

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. 3 March 1966

---

March was the busiest month yet for Recreation and Parks at Texas A&M. A quick resume of activities includes the following:

- March 1 - Recreation address to Wildlife Science Department Student Club.
- March 3 - Visit from BOB SHIPP , N.R.P.A. Representative
- March 8 - Academic Council votes program approval (see below)
- March 10 - Austin, visit Park & Recreation Department and Texas State Park Headquarters
- March 11-12 - Two-day Career Conference on Campus for high-schoolers.
- March 12 - Nacogdoches, attended Texas Chapter Meeting, Society of American Foresters.
- March 20 - Red Snapper fishing, Gulf of Mexico
- March 22 - 1966 Agricultural Convocation on Recreation and Parks
- March 29 - Heart-O-Texas Chapter, Soil Conservation Service, recreation program.
- March 29-31 - Albuquerque, N.R.P.A. Southwest District Conference
- March 30 - Meeting with YMCA representative and DICK THORNTON, TAMU Grounds Maintenance Department, for planning expanded campus recreational facilities.
- March 31 - Dallas, attended Beautiful Texas Conference at Southern Methodist University

DEPARTMENT NEWS:

As noted above, final approval of requested undergraduate courses in Recreation and Parks was favorably acted upon at the March meeting of the University Academic Council. (A 2-PAGE SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF THE APPROVED RECREATION AND PARKS COURSES IS ATTACHED FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

On the agenda for the April council meeting is the requested approval for the total 4-year curriculum. (This involves all required courses for the B.S. in Recreation and Parks). This action is needed to establish the full 4-year program by inserting the newly-approved major courses.

\* \* \* \* \*

The official document and supporting reports requesting authorization of graduate degree study in Recreation and Parks have been submitted, approved by the Dean of the College of Agriculture, and sent forward. The demands for graduate study are so heavy that an early decision is anticipated.

\* \* \* \* \*

Friday and Saturday, March 11-12, was a high spot for us as the Departments of the entire University converged on the Coliseum to host high-school students from all over the State at the Annual Careers Conference. Over 4,000 prospective college students poked, pinched and discussed various educational opportunities. Exhibits ranged from Thermal Physics and working laser beams to--you guessed it--Recreation and Parks.

The School of Natural Bioscience (Range, Forestry, Wildlife, and Recreation and Parks) were located in the prime booths just inside the entrance--and Parks was first in line.

This event caught us with no exhibit-making capability, but the Texas State Parks came to the rescue with the use of a most attractive and colorful 3-panel exhibit entitled "Texas Outdoor Recreation Resources". This deserves public acknowledgment and many thanks. The State Park exhibit, plus an automatic slide projector sequence, abetted by taped background music ("Songs of the National Parks") promoted a great deal of interest. The final count was nearly 600 personal information contacts, with 42 signed requests for subsequent detailed contact.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Agricultural Convocation deserves some elaboration. Each year the Departments in the College of Agriculture (through the Student Agricultural Council composed of departmental club representatives) develop a Spring Convocation whose theme is a broad and pervasive concern. This year the Council unanimously voted Recreation and Parks to be the theme for the 1966 Conference held March 22.

Over 400 students, parents and guests attended the Tuesday evening program which featured the triple screen color film "Murder of Silence" produced and shown by the Texas State Parks. Park and recreation executives from up to 150 miles distance were recognized for traveling to A&M to participate in the program. Represented in addition to Texas State Parks personnel were Austin, Waco, Fort Worth and Bryan Park and Recreation Departments.

We are proud and pleased that the Student Ag Council recognized the establishment of Recreation and Parks by means of this Convocation. The program was excellently presented, subsequent comments without exception have been complimentary, and of course the program publicity has generated additional interest in this Department's curriculum.

\* \* \* \* \*

Wichita Falls, Texas Park and Recreation Director ED DANIELS traveled to Texas A&M on March 25. He presented an excellent classroom lecture to our students on the Wichita Falls department Job Corps operation complete with a sound slide presentation.

\* \* \* \* \*

Recreation and Parks Instructor CARROLL DOWELL represented Texas MM at the Southwest District, National Recreation and Park Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 29-30. Attendance included 300 conferees from five states. Program highlights included the keynote address by Dr. W. H. CROOK, Southwest Director OEO, Honorable JACK M. CAMPBELL, Governor of New Mexico, and KARL MUNSON, Outdoor Recreation Project Leader, Federal Extension Service. Mr. ALFRED LAGASSE, Executive Director, National Recreation and Park Association, was on hand to speak at the conference luncheon, and aid the District Advisory Committee in the new merger operation. It's good to see our recreation and park professionals working at a unified regional meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Southern Methodist University provided excellent facilities and efficient organization for the March 30-31 conference "Beautiful Texas--Invitation to Action". Approximately 300 civic leaders traveled to Dallas to participate at the Friday luncheon. Texas Governor JOHN CONNALLY spoke to the need for public policies as tangible evidence of social concern. Mr. JOHN WATSON, Dallas outdoor lighting expert and Mrs. O'NEIL FORD, San Antonio Conservation Foundation, also appeared on the program.

Dr. JAMES BETHel, Dean of Forestry, University of Washington, Seattle, spent March 24 and 25 at Texas A&N University to become acquainted with the programs and operations of the School of Natural Biosciences. Dean Bethel was visiting Texas in his capacity as chairman of the Accreditation Committee of the Society of American Foresters.

\*\*\*\*\*

MATERIALS RECEIVED:

The quantity of reference materials received has fortunately shown a steady increase. Packages which arrived during March include:

- \* Dayton, Ohio, Department of Public Welfare
- \* Park and Recreation Department, Dallas, Texas
- \* Michigan State University, Department of Agricultural Economics
- \* National Park Service, Washington, O. C.
- \* U. S. Forest Service, Washington, O. C.
- \* Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- \* Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- \* Texas State Highway Department, Austin
- \* Pontiac, Michigan, Department of Parks and Recreation
- \* Louisiana Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
- \* Department of Parks and Recreation, Lansing, Michigan

Just a reminder:

Every noble work

Is at first impossible

Carlyle