



Environmental Class Travels Nation

By Diane Moore

For the past two years Dr. Maurice Powers has taken members of his National Environmental Encounters class on a trip across the nation to gather insights, knowledge and understanding of the different types of environments which they encountered as they traveled.

This idea was developed by Dr. Powers who felt that first hand experience would broaden his students concept of what the Environmental Encounter course was about. After drawing up the idea, he presented it to the National Science Foundation. The Foundation approved the idea and has sponsored it annually since 1974.

According to Lina Winslow, a member of the class who took the last trip, the tour motivated her into wanting to help improve some of the bad conditions that she saw and to give a hand to the progress of some of the better conditions that they saw.

Ms. Winslow is an Intermediate Education major with concentrations in Science and Environmental Education.

A first hand description of the tour as seen by Lina is as follows:

The class left June 20 in two cars and one truck owned by the state. The students took turns driving and kept records such as gas expenses.

Each student was equipped with an environmental notebook in which the students were to write an impact statement on Middlesboro, Kentucky. This statement was a list of the town's limitations of population, natural resources, industries, rainfall and recreation. This impact statement was a major requirement of the trip.

The first stop was in Asheville, North Carolina. Here the class observed the Appalachian Mountains.

They then moved on to Arkansas where they observed the ricefields. They passed through the Great

Plains of Oklahoma, where there were large wheat fields, strong winds, oil wells, and few trees. They also visited the Cowboy Hall of Fame and found the people of Oklahoma very friendly.

In Carlsbad, New Mexico, the climate was dry, the land barren and they found that the life styles were poor compared with ours.

In Douglas, Arizona, the class went to visit the world's largest Copper Smelter.

From Arizona they left for San Diego, California where they received a lecture at the zoo on the endangered species. These are animals who are in danger of becoming extinct. The students saw the Okapi, a rare species which looks like a deer and once lived in the Congo. They were never seen by people until the 1900's. They saw the Przewalski's horse. These horses are all in captivity and are the last of the true wild horses.

While in San Diego the class also got a chance to visit Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Ms. Winslow says that she felt all of the students had gotten to be closer friends because of the long journey and that they would always remain that way. While traveling the students rested in motels along the way. They did their own laundry.

Before leaving Elizabeth City, North Carolina, each student was given copies of their schedule which included, phone numbers and names of the motels, and what they would be doing daily. A copy was given to the students' parents and one copy was left at the University.

The members of the class were as follows:

Dimples Armstrong, a Science teacher; Glenda Armstrong, Biology; Ronald Bowser, Geology; Ronnie Davis, Geology; Wanell James, Biology; Lavern Jones, Biology; Lemuel Lamb, Biology; Melvin Norman, Intermediate Education; Anthony Ray,

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(Upper Right) Members of the Environmental class visit an oil well in Sayre, Oklahoma; (Upper Left) a lava flow near Flagstaff, Arizona; (Second from top) a Navaho hogan; (Third from top) a fossil bed in Great Plains, Missouri; and (Bottom) the great springs at Big Spring, Missouri.