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### Review: Issues in Outdoor Recreation

Perry J. Brown

University of Montana - Missoula, [perry.brown@umontana.edu](mailto:perry.brown@umontana.edu)

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and recreation presented in introductory sections may seem simplistic to the professional recreation leader while leadership techniques may be considered obvious. However, activities and ideas for group recreation are useful.

Chapters are arranged both by types of activity and the settings in which various activities might take place, e.g., banquets. Chapter Three, concerned with family groups, and the many references for recreation for older adults (Quick Reference Guide) would add to the skill repertory of most recreation leaders. Also, Chapter Seven is an invaluable source of easily adaptable active games using common materials. These games work well in small spaces found in many indoor recreation areas.

Nonprofessional recreation leaders who work with groups and need occasional activity suggestions will find the structure of *The New Pleasure Chest* easy to follow. Specific hints to help in directing group activities and suggestions for making social gatherings more enjoyable are important additions for group leaders.

The major disadvantage of the Eisenbergs' book is that group leaders might have difficulty transposing many activities oriented to religious and fellowship groups to their own groups in public and private agencies, recreation centers, and institutions. Also, providing recreation in a group setting has been approached in an elementary way. The difficulties in organizing groups, finding common interests, and establishing common goals are mentioned in only a cursory manner, as if these simply occur, particularly in activities listed for teenagers. It is also hard to imagine urban teenagers and adults participating in some of the suggested activities.

The Eisenbergs could have provided more ideas on forming groups and on how to include people not group oriented—e.g., isolated handicapped, predelinquent teenagers. Fellowship activities could have been emphasized.

Nevertheless, *The New Pleasure Chest* is an improved revision which should help professional recreation and group leaders needing occasional recreation ideas.

CATHERINE ANDRES, *Children's Orthopedic Hospital, Seattle, Washington.*

ISSUES IN OUTDOOR RECREATION. Edited by Clayne R. Jensen and Clark T. Thorstenson. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Burgess Publishing Company, 1972.

During the last couple of years many compendia of environmental and natural resource articles have been accumulating on my bookshelf. Jensen and Thorstenson's *Issues In Outdoor Recreation* now adds to the heap but differs from the others in two respects. Many, but far from all, articles deal with environmental topics focusing on outdoor recreation. Also, it is not the typical academic compendium since many articles are reprints from the popular press.

In the preface the editors tell us that each article was chosen on merit

and significance. They also say these articles deserve compilation into a volume to be read by students, teachers, conservationists, and the general public. We are not told why the articles are worthy of this treatment. After reading the first 104 pages, I still wondered.

Contained in the book is a collection of articles by well-known politicians and authors plus a collection by obscure individuals. Classical papers like Siguard Olsen's "The Meaning of Wilderness" and bland treatises such as Edward Craft's speech, "Leisure and Outdoor Recreation" are included. Throughout the volume appear scattered quotes from many individuals which, rather than drawing attention to significant points, tend to disrupt the narrative. Editorial comment is limited to a brief introduction to each chapter without reference to individual articles.

It should be clear by now I was not positively overwhelmed by the book's contents—primarily because the title is deceptive. Expecting to read articles about contemporary outdoor recreation issues, I was hard pressed to find them in the volume. After reading the first 104 pages it was clear that those issues identified were from the ORRRC period of a decade ago. Rather than read the rest of the articles, I randomly selected eight. Pleasantly, the first of these articles addressed an issue of current relevance—escalating land prices. Another by Michael Frome focused on recreation area congestion.

One wonders why certain issues were not treated to replace many of those that were. The effects of both social equity on outdoor recreation programs and of differential time assignment (like the four-day work week) might have been discussed along with user implications of site development and others.

What can be done with such a book except add it to stacks of similar compendia? It has little value for me as a teacher and for students. From what I know about courses taught by friends at other schools as well as my own, several teachers would react similarly. Those issues addressed are generally better treated elsewhere and the volume suffers tremendously from what is excluded.

PERRY J. BROWN, *College of Natural Resources and Institute for the Study of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism, Utah State University (Logan).*

RECREATION IN AMERICAN LIFE. By Reynold Edgar Carlson, Theodore R. Deppe, and Janet R. Maclean. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Co., Inc. 1972. 552 pp. \$9.95.

In the second edition as in the first, this book remains a most comprehensive overview of American recreation. The authors exhibit an impressive knowledge of their profession as it relates to both public and private sectors of recreation. *Recreation in American Life* will no doubt remain a useful and popular introductory recreation text.

Despite an obvious effort to update the 1963 edition, making it more