5 YEARS OF PROGRESS

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
College of Agriculture
Texas A&M University
“5 YEARS OF PROGRESS”—by L. M. Reid

This newsletter issue seems an appropriate occasion to pause, look behind us, and then turn and look ahead. The Department of Recreation and Parks has just completed its fifth year of operation. It was just five years ago that I reported to Texas A&M to try to develop a program in recreation and parks.

Five years ago Texas A&M had less than 10,000 students. The majority were in the Corps of Cadets (compulsory 4-year ROTC), there were fewer than 500 coeds—almost all of whom were student or faculty wives, professor’s daughters, local residents, or “hardship cases”. But Texas A&M had its attention riveted on moving forward, searching for excellence in existing and new programs backed by the vision and guidance of President Earl Rudder. Big changes were in prospect.

President Rudder steered the University squarely into the Twentieth Century. More fundamental changes took place in the Sixties than in the entire half century which preceded this decade. Today, Texas A&M has an enrollment of more than 14,000 students; coeds comprise over 10 per cent of the total. Women are admitted on a free and equal basis with men, and a coed dorm is partly built. The Corps is now voluntary and includes about 20 per cent of the undergraduates. The faculty has increased by 50 per cent, three new colleges have been created, new programs in the humanities and liberal arts have been instituted, and graduate enrollment has more than doubled.

How about Recreation and Parks? The Department has prospered—more than most would have guessed. I believe this is in direct response to many influences, both external as well as internal to the University. Starting with great administrative support but no faculty, no classes, and no students at the beginning of 1966, we see the following situation today, just five years later:

* Ten full-time permanent faculty in teaching and research, four in extension, plus two part-time lecturers;
* A total of 28 formal catalog course listings; 18 undergraduate and 10 graduate level;
* Our own two-story building in which Recreation and Parks classrooms, extension, research, graduates, and administrative offices are housed;
* Approximately 200 majors (including 10 coeds); 140 undergraduates, 35 Master’s and 25 Ph.D. candidates;
* A total of 74 students who have graduated to date: (57 B.S.; 12 Master’s; 5 Ph.D.’s)
* The fifth largest (in terms of student enrollment, degrees granted, and courses taught) of 33 degree-granting programs in the College of Agriculture.
“5 YEARS OF PROGRESS” -- (cont)

Perhaps it is fair to ask how this new program relates to changes in American society in terms of likely state and national trends. Most everyone would agree that this is a critical time for recreation and parks in America. Currently, parks and recreation, conservation, tourism, and leisure are receiving more attention than in the recent past. We seem to be in an era of rapidly changing life styles and re-evaluation of goals, priorities, and morals. A massive shift to personal satisfactions and erosion of the traditional work ethic seem to have resulted in an identity crisis resulting from a loss of pride and satisfaction in work-related activities. This suggest a reordering that may result in self-identity through avocations related to park and recreation activities.

Another indicator of the importance of recreation and leisure is seen in President Nixon’s listing of environmental awareness and restoration as one of six major national goals. This suggest that recreation and park departments should be assuming leadership in educating for awareness in matters relating to recreation and conservation.

At the present time, many of our recreation and park schools are not only ill-equipped to accept this obligation, but lack the conceptual depth to recognize the situation and the responses necessary to meet the challenge.

As recreation and park professionals--whether we are educators or executives--we cannot hope to have our views and beliefs seriously considered by the larger society if we are viewed as pre-occupied gardeners, janitors, or whistle-jocks.

Many of our leading professionals deserve to be listened to--they are community and national leaders in every sense of the term. But more of us need to look beyond the mundane deadlines, demands, and repetitive activities of each day and to evaluate the implications of social trends, pending legislation, proposed tax and bonding proposals, etc. to assess their consequences for present and future programs.

How many of the currently controversial issues involving recreation and parks do you feel thoroughly conversant with? How many of these have you written about to a state or federal legislator? Young people are aware. Young people do write letters. Could it be they are already assuming greater leadership than their so-called teachers and examples.
A BIG "HOWDY"
TO OUR VISITORS

DR. W. LESLIE GLASGOW, former Assistant Secretary of Interior visited students and faculty of the Recreation and Parks Department in conjunction with his trip to Texas A&M University to address the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station Annual Conference. Conversation with Dr. Glasgow provided interesting insights to Department of Interior activities.

The Visiting Lecturer Series featured DR. ELWOOD SHAFTER, JR., Project Leader, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Syracuse, New York. Lectures and informal discussions highlighted a busy three days, February 8-10. Jointly sponsored by the Departments of Recreation and Parks and Forest Science, DR. SHAFTER spoke on “Perception of Natural Environments,” and “Relevance Trees in Decisions about Recreation Needs.” He described some variations involved in spatial and psychological perceptions of natural environment and procedures that may be used to measure perceptions of those environments. He also proposed the relevance tree to explain the relationship among the many complex interrelated variables that affect today’s decisions about recreation facility developments. Types of decisions analyzed include development of an urban recreation environment, a typical state park and a wilderness recreation environment. In addition to the lively discussion prompted by his presentations, DR. SHAFTER discussed research progress with many graduate students and offered many valuable contributions. DR. BURY served as the official host and the GUNNS held a reception in DR. SHAFTER’S honor.

The Department hosted 28 students from Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, on January 14. The group was touring East Texas as part of an investigation of recreation as a profession. Most of the faculty, and graduate students LEROY SHILLING, REX DERR and JOHN HANNA, participated to brief PROFESSOR KATT and his students on opportunities and the Department’s program and activities.

Fifteen outstanding Boy Scouts from Dallas visited the Department on January 16. MR. JOHN HANNA spoke with the group of prospective students and exposed them to professional opportunities and the Department’s program and activities.
COMING EVENTS

VISITING LECTURER PROGRAM -

March-- MR. EARL GAYLOR--General Manager
Wheeling Park Commission
Wheeling, West Virginia

DR. JOHN ANDRESEN--Chairman
Department of Forestry
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois

April-- MR. HUGH BEATTIE--Superintendent
Isle Royale National Park
Houghton, Michigan

DR. NEIL CHEEK--Research Sociologist
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

MR. LON GARRISON--Director
National Park Service
(Albright Training Center)
Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

SPRING SYMPOSIUM -
"Creating Environments for Leisure Use"

DR. ROY WOLFE--Professor
Department of Geography
York University
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

DR. JACK ELLIS--Professor
Environmental Studies
York University
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

MR. DONALD BRAUER--President
Brauer & Associates, Inc.
Edina, Minnesota

MR. PHIL LEWIS--Chairman
Department of Landscape Architecture
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

National Recreation and Park Association
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Mayo Hotel
March 28-29-30, 1971

In-depth study geared for delegate participation in:
Finance
Education
Legal Liabilities
Urban Planning
Special Groups
Physical Planning
Legislation
Safety in the Parks

You are cordially invited to attend
the
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS
Open House
(adjacent to the golf course)
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas
Friday, April 30, 1971 1 to 5 p.m.
DR. LESLIE M. REID travelled to Kansas State University at Manhattan, February 14-16, 1971, at the invitation of Agriculture Dean CARROLL HESS. Purpose of this visit was to present an agricultural symposium address on the role of recreation in natural resource development. While at Kansas State, Dr. Reid met with agricultural college faculty and administrators to discuss the College’s program in natural resource conservation and use.

DR. CLARE A. GUNN chaired a symposium of Agriculture in the Environment in which DR. GORDON J. F. MCDONALD of the President’s Council on Environmental Quality discussed “The Population Growth Crisis”. Former Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, DR. W. LESLIE GLASGOW spoke on “Positive Environmental Development Approaches” during the Tuesday afternoon session.

In addition to the symposium on “Agriculture in the Environment,” the Tuesday program included three other symposia on “International Programs,” “Application of Agricultural Biological Systems to the Health of Man,” and “Consumers and Their Influence in Agriculture.”

DR. CARLTON S. VAN DOREN has been appointed to serve on the TAES Annual Staff Conference Committee for 1972. The next annual conference is scheduled for January 12-14, 1972.

DR. RICHARD L. BURY participated in the SOUTHWEST PARK AND RECREATION TRAINING INSTITUTE at Lake Texoma. Speaking at a recreation research session chaired by MR. B. DAN KAMP, DR. BURY reported on the current status of wilderness recreation management. His presentation featured a slide show illustrating the broad range of wilderness resources and recreation activities. It was explained how wilderness experiences could be obtained on relatively small areas having characteristics less striking than the usual high-mountain wildernesses. He concluded, informing the delegates of information sources for management of wilderness areas.

BEN D. MAHAFFEY has been appointed Consulting Editor of the new Journal of Environmental Education, published by Dembar Educational Research Services, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin.

Leisure: International Conferences on Leisure and Gerontology were held in Tampa, Florida and Kingston, Rhode Island from January 21-27, 1971. The conferences were sponsored by the center for Studies of Leisure, University of South Florida, the Program on Gerontology, University of Rhode Island and the National Recreation and Park Association. DR. L. M. REID, DR. C. S. VAN DOREN and MISS EVA ZWEIFEL attended the Tampa Conference on January 21-23, 1971.

One day of the Tampa Conference was spent in presentations and discussions of Project CIDOL (International Center for Documentation in Leisure) by Marc LaPlante, University of Quebec, Canada and Joffre Dumazedier, Claire Guinchat, and Lise Brunet of the Centre d’Études Sociologiques, Paris, France and Project REALISE (Recreation, Environment and Leisure Information Systems Exchange) by Professor BETTY VAN DER SMISSEN, Pennsylvania State University, NEIL J. STOUT, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, and DIANA R. DUNN, National Recreation and Park Association. That night Alexander Szalai, Deputy Chief of Research, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, presented a lecture on “The Thirteenth Nation Time-Budget Study”. DR. and MRS. MAX KAPLAN gave a reception at their home Friday night which preceded a Dutch Treat Dinner at Ybor City.

Sessions on Friday and Saturday consisted of three unstructured workshops in which no formal papers were presented. In one session, Professor ROLF MEYERSOHN defined the frustration of going “under-the-rug” in attempting to define leisure. On the positive side there was agreement that leisure is a cultural phenomenon and the discussions served to prove that western and eastern cultural differences require individual definition of leisure.

In spite of the lack of formal conference organization for half of the Tampa Conference, the information exchange between domestic attendees and the foreign visitors was stimulating and enlightening. Foreign guests included: Professor Miklavz Prosenec, Hamburg, Germany; Professor M. Bassand, Geneva, Switzerland; Dr. Joffre Dumazedier, Paris, France; Mrs. Claire Guinchat, Paris, France; Dr. Stanley Parker, London, England; Dr. Marc La Plante, Montreal, Canada; Professor Herald Swedner, Lund, Sweden; Mr. Cor Westland, Ottawa, Canada; Dr. Premysl Maydl, Prague Czechoslovakia.
The illustrious crew of the graduate loft extends a hearty welcome to its four most recent members.

GLENN KREAG, B.S., Parks and Recreation Administration, Michigan State University, whose experience includes 2½ years as an Army Staff Officer and 2 years in the Michigan State Parks is currently seeking a M.S. His career plans include a position in recreation resource planning and administration. Glenn’s work on the Navasota Environmental Study is his most recent contribution to the field of Recreation and Resources Development. His wife, Judy, is residing with him in College Station.

PHILIP E. LAVELY received a B.S. in Forestry and a M.S. in Forest Recreation from the University of Georgia. Phil, along with his wife, Marcia, has come from Savannah to pursue a Ph.D. in Recreation and Resource Development. Phil’s artistic interests, painting, sketching, and decoupage, led him to preliminary study of architectural design at Clemson University, South Carolina.

CURTIS ALAN SHIRER, B.S., Recreation and Park Administration, Clemson University, and M.Ed., Outdoor Recreation, University of Georgia, is beginning studies as a Ph.D. student in Recreation and Resources Development. Curt’s skill in climbing, canoeing, and backpacking has reached the level of competence to qualify him as an Instructor at the Basic River Canoeing Workshop, sponsored by the Recreation and Park Administration Department of Clemson University, and as a Sierra Club whitewater canoe and backpack trip leader. His wife, Mary Ann, shares his interest in outdoor activity.

TERRY W. TAYLOR, a Texas resident, received a B.S. in Wildlife Science from TAMU. He is presently working toward an interdisciplinary M.A. in Recreation and Resource Development. Terry’s interest in hunting and his experience in trapping and banding wildlife in Central Mexico and as an oil company “roustabout” are indicative of his flexibility and quest for adventure.

GAMMA SIGMA DELTA, an international agricultural honor society, welcomed nine graduates and one undergraduate from the Department of Recreation and Parks. The honorary scholastic society elected graduates: ROBERT L. BRADLEY, MICHAEL K. COWART, TOM L. DAVIS, FREDDIE M. GLAZE, B. DAN KAMP, CHARLES L. SHILLING, WINSTON TRENCH, JOHN WEAKLEY, and ALLAN WORMS. Undergraduate CLAUDE R. GLOVER completed the roll of the Department’s new members. To be elected to membership in this elite society, Seniors must be in the upper 15% of their class and have a minimum grade point ratio of 3.00. Graduate students with 16 hours in the Graduate College and at least a 3.50 ratio are also eligible. Our congratulations to the new members.

Based on his outstanding academic record, Recreation and Parks major THOMAS SCHLUETER was awarded a College of Agriculture Scholarship. Tom was cited as exemplifying the highest qualities of scholarship, character, achievement and ability as well as outstanding performances in extracurricular activities. The College of Agriculture Scholarships are made possible by contributions from the staff, former students and friends of the College of Agriculture.

DENYS GIRARD, Sophomore student from Alma, Quebec, Canada, was selected this year as one of 80 Texas A&M University delegates to SCONA, Student Conference on National Affairs, which assembles each year to discuss an urgent national issue. This year’s conference theme was “Student Responsibilities in the Seventies”. Delegate activities included five days of intensive workshops, seminars, and lectures.

ART HALEY, one of our graduate students, also serves as Director of Parks and Recreation for College Station. His position calls for coordination and consultation in College Station’s move toward development of a comprehensive community recreation program.

DENYS GIRARD, a Canadian student in our department, worked under the direction of Mr. LEONARD EHLER, Director, Recreation and Parks, of the city of Denton during the Fall Semester, 1970. Denys is in our Cooperative Education Program (work-study program) which was begun last Fall. This program enables students to work a semester and attend school a semester. The student gains meaningful work experience and obtains a source of income on which to attend school the next semester.
Graduate students in Regional Park Design (RP 607) taught by DR. CLARE A. GUNN, recently spent three days in the Corpus Christi area investigating resource potential and existing developments. Under investigation were vacation home developments (Padre Island Investment Corp. and Key Allegro), city, county, and state parks, Aransas Wildlife Refuge, and Padre Island National Seashore. Land use patterns, design, and policies in these facilities were studied and compared. Local planners and regional leaders who provided useful information in a half day of panel discussions at City Hall were: KENNETH KRENKE, Director, Corpus Christi Parks and Recreation Department, DON TUMMINIA, Superintendent, Nueces County Parks, CHARLES WARD, Public Use Specialist, Aransas Wildlife Refuge, WILLIAM ANDERSON, Director, Corpus Christi City Planning, and HANS SUTER, Ph.D., Ecologist. Tourist-recreation, Texas Gulf Coast style, was experienced first hand by the students through relaxing in resort accommodations, observing the rare whooping crane, and in preparing and enjoying a “do-it-yourself” Texas Coast shrimp dinner.

Graduate students from RP 650 made a trip to Houston to observe the environmental and hydrological problems associated with Buffalo Bayou and to attend a public hearing conducted by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Approximately eight graduate students travelled to Lubbock making several observation stops. While in Lubbock, a tour was made of the community and of the Texas Tech campus for a glimpse of our counterpart department, its staff, and its students. A preview of their Trinity River Environmental Presentation and a evening seminar with staff and students and the High Plains Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America were the highlights of this visit.

DR. FRANK W. SUGGITT and his two Recreation and Park Classes, RP 460 and RP 650, made a trip to Diboll to visit with Temple Industries. Students observed the central part of Lake Livingston and the subdivision developments. In Diboll, MR. HORACE STUBBLEFIELD, president of the Temple subsidiary, greeted the group and gave them an exposure to the dynamic vertical and horizontal integration of this diversified conglomerate. Its relation to commercial tourism, real estate, and housing were of particular interest.

The students also met with MR. NEIL PICKETT, Director of the East Texas Economic Development Council, a regional planning commission, and the Council of Governments for the thirteen county area.

The return trip via Trinity was spent in comparing Trinity, Diboll and Camden and observing the development potential of the upper end of Lake Livingston.

BILL SONTAG, December graduate with a Master’s degree in Recreation and Resources Development has completed his active duty obligation with the Army and has accepted the position of Regional Interpretive Specialist for the Minneapolis office of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Recent correspondence with Bill indicates that he has found himself in a “hottbed of interpretive challenges and activities” and is looking forward to his career in the BSFW.

MIKE HENDERSON made a remarkable amount of progress toward recovery during the Holiday Season. Mike, a Vietnam casualty, was given a color TV upon his return to the hospital following his home visit at Christmas. RP grads are encouraged to write Mike at: Ward 43A, Beach Pavillion, Brooke Army Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. (SEE ATTACHED SUPPLEMENT)
NEW COURSES

DYNAMICS OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM, RP 636, was initiated this spring semester for graduate students who are completing their course work. The course is designed to build upon the student's previous training and experience in the fields of recreation, parks, and tourism and to provide an opportunity to investigate aspects of pleasure travel. It includes critical examination of the scope of travel and tourism, economic and social impacts, characteristics and trends of the several components; human behavior, transportation, attractions, services and facilities, and information-communication. In addition to study of research reports, travel writings, and debate of travel issues, students will meet key travel leaders and visit establishments, both in and out of Texas. A comprehensive field trip to Louisiana is planned to interview tourism promoters, agencies, and developers as well as to inspect and analyze attractions and facilities. Eleven graduate students are participating in the course under the direction of DR. CLARE A. GUNN.

In response to environmental needs and demonstrated concern for the quality of life, CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES is being offered by the department this spring. RP 375, coordinated by DR. CARLTON S. VAN DOREN, is an interdepartmental effort developed to expose the students to a wide array of environmental problems, arguments, and solutions. Because the course design has attracted students from 5 major fields, who comprise ¾ of the total enrollment of 55, benefits are derived from the variety of student backgrounds. Persons with a wide range of experience are presenting a comprehensive look into the environmental problems of the world, nation, and Texas. In one of the early sessions, a discussion of the Navasota Environmental Study was led by MR. JAMES C. STRIBLING, Extension Specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

WILDERNESS RECREATION MANAGEMENT, RP 316, is being offered as a catalog course for the first time this semester. Jointly instructed by DR. RICHARD L. BURY, and graduate students TERRY COLGAN and REX DERR, its emphasis is upon student involvement in the educational process. Formal lectures are infrequent and most presentations are by the students themselves. In addition to the usual subject matter concerning The Wilderness Act and resultant regulations, the current controversy over management of the Sylvania Tract in Michigan is a course problem. A 7-day field trip to Big Bend National Park will occupy the Easter Vacation for most students in the course. The trip will feature Park Service planning for formal designations of Park areas into the National Wilderness Preservation system, visits to focal points of interest in such candidate wilderness areas, and direct experience in boating the wilderness canyons of the Rio Grande, hiking the pine-covered crest of the Chisos Mountains, and camping in the desert.

PUBLICATIONS

MISS PAT DELANEY, Associate Professor at California State College at Los Angeles, recently sent a report entitled: "Motorized Recreation Vehicles and the Roles of Recreation and Parks". This 93-page 8½ x 11-inch publication was produced by the Recreation and Youth Services Planning Council under the direction of DR. EDWIN J. STALEY. This report is a detailed investigation into the use of motorized recreation vehicles in Los Angeles County, as well as recommendations relative to appropriate areas, facilities, and regulations for their use. This should be a useful source for those interested in management problems associated with off-road vehicles. Copies may be obtained at $5.00 per copy by writing:

Recreation and Youth Service Planning Council
2140 West Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90006
Dick Bury presented a "Texas sized" greeting card and color television set to Mike Henderson as a Christmas remembrance from his friends at Texas A&M and throughout the nation.

A Christmas Wish for Mike Henderson

A speedy recovery was the Christmas wish for Lt. Mike Henderson (Recreation and Parks, 1968) who is recovering from wounds received in Viet Nam in August.

Mike was serving as a platoon leader when a hand grenade exploded from a booby trap. He lost one leg and received other multiple injuries.

A fund drive sponsored by Dick Bury and Ben D. Mahaffey resulted in the purchase of a color television set for a Christmas gift. The sponsors wish to thank the many local and national contributors.

Mike is rapidly improving and he is permitted to move about the hospital in a wheelchair. His spirits are high and he is looking forward to full activity again. When questioned about his future plans, he responded: "I want to return to Texas A&M for graduate work in the Department of Recreation and Parks." Mike's address is: Ward 43A, Beach Pavilion, Brooke Army Hospital, San Antonio, Texas.