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**LEISURE FOR LIVING**

# STATUS OF AMERICAN YOUTH



EACH SYMBOL REPRESENTS 1,000,000 YOUTH, 16-24

**BULLETIN 1936, No. 18 - II**

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# **LEISURE FOR LIVING**

**By KATHERINE GLOVER**



**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**HAROLD L. ICKES, Secretary**

**PUBLISHED BY  
THE COMMITTEE ON  
YOUTH PROBLEMS**

**OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

**J. W. STUDEBAKER, Commissioner of Education**

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This bulletin is one of a series of seven prepared by the Committee on Youth Problems. Bulletins in this series on Youth are on the following subjects:

[ 1 ] How Communities Can Help

[ 2 ] Leisure for Living

[ 3 ] Education for Those Out of School

[ 4 ] Vocational Guidance for Those Out of School

[ 5 ] Finding Jobs

[ 6 ] Health Protection

[ 7 ] Community Surveys

## FOREWORD

WHAT happens to young people who leave school but cannot find jobs is a matter of national concern. During recent years the number of such youths has greatly increased. Nor can it be expected that this problem will disappear with the return of so-called "normal times."

In June 1934 the Office of Education, with the cooperation of other Government agencies concerned with youth, called a conference of representative leaders throughout the country to consider what steps might properly be taken to serve best the needs of youth. As one result of this conference a committee on youth problems was created in the Office of Education. A subsidy was secured for this committee's work from the General Education Board. The committee, among other things, has carried forward two studies, the results of which will be published in a series of brief bulletins, of which this bulletin is the second. The names of others appear on the back of the title page of this bulletin.

The main purpose of these publications is to assist communities and youth agencies, with the aid of youths themselves, to develop the best possible programs. Young people ask only for a chance. They are willing to work diligently to improve the conditions under which they shall spend their lives. It is hoped that in some small degree this series of bulletins will assist them and the communities and agencies with which they work to make the necessary adjustments speedily and wisely.

JOHN W. STUDEBAKER,  
*Commissioner.*

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## YOUTH AND THE NEW LEISURE

*In this leisure which has come to us lies democracy's golden opportunity*

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SOCIETY called to the bar; the accuser, youth. *Youth vs. Society*. Such a case actually was tried by a jury in Orange, N. J., in May 1935. And among the counts on which society was indicted were these:

Failure to prepare youth for leisure time, through lack of both facilities and training;

Lack of cooperation among the agencies interested in youth's leisure time;

Failure to guard against the moral hazards which interfere with wholesome recreation.

Standing accused on these charges the community was convicted and put on 1 year's probation to see what it could do to rectify the situation. Enlarge the scene, and the picture becomes not just a single community but the country as a whole. Youth, unexpectedly released from their usual opportunities, have come starkly face to face with their own and society's deficiencies in the matter of leisure. Poverty of play has been as great, if not greater, than poverty of work.

To a people used to going at full tilt, with no checks on the speedometer and no traffic regulations, we can imagine an all-powerful traffic cop suddenly appearing, holding up his arm of authority, and saying, "STOP!" Almost as abruptly as that we were faced with our unexpected leisure. We were unprepared. Hours of work, it is true, had been decreasing over a period of years, but no such large margins of free time had to be reckoned with as the slackening of the economic machinery brought about.

Upon youth more than upon their elders this new unchartered leisure came with startling suddenness. They were all "set" to

work and there was no work. The new leisure confronting them was not marginal but total, and used to a planned and scheduled, if not regimented world, they found themselves with little guide. What was the answer? Communities all over the country have been trying to find it. The Government in Washington has been trying to find it.

Against this background the impetus to play has been stirring, changing the pattern of community life, revising the programs of many organizations, calling out ingenuity on the part of citizens to devise recreation facilities, expanding the services of schools, recreation boards, and social agencies.

Leisure to many has meant loafing; recreation had the significance of "offside" amusement, often anything but *recreational* in the true sense of the word. While we would keep our leisure free from pressures which rob it of its very essence, reserving pleasant fringes for sheer loafing "beneath the bough", yet we would use it to help us build a house of life instead of destroying it.

For the first time, American people, released from the strain of the physical building and equipping of a country during which work was our doctrine and gospel, are summoned to discover the meaning of the word *recreation* and translate its spirit into practice. To *re-create*. Through this great movement toward the use of leisure time, bringing play to people of all ages and kinds, something which has never happened before in this country, the stigma on play is vanishing and a genuine *re-creation* of people is being accomplished.

The end to be achieved is a balance between work and play. Finding releases for the inner life through recreation is more important to the young whose years stretch before them than to others. When a summary is made of the emergency through which we have passed and are still passing, it will be said that a nation disciplined to work is learning to play.

### **NEWER TRENDS IN RECREATION**

SCANNING the situation we find the following trends in the field of recreation:

A great expansion of activities and facilities due to the awakening, both on the part of individuals and of communities, to the value and necessity of recreation.

A widespread increase in community organization for recreation, with programs on a community basis, tending to coordinate hitherto unrelated activities of individual organizations.

A swing-over in recreation interests from the passive to the active, from the tendency *to be done for* to *doing*. Especially with youth, deprived of normal energy outlets, the exhilarating, the challenging, the vigorous, and the self-expressive assume importance.

A reaction against mechanization which finds expression in all sorts of crafts and creative interests.

Widening of the scope of playgrounds both as to area and program; extension of the use of school playgrounds after school hours.

The spread of the once exclusively urban recreations into rural areas by virtue of mobility and a stirring of local initiative.

#### ***Activities and Resources on the Increase.***

Having first accepted our increasing leisure as an enforcement we have acquired a relish for it, with a gradual realization that it is a great responsibility. If we dissipate this leisure we lose a golden opportunity. The expenditures for community recreation during 1934 were greater by 3½ millions than ever recorded before, even in the peak year 1931. Figures for 1935 may show an even greater increase. "Although", comments the Year Book of the National Recreation Association, "more than half the 1934 expenditures were from relief funds, they supplemented rather than took the place of regular local appropriations from local tax sources." Expenditures mounted from \$27,065,854 in 1933, to \$41,864,630 in 1934, and American cities reporting organized public recreation more than doubled, increasing from 1,039 to 4,190; leaders employed mounted from 28,368 to 43,419. Outdoor playgrounds increased 40 percent, indoor recreation centers 55 percent, and recreation buildings 33 percent. Where in 1933 attendance at outdoor playgrounds was 234,000,000, in 1934 it was 300,000,000, and the increase at indoor centers was even more phenomenal, from 60,000,000 to 75,000,000, an increase of 15,000,000. This gives in figures alone an idea of the growing impulse to play and the increasing facilities to provide for it.

### *Community Organization Strengthens*

Formerly, recreation of almost all kinds, since it cost money, was looked upon as a luxury, therefore within the province chiefly of the wealthy. That idea has been giving way gradually and more and more those forms of amusement which were the rich man's perquisite have been made available to all. The community, the State, and the Federal Government are making possible to large numbers what once the exclusive country club, the private camp, or hunting lodge provided for the few. Democratization through recreation is swiftly being accomplished. But to accomplish this, communities have to have some means of organization, public or otherwise, to meet this great demand for recreation. The expense of caring for facilities, the necessity to avoid overlapping and waste effort is bringing about a much more compact community organization for recreation and a pooling of resources toward a common program. In a study which the National Recreation Association made of the leisure-time interests of 5,000 people, it was revealed that more than half of the activities desired by these 5,000 were not providable by the individual himself. They cost money, required facilities, and most of them were group activities.

### *The Swing from Passive to Active*

Where youth were content a few years ago to spend large margins of free time in automobile speeding, attending movies, and hanging over the radio, getting muscle-bound mentally and physically, there has been a swing toward a more active *doing*. The elders may only have thought the youngsters wanted the ready-made, muscle-bound type of thing, whereas a good deal of youth's earlier restlessness may have been due to the failure to help them direct their excess energy and brawn into more satisfying channels. Now, with more encouragement and facilities provided for varied forms of amusement and recreation, there is a significant widening of interests. Young people are having the chance in many places to shape their own programs, and not only to shape them but actually to build their own play places and make the equipment for them.

### *Creative Interests to the Fore*

No longer is the creative scorned. Young people and older are becoming better acquainted with their hands and finding an increasing joy in the hand-made and the beautiful. From hobbies, sometimes shyly admitted, to the development of thoroughgoing crafts, even arts, youths are finding outlets for talents unsuspected or, perhaps, stifled. This again may be due to the widening opportunities provided for such interests. We find young people building things, sailboats, yachts, model airplanes, making their own tools of various kinds, operating craft shops, making stage sets, scenery, costumes, painting, sculpturing, making lovely things in metals and wood and clay, developing an infinite number of avocational art and craft interests as well as finding genuine vocations along new lines.

### *Playgrounds Widen Their Scope*

At the turn of the century the first playgrounds were established. At first they were little more than a few sand piles scattered in the congested districts of the city for the children of the poor to play in. Gradually playgrounds began to come into existence but still planned almost exclusively for young children and with a restricted number of facilities. They have expanded both in space and facilities, taking a big leap forward within the past few years. In many places the playground is a social center; a place of informal education, and for the inauguration and gathering of a variety of clubs; it has workshops as well as play places; dramatics, music, crafts center there. In Rochester, N. Y., 12 recently purchased school sites contained an average of slightly more than 10 acres, approximately four times larger than the average of previous sites. The school grounds in many places are expanding into community playgrounds, just as the school is becoming a genuine community center. A very definite tendency to unite education with recreation is afoot. School boards and recreation boards, or commissions, in the more progressive places are cooperating to unify their programs and make one supplement the other. Where there is no public recreation head, the school superintendent often serves in that capacity.

### *More and Better Rural Recreation*

Some bemoan the spread of urban types of recreation to the rural areas of the country, which is current. Whoever heard of a playground in a country, they ask, when there are the woods and fields for play? But play without fellowship, without facilities, and without some sort of direction, is not sufficient adequately to meet the needs of young people, nor, for that matter, of old. The playground fills a very definite need. One of the best things that has happened during the recent lean years has been to make available to rural folk many more recreation leaders. To give to rural areas some of the things which cities take for granted, several rural districts often unite to create a play center. Community centers are not new to the country, but they have been greatly increased during the depression. Fortunately, however, country districts have not been stampeded by city forms of play and amusement but the rural type of interest is still in the ascendancy. In fact, cities are borrowing from the country such forms of recreation as community "sings" and various kinds of old-fashioned sociability.

These trends, briefly pointed out, are the molding factors which communities must consider in the building of recreation programs for youth.

### **METHODS OF ORGANIZING**

DEFINING the border line of recreation is not entirely simple. There are areas where recreation and education overlap and where recreation merges into other interests. Some communities are organized solely for recreation, others for broader programs of leisure time, including such aspects of leisure-time interests as emergency adult education and vocational training and re-training.

Some types of organization considered in this bulletin are concerned with youth alone, others take in the whole population. No one pattern is fitting to all places, although there are certain principles which are generally applicable.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For points on general community organization, see U. S. Department of the Interior, Office of Education, Bulletin 1936, No. 18-I, YOUTH: How Communities Can Help.

In organizing for recreation for youth several points must be taken into consideration and the program guided by them:

Whether there is any organization for recreation already in existence.

The source of the financial support.

Where the possible leadership lies.

The experience of many communities seems to indicate that an efficient form of organization for a community recreation program is a recreation commission, or board, backed by a citizens' council of some kind. This citizens' recreation council may be a subdivision of a larger council coordinating all or a number of community interests, or it may be a unit in itself, concerned merely with recreation.

The extension division of the University of Wisconsin, in outlining proposals for a citizens' committee for recreation and adult education in smaller communities, suggests as personnel for a committee:

A member of the school board.

A member of the board of vocational education.

One of the city or village officials.

A member of the library board or the librarian.

Some clergymen.

President or other officer of various social and fraternal organizations.

Officers of women's clubs, service clubs, and other similar organizations.

County and city school superintendents or principals.

Local director of vocational school.

Sometimes, particularly during the emergency, where supporting funds have come from the Federal Government, the initiation of programs has been on a State basis rather than starting within the community. Initiation from within the community and even within the neighborhood or district seems the soundest principle of organization.

### *Organization Under the State University (Minnesota)*

In the State of Minnesota an emergency recreation program was organized after this fashion:

The Emergency Relief Administration invited the university to advise and assist in the planning of a recreation program for the State. A faculty committee was appointed and this committee recommended the establishment of a State leisure-time division, to which funds from the Civil Works Administration might be allotted for the compensation of workers. The Emergency Relief Administration in adopting the recommendation asked the university to nominate a director for this project. A member of the sociology department was released from part of his university duties to take up this task. The university faculty committee continued to function in an advisory capacity to the director.

The first work undertaken by the director was a survey of the existing facilities and agencies already operating in the State which provided recreational and leisure-time activities. A simple questionnaire was sent to school superintendents, county officers, and selected individuals interested in this field, which sought information on programs then fostered by public bodies, private agencies, State-wide organizations, and local groups. Officials of the State-wide organizations were also interviewed, and in a few days a comprehensive picture was procured. This enabled the director to appraise the extent of the problem and suggest means by which the existing needs might be met.

A circular letter was mailed to approximately 1,000 individuals who had disclosed an interest in the establishment of the recreation program, giving the plan of organization. Almost immediately project applications were received from more than 50 locations where men and women of vision and imagination had grasped the idea and visualized its possibilities for their community.

In approving the projects which were submitted, it was the policy of the director to refuse to sanction competitive projects within the same area. Applications, when received from different sources within the same community, were referred back to their sponsors with the request that they cooperate on a unified program. The reason for adopting this policy was to contribute to the upbuilding of morale and community spirit; it was feared that the operation of competing programs would tend toward division rather than toward unity.

By placing considerable responsibility on the local community and unifying the program of the different organizations, it was hoped communities would see the value of a continuing program and be stimulated to provide support after the emergency funds and workers are withdrawn.

*This laying of the foundations of an emergency program in such fashion as to foster permanence is to be highly recommended.*

Another feature of the organization was the freedom with which communities were able to choose the organization or agencies through which they would function. Many persons expected that the program would operate through the schools and through the schools alone. As a matter of fact, approximately 30 percent of the projects were sponsored by school superintendents or school boards, but county agents and agricultural workers were responsible for 61, or 40 percent of the total, while city officials, State officials, and recreation directors were responsible for the rest. It is an established fact that different communities have different types of social activities, as well as different agencies through which they function most readily. Any program, therefore, which can legitimately be carried out by a popular agency has a better chance to succeed than if an attempt is made to force it on a community through some standard organization.

#### **Wyoming Program Under Department of Education**

In Wyoming a general recreational activity program also began on a State-wide basis. The Governor appointed a committee of seven to evolve a plan and act in an advisory capacity to the State director of recreation. The State department of education administers the program. County councils of recreation and, in some instances, town councils as well have been organized, each having a representative on a State recreation council which works with the State department of education, interpreting local needs.

One interesting feature of the Wyoming program was the loan, at the outset of the program, of the services of the State landscape architect, who inspected existing recreational facilities and made recommendations for new ones needed to give each community adequate recreation and leisure-time facilities. As the survey

progressed, the results were recorded daily and forwarded to the State supervisor of vocational education, who mailed copies to the individual towns concerned. To accompany these reports, the landscape architect prepared for distribution a series of construction drawings of recreational facilities. These included prints which showed how to construct home-made playground apparatus: Swings, horizontal bars, sand boxes, picnic tables, etc., and working drawings of a 50-foot circular concrete wading pool. More than 300 blueprints were made from the 10 original plates and distributed to various county and municipal recreation councils.

### *Types of Citizens' Recreation Councils*

Detroit has a citizens' recreation council which assists the department of recreation in the development of its various programs and activities. The council is divided into smaller groups to promote special forms of recreational activities, such as athletics, and social, civic, and cultural interests. An executive committee and advisory board, elected annually, serve, respectively, as a clearing committee and in a general advisory capacity.

Fulton County, Ga., which includes the city of Atlanta, also has adopted the method of organizing citizens' councils to carry out the county recreation program. The city is divided into six districts and the remaining part of the county into four. In each of these districts a recreation council, made up of leading citizens and the mayor, directs and stimulates the program. There is a central advisory committee which works with the recreation director of the city and county.

Richmond, Va., has a general recreational activities program for youth and adults, operating under the Community Recreation Association, with the municipal recreation department, the Richmond School Board, and the emergency education department of the F. E. R. A.<sup>2</sup> cooperating. The school district is used

<sup>2</sup> Since the accounts given here are the result of studies made during 1935, many of the projects and programs were under the sponsorship of the Emergency Relief Administration. In most instances these are now reorganized under the Works Progress Administration.

as the unit of organization, with committees composed of representatives of church groups, P. T. A.'s, school principals, and other interested citizens. Young people were organized and helped to determine the needs of their age groups and to plan and direct activities.

In Seattle, Wash., initiative toward organization came from the Salvation Army and the Y. W. C. A. Each organization, stirred by the plight of youth, organized emergency committees. The Seattle Welfare Council, central social-planning group under the community fund, later took the initiative in bringing these two committees together into a central leisure-time activities committee, with representatives of official agencies, citizen groups, and the community fund agencies. This committee has subcommittees on recreation, educational opportunities, and other subjects.<sup>3</sup>

Young people themselves form part of recreation councils in some places, helping to map out and stimulate the program for their own age group. The policy of including young people, either as participating members of a central committee or as a junior committee, is one to be encouraged.

### **PROGRAM PLANNING**

EARLY in the planning of a program for youth the initiating group must have the answer to the two questions:

What do the young people of the community want in the way of recreation?

What are the available facilities?

Sometimes a survey, formal or informal, is necessary to get the information, but if these facts are fairly well in hand it may be unnecessary to use any device. Surveys merely for the impressive sake of a survey are waste of effort.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> For full account of the Seattle program, see U. S. Department of the Interior, Office of Education, Bulletin 1936, No. 18-I, *YOUTH: How Communities Can Help*.

<sup>4</sup> For information on surveys, see U. S. Department of the Interior, Office of Education, Bulletin 1936, No. 18-I, *YOUTH: How Communities Can Help*.

Since the largest number of young people to be reached by any program are those who have recently left high school, it is usually possible to get a list of them through the school principal. Some approach to them can be made. In Richmond, Va., house-to-house visits were made in order to acquaint young people with recreation facilities and to determine their interests.

### *Initial Steps: Examples*

In Reading, Pa., where a number of agencies have come together in a community program for out-of-school young people, the program was initiated in this way:

Five registration centers were set up where young people could come, and at each center during the registration hours staff members of the participating organizations were present to give personal interviews and to try to discover individual interests. An effort also was made to have vocational directors of the high school on hand in case their help was needed. Each organization submitted a list of facilities it offered, which could be checked. Excellent newspaper publicity marched along with the development of the program.

The committee assembled the results of registration and on that basis the program was planned, each agency deciding what part it was best able to play. A folder giving information regarding recreation programs and facilities was prepared by members of the committee. This was printed by the high school and distributed to about 3,000 recent graduates. Emergency workers became available and with their help the plan got into action very quickly.

In Charlotte, N. C., the Y. W. C. A. and the Y. M. C. A. cooperated and, getting in touch with high-school graduates of the last 2 years, planned an entertainment. During the evening's fun questionnaires were filled out indicating the status of the 106 young people, employed or unemployed, and what leisure-time activities they were most interested in. Using the information of the questionnaires as a basis, a weekly series of activities was inaugurated, with a group in dramatics, one in bridge, and a course on marriage and the home. The Y. W. C. A. also inaugurated a weekly recreation night, free to recent high-school graduates as well as to high-school students, with swimming and

informal dancing; and an alumnae club of recent high-school girls, for educational and recreational interests, was organized.

There were young people and older in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, who did not seem to fit into any existing group, were in need of companionship, and had no money to belong to clubs. Under the auspices of the department of recreation a meeting was called of the Friendly Club at a hotel. A notice placed in the local paper extended an invitation to anyone who wanted to spend a sociable evening in a warm, comfortable place, with music, games, discussion, and dramatics. With that informal beginning the Friendly Club got under way. Fourteen people attended the first meeting. Each one present promised to bring a friend to the next meeting. Started in the fall of 1934, the Friendly Club now has grown to such proportions that its 200 members have to meet in the auditorium of the Y. W. C. A.

Cedar Rapids has expanded its Friendly Club idea so that there are innumerable activities organized under the name of: Friendly Strollers' Club; Friendly Fortnightly Club, a group of ex-high-school young people who meet on Friday evenings for recreation; Friendly Cooking School; Garden Club; and a number of others.

### *Principles of Program Planning*

Any program that is sound must have some basic psychology and philosophy. There is a great deal of hasty, time-filling recreation, and not all of it is enriching nor necessarily wholesome. The approach to a broad leisure-time program should be as considered as the approach to education. Certainly for youth, recreation is just one side of a triangle, the other two sides of which are education and vocation. Some guidance which helps youth to balance these three sides of his life is needed, and such guidance communities should try to provide.

The question communities are faced with is: How shall a program be developed that fulfills these essential requirements?

Meets youth's creative, social, and physical needs.

Lifts the level of the social and cultural life.

Integrates into the pattern of the community, expanding and supplementing, rather than disrupting, existing programs.

Broadly speaking, the function of recreation is to restore what other daily activities rob us of-or give us no time for. A plan for a youth recreational program, therefore, must consider what kind of world the young live in today and must counteract those influences which are most threatening. Surely in this day among those influences in their *environment* are speed, mechanization, the pay-entry or commercialized type of entertainment, and passive amusements; in their *personal life* it is frustration, lack of the stimulus of accomplishment, of normal association and social contact, which last they are accustomed to think cannot be had without money.

The broad base of a program, therefore, should be to provide positive antidotes to these negative conditions. Having built up the culture pattern we have, deadening in people the desire to create and express themselves, we cannot content ourselves merely by turning over to them free hours and saying, "Here is time for play; go and use it." Some bridge is needed from the regimented to the self-expressive and creative. That calls for a wise measure of guidance and constructive planning.

That program may be considered most successful which balances *physical* (action interests) with *creative* (cultural) and *socializing*, (companionship, and sharing-and-serving) opportunities. The test of every recreational activity should be enjoyment, or *joy*.

A comprehensive plan of community recreation provides opportunities for:

Physical recreation

Music

Drama

Arts and crafts

Nature activities

Educational and cultural opportunities

Social recreation

Home and family recreation

Church recreation

Individual recreation

Citizenship activities

*The primary principle, perhaps, in building a program for youth is to avoid the coddling attitude, giving too much and expecting too little. Youth have already suffered unduly from that attitude. Participation, initiative, helping to build and create their own play places and equipment, giving something in return for receiving, are sound tactics recreationally, educationally, and spiritually.*

### *Interest Factors*

The two phases of program planning should march side by side: What youths want and what their older counselors with a broader perspective recognize as a need. The two are not likely to be so far apart. In trying to discover the desires of a person there is always the danger of finding them limited by what he is accustomed to. Consequently, an expression of what an individual would choose to do in leisure time may not always be taken too finally and literally, but is open to suggestions and guidance. That may be accepted as a first principle in discovering recreation desires.

Activity interests, sports, and athletics are sure to be at the top of the list with youth. The tremendous increase of interest in softball is a clue to the drift away from the grandstand attitude in recreation. The love of baseball is innate in Americans, but not everybody can play baseball. Softball is a good substitute for the more strenuous game; many more can get into the game, people of both sexes, and a wider spread of ages. Softball, little known a few years ago, ranks second in numbers participating among activities reported to the National Recreation Association for 1934.

The increase in art and craft activities in the past 2 or 3 years is one of the most significant things that has happened in recreation and is a point to be considered in building any program. This offers an antidote both for speed and mechanization. To make something with the hands steadies and slows down, as well as invoking an appreciation of the beautiful. There is no satisfaction greater than experiencing a beautiful idea in the concrete.

The 10 activities at the top of the list in the National Recreation Association 1934 report are:

1. Swimming
2. Softball
3. Skating
4. Baseball
5. Tennis
6. Basketball
7. Music, vocal and instrumental
8. Folk dancing
9. Social dancing
10. Hiking

This offers a guide to interests. There is a big swing upward in drama, hiking, swimming, and ice skating. Swimming leads every other activity in number of participants.

For youth, that form of sport that offers an obstacle to be overcome, and has the element of wholesome thrill and adventure, is particularly recommended: Boxing, wrestling, fencing, where skill is matched against skill; in hiking, the mountain climb, the excursion involving exploration or trail blazing; in crafts, the workshop which produces something concrete, possibly salable articles, and which is managed by young people themselves. In all sorts of activities the preferred organization is the informal club type where members share responsibility, frame their own program, thereby developing leadership.

The "little theater" movement which has grown and expanded, spreading from urban into rural areas and taking on a much more democratic nature, has developed a new aspect in the dramatic workshop. This is a workshop in the real sense of the word. Crude these budding dramatic efforts may be in many places, but they at least are creative and experimental rather than merely imitative. Stars are not so much in the ascendancy; every member of the group has a chance, if it is not to act, then to design or make scenery or costumes, to dance, to sing, or play in the orchestra, perhaps even to write, direct, or manage the play.

In music, the same creative tendency is evident. There is opportunity for a participating experience in the community bands, orchestras, choral clubs which have sprung up all over the country, and while again they are in the beginning stages, they are "on their way."

### **LEADERSHIP PROBLEMS**

THE crux of any recreation program is leadership. Because recreation covers such a broad range of interests, is so general in some of its aspects and so highly specialized in others, leadership has to be extremely varied, with the one covering characteristic that a leader must have the ability to deal with people, possess a communicating fire of enthusiasm, have force and yet be free of the spirit of domination. Two types of leadership are necessary: That which can mobilize community interest and keep public sentiment abreast of a developing program; leadership in the field of the specific activities that enter into a recreation program. The one type is administrative in nature; the other, the leadership of the specialist. They are rarely combined in one person.

### *Finding and Training the Leader*

Leadership in the field of recreation must be recognized as a definite lack. Even with the large number of unemployed to choose from, to find a good leader is rare. Consequently, with the greatly expanding recreation program in most communities, training of leaders has been essential.

V. K. Brown, chief of the recreation division of the Chicago Park District, advocates the idea of searching out the possible leader with some special vocational interest and training and developing his capacities. He says:

We think it improbable that society can assume the burden of providing highly paid instructors in every avocational field to which people may turn as their own inclinations direct, and we esteem it the function of a recreation service to contact people who are specializing in any direction in their spare time, assist them in every way possible, get them acquainted with each other, develop groups by federating these enthusiasts into organizations, and arrange for the interchange from one group to the other of experience, new ideas, and mutually provide for their profiting from one another's efforts. We think that there is footloose in society, in the enthusiasms with which people become missionaries for the various things in which they take a deep personal interest, a great capacity for helping the other fellow along, and we believe that any leisure-time service should consider its function not alone to be the promotion of specific activities, such as athletics or the arts, but that we should consider as a leisure-time field, in which a great many will find happy outlets for their energies, the pursuit of information or of intellectual culture, not as a matter of schooling but as a matter of post-school avocational interest, and that others can only be served by affording organized outlets for their own leisure enjoyment, in being helpfully identified with causes and movements which are appealing to them, in capacities of service to their group as individuals, or to society at large.

Almost as bad as poor leadership is the crippling of people with recreational dependency. In some places volunteers have been used with great success where they have served under good captaincy. In others they have had to be dispensed with. Emergency relief workers, through training and proper direction, have proved invaluable aids in some programs. They have developed

sufficient initiative and enthusiasm greatly to strengthen and expand the program. In Los Angeles the relief workers have developed on their own any number of projects; have secured equipment, and encouraged support and aid for programs. This also has been true in many other places in the country. Other communities have had a contrasting experience.

### *Recreation Institutes*

Since 1927, at the request of the United States Department of Agriculture, the National Recreation Association has cooperated with the Department in holding recreation institutes in the training of rural leaders. Two workers are now spending full time on these institutes, which include music, drama, folk games and dances, social recreation, and similar phases of recreation. The institutes cover a period of 1 or 2 weeks. Following the institutes in many instances recreation councils are organized, which conduct recreation programs. Such an institute held in Rochester, N. Y., at the request of the rural social organization department of Cornell University and the Monroe County Home Bureau, resulted in the formation of the Monroe County Recreation Council in the fall of 1933, a division of the county rural extension service. The institute offered lectures and practice in community singing; music appreciation, folk dancing, group games, dramatics, and recreational programs, and brought to these representative leaders a larger viewpoint of the possibilities of recreational programs in community life. The purpose of the recreation council is to provide recreational training for rural leaders of any rural organization in Monroe County and vicinity. It serves as a radiating center for ideas and training. Meeting monthly at the Brick Church Institute in Rochester, it puts on recreational and dramatic programs which are suitable for repetition by the local groups represented in the council meeting. New folk dances, musical games, and group recreation are demonstrated and opportunity for participation and practice offered. Suggestions are included for special celebrations, such as Hallowe'en, indoor and outdoor picnics, etc. Teachers and trained leaders assist with these meetings and give instructions.

The latest recreation institute, held in the winter of 1934 on eight successive Tuesday evenings, was designed to provide more

intensive training. The program each evening consisted of a 40-minute period on community singing, followed by a 40-minute period on hobbies conducted by the director of the Rochester Museum. Special demonstrations of folk dances in costume were arranged to demonstrate the possibilities of folk dancing in community programs. These dances were given by the Polish Centralia, and by groups of Ukrainian and German young people. This part of the program was followed by a more active program of recreational games, including rhythmic activities and folk dances.

On one evening, a member of the department of rural social organization of Cornell University conducted a demonstration of a progressive game party and showed how to make simple home-made puzzles and games.

In the Wisconsin summer recreation program, the emergency education teachers conducted training schools for 1 week and held regular weekly conferences thereafter with the leaders, supervising their work and helping to initiate activities. The same plan is used in a number of other places.

The Rocky Mountain Regional Recreational College for young people was held at Intermountain College, Helena, Mont., for a period of a week, May 6 to 10, 1935, its purpose, to help young people who are potential leaders in Montana with ideas and plans to equip them to give efficient leadership to the youth of their communities. Various creative activities were presented, such as: Archery, woodcarving, handicraft, amateur photography, folk games and dances, games shop, games, community "sings", metalcraft.

A games shop was set up and equipped for the construction of many kinds of games, with models, drawings, and tools. Instructors were present to teach methods of construction. Ancient and modern games were made and played. There was a registration fee of \$1 for the school, and board and room for the week cost \$3. Materials used in each project were paid for by the individual.

A leadership institute is held annually in Montclair, N. J., for the benefit of church leaders. The institute fills a very definite need and has become a well-established feature of community

life. It grew out of crowding demands upon the Montclair association to conduct social programs in the churches. Representatives of the different churches are trained in a series of courses for different phases of social activities of the church. Each church sending applicants to the institute pays an entrance fee of \$10 and is restricted to a certain number of registrants. Beginning with 12 churches participating, there are now 28.

Excellent pointers on leadership training for recreation may be had from training programs of the character-building organizations and from the extension departments of the land-grant colleges. The Girl and Boy Scouts have their training schools and courses for leaders, with carefully worked out programs. From most of the State agricultural colleges recreation leadership courses can be had.

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## NEW RECREATION DEVELOPMENTS

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### WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION FOR LEISURE

UNDER the professional and service projects division of the Works Progress Administration there is a section, Community Organization for Leisure, which serves as a national advisory and supervisory office for State recreation programs of the W. P. A. The chief function of the State programs is to provide employment for recreation workers whose services are available to agencies, such as State departments of education, welfare commissions, park boards, etc.

An important part of the work of the Community Organization for Leisure in developing and providing leadership is a training program. Training conferences are held throughout the country. In this training program emphasis is laid upon the organization of local (city and county) advisory councils, where such councils do not already exist. These councils may be divided into subcommittees, as on the subjects: Special problems of youth, art, music, vocational opportunities. The committees help to coordinate the work of the emergency programs with that of the regular agencies, and their hope is to build structures within the community which will be permanent when the emergency is over.

In addition to the leadership program which is carried on under Community Organization for Leisure, the Works Progress Administration is also concerned with the construction of adequate recreation facilities for both rural and urban people. As of December 1, 1935, there had been selected for operation a total of 4,261 projects to extend or improve recreational facilities, such as public parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, golf courses, and bathing beaches. In addition to these projects, there have been

approved and selected for operation 836 projects to extend recreational operations, such as mural painting, theatrical performances, preparation of local and State guide books, and providing supervisors for training leaders of group recreational activities.

The Community Organization for Leisure section of the Work Progress Administration cooperates with the National Youth Administration and with others so that youth will receive the greatest possible benefit from the recreation projects and programs. In setting up projects the W. P. A. State directors of recreation cooperate closely with State Youth Administration directors.

### **RECREATION PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION**

THE recreation program of the National Youth Administration has a double purpose. It aims to give young people from relief families part-time employment in accordance with their abilities. It also aims to provide, insofar as possible, adequate recreational facilities which will be open to all young people in the community. The Federal project under which the State projects are being authorized was purposely made so broad that almost any socially desirable form of recreation program can be carried out under it. This was done so that the States and local communities can formulate projects which will be adapted to their recreational needs and facilities. The final selection and approval of projects is also in their hands. Young people will probably act as leaders or assistant leaders on playgrounds, athletic fields and beaches, or in community houses, swimming pools, and gymnasiums. They will supervise children's swings and other play equipment, keep records of attendance at various play areas. They may even clear vacant lots for recreation areas, make various types of recreation equipment, and repair toys for distribution to needy children. The possibilities, as far as variety is concerned, are almost endless.

The number of young people to be employed on recreational projects is limited, however. This will vary somewhat according to conditions. Some communities will need recreation facilities more than others. Some communities will have fewer young people qualified for recreation work as compared with public service or research work. The State directors must decide how many young people should be employed on what kind of project.

As the majority of young people doubtless will not have the background and native capacity for independent leadership in recreation, local agencies, both emergency and permanent, are being relied upon not only to furnish supervision but to recommend youths from relief families who have had some experience. Private agencies, too, are being asked to act as cooperating sponsors. But where this occurs it is with the understanding that their recreation program is to be extended to include all young people in the community and not simply restricted to a membership group.

In the development of recreation projects, as well as of other projects, the National Youth Administration is acting upon the principle that no discrimination shall be made as to race, creed, color, or sex.

#### **EXPANDING RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS**

THE great areas that are being opened up for public use are widely expanding the recreational horizon, making possible activities of a much broader scope and beckoning with fresh possibilities.

America was the first country to have national parks or to adopt the idea of giving over large public areas to the enjoyment of the people.

Sixty years ago a group of interested men investigated the Yellowstone region, now Yellowstone Park. It was then a hidden, mysterious, and inaccessible land. The explorers sat about their campfire at the end of their tour, discussing the apportionment of their claims, a customary right at that time with unappropriated public land. But amidst the beauty and grandeur of mountain and canyon, selfish desires were subdued in these men. One of the group proposed that they all forego their claims and unite in their efforts to reserve this area as a national park for the perpetual enjoyment and use of the American people.

Thus came into existence the first national park, for the Congress of 1872 created the Yellowstone National Park as "a pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."<sup>1</sup> There are

<sup>1</sup> Glimpses of Our National Parks, revised and expanded by Isabelle F. Story, National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, U. S. Government Printing Office, 1934.

now 24 national parks, 642 State parks, 145 national forests, and 28 other units containing extensive Federal holdings but not yet of national forest status. These State parks represent about 3,500,000 acres, a half million of which has been acquired through gift and purchase since emergency conservation work began.

Besides these already appropriated areas, we are at the threshold of a great expansion of park boundaries and facilities. This is significant to the youth of the country from two angles: The greater opportunity it offers for escape from the pressure of cities into virgin forests and unspoiled retreats; and the varied possibilities it offers for employment in the development of these areas.

Due largely to the Emergency Conservation Work program and the resulting awakening of the people to the values of conservation and recreation, the period since the Civilian Conservation Corps became a reality in April 1933 has witnessed an unmatched increase in American recreational facilities.

In the 64 years since the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, no other years have been as productive of such facilities as 1933, 1934, and 1935. Most of this increase has taken place in the State, county, and metropolitan parks and what are technically known as "recreational demonstration areas."

In the State and local parks the C. C. C. have made available 100,000 acres of public camp grounds and picnic areas, with cabins, shelters, fireplaces, parking plots, and sanitary conveniences; constructed big and small dams to form 350 lakes for swimming, boating, and fishing, or wild-fowl refuges; built 8,000 miles of foot and horse trails and about the same number of park buildings, and done extensive timber- and land-protection work. These figures represent only a few of the half-hundred projects in which the corps is engaged.

The recreational demonstration areas are for the purpose of providing camping facilities for all classes from the larger cities, principally the manufacturing centers. In accordance with the size of the areas—most contain from a few to several thousand acres—a number of organized camps have been built. One group will serve a maximum of 150 people and will be divided into units, each accommodating not more than 30 people. Units will consist of housing facilities ranging from tents to substantial cabins, according to climate; separate quarters for counselors, a

central lodge or recreation building, a central kitchen and dining room, and a fireplace for social gatherings.

The national parks do not lend themselves to such intense activity as has marked the development of the newer, smaller parks, but there is a noticeable increase in recreational facilities in all the areas and much timber and land preservation work of vital importance to the future of the tracts' natural scenic grandeur.

The development of these areas means increased opportunity for that form of extensive recreation that calls for space, which provides for the need for solitude, for the intimate associations of the small group and the more individualized forms of activities, as differing from the intensified, large group activities carried on in restricted areas, thus helping to restore to life its proportion and balance.

The recreational opportunities which the national and State park retreats offer are almost endless; among them are camping, hiking, mountain climbing, fishing, hunting, the indulgence of various hobbies, such as geological studies, study of bird and animal life, Indian lore, etc.

Some of the work opportunities as demonstrated by what the Civilian Conservation Camps have done and are doing include: The development of trails and camping ground; of fire protection facilities; protection of trees from disease and infestation; clearing of roadsides both for reasons of beauty and fire protection; beautifying the highways.

Indication of the recent advance toward closer cooperation between Federal, State, and local government agencies in recreational development is found in a resolution now before Congress,<sup>2</sup> proposing legislation which would authorize the Federal Government, through the National Park Service, to cooperate with the States and their political subdivisions in the development and maintenance of recreation areas just as it does in the construction of Federal aid highways and in the protection of forests.

The National Park Service has also recommended that the Federal Government cooperate with the States in the development of systems of trails between points of scenic and recreational interest. This proposed plan could be elaborated upon by the construction of trail lodges and vacation spots with fundamental conveniences.

<sup>2</sup>H. Res. 6594.

## YOUTH HOSTELS

THE youth hostel movement is several years older in Europe than in America. Getting their first start here in 1934, American youth hostels, while experimental in nature, have the advantage of the experience of 19 European countries, serving several million patrons. Here, as abroad, youth hostels are planned specifically for those who like to travel by foot or bicycle, who like simple, rugged living, and travel light both as to baggage and pocketbook. They are for the most part off the highroads and are planned in loops, or chains, so that the hostellers may explore a whole region, and also that they may become better acquainted with their fellow hostellers.

"A youth hostel", as defined by the National Park Service, "is a facility for travel. It is a building with separate sleeping rooms for girls and for boys, separate washrooms and toilet rooms and toilette facilities, a common kitchen and a common dining room, a common recreational room and private quarters for house parents. In charge of it is a house father and house mother."

A hostel has no program, it is a facility. All that is required to enjoy the benefits is a fee of \$1 for membership, constituting a *pass card* which bears the applicant's photograph, the card being good for 1 year. When he wishes to use the facilities of the hostels, he writes a card to each hostel along the chain asking for reservations, and by return mail learns whether or not he can be accommodated. The membership card entitles the owner to the use of a hostel, not only in America but anywhere in the world, since the American Youth Hostel Association is a member of the International Association.

At each hostel there are cooking arrangements so that members may cook their own meals, and sleeping facilities with beds and blankets furnished, and a common recreation room. The hostels encourage the simple life.

While there is no age limitation for patrons, preference is given to the younger hostellers. If parents wish to accompany the younger members of the family on a jaunt, they may enjoy the hospitality of the shelters.

The first loop of hostels, consisting of 33 different shelters, began with one at East Northfield, Mass., and extends through

the beautiful White and Green Mountain sections of Vermont and New Hampshire. Though established for such a short time, the hostels had 3,000 overnight patrons by the end of the summer of 1935.

The National Park Service has investigated the possibilities of a second smaller loop in the New York metropolitan area. These two eastern loops, the one in a sparsely settled area and the other serving a thickly populated urban district, may be looked upon as demonstrations which it is hoped, if successful, will spread over the country. Chains of hostels are under consideration for areas of geographic and historical interest, amidst the natural scenic areas of national parks, the Indian pueblo villages of the Southwest, along the pioneer trails, in the plantation regions of the South, and among the missions of California.

In Europe the hostel movement has much educational significance and has the cooperation of educational activities. The American Youth Hostel Association is directed by an executive committee of five members. There is a board of advisers composed of educators, sociologists, and recreational authorities who assist the executive committee in the formulation and administration of policies and activities. There is also an advisory council of youth made up of young people from Europe as well as America interested in world aspects of youth. It is the purpose of the association to set up for each local hostel a local committee consisting of representatives of educational and recreational bodies or those particularly interested in youth.

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## SUGGESTIVE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

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### COLUMBIA, MO., PLANNING FOR PUBLIC RECREATION

Columbia, Mo., population, 16,000: A citizens' body was set up to find out the recreational needs of the community and to demonstrate a recreational program; is organized on a membership basis. Its objective is to secure tax support for recreation and a comprehensive municipal program under the park and playground board. The slogan of Community Service of Columbia is: "Recreation for everybody, everybody for recreation."

**I**N COLUMBIA, which is the seat of the University of Missouri, little provision had been made for the recreation of any age group. A park and playground board was created in 1932 by the city government, but with no funds appropriated for its use it was unable to function, a situation that exists in a number of places. A group of interested citizens recognizing the need for recreation decided to start a program on a private basis, financed by membership dues, through an organization known as "Community Service of Columbia", the hope being that with a program successfully demonstrated the city authorities would appropriate funds for carrying it on.

The group of citizens represented the board of education, men's service or luncheon clubs, chamber of commerce, the university, nearby colleges, and other agencies. A constitution was drafted and approved. The original citizens' group has developed into an advisory council, and serves to initiate and direct the developing activities.

There are several classes of membership in the Community Service. Any individual, firm, corporation, or organization in sympathy with the purpose of the Community Service and

contributing to its support is a member with right to vote. Active members are those contributing \$1 or more a year and less than \$5; supporting members, \$5 or more and less than \$25; sustaining members, \$25 or more and less than \$100; life members, \$100 or more.

Community Service has blocked out a comprehensive program of recreation to meet the desires of all ages and classes within the community. The various phases of the program are getting under way.

Community Service has 566 members, has collected \$821, spent \$87, and has a balance now on hand of \$734, which will be used for an educational campaign in the city election to secure a half-mill tax for the park and playground board. The city library is now supported by a half-mill tax which amounts to about \$5,000 a year.

The organization has made a study, in connection with the school and city officials, of the young people, both boys and girls, not in school. It was found there are not a large number in the community. The city has only 16,000 in population and, as it is primarily an educational center, a greater proportion of these youths are still in educational activities than will be found in most other communities.

The purpose of Community Service is to demonstrate a successful community program and secure public support for the park and playground board. Its hope is that it will be necessary to support a recreation executive and a recreation program through these privately secured funds only for a year or two, its function being to blaze a trail for municipal action in public recreation.

### **WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N. Y., RECREATION PROGRAM**

Recreation in Westchester County operates under a county recreation commission with a director and staff and 16 local recreation commissions. There are citizens' committees in towns, villages, and districts to promote local programs. Funds are secured by county tax assessment, contributions by sponsoring organizations, and by interested individuals. Workers in the emergency projects are secured from the lists of unemployed and paid with W. P. A. funds. These temporary employees are trained and supervised by the commission.

The nature of recreation throughout the county is a balanced program of physical activities and cultural interests, with strong emphasis on arts and crafts, success-

fully stimulated through the Westchester Workshop. Features of particular interest to youth are county-wide tournaments in various activities and weekly "play nights" at the county community center.

RECREATION in Westchester County, N. Y., is unique in several ways. The county itself has many distinguishing features. It is, first of all, an overflow residence section of New York City; it is the richest suburban county in the country and has more people for its size than any other suburban county in the United States. Its land value is greater than that of 23 whole States. It includes 4 cities, 18 towns, 24 villages, and 46 separate parts of the county.

While from many points of view Westchester's endowments for recreation are enviable, from others it has a complicated and uneven situation—its population is largely transplanted rather than indigenous and widely stratified; the considerable proportion of wealthy residents makes a contrast with certain population elements of poorer people of foreign strains; and it is somewhat difficult to mold these into a homogeneous pattern of interests. And lastly, with a community educated to recreation and a program tremendously expanded and accelerated by emergency needs, the recreation commission has been subjected to a severely curtailed budget. So that looking at it from the inside out, there are in this wealthy county unsolved problems as in almost any other place in the country.

### **Permanent Plan**

The recreational program in Westchester County, as it affects youth, has two aspects, the *permanent* and the *emergency*.

The permanent organization consists of a county recreation commission with a superintendent and staff. There are 16 local recreation commissions in the county. A community center, one of the largest and best-equipped recreation buildings in the country, furnishes a recreational and cultural center for the county as a whole. These developments have come gradually. Westchester started its recreation plan in 1923 with a community playday which was so successful that playdays became an annual event. To encourage this spirit of *playing together*, or community recreation, a commission was appointed in 1924.

A plan of recreation for the county was mapped out, consisting of two balanced programs: Physical activities, including athletic leagues and tournaments, playgrounds, trails, camps; and cultural activities, including music, drama, arts, and crafts.

Several of these activities overlap, as the cultural program is also carried on in the camps and on playgrounds.

### *Westchester Workshop*

One of the most successful and significant phases of the recreation program in Westchester is the arts and crafts classes carried on in the Westchester Workshop and in eight local community centers. The nature of the classes and courses offered throughout the county and at the workshop have been greatly expanded to meet emergency needs, but the general plan is a permanent and integral part of the cultural life of the county.

The Westchester Workshop is comparable to an informal school of arts and applied arts. Its classes, partly on a fee basis, include: Crafts, music, literature, drama, painting, sculpture, design, operatic productions, art exhibitions, university courses, children's classes, conversation groups, field service, and dramatic and operatic performances.

Classes are on a fee basis, from 25 cents to \$2, and \$20 per course for the university courses. A number of the courses are free. Materials are paid for by the workers.

Thousands of toys are repaired by the workshop and local subsidiaries and distributed at Christmas among Westchester's underprivileged children.

### *Emergency Youth Activities*

Youth in Westchester aroused community attention in the fall of 1932 when the Westchester County Children's Association called a conference of more than 100 representatives of public and private agencies and groups, which resulted in the organization of the county committee on youth emergency activities. This committee had three subcommittees: Schools, recreation groups, and Junior Achievement craft companies.

The central committee has served as a clearing house for ideas and suggestions and in an advisory capacity, but its policy has been that responsibility for actual conduct of activities should rest with the local agencies, the central committee merely strengthening and stimulating them.

There is no clear line of cleavage between the activities of the permanent and the emergency programs. A great many things set up on a temporary basis tend to become essentials of local recreation programs and will undoubtedly become permanent. The plan of the emergency leisure-time provisions in Westchester has been as the three subcommittees of the county committee indicate: Recreational, educational, and vocational, and avocational through the setting up of craft workshops and junior companies.

The schools, the churches, organizations such as the "Y"'s, clubs, and settlements, have been the functioning agencies. Relief workers in the field of education and recreation have greatly strengthened and aided the regular staffs. The story of accomplishments in the various towns, cities, and villages within the county is the story of expanding recreation and adult education programs. Schools have been extensively used for recreation and social-center purposes, as well as for adult education classes and retraining of young people.

### *Junior Achievement Companies*

An important part of the Westchester provisions for young people has been the promotion of Junior Achievement companies.

By this plan clubs are incorporated as a business in miniature, with complete craft and business programs, including blueprints, patterns, and full instructions for the making of certain articles. The clubs may be formed by recreation directors, club leaders, or individuals who have contact with young people.

There is a central overhead organization, Junior Achievement, Inc., located in New York City. Community sponsors, approved by this organization, secure leaders and arrange for a place to work. The leaders, who serve on a voluntary basis, are individuals who are interested in and have an understanding of young people and some natural ability for the work. Expert instruction is given to them at a leaders' training school. Junior Achievement, Inc., provides the plan of operation, the program, the training of the leaders, and supervision.

A Junior Achievement club is an organized miniature business having as its supervising leadership: three adult sponsors, one adult craft leader, one adult business leader. It raises its working capital by means of miniature shares of stock with a par value from 10 to 50 cents; has its own company name, board of directors, officers, and has a president, secretary, treasurer, production and sales managers, all elected from its own boy-

and-girl membership. A company owns its own tools and equipment, raw materials, etc.; keeps accurate business records of material costs, labor, and overhead; markets its merchandise in its own community; establishes its credit; decides policies of production, sales, and finance; and pays dividends on its stock.

Junior Achievement groups make useful articles that are up to date and unusual in design; its members learn through practice the sound processes of hand craftsmanship, and earn while learning. A member of the company gets the benefit of experience as an employee in the shop; and as a stockholder and part owner of the business, sharing in the executive planning and responsibilities. A number of these companies have been organized and are in successful operation through the county.

### *Special Activities*

Throughout the year "play nights" are held once a week at the county center at White Plains under the auspices of the county recreation commission. The average nightly attendance is nearly 300, and 68 percent of those in attendance are under 21, the minimum age being 16.

Another means of attracting youth has been found to be tournaments of various kinds, as well as team tournaments on a county-wide basis, such as badminton, ping-pong, shuffleboard, deck tennis, and checkers. Begun on a local basis and sponsored by the local recreation commission, these serve to attract young people into the program and give it impetus.

### **COMMUNITY CENTERS IN CABELL COUNTY, W. VA.**

A county-wide plan of community centers has been developed within the past 2 years, with joint support of relief funds and community contributions. The program has been characterized by a large measure of local initiative and cooperation of many agencies.

THE community centers, which began in January 1934 as a C. W. A. project and have developed in Cabell County, W. Va. (including the city of Huntington), until there are now 10 in number scattered through the county, have a twofold aspect:

<sup>1</sup>For further discussion of Junior Achievement companies, see U. S. Department of the Interior, Office of Education, Bulletin 1936, No. 18-1. YOUTH: How Communities Can Help.

To provide recreation in areas where it is badly needed; to help rehabilitate capable people, especially young people, and through constructive experience to replace the normal outlets of work.

A monthly average of 10,000 participate in the activities of the centers, two-thirds of whom are between the ages of 16 and 30. Of these, three-fourths are young men.

The Cabell County centers offer a cooperative enterprise on the part of many community agencies. They began in a spot in Huntington where there is much crime, poverty, delinquency, unemployment, and illiteracy. An abandoned Salvation Army citadel was taken over as the first community center. From the first the centers were developed quite as much as a public responsibility as a relief organization project.

Organization was after this fashion:

An advisory council was formed, composed of members of the following groups: Board of education, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, American Association of University Women, Huntington Woman's Club, welfare board, Rotary Club, Huntington Publishing Co., Story-Tellers' League, farm bureau, Farm Women's Club, Y. M. C. A., ministerial association, county agricultural agent, and community chest.

The council, which meets monthly, serves in an advisory capacity only. Supervision, employment, and placement are under the E. R. A. director of women's work.

Personnel for the centers consist of: Two full-time workers at each center, a host, and a hostess; a third helper, on part time in centers where work demands it; and three educational advisers. Relief students from Marshall College supplement the work of the advisers, conducting clubs, discussion groups, and directing athletics and other activities among the younger age groups.

Great care has been exercised in selecting locations for these centers. A careful and complete survey was made of the communities, relative to population, morale, employment, housing conditions, schools, churches, recreational facilities, industrial conditions, number of families on relief, natural resources, etc. Vacant store buildings and houses were listed. Housing space, heating, lighting, ground belonging to or adjacent to these buildings were noted. Findings from this survey were discussed before the advisory council, and if a definite need was felt (economic and social), and if one of these buildings could be secured (repairs being made in lieu of rent), then a community service center was established.

The Woman's Club loaned or donated much of the reading material, equipment, and supplies. The Camp Fire executive spent one period each week instructing the student workers and helping to plan work for the Camp Fire groups. One hundred and twenty-five underprivileged girls, members of community center Camp Fire groups, were given a 3-day outing at the Camp Fire Girls' camp. Cooperation has been received in a similar manner from the Boy Scout organization. The executive of this organization conducted weekly conferences with those directing the various boys' clubs. The Lions Club gave the use of the showers on their playground for bathing privilege in the vicinity of one of the community centers in which there were no such facilities. The Huntington branch of the National Story-Tellers' League conducts story-telling groups and furnishes storytellers for various center gatherings.

Much material and equipment was furnished by the community. Such supplies as were needed but could not be secured in the community were purchased with funds supplied by E. R. A. Stores and factories donate scraps of lumber, leather, cloth, etc., which can be utilized to good advantage. Free food is used as far as possible in the cooking classes.

#### **CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO, EMERGENCY RECREATION**

Cuyahoga County recreation program operates partly with Federal emergency funds and partly with local funds. Organized under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, it functions through the emergency education division, with a director in charge. The program uses a large number of young people who have been trained as leaders. A number of unusual projects have been initiated.

CUYAHOGA County, Ohio, which includes the city of Cleveland, has a recreation program that reached more than 3 million participants during the June-July period of 1935, at an average per capita cost for those participating of \$0.007. With no county recreation program at all before 1934, there is said to be 100 percent improvement in 1935 over 1934. The development of activities has come with swift momentum. A law had been on the statute books of the State for some time enabling county commissions to appoint recreation commissions, and to appropriate funds with which to operate, but with recreation programs operated by so many different agencies Cuyahoga County never took

advantage of the law. The depression galvanized the slumbering provision into life.

The threat to the programs of the various agencies operating in the recreation field served as the impetus to the forming of a Cuyahoga County Recreation Commission and the county recreation program, which is now in full swing. These agencies, boards of education of the various villages and municipalities, settlement houses, and others, who represent an important part of the Welfare Federation of Cleveland, made a request to that body for funds for a recreation program; through that body made a request to the county commissioners for funds to pay office expenses and salary of a director; and through the board of commissioners requested that it submit to the proper Federal authorities a project dealing with the social problems of the communities in the county, including recreation. By this means funds were secured and the project got under way.

Actual supervision and direction of the recreation activities have been under a director assigned by the Federal Relief Administration and operating through the emergency schools division of the Administration. Citizens' recreation councils have been organized through the county.

### *Use of Young People as Leaders*

The Cuyahoga corps of workers has been taken almost entirely from relief workers. There were 3,000 out-of-school young people in the county, graduates from high school within the past 5 years, who had been left stranded. From the first some of these younger people were used in the county recreation program. There has been a progressive increase in the use of these workers. Beginning June 1935, the staff of 234 recreation leaders was made up from the 450 high-school young persons who were listed on relief rolls. They were put through a short training course, then were assigned to various posts in public institutions, private institutions, and as life-guards and swimming instructors. They carried out 145 activities in 134 different institutions.

### *Unusual Projects*

Besides the regulation recreational activities the Cuyahoga County program has developed a number of out-of-the-ordinary projects. Its swimming and water-safety program is

one of these. Twenty-eight men, passing Red Cross lifesaving examinations, were assigned to 14 different beaches and pools. They have taught hundreds of boys and girls to swim, and have served also as lifeguards. During the summer they made many rescues.

The water program, however, has gone into broader aspects even than swimming and lifesaving. Part of the project is to discover possible unused swimming facilities which might be developed and made available. In one place there was an old swimming hole where the water was polluted. A few young people in that village were enlisted first to help clear up the water source and then to develop the swimming hole into a respectable and attractive spot for water sports. The same type of project is being developed in a number of the 39 villages and municipalities in the county. Water is being carefully analyzed and authorities called upon to clear it up.

Surveys are being made to ferret out the thousands of children who do not know how to swim, school boards lending their help to this end. During the winter season a week's course in dry-land swimming is given, then the lifeguards take them in turn to indoor pools and give a week's concerted training. By another summer there should be few of the younger generation in the county who cannot at least keep afloat in the water. In the meantime, a good many of the older young people will have been busily and constructively engaged.

In the same way that new swimming places are explored and developed, young people are set to discovering unused and down-at-the-heels tennis courts, athletic fields, and play areas. With a slight expenditure of funds and brawn, they are making them available for use.

One other project getting under way in Cuyahoga County which uses young people is a magazine dealing with recreation and education, its object to acquaint the various communities with what other communities are doing and to give news in the educational and recreational field. The plan of the magazine project is on a barter basis; that is, money is not paid for advertising, but various merchants are approached to give paper, ink, and other needed supplies in return for advertising space. The citizens' councils in each community serve as subscription and distributing agencies. About 25 or 30 young people are expected to be engaged in this project in the capacity of journalists, artists, typesetters, etc. The entire project is organized under the Federal works plan.

Other unusual activities worked out in Cuyahoga County are: A youth theater, which operates in a circuit; a general

dramatic entertainment program, also serving a circuit, with performances once a week in 24 different theaters; a Negro theater; a woman's orchestra, composed of 16 instruments and 14 voices.

### **MILWAUKEE, WIS., SOCIAL CENTERS**

Milwaukee, population, 578,249: Recreation is provided in a series of social centers in schools and on city playgrounds with special activities for youth groups. The program is supervised by the board of park commissioners, public library, and the department of municipal recreation and adult education. It includes a wide range of activities under several categories.

MUNICIPAL recreation for out-of-school youth in Milwaukee is a vast program fostering activity in the arts and crafts and a variety of indoor and outdoor games and sports. The board of park commissioners and the public library cooperate with the extension department of the public-school board, a special division set up to direct 17 social centers and the open-air activities on city playgrounds.

The social centers, established in neighborhood schools and conducted by trained recreation leaders and teachers, are open to young people and adults in the evening from 7 to 9:30 o'clock and several mornings and afternoons during the week. Although formal educational classes are held at the centers, most of the activities are purely recreational, designed to provide hobby interests for people of all ages and classes. Activities are divided into the following categories: Arts and crafts, dancing, dramatics, music, games, camera clubs and photographic clinics, library service, and child play.

Among the many unusual features are the following:

*Arts and Crafts.*—In the arts and crafts program during the weeks before Christmas, 13 of the centers sponsor Santa Claus workshops, where anyone can come bringing scraps of pasteboard, wood, and cloth to be made into attractive and inexpensive gifts. Experienced toy makers are in charge of each of the workshops.

*Dancing.*—An annual folk dance festival is held by foreign groups of the different centers. Old-time dance clubs, Saturday evening informals, and instruction in creative, ballroom, and tap dancing are on the program of each center.

*Dramatics.*—Among the social centers there are 28 theater groups open to anyone above elementary school age. Many of these units compete in an annual one-act play tournament held by the social center drama guild. Membership in the guild is open to those persons who distinguish themselves in productions of the small drama units. In addition to the tournament, the guild sponsors monthly drama teas at which lectures and demonstrations on the theater are given. A still more advanced group, the Milwaukee Players, is composed of the ablest members of the guild. This experimental group prepares for periodic public performances and an annual Shakespeare festival. Actors have nightly instruction in voice, diction, rhythmic exercises, dancing, and stage technique. There is a workshop for designing and making costumes, settings, properties, and electrical equipment. Craftsmen and technicians working with the players assist in staging the productions of the small units at the social centers.

*Games.*—Informal playing of billiards, ping-pong, and table games is supplemented by instruction, and intercenter tournaments in chess, checkers, and bridge are held.

*Camera Clubs and Photographic Clinics.*—These offer instruction in the physics and chemistry of photography, developing, printing, enlargements, making equipment, and dark rooms. A special consultant analyzes the work done by amateurs, particular attention being paid to cinema photography.

Most of the activities of the centers are free. Where a charge is made for classes, it is never more than \$1 a year and the fee is returned if the individual attends 75 percent of the sessions. For some of the public dramatic and musical performances, a small admission price is charged to help defray production expenses.

The Milwaukee Municipal Athletic Association has been organized to coordinate athletic activities. There are two divisions, one for men and one for women. These sponsor interplayground, municipal, and intersocial center leagues for all kinds of competitive sports. Entrants in the activities are classified by age groups so that team and individual competition may be fair.

Sports for men and boys, sponsored by the athletic association, include baseball, basketball, lawn bowling, cross-country racing, canoeing, cycling, curling, fistball, football, hiking, horseshoe pitching, ice hockey and skating, roller skating, skiing, soccer, swimming, tennis, volley ball, and track and field events. Most of the sports for women are indoor activities such as volley ball, aquatic stunts, basketball, fistball, baseball, and table tennis.

There is a 50-cent charge for participating in the activities of the athletic association, and a certificate of physical fitness is required.

#### **GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., CIVIC RECREATION PROGRAM**

Grand Rapids, population, 168,592: A comprehensive civic program is carried out under the direction of the board of education, operating with city and emergency Federal funds. The director of recreation is also director of health and physical education in the schools. The program is characterized by cooperation on the part of many groups. A junior council functions in relation to recreation for young people.

GRAND RAPIDS offers an example of how rapidly a community recreation program can be developed if soundly planned, wisely organized and directed, and with the community marching along step by step with its progress.

Beginning under stress of the emergency, the Grand Rapids recreation plan has been mapped out with a view to a long-range program. Its basic principle is to achieve democracy in the administration of the program and in the activities. The needs of the young people of the community receive special attention, but recreation of particular interest to them is planned as an integral part of community recreation. As the program evolves in Grand Rapids it is accompanied by continuous research to determine its strength, its weaknesses, and new needs.

The Grand Rapids recreation program began on a new basis in the late winter of 1934, when it was decided to put all recreation under the board of education, with a budget appropriated by that body and supplemented by emergency relief funds. The director appointed is director of health and physical education in the schools as well as of city recreation.

When he took charge there was already in existence a recreation council of about 35 persons. The body of organization existed, the council met once a month, but there was no lifeblood of action in it. A functioning executive committee was needed.

A round-table group, made up of the Volunteer Service Bureau and the Kent County Relief Association, was persuaded to make recreation its topic for a series of discussions. At the suggestion

of the director of recreation young people were brought into these discussions. Each of 14 different organizations was asked to send a representative. Gradually, by such methods, a working body representing both adults and youth was brought together. A recreational council, junior council, and executive committee were created. This did not happen suddenly nor without careful leadership and guidance, nor without some difficulties to be overcome at the outset.

### *Nature and Extent of Programs*

Grand Rapids in its earlier recreation development had social center programs in the school buildings. In the new recreational plan these were greatly expanded. There was an increase in all activities, classes, and hobby groups.

During the spring vacation, eight play areas in the city parks and school grounds were used to train people for the summer program. The summer activities grew to large proportions, including: Swimming, athletic teams, dramatics, music, and handicrafts. A constant stream of publicity kept the public interest alive and at high pitch. The summer program ended in a pageant in which 16,000 persons participated. It was reviewed by the mayor and city officials.

The program is developed along these lines:

1. Social centers operated through the winter and serving largely adults.
2. League teams and physical education throughout the year—for all ages.
3. Playground activities.
4. Three weekly radio programs, used as a medium to give lessons in various sports and to publicize the recreation program. Important speakers are featured.
5. Information service bureau which provides information relative to play areas, play equipment, social game programs and similar phases of recreation, and which also lists the source, nature and cost of equipment and supplies in the field of recreation, health education, physical education and athletics.
6. Development of recreational leadership. This has been carried on through institutes held at different times, as well as through practical experience and guidance on the job.
7. Provision of leadership and equipment for special occasions, such as picnics, stunts, social events.

8. Public relationship. In this phase of the program a constant stream of facts and information has gone out through the press, the radio, speeches and addresses before clubs and organizations.

9. Research. Graphs have been made showing the lay-out and equipment of all parks and school playgrounds; facts collected bearing upon delinquency conditions, recreational needs, etc.

### *Training the Workers*

Relief workers to the number of 170 have been used, and a remarkable corps trained for a wide variety of services. A student for the priesthood developed the public relations department; a premedical student the information service; young people have been trained as athletic leaders and, as members of the junior council, have planned and operated to a large extent the activities for their own age group. Where workers showed no aptitude in a recreation capacity they have been found useful as truck drivers or in the supply department. Through capable leadership a remarkable personnel has been built up.

### **CINCINNATI'S EXPANDING PLAY AREAS**

Cincinnati, Ohio, population, 451,160: The public recreation commission and the board of education share the responsibility of expanding the city's play areas to take care of an increasing demand for outdoor activities. Attempts are being made to extend the same recreational opportunities to all classes of people.

IN CINCINNATI the board of education is cooperating with the public recreation commission in an attempt to provide adequate leisure-time facilities for all people without putting too great a strain on the taxpayers. The aim of the recreation commission to give people of all ages and all classes an opportunity to participate in outdoor sports coincides with the education board's objective to increase the size and number of play areas around the public schools.

Plans are under way to secure sufficient land so that no school has a playground of less than 5 acres. Within the past 2½ years additions have been made to the yards of 13 high and elementary schools, and provisions are being made for further expansion. Arrangements for the purchase and utilization of these play areas

are carried out jointly by the two city departments. During the school year the play areas are under the supervision of the school board on week days from 9 a. m. in the morning until 3:30 p. m. in the afternoon. The rest of the time the grounds are used for projects of the recreation commission. This means of getting the maximum utility from expensive land has been a great economy and has furthered public interest in, and support of, an increasingly elaborate program of public recreation in Cincinnati.

Leisure-time activities are supervised by a commission of five members, one of whom is appointed from the board of park commissioners and the other from the board of education. Immediate responsibility for the program is taken by a director and a large staff, some of whom are seasonal and part-time workers.

Although Cincinnati has a chain of community centers for indoor winter activities many public recreational events take place outdoors all the year round. Shelter buildings on the playgrounds are used for parties and class meetings until late in the autumn. With the enlargement of play areas and the construction of two municipal golf courses there has been an increase in the demand for outdoor programs.

Not only young people but mature men and women make use of the playground facilities. There are playground mothers' clubs throughout the city. Tournaments and single contests in baseball, volley ball, and horseshoe pitching are held for men. A ship craft guild for men over 18 years of age started as a handicraft project on the playgrounds and has developed into a club which now has a workshop in one of the high schools.

For the younger people there are the usual outdoor programs, including dramatics, handicrafts, and seasonal games, and an exceptional music project which is mentioned in another section of this bulletin.

Golf and tennis facilities are available for all classes. Many new tennis courts have been built in all parts of the city so that long delays in obtaining a court and the necessity of spending carfare to get to them have been obviated. Free instructions in tennis are given in the spring at nine public schools and at several industrial plants. Outdoor and indoor lessons in golf are provided under the direction of professionals, and it is significant to note that of 1,500 persons enrolled in golf classes on playfields in 1935, 700 were employees of industrial plants. Fees for playing on the public links are very small.

To insure Negroes appropriate opportunities, a special department of colored work functions as part of the recreation commission. The use of five playgrounds, two sets of tennis courts, seven play streets, and four community centers is allowed to Negroes. Under leadership provided by the Ohio Emergency Schools Administration, 17 dramatic clubs have been formed, and Negro children give an annual open-air pageant. During 1934, two staff members from the National Recreation Association visited Cincinnati to study recreation problems of the Negro. One of them conducted an institute on community song leadership and trained a chorus of 250 singers for a music festival.

Much of the leadership among the Negroes has been provided by volunteer workers, and they have been trained through local class work and by attending conferences sponsored by the National Recreation Association at Lexington, Ky., and Columbus, Ohio.

Funds for the recreation program in Cincinnati are raised by a one-tenth mill tax levied for that particular purpose. There are usually supplementary moneys—receipts for the use of public equipment.

#### **LONG BEACH, CALIF., RECREATION PROJECTS**

Long Beach, Calif., population, 142,032: As a seaside city, natural facilities are used to provide unusual recreation interests for its citizens. The emphasis is on community events. There is a strong aquatic program. The recreation commission works in cooperation with the schools. The director of recreation is an employee also of the schools and coordinates the recreation program of school and city.

LONG BEACH, CALIF., which by its natural setting and the nature of its development as a year-round resort lends itself to many-sided recreational facilities, offers to its citizens genuine community recreation with many distinctive and unusual opportunities.

Recreation and education have a common interest, and the schools and recreation commission combine recreation areas and facilities. This union was rather quickly effected by the emergency resulting from the earthquake of 1933. The Long Beach

schools were temporarily left without gymnasium facilities and auditoriums. This presented splendid opportunities for the recreation commission to be of service to the public schools. Park facilities, speakers' stands, clubhouses, athletic fields, tennis courts, and other recreation commission properties were liberally used by the schools. Likewise school playgrounds, rented gymnasiums, athletic fields, and other board of education facilities were made available to the recreation commission for community use. The coordinated plan of municipal and school-recreation functioned smoothly throughout the year and with savings to taxpayers, since duplications of facilities and programs were eliminated.

That fusion of interest and purpose in the temporary situation has become permanent, with the result that a much more effective recreational plan has been worked out, at less cost to the citizens. The director of health and physical education of the city schools is also the director of playground and public recreation of the city of Long Beach. He acts as a coordinating director of the recreation program of the schools and of the city. That makes for unity of planning and gives emphasis to the educational aspect of the program.

In the broad plan of public recreation under the Long Beach Recreation Commission there are major divisions for the promotion of: Athletics, dramatics and pageantry, aquatics, music, and women's activities. Besides, there are a number of extra departmental and cultural activities. Because of limitations of space the general program of Long Beach is not discussed here but some of its more unusual activities are presented.

The many places for play and recreation offered is a feature of the Long Beach recreational plan. Through the coordination which has been accomplished, certain school playgrounds come under the supervision of the recreation commission after school hours and during vacation periods, serving as public play places. One of the objectives which the recreation staff continually keeps in mind in the playground program is stimulating the use of facilities by family groups, with the idea that "the family that plays together stays together." During school hours the staff cooperates with the teachers in the supervision of the playground activities.

## *Community Facilities and Social Events*

The recreation commission provides a series of clubhouses for public use which are the centers of many varied activities. These are constantly in demand by clubs and organizations and are available through permits issued by the recreation commission. In the course of a year approximately 100 different clubs and organizations used the clubhouses regularly, in addition to small groups and daily visitors, which brought the total number of patrons up to 300,000.

At the municipal auditorium on Monday nights programs that provide genuine community entertainment are given, and of such interest are these social evenings that they attract an average attendance of 3,500 persons. To the people of a modern West Coast city they offer the good fellowship of the entertainments of the farming regions of the Midwest in earlier days, such as quilting parties, corn huskings, and spelling bees. There is usually a half hour of community singing, followed by 2 hours of square dancing. Special features by volunteer talent frequently vary the programs.

### *Marine Stadium*

As a legacy from the Olympic meet in Los Angeles, Long Beach has a marine stadium which offers unusual opportunity for aquatic events. There is a rowing course and a well-equipped boathouse which houses a boatshop and the office of the supervisor of aquatics. A permanent grandstand, judges' stand, and a press gallery are located near the finish line. Two landing floats complete the facilities. The area is fenced and graded so that with the setting up of temporary bleachers an enormous crowd can be accommodated. This course provides one of the very few places in the United States where high-school students can enjoy participation in crew training. Motorboating has also assumed major proportions here.

### *Lawn Bowling*

A sport which is being developed and encouraged by the Long Beach Recreation Commission is lawn bowling. The Long Beach Bowling Club has a membership of 35 men and 20 women bowlers. It is affiliated with the Southern California Lawn Bowling Association, with its 15 member clubs, which in turn is affiliated with the California State Association. The local club is sponsored by the Long Beach Recreation Commission.

Regular bowling is conducted on the beautiful bowling greens at Recreation Park. The club members are always glad to interest and instruct spectators attracted to the greens. A small clubhouse with lockers for equipment is maintained. The club has helped in coaching about 25 junior college boys who, under direction of their coach, took up lawn bowling as part of their physical education. Club members have offered their individual bowls to the boys in order that they might have better equipment than they had last year.

Active bowlers in Long Beach are enthusiastic over the prospects of lawn bowling becoming popular in this country as it has in England, Scotland, Canada, and Australia, where the sport has finally lived down the stigma of "old man's game", even as has golf.

(For other Long Beach projects, see sections on Music and Art and Crafts.)

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It should be explained that the programs of the permanently existing organizations concerned with youth are not dealt with as such in this bulletin, but only as they enter into the discussion of special projects and community programs. Wherever communities are actively planning for young people these organizations play a prominent and valuable part, offering initiative and leadership. A book dealing with the subject of youth agencies and their programs has recently been published.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Pendry, Elizabeth R. Organizations for Youth: Leisure Time and Character-Building Procedures. New York and London, McGraw-Hill Co., Inc., 1935.

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## RECREATION ADAPTED TO SPECIAL NEEDS

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### RECREATION IN RURAL AREAS

A STUDY of out-of-school youth in rural Iowa, made by the Iowa Planning Board, revealed that only 32.7 percent of the youth interviewed belong to any social organization. The organizations named, in order of their frequency of mention, were: Young peoples' religious organizations, with 6 percent of total number of youth belonging; 4-H Club, with 4.3 percent of group enrolled; Masonic, including DeMolay and Eastern Star, with 2.2 percent; Future Farmers, 1.7 percent; women's clubs, 1.3 percent. A few other organizations with smaller numbers were reported. Communities vary widely from 10.4 percent of youth in one community belonging to organized groups, to 35.2 percent in another.

Reading led all the rest as the most enjoyed leisure-time activity, sports followed, mechanics ranked third, sewing next, athletics, and music. Mapping, hunting, electricity, games, fishing, beekeeping, and writing claimed a few adherents each. One hundred and twenty-nine farm youths reported having no hobbies as contrasting with 70 town youths.

This might be considered a sample picture of rural youth's situation in relation to recreation, although Iowa young people, because of the well-organized extension work, are probably more fortunate than those in many other States. The need for recreation among rural people is not a new problem, dearth of interests has always been one of the main factors in the drift of youth away from farms, but now that that drift is arbitrarily checked by economic conditions, there is an urgent necessity to bring more of play and of recreational and cultural interests to the farming

and sparsely settled areas. Facilities to do this are now more available than formerly, though more initiative, more "doing things together", and distributing leaders and activities over a wider area, may be necessary.

It is not possible here to discuss rural recreation in its broad aspects, but merely to present a few examples of programs that show initiative and point out possibilities for other communities.

### *Milam County, Tex.*

Interest in recreation in Milam County has crystallized in the organization of the Milam County Recreation Association with a general program for youth and adults. The need for leadership to stimulate and direct activities led to a recreation school, which was conducted in January 1934. Rural dramatics were studied in all phases, rural singing, and folk games. A year's program was mapped out which those attending the school took back to their communities. This called for: A county-sponsored dramatic tournament at which each community would present a one-act play; a song contest at the annual rally day in June; and a monthly program of entertainment in each community sponsored by the local people.

As a result of this plan, 10 communities took part in the dramatic tournament, 11 entered the song contest, 8 communities sponsored regular monthly recreational entertainments, and 6 others had entertainment at various times, and a county-wide New Year's party was held.

Milam County swung into the spirit of recreation wholeheartedly. It was soon evident that more trained leaders were needed, so, in January of 1935, a committee of four from each community met and decided to come together one night a month for continued training. Each month the program was planned by a different community and was in the nature of a demonstration which the leaders took back to their communities for repetition and adaptation there.

A recreation school of 4 days' duration, conducted by the National Recreation Association, was held in February, and at that time the county recreation association was formed. Membership in the organization consists of not more than two couples

from each home demonstration club in the county, the county agents, and the chairman of the recreational committee of the county home demonstration council. Representatives of other groups and organizations are admitted by a two-thirds majority vote of members present at the meeting.

School buildings serve as community centers where programs are presented. One merchant lets the association hold its meetings on the first floor of his business house.

The extent of recreation that has been stimulated in Milam County would be hard to describe. Ninety different entertainments were given in the 1934 program with an attendance of 10,000, and recreation is decidedly on the increase. Besides the community "sings", the plays and folk dancing, there have been a variety of costume parties, "depression parties", a minuet dance, and many debates.

#### *Clayville, R. I., Old-fashioned Informality*

Contrasting with Milam County's more formal organization is the way the folks of Clayville, R. I., have gone about recreation for old and young. This is a community 8 miles from any bus or car line. Many of the families are on relief. Recreation has had to be planned with this in mind. The school bus is often pressed into service when transportation is needed.

One of the recreation leaders of the State relief program came to Clayville in the fall of 1934 to teach leisure-time activities to the young people. Many new and old things were taught, among them, folk dancing. A spirit of recreation was aroused in the community. Ingenuity and cooperation under fine leadership did the rest.

Everybody has lent a hand. The school board was approached for the loan of an old school building, which has been made into a community center. It was reconditioned, the men of the community providing the labor, and the chief of police made a donation of paint. The 4-H Club furnished cloth and made the curtains. An old piano was donated. The women cleaned and set the place in order. There were electric lights, fortunately, and the men added a plug so that coffee could be made, and one of the entries was converted into a kitchenette.

As there was difficulty in finding pianists to play for the entertainments, an inventive villager, with a phonograph, a loud speaker, and some radio parts, made it possible to get music of sufficient volume for the folk dances by use of records, with electric power to operate the phonograph. The instrument is portable and can be taken to other meeting places.

The nucleus of the recreation group consists of members of the 4-H Club and the P. T. A. A farm bureau group also holds meetings and entertainments at the community building.

The P. T. A. and the 4-H Club give entertainments on alternate Saturday evenings, and at other times the center is open to different groups. Folk dancing has given great pleasure. Most of the P. T. A. members are mothers of the 4-H Club members, but mothers do not mind in the least dancing with a neighbor's 12-year-old son.

Plays have proved a popular interest. Those with royalty fees have been chosen as offering both better entertainment and a better medium for the development of the players. Entertainments have been presented before a number of groups—the grange, the church, the American Legion, and other organizations.

With a charge of 20 cents for the regular evening programs, it has been found that all expenses are covered, and cake and coffee can be provided. The P. T. A. and the 4 H members have shared between them the expenses of light and heat for the building.

### *Castle Rock, Colo., Program*

On the initiative of the county superintendent of schools, the people of Castle Rock, Colo., and the neighboring country began in January 1935 to plan leisure-time interests for the young adult population. A meeting was called of some 40 representatives of various clubs and organizations of town and county, together with a member of the State department of education and the State director of emergency education. It was evident that a recreation director was needed. A request was made to the Emergency Relief Administration and a director was secured. Through changes in personnel, the program under permanent leadership only got under way in the late spring of 1935.

Young people themselves were invited to assist in planning the kind of activities and events they would most enjoy. This has been the best possible, in fact, almost the only means of promotion.

Many interesting activities have been worked out. A breakfast hiking group draws a number of young people. A choice spot near a spring has been selected for cooking the breakfasts and the hikers have improvised a cooking stove. The groups are not always large in number, but many young people join at different times. Sometimes there are only three or four at the early hour of 6 a. m., but by breakfast several more usually have joined the party. Everyone brings his own breakfast and cooks it. The hikes are held every Thursday morning, beginning at 6 o'clock.

A social planning group is composed of girls who assist with the arrangements for weekly events. They meet every Tuesday afternoon at the home of an adult member of the local committee on recreation. A hostess and guest club is for the purpose of planning small social affairs in order to gain experience in giving colorful and interesting entertainment. A class in ballroom dancing is extremely popular. At first there was considerable objection in the community to dancing and it was difficult to find a place to hold a class. The schools could not be used for this purpose, but there was no objection to the use of the county courtroom, so this became a temporary recreation center. Seats were removed and ample floor space was provided. In one instance, the courtroom was transformed into a gypsy camp for a gypsy party and dance. On other occasions, table tennis and bowling were set up on the long court tables.

Both schools and the Methodist Church have permitted the use of rooms for various gatherings other than dances.

### *North Carolina Mountain Folk Center*

The John C. Campbell Folk School at Brasstown, N. C., an interesting venture in adult education based on the Danish folk school idea, is a rural center not only for education but for recreation and social life among the Southern Highlanders. A group of students, averaging 25, attend the winter course at the school, living as one large family. They are mostly young people, ranging in age from 16 to 25, young mountain people, many

of them with the potentialities of leaders. The interests that center in the school, however, radiate over a wide area.

While the main emphasis is upon education in agriculture, in homemaking, and in the crafts, as well as in academic subjects, the recreational element is hardly less important. In the beginning it was through the recreational features that the shy mountaineers of the neighborhood were first won to the idea of the school, and through the year-round social activities their interest is held. It would be hard to gage the influence resulting from the coming together in the school of the people of the vicinity for fiddle contests, for community singing of the old ballads of the mountains which have come down through the centuries, for folk dancing which has been developed to a real art.

Many of the old arts of the mountains have been revived by the school with the twofold idea of providing an income and of occupying leisure time. Beautiful weaving has been developed among the women, and among the men the natural tendency to whittle has been turned in the direction of woodcarving. A great deal of talent has been discovered and lovely things are made which both happily and profitably fill the leisure hours of many individuals, even of whole families.

By becoming a center in a lonely section of the country, this school is promoting and encouraging a genuine rural culture, both through play and through education.

The Campbell School is subsidized by small grants from several sources, mainly mission boards, gifts of individuals, and through receipts from its own products, farming, crafts, and the small payment for board from the resident students.

### *Central West Virginia Recreation and Art League*

A group of 13 counties in the central part of West Virginia have united and formed the Central West Virginia Recreation and Art League for the purpose of providing wholesome recreation and social activities, to make possible, through cooperation, facilities that communities alone could not provide and to secure the benefits that come through organization. Any community within the region with a population of 2,500 is eligible to membership.

There is a regional executive committee which cooperates with the county and home demonstration agents, county superin-

tendents of schools, and other qualified and interested leaders in selecting a county board of directors of at least five members. Representatives elected to the county board of directors by the communities are added as elected.

There is a county and also a regional executive committee, and a county and regional board of directors, the respective executive committees being elected by the boards of directors. The regional executive committee working with the regional board of directors is in charge of regional "round-ups" and selects the projects for a general fall and spring round-up of all 13 counties which is held at Jackson's Mill. Intercommunity activities are carried on throughout the year.

In the fall the State round-up of the 4-H Clubs and that of the Recreation Art League is combined into a country-life jubilee, where the best in music and in recreation, as well as the summation of 4-H projects, are presented. The jubilee lasts for 4 days.

This organization makes possible to the people of this part of West Virginia a year-round program of recreational interests, varied and adapted to local interests and offering a wide range of participation for those of all ages.

#### *Minnesota Rural County Athletic Council*

St. Louis County, Minn., a rural county, has organized an athletic council consisting of representatives for each of the following sports: Baseball, softball, volley ball, horseshoe, track and field, swimming, tennis, basketball, hockey, speed skating, figure skating, skiing, broom ball, touch ball, boxing, wrestling, indoor baseball, and hiking.

The organization of the council has greatly stimulated athletics. Organized sports have increased in number, likewise teams and participants increased in a period of 3 years from 300 to 5,041. During the 1935 season a series of "athletic queen balls" were conducted in all parts of the county, raising between \$2,000 and \$3,000 to support and maintain rural athletics.

#### **PROGRAMS FOR NEGROES**

A SURVEY of 129,000 Negro boys in Georgia made 2 years ago showed that of these boys, between the ages of 10 and 19, only 5 percent were affected by any youth agency. No group of young

Americans is more in need of recreational planning than Negro youth. Every argument for recreational programs for other groups is likewise an argument for the right sort of interests and activities for colored youth; perhaps even more so, since so often they represent an element of the population in which lies the greatest need and one least equipped economically to provide facilities for themselves. Where there are programs, the response is usually more than compensating. Within comparatively recent years have playgrounds and community centers for Negroes been provided. Many cities, both North and South, are recognizing the need for these facilities. Washington, D. C., Jacksonville, Fla., Indianapolis, Ind., and Cincinnati, Ohio, are among the cities providing special golf courses for colored citizens.

The National Recreation Association's bureau of colored work has been an important factor in encouraging and promoting recreation for Negroes. Its personnel is available to communities for the development of programs and for consultation. The bureau conducts a summer training institute for the training of colored recreation leaders. Many of the programs described in this bulletin make provisions for the Negro population or are adaptable to them, but there are activities specially adapted to their interests.

In the organization of the education-recreation services in Reading, Pa., the interracial committee of the council which sponsors the program is primarily concerned with Negro recreation. This committee is planning a community recreation center under Negro and white leadership; it also considers Negro and white relationships in Y. W. C. A. and municipal swimming pools. Such representation in a civic body concerned with recreation helps to assure wider facilities and better programs to Negro groups in the community.

#### *Augusta, Ga., Community Center Program*

Bethlehem Community Center, a settlement house and community center for Negroes in Augusta, Ga., working in cooperation with other agencies in the community, is providing a constructive program which is both educational and recreational in its nature. It provides for story-hour clubs, health clubs, sewing classes, cook-

ing classes, young people's interest groups, music classes, adult education classes, organized athletics, Girl Reserves groups, Boy Scout groups, general clubs for boys, kindergarten, Bible schools, community night socials and special events, playgrounds. A camp is maintained 12 miles from Augusta. A branch center for men and older boys has been opened to provide particularly for the leisure-time activities of the unemployed and part-time workers. Playgrounds were opened early in August 1935, with nearly a thousand young people attending the first day.

The Bethlehem center occupies two buildings—a gymnasium and an administration unit—with offices, clubrooms, kindergarten, library, and an apartment for the resident workers. Associated with Paine College, a Methodist foundation, for which it serves in the capacity of a social work laboratory, the center is a genuine cooperative venture on the part of several agencies and helps to promote understanding between Negro and white groups. The city council and the superintendent of schools aided in providing the playground.

#### *"Y" Activities for Negro Youth*

Several white Y. M. C. A.'s in cities where there is a considerable colored population have worked out successful programs for Negro youth. The Rochester (N. Y.) Y. M. C. A. has conducted informal classes and groups for colored boys and girls in hobbies, crafts, and special skills. There are "Hi-Y groups" and "On-going Y Clubs", the latter consisting of groups of boys, older and younger, organized for hikes, trips to industrial plants and institutions, and in some years enjoying a week of camping. Classes are organized for "gym" work and for other special physical interests. A vacant lot playground has been developed for use during the summer.

A young colored college graduate is in charge of the activities. As there is no colored branch of the "Y" in Rochester, an old church building has been secured as a meeting place and for games. For physical activities the gymnasium of a school building is used and, when that is not available for basketball, the Universalist Church lends its gymnasium. The "Y" is responsible for the program, the board of education has assigned relief workers, the community chest allocated funds to the "Y" for the project.

### *Rural Community League*

Under the sponsorship of the extension department of Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., rural community leagues have been formed with junior leagues, which are organizing many constructive activities for Negro youth. Among these are better garden clubs, having the twofold purpose of offering an expressive interest to the young people and of improving the appearance of the community. In the junior community leagues and the garden clubs the members spend part of their time working on community as well as individual projects. Some of these are improvement of schools or churches, putting on field days and other recreational programs, planning banquets or parties, and raising funds for athletic equipment for consolidated schools, for school transportation, dental clinics, etc.

These activities of Negro youth are financed partly by the State, by the Negroes themselves, and by philanthropic funds.

### *General Programs*

A cooperative program providing varied activities for young Negroes of both sexes has been developed in Atlanta, Ga. About a thousand young people were reached through various organizations, their interests sounded and the groups organized on the basis of clubs along various lines. In the field of recreation, swimming, athletics, and handicrafts are the major interests. The young people themselves have helped to shape the program in many instances and provide the leadership.

Various welfare agencies sponsor the program and help to finance it. Buildings and equipment belonging to welfare organizations are used as well as public recreation grounds.

The Pearl Street Neighborhood House serves an important need in the life of colored youth of Waterbury, Conn. A varied program is conducted in the nature of educational clubs and supervised recreational activities, musical and dramatic groups, social groups and dances. The social affairs meet with the greatest popularity. A promotional campaign was carried on in the way of house-to-house canvasses, newspaper publicity, and community programs. Young people have shown consider-

able initiative and are taking an active part in planning the activities.

As part of the extensive musical program in Flint, Mich., under a capable colored F. E. R. A. worker, there is a male chorus, women's chorus, mixed chorus; and harmony and piano lessons are conducted.

### **DELINQUENCY PREVENTION THROUGH RECREATION**

HAVING the right thing to do in the right environment is a recognized antidote to youthful delinquency. With the crime age moving steadily downward within recent years until the peak age of serious offenders is now at 19 years, communities face the necessity to include in their programs activities planned to redirect the energies of certain elements among youth who either are court offenders or may be in danger of becoming so, and generally to combat, through recreation, unwholesome commercial interests that tend to prey upon young people.

Various agencies have been established to counteract the tendencies toward juvenile delinquency, such as crime prevention divisions of police departments; coordinating councils, one of whose functions has been the combating of crime; there are the activities of various organizations, as the men's civic and service clubs, Big Brothers and Sisters, boys' clubs, and other agencies with whom the provision of recreational interests is a major objective. Surveys are often the initial step in launching programs aimed toward delinquency prevention.

#### **Surveys**

A survey of a police district in Baltimore where delinquency was particularly high brought forth some significant facts that throw light upon the relationship between recreation and police offenses. These discoveries were revealed by the survey:

1. Of 592 boys arrested and interviewed, only 5 percent had any supervised social or recreational activities, 82 percent being forced to resort to street play and corner gangs. None of the colored delinquents had supervised activities of any kind.
2. The average arrest rate in the sections immediately surrounding the only large park in the district was 16 percent

lower than the average for the entire district. Even facilities for unsupervised play, such as vacant lots, tend to reduce delinquency.

3. One-fifth of the 42 churches have no recreational activities, although they have space for them. More than one-fifth of the 33 schools have no recreational activities, but have facilities for them. Only one school has recreational work at night with Playground Athletic League supervision. Library facilities for organized recreational work are poorly utilized.

4. Seventy-four percent of poolrooms and 25 percent of saloons can be classed as "hang-outs."

5. Street corners are the most numerous congregating points; other places where young men congregate are confectionery stores, wharves, lumber yards, and vacant buildings.

6. Organized clubs with quarters are found to be favorable factors in the prevention of delinquency, even though their only supervision is that drawn from their own membership.

7. There were in the district 39 vacant lots of varying size, including 5 church lots, which could be converted into playgrounds. There were several buildings and halls not then in use which could be converted into clubrooms and recreational centers, among them a closed Y. M. C. A. building with a small gymnasium, and an empty Salvation Army hall.

Several cities, notably Los Angeles, have used white-collar relief workers to make careful studies resulting in spot maps of communities, which show the constructive and destructive factors pertaining to the life of children and young people. Playgrounds, community centers, facilities of social and character-building agencies, and churches providing youth activities are shown, as well as poolrooms, dance halls, saloons, and other places selling liquor. Using these maps to tell the story of the environment to which youth is subjected, citizen groups are called together and constructive recreational and activity programs inaugurated.

### *Philadelphia Crime Prevention Association*

Philadelphia has a crime prevention association whose main purpose is the prevention of criminal development among older boys, especially in a certain zone of the city. Although a body of private citizens with no official authority, it is affiliated with the crime prevention division of the Philadelphia Police Bureau. The two units were organized simultaneously in 1932: The civilian

faction, financed by private contributions, began with a staff of part-time workers; the police division was comprised of a county detective and two officers of patrolman rank.

In June 1932, the five workers of these two groups started a program of recreation, investigation, and supervision of four "bad spots" in one section of the city. Members of each staff attended all magistrate hearings, interviewing the boys who had been arrested and inquiring into their home environments. A boys' club was established and several vacant lots were obtained as recreation sites.

Through the efforts of the association, 84 C. W. A. workers were made available to the crime-prevention division in December 1933. A project was undertaken, directed by the police unit and advised by the civilian unit, whereby provisions were made for 1,400 boys who had been arrested repeatedly since 1932. Twenty-four new clubs, including one for Negro boys, were organized. The use of unoccupied buildings was obtained and the youths renovated them, providing themselves with facilities for boxing, billiards, dancing, table games, and gymnasium work. In one instance a large factory building was turned over to the boys, with the stipulation that they pay the taxes. Part of the annual program of these clubs is devoted to money-raising activities, and the taxes are being paid. The C. W. A. men secured the use of 79 vacant lots for neighborhood baseball games, and in some cases supervised the activities on these lots.

The decrease in arrests among older boys during the second year of operation of the crime-prevention program, as compared to those of the first year, was 17 percent for the entire city and 5.2 percent for the crime-prevention zone. Although educational classes, the C. C. C., and guidance programs undoubtedly were responsible for part of this reduction, recreational opportunities provided by the boys' clubs and playground activities contributed greatly to the decrease.

### *San Francisco Director-at-Large System*

San Francisco has inaugurated a system of using a recreational director-at-large who is a sort of ambassador to boy gangs and youths on the border line of delinquency. The plan grew out of

the joint efforts of the city's chief of police and the superintendent of the recreation department to reduce juvenile delinquency in certain deteriorated areas of the city. A recreation worker delegated to study the district took up residence there for 4 months and became intimately acquainted with the boys and with their home and environmental situations.

There was but one supervised playground in the district and that inadequate in size and facilities. The poolroom, dime shows, and an unsupervised park where they mingled with questionable characters, were the amusement places the boys patronized. In order to get money to frequent them, they committed petty thefts of articles, which they sold to the junkman.

Results of the study and recommendations of the director-at-large were: That the supervised playground be enlarged and lighted for night play; that an old abandoned church located in the heart of the district be turned into an inviting recreation center, with a gymnasium, showers, game rooms, pool tables, boxing ring, and an equipped kitchen; that a capable, trained recreation leader be placed in charge, with instructions to plan his program according to the interest of the boys.

In a short time the director organized 23 clubs, each with its own particular interest, some athletic, others social, musical, and literary.

The executives of the four municipal departments legally responsible for the welfare of the children—police, school, recreation, and juvenile court—were organized into a coordinating council holding bimonthly meetings. Later health and relief problems were discussed, and the council was enlarged to include eight municipal departments, adding public dance halls, health, welfare, and relief.

A trained recreation worker was made the director-at-large and placed in the field to seek the gangs and individual boys and interest them in recreational activities provided by the playground and the new community center. Since this first endeavor, two other directors-at-large have been placed in two other districts that were presenting the problem of boys in need of guidance during leisure hours.

The director-at-large can take gangs hanging around street corners and turn them into basketball teams and mold the

gangs' leaders into club leaders; he befriends the underprivileged boy, too shy to participate in the normal activities of a playground; he studies and works with the maladjusted until he finds a program which is congenial; he picks up those that have felt the stigma of the court and helps to strengthen their moral fiber through proper association.

A system has recently been worked out by which blanks are distributed to different agencies, schools, playgrounds, the juvenile court, community centers, etc., and when a boy is found who is in need of leisure guidance the blank is filled out and sent to the director-at-large in the district where the boy lives.

A similar type of worker has been used in Nashville, Tenn., known as a "liaison community social welfare worker", who serves to coordinate the work of the attendance officer of the public schools, the probation officer of the juvenile court, and the leisure-time division of the council of social agencies. This is part of an intensive study of juvenile delinquency in a larger program of social planning inaugurated in Nashville.

#### *Allentown, Pa., Boys' Haven*

Boys of two districts in Allentown, Pa., were proving troublesome to the neighborhoods and the police. They were foreign-born, from the Balkan and Carpathian districts, and proved hard to win over and shy of strangers until they found a friend (or more aptly he found them) in an older man who understands boys. In cooperation with the Family Welfare Association he started the "Boys' Haven" in the sixth ward. It is simply two vacant storerooms made over, but it has enough attractions to draw 300 boys nightly, with 600 to 700 among its regular patrons. It is purposely a rough-and-ready club because the niceties and refinements of some of the other boys' organizations would scare off these youths. It is their own club, and a democratic form of government had been inaugurated, with a mayor and council, who supervise the activities and maintain discipline. The organization has outgrown its quarters and an old, three-story factory building is under consideration as new headquarters, with a second "haven" to be opened in the second ward.

The club is open every night except Sunday. It provides a library, game room, and other recreational facilities. It has been financed by a few interested individuals.

Significantly, the police authorities stated that there have been no cases of juvenile delinquency reported from these districts since establishment of the "haven."

### *Youth Leadership*

The aid of college students and other young people is often secured to help out boys who are in trouble, or on the verge of trouble, with the police. In Evanston, Ill., the municipal bureau of recreation, in cooperation with the police department, has sponsored a number of boys' clubs, 22 in all, in predelinquent and delinquent areas of the city. These clubs meet with their leaders three to five times a week. Northwestern University and other boys' workers cooperate in these clubs. The boys are permitted considerable leeway in making their own plans. The program consists of trips to neighboring cities, overnight hikes, athletics, and discussions. A budget of \$1,250 provides for the clubs.

A group of young boys who were proving troublesome on the campus of Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill., were converted into a Boys' club. Twin brothers attending the college who had had a good deal of experience in boys' club work undertook a program to redirect the interests of the boys. The college facilities were made available for use. The athletic facilities and especially the swimming pool were great drawing cards and provided more excitement than pilfering. Graded programs in physical education and athletics are provided, supplemented by discussion hours and various projects, such as the preparation of scrapbooks on athletics.

The program has been financed largely by the college, although part of the time of the two directors has been paid for with F. E. R. A. funds.

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## SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

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### MUSIC

**H**APPILY for America, music begins to permeate life and to become an essential and an accompaniment to many other phases of expression rather than a negligible aside. America is discovering music and music is discovering America. A tour through the country reveals music shops in small towns where before they were unknown, community singing taking place in schoolhouses and community centers. The village carpenter, the boy in his workshop, are learning to fashion instruments. The school band and the high-school orchestra, the young people's chorus and "mothersingers" groups—all are comparatively recent developments in our American scene. Their appearance is of tremendous significance.

Good music as an everyday experience tends to take the place of the popular rattle of jazz. There is likewise a tendency for music to accompany the other arts. The little theater groups do not consider acting alone but music as part of drama. Every motion picture has its background accompaniment and synchronization of music. The radio is a continuous channel of music—much of it bad, some of it good, occasionally rare and beautiful.

Community recreation programs must plan increasingly for music, and with intelligence, if this growing desire for music is to be directed wisely.

The possibilities for music are along the two general lines of (1) participation, and (2) appreciation and listening. The first offers opportunities for activity in the dance, operettas, choral work, orchestras, and bands. The second calls for opportunities

in the way of concerts, festivals, and varied programs of music and for training in appreciation of music. The discriminating audience is as essential as the discriminating performance. The two must move in unison. Without a listening ear there is no music.

Thus far in the movement to make music an important factor in community programs, emphasis has been placed on organizing active groups and comparatively little attention has been paid to the problems of passive enjoyment. The former step is the easier one to take since it calls primarily for concrete planning and organization. The latter is less definite, demanding different methods of approach for different types of people.

Among city populations, classes in appreciation and the history and theory of music may do much to offset the distortions acquired during the jazz era and thereby raise the level of musical standards. In rural areas formal classes are neither practicable nor so necessary. Instinctive musical tastes have not been as badly warped by "professionalism" among isolated peoples. More than retraining, they need encouragement to give expression to their natural musical bents, both as participants and listeners. The same situation exists among foreign-born people, whether in urban or rural communities.

Recreation workers in the field of music have found that festive occasions are effective in stimulating the urge to participate among rural peoples. Seasonal and holiday programs featuring religious and folk music make a special appeal to them.

The music introduced each year into the annual Farm and Home Week of the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University, at Ithaca, is a typical example of the kind of program which attracts rural people. In February of every year farm families come from all parts of the State to the college and an important feature of the program is the community singing. Members of the Homemakers' Clubs, an organization of rural women, present a program of old ballads and hymns. Recreation directors who have witnessed the Cornell festival report that gala and colorful events serve to break down the natural reserve and formality of farm people.

The making of shepherd pipes and other simple woodwind instruments is being encouraged among rural youth by itinerant

recreation leaders, who give instructions both in woodcraft and music suitable for the instruments made. These same leaders have done much to revise some of the music customs of old English agriculturists, such as "Hulston Furry Day." This is a ritual in which young people gather the first greenery of spring and, accompanying themselves with choral music, dance through the village streets distributing it to the homes.

Generally speaking, dominant leaders are not needed to keep musical programs going after they have been established in small communities. Once sufficient interest has been stimulated among rural people, their enthusiasm and neighborliness insure wholehearted support. However, formal activities with regular direction have had considerable popularity in small cities and towns.

#### *Tioga County, Pa., Music and Drama Programs*

County-wide music and dramatic activities are carried on in Tioga County, Pa., as a project set up when the F. E. R. A. made funds available for employing five young teachers. County authorities gave considerable thought to determining how the teachers' services could be used to the best advantage, and finally decided on recreational programs for rural communities in the way of music and drama.

The Tioga County Adult Education Council, which sponsors the project, divided rural districts into five areas and placed one of the five F. E. R. A. workers as a supervisor in charge of each. The work started in isolated schools. An introductory note to the regular school teachers preceded the supervisors' initial visits. Musical programs for children were planned and the F. E. R. A. workers carried on instruction until regular teachers were sufficiently familiar with the work to direct it themselves.

Activities for adults and out-of-school young people were organized in each small settlement. The people themselves made suggestions for the kind of programs they wanted. Orchestras, choirs, singing classes, and dramatic groups were formed and developed with the social support of churches and granges. Regular teachers became active in the community work and cooperated with the F. E. R. A. supervisors in coaching plays and orchestras and planning parties.

### *Music in the Life of Flint, Mich.*

A manufacturing city of 160,000 people, Flint, Mich., is an outstanding example of a community that is thoroughly "music-conscious." Thirty separate, active units function under the general direction of the Flint Community Music Association. This vast program can be traced back to a simple beginning nearly 25 years ago when one man, an automobile manufacturer, set out to develop cultural activities that would include all groups and classes in the city. He believed that city planning was not complete unless it provided adequate recreational facilities for all its people.

The original unit was a choral union, established in 1913 and financed for 4 years by the automobile manufacturer. In 1917, he urged that a community music association be formed to take over the support of the chorus and provide other musical opportunities for the city. Although the association does not attempt to control the individual musical activities in Flint, it is directly or indirectly related to all of them either as an interested bystander, a lender of music, an advising counselor upon request, a temporary manager or conductor, or as an original organizer. It attempts to encourage high artistic standards among all groups.

Membership in the association is open to any citizen of Flint who is interested in music. There are no individual dues. Participating members are those engaged in activities of the various organizations directly sponsored by the association. Associate members are those working in other active units and those patronizing concerts.

The Community Chest, the Flint Industrial Mutual Association, and the Flint Board of Education finance the work. A board of 17 directors, including 3 city officials and 4 appointees of the board of education, supervises the plans and elects the association's officers.

The work of the 30 units in Flint is divided into two categories, out-of-school and school activities. Many of the programs are similar to others already described, and a limitation of space permits reviewing only a few of them. Two annual city-wide festivals, one in the spring and the other during the Christmas season, afford an opportunity for all units to join in cooperative community pro-

grams. During the rest of the year they foster their own activities under their separate sponsorship and spend many of their rehearsal periods preparing for the two festivals.

In addition to a municipal symphony orchestra which gives free concerts there are several instrumental groups affiliated with churches and Sunday schools. Religious activities have given Flint people an incentive to produce fine music. Several *a cappella* choirs have developed in churches as a result of similar groups in the high schools, and one of them is internationally known, having been invited to sing before the Anglo-American Music Conference at Lausanne, Switzerland.

A "home night" program of the spring festival which is presented by several family groups has stimulated interest in "home sings." The association has a plan to divide the city into five sections in each of which four concerts a year will be given by musical families who live in the neighborhood.

Nine "mothersingers" groups have been organized by the Parent-Teachers Association. These meet once a week for rehearsals and entertain one another with vocal offerings. Occasionally all groups meet for a joint rehearsal in preparation for an annual spring program.

Industry is well represented in Flint's musical activities. The Industrial Mutual Association of automobile workers has male and female glee clubs. Both were instituted through the efforts of the Community Music Association. Under the sponsorship of the Y. W. C. A. a group of girls working in factories has a glee club which presents operettas and concerts based chiefly on folk music.

Through a cosmopolitan program in the spring festival many of the foreign population have been encouraged to form instrumental and choral groups. There are two German glee clubs, a Polish orchestra, a Serbian singing society, and a Scotch bagpipe group. Direct financial aid has been given to several of these units by the association for the purpose of encouraging folk singing and playing.

Flint's musical groups are so many and so active that the association maintains an elaborate filing system designed to present a weekly status quo and provide necessary information to the separate units. The lists contain the proposed activities of all musical groups, names of available teachers, conductors, choral leaders,

and professional soloists. In addition to strictly musical information, it is necessary to have the names of officers of all groups served and a list of all organizations and industries which any of the musical groups can serve. A list of music scores and books on music available through the association also is kept up to date. The association lends its rooms to groups which do not have adequate quarters for meetings.

### *Cincinnati Municipal Music*

Somewhat similar to the Flint Community Music Association, not only in extensiveness but also in many of its individual units, is the municipal program sponsored by the Cincinnati Public Recreation Commission.

Differences rather than similarities will be cited for the purpose of presenting as broad a picture as possible of practical activities and the various ways of sponsoring and financing them in urban communities. Most of the funds and sponsorship for Cincinnati's program are provided by the recreation commission—a public body supported by taxpayers. Cooperation of the emergency school administration and the F. E. R. A. have permitted an expansion of activities during the past year and a half.

There is a special council which advises the recreation commission on specific musical problems and community organization. It includes the director of music in the public schools, the dean of the college of education at the University of Cincinnati, the managing director of the May Festival Association, the director of the Cincinnati College of Music, a member of the Parent-Teachers Association, the director of education of the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. This group meets with the community supervisor of music and advises on all important matters of policy affecting long-time plans and relations with the public.

In addition to encouraging folk singing and dances among the city's foreign population, the recreation commission has established 2 Negro community orchestras and 10 Negro choruses.

Through the F. E. R. A. and the Ohio emergency schools many music classes have developed. These are designed to increase participation and listening capacities. Free instruction is offered in piano, violin, guitar, vocal solo and chorus work, harmony,

sight reading, music appreciation, and the history of music. Opportunities to dance are provided for unemployed workers and people on relief by F. E. R. A. orchestras.

Special attention has been paid to out-of-door musical programs for young people. During the summer months playground leaders offer opportunities for children of all ages to participate in orchestras and choral groups. That young people have been particularly enthusiastic about these activities is attributable in part to the fact that the playground orchestras and choruses give a radio broadcast at the end of the season.

### *Philadelphia Youth Concerts*

The emphasis upon youth's participation in good music by the director of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, Leopold Stokowski, should eventuate in making music a vital, continuing experience to the oncoming generation in Philadelphia. The "youth concerts" given by the orchestra are significant on the American cultural horizon. Even more significant is the idea back of them. Concerts are given under the auspices of a "youth group" of the orchestra. They are not only exclusively for young people—between the ages of 13 and 25—but the youth group is intimately associated in the operation of the concerts, choice of program, etc., and young musicians are frequently selected as soloists. Other activities of the Philadelphia musical youth groups are a chorus and orchestra; youth clubs, "to study music, especially that of the youth concert programs"; a youth magazine, "to act as a mouthpiece for the youth musical movement"; and a dramatic club of more than 30 members.

The creed of this young musical group as expressed by Mr. Stokowski is "to bring students from about 13 to 25 in contact with the inspired music of the past and present \* \* \* feeling that this is a form of public service in the sphere of the mind and spirit."

The youth concerts were started in 1933 and each year have become artistically and culturally more significant. It is hoped that they will shortly lead to a youth forum which will present musical, dramatic, and dance performances planned by and for younger audiences.

### *Music and Craftsmanship Combine in Chicago*

In Chicago the interest of young people in playground musical activities has been running high. There the development of a symphony orchestra is under way. The young people who are preparing for it are doing more than training to be musicians. They are learning to be musical craftsmen. All of the instruments that will be used in the orchestra are being made by the young people who will play them. Under the direction of playground leaders and an expert instrument maker they are working over flutes, violins, bass viols, cellos, violas, and all the other pieces used in a symphony which can be made by hand.

### *Other Musical Developments*

Throughout the country in towns and cities of all sizes musical units are evolving. Their sponsorship, methods of organization, and the people they reach are varied. Examples of different types of activities already under way may help communities in planning their own programs.

In Potosi, Mo., a town of about 1,200 people, the county superintendent of schools and the F. E. R. A. have sponsored a community orchestra for men of all ages. The group is so large and the degrees of skill so varied that two separate classes have been arranged, one more advanced than the other. Each class meets two evenings a week for instruction, and the full orchestra meets once a week. The students are free to select the music they wish to play, and the director reports that contact with the older men in the orchestra has improved the musical tastes of the young members. They are now interested primarily in the classics, whereas when the orchestra first was established they preferred playing jazz.

Among its many activities the Recreation Commission of Long Beach, Calif., sponsors two particularly interesting musical groups—one an orchestra for women and the other a choral unit for boys. The Women's Symphony Orchestra is one of the few organizations of its kind in the United States, composed entirely of women and directed by a woman. Membership in the orchestra is free, but limited to players of more than average

musical ability. The orchestra presents its own independent programs and cooperates with other units for municipal and holiday festivals. The group was organized and its development is directed by the commission's supervisor of music and women's activities. The Boy Carolers' Club, composed of 40 young men, was organized and is directed by a man who has no official affiliation with the commission. However, that agency has assisted the group by providing accompanists and glee club instructors. During Christmas week club members make a tour of the city's business houses, singing carols at each one.

In many cities educational boards and other civic agencies have assisted young people in continuing group musical activities after their graduation from high schools. The recreation commission in San Francisco has organized a junior symphony orchestra for young people who have been members of high-school orchestras. Rehearsals are held twice a week, one for strings alone and one for the whole ensemble. They are led by a professional director who gives his time gratuitously. Only standard symphonic music is used, and one objective of the group is to prepare young musicians for posts with the San Francisco Symphony.

In nearly 1,500 towns and cities the public-school authorities are providing training in musical appreciation through memory contests. Preparation for community-wide contests (which are held annually) consists in familiarizing students with folk songs and the works of the foremost operatic and symphonic composers through phonograph records played in the classroom. The contests are designed to test the individual's recognition of songs and their composers. Through training for the contests a knowledge of good music is imparted. This sort of activity has been confined to schools, but it is practicable for informal work with adults and out-of-school youth in community centers. Competitive programs are invaluable in stimulating interest in the arts.

### **DRAMATICS**

**THROUGH** the growth of the "little theater" movement and the efforts of recreational agencies throughout the country, the drama has broken loose from the confines of Broadway and large cities

and has become once more a part in the life of small communities and rural settlements. After nearly a quarter of a century of being almost exclusively a medium for professional production in urban areas the theater recently has emerged as an important factor in the cultural and recreational programs of communities.

Although the urge to take part in dramatic production is almost universal among young people, the establishment of permanent amateur theatrical activities has not been accomplished without difficulties and in some places not without the aid of stimulus.

The contest and tournament method of arousing interest and action in the theater has been used to advantage in recreational set-ups which cover wide areas. In Kenosha County, Wis., the Parent-Teachers Association sponsors an annual drama contest. The first round is held in the several townships where as many groups as wish produce one-act plays, not exceeding 40 minutes of staging time. All plays have to be put on by adult talent, though one or two children are allowed to play minor roles. Winners of the town contests participate in a final county-wide competition.

Productions are judged on the following basis: 15 points for stagecraft, including settings, properties, make-up, and costumes; 40 points for individual acting, with particular notice of self-control, poise, preparedness, adjustment to part, gestures, and diction; 45 points for group activity, with emphasis on unity of action, balance of talent, and tempo.

One of the chief difficulties encountered in establishing individual amateur groups on a permanent basis has been holding the interest of young participants over a long period of time. There are comparatively few young men and women whose interest in the stage is sufficiently serious to keep them working in a little theater group merely to acquire dramatic proficiency. Some goal beyond perfection in production is usually necessary to keep a group of players active.

### *Successful Church Dramatic Club*

The St. Peter's Dramatic Club, sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church of Reserve, La., has devised several means which give constant impetus to its members, all of whom are young people over 16 years of age.

The purpose of the club is twofold: To raise funds to help defray parish expenses, and to provide an opportunity for young people to get acquainted with one another by means of instructive recreation, i. e., amateur dramatics. Neither individually nor together do these aims provide sufficient incentive to keep the club active. To supplement them, the priest in charge of the group has inaugurated a social program. During the year there are several dances, picnics, and parties, and an anniversary meeting. A baseball team has been formed to keep young men interested in the club.

The Passion Play is given each year by St. Peter's Dramatic Club. When the club was new and members were inexperienced the drama was produced on a small scale with simple settings and lighting effects. This year the script was enlarged, the staging was more elaborate and the cast included 52 players. The same policy of careful progress has characterized the entire program of the club. It started in by producing light comedies and simple short plays. After these had been perfected and had been well received by audiences, mysteries and heavier dramas were presented.

All phases of stagecraft are taught at the club and, except for the directing, which is done by the priest in charge, members are responsible for every step in production, designing, and building of sets, costuming, lighting, stage managing, prompting, and acting. It is a rule that there shall be no constant "stars" and that everyone shall have a chance in leading roles. No dues or fees are collected from members. The work is financed from the proceeds of performances.

### *Texas Dramatic Circuit*

Through a circuit and exchange system, in which the amateur dramatic clubs of 14 communities in the Panhandle section of Texas have combined, several obstacles to the success of community theaters have been obviated. Community interest in amateur groups often has waned because of the limited repertoire of the players. Three or four plays a year usually are as many as a small group can prepare for production. This number sometimes is insufficient to hold the interest and support of the general public.

The little theater groups in the 14 Texas communities work in a circuit, each group preparing its own production and presenting it before audiences in the other 13 communities as well as in the home community. A frequent change in the play bill keeps general interest alive, and many repetitions of the same performance give players an opportunity to perfect their productions.

Along with the circuit system a talent exchange is maintained by these clubs which eliminates a handicap to small dramatic groups—that of having a surplus of one type of actor or technician and an absolute lack of another type. Through the talent exchange, a club having plenty of “natural villains” can trade a few of them to other clubs for a competent electrician or a needed ingenue. The possibility for such a distribution of talent makes for better productions and a spirit of cooperation.

### *Philadelphia Theater League*

Philadelphia has a theater league, supported by membership fees and proceeds from productions, which gives nearly 200 young people who are seriously interested in the drama an opportunity for study and recreation.

The league was established in 1933 for the purposes of producing the works of good playwrights, contemporary and ancient, and of training young people in all branches of the theater. The group has no sponsorship and no endowment. Directors, instructors, and managers are men and women experienced in little-theater technique who give their services gratuitously. Because most of them are employed all day at regular jobs, the work of the theater league is done at night, from 7 to 11 o'clock.

Monthly plays are presented in the league's theater, which was an old stable renovated by members into a modern playhouse. These performances are open to the public at regular rates; in addition, the group produces plays for independent organizations and receives a percentage of the proceeds.

The league's members are divided into two major categories, inactive and active groups. The inactive members pay a fee of \$7 a year and are entitled to attend all rehearsals and lectures, but do not participate in production work or classes. Active members are separated into two units, the production group and

the student group. The former group is responsible for all plays produced for paid performances, at the home theater, and elsewhere, including performances given gratis for charitable organizations. The student unit is comprised of persons inexperienced in the theater. Their work is confined to study classes and rehearsing one-act plays (which are compulsory for both units). Every 3 months the student group gives a rehearsal before the entire membership. Those who perform adequately are graduated to the production unit.

### *Winchendon, Mass., Play Readings*

In sharp contrast with the Philadelphia league is an informal, simply organized dramatic group in Winchendon, Mass., which is devoted to giving fortnightly readings of plays before public audiences in the auditorium of the town library.

The group was organized by the town librarian. Several years ago he noticed that young people were calling for plays and books on the theater at the library, and through conversations with them he learned that they would welcome an opportunity to give public readings. Organized clubs in Winchendon were notified of the movement for a dramatic group. They cooperated with publicity, and several of their members joined for active work.

Rehearsals almost never are necessary to insure good productions. Two weeks before a play is to be presented, parts are assigned and copies of the play are given to cast members that they may be familiar with the entire script before the performance. Neither settings nor costumes are used. A description of the scene is read to the audience at the beginning of each act in the drama. When the cast is large and the Winchendon library cannot supply enough copies of the play, books are borrowed through the interlibrary loan.

Dramatic groups in communities can range all the way from the simple type of organization such as Winchendon's to the advanced, semiprofessional type like the Philadelphia Theater League.

A survey to determine local interest and facilities for dramatic undertakings will guide any community in making its plans for theatrical activities.

### *Itinerant Theaters—Old Stagecraft Revived*

In New York City the Relief Administration has been engaged on a pioneering job in the field of dramatic activity. The project was not designed to interest young people in forming dramatic clubs. Rather its purposes were to provide jobs for New York's unemployed actors and to devise a way of bringing the theater to the underprivileged.

The means used by the drama department of the emergency work division for presenting its plays was an unusual one, and although not practicable for drama units in small communities, it has been used by recreation agencies in large cities.

The drama department built five portable theaters and mounted them on trailer trucks. During seasonable weather the stages were driven to parks and playgrounds where free, open-air performances were given afternoons and evenings.

The portable theater is comparable in stage equipment to the average modern playhouse. It has a stage 30 feet wide, 13 feet high, and 20 feet in depth when the front and rear walls of the truck are let down and anchored. There are 5 scenic sets painted on both sides, which are equivalent to 10 sets. Electric current for lighting effects is obtained by plugging in on the city lines. The cost of construction for each stage is \$4,500, and \$1,200 for amplifying equipment needed for out-of-door performances. In the winter the stages are used in city armories and other large auditoriums.

In the District of Columbia, the Rambling Theater, established this year by the community center department, is somewhat similar to the New York project, but it is simpler and designed for young amateur actors between 10 and 25 years of age. There is only one truck, an old army van, obtained through the National Capital Parks Department, which cooperated with the community center department in setting up the Rambling Theater. The truck was renovated by volunteer workers from both units and its total money cost was approximately \$75.

During 3 weeks of the summer, the theater visited most of the parks in the District of Columbia, giving two performances on each of 3 afternoons a week. No evening presentations were

held because the theater has no lighting equipment. Two companies of players were used—one a group of grammar school children, ages 10 to 13, who enacted "The Taming of the Shrew" and "Robin Hood," and the other a group of young people between 17 and 25 who are active in the work of the community center.

Stagecraft on the truck theater is of the old Elizabethan type, with changes in scene indicated merely by rearranging properties. Costumes for the older group were made with the help and direction of the community center department. The children had made their costumes as part of school work during the previous winter.

One of the most interesting highlights of the Rambling Theater is the method of production used by the school children. With them there are no formal rehearsals and no cut and dried processes of learning lines from the script, yet every actor in the group can play every role in either of the two plays in the repertoire. This unusual capacity is explained by the fact that during the period of studying a play each actor has to fill each part.

When the group starts in on production the entire play is read aloud by the director. The individual scenes are assigned to players for reproduction without the use of the script. As each scene is played by a small unit it is criticized by the cast as a whole. After criticisms and constructive suggestions have been made, another group is elected to repeat the scene. This process is used for each scene until the whole cast has played every part and the entire production is satisfactory to all players.

### *The Play's the Thing*

The problem most hazardous to the success of little theaters is not an inaptitude on the part of young people to provide wisely for the materials incident to producing plays. Rather, it is a lack of intelligent selection of the plays to be produced. There are two extremes toward which some little theater groups tend to veer, and both are dangerous. On the one hand there are groups which, without mastering the technique of the simple one-act play, plunge headlong into an urbane piece by Noel Coward or

the subtle symbolism of Ibsen. These groups fail in that they are overambitious and do not take the time to learn the fundamentals of acting and production through practice in simple mediums. On the other hand, there are little theater groups that produce dull and trite plays which even superb dramatic artistry could not transform into worth-while entertainment. This type of play, because it makes a superficial appeal to audiences, has no permanent value.

Between these two extremes is a middle course along which many little theaters have built their programs. They have started with easy plays, not farces, fantasies, or melodramas (which are difficult to produce well), but short pieces which call for direct interpretation. From these they have progressed to longer plays of the same type and, finally, to those dramas of complex psychological conflicts.

The question of royalty payments on plays is an integral part of the problem of selection. Cheap, hackneyed plays often are available free of charge. This fact adds to their attractiveness among amateur groups, but the lack of permanent drawing power of such pieces more than offsets the initial financial advantage. Charges for the popular works of ranking playwrights are high and amateur units cannot afford to buy rights on those plays until their ability to produce them competently has been established.

The problem of high royalties has been circumvented in some areas where scattered amateur theatrical groups have combined under a large unit for purchasing purposes. Combination has a distinct advantage in paying for royalties on plays. A central unit may purchase the production rights to a play and circulate the scripts for use among the member groups for the same price which each individual club would have to pay if it purchased the rights independently.

### *Facilities and Equipment*

Housing facilities for a little theater need not cause community groups much worry. Through ingenuity and manual labor almost any medium-sized structure can be converted into a playhouse. Barns, garages, and ice houses have been made into attractive and

adequate theaters, and in Dover, N. J., an abandoned morgue has been used satisfactorily.

Lack of professional equipment need not handicap amateur theatrical groups either. Satisfactory lighting facilities can be made inexpensively by young people with a bent for electricity. Stage settings, costumes, and properties are all things which many young amateur groups are producing for themselves. With the growing tendency for dramatic clubs to be responsible for their own stagecraft, opportunities for young people in the amateur theater increases. The outlet for creative work is not confined to acting, but embraces all branches of dramatic art.

Economical costuming presents some difficulties. Often it is unwise for an amateur group to take the trouble to make all the costumes used in every production. Some of them may need to be adapted so precisely to one play that they will have no utility for future productions. In such instances renting from a costumer is often less expensive than making them. Ordinarily, though, the amateur group does well to build up its own wardrobe. Most types of costumes can be used many times if they are well constructed. They need not be made of expensive materials, but they should be strongly stitched to endure rough handling during quick changes between scenes.

Whatever their facilities and ambitions may be, amateur groups will do well to remember that the play which is average in cost of production, average in the acting and technical ability it demands, and appeals to an average audience is the type which best lends itself to success.

### **ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**ACTIVITIES** in the arts and crafts have values beyond those that are purely recreational. The work that goes into artistic production is always educational, and in many instances it serves as vocational training. On the other hand, even if the occupational and educational values are featured in a program, the recreational aspect is always important because of the nature of the work in the arts and crafts. The satisfaction which results from producing some concrete object that is beautiful or serviceable is ever a source of recreation to the mind and the spirit.

Public and semipublic agencies, such as recreation commissions, school boards, and art museums, are responsible for most arts and crafts programs, but in some localities private organizations have given sponsorship and financial assistance.

### *Chicago's Arts and Crafts Clubs*

Three thousand people in 142 separate units are engaged in arts and crafts programs under the general direction of the recreation division of the Chicago Park District. Each unit is organized as a club, with a leader, selected from among the student members, who is able to direct the work in the absence of the regular instructor. There are only 20 trained teachers for these groups, and as each club meets at least twice a week much of the direction and instruction falls on the voluntary student-leaders.

The only fees charged those studying in the clubs are for materials. Charges vary according to the individual's ability to pay. Those who can afford it pay the full cost of materials, and those who cannot pay get them below cost and sometimes free. Manufacturers have cooperated by supplying scrap material, and several private organizations have contributed funds for the purchase of tools and materials.

Some of the clubs are devoted to work undertaken only by boys and men, and others are made up entirely of girls and women. Those for men and boys are engaged in one of the following activities: Making model powerboats, model yachts, model and full-sized ice boats and kayaks; constructing kites and model airplanes; glass blowing, electrical craft, machine-shop work, photography, radio, mat weaving, cartooning and oil painting; making such game equipment as ping-pong tables and paddles; construction of toys and bird houses, and all types of wood-burning and wood inlay.

Activities solely for girls and women are pottery, rugmaking, quilting, loom weaving, doll and mask making, knitting, crocheting, dress and costume design, honeycomb weaving, needlecrafts, home decoration, and fabric design—including batik, block printing, and silk painting.

Both sexes join in clubs for lantern making, leathercraft, metalcraft, clay modeling, woodcarving, and commercial design.

In addition to these regular interests, the arts and crafts staff directs Christmas clubs in six centers during November and December. Families which are not regularly active in the craft units are invited to make use of the equipment and staff instructors in making their own Christmas gifts.

The staff cooperates with private organizations in planning craft exhibitions and festivities which require the services of professional costumers and craftsmen.

### *Boston's Private Planning Agency*

Lack of professional planning has handicapped many communities in organizing arts and crafts programs. A need for competent guidance in selecting and instituting activities expressed by a large number of Boston's churches, schools, clubs, camps, playgrounds, and settlement houses resulted last year in the incorporation of the Fellow-Crafters Guild. This is a private, nonprofit organization, supported by voluntary contributions, which serves as an advisory and purchasing agency for any group interested in arts and crafts.

Its staff has prepared several craft manuals which are available at a minimum charge and has planned entire programs for craft clubs. In addition, the Fellow-Crafters Guild provides instructors, materials, and tools at cost.

The purpose of the guild is to help individual public and private agencies to promote an interest in the arts and crafts for recreational, educational, therapeutic, and vocational purposes. It has found that lasting interest depends on providing effective exhibitions of craft work, preparing simple and detailed instruction manuals, and furnishing good designs for amateur craftsmen. The guild has assisted the Boston F. E. R. A. and the Massachusetts division of the C. C. C. in developing their arts and crafts projects.

### *Classes at the Syracuse Museum*

In communities where there are art museums, those institutions are logical sponsors for activities in the arts and crafts. Often museums are not in a position to finance programs by themselves, but the use of their equipment and the advice of their staff members usually can be obtained by interested groups.

Cooperation among the board of adult education, the relief administrator, the School Art League, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Syracuse, N. Y., has brought into existence a schedule of arts and crafts which reaches approximately 500 people in that city.

The program started on a small scale in 1932, when the museum sponsored the first free art class in Syracuse designed to meet the demands of a group of young people who wanted to study practical design and lettering. A volunteer art teacher directed the sessions, which were held at night, and contributions from interested citizens paid for materials.

When Federal funds became available, the director of adult education requested from the relief administrator that money be allocated to the museum for further work. Consequently, eight more free classes were established, including leather tooling, pottery making, batik work, mask making, free-hand drawing, fashion drawing, water color, and sketching from life. Classes meet at the museum every afternoon and evening except Saturdays and Sundays.

The instructors are paid from emergency funds. Easels and standard equipment are loaned to the museum by the School Art League, which sponsors Saturday morning classes for young people between 6 and 20 years of age. A small charge is made for the art league's classes, but scholarships are available for talented students who cannot afford the fee.

### *Long Beach, Calif., Outdoor Activities*

The Sketch Club, sponsored by the Recreation Commission of Long Beach, does most of its work in the open air, often meeting in the gardens of members where flowers and plants are used for still-life subjects. Frequently trips are made to nearby natural beauty spots for landscape composition. These are all-day gatherings, partly instructive and partly social.

Another unusual unit at Long Beach is the model boatshop, made up mostly of young men, with a few girl members. This group makes models of star boats, 6-meter sloops, jib-headed schooners, yawls, ketches, and yachts. Interest is kept at a high pitch by two competitive programs. Each month the modelers

exhibit their works for appraisal before a jury. Awards are made for the best entries. Judging is based 30 percent on design of hull, sails, spars, and rigging; 30 percent on detail work; 30 percent on neatness of construction; and 10 percent on finish. During the year there are several model boat races for ribbon awards, and there is an annual trophy meet.

### *Meeting Obstacles*

The problem of providing materials and equipment for arts and crafts has been a serious one to many small communities throughout the country where public funds have not been available and where individuals have not been able to buy their own work kits. Two ingenious means devised to surmount this difficulty may be of interest to communities with similar handicaps.

In several rural counties where the Minnesota State-wide recreation program has established craft units, the activities are very simple, requiring no equipment which is not found in the average home and using only old or discarded materials. The work undertaken by the girls and young women is directed for the most part by older women in the communities. Old sweaters are raveled and reknitted into scarfs, mittens, berets, and collars. Flour sack material is created into colorful dresses and blouses. Hooked rugs are made from rags and monk's cloth.

For the men and boys, woodcarving, block printing, and the making of kites and bird houses are popular activities. The materials used are those that can be gathered from the wood pile and the scrap basket. Many of the young men are making wooden buttons from broomsticks, decorating them with either lacquer or carving.

The eight young members of a craft club in Holton, Kans., a town of 2,700, are engaged in metal work with copper and aluminum, which are fairly expensive. When the art supervisor of the public schools established the unit in February 1935, there was a struggle to obtain materials and tools. Donations from several interested citizens were sufficient to start the work. Since that time funds for working capital, which includes a 20-cent-an-hour wage for the metal workers as well as money for materials and new equipment, have been obtained through the

sale of finished products. The art supervisor serves as instructor and sales agent for the club. A loft of a store building, provided rent-free, has been made into a workshop where members meet 3 evenings a week and all day Saturday.

### **COMMUNITY DANCES**

THERE are two facts which the community that is trying to meet the needs of youth must face. One is that youth loves to dance and, loving it, is going to dance. The second is, if young people do not have the right kind of place to dance within their means, they will find the wrong kind. Every satisfying recreational program should include dancing, recognizing it as a social need and, more than that, as an art offering great possibilities for self-expression.

#### *Pasadena, Calif.*

The community dances of Pasadena have become a notable feature of the recreational life of this California city. Started some years ago as a weekly event on the tennis courts of one of the city playgrounds, they moved indoors when the civic auditorium was completed in 1931. So popular were they that they had to be increased to twice a week and the average number of dancers is between 1,500 and 2,000. The programs became much more ambitious when the dances moved to the civic auditorium. Sponsored at first by the Pasadena Drama League, when that organization became inactive a special organization was formed to conduct the dances, non-profit-making in character and for the purpose of carrying on a wholesome civic recreational enterprise.

By providing dances where the music and the entertainment are of a high order, under expert management, problems of discipline are almost overcome. The rowdy elements are not greatly attracted to dances conducted as these are. Certain rules adopted by the Pasadena sponsoring association may be responsible for the success in eliminating disorder from dances of such large attendance. First of all, order is looked upon as a byproduct and not a primary objective. A good time and enjoyment of the dance are uppermost in the minds of the dancers.

These are some of the major rulings of the Pasadena dances:

1. Tickets are not sold except at the box office during the hours that the dance is in progress. There is no advance ticket sale. This makes it practicable to deny admission to anyone who is unsuitably dressed or unlikely to enter into the spirit of the dance.

2. No pass-out checks are given. This rule is established in Pasadena as in many other cities by city ordinance. It is a wise provision because it prevents sitting out in parked cars or resorting to places where liquor can be had. When no pass-out checks are issued all patrons of the dance are present in the dance hall throughout the period which is spent at the dance. This is a much appreciated assurance to the parents of the younger people.

3. Patrons enter in single file through a brightly lighted doorway. This enables the doormen to scrutinize all those who enter.

4. Ushers, ticket sellers, doormen, floor managers, and other members of the staff are selected because of their wide experience in meeting the public. They know how to deal with situations courteously, firmly, and inconspicuously.

5. The program is continuous and interesting and does not excite boisterousness. No extraneous features, such as speeches, fashion shows, or other things unconnected with dancing are ever introduced.

6. The lighting is such that it does not leave dark corners. During the brief intermission the lights are turned to full brilliance.

### *Lancaster, Pa.*

Lancaster, Pa., has had 15 years of experience in conducting community dances as part of the municipal recreation program. While nominally under the sponsorship of the Recreation and Playground Association, the weekly dances are really conducted almost entirely by a group of young people between the ages of 16 and 25 who represent the various youth organizations of the city. The dances are, therefore, genuinely cooperative in nature, serving not only the community at large but the various organizations and schools. On the community dance board of governors there are representatives from the Y. W. C. A., the two colleges located in the vicinity of the city, a theological seminary,

and two preparatory schools, the local Boy Scout council, the DeMolay chapter, Catholic clubs, etc.

There is fine teamwork among the members of the board. Each week's dance is given under the sponsorship of some one organization or group, which has charge of arrangements, decorations, and the special features of the evening. A 25-cent admission fee—from between 200 and 300 dancers—covers the expense of the hall, orchestra, decorations, and other supplies, so the dances are self-supporting. The details of the dance are planned at an informal round table.

The dances are held in the gymnasium of the Y. W. C. A. every Saturday evening. During the intermission members of one of the "Y" girls' clubs serve refreshments in the adjoining cafeteria for a small sum. There are always two or three couples invited as chaperones.

Although the officers of the board serve for only 1 year the members often serve for several years, and they gain sufficient experience of their own and others in the practical aspects of conducting the dances to run them expertly.

### *Other Community Dances*

Dancing out of doors on the mall in Central Park, has become an important municipal event in New York City in the past 2 years. This spot in the heart of a great city, where the young and old of all classes can come and dance beneath the stars to beautiful music, offers an almost idyllic scene on summer nights. A 25-piece orchestra of musicians from the work relief rolls plays for the dances 2 nights a week throughout the summer. More than a thousand participants enjoy the dances while many thousands more look on. A few rules govern the behavior, with rarely anything happening to mar the enjoyment of the dancers.

The Germantown (Pa.), Boys' Club sponsors dances once a week in the auditorium for a fee of 10 cents. The dances are properly chaperoned and music is provided by the 10-piece orchestra of the club. Proceeds are turned over to the orchestra to purchase music and for other expenses. Nearly 3,000 young people attend.

Community dances are an important feature of a recreation project in Bethlehem, Pa. They are held 4 nights a week free of

charge and with music by the project orchestra. One night is devoted to class instruction. The dances are of a genuine community nature. Three nights they are given in school buildings in different parts of the city and the fourth at the Jewish Community Center. Both the officials of this center and the school board have cooperated wholeheartedly in providing facilities for the dances.

### CLUBS

THE club form of organization, whether for some specific interest or for the sponsoring of varied activities, is increasingly popular. It satisfies youth's love of "belonging", gives a sense of responsibility to the group, and encourages initiative and leadership. The club is the finest possible cradle for good citizens of tomorrow.

There is a wide and growing range of clubs among young people. This method of organizing playground activities has already been referred to. Boys' clubs, with membership mostly of the younger age group, affiliated with the national organization of Boys' Clubs, serve an important need of youth. The 4-H Clubs and the Future Farmers have brought new horizons of interest to rural youth. There are many clubs under different auspices, the church, men's service clubs, settlements, "Y's" and similar bodies. That club where youth organizes itself is perhaps most effective. As one leader of young people says: "Greatest success comes when the young people go looking for the organization; and not when the organization goes looking for the young people."

Because the Manual Arts High School of Los Angeles keeps a continuing interest in the students who have left the school, a number of successful alumni clubs have been formed, such as music, social dancing, and athletic clubs. Also alumni associations of some of the leading school clubs carry on actively. For instance, some of these clubs which are athletically concerned keep in touch with graduates and help to place them in baseball, golf, tennis associations, and in the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

Permission to attend school dances is granted to all alumni in good standing, and two or three alumni associations function at these events each semester.

An alumni association of the Upper Darby (Pa.), Senior High School has rented a hall which it uses for rehearsals of plays and

for community dances and social events. The association has promoted competition in the presentation of one-act plays. It sponsors a number of special social affairs during the year and has basketball teams which play a full schedule.

Music also holds the interest of the association. Several faculty teachers of the school, who are particularly gifted musically, have organized a Delaware County Chorus which is open to graduates of the school, teachers, and members of the community. This chorus rehearses one evening a week and gives at least two public performances a year. It has a membership of 187.

Inatham County, Ga., the emergency recreation program has been organized almost entirely on a club basis. There are clubs for sports of various kinds, clubs among the girls for making puppets and giving puppet shows. Rural clubs of young people, boys and girls, are organized at the different community centers. Meetings are held in the evenings, or there are afternoon hikes. It is an interesting sight to see these young people on the road, singing as they walk. They are taken on expeditions to the art gallery in Savannah and to different historic points of interest. More than 2,000 young people between 16 and 24 belong to these clubs.

The same kind of organization exists in centers for Negro groups. Music is one of the main interests. A song leader goes to every center once a week for "sings" and several concerts are given at the auditorium by a chorus from these centers, which are always crowded by a most appreciative audience.

This is a genuine piece of community cooperation. Many of the activities are participated in by both boys and girls. These clubs were initiated under the works division as a project sponsored by the F. E. R. A., with the cooperation and interest of local people, who have donated buildings and equipment, and the Y. W. C. A., the playground commission, the city, and the health center. There has been no real sponsorship by any organization.

Out of high school, with no chance of going to college and practically no work to be had, a group of boys in Flint, Mich., 4 years ago, found themselves with a dangerous amount of idle time on their hands. A member of the Flint Council of Recreational Agencies and the Flint Rotary Club formed the Facoras

Club. With clubrooms secured in an unoccupied office space and furnished with furniture loaned by Rotary members, the club went into action:

A class in journalism and newspaper work was inaugurated under the direction of the editors of a local paper. The boys were rotated through different departments of the paper and received training, at the end of which the most capable received work.

A class in aviation and ground school work was started, conducted by local aviators.

A class in physical education was conducted by a director of physical education.

There were other smaller classes.

As the leaders in the club, thus trained, their morale stimulated, found jobs, they dropped out to give place to others. The boys were picked off the top, with members leaving faster than new candidates came in. So successful was the club that it practically worked itself out of existence.

At the community centers in Newark, N. J., the many clubs for young people are united in an interclub, or advisory council made up of representatives from the various clubs. Any new group wishing to organize or to become part of the community life must be passed upon by this council and after a month's probation, if approved, is granted a charter. The result is increased responsibility to the center by club members and a feeling of fellowship with the other groups. A further result has been a growing interest on the part of members in other club activities. An athletic club member often becomes interested in dramatics, or fencing.

The interclub council plays an important part in the planning and organizing of special events at the community center and serves as a clearing house for suggestions and criticisms.

In Birmingham, Ala., a group of 10 social clubs of young men between the ages of 17 to 30 have organized themselves into an amalgamation of clubs, with two representatives of each club, for the purpose of scheduling and correlating social and athletic interests of the member clubs. Regular meetings are held bi-monthly, special meetings from time to time. The clubs are

required to have a written constitution, and their purpose must be in accord with the general purpose of the council before they will be accepted. The central organization is financed by dues from its member groups.

Acquiring a membership of 540 girls in 3 months' time, The Haven, in Allentown, Pa., demonstrates what a strong appeal the recreation club can make to underprivileged young people. The movement for a center of organized recreational facilities for girls was started by the Quota Club, a group of business and professional women, for the benefit of girls living in a district of the city where economic and social conditions were unfavorable.

Although started by the Quota Club, as plans crystallized other women's clubs were invited to join in directing and financing the project. The Haven, with its remodeled two-story building, houses special units for sewing, knitting, drama, art, music, current events, story-telling, social dancing, and tap dancing. The program of social events and classes at The Haven is determined by the vote of all members. Labor for renovating the clubhouse was supplied by emergency funds, and the W. P. A. pays the salaries of five teachers, a seamstress, and a matron, who constitute a full-time staff.

### HOBBIES

HOBBIES round out a recreational program as they round out life for an individual. Belonging to that area of the free and unregimented, they offer more opportunity for joy and development than most interests. Hobbies fit into that niche where education and recreation meet and cannot well be classified solely in either category.

For young people finding leisure time on their hands a good wholesome hobby is an investment that pays dividends. Those hobbies which are avocational with vocational potentialities are likely to be the most satisfying, once the "collecting age" is past.

A hobby may be pursued on an individual's own or in groups or clubs. The club form of hobby organization offers the stimulus of comparison and competition, of pursuing the hobby with others, and, when there are exhibitions or tournaments, there is the added zest of working for one's group or club.

Hobbies are endless in their variety, almost as varied as human interest, but mainly they fall into certain categories, such as handicrafts, arts, scientific interests, nature pursuits, collecting, travel.

The hobby where the young person does something, creates something, has a tangible and concrete accomplishment to show for his interest, and where he can measure progress, is the most satisfying.

Hobby interest often has to be nurtured and encouraged in the beginning before the hobbyist has found himself, or 'lost himself' in his interest. In getting a program of hobbies under way in a community it is important to discover and bring together those whose interests are akin. Two people with a mutual interest will often become the nucleus of a hobby group, whether it be for the study of radio, the breeding of thoroughbred chickens, or the forming of a chess club.

Publicity may be necessary to get things under way. A public meeting, an exhibition, or demonstration are effective means of arousing interest. Many cities and communities, schools, and playgrounds have adopted the practice of annual hobby shows. Sponsorship by those who have achieved skill and reputation in the particular field of the hobby lends encouragement to a budding hobby group. The Philadelphia Mineralogical Society, composed of scientists and collectors of mineral specimens, has, for a number of years, sponsored junior membership, thus developing in young men an interest along this line. Boys in high school and others, who show some interest in collecting and studying minerals, receive occupational and educational guidance in these subjects. A number of young men whose interest was developed, as boys, by senior members of the society are now doing excellent work in mining, chemistry, and other lines of scientific research.

Leadership of hobby groups may come from without or, through wise guidance and education, it may be developed within the group itself.

Milwaukee has a model and hobby club council under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. At first formed just as a federation of existing hobby clubs, the council has since become a clearing house of information and a guiding and promotion agency for hobby interests in the city. The hobby council is financed through

the proceeds of hobby shows which are held in the Y. M. C. A. building. It publishes a booklet giving information about the various hobby clubs. A listing of the hobby clubs in Milwaukee gives an idea of the range of hobby interests. They include the following: Aircraft, applied arts, archery, astronomy, boats, casting, chess, dramatics, entomology, fish fancying, handicraft, hiking, horticulture, marksmanship, photography, railroads, singing, sketching, stamps, toy shop.

Most of these hobby groups in Milwaukee, as in many other places, are genuinely creative and deal with the subject in every aspect. The archery group make their own bows and arrows, continually developing devices to improve the quality of their handicraft. In the astronomy group each member builds his own telescope. The model boat builders construct scale models of sailing yachts and power yachts, employing principles of marine engineering. A former transport pilot acts as adviser to the model aircraft engineers. The members of the group employ the same care and skill that would be used in designing a real plane. The casting club includes in its activities the construction of rods and flies. The Milwaukee Fish Fanciers Association, which is the name of the group interested in this hobby, raises and studies tropical, gold, and native small fish. An annual exhibition is held at the Mitchell Park Conservatory which attracts thousands of visitors.

The hiking group combines a number of different interests with this one major activity. There are camping and week-end and summer trips by the members of the club. Photography, nature study, canoeing, horseback riding, and a glee club are all part of the interests of the club. This branching out of interests from the main stem of a hobby is particularly advisable.

The making of puppets is considered one of the best hobbies from the point of view of the many things it involves. This oldest of dramatic arts offers many opportunities, modeling and carving, costume designing, making of miniature stage sets and properties, lighting effects. Color, line, form, proportion, design, all enter into this hobby when rightly developed.

While vocational training should not necessarily be looked upon as a main objective in a hobby, its incidental significance is very real. In Petersburg, Va., where a hobby program for young

men and women has been worked out, an amateur radio club has actually built and equipped its own radio station. Eight of the members of the group have received amateur operators' licenses.

In Lakewood, Ohio, a photography group has resulted in training three young photographers to the point where they have obtained licenses and are practicing professionally. The opportunities along this line for young people who are finding regulation lines of employment closed to them are very great. The hobby may be a magic doorway that opens upon wide and thrilling vistas of the unexpected.

### **CAMPS AND CAMPING**

CAMPING, as a more widely available experience, is one of the wholesome outgrowths of the depression. While patronage of the deluxe camp has fallen off, many more kinds of camps and opportunities for camping have been made possible at low cost and at no cost. It has long been felt that money should not be an insurmountable barrier to the joys of camping, nor should young people have to become charity cases in order to participate in subsidized camps. So, many ways are being found to provide camping opportunities for a much larger group.

Sometimes it has meant the use of facilities of private or organization camps at off-season, or groups of young people have built their own camp lodgings and operated them under supervision. Day camps and home camps have become increasingly popular, offering many of the pleasures of camp life on home ground. These are usually for children. Minneapolis has experimented with day camps, sponsored by a community chest organization. The "campers" usually enjoy the privilege of "camp life" for 2 weeks, meeting at a designated place in the mornings with counselors, and after a day of sports, games, and swimming, with a good meal at noon, they return home in the evenings. The campers pay a nominal sum for these day camps. Transportation companies offer free fare at off-hours.

#### ***Community Camp Council***

Lancaster, Pa., in its cooperative plan for education-recreation services has set up a camp council to act as a clearing house on camp problems among the character-building agencies. This

council has made a Nation-wide survey of what other camp councils are doing (cost of camping, age groups reached, etc.) and has made a survey of local camp facilities. It has divided the camp council into committees for purposes of research as: (a) personnel; (b) sanitation; (c) finance; (d) equipment.

### *New Orleans High School Camp*

When a school bus was purchased in the spring of 1932 by the Samuel J. Peters Boys' High School of New Orleans, it seemed a shame to leave it housed in the garage on Sundays when roads and countryside beckoned. Groups of students and teachers went in search of picnic spots. One site on the banks of the Bogue Falaga, with a sandy beach and high pine land rising from the river, became such a favorite that the idea of a permanent camp grew and took shape. In August 1933, the land was bought by the group. Boat rides, dances, parties, glee club performances, and finally an animal auction to which each one brought a spare pet, netted the required sum to pay for it in less than a year.

Then began building plans. With another mortgage assumed in the summer of 1934, two places were erected—one, a log cabin to house a caretaker, the other, a pavilion combining recreation space with two dressing rooms and a kitchen nook. For drinking water, the boys drilled a 100-foot well, which supplies them with mineral water similar to the health-giving artesian water for which the section is noted. With the opening of school in September 1934, it was only a matter of months before very active plans yielded an amount sufficient to retire the second mortgage.

As time has passed the project has grown. The group incorporated, establishing their own "C. C. C."—Camp Commy (Commerce) Corporation. The charter, issued December 4, 1934, makes every student of the school, past, present, and future, every member of the faculty, a shareholder. The personal feeling in possessing their own camp is a strong influence and is largely responsible for the enthusiastic interest with which the place is regarded.

The camp is constantly in use and is steadily growing. Plans look forward to sanitary plumbing, electric lights, additional dormitories, a faculty house, a reading room, a flow well draining

into a fishpond lined with water cress, a swimming pool lined with cement. The students hope to stop short, however, of too much luxury, not wishing to descend the scale and degenerate into a "dude ranch."

### *Local Camps in Mercer County, N. J.*

Realizing that many boys and girls who might ordinarily go to camp would be unable to because of the economic situation, the Mercer County (N. J.), Y. M. C. A., beginning in the summer of 1934, worked out a camping plan that has possibilities for other places. The State Relief Administration was approached, since the facilities would also serve young people from relief families, and the project became a cooperative undertaking, the E. R. A. furnishing salaries for the camp directors.

Three communities were selected and a local camp was established near each community with accommodations for 28 campers a week. A location suitable for camping activities was found within a distance of 7 miles of the community. Tents and cots were secured from the National Guard. Each community organized a local camp committee whose duty was to cooperate in every possible way with the camp organization and program.

A director was engaged to be in complete charge of the camp, paid by the E. R. A. Four volunteer counselors were secured to act as tent leaders.

The camp was conducted for a period of 8 weeks, beginning the first part of July and closing the last part of August. Boys attended for either a 3-day or 6-day period. They provided their own food, or money equivalent for the purchasing of the same. In some cases the food was purchased in bulk while in a number of instances the E. R. A. was able to provide food for certain boys from relief families.

The boys assisted the counselors in doing their own cooking as well as participating in the building of camp and improving various features of camp during the summer. Arrangements were made at each camp for the attendance of girls, and also for the attendance of both colored boys and girls. Thus the camp served four different groups.

### *New York Girls' Service League Camp*

The Girls' Service League of New York City has a summer camp for girls between 16 and 22 years of age at Salisbury, Conn., which has a character-building as well as a vocational aspect. There is no prescribed length of stay and the matter of pay is also adjustable. If a girl can pay, rates are from \$7 to \$10 a week. The girls do much of the work of the camp. A large garden which supplies most of the fresh vegetables is cared for by them with the aid of an experienced garden counselor.

Besides the regular camp interests, a special leadership training course is conducted for the girls of ability who are interested in recreation and camp leadership. There is a 4-weeks' program planned to suit the needs of the individual girl. In order to provide a field for practice teaching, the leaders directed the play activities at the Lawrence Playground at Canaan each Friday, and different girls took charge every week. During the winter, these girls assisted in the club and leisure-time activities of the league.

The campers have done a good deal of research work into Indian lore in order to construct an authentic Indian village. There are two tepees, modeled after the Blackfoot tepees, beautifully decorated with Indian designs; a 14-foot totem pole, a council ring, a prayer rock, and 10 outdoor fireplaces. People in the section are keenly interested and bring their children to study the project.

Hillcrest camp serves a number of different agencies, the Girls' Service League, other public and private social agencies, high schools, continuation schools, etc. It is owned and operated by the Girls' Service League.

### *Municipal and Other Public Camps*

Among municipal camps, that provided by San Francisco in its mountain camp in the high Sierras at Mather on the Tuolumne Gorge offers the facilities of an ideal recreation retreat within 8 hours' motor ride from the city. It is for the occasional camper rather than for organized groups. Cabins are provided, each simply furnished with a comfortable steel spring cot, mattress,

pillow, chair, stool, wardrobe, plate glass mirror, and electric lights. Bathhouses are strictly modern and adequately equipped with washstands, showers, and tubs. There is a bountiful 24-hour supply of hot water.

Excellent cafeteria meals are served, if desired, and there is every facility for games and entertainment, besides campfire programs and social interests. Very moderate rates are charged. About 300 guests a day are entertained during the season.

Westchester County, N. Y., has been trying out public camps where boys and girls of the county may enjoy happy and wholesome vacations for a small tuition fee. The material facilities are purposely kept very simple. The Westchester Trails Association also provides opportunities to older groups for short camping trips and hikes.

The Jewish Community Center of Des Moines, Iowa, operates a nonsectarian, no-age-limit home camp during the major part of the summer from Monday through Friday from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. The camp is free except for a 5-cent swimming fee, and the activities include (besides swimming) dramatics, journalism, sewing, musical comedy, knitting, dancing, clay modeling, games and sports, and youth forums.

This gives a mere hint of the newer possibilities of camping. It seems certain that the opportunities for this form of recreation will be on a much more democratic basis in the future and many developments will be forthcoming. One county of an eastern State is experimenting with public camps with the very definite idea that the day is coming when camps will be sponsored by public schools.

One of the leading character-building agencies tried out a joint camp last summer for boys and girls of the older group and looks upon this form of camp as a coming probability. These are but a few of the new ideas dawning on the camping horizon.

### **HIKES AND HIKING**

**HIKES** and hiking clubs offer an infinite number of possibilities other than just the joy of walking. They may be explorations. With a wise guide, they may become nature quests or geological excursions. But better than any of the other values of the hike is the good fellowship of the road. The companionship that goes

with walking is rare, the rhythm and swing of the pace invites the right kind of communion. There is no better way for young people to get acquainted, to know one another under natural circumstances without frills and camouflage.

### *Mohawk Valley Hiking Club*

This club of Schenectady, N. Y., suggests the varied activities which may engage the interest of a hiking group. Started in 1929 by the present director, who was then in his early twenties, with a group of young enthusiasts as his associates, many of the members have continued through 7 years as active participants in the club. The membership, however, has grown to large proportions, and is still growing, recruited from varied groups and classes.

From the start the club has paid its own way with the dues of its members. No differentiation is made between members and nonmembers in the cost of hikes and other excursions, of which a majority are open to the public. The hikes are held biweekly during the fall, ~~winter,~~ and spring. Excursions to distant points were formerly made by private car; now busses are chartered. During the winter, snow-trains are run to the Adirondack region. As many as 700 have taken advantage of one of these excursions. Overnight or week-end trips are for members only; otherwise anyone of any age may attend.

The club has taken a strong stand for conservation and has been an important factor in educating the public. During a legislative crisis a few years ago, when big lumber and paper interests threatened the Adirondack Forest Preserve, the club sent out a "flying squad" and successfully combated the propaganda. There have been many significant accomplishments. Beginning with local tree planting, the club has established a wildlife sanctuary on the farm of W. W. Christman, nature poet; a nature trail has been laid out, and a fernery developed, which includes all known local varieties of ferns.

In cooperation with Boy Scout troops, a trail has been scouted and marked as a branch of the Appalachian Long Trail. Leantos have been built by the club, places of natural, historical, or scientific interest visited and marked for the benefit of other hikers, camp sites prepared, farms selected along routes where

lodging may be had. An indoor interest which has developed as a result of the hiking club activities is the educational assembly conducted throughout the fall and winter. There are weekly programs, including illustrated lecture series on geology and local history, moving pictures on insects, conservation, outdoor sports, and other topics, group classes in tree identification, ferns and mosses, and bird study, of which the most popular features are the field trips, and individual lectures on a great number of subjects in the general field of natural history. No charge is made for any of these, except that in the case of moving pictures the audience is asked to make voluntary donations to cover shipping costs. The auditorium and classrooms used for these programs have been supplied by the board of education.

The hiking club has successfully held the interest of young people, who form a goodly proportion of the membership. It requires that they be "doers." In the field of hiking, they are shown how to make equipment which is adapted to their special needs and usually better than they can buy. They learn of conservation facts and problems by going out with pack, notebook, and camera to look for them, recording them, and showing them to the public on their return. An informal group, members and nonmembers together, makes annual bird surveys for the Audubon Society. The work on the Long Path and the Christman sanctuary is as much for others as, or more than, for themselves.

### *Municipal Hiking Clubs*

Municipal hiking clubs have been developed in many places. They usually owe their success to some personality who guides them or to the nature of the continuous promotion. The right kind of preparatory articles in a newspaper or the circulation of a bulletin are important factors.

The Minnehikers of Minneapolis is one of the most successful municipal hiking clubs. Its hikes are scheduled for Saturday afternoons, with a midweek hike on Wednesday nights. There are more than 200 active members, who pay \$2 a year. Nonmembers may join the hikes by applying through the recreation department. The money from membership dues is used in part for the expenses of a publication giving news of the hikes.

The program of the Minnehikers includes a variety of events, such as overnight hikes with sunrise breakfasts; river barge trips ending with a hike; evening skating parties; and other special social events to bring the hikers together.

A municipal walking club in East Orange, N. J., organized in the spring of 1934, is proving successful. Dues are 25 cents, which takes care of practically all expenses. The program for the season is planned by an executive committee. Others besides members may join the hikes, in which often as many as 60 participate. The walks average two a month for the year. An unusual feature inaugurated by the club was a series of midweek evening "about town hikes."

An interesting series of excursions in New York City known as "reconciliation tours" seek to break down race and nationality barriers by bringing together people of different race and nationality. They include visits to foreign sections of the city—to Chinatown, including a visit to a Chinese temple and theater; to a Greek or Russian quarter; or to "Little Italy." Cooperation in the tours is secured through clubs, churches, and societies of the different nationality groups.

In smaller places, trips may be made to historic landmarks and visits paid to old residents who can tell stories of earlier days.

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## MISCELLANEOUS SUGGESTIONS AND PROJECTS

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### FACILITIES

*Kewanee, Ill.*—The Y. M. C. A. program is thrown open to women and girls as well as to men and boys. As groups and as individuals they have access to the gymnasium, handball courts, rifle range, swimming pool, and other facilities.

The building and equipment are available to any outside group at small cost. In 1933-34, twenty-eight different organizations made use of it. The lobby of the building is open to anyone, and many non-"Y" members spend their leisure hours there. A game room may be used on certain nights by outsiders. Boxing exhibits are given now and then. Once a month the swimming pool is available free of charge to the Boy Scouts. The Girl Scout executive has her office in the building, and most of the troops meet there. The Boy Scout executive is also located there.

The program is sponsored by the Y. M. C. A., but the building is called the "Y" Community Building.

*Burlington, Vt.*—The "Y" in Burlington is on a community basis, nonsectarian and opening its doors to all, which serves the recreational needs of young people of the city. New and splendidly equipped, it offers recreation and classes to boys and girls and to adults as well. There is a membership of 1,800.

*Lima, Ohio.*—An old armory has been converted into a recreation center. Shouts of young people at play have replaced the sound of drilling feet. In the basement are boxing rings, shuffleboard courts, locker rooms, showers; on the second floor there are card tables and a wrestling mat. The center is open from 9 a. m. to 10 p. m., 5 days a week, with activities for both men and women: Gymnasium classes, basketball and volley ball leagues, wrestling,

shuffleboard, and pinochle. From 6 to 10 p. m. Friday, activities are provided for colored people.

*Herkimer County, N. Y.*—In this county recreation sponsored by the Y. M. C. A. is on a county basis. Free use of a lodge building in Herkimer was secured which was furnished and equipped through donations. The building has a bowling alley. In Ilion a vacant store has been secured on practically the same basis. It is equipped with a swimming pool, ping-pong tables, and smaller games. Leagues and tournaments have been formed in both towns.

*Chicago, Ill.*—In sections of the city, as in the downtown Loop, where park facilities do not exist, the park authorities are securing the cooperation of private clubs and commercial agencies in the use of their equipment, such as bowling alleys and swimming pools, in order to give opportunity for organized recreation.

*San Francisco, Calif.*—In one neighborhood a group of unemployed girls who could not afford dances, parties, or motion pictures appealed to the nearest playground director for assistance. An abandoned school building adjacent to the playground was transferred from the board of education to the recreation department. The building became the headquarters for the newly organized club, which holds meetings, parties, and dances regularly under the supervision of the playground director. The dances, the music for which is furnished by an unemployed orchestra in the district, are extremely popular. This activity has given the group an opportunity for self-expression, a chance to maintain normal social relationships, and a feeling of "belonging."

*Vanderbilt, Pa.*—Three towns—Vanderbilt, Liberty, and Dawson—uniting in the tri-town recreational center, took over an old store building and made of it a community center. Shelves removed, the main store was made into a basketball floor, the washroom became a "gym", the office a dressing room, the butcher shop a manual training room. The upper floor, replastered and painted, is now the social room, equipped with games, radio, piano. The watchman's bedroom is the office and study for recreation leaders. Equipment has been furnished by the Y. M. C. A., and interested members of the communities provided

new electrical wiring and piping for gas. The leaders' club dug and hauled coal. Ping-pong and other game tables were made by members of the boys' club.

*Dalhart, Tex.*—Having few facilities for a recreation program for young people, the local welfare association obtained the cooperation of every organization that takes part in civic affairs to help in giving an evening's entertainment every 2 weeks for the entire community. They are mostly in the form of a play and are given gratis. Young people are invited to participate in the performances, so that their time is busily engaged, and the community thoroughly enjoys the entertainment.

### YOUTH LEADERSHIP

*Durham, N. H.*—During the summer a leadership institute for rural youth was held which gave not only theory but practice in recreation leadership. As a result of their training, a corps of leaders took complete charge of the play periods for the 600 campers at the State 4-H Club camp during the 5 days it was held.

*Lawrence, Mass.*—The Y. W. C. A. has made it a policy to employ young people whose skill and ability could be used and pay them the prevailing rate in the city, i. e., a graduate of the Leland Powers School of the Theater in Boston conducted a group in dramatics; a graduate of Sargent School of Physical Education conducted classes in social dancing; a graduate of Lowell State Teachers College conducted a children's chorus and acted as pianist for all gymnasium and dancing classes; another developed an orchestra. Other young persons who through lack of funds were forced to leave college, skilled and not experiencing too great financial stress, were given some training as volunteers and put to work advising younger girls' club groups and teaching special groups in such things as sketching, poster-making, toy-making, etc.

By getting in touch with the graduating class of the local high school an active group of young people has been developed. They have become fairly well stabilized, have their own officers, are building their own program, inviting speakers, some of whom are former teachers, and through recreational and educational

activities are developing new interests and widening their outlook. This small group has sponsored recreation for the total group of young people.

*Cape Charles, Va.*—A class in community problems has been a successful project for out-of-school young people with a wide range of accomplishments. The recreation section of the class organized the young people of the community according to their interests and provided facilities for each type represented, including horse-back riding, tennis, swimming, hiking, horseshoe pitching, bridge, and checkers.

### SPORTS SUGGESTIONS

A city-wide sand-lot football league, known as the "Pop" Warner Football Conference, serves the need of many unemployed, out-of-school youth in Philadelphia. Safe and sound sand-lot football for a larger proportion of the population is the end. The idea grew out of an earlier conference originating with a former member of the Swarthmore College team, the "Joe Tomlin 140-pound Football Conference." The plan is both to increase the number of leagues playing football and to further the weight divisions from one (the 140) to five (100, 125, 140, 160, 180 pounds). There are eight leagues throughout the city, geographically divided, and each league is made up of six to eight teams. Each player has to undergo a physical examination and must sign a contract before playing. In so doing, he agrees to abide by the rules of the conference and (1) to play according to rules of good sportsmanship; (2) to keep in good physical and mental condition; (3) to make an effort to learn scientific football; (4) to remember that grudge football is bad football; (5) to spread the purposes of the conference to other sections of the city. The player also promises not to play with any other team if he should leave his own until a new application has been made or he has been regularly transferred. Boys under 21 must have parent's or guardian's signature on contract, which releases the conference from any and all liability. Boys who are members of a school football team are ineligible.

An advisory board is made up of the following: Glenn S. "Pop" Warner, chairman, head coach at Temple University; the head coach of the University of Pennsylvania; coach of Villanova

College; director of physical education of the University of Pennsylvania; coach of Frankford High School; coach of Friends' Central High School; and other local college and school football leaders. The administrative affairs of the conference are in the hands of young men who have had experience in both college and sand-lot athletics. Joe Tomlin, a former member of the Swarthmore College football team and originator of the movement, is the chairman of the executive board. Experienced football officials direct the games, thus eliminating a bad feature of present sand-lot games—biased home team officials. These officials decide on the team qualified to receive the "best sportsmanship" trophy, which will receive more emphasis than the "championship" trophy.

*A physical skill institute* was introduced into its program by the Fort Wayne, Ind., Y. M. C. A., promoted by the young men's committee. The classes are supervised by a skilled faculty of 12 members. Instruction continues for 6 weeks. In the seventh week, tests and demonstrations are held. During the eighth week, recognition is given to those who successfully complete the requirements of the courses on the occasion of a banquet.

Sixteen courses are offered, including (1) athletics, (2) basketball, (3) discussion, (4) dramatics, (5) diving, (6) etiquette, (7) fencing, (8) gymnastics, (9) handball, (10) lifesaving, (11) public speaking, (12) swimming, (13) squash, (14) singing, (15) volley ball, (16) wrestling. These courses emphasize "fundamentals." They are primarily for those who seek to develop new skills. Several courses combine practice as well as class periods. Wherever possible, individual instruction is given.

*A federation of amateur baseball* in Salt Lake City has greatly fostered good sportsmanship and fellowship, and a keener interest in baseball has been promoted. The federation is a purely voluntary agency, sponsored by men who have a keen interest in this sport and by industrial organizations. The program is carried out each year for a period of 5 months. Approximately 350 men participate four or five times a week in organized teams. About 75,000 people enjoy the games at no expense.

A board of control carries out the wishes of the sponsors and managers. The baseball activity has been financed primarily by

a small club fee and by occasional donations from interested citizens. It has now developed to the point where it can finance its own program. The recreational department of the city does not in any way pay directly for this development, but it furnishes a limited number of baseball fields. The greatest difficulty is to secure properly equipped space so that the program may be enlarged.

*Umpires* are always a problem. In Lapeer, Mich., they found the most urgent need was an adequate system of finding umpires for the softball league. Because it was impossible to hire the umpires, it was necessary to depend upon volunteer umpires. This resulted in arguments, confusion, and abuse due to the fact the umpire was not invested with sufficient authority.

The suggestion was made that a staff of umpires be elected or appointed to serve at all games and only those on the staff would be eligible to serve. It would be necessary to pay the umpire a small fee for each game so that he would have full authority to maintain strict discipline. As a means of providing the funds, it is suggested that each team pay an entry fee upon entrance into the league or that the park board appropriate an amount of money to be used for this purpose.

*Twilight baseball leagues* in Lancaster, Pa., are planned for the "left-over" players, mostly unemployed young men who are not expert enough to be in demand by the industrial or church leagues in the city. These leagues, planned by the Recreation and Playground Association, are directed by leaders paid with F. E. R. A. funds. For "left-overs" in the basketball field, also young men, the State armory has been secured for games once a week and girl friends are allowed to attend as spectators. A nominal fee is paid by each team for rental of a court. Between 150 and 200 young people a night are usually served every week.

A *community athletic association* was formed for mutual benefit in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, a town of 2,739 persons, by a group of men and women. All of the 25 participating women are within the younger age group, as are about 20 percent of the 200 men members. The association is headed by a commission of three men. Each team is sponsored by a backer's fee to the extent of \$10 by a local merchant. Players are charged \$1 annual membership fee

and a fee of \$1 for each class of sport participated in. The local school athletic field is being used at no charge to the association except the regular upkeep and repairs. The athletic activities for men include indoor baseball, basketball, volley ball, and tennis; for women, tennis.

*Community skating rink.*—In Adrian, Minn., a small town with a population of 1,200, the first successful skating rink was initiated by the priest of St. Adrian Church. It was a cooperative effort. Part of the parish block was used for the rink, which was leveled off with the help of high-school students, the city permitting the use of the hose cart and furnishing the water. This rink, having proved successful, has since been enlarged and has become a center of play for young and old. The city council voted to furnish light and water for the maintenance of a community rink. The very best lighting equipment was installed, making the rink suitable for night hockey games. Hockey games and ice carnivals have been promoted very successfully the past 2 years. Last year a southwestern Minnesota hockey league was formed at a meeting held in Adrian, with a junior and senior division; the juniors being those in school and the seniors those out of school.

The expense of financing the hockey programs and buying the necessary equipment was only \$21. This amount was raised by selling membership cards in the Adrian community hockey and skating club at 50 cents each to businessmen and others who could afford to pay. No fee was ever charged those using the rink and warming house, which is the priest's private garage, not otherwise in use during the skating season. Lumber used in the construction of the community rink was donated by the local post of the American Legion and interested individuals. On this same plot a tennis court has been set up for the summer for the benefit of the young people of the community.

*Two softball leagues* are organized in each of the 4 cities and 6 villages of Walworth County, Wis., one representing the city or village, and another, an all-star league, chosen to represent the community in the county league. The city or village league is in operation during the week and the all-star league on holidays and week-ends. Further stimulus has been added to the program by having the endorsement of the Walworth County fair committee

to have a kitten or softball tournament during county fair week on the fairgrounds. This not only brings a financial return to the fair association, but also offers an incentive and reward for the teams throughout the county.

## **VARIED ACTIVITIES**

### *A Recreation Cooperative*

A recreation cooperative has been organized in Delaware, Ohio, population 8,675, for the purpose of providing recreation facilities and services on a nonprofit basis. It is regularly incorporated as a genuine consumers' cooperative and is a member of the Cooperative League of the United States. Anyone can belong. The membership fee is \$1. Each member purchases a share of stock at \$5 to provide working capital for the organization. Control is democratic; each member has one vote.

The first venture of the cooperative was providing equipment for traditional games. Books, tools, hand-made games, craft supplies, music, marbles, and leadership services are now obtainable. Expansion of services will be undertaken as fast as needs are discovered and resources are available. Two thousand members, it is estimated, are needed to enable the cooperative to work efficiently. Any group needing recreation materials can pool resources, take a share of stock and purchase as a buying club.

An educational program consists of regional training institutes for leaders and local study clubs.

### *For Returning C. C. C. Boys*

*The Triple-C Veterans Club* was organized by interested citizens of Niagara Falls for the purpose of furnishing educational guidance, placement service, and recreational facilities for returning C. C. C. boys. Before the club was organized, a number of the larger industrial plants in the city were visited and acquainted with the nature of the activity about to be started. Shortly afterward a letter was sent to 41 persons influential in the hiring of labor in local industries, asking their cooperation in carrying out the vocational end of the enterprise by giving jobs to as many of the

boys as possible. Personal interviews were then arranged with persons to whom letters had been sent, in the hope that through these personal contacts more of the members might be given employment.

As a result of the above procedure, 31 boys have been placed in jobs, both directly and indirectly, since joining the club, constituting 18 percent of the membership. An additional 11 (6 percent) were employed by the F. E. R. A. Total employment secured in both private industries and F. E. R. A. was 42 (24 percent).

At the time of registration, each boy was interviewed privately and an attempt was made to discover his aptitudes and intellectual possibilities, with the intent of encouraging him to continue his education along the lines which would prove most advantageous socially and vocationally. Wherever possible, arrangements were made for registration in the adult school. Each boy was encouraged to come in for counsel and advice at any time he wished. A record was made of the previous education of each member and any further education received was recorded on the registration blank from time to time.

The cooperation of the "Y" has been secured and gymnasium and swimming privileges have been made available on three mornings of the week. Ping-pong and billiard tables are also made available.

*Green Guards* is an organization of former C. C. C. enrollees which has developed in a number of places in New Jersey, originating in Summit. Formed with no military or political intent, the Green Guards are planned to become a permanent organization of honorably discharged C. C. C. men, with both white and colored posts, promoting a program of educational, recreational, and employment activities.

Each post is sponsored by a committee of interested citizens. In some instances, a service club or some other organization acts in this capacity. An organization rally is usually held, to which city officials are invited. At this meeting a committee is appointed to draw up a constitution and bylaws. A second meeting is held for the election of officers, and a third is then required in which the constitution is adopted and officers installed.

The members of the guard form themselves into athletic teams and encourage leisure-time activities in cooperation with existing agencies.

*Nature activities.*—What can be done in a city to make young people and others nature-conscious and garden-conscious, is illustrated in Louisville, Ky., in the accomplishments of the community environment committee of the Committee on Youth Outside of Home and School (an outgrowth of Louisville's White House Conference for Child Health and Protection). On the environment committee is the supervisor of gardens of the public schools, who is a genuine enthusiast for the soil. Last year unsightly spots in Louisville came into bloom as if "all of a sudden being beautiful was the whole earth's duty." Gardens were planted, trees were rid of pests, bird baths and feeding stations were built. "Spare the dogwood" became a watchword among young people, and campaigns were waged to protect both the dogwood and the redbud. The living Christmas tree was popularized, likewise conservation of the holly. Evergreens to the number of 530 were planted. Concern about the fate of a century-old ginkgo tree in the city showed a fine reverence for trees. Wild flower contests have been held with the end of teaching which wild flowers to pick, those to pick in moderation, and those that should not be picked at all. The Kentucky mountain laurel festival has gripped the imagination of young and old.

*Mixer parties* have been formed by the Y. W. C. A. in Fort Wayne, Ind., to meet a recreational and social need. Several years ago a "mixer council" composed of young men and women from the business colleges, the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. residences, and Indiana Technical College for men was formed. Representation has changed from year to year, but a mixer party each Friday night continues to be held because of the great demand. The council helps strangers who attend to become acquainted. The greatest difficulty is to keep the attendance in accordance with the space. Each week 320 to 450 young people attend. The first party of every month is free. The others carry a 10-cent admission charge to cover expenses. A small "stockade" provides refreshments during the evening. A student orchestra from the colleges furnishes music, which offers excellent

practical experience for this group of young musicians. Social games and group singing are a part of the evening.

*Travel talk picture meetings* were held once a week for 16 weeks by the Pottstown, Pa., Y. M. C. A. In the beginning cards were sent out and calls made to arouse interest, but the projects later were planned and directed by the youths themselves with little promotion needed.

*Youth week programs.*—The Community Club of Alturas, Calif., is made up of representatives of the city and of social and service organizations. Among its many accomplishments for young people, it carried out a youth week program which included: A great parade and track meet for 15 high schools of the county; youth day in church; youth night at home; fun night for the whole community; youth day at school; youth health day; a youth-at-the-helm day, in which young people visited and helped operate businesses and industries, took charge of three service club programs, etc.

*Indian lore program.*—Through the Historical Society of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and a private sponsor, the playground secured the services of Chinquilla, a Cheyenne Indian, who devoted a month to teaching Indian handicraft and to telling stories to the playground groups. The summer work all centered about an Indian theme. An Indian pow-wow held at Kirby Park the last week of August gave a goal to work for. Indian dances were learned during the summer for this event, and the boys made tom-toms and tepees, the girls made beadwork, jewelry, and costumes. More than a thousand young participants turned out in war paint and feathers. Kirby Park became a real Indian camp for the day.

*A folk festival held in Gallatin, Mo.,* attracted the interest of the entire county. Every community was asked to contribute something in the way of folklore, old-time music, games, dances, stories, or plays. Those contributing assembled at the county seat (Gallatin) and a contest was held. Many of the numbers were given in costume. Admission was free. Some of the numbers proved good enough to be in demand for a fall festival.

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A plea in behalf of a closer companionship between young men and young women. There are many suggestions for wholesome and stimulating activities which they can enjoy together.

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