and researchers concerned with coastal issues. This 387 page document contains five cross-reference lists in addition to the basic annotated bibliography: author list, city-county list, estuarine list, resource list, and title work list. For price and availability, contact the Sea Grant Program, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, 77843.

FACULTY

DR. C. A. GUNN, Professor of Tourism-Recreation Development just returned from an intensive week of people-panel dialog in Halifax, Nova Scotia, sponsored by the federal government through the citizens' planning council, the Volunteer Economic Planning Board. The panelists were specialists in sociology, political science, economics, labor, industry, journalism, transportation, management, and religion. Gunn's special input was for tourism and accommodations. During the week, from 7:00 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. each day the panel met with people interested in 36 different aspects of the metropolitan area, listening to their review of problems and drawing from them their opinions of present obstacles. The panel did not offer detailed recommendations but advice on how they could begin action for solution through the existing system of making alterations as needed. Each evening was devoted to an open forum dialog between the panel and citizens, ranging from 600 to 1500 in attendance. They concluded with oral reports from the panelists to an audience of about 1200 citizens. All sessions were recorded by TV and radio for mass media use during the week and afterwards. This was a very powerful technique and brought to light many issues that might have stayed dormant for many years. Both the leadership of the area and the citizenry were skeptical at first but by mid-week began to feel the value of the dialog. By the end of the week promises for change began to come from politicians, civic leaders, government agencies and leading citizens. Leaders of Encounter chose this technique, knowing the risk, purposely to shock the community into action they felt necessary to spark economic and cultural development. Although the complete results may never be known, there is no doubt that it stimulated civic interest in community affairs.

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LESLIE M. REID, in his capacity as President of Society of Park and Recreation Educators, convened the mid-year meeting of the SPRE Board of Directors, at NRPA headquarters, Washington, D. C., February 13-14. Major activities included discussion of NRPA activities as related to the Education branch and provision of services to educators and students. Reports of 23 SPRE committees were received and plans discussed for the balance of the program year.

Returning to Washington on March 5, Leslie Reid met with MISS DIANA DUNN, Director of Research for NRPA and Associate Editors WALTER HOPKINS and BETTY VAN DER SMISSEN of the Journal of Leisure Research.

Also representing SPRE, Dr. Reid remained in Washington March 6-7 for the meeting of the National Council of NRPA. This group is composed of national leaders representing the various professional branches, branch presidents, plus presidents of the state societies. About 67 persons were in attendance. Reports from each state were received and discussed and issues of common concern discussed with the resident NRPA staff.

CONFERENCES

The Fifth Annual Rocky Mountain-High Plains Recreation and Park Conference, directed by DR. A. T. WILCOX, and sponsored by Colorado State University was well attended. BEN D. MAHAFFEY, Board Member representing the Association of Interpretive Naturalists at the Colorado conclave, offered welcoming remarks at the opening session. Participants we

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"Environmental Quality" --This popular phrase was the theme of the 1970 Southwest Park and Recreation Training Institute, held February 1-4, at Lake Texoma Lodge and State Park, Kingston, Oklahoma. The Institute was directed by MR. ELO J. URBANOVSKY of Texas Tech in Lubbock. This was one of the best years for the Institute, as judged by the quality of the workshops. MR. BERNIE CAMPBELL, Hot Springs National Park Director, discussed the topic of historic preservation through adequate maintenance techniques. LT. DAVID MIHALIC, Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers, presented some of the Corps concepts towards campground design and development. MR. JOHN COURTENAY, Forest Supervisor, USFS in Lufkin, delivered that agency's views toward "environmental quality for our cities, waters, lands, and forests. This variety of professional backgrounds was complemented by urban representatives, such as FREDERIC PRATT, Greer Island Nature Center, Fort Worth. His presentation of ecologic principles initiated stimulating fireside discussions in DR. REID'S cabin. Many old friends were present: BUDDY SURLES, new Director of State Parks for Arkansas, 1968 graduate of A&M, was enlisting the support and aid of new and past acquaintances; DAVE REED, former instructor in the Recreation and Parks Department here, presented a triple screen slide production on the new department at Arkansas Polytechnic, where he and CARROLL DOWELL currently operate; other Aggie Recreation and Park graduates. present were MORRIS MITCHELL, Houston, and TOM LOWRY, Shawnee County, Kansas. The Texas Tech students of Park Administration and Horticulture, under the able direction of DR. JAMES W. KITCHEN, coordinated an exciting and stimulating Training Institute for recreation and resource professionals of the Southwest.

POTPOURRI

In boating, Texas ranks sixth in the U. S. with over 269,000 registered power boats, ranks fourth in outboard motors in use (382,000, with 67,000 in Houston alone) and third in the nation in outboard motor sales with 94,900 sold in the 1968 model year. Total statistics for 1969 are not yet available, but there is every evidence that the State increased its percentages in both boats and engines last year.

In fishing, Texas has three and one-half million anglers taking advantage of 450 major lakes plus 624 miles of Gulf Coast shoreline--5,000 miles of inland waterways. Federal estimates show "fishing days" in the State total 30.5 million. In surveys taken by the State Tourist Development Commission, fishing and boating rank right at the top for recreation activities in Texas.

Two hearings were conducted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department representatives dealing with the cleaning of beaches and business establishments on public beach areas. L. D. NUCKLES of Rockport, regional information and education officer of the department and JIM WATT, director of local assistance in Austin, conducted the meeting. The hearing concerned two Texas laws enacted by the 61st Legislature last year. Senate Bill 16 provided for matching funds to cities and county to clean Gulf beaches, with a \$50,000 maximum in State money available to any one agency during the year. Senate Bill 25, prohibits any permanent businesses on public beaches and provides for the licensing of mobile businesses outside city limits. Similar hearings were held in Corpus Christi and the Rio Grande Valley during February.

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The Highway Department recently joined with the Texas Tourist Development Agency to find the most effective State slogan. The Highway Department used "Land of Contrast" and "Friendship State" as early as 1959, and lately had added "America's Fun-tier". TTDA experimented with a slogan describing Texas "For a World of Difference." New winner in a contest for a State tourism slogan: "Texas! Land of Contrast." A nationwide attitude test showed this slogan was first by a wide margin.

FACULTY FORUM

SOLVING TODAY'S PROBLEMS TOMORROW

Attendance at the AAHPER--AIP sponsored "Leisure and the Quality of Life Conference" prompted my selection of the title. The combination of the La Costa facilities, the diversity of individual backgrounds, and the excellent direction of DR. EDWIN J. STALEY and DR. NORMAN P. MILLER produced a stimulating atmosphere for discussion.

One fact became clearly evident early in the conference: although we were all interested in leisure, we each had individually defined the boundaries for this field. Conversations and formal presentations attested to the fact that the scope of interest did not always overlap.

Some of these barriers did fall, but I suspect that many departed secure in their own isolation or confident that their views were shared by those that "really mattered." I, for one, was somewhat disaffected by opinions others in this profession expressed. To me, it appears as though we are so tightly circumscribing our field that we fail to perceive the peripheral developments that might have substantial future impacts.

In some cases we recognize the potential problems, but fail to plan for their solution. For example, a recent issue of a national magazine carries an article on the negative effects of the snowmobile on vegetation and wildlife--when will control be exercised? Similar problems continue to exist with the use of dune buggies, and the future may see almost identical ones with the hovercraft. A mechanical engineering student on this campus has built a hovercraft as a "toy to play around in." Where?

We argue that the demands of daily activity force us to place future problem at a lower priority, and we continue to seek and apply solutions to those that developed in the 1940's or earlier. Another example--the motorcycle in the park, a device capable of creating havoc with trails, turf, and other developments. This is not new, even though the problem is of current interest. I refer you to a book by Andrew Lincoln entitled Motorcycle Chums in Yellowstone Park, published in 1913 when "Soldiers have jurisdiction there..."

The reader may well criticize these examples with the argument that they deal with relatively small numbers of people and that the problem arises only when more individuals are involved. But we speak of the "leisure explosion" that lurks on the horizon--we speak of shorter work-weeks, longer vacations, increased income, greater mobility, and a host of other factors. If things are "tight" now, what happens if machines for electronically inducing sleep become as common as the telephone or television? Early experiments indicate that two hours of such rest will suffice--creating four to six hours of increased leisure time for everyone. If this happens, we may speak of today as "Paradise Lost."

In summary, our situation probably will never return to "normal." But if we are to remain effective in our work, then we must keep abreast not only of technical developments, but also of the concepts and philosophies of related fields. This exchange of ideas, or, perhaps, the confrontation with new ones, is the primary benefit that is obtained through participation in conferences such as that conducted at La Costa.

Louis Hodges