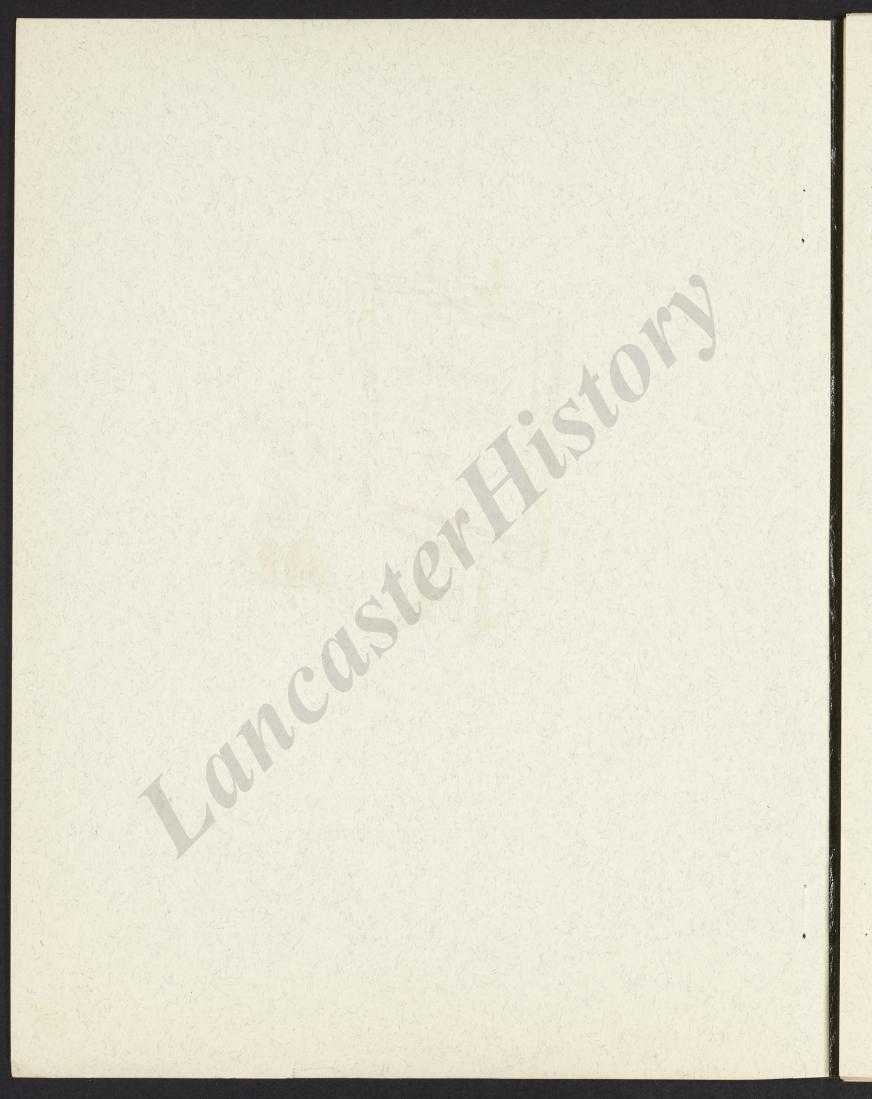


LANCASTER RECREATION & PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA



ANNUAL REPORT

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OF THE

LANCASTER RECREATION AND PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

M. M. HarnishPresident
H. M. HooverVice-President
Mrs. Isadore Rosenthal Vice-President
W. E. AlexanderVice-President
Melo HessTreasurer
A. A. Krimmel, JrAss't Treasurer
G. D. Brandon

W. F. Gibble H. A. Schnitzer Mrs. Walter K. Baer Richard H. Smith Rev. C. D. Spotts Rev. A. L. Benner Ralph W. Coho Wm. J. Robinson, Jr. Mrs. H. W. Barnard C. W. Stehman H. P. Smith, Jr. Mrs. B. F. Snavely FOREWORD

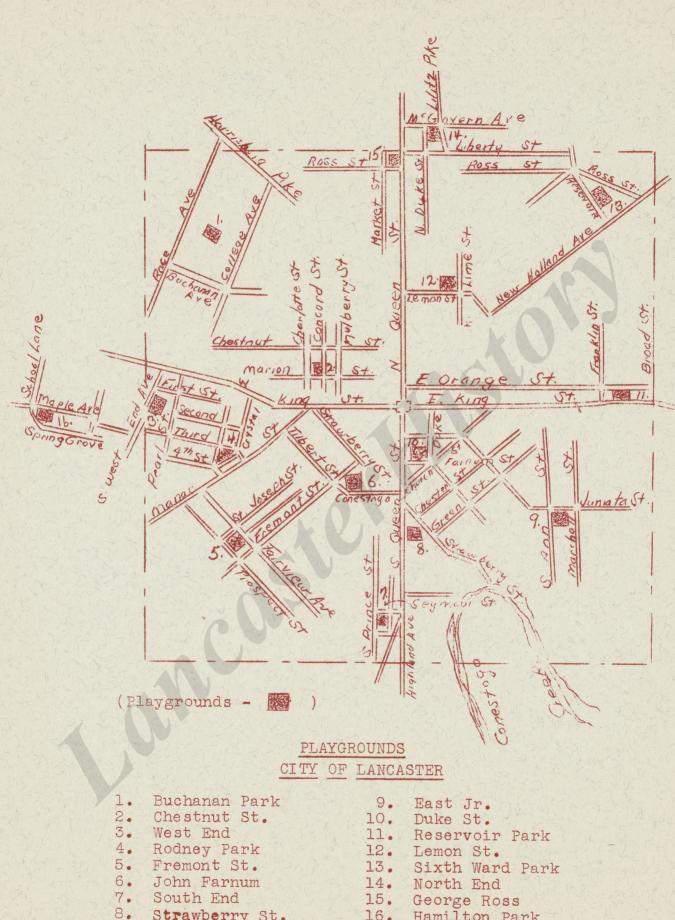
Our civilization has reached the stage when, if we so desire and are willing to pay the price in money and human effort, more attention can be given to the art of living. No longer need our entire attention be given to the making of a living. Science has taken care of this to a great degree. Science has also caused to disappear, or at least to keep under control, many of the microbe hazards of early life. There remains now the possibly greater task of creating a higher form of life.

The time spared for the proper developing of this more abundant life is a gift from the mental and physical toil of our forebearers. How we use it may be our own business, but if we have any gratitude toward those who made this possible, and are not willing to allow this leisure to be frittered away in wistful wishing, we can be a part of another golden era.

The day of tomorrow starts today. Those who are responsible for the direction of the leisure or creative period of life have a very important part to play in this preparation for tomorrow. To the thousands of children, youth, and adults, who look to the leisure time and character building agencies for direction, may we have the vision and courage to not only indicate the trend, but direct the procession.

> -- Grant D. Brandon, Director of Recreation

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- Strawberry St.
- 16. Hamilton Park



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OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PLAYGROUNDS

16 playgrounds were open in 1938. 1 outside the city, Hamilton Park, is financed by a private board which employs the supervisor, and is furnished with material and programs from our association.

<u>Pre Season</u> 5 of these playgrounds were opened for an after school period - 4:00 to dark, on April 25th. The grounds were: Rodney, John Farnum, Buchanan, East Junior, and 6th Ward Park. The major activity carried on at this time of the season is baseball.

75,123 visits were recorded of children and adults attending the playgrounds at this time.

W.P.A. supervision made this early opening

possible.

Grand Opening On June 27th, the 16 playgrounds were opened full time - from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. - the 6 larger grounds were also open in the evening until dark. The map indicates location of these grounds, which fairly well cover the city.

According to records - 128,557 visits were made by 3,500 children to these playgrounds during the summer months.

Evening Centers 6 of the playgrounds, as mentioned above, are open also in the evening to carry on a program primarily for adults. The major activity is baseball, although other activities are also supervised, such as: quoits, paddle tennis, volleyball, handcrafts, etc.

84,771 visits were made by adults attending these evening sessions on the playgrounds.

WADING POOLS

On two of the playgrounds - Buchanan Park and Rodney Park, we supervised wading pools.

The City Park Department authorized us to operate these pools, and the City Water Department supplied the water.

These pools are open daily during the summer months from 1:00 to 4:00. Both pools alternate daily for the use of the boys and girls.

Our records show that 10,304 visits were made by 600 boys and girls to these pools.

STREET SHOWERS

9 Street Showers were open daily during the summer months. Under supervision, each shower is open for a half hour period.

Again for this activity, the City Water Department not only supplies the water, but also cooperates with the Water Dept. trucks.

27,340 visits were made to these showers by 1000 children.

The pools and the street showers afford a much appreciated relief from the heat of summer afternoons for the little boys and girls who cannot possibly attend the regular swimming pools.

FREE SWIMMING LESSONS

At this time we would like to call your attention to the ever growing and worthwhile Free Swimming Classes for children 10 yrs. of age and under, which are sponsored by the Maple Grove Swimming Pool, the Lancaster New Era, and our Recreation and Playground Association.

400 children registered in these classes, of which 150 received certificates for passing the test.

We hope to resume this excellent activity in 1939.

SUPERVISION

48 young men and women supervised the playground activities of 1938.

Lancaster School Board: Supplied 10 supervisors on 6 school grounds.

W.P.A. & N.Y.A.: The same staff which supervised the pre season playgrounds, was placed on the evening centers during the summer months, supplemented by N.Y.A. supervisors. 9 men and 6 women made up this staff.

Recreation & Playground Ass'n: 23 supervisors were employed by our association. Also 1 Handcraft Instructor, 1 Special Activities Director and 1 Construction man.

SUPERVISORS' INSTITUTE

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The Annual Playground Supervisors' Institute was held from June 16-22, evening sessions, covering topics relating to all phases of recreation. Aside from the regular instruction classes, informative and inspirational talks were given by: Mr. J. Stuart Knapp of the National Recreation Association (who had just finished a 6 weeks course in dramatics in our city), Mr. H. M. Hoover, Vice-President of the Recreation and Playground Board, Rev. Earl Franklin Fowler, Pastor, Bethany Presbyterian Church, also Mr. C. W. Armstrong of the Boy Scouts, Miss Vesta M. Miller, Supervisor of the Visiting Nurse Association, and Miss Helen Witmyer of the Health & Physical Education Department, Lancaster School District, offered their assistance in instruction.

50 young men and women attended these sessions, which were open to any persons in city and county interested in the recreation field.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES ON THE PLAYGROUNDS

Kite Carnival

160 boys and girls hurried to Buchanan Park on July 13th, with their newly made kites to participate in the contest. At 2 o'clock, with a good wind in their favor and plenty of string, the sky above the park was soon dotted with flying kites displaying good workmanship.

Annual Playground Picnic

With a day's program of field events and water sports ahead and a lunch box under the arm, it wasn't necessary to urge the 500 boys and girls who were making their way to Maple Grove Park on Tuesday, July 19th, to participate in the program which the supervisors had planned for the Annual Playground Picnic.

Play Day Festival

On July 27, 8 playgrounds on the Buchanan Park grounds, and 8 on the East Jr. Playground, participated in well planned Play Day Festivals.

A varied program of games and relays was given. It was a wholesome day of competition with a friendly, genuine play spirit in back of it.



300 boys and girls participated.

Safety Poster Contest

On display at the Play Day Festival were hundreds of posters on SAFETY, which the children made the week before. The winning posters selected by the judges were turned over to the Automobile Club and later displayed in the Handicraft Exhibit.

Annual Handicraft Exhibit

From Aug. 3 to 9, both show windows at 7 East King Street were filled with handcraft articles made by the children on the playgrounds. Linoleum carvings, bead work, woodcraft, copper sheet designs, plaster of Paris modeling, crepepaper baskets, and many other fine pieces of handwork. This is always a proud moment for the boys and girls who worked over these pieces of art.

Bicycle Meet

70 boys entered the Bicycle Meet held at Williamson's Park on Aug. 10. 8 events were run, from a "Best Decorated Bicycle" to a "One Mile Race". A very fine selection of prizes were donated by business places for the winners.

Mr. E. W. Bowman, City Commissioner, Director of the Dept. of Parks, was Honorary Starter.

The meet was a big success.

Lantern Parades

During the week of Aug. 8, many little Lantern Parades were seen in all sections of the city. At the first signs of darkness the children who had been laboring all day converting boxes of all shapes and kinds into attractive lanterns, eagerly lighted the candles and took delight in parading around their playground.

Soap Box Derby

On August 17th, 15 boys lined up on the starting line with the most amazing racing cars in this present streamlined age and were pushed by their assistants down the track (Highland Ave.) to the finish line amid cheers from the hundreds of excited boys and girls in the spectator line. South End Playground was host and served refreshments.

Track Meet

A large Track Meet was held on the athletic field of Franklin & Marshall College grounds on Friday, August 19. Anafternoon of relays and varied competitive games and contests were scheduled.

Several hundred boys and girls participated in this program.

Interground Tournaments

Baseball

Sr. Group - Winners: Buchanan Park (Age limit 15 yrs.)

Jr. Group - Winners: John Farnum (Age limit 12 yrs.) Playground.

Treat for Baseball Champions

On August 26, 150 boys, with the Lancaster Rotary Club acting as sponsor and assisting with cars, were escorted by State Motor Police to Shibe Park, Philadelphia, to witness a major league game.

Needless to say, this was participated in with much enthusiasm.

<u>Girls' Volleyball</u> Winners: John Farnum Playground (Age limit - 15 yrs.)

Aside from these major tournaments, the following were also scheduled: Paddle Tennis, Quoits, Badminton, Newcomb.

Weekly Events on the Playgrounds

At the weekly Saturday morning Staff Meeting the supervisors presented the schedule of special activities they planned to hold on their playgrounds the following week.

Events such as the following were scheduled: Treasure Hunts, Amateur Shows, Pet Shows, Doll Shows, Baby Shows, Stuffed Animal Shows, Dress-Up and Costume Shows, Scrap Book Contests, Parents' Night, Boxing Matches, Freckle Contests, Hikes, Turtle Races, Scavenger Hunts, Beetle Contests, Soap Bubble Contests and enumerable other events.

The children are given awards which are made in our office with a linoleum block designed and made by the handicraft instructor. The block print of award also carries a design suggestive of the event and when stamped on satin ribbons in various colors, produces a fine award which the children feel proud to wear.

THE RECREATION JOURNAL, an annual publication written by the supervisors, was distributed at the close of the season. This 33 paged volume was one of the finest, carrying articles from every playground along with individual pictures of the supervisors, summaries of the season's sports, feature articles, and last but not least, humor.

> "Play is experience with satisfactions. This experience may be an anticipation, a realization, or a memory of satisfactions. Ordinarily play is a sociable experience in which voluntary motor activity (physical exercise) is prominent. But play may be passive. It may be solitary. Fantasy, day dreams, and air castles are different names for unsociable passive play. One may secure his play, in part, watching the active play of others. Absorbing work, mental or physical, is play."

> > - Thomas A. Storey, Pd.D., M.D. in Principles of Hygiene.

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

CLUBS

Our club program for boys and girls is the largest feature on our fall and winter schedule. This is the 8th season, and since 1932 has grown from 1 club to the present 8 now being supervised.

1045 boys and girls were registered in the clubs this season. The weekly attendance averages 505.

The School Board has been very generous in granting permission to use 3 of the school buildings in which these clubs are operated - Rockland, Fremont, and George Ross Schools. Through the courtesy of the Welfare Federation Board, a room in the basement of the new Community Building is used for a boys' club two afternoons a week. This special club is interested in radio and electric construction work.

The clubs were opened in October and continued until the outdoor season, April 24th.

The clubs and attendance:

Boys' Club	George Ross School	75
		150
Boys' Club	Community Bldg.	
Girls' Club	Rockland St.School	80
Sr. Boys'Club	Rockland St. School	100
Jr. Boys'Club	Fremont St. School	300
Jr. Boys'Club	Rockland St.School	225
Girls' Club	Fremont St. School	100
	Sr. Boys Club Boys' Club Girls' Club Sr. Boys'Club Jr. Boys'Club Jr. Boys'Club	Sr. Boys Club Fromont St. School

Total Registration -- 1045

The clubs are open from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. and the activities include: Basketball, ping-pong, boxing, wrestling, darts, shinney; also handicrafts including: woodwork, linoleum carving, crystal radio sets, erector construction, and the girls also make baskets and vases with crepepaper twist, yarn purses, etc. The Boys' Club held in the Community Building is open from 4:15 to 6:00.

The clubs in the school buildings meet in basement quarters and the facilities are not ideal, but in spite of this

they have a good time and learn many useful things. Until better quarters can be secured these clubs are filling a great need in the social and recreational life of the boys and girls who attend the weekly sessions.

BASKETBALL PROGRAM

This was the 10th consecutive year our basketball program has been carried on for the young men of the city.

Through the courtesy of the Lancaster School Board we used both the East & West Jr. High Schools 3 nights a week, the George Ross School 1 night a week, and through the courtesy of Rev. George W. Brown, used the St. Mary's Parish Hall 2 nights a week.

62 teams sent in requests for courts and 55 of these teams along with their opponents played 1,550 games during the season, each using a court 1 hight a week for 25 weeks. The other 7 teams which requested courts had to be turned away due to lack of a sufficient number of courts.

This activity gave approximately 500 young men one evening's activity per week.

The annual Round Robin Tournament was started on March 13th with 46 teams lined up in classes A, B, and C. At the close of the tournament, April 10th, awards were given to the winners of each class.

A Foul Shooting Tournament was held from April 11th to the 18th. 200 young men entered and the award was given by the Aleph Zadik Aleph of the B'nai B'rith, which organization acted as sponsor.

This activity is self-sustaining, the teams paying a nominal fee for the use of the courts, out of which expenses are paid, leaving the balance to be given to the School Board.

COMMUNITY PARTIES

23 Community Parties were held this season in the gym of the Y.W.C.A., Saturday evenings, from October to the end of April.

This is the 18th consecutive year these parties were held and the attendance is at a high peak, running anywhere from 250 to 380 an evening, with a total registration of 1,500 young people.

The Board of Governors directing and supervising this activity, is composed of 30 volunteers - young men and women representing the various schools, colleges, and other organizations in the city and county. This board meets once a week to plan for the following Saturday party, arranging for the decorations, prizes, booking orchestras, securing chaperones, and taking care of all problems that arise.

5 members of the board were presented with honor pins for their outstanding services on the committee.

SUPERVISION FOR INDOOR PROGRAM

W.P.A. 12 mon and 2 women were assigned by the County Supervisor of the Works Progress Administration to supervise the activities of the boys! and girls! clubs and the basketball program.

N.Y.A. 1 man and 1 woman were supplied by the National Youth Association to assist in supervising our activities.

COLLEGE N.Y.A. 7 men from the F. & M. College under N.Y.A. were assigned to our association this year, and assisted in supervising our winter activities.

RECREATION & PLAYGROUND ASS'N Aside from the Director, 2 part-time to fill supervisory positions for our winter program.

CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION CENTER Aside from the Director of the Crispus Attucks Center, woman was employed by that organization, part-time to supervise in one of our girls' clubs.

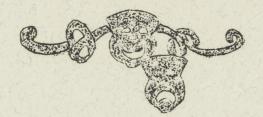
VOLUNTEERS 30 men and women, representing the schools, colleges, clubs, and various organizations in the city and county, assisted in supervising the Community Parties during the winter.

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY 1 man to assist in supervising at the boys' clubs. This was also volunteer service.

"Adolescents, perhaps more than any other group, need to have their drives integrated around interests which command their full output of energy. They need interests which bring them together in groups for common aims. Lacking such interests, or lacking the materials and facilities for the outlet of such interests, these young people turn to illicit modes of play as naturally as the thirsting man stumbles toward the mirage. It is a violent denunciation of society in general and of education in particular that our average criminal is nineteen years old."

-- Alice V. Kelliher.

DRAMATICS



From May 27 to July 8, 1938, Mr. Jack Stuart Knapp, Dramatic Specialist of the National Recreation Association conducted a Dramatic Institute 3 nights a week. 86 young men and women from the city and county regularly attended these classes which were held at Diagnothian Hall, F. & M. College.

The institute covered the entire field for the amateur, such as: organization, selection of plays, casting, directing, speech, making scenery, costumes, lighting, make-up, etc. Also puppetry, pageantry, and religious drama. Special classes in the afternoon were held for those who were free to attend.

During this time project plays were also underway and at the conclusion of the institute 6 of these plays were presented on July 7th and 8th to a capacity audience of friends each evening. The scenery, costumes and all necessary preparations for converting the hall into a theatre were made by the members. At this time a weekly radio play was also scheduled.

Out of this burst of dramatic enthusiasm a permanent organization was formed, known as "The Community Theater of Lancaster", admitting only those who had by their performance and artistic ability proven themselves worthy of membership. The group also organized an Experimental Group for those who had yet to prove their ability.

The purpose of the Community Theater is to provide the community with educational entertainment through the medium of all branches of dramatic arts, and to promote drama as a phase of community interest.

Two major plays have been presented at the Little Theatre of F. & M. College, each running 5 nights, the 3rd major play is to be presented later this season.

The Community Theater of Lancaster has already been of assistance to the Welfare Federation in producing short plays for their conferences, and has also presented and coached plays at various churches, schools and other organizations requesting their help. At one time an entire cast was taken to another city to present a play upon request.

This activity is a much needed and desirable outlet for the many young men and women who have a love for dramatic expression.

RECREATIONAL SERVICE

Our library and files are in constant demand by individuals interested in all phases of recreation. Many individuals consult our files for party and picnic suggestions. Picnic kits and complete programs for picnic and indoor programs as well as supervision for the same are given by our association.

Our moving picture films on playgrounds, clubs, and hiking activities are in great demand, not only for our own meetings, but for other interested groups.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

HIKING CLUB

Interest seems to be increasing yearly in recreation activities that take people out of doors. This applies with particular emphasis to the Hiking Club, which has a membership of 100.

In the past our activities have been confined to spring and autumn hiking. With the formation of a special committee to assist the director, this group will possibly enlarge its program to include each season of the year. The new committee is as follows: Mr. Edward J. Kessler, Chairman; Mr. M. M. Harnish, Mr. A. W. Shertz, Mr. Roy Albright, Mr. Henry R. Herr, Miss Mary Bomberger, and Mrs. E. C. Klingensmith.



CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION CENTER

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Organized groups and clubs during the past year carried a total enrollment of 470 members, ranging in age from pre school children through adolescents. An additional 100 children of various ages hold memberships in the free play and game groups and visit the Center daily. (The enrollment of Rockland Street School Clubs is not included since such memberships are already included elsewhere in the report of the Recreation and Playground Association.)

During the summer of 1938, a membership of 300 children, white and colored, made 6,000 visits to the Strawberry St. Playground.

The Center made it possible for six girl Reserves to attend Camp Arcola for one week.

Approximately 30 adults were assisted in finding employment or making contacts leading to employment during the past year.

Special activities, such as - Hallowe'en, Christmas, and Easter parties drew a total attendance of 625 children ranging in ages from 2 to 18. Various fraternal and church organizations of the community held 30 social activities, such as - suppers, teas, and card parties in our main activity room during the past year.

Outstanding activities of community interest were a Christmas Candle Lighting Service by the Senior Girl Reserves, with an attendance of 120. The Second Annual Dinner of the Board of Directors with an attendance of 36 adults; the First Annual Banquet of the Clarence Cameron White Choral Society, attended by 40 persons; and the crowning event of the winter program of cultural events, the Concert rendered by the Clarence Cameron White Choral Club, under the direction of Dr. Clarence Cameron White of the National Recreation Association staff. During Dr. White's stay in our community, two other national representatives looked in upon our program, Mr. J. W. Faust and Mr. E. T. Attwell.

As an outgrowth of Mr. Attwell's visit, a Bi Racial Advisory Committee of 14 members has been established to function with our Board of Directors in advancing the program.

Recently the Center has been used as a source agency for study by the Youth Leaders Conference of Pennsylvania which convened in Lancaster. We are also cooperating with student groups from F. & M. College in obtaining material about Negro life in Lancaster.

The director has given 30 talks to various religious and civic groups on better racial understanding, during the past year.

We continue to hope that the time may come when even Lancaster can boast of something more adequate than our present "Rocking Chair Center", and thus do a real piece of service in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. RUBY M. PAYNE, DIRECTOR CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION CENTER.

Summary of Individual Contacts

Clubs	450
Free Play Groups	100
Playground (Strawberry)	300
Parties	625
Special Activities	196
Visitors for inter-	
views, conferences, etc.	75
Social Events by outside	
organizations:Teas, .	300
Suppers, etc.	
Total Contacts - I,	,996

FINANCIAL REPORT

RECEI PTS

Welfare Federation: Maintenance Replacement	\$8582.00 500.00	\$9082.00	
Public Funds: Lancaster City Park Dept. Lancaster School Board (Paid to 10 supervisors on 6 school grounds.)	1000.00 1125.00	0105 00	3
		2125.00	
Donations Junior League (For special equipment)	200.00	200.00	
General Income Farmers Bank Dividends Refund - Handicraft Community Party Fund (Toward Mimeo.Machine)	15.10 41.90 39.88	296.88	
Total Rec	eipts -		\$11.503.88
DI SBURSEMENTS			
Administration Expense Administrative Salaries Misc. Expenses	\$4432.50 270.64	4703.14	
Service Expense Service Salaries Athletic Supplies Service Expenses	3909.06 914.28 707.83	5531.17	
General Expense Mimeograph & Adding Machines	270.00		
National Recreation Ass'n Replacement Misc. General	150.00 665.87 286.64	1372.51	
Total Dis	bursements		\$11,606.82
Deficit	at end of	year -	\$ 102.94

NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Our National Recreation Association with headquarters at 315 Fourth Avenue, New York City, has been more than generous during the past year in the outstanding assistance rendered Lancaster's Recreation Association.

Last year in June and the early part of July, the association gave us the assistance of Mr. Jack Stuart Knapp, for approximately 6 weeks, during which time a Dramatic Institute was conducted. The present Community Theater of Lancaster owes its start and much of its success during the past year to this institute. Again in March of this year, Mr. Knapp made a three day return visit to our city, reviewing the work of the Community Theater group.

We have also had a return visit from Dr. Clarence Cameron White, who spent 4 weeks conducting a Music Institute, and training a choral group among our Negro people. The past two visits of Dr. White also has resulted in the formation of a permanent choral organization in the Crispus Attucks Recreation Center, known as the Clarence Cameron White Choral Society.

Mr. E. T. Attwell's visits to our Negro Recreation Center have also been very helpful and greatly appreciated.

The regular visits of Mr. J. W. Faust, the District Representative, are looked forward to with interest for a general checkup on our work, and as a source of information for new projects.

The National Recreation Association is looked upon not only as a parent organization, but as a source of inspiration and information on national and international policies.

"The purpose of the recreation center is life - life in all its fullness - life that runs, that sings, that lifts, that has power, that flows back into the home, the church, the factory and gives greater meaning to everything that happens from hour to hour and makes even silence and rest more significant."

-- Howard Braucher, Secretary National Recreation Ass'n.

OUR THANKS

To the Mayor and members of the City Council for providing office space in the Municipal Building, the cash donation of \$1000., assistance in taking care of and providing police protection on Buchanan, Rodney, John Farnum, South End, 6th Ward, and Reservoir Parks. For assistance in providing water for the wading pools and street showers and transportation for attendants at the showers. For the completion of the purchase of one remaining city playground at Rockland & Green Sts., made possible by the \$50,000 loan.

To the Lancaster School Board for the use of 5 school buildings to house our activities for the boys and girls clubs and the basketball program during the indoor season. For sufficient funds to pay for the supervision on the 6 school grounds during the summer season.

To Rev. George W. Brown, Pastor of St. Mary's Church, for the use of the Parish Hall to take care of the basketball activities during the indoor season.

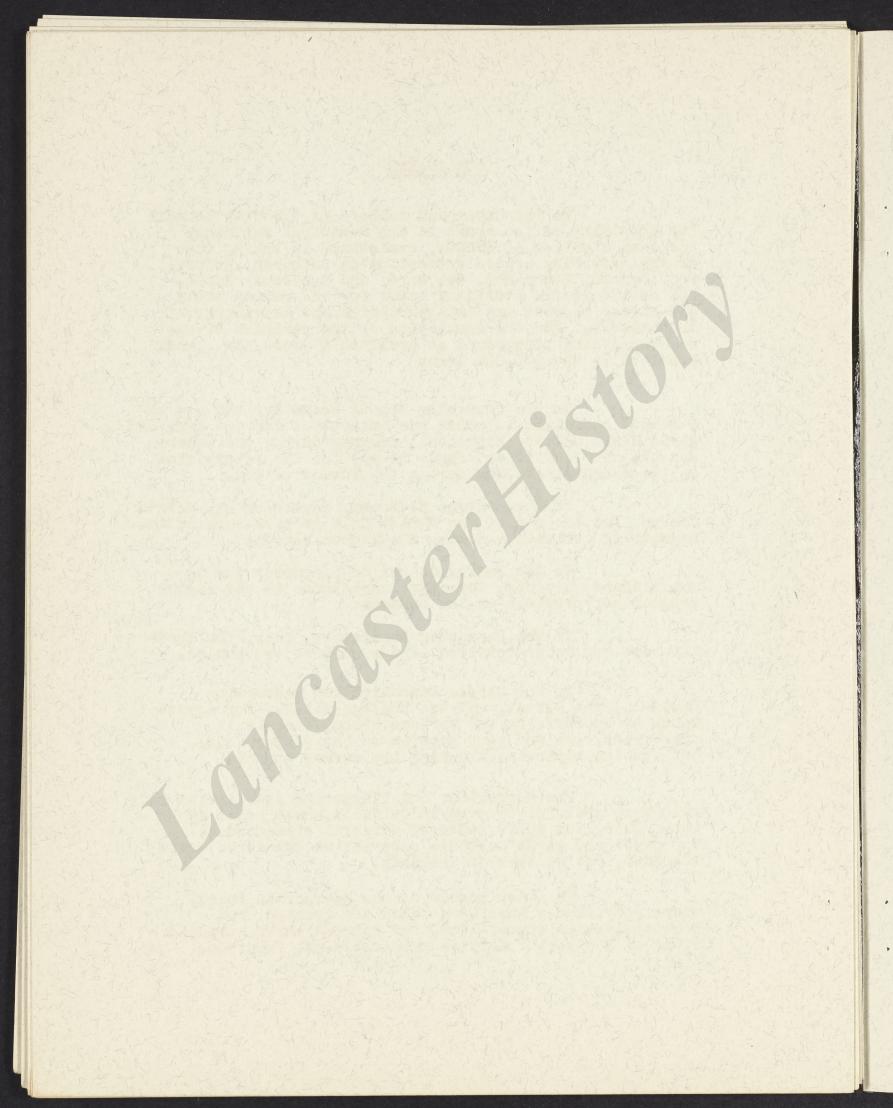
To the Junior League of Lancaster and to Mr. Richard Oblender, for extra assistance in our summer program not provided in the budget.

To the Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., for their interest and interpretation of our work to the public.

To the W.P.A. Education and Recreation Division, the N.Y.A., and the College N.Y.A., for assistance in supervising the various clubs, basketball activities, pre and post seasons on the playgrounds, and evening supervision during the summer months.

The Recreation and Playground Association is also very grateful to many individuals, whose names do not appear, for their gifts of material presented to our boys' and girls' clubs - material we otherwise would not have, due to lack of finances.

To every member of the Recreation Board, whose service may have been taken for granted, but nevertheless is appreciated, and without which, organizations of the social service type could not function.



The Lancaster Recreation and Playground Association, one of the 16 agencies of the Welfare Federation, is located in the Municipal Building, 112 North Duke Street, where this booklet was prepared and mimeographed.

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