



Landmark Being Razed

Workmen salvage lumber from the remains of the the president's home. Fire ruined the 70-year-old residence last February. C. H. Armstrong of Benchley said he expects to complete the salvage job by late July.

AT CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Farmers Urged To Provide Land For Recreational Use

East Texas landowners on the look-out for new income sources were urged here Monday to investigate recreational use of some of their acreage.

Ivan Schmedemann, assistant professor in the A&M Department of Agricultural and Sociology, said the state's expanding population areas are full of people wanting to get close to nature for a few days.

Schmedemann was a committee co-chairman in the annual 1963 Conservation Workshop at A&M. The session ran through Tuesday.

THE WORKSHOP studied farming alternatives in the East Texas timberlands and the Coastal Prairies. Wildlife and recreational opportunities were a phase of the workshop.

Schmedemann said there are eager customers for fishing, boating, hunting, camping, picnicing and hiking — if these facilities measure up to the public's expectations.

"East Texas has many good recreational resources, all virtually undeveloped," he said. "But they must be carefully managed like any other business enterprise, and facilities must be adequate."

The recreational area should be easily accessible by road and close enough to the population centers for weekend users. Customers usually don't want to travel more than two hours from home, the economist said.

SCHMEDEMANN SAID camping is one of the most neglected uses for farmland, but this does not mean that most people want to truly "rough it." They like to be surrounded by wild country and still enjoy some of the basic conveniences of home.

Such conveniences include piped water, electrical hook-ups for trailers, sanitary facilities, garbage disposal, grills and tables, and a campground that is regularly debugged.

Schmedemann emphasized that no matter what kind of recreational program a landowner may have, he should be adequately covered by liability insurance.

A Conservation Workshop speaker, E. M. Trew, pasture specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, outlined "Operation Build East Texas." The program is designed to pull certain areas of East Texas out of the economic doldrums.

HE SAID a 40-county area of East Texas is often regarded as a marginal farming area, but "it has the greatest potential in the state."

Among the many opportunities listed by Trew are more complete utilization of land, adoption of improved farming practices, conservation programs, more and better beef cattle, community improvement programs, long-term forestry practices, forage production, and wildlife and recreation.

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