



MISSOURI
PARK AND RECREATION
ASSOCIATION

HISTORY

Early Beginnings to 1967

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Doctoral Dissertation - Chapter 1

CHAPTER I

HISTORIC OVERVIEW

PROLOGUE

Early 1900's

Many of the organizations dedicated to providing a variety of services to meet identifiable needs of individuals, families and neighbors were well established prior to the turn of the century. Actually, the history of man's concern for his neighbor provides the basis from which it is possible to gain some appreciation for the eventual birth of organized efforts to provide play opportunities and facilities in our American communities.

Whether one begins with a consideration of the early efforts to develop outdoor gymnasiums or attempts to trace some of the concerted efforts to ameliorate social disorganization and widespread depreviation, one is impressed with the voluntary involvement of spirited, action-focused people. The often mentioned German-influenced sandgardens, which are regarded as the prelude to the American playground, were introduced to the United States through a letter from Dr. Marie Zakrzewska to Miss Ellen Tower, Chairman of the Playground Committee of the Massachusetts Emergency and Hygiene Association, who promoted the development of similar ventures in the United States. Settlement and social workers like Jane Addams, founder of Hull House, and Jacob Riis of New York City were deeply concerned with slum conditions and crowded housing. These early social leaders recognized the need for safe play areas for children and enthusiastically supported sand piles for safe, creative play.

According to early records, just ten U.S. cities had established some form of playground facility, program and leadership services prior to 1900. Boston is regarded as having the first such development in 1866 and from 1890 to 1900 Chicago, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Hartford, New Haven, New York City, San Francisco and Albany had developed similar systems. In addition Brooklyn, Providence, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Minneapolis and Denver were known to be in the process of planning for similar facilities during this period.

Although available records do not include Missouri Cities in this early movement, the people in Missouri were fortunate to have been in the main stream of early recreation developments. Recreation pioneers such as Dr. Clark W. Hetherington and Dr. Henry S. Curtis lived and worked in Missouri during the early 1900's. Their philosophy of recreation and play surely must have affected many individuals who in later years used these experiences as models to expand upon this philosophy in Missouri.

Actually, Dr. Clark Hetherington had begun to influence and affect the play movement while a member of the faculty of the University of Missouri. From 1900-1910 he was a professor of Physical Education and

Director of Athletics at the University of Missouri. During this span of time he initiated an extension service which included the promotion of playgrounds and recreation throughout the State of Missouri. His objective was to establish organized play in every town and rural school in Missouri. Dr. Henry S. Curtis likewise was an influence on recreation in Missouri. While a member of the staff in the Missouri Department of Education, he undoubtedly converted many of his associates to his belief in the educational value of play.

During the early 1900's, interest in developing facilities and providing services was growing simultaneously among various agencies and organizations in differing geographical locations. Despite similar and parallel interest, development was independent and the exchange of ideas or sharing of plans was limited. However, several of the individuals who led separate crusades or sought for social changes recognized the immediate need to develop some vehicle for sharing ideas, mutual concerns and experiences of individuals located in various geographical regions.

Influence of the First Organized Recreation Efforts

The first concerted action to be taken to provide for an organized exchange of ideas and to meet the many requests for help, advice and information was initiated by Dr. Luther H. Gulick and Dr. Henry S. Curtis. It was Dr. Gulick who, in a letter written in November, 1905 to Dr. Curtis, suggested that a national organization be formed to promote playgrounds throughout the United States.

On April 12, 1906 the Playground Association of America, later to be known as the National Recreation Association (NRA), was started. Dr. Luther H. Gulick became its first president and Dr. Henry S. Curtis was elected secretary and assistant treasurer; Henry B. F. Macfarland of Washington was elected 1st vice president; Jane Addams of Chicago, 2nd vice president; Joseph Lee of Boston, 3rd vice president; and, Felix Warburg of New York as Treasurer. Many of the early leaders who helped start the Association continued to serve and provide leadership in a variety of ways. The small group of inspired founders agreed to offer service by responding to inquiries and offering suggestions based on experience.

Service to others through organized efforts was the impelling force which helped to weld together the early pioneers of the Playground Association of America. When, in 1909, Howard S. Braucher became the first full-time paid secretary of the Playground Association of America, he insisted that the major thrust of the organization should be to bring recreation services to all people. Therefore, through the early formative years of recreation in the United States those who guided recreation developments conceived and strongly endorsed the concept of providing services in the field at the location of need. This concept was nurtured and gradually expanded. The ranks of field representatives were increased notably during the 1930's and again in 1940's - just prior to any recorded information on

organization of recreation in Missouri.

By April, 1935 the NRA Board of Directors authorized their field representatives to organize recreation associations in states and to offer state government consultation services. In 1943 the NRA field services were expanded and directed to encourage the states to employ full-time recreation personnel to stimulate, plan and carry out recreation developments of the state, and to provide recreation services to the communities within the state. Most states were receptive and indicated interest in receiving consultation; however, progress was slow in getting states to employ full-time recreation personnel. According to a December, 1946 report, only nine states were making available the full-time services of at least one person for recreation service direct to communities. Missouri was, as yet, not one of these nine.

Although the immediate effect of professional recreation was not dramatically apparent in the initial formative stages of organized recreation in Missouri, it is quite appropriate to chronologically link the development of national professional recreation to this period. Interest and concern for professional identity and recognition first developed in a number of states where NRA trained recreation workers were currently in practice. Interest had been expressed at the 1936 National Recreation Congress to establish a national association of recreation executives. At the 1937 Recreation Congress, Mr. F. S. Mathewson on behalf of the New Jersey recreation executives submitted a resolution providing for the formation of a national professional organization to work closely with the NRA. This resolution was unanimously approved and was referred to a committee of fifteen, with Mr. Mathewson as Chairman. The Committee was instructed to submit a complete report with a proposed constitution and by-laws the following year. Out of these efforts the Society of Recreation Workers of America came into being at the 1938 Congress held October 3-7 in Pittsburgh.

The Society grew slowly in stature and numbers. Its first few years were conservatively spent attempting to build an organization representative of the entire profession. First National defense measures consumed time, effort and professional personnel, and then, war! The new professional Society did well to weather these first years. In 1946, during the presidential term of Milo F. Christiansen, the Society's 6th president, the Society officially changed its name to the American Recreation Society (ARS). Its next two presidents: Harold D. Meyer and Charles K. Brightbill played key roles in the development and growth of Missouri recreation.

The stage was set. The National Recreation Association had expanded its field services and was attempting to develop recreation in every state. The American Recreation Society was already active in many states and was waiting in the wings ready to encourage and assist growth of professional recreation in Missouri.

Enabling Action by the 62nd General Assembly

Clear and documented evidence of when the State of Missouri became actively involved in recreation can be traced directly to action taken by the 62nd General Assembly of Missouri to establish, in 1944, the Department of Resources and Development. The new Department's function was to develop Missouri's resources and industrial opportunities pertaining to commerce, agriculture, mining, forestry, transportation, aviation and recreation.

It is reasonable to suggest that the persistent contact and helpful recreation assistance offered to Missouri communities by Mr. Arthur Todd, Midwest Representative for NRA, provided the Missouri Legislators positive evidence of the interest in recreation throughout Missouri. Available records give accounts of recreation service provided to Missouri Communities by Mr. Todd prior to the action taken by the 62nd Assembly; and his influence and counsel during the formation of a recreation organization in Missouri are also documented.

Influence and Action by The Missouri Division of Resources and Development

The initial plan of the Missouri Division of Resources and Development was to publicize and advertise the State's resources, seeking new business, industry and tourist travel.

Recreation interests in Missouri favorably viewed the subsequent developments of a recreation section in the Division of Resources and Development. According to its Director, Mr. Hugh Denney, the Department planned to focus on three areas of recreation activity functioning in Missouri: Commercial recreation, industrial recreation and community recreation. Mr. Denney and Mr. James F. Gamble who was assigned to head the recreation section, believed that these three areas of recreation were interrelated and the Department proposed to promote all three. Specifically, they believed that any assistance given to commercial recreation operators would increase the tourist dollars coming into Missouri; assistance given to industries would improve working conditions and create opportunities and desires for vacations; and, community recreation would help local communities become more attractive to industry.

This plan of action resulted in the first concerted efforts to organize recreation groups in Missouri. In fact, the Division of Resources and Development recognized that in order to expedite their plan of working with commercial, industrial, and community recreation interests, one way would be to help these three groups unite into a state-wide association concerned with state-wide recreation services.

On December 13, 1946 a letter was prepared by James F. Gamble of the Recreation Section of the Division of Resources and Development, and sent addressed to "Fellow Missourians". In this letter Mr. Gamble appealed to all Missourians interested in recreation to attend a state-wide recre-

ation conference in Jefferson City, Missouri, January 17 and 18, 1947. The meeting was sponsored by the Recreation Advisory Board, Division of Resources and Development, and was intended to bring together Missourians interested in resort, travel and commercial recreation; industrial recreation; and community recreation of all types. Stated objectives for this meeting were:

1. Arousing the interest of the people in the state in the great possibilities of all types of recreation.
2. Giving those in attendance an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas on the problems and techniques involving all types of recreational activity.
3. Deciding how to get the job done so as to have more and better activity in the commercial, the community and the industrial fields. To this end there will be discussion on the possibility of forming a state-wide recreation association."

INITIAL EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE

State-Wide Planning Meeting

An impressive 350 persons attended the two-day planning convention held at the Governor Hotel, January 17 and 18, 1947 in Jefferson City, Missouri. The first day of program was opened by Dr. Floyd R. Eastwood, Professor of Industrial Recreation, Purdue University, who spoke on "Industrial Recreation - A Public Asset". Following Dr. Eastwood's remarks, delegates were free to meet according to their choice of sectional interest - community, commercial or industrial recreation. Included as sectional speakers were Karl G. Johanboeke, Veterans Administration; L.A. Akers, University of Missouri Extension Service; Arthur Todd, Midwest District Field Representative of NRA; and, Verna Rensvold, Division of Recreation, Kansas City Department of Welfare.

Additional first day speakers included a presentation by Mr. Hugh Denney, Director, Resources and Development whose subject was, "Planning for Recreation in Missouri". He was followed by Mr. George E. Bishop, Secretary-Manager, Upper Peninsula Development Bureau of Michigan who spoke on "New Fields for Exploration".

Most of the morning of the second day including luncheon was devoted to sectional meetings. Chairmen at the luncheon sectionals were: Alfred H. Wyman, Community Recreation; Chester Hollaux, Industrial Recreation; and, W. T. Keltner, Commercial Recreation.

Charles K. Brightbill, Associate Director in charge of Recreation, Federal Security Agency, Washington, D.C., presented the major speech of the

second day, "Recreation's Keystone". He urged public, private and industrial recreation to work together to promote recreation and to bring it to the attention of every American citizen.

Delegates to this planning conference passed a resolution to organize into a state recreation association. A steering committee composed of fifteen members was appointed and charged with developing a structure for an association in which equal representation and interest would be given to community, industrial and commercial recreation. Members of that Initial Steering Committee were:

E. A. Leach, St. Louis - Chairman

Gus E. Budde, St. Louis	Maries A. Kolb, Joplin
Alfred H. Wyman, St. Louis	Robert S. Clough, Columbia
Robert E. L. Hill, Columbia	Col. Pritchett, Jefferson City
Dr. Hayes A. Richardson, Kansas City	H. C. Klinefelter, Columbia
L. L. Bever, St. Louis	L. A. Kelly, Osage Beach
Jack Matthews, Columbia	Herman Lark, Steelville
Dr. Z. Lee Stokley, Poplar Bluff	Frank Bates, Rolla

The Steering Committee met August 12, 1947 to complete details on organization plans, draft a charter and by-laws and to discuss various phases of program.

Organizational Meeting

Headlines of the Wednesday morning August 13, 1947 Jefferson City Daily Capitol News read, "STATE GROUP IS FORMED TO BOOST RECREATION IDEA", and its subtitle read, "St. Louis Man Is Named Organization Head In Meeting Held Here". This announcement marked the official beginning of the Missouri Recreation Association. Approximately sixty persons attended this organizational meeting at which officers and a board of directors was elected. All officers and board members were designated to hold office until the first annual meeting of MRA planned for Jefferson City, November 21 and 22, 1947. The elected officers were:

President	-	E. A. Leach, St. Louis (President, St. Louis Hotel Association)
Vice President at large	-	Dr. Hayes A. Richardson, Kansas City (Director, Department of Welfare, Kansas City)
Vice President, Community Recreation	-	Alfred H. Wyman, St. Louis (Director, Parks and Playground Association of St. Louis)
Vice President, Commercial Recreation	-	Karl Koopman, Osage Beach.

Vice President, Industrial Recreation - Bert Granville, Robertson.
(Recreation Director, the MacDonald Aircraft Corporation)

Secretary - Paul D. Kelleter, Columbia

Treasurer - John Staples, Columbia

The MRA Board was elected on the basis of a geographical plan developed by the Missouri Division of Resources and Development to enhance growth of leadership and development of local programs to support new recreation ventures. Mr. Gamble noted that the fourteen regional associations plus St. Louis and Kansas City followed a geographic pattern of watersheds and each was designated by a historic name. The geographic regions were: St. Louis, Kansas City, Mark Twain, Daniel Boone, Old Trails, Lake of The Ozarks, Central Ozarks, Meramec Valley, Delta, Big Springs, Pony Express Territory, Northern River Breaks, Land of the Osage, Southwest Playground, White River Country, and Old Settlement.

The Missouri Valley Community Recreation Association

As a result of the January, 1947 recreation planning meeting a group of recreation executives from an area known as the Missouri Valley met February 13, 1947 to consider forming a local area recreation organization. With the assistance of Arthur Todd, T. A. Reid, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Marshall Missouri, and William H. Lyon, Athletic Director, Marshall Missouri High School, co-signed an invitational letter addressed to Secretary, Chamber of Commerce and/or Recreation Director.

Twenty-eight representatives of nine area cities elected William H. Lyons, Marshall, as President; Ben C. Porter, Director, Recreation in Jefferson City as Vice President and William N. Collins, Director, Recreation in Columbia as Secretary-Treasurer. The general purposes of this newly formed group were: (1) to promote and encourage more general participation in community recreation activities; (2) to provide member communities with information relative to recreation programs; (3) to urge formation of a permanent recreational program in each community.

Since these objectives were similar to those proposed by the Division of Resources and Development, Mr. Gamble appeared at the second meeting of the group, March 27, 1947 to explain the geographic plan of MRA. The purpose of the third meeting of the Missouri Valley Community Recreation Association was to reorganize to coincide with the Old Trails Area districting by the Division. On March 31, 1948 representatives of eight west central Missouri cities met at the Victory Cafe in Lexington, Missouri to formally reorganize into the Old Trails Recreation Association. The new organization elected William Lyons, Marshall as President; Col. Lester B. Wikoff of Lexington, Vice President; Kenneth Copley of Liberty, Secretary;

and Kenneth Adams of Warrensburg, Treasurer. Mr. Gamble regarded area organizations such as the Old Trails Recreation Association as primarily a cooperative concentrated effort to attract tourists and vacation seekers. He also viewed the sixteen areas as a means to publish a booklet on tourism.

Recreation interests during the first days and months of MRA were heavily focused on commercial recreation. Plans for the First Annual MRA Conference reflected this interest.

The First Annual Missouri Recreation Association Conference

The basic purpose of this Conference was to assemble all who were interested in the promotion and development of Community, Commercial and Industrial recreation. The general announcement of this Conference bearing the signature of MRA President, E. A. Leach, read as follows:

"The meeting is open to any person interested in any part of recreational activity - mayors, chamber of commerce members, park boards, resort owners, filling station owners, restaurant operators, company officers, employee recreation directors, transportation interests, amusement operators - and all others who believe that a comprehensive recreation promotion means more money, more production, and a better living to the people of Missouri".

Approximately 130 persons attended the First Annual Missouri Recreation Association Conference, November 21 and 22, 1947 in Jefferson City. Alfred H. Wyman, Executive Director of the St. Louis Park and Playground Association was listed as the principal speaker for the November 20, Thursday morning program. L. H. Weir, NRA who spoke on "Where Are You Going Missouri?" was the featured speaker at the luncheon. At the Thursday evening program, Dr. Harold D. Meyer, Director of North Carolina Recreation Commission spoke on "Potentials of Recreation". Friday, November 21, the program included Harold L. Schuman, Personnel Director for the Kinan Packing Company, Indianapolis, whose subject was, "The Value of Industrial Recreation". At the Friday dinner meeting, O. S. Wernecke of Holiday Magazine spoke on "What Are You Selling?". Saturday headlines in Jefferson City papers read, "FORECASTS BRIGHT FUTURE FOR STATE'S TOURIST BUSINESS".

At the First Annual MRA Business Meeting, the following officers were elected:

President	-	E. A. Leach, St. Louis
Vice President at large	-	Dr. Hayes A. Richardson, Kansas City
Vice President, Commercial Section	-	R. R. Andrews, Lake of Ozarks
Vice President, Industrial Section	-	Bert Granville, Robertson

Vice President, Community
Section - Alfred H. Wyman, St. Louis

(Available records did not include names of geographical board selection.)

THE FIRST DECADE

A Formed Group

A review of the initial planning prior to the actual formation of MRA and an analysis of the first several years of MRA operations clearly suggests that this new organization must be regarded as a formed group rather than one which evolved gradually or spontaneously from the collective interests of recreation practitioners. The initial plan to unite and strengthen all recreation interests in Missouri had considerable merit. The interests of commercial, community and industrial recreation workers were considered and initially each received an equal opportunity to participate and assume responsibility. That commercial recreation became a major focus of the Division of Resources and Development is understandable in light of the original intent of the 62nd Assembly. During the first several years, continuous and persistent efforts were made by the Division and MRA Officers and Board to involve all three sections. Through Arthur Todd, Midwest District Representative, MRA continued to stress the importance of building strong community recreation programs and invited the University of Missouri to accept responsibility and leadership in training leaders in Missouri.

Task-Oriented

One of the early projects which received immediate attention and was pursued enthusiastically concerned the preparation of a guide book - MISSOURI SHOWS YOU. This project became the major focus of activity and on which most of the energies of the Officers and Board were expended. Mr. H. H. Mobley who replaced Mr. Hugh Denney as Director of the Division of Resources and Development, reassigned James Gamble to the major task of preparing the guide book and assigned William Cuthbertson to work on community recreation problems, James Sears to plan with communities state-wide and Gordon Smith to handle tourist recreation. The new organization also indicated interest in securing recreation enabling legislation, but did not focus on this as a major project. In fact, the early efforts of MRA could be characterized by recounting an early Board Action pertaining to taking a position on promoting a four-day holiday over Memorial Day. The following board action not only affected the decision of whether to endorse a four-day holiday weekend, but was to become an influence for some years in the future on deciding issues confronting the Association. The Board, after much debate, agreed that in accordance with Section 2 of Article II of the Constitution,

"The purpose of this Association should be the promotion of the general welfare of the people through an integrated recreation program in the State of Missouri", that the Association should not become involved with any controversial issues.

Another task investigated by the Board in 1950 was the question of employing an executive secretary. As one Board member put it, Missouri Recreation Association "will never get out of the diaper stage until it can afford to employ an executive". President Charles Gillespie appointed an Endowment Committee composed of E. A. Leach, Karl Johanboeke, Verna Rensvold and A. H. Wyman as Chairman. This Committee met with Mr. Homer Wadsworth, Executive Director, Kansas City Trusts and Foundation Association and reported that Mr. Wadsworth agreed to assist MRA in an advisory capacity and to study the MRA situation.

Professional Growth

By mid 1950 William Hay, Special Field Representative for NRA reported that he had discussed with H. H. Mobley the need for the Division to provide more support to communities. Hay noted that Mobley felt that many communities did not want to help themselves, but were looking for someone to do the job for them. Hay also expressed his opinion that although William Cuthbertson had been assigned to assist communities, Cuthbertson was becoming attracted to commercial recreation and was promoting travel and tourism because that is what he enjoyed doing.

In retrospect, there is little doubt that the Division was concentrating more of its efforts on commercial recreation interests and that sectional differences between commercial, community and industrial recreation interests in MRA were increasing. In a five-page report on Missouri, Arthur Todd predicted a pending split. He cited three possible directions: "(1) the resort operators will recommend a split and since they have the most influence, it will be done; (2) the community recreation section will develop projects of its own, have its own meetings and will draw away from MRA; or, (3) the advocates who want the Association to become a part of the State Chamber of Commerce will cause those in the community section to withdraw".

Dissatisfaction with structural arrangements in MRA was well established. Those interested in community recreation were seeking ways to establish improved channels for dialogue with others of similar interest. Interest in strengthening community recreation continued strong. Mr. Clifton French, University of Missouri, favored organizing a professional recreation society which would affiliate with ARA. Arthur Todd encouraged the community recreation executives to attempt to organize, but recommended that they consider as a model the loose-knit meetings of recreation executives who assemble at district NRA conferences.

As a result of a sustained interest, Ben C. Porter, Director, Parks

and Recreation, Jefferson City, sent a letter addressed to "Fellow Worker" and scheduled a meeting during the next Annual MRA Meeting to consider the formation of an executives organization. Mr. Porter wrote that he and Mr. William Lyon, Superintendent of Recreation, Marshall, and many others had been wanting to form such an organization for several years. This earlier interest was confirmed by their efforts to form the Missouri Valley Community Recreation Association, but which was aborted in favor of uniting as an Old Trails section in MRA.

The following persons assembled at the 1940 MRA Annual Meeting to pursue the formation of a community recreation executives association:

Verna Rensvold, Kansas City	Bill Lyon, Marshall
Clifton French, University of Missouri	Ben Porter, Jefferson City
Ralph Little, Columbia	James Ewing, Springfield
John van Hook, Independence	Alfred Wyman, St. Louis
Robert Reed, St. Louis	John Turner, St. Louis
Bill Cuthbertson, Jefferson City	George Markley, St. Joseph
Helen Gilbert, Warrensburg	Mrs. Gibbs - assistant in Ben Porter's department

The group favored the organization of a state association for recreation executives in public departments. Some wanted to include park superintendents, but the majority favored a professional organization for persons working in community recreation. Ben Porter was elected as temporary chairman. Records of future meetings were not available, but a further meeting held during the NRA Midwest District Conference formally structured an organization of professional community recreation executives called the Missouri Community Recreation Society. The group attempted to pattern its structure and activities after ARS.

An actual division or separation of commercial, community and industrial recreation interests within MRA did not occur at this time; however, the distinctions between their respective interests were very sharp. The question of possible affiliation of MRA with the Missouri State Chamber of Commerce was debated at the November 2, 1950 MRA Board meeting. Karl Johanboeke doubted the advisability of such a merger and claimed that it would hinder the progress of both community and commercial recreation. Mr. Robert Shaldnagle maintained that such a merger would benefit commercial, resort and travel recreation. He said that commercial recreation was currently the third largest business in Missouri and, therefore, anything that could be done to make this business grow should be done. The issue was tabled to await the new Board, but based on a search of available records it was never heard from again.

Mid-Decade Self Evaluation and Reorganization

During 1951 and much of 1952 activity centered around the guide

book and preparation for Annual meetings. By June 1952, Board interest and organizational activity seemed to be at a low ebb. Only eight Board members attended the June 2, 1952 meeting at which program plans for the Annual meeting scheduled for November were to be firmed. Program again was left up to each sectional vice president. As late as September 5, 1952 only the community section had developed any program plans.

In 1953, the newly elected MRA President Ralph Coughenour from Rockaway Beach appointed Dr. Walter H. Ryle to head a committee composed of the three sectional Vice Presidents which was to study and recommend ways to improve the Annual meetings. At the April 23, 1953 Board meeting, H. H. Mobley requested a review of the present structure which required three sections and a thorough study of the guide book. Committees were appointed to review and make recommendations. Unfortunately, the records did not include discussion or list the wording of issues which at the November, 1953 Annual Meeting were approved as changes to the Constitution. Although actual documentation of specific Constitutional change cannot be verified, through interpolation of the election results, it appears as though the formalized commercial, community and industrial sections were abandoned.

Under Dr. Walter H. Ryle, President of MRA from November 1953 to 1955, further changes and considerable progress occurred. MRA had its first opportunity to be a co-sponsor of the 1954 National Recreation Congress in St. Louis. Dr. Ryle created standing committees and appointed the following chairmen: Membership, Charles B. Gillespie; Publicity, Lyman Riley; Annual Convention, Robert L. Black; Research and Study, Arthur Todd; and an Executive Committee.

At the June 9, 1954 Board meeting a "Seven Point Program for Action" was introduced and approved by the membership at the September 30, 1954 Annual meeting. Although the three original sections had been disbanded, MRA continued to support travel and resort recreation. Membership had increased to 282 and a newsletter, Guidepost was used to keep MRA members informed. Recreation enabling legislation again was approached with new vigor and the Missouri Parent-Teachers Association and the Missouri Council of Children and Youth were enlisted as strong supporters of such legislation.

At its first meeting of the 1954-1955 Officers and Board, the chief concern was over the resignation of H. H. Mobley as Director, Missouri Division of Resources and Development. Mr. Prentiss Mooney of the Division announced that a newly organized Travel Council had been formed by the Division to promote the vacation travel industry. In the opinion of the writer, this development was significant to the eventual separation of the commercial recreation interests from MRA.

On December 1 and 2, 1955 MRA hosted the First Missouri Governor's Recreation Conference. Its purpose was to present recreation as it currently existed in Missouri. The two-day program included speakers, panels, small group discussions and a Recreation Forum on State Services involving fifteen state agencies and their representatives. Over fifty-five separate subjects

were introduced by speakers and panelists. Mr. Joseph Prendergast, Executive Director, NRA spoke on "Recreation Today". He stressed the significance and need for Missouri to secure recreation enabling legislation. At the close of the meeting copies of a five page "History of the Missouri Recreation Association, August 12, 1947 to December 1, 1955" were distributed.

On January 16, 1956 MRA paid a ten dollar fee to become an Affiliate Member of NRA, and re-elected President Walter Ryle and appointed Karl Johanboeke to represent MRA on the Midwest District Advisory Council.

During 1956, MRA increased its efforts to secure recreation enabling legislation and postponed the dates of its annual meeting from the traditional Fall to an early 1957 Spring date in order to devote more time on legislative activity; and to be able to report its actions at the rescheduled Annual meeting. However, these good intentions created a vacuum in communications and the Board did not meet regularly during this period.

As a result of a memo from several Board members who requested a review of MRA purposes and procedures, President Ryle called an Executive Committee meeting for December 12, 1956. Five members including Charles B. Gillespie, Harold Bourgeois, Lyman Riley, Karl Johanboeke and Robert Black attended the meeting out of which came recommendations for major changes to MRA future. These changes which in general affected "Concept", "Mission", and "Procedural Policies" of MRA were eventually translated into constitutional changes approved at the 1957 Annual Meeting at which Karl Johanboeke was elected President.

A REFLECTIVE INTERIM - 1957 to 1959

Recreation Enabling Legislation was the chief concern during the next several months and years. During 1957, Mr. Edward Parsons, Executive Director of Missouri Association for Social Welfare, took a leadership role in guiding legislative efforts. At the October 14, 1957 Board meeting a letter by Vice President David Crossen was read and discussed. In relation to recreation enabling legislation Crossen proposed to bring the opposition forces represented by real estate together to draw up a compromise bill; and, to get M.A.S.W. and labor interests solidly behind the bill. Mr. James D. Idol was introduced as the newly appointed Director of Resources and Development.

The 1957 MRA Annual Conference held November 15, 1957 was a one-day workshop meeting designed to concentrate on exploring recreation problems around the State and to review recreation accomplishments in Missouri. It was intended as an exploratory warm up for the proposed 1958 Second Governor's Recreation Conference which would be focused on recreation legislation. Mr. J. Earl "Curly" Schlupp, Past President of ARS and Superintendent of Recreation, Denver, Colorado spoke on "Leadership and the Recreation Movement". Throughout his remarks, Mr. Schlupp referred to the current efforts of ARS and AIPE to merge.

The new year 1958, began with crucial decisions confronting MRA. Robert L. Black, Division Resources and Development, had resigned to become the Midwest District Representative for NRA. This change left vacant the position of Secretary of MRA because NRA discouraged its staff to hold elected positions in the states they served. It also meant that the Division of Resources and Development had to re-evaluate its current and future role in relation to MRA. Mr. Idol agreed that his Division would continue to assist MRA, but could and would do only that which they were charged by law to do. The staff person replacing Black would be required to give his primary attention to the promotion of resort recreation. President Johanboeke reported that the Executive Committee, therefore, had decided that MRA could not depend on the Division for continued service, but Mr. Joseph Jaeger Jr., Director of the Missouri State Park Board had agreed to provide necessary support and service to MRA.

Subsequently, President Johanboeke appointed Mr. Jaeger Jr. and Mr. Hadley Irwin, recreation Supervisor of the Park Board as co-chairmen for the 1958 Second Governor's Recreation Conference. The Board also approved appointment of Mr. Irwin as Secretary to the Board.

A major part of the planning for the Governor's Recreation Conference was devoted to developing strategies for securing recreation enabling legislation. A thorough comprehensive and well-conceived publicity campaign was carried out by co-chairmen Jaeger and Irwin. A Legislative Committee meeting was convened the morning of the Conference and Chairman David Crossen outlined the plan approach to be used.

From the opening remarks of Governor James Blair, the real intent of the Conference planners was quite clear - to be certain that all participants and all people in Missouri became fully aware of the need for recreation enabling legislation. Following the Governor, Keynote speaker Professor Charles K. Brightbill, Head, Department of Recreation, University of Illinois, and past president of ARS spoke on "New Concepts of Recreation in a Changing Society". He also pointed out the need for Missouri to secure recreation enabling legislation.

At the Annual Business meeting of MRA, C. I. Linhart was elected President with Joseph Jaeger Jr., Vice President; Hadley Irwin, Secretary; and Harold Bourgeois, Treasurer.

Although records of the professional recreation group were almost non-existent, the organization which gradually evolved from the earlier Missouri Community Recreation Society became known as the Missouri Recreation and Park Society. Its President, William L. Kloppe, Webster Groves, announced at their November 20, 1958 meeting held during the Governor's Conference that he and C. I. Linhart newly elected President of MRA had appointed a committee chaired by Mr. Lee Burton to conduct a feasibility study of possible merger of MRA and MRPS.

As the year of 1959 began to unfold, the membership of MRA and MRPS were moving to close ranks. Most of the membership of both organizations

viewed a merger as a move toward strengthening recreation in Missouri. The report of the Committee studying the feasibility of a merger recommended that MRA and MRPS be united into one organization representing all park and recreation interest groups in the State of Missouri. In view of the progress made by the feasibility study, the MRA Board voted to hold a Fall Workshop with MRPS to discuss the merger and to take appropriate action. A Constitutional Committee composed of Lee Burton, Norbert Wapelhorst, Lyman Riley, Dr. Walter H. Ryle, William L. Kloppe and C. I. Linhart met to draft a new constitution.

Not everyone nor all issues connected to the pending merger were harmonious. However, cool heads prevailed and compromises were submitted.

In a memo dated September 2, 1959 sent to all MRPS members from President William L. Kloppe, the results of the mail vote on the proposed merger with MRA was recorded as 42 replies in favor and 3 against. Mr. Kloppe explained that the MRA Board had recommended merger at its August 31, 1959 meeting, but had proposed revisions which would be mailed to all MRA and MRPS members for their information and the revisions would be voted upon at the Annual Meeting scheduled for Trout Lodge, a YMCA Camp, Potosi, Missouri.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Missouri Parks and Recreation On the Move

Promptly at 4:00 P. M., November 20, 1959, C. I. Linhart and William L. Kloppe, Presidents of MRA and MRPS respectively, convened the joint business meeting at which the combined membership voted on whether to combine the two organizations into one unified group. According to official records, MRA members present voted 48-1 and MRPS members present voted 32-1 for adoption and acceptance of the merger plan. The nearly unanimous acceptance was followed, as previously agreed, by the dissolution of MRA and MRPS structures and the start of the Missouri Park and Recreation Association (MPRA).

Following the official vote, creating MPRA complete with new constitution, By-Laws and merged treasuries, the charter members of MPRA elected the following officers:

President	-	James E. Heath, St. Louis
Vice President	-	Marie Santee, Kansas City
Secretary	-	Hadley Irwin, Jefferson City
Treasurer	-	Harold Bourgeois, St. Louis.

In addition, C. I. Linhart and William L. Kloppe were asked by the new Association to serve on the Executive Board of MPRA.

Programs of the Workshop included a selection of subject areas which had been requested earlier by participants. The featured speaker for the closing session was Mr. Joseph Causino, former Executive Director, South Side YMCA, St. Louis, whose subject was "Conservation of Soil and Souls".

Presidential Periods - 1959-1965

James E. Heath, November 20, 1959 to November 4, 1961

Immediately following the workshop, President Heath took action to align MPRA with all related national organizations with which MRA and MRPS formerly belonged. This led to the immediate payment of affiliation dues to NRA, ARS and AIPE. In December Mr. Edward Stegner, Executive Secretary of the Conservation Federation of Missouri became MPRA Outdoor Recreation Chairman and MPRA officially affiliated with the Federation.

Among the first special interest sections to formally affiliate with MPRA were hospital recreators and camping personnel. The Missouri Congress of Parent and Teachers Association, Community recreators, Forestry and Church recreators were also added during Heath's administration.

Under the aggressive leadership of President Heath, MPRA became actively involved with the recreation leadership curriculum efforts at the University of Missouri, and Heath wrote to Dr. Elmer Ellis, President of the University pledging the support of MPRA to the new curriculum efforts.

The development of the Explorer began with the appointment of Mr. Jerry Bachman as editor of the newly created MPRA magazine. Under the professional guidance of Mr. Bachman the Explorer grew from its original 7" x 8½", eight stapled pages in December, 1959 to an expanded 8½" x 11" eight stapled pages by July, 1960 to the familiar 8½" x 11" multiple page "slick copy produced for the Winter 1960-61 issue. A 48 page copy developed and issued to coincide with the 1963 National Recreation Congress held in St. Louis was the largest to be printed. The Explorer became the media of communication for MPRA members and an important symbol of professional growth. President Heath expressed what the Explorer meant to MPRA when he wrote in its first issue, "For several years many of us throughout the state have felt a great need for a statewide publication for the field of Parks and Recreation. We feel that it will assist us in understanding each other and will aid those who serve as officers on an executive board to inform all other members concerning the overall program, policies and procedures of the organization. It is my opinion that our new organization publication, The Explorer, will satisfy all of these needs. It is my sincere hope that, through this publication, we may become a more unified cohesive organization".

Early in this first year of MPRA operations a concerted effort to strengthen membership was launched. An attractive two-color membership brochure bearing the MPRA symbol was widely distributed. The Study and Research Committee chaired by Mrs. Verna Rensvold was charged with investi-

gating and developing a plan on how to resume and expand recreation services at the state level; and, to do a preliminary study on the feasibility for a voluntary registration of recreation personnel in Missouri.

Following detailed research and efforts by Ed Stegner and Dave Crossen in working with Missouri Legislative Research in drafting a new recreation enabling bill for the 1961 General Assembly, a concerted plan was evolved to use the first Annual Conference of MPRA as the major educational device to present the need for recreation enabling legislation to Missourians. The 1960 Conference theme "Together We Move Forward" was subtitled "Our Legislative Ramparts".

Because of the behind the scenes activities of Stegner, Crossen and Jaeger, recreation enabling legislation was introduced into the 71st General Assembly, Wednesday, January 11, 1961 by Senator Jones and Senator Hill. The new Senate bill was assigned number 17 and referred to the Senate Committee on Local Government. By April 20, 1961 Senate Bill 17 had advanced to the floor of the Senate where it was perfected. Another intensive campaign was mounted to urge all Missouri Senators to give their support on third reading and final passage. A Committee hearing was scheduled for May 16, 1961 at which MPRA members Heath, Jaeger, Stegner, Skow, Littrell and Schrage appeared to testify in favor of passage.

Two Amendments were eventually introduced. The Senate amendment required a two-thirds vote to pass a mill tax and the House amendment prohibited school districts from voting a mill tax for recreation programs. In a June memo to all MPRA members, Ed Stegner reported that Senate Bill 17 had passed the House as amended by the Senate, but then added an amendment of its own which was subsequently accepted by the Senate and eventually signed into law by the Governor.

President Heath followed these announcements with a statement to all MPRA members encouraging them to use this permissive legislation to build a solid structure of parks and recreation in Missouri.

Among the several resolutions passed at the first Annual MPRA Conference was one which established a "Ben Porter Memorial Scholarship Fund" in honor of Ben Porter, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Jefferson City, who passed away October 10, 1960. The Scholarship was established to enable an eligible Missouri recreation executive to attend the Kansas Executive School.

A recap of significant accomplishments during the first two years of MPRA under the administrative leadership of James Heath includes:

1. Strengthening ties with NRA, ARS and AIPE and developing a close relationship with the Missouri State Park Board and Conservation Federation of Missouri.
2. Encouraging the affiliation of several special interest groups with MPRA, including Hospital, Camping, PTA, Forestry, church and community recreators.

3. Carefully researching previous attempts to pass recreation enabling legislation; appointing knowledgeable and energetic leadership which eventually guided the passage of Missouri's Recreation Enabling legislation.
4. Laying the ground work for the University of Missouri to accept temporary responsibility for continuance of state level recreation service to communities.
5. Offering strong support to the initial efforts of the University of Missouri to provide recreation leadership education.
6. Initial efforts to develop a strong and informed membership; and
7. Creation of a superb communication link - the Explorer.

Joseph Jaeger Jr., November 4, 1961 to October 18, 1963

The transition of leadership from James E. Heath to Joseph Jaeger Jr. was achieved without any appreciable loss in momentum or quality. There was a shift, however, in the organizational need presented by the existing circumstances. President Jaeger was confronted with the gigantic task of molding the factions of park and community recreation personnel into a unified organization. The next two years of growth involved further professional maturation of MPRA and its leadership.

Among the most significant accomplishments and progress recorded by MPRA during the first of President Jaeger's terms included: (1) continued efforts to build a strong recreation leadership image for MPRA; (2) the first certification of professional recreation personnel in Missouri; (3) continued development and strengthening of special recreation interest groups; (4) national recognition and leadership through improvement of the Explorer; (5) exceptional membership growth; and, (6) an unprecedented Park and Recreation Governor's Conference which provided exceptional recognition for MPRA throughout Missouri.

The dynamic force which enabled these events to "happen" was generated by President Joseph Jaeger. In the opinion of the writer, the energy field which resulted as a product of Jaeger's leadership was influenced and guided by his learned skill of political finesse and disciplined administrative technique.

The start of a Park and Recreation Board and Commissioners Section marked the beginning of a strong and responsible involvement of lay leadership. The expansion and strengthening of the Explorer provided an excellent communication device between the actions of the executive board and both professional and lay interests. Such expansion required financial assistance. Fortunately for MRA, the Missouri Bowling Proprietors Association contributed \$1000 toward the publication the Explorer, now edited by James L. Wilson. Action was also initiated by the MBPA to develop a Commercial Recreation Section, and in June of 1962 the Board officially approved a Commercial Section.

Several key personnel changes occurred at this time which affected recreation developments in Missouri. Robert Black, formerly of the Missouri Division of Resources and Development and later Midwest Representative for NRA, accepted a position with the National Forest Service. Verna Rensvold, formerly Superintendent of Recreation in Kansas City and later a Special Consultant for NRA, assumed responsibilities as Midwest District Representative. The sudden passing of Charles Skow, Commissioner of St. Louis County Department of Parks and Recreation created a momentary vacuum, but the position soon was ably filled by Wayne Kennedy.

Although MPRA had become attuned to state and National legislative developments during its first two years, the influence of President Jaeger and strongly supported by Ed Stegner, Outdoor Recreation chairman provided MPRA membership with accurate information on which as an organization it took positions on numerous occasions for passage of specific bills. These included the Wilderness Bill, Stream Preservation in Missouri, the problem of accessibility to public streams and water in Missouri, and two additional bills on the Youth Conservation Corps and matching Fund Bill for Planning Parks and Recreation.

A sticky problem well beyond the control or influence of Missouri park and recreation personnel, tested the wisdom of MPRA leadership. The Annual American Institute of Park Executives Conference scheduled for September 23-26 in Kansas City was closely followed by the National Recreation Congress scheduled for September 30 to October 5 in Philadelphia. It was quite evident that the newly merged interests of park and recreation represented in MPRA were confronted with a problem of which conference to attend.

The problem was resolved smoothly although not necessarily quietly nor without considerable ambivalence by numerous individuals who would have attended both had their budgets permitted. President Jaeger and William Landahl, Director of the Jackson County Park System became involved in the planning of the conference and through their leadership and influence, the AIPE conference in Kansas City was not only a success but because of their leadership contributions received accolades from all over the U.S. as one of the best.

The First Governor's Conference on Parks and Recreation was opened by the Honorable John M. Dutton, Governor of Missouri on November 15, 1962. In his remarks, the Governor proposed to establish a State Interagency Council for Recreation as the most economical method to coordinate the 12 state agencies concerned with recreation in order to provide and take responsible action for recreational services in the interest and welfare of all. Additional highlights of the Conference were an announcement that MPRA membership had increased to 250 and a certification plan was presented and accepted by the membership. President Jaeger appointed James Heath, Lee Burton, William Kloppe, Chauncey Linhart and Verna Rensvold to the Certification Committee.

Considerable MPRA Board energies were directed to accomplish the many details associated with taking a share in hosting the 1963 National Recreation Congress in St. Louis.

Additional insight into the leadership abilities of President Jaeger can be obtained by examining the recognition afforded him by national recreation and park organizations. In late 1962 Jaeger was offered and accepted a three-year appointment to NRA's National Advisory Committee on Recreation Administration. He also held the position of Vice Chairman of the AIPE Affiliated Societies and Organizations Committee.

The first three months of park and recreation activity in Missouri focused on state and national legislation and through the Explorer MPRA membership was kept abreast of developments.

The Winter 1962-63 issue of the Explorer carried an article by William Kloppe, Chairman of the Certification Committee, which thoroughly explained the Missouri Certification plan and further announced that Paul Morris of Neosho was the first MPRA member to send his application and \$5.00 fee for processing. The Spring 1963 issue of 48 pages was the largest Explorer publication. It carried news of the pending National Recreation Congress and gave excellent publicity to the host city of St. Louis and National visibility for MPRA.

The 1963 National Recreation Congress involved large numbers of MPRA members who were well represented during the five-day program in a variety of roles. From the opening National Anthem sung by James Heath, the stimulating and challenging opening address by Governor Dalton to the closing General Session chaired by Joseph Jaeger Jr., Missouri leadership was quite evident in the 1963 National Recreation Congress.

The Board members attending the July 30, 1963 meeting were saddened by the news of the sudden death of W. H. Lyon, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Marshall Missouri. "Bill" Lyon, formerly had been the President of the Missouri Valley Community Recreation Association in 1948 and had continued to support the park and recreation movement in Missouri as an active MPRA Board member.

When the commitment was made to divert all MPRA energies toward making the National Recreation Congress a success, Lee Burton and his Annual Conference planners exercised keen foresight and elected to locate the Annual MPRA Conference in the relaxed, resort-like atmosphere of the Sheraton Elms in Excelsior Springs. Mr. Jud Palmer, Director of Parks and Recreation, Excelsior Springs was a most congenial host to the 153 who attended this unique conference with the theme "Recreation Just For The Fun of It".

Joseph Jaeger was among a number of Missourians who received special recognition and an award of merit for outstanding service to their community. This award ceremony was the largest ever held in recognition of Missouri park and recreation leadership.

Rounding out the fourth year of MPRA efforts and the second year of leadership by Jaeger, it was reported that over 130 persons were certified as recreation professionals and a total of 318 persons had become members of MPRA.

Lee Burton, October 18, 1963 to February 25, 1965 (date of his effective resignation)

As Lee Burton assumed leadership of MPRA, two very significant national developments had already occurred which in the years ahead would affect recreation and park developments in Missouri. The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation had been signed into law by President Kennedy on May 28, 1963; and, this agency had a tremendous influence over the future outcome of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Bill pending in Congress. On the side of professional growth, a planned forum brought together NRA, ARS and AIPE at the 45th National Recreation Congress in St. Louis to discuss the future in regard to mutual relationships between the three organizations.

President Burton was well qualified for leadership of MPRA. A combination of formal education in the field of park and recreation and a depth of practical experience provided the springboard for Burton to seek excellence and quality in himself and in co-leaders. The quest for quality actually began when Burton enlisted a group of competent committee chairmen he knew to be supportive of his goals, and during the month between the election of Burton and the first Board meeting each committee chairman was given a specific charge of responsibility.

The quality of the Explorer continued and Burton aptly used this media as a means to keep in touch with members. The Hospital Recreation Section introduced their own newsletter, Keeping in Touch, and the Commercial Recreation Section, encouraged by 60 additional members following the Annual Conference at Excelsior Springs, began to develop standards for their membership.

MPRA was represented at the ARS Administrative Council meeting held at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, West Virginia by President Burton, whose expenses were underwritten up to \$150.00. This meeting provided an opportunity for Burton to hear proposals from ARS, AIPE and NRA regarding possible merger arrangements. The issue of possible merger of ARS, AIPE and NRA became the dominant factor of concern for MPRA Board and members. Many belonged to all three and most to at least two of the organizations. Although the individual members of MPRA were bombarded with the specific interpretations from each organization, most agreed with Burton who said, "Our professional organizations AIPE, ARS, NRA and others are struggling with the problem of consolidation.... Consolidation is not going to be easy.... The problems facing these organizations seem impossible; however, I am sure that they can be worked out.... Please be patient and lend encouragement to our national groups.... Let us all keep a positive attitude and not become discouraged with the time that will be necessary to bring consolidation to a successful conclusion".

At the Fifth Annual meeting of MPRA, the Certification Committee reported 147 persons certified and membership had reached 309. The Conference Luncheon Speaker was Mr. Joseph Prendergast, Executive Director of NRA, who presented his views on merger and then entertained questions from the audience. Copies of the Revised Constitution 1964 were made available.

The second term of Burton's administration was immediately launched into an atmosphere of uncertainty, restlessness and plagued by some internal dissatisfaction. Much of the uncertainty and restlessness seemed to be a result of both state and national issues with pending decisions about which MPRA members did not have any direct influence. The Missouri inter-agency council was about to be established; there were many unknowns as to the effect the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act would have on Missouri parks and recreation programs; and, the tense situation surrounding national merger outcome. Perhaps these events also were responsible for internal voices of dissatisfaction which were unhappy because of a lack of purposeful activity within MPRA.

Change came, but quite unexpectedly, and in many ways untimely. What had been rumored early in February as the possible resignation of President Burton became a definite reality on February 25, 1965. Burton resigned as President of MPRA and left Missouri to take the position of Director of Parks and Recreation in Indianapolis, Indiana. Vice President Norbert Wapelhorst assumed the duties of president of MPRA and at the April 7, 1965 Board meeting the Board elected Wapelhorst as President and Albert "Abe" Phillips as Vice President.

During this interim period, activity centered around strengthening the Citation and Awards Committee, supporting the announced Governor's Conference on Outdoor Recreation and offering encouragement to the Community Recreation Section which announced plans to conduct a 3-day Leadership Skills Workshop at Camp Lake of the Woods, Swope Park, Kansas City.

Norbert Wapelhorst, April 7, 1965 to September 17, 1965

The five months during which Norbert Wapelhorst officially served as President of MPRA constituted too short a span of time for his experienced administrative leadership to become effective. Although a short period, these five months proved to be critical ones for the future of MPRA. From November 1964 to April 1965 the enthusiasm, the spark, the motivating force which here to fore had generated the driving power to administer MPRA activities had diminished and was at its lowest ebb as Wapelhorst willingly accepted the responsibilities and bridged the gap. It is to his lasting credit that MPRA did not suffer a more critical fate and founder in the prevailing atmosphere of apathy.

Lyle Dilley, September 17, 1965 to September 16, 1966

Although Wapelhorst capably served as a stabilizing influence, the fortunes of MPRA rested on a placid surface of indifference and continued apathy as Lyle Dilley became the fifth president of MPRA on September 17, 1965.

The big news was that on August 14, 1965 the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, the American Institute of Park Executives, the American Recreation Society, the National Conference of State Parks and the National Recreation Association united into the National Recreation and Park Association.

Attendance at the Sixth Annual MPRA Conference fluctuated between 80-100 at the various scheduled programs. Considering that membership was reported at 360 this attendance could hardly be considered an enthusiastic representation of the members. Committee and Section reports were given routinely. The detailed work of the Citation and Awards Committee and the Constitution Review Committee were perfunctorily approved without discussion or question. The most discouraging report came from the Community Recreation Section which described its unexplainable failure to secure enough registrants for the planned "Leadership Skills Workshop".

Ironically but perhaps appropriately, the closing speaker of the Annual Conference, Mr. J. Austin Smith, long-time friend and member of MPRA and President of the Flexible Company spoke to the remaining delegates on, "Our Brightest Days Are Still Ahead".

Following the address by Mr. Smith, newly elected President Dilley added an inspirational charge to MPRA membership. He said, "If others are to recognize our profession, we must first be proud of ourselves as professionals and our work. The only way this can be done is through an organization such as MPRA, for just as the new merger nationally presents a unified voice which carries authority, so therefore must the various integers of the MPRA be unified to speak with a voice that commands respect."

President Dilley was able to launch into a purposeful program because of information gleaned from an evaluation which had been devised during the administration of Wapelhorst. Several key concerns of MPRA membership were pinpointed in this survey. Among these were a workable solution to financing the Explorer, the need for future projects for MPRA and investigating the possibility of hiring a part-time or full-time executive director of MPRA.

The new president recommended a reduction in Committees, but the Board voted to retain the same functional groupings. Exercising the authority permitted by the Constitution, President Dilley appointed a Steering Committee and requested that they assist with the selection of Committee Chairmen by indicating a first, second and third choice for each functional committee chairmanship.

Among the significant actions taken during this administration were: the official start of a MPRA Archives with the appointment of Ralph Hileman as Archivist; Board action to affiliate with NRPA; and, initial efforts by the Steering Committee to study the feasibility of employing a part or full-time executive secretary. The Board was also forewarned in January 1966 that the MBPA was planning to discontinue to underwrite Explorer costs.

NOTE: Records available to the writer for 1966-67, the administration of President Wayne Kennedy were incomplete, and therefore, only a fragment of information can be reported for 1966-67.

Wayne Kennedy, September 17, 1966 to October 15, 1967

The Seventh Annual MPRA Conference was held at Mai-Tai, Lake of Ozarks. Membership of MPRA was reported totalling 478 - 263 individual and 215 group members. Although camping and church sections were inactive, a new student section had been added with the assistance of Dr. Lyle Beaver. Upon the recommendation of Dr. Keith Roys, the Board agreed to fund a scholarship program consisting of \$570.00. Of this amount, \$350.00 was allocated for a student at the University of Missouri and \$220.00 for a student at Central Missouri.

When MBPA withdrew its support of the Explorer, the Board voted emergency assistance and advanced \$1000 to support continued efforts. An editorial board consisting of Abe Phillips, James Wilson, Lyle Beaver, Richard Stracke and Frank Vaydik agreed to offer guidance and the Board gave its approval to having the Explorer printed by the Kansas City Park District.

During December 1966 two MPRA stalwarts passed away. Melvin Dillon, long-time chairman of the MPRA Camping Section and Karl Johanboeke, former MRA President and one of the early leaders who had devoted considerable time and effort to continually strengthen professional recreation and park efforts in Missouri. Both men had contributed much to the success of MPRA and would be missed.

The Eighth Annual MPRA Conference also was held at Mai-Tai, Lake of the Ozarks, September 13, 14 & 15, 1967. Albert Phillips was elected president along with Lyle Beaver as Vice President, Rosemary Mulloy, Secretary and Barry Seward, Treasurer. These officers and their Board looked ahead to the next eventful decades of the future.