

# Boat Owners Have Varying Interests

Interests in various boating activities can determine how far boat owners will travel for recreation.

And person from different walks of life will have different tastes in boating.

These are some of the findings of Dr. Carlton S. Van Doren, a new staff member in the Texas A&M University Recreation and Parks Department.

Van Doren came here from the Ohio State University Geography Department, where he and a co-worker had just finished an interview survey at 15 Ohio lakes. The north central states, including Ohio, have seen a tremendous increase in recreational boating in the past decade.

**THE RESEARCHER**, a recognized authority on recreational boating, said he believes his findings also will apply to Texas lakes. He plans to continue his studies at Somerville Lake and other inland bodies of water in the state.

Van Doren said his studies have practical application.

"Behavior patterns of boaters should play some part in the use of a public lake or reservoir," he

explained. "This would lead to better planning so that a greater number of people would be satisfied."

Pleasure watercraft in his study were categorized into cruising, fishing, water skiing, sailing and canoeing.

**HE LEARNED** that boaters with the same activity desires were found to travel similar distances and to cluster at the same lakes. Sailors and water skiers traveled short distances to lakes on the fringe of metropolitan centers, while fishermen and non-specialized boaters journeyed longer distances to more remote lakes.

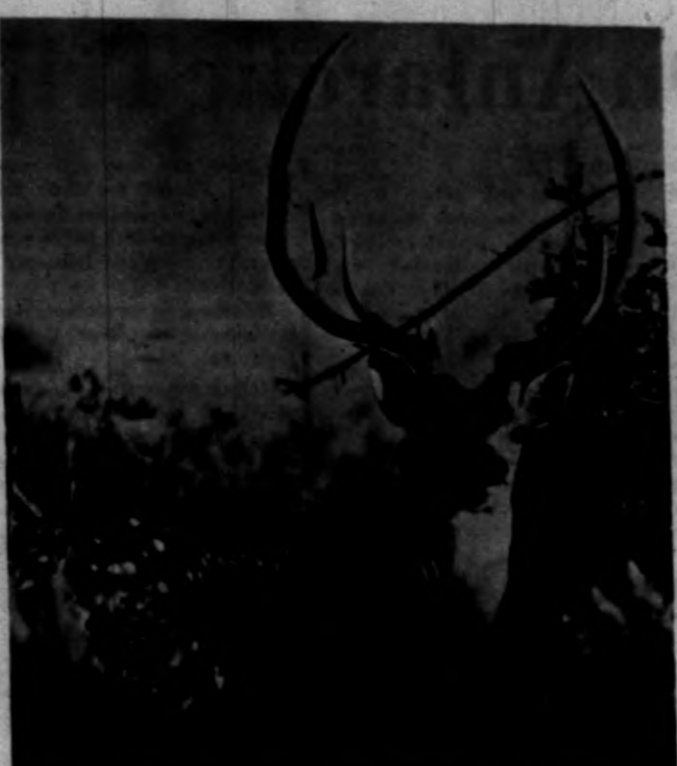
Trip length, then, is related to trip purpose.

"In other words, a water skier living in Bryan is not likely to travel to Lake Texoma or Sam Rayburn Reservoir just to indulge his hobby. He will go to Lake Somerville instead," Van Doren pointed out. "But a devoted fisherman would think nothing of traveling all the way to Texoma or Rayburn."

**THE SURVEY** also noted that types of boating and associated activities have social and economic angles.

Persons in the unskilled and semi-skilled working class went in more for the racier aspects of boating, such as high powered craft and skiing. But skilled workers and professional people were more sedate in their tastes. They usually preferred specialties, like cruising craft, sail boats and canoes.

Van Doren says he believes his study indicates that to keep most people happy, certain lakes close to metropolitan areas should be zoned for various activity uses as well as for boat speeds. Remote lakes should be restricted to engineless or low horsepower craft to preserve the quiet and solitude for fishermen.



## WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

An adult male axis deer braces to keen alertness at the Powderhorn Ranch on the Gulf Coast. Note the elk-like antlers. Wildlife science researchers at Texas A&M say axis deer, native to India, average about 200 pounds when full grown.

## Aggie Awarded Silver Star For Gallantry In Viet War

A Texas A&M graduate subjected himself to heavy mortar fire and flying shrapnel twice in one day while defending his unit position near Bu Dop, Vietnam.

For gallantry in action, the Army decorated Capt. Walter R. Wilms, 28, of Columbus with the Silver Star medal.

The action took place early last December. Vietcong were shelling Captain Wilms' artillery unit position with recoilless rifle and mortar fire.

Wilms, a 1961 A&M graduate and Aggie Band commander, twice left the protection of the fire direction control bunker, to direct his battery's counter mortar fires and assist wounded.

The first VC barrage consisted of 150 rounds. Later that day, another intensive enemy mortar attack began and one round exploded in the third howitzer section wounding all men there. Wilms refused to take cover, initiated return fire again and went to the directly hit section to aid wounded.

Wounded by shrapnel, he refused aid and led survivors in carrying the injured to a nearby infantry aid station.

The 33rd Artillery battery commander's citation accompanying the medal termed his action as "unquestionable valor."

# Wildlife Science Students Watch Habits Of Axis Deer

Texas A&M graduate students in wildlife science are keeping sharp eyes on axis deer this summer near Port O'Connor.

The keen observation is part of a research project supported by the Kleberg Foundation, an organization which offers strong backing to numerous wildlife improvement programs internationally.

"Axis deer are the most widespread of 'exotics' in the United States," noted Dr. Ernest Ables, assistant professor in charge of the study. "Actually, this is a three-tiered project to learn more about behavior and physiology."

**BY THREE** tiers, Ables means research is broken down into studies of food habits, social structure and reproduction.

William Russ of Austin heads the study of deer reproduction. Eugene R. Fuchs of Brenham is delving into social habits. And John C. Smith of McGehee, Ark., has responsibility for checking the fleet-footed animals' food habits.

Research is in progress at the Powderhorn Ranch, a sprawling spread owned by Leroy Denman, attorney for the King Ranch. Observers contend the ranch is home for almost 1,000 of the axis deer, recently brought to the U.S. from their native habitat in India.

"THAT'S THE largest population in the state, we think," Ables said.

The researchers have plenty of elbow room to conduct studies. More than 30,000 acres comprise the Powderhorn Ranch close to Matagorda Bay.

"Statistics being gathered are varied," Ables pointed out. "These deer, which antlers resembling those of the elk, have a bright red coat. Axis deer are generally larger than the white tails native to Texas. Adult males aver-

age about 200 pounds."

"We are interested in the competition for food between axis and white-tails," Ables explained.

"Ranchers over the country are wondering what effects axis deer will have on herds already existing on their land. Naturally, we hope to provide most of the answers."

**ABLES SAID** little is known about axis deer although they are popular in zoological gardens all over the world.

All the spying the researchers are doing on the axis deer is limited to daylight hours.

"We need some illumination at night to get the full picture of these animals' habits," Ables emphasized. "Infra-red studies are helpful, but we hope to use other kinds of illumination soon."

Other aims of the trio include

trapping and tagging deer. The researchers plan to affix color-coded collars for easier identification.

Young people around the state no doubt will be envious of one of Fuchs' tasks for the summer. He hopes to trap an axis fawn and tame and train it so he can record eating and social habits.

## Jordanian Guest Studies Methods

An Extension plant protection specialist from Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture is visiting Texas A&M for a seven-week period to study operations of the Extension Service and Experiment Station.

Abdulbaki Khalil Abul-Haj of the capital city of Amman is here under a program sponsored by the U. S. Agency for International Development (AID) in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the nation's land-grant universities.

Patrick B. Hall of the A&M Office of International Programs said Abul-Haj will review new research work underway at experiment stations. He also will work with Extension specialists on a training program for Jordanian Extension field workers in plant protection activities.

Another objective of his stay is to study communication methods and learn the special role of mass media in Extension education work with farmers.

Much of the visitor's time, Hall said, will be spent consulting with personnel in the Departments of Soil and Crop Sciences, Entomology, Plant Sciences, and Agricultural Information.

Abul-Haj arrived in the United States Feb. 21. After a period of time with the USDA in Washington, D. C., he visited Oregon State University and Colorado State University before arriving at College Station July 8.

## Swimming Pool Schedule Posted

Splashing and sunning at Texas A&M's Wofford Cain swimming pool continues on an 8 1/2-hour weekday basis for another month.

The Olympic-size pool will be closed Aug. 24 to Sept. 8, noted Dr. Carl W. Landiss, then reopen on an abbreviated schedule.

Summer weekday and Saturday hours of operation are from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2 to 6 p.m. and 7:30 to 9 p.m. On Sundays, the four-hour mid-afternoon period is observed.

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