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REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REELFOOT LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION

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The thirty-sixth summer session of this research station, a facility of the Tennessee Academy of Science, clearly indicates the necessity for more extensive facilities if we are to accomplish the objectives of furnishing adequate laboratory space, equipment and materials for extensive biological research.

Dr. Robert J. Shoffman of the Griffin High School, Springfield, Illinois, spent his thirtieth consecutive season studying the growth rate of certain fishes and relating these results to present game laws regarding the conservation of fishes.

The usual classes from nearby colleges and universities visited the station for brief periods, as did individuals.

When the present location was selected in 1932 for the biological station, the region was rather isolated from traffic and the general public, but the encroachment of civilization in the form of more extensive land use, more hunting and fishing and the increasing use of improved highways and country roads, both day and night, has resulted in the elimination of any privacy that was once thought to be advantageous.

Any planning for the development of a modern and more extensive research station on Reelfoot Lake must not be restricted to the present location since it is now evident that more desirable areas are available. Special consideration should be given to land areas that are well above any possible flood level, and that are near a major highway and a city for convenience of shipping, obtaining mail, material and supplies. Research workers no longer prefer isolation from the conveniences of shopping centers, recreation areas and social services. Several regions with these advantages are presently available on state-owned land with ready and convenient access to the open parts of the lake.

A study of biological stations presently operating in the United States shows that a typical station is administratively tied to an academic institution, engages in field research and may offer instruction in field biology as a secondary function. The buildings are usually rustic and museum displays are at a minimum. Of 53 stations in operation in 1945 only 20 survive. Fifteen

new stations have been organized since this date. The strength of a station lies in the opportunity for study of natural environment with a single ecosystem, accessible to workers with emphasis on limnology. The presence of a nearby park maintains a more stable habitat.

Some of the problems arising in the operation of a biological station involve the encouragement of token use during the winter, suitable laboratory space and equipment for both research investigators and students, housing and dining facilities and recreation. Many stations do not have a high status at their universities and they are too often considered nature study camps, despite their tremendous value for ecology and systematics. Only a few of the present biological stations are not shoestring operations. All stations have facilities for research, which is the primary function, and about one-half offer courses for college and university students. This dual role promises more for the future. Federal grants enable most stations to offer substantial subsidies to competent investigators.

One of the more successful stations, the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was organized in 1940 by the Mississippi Academy of Science and had at first only one large two-story house. Several war surplus barracks were then added and are still in use. In 1950 two brick buildings and a shop were added. By 1965 their expansion shows a \$500,000 laboratory and administration building, and a \$200,000 dormitory with a similar one planned for the near future. The total plant is now valued at \$2,000,000 and the annual overhead exceeds \$100,000. There is ample space for 35 research workers and approximately 150 students. The administration and maintenance involves salaries for 25 people. This station is presently supported by an annual grant from the state to the Institutions of Higher Learning of Mississippi.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE REELFOOT LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATIONS FOR THE PERIOD, JANUARY 1, 1966 - JANUARY 1, 1968

For the Year 1966

Balance on Hand January 1, 1966 \$1,442.62