

Summer Meeting Highlights:

June 7-8 4-H Roundup, Texas A&M
June 9-10 N.R.P.A. Educators Meeting, Chicago
June 9-10 Gulf States Section, Society of American Foresters,
New Orleans
June 15-16 Cooperative Conservation Workshop, Texas A&M
June 27-28 Agricultural Convocation, Texas A&M
July 6 Turfgrass Field Day, Texas A&M
July 25-28 S.C.S. Inter Agency Recreation Conference, Fort Worth
Aug. 14-15 Meeting of Natural Resources Task Force, Texas A&M

The Month Ahead:

September 6-8 National Outdoor Recreation Conference, Utah State
September 11-15 Society of American Foresters Conference, Seattle
September 15-16 Fall Semester Registration, Texas A&M

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DEPARTMENT NEWS:

A most enjoyable trip in late June was made by REID and DOWELL to Texas Technological College in Lubbock, Texas to visit the Department of Park Administration headed by Professor ELO URBANOVSKY. We had the opportunity to get better acquainted with several of Elo's fine staff including Dr. J. W. KITCHEN and TOM MUSIAK. The spirit of cooperation evident is an indication of the helpful friendliness apparent throughout the park and recreation profession.

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Your hard-working correspondent is putting together the rough draft for this newsletter in Yellowstone National Park. No, I haven't been sacked by the Aggies, nor am I in Wyoming to engineer the annexation of Yellowstone as a "north campus" of Texas A&M--as suggested by a close friend.

In all honesty, I wish we could annex Yellowstone to Texas--it's a magnificent area. Our visit coincided with the first-week-of-August seasonal peak in visitation, but it is obvious that the bulk of the visitors concentrate on seeing the grand features in the developed areas provided by the National Park Service. Although made easily accessible by a well-marked and maintained system of trails, I saw relatively few people getting very far off the major travel routes--yet these few were obtaining unforgettable experiences.

I strolled one afternoon far enough to abruptly realize I was sharing a valley quite compatibly with about fifteen stately elk that were being observed through field glasses by people along the road on the other side of the valley floor. Another evening I was fortunate enough to spend some time watching the setting sun play across the face of National Park Mountain and reflect on the men who near this spot had had the foresight to dream of the creation of national parks for all people to enjoy.

In my estimation, National Park Service personnel are doing an unbelievable job of making Yellowstone available to visitors in the face of increased visitation and consequent understaffing--and often in spite of the visitor himself. I heard a number of visitors express concern over the dangers found in Yellowstone--fear of grizzlies, possible falls and broken bones in the back country, etc. Yet by far the most dangerous thing apparent in the Park was the combination of car and driver. Rangers have coined the term "bear jam" for the pileups of cars along the road at every bear begging for food. Elk and moose create similar jams. And these are not orderly parking affairs. Many sightseers simply slam on the brakes whenever they see--or think they see--something. Others swerve wildly to the wrong side of the road or stop dead on curve or straightway.

I rode with Assistant Superintendent JULIUS MARTINEK who is greatly concerned with safety in the Park and saw first hand the recklessness of too many otherwise sober, vacationing drivers. Yellowstone is big and some people can't resist driving at breakneck speed to cut ten minutes from the time necessary to get to the next attraction. I saw the results--mostly of too much speed and impatience--in totaled cars involved in personal injury and fatal accidents. It's a shame the American compulsion to cover so much ground per unit of time is operative even in a place such as Yellowstone National Park.

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The visit to Yellowstone afforded the opportunity for several other stops en route. I had enjoyable discussions with several of the regional B.O.R. staff in Denver, including W. J. KELVIE, LYLE HALLENBECK, BOB TUCKER, and MAUDE LESLIE concerning outdoor recreation planning and demand projection.

Visiting Rocky Mt. National Park was like seeing an old friend, since it had been one of the 24 areas visited during the 1960 O.R.R.R.C. nationwide park study. I also detoured just a bit to stop in at Grand Tetons National Park, where KENNETH BUTTS, one of our Texas A&M recreation and park students, is working as a seasonal Ranger-Naturalist.

A final "working stop" was made to check in with Dr. ART WILCOX who directs the forest recreation and watershed resources program at Colorado State University. In addition to renewing old acquaintances, there was almost too much of mutual interest in curriculum, student, and research matters to grudgingly take leave for the return trip.

A belated note of condolence and a sincere wish for a complete and rapid recovery to professor ELO URBANOVSKY, head of the park administration program at Texas Technological College, following hospitalization and surgery several weeks ago.

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We were pleased to have three outstanding professors visit the Department of Recreation and Parks during the summer. Professor H. G. WILLIAMS, Jr., College of Forestry, Syracuse University visited in June to conduct a seminar on regional park planning. He was followed in July by Dr. C. A. GUNN, Tourist and Resort Specialist, Michigan State University who conducted a highly interesting lecture-discussion on new concepts in recreation development. Also in July we were privileged to have Dr. R. L. BURY, School of Forestry, Northern Arizona University, visit the Department to discuss matters of mutual interest in outdoor recreation.

Another distinguished visitor who we welcome on visits to Texas A&M is Mr. L. B. HOUSTON, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation, Dallas, Texas. As a result of Mr. Houston's enviable record of accomplishments in the park and recreation profession, he has been asked by Texas A&M to serve as chairman of a committee which is to submit recommendations relative to park and recreation opportunities available to Texas A&M. The assistance and counsel of such outstanding persons as those mentioned above are of great significance to any university program and these contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

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After some delay, the Recreation and Park offices now display an attractively framed plaque-certificate along with a key to the City of New Orleans, a treasured memento provided by Mr. ELLIS LABORDE, Director of City Park on behalf of Mayor V. H. SCHIRO during a spring visit to that fair city. I can't think of a single city that I'd rather have a key to than New Orleans, Louisiana.

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The Department of Recreation and Parks has already outgrown the office space assigned to me just eight months ago. Consequently we are in the process of moving our entire staff next door to the building between Plant Sciences and the Data Processing Center. The attractive suite of offices consists of almost 2,000 square feet of space providing offices for six faculty, secretarial and clerical services, library and conference area, and space for our graduate research and teaching assistants. Naturally, the move coincides with the coming fall registration. The Recreation and Park program is growing so rapidly this quadrupling of space is warmly welcomed. If in the vicinity, stop in to see the improvement.

Advance registrations for fall semester are not yet completed, but our records as of now show 20 undergraduate majors including 6 transfers from other institutions (including our first coed major, a sophomore from Texas Tech), and 11 graduate degree candidates. I will report the total enrollment in Recreation and Park majors after completion of Registration on September 15th.

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Materials Received:

National Park Service - Washington, D.C.
Yellowstone N.P.

U.S. Forest Service - No. Central For. Experiment Station
Pacific S. W. Forestry and Range Experiment
Station

S. E. Forest Experiment Station

U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation - Washington, D.C. Denver,
Colorado

REMEMBER

Although it's good advice to
always keep your chin up- -
Be careful to keep your nose
at a friendly level!

--L. M. Reid