

LANCASTER RECREATION \& PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

# ANNUAL REPORT 

## OF THE



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FOREWORD

Our civilization has reached the stage when, if we so desire and are willing to pay the price in monoy 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 kecp 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 lifo is a gift from the mental and physical toil of our forebearers. How wo 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 bo a part of another goldon era.

The day of tomorrow starts today. Thosc who are rosponsible for the direction of tho leisure or creative period of life have a very important part to play in this proparation for tomorrow. To tho thousands of children, youth, and adults, who look to the leisure time and charactor building agencies for direction, may we have the vision and courage to not only indicato the trend, but diroct the procossion.
-- Grant D. Brandon, Diroctor of Recreation



## 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.

Pre Season 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.
possiblo.
W.P.A. supervision made this early opening

Grand Opening on June 27 th, 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 the so 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 tonnis, volleyball, handcrafts, otc.

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

## WADI NG POOLS

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

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

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

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

## STREET SHOWERS

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

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

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

The pools and the street showers afford a much appreciatod reliof from the hoat of summer afternoons for the littlo boys and girls who cannot possibly attend the regular swimming pools.

## FREE SWIMMING LESSONS

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

400 children registered in the so classes, of which 150 recoived cortificates for passing tho tost.

Wo hope to resume this oxcollent activity in 1939.

## SUPERVISI ON

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 Assin: 23 supervisors were employed
by our association. Also
1 Handcraft Instructor, I Special Activities Director and I
Construction man.

## SUPERVISORS' INSTITUTE

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 the se sessions, which were open to any persons in city and county interested in the recreation field.


## Kite Carnival

160 boys and girls hurried to Buchanan Park on July 13 th, with their newly made kites to participate in the contest. At 2 olclock, 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, gonuine play spirit in back of it.


300 boys and girls participatod.

## Safety Poster Contest

On display at the Play Day Festival were hundrods of posters on SAFETY, which the childron made the woek before. The winning posters selected by the judges were turned ovor 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 Streot were filled with handeraft articles made by the children on the playgrounds. Linolcum carvings, boad work, woodcraft, copper shoet dosigns, plastor of paris modeling, cropopaper baskets, and many other fine pieces of handwork. This is always a proud moment for the boys and girls who worked over the se piocos of art.

## Bicyclc Moet

70 boys entered the Bicycle Moct held at Williamson's Park on Aug. 10. 8 ovents wore run, from a "Bost Decoratod Bicyclo" to a "Onc Mile Raco". A very finc selection of prizes were donated by businoss placos for the winners.

Mr. E. W. Bowman, City Commissioner, Diroctor of the
Dopt. of Parks, was Honorary Startor.
Tho mect was a big success.

During the wook of Aug. 8, many littlo Lantorn Parades were seen in all sections of the city. At the first signs of darknoss the childron 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 17 th, 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. An afternoon 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.

Girls: Volleyball 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, Amatour 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, Turtlo Races, Scavenger Hunts, Beetle Contests, Soap Bubblc Contosts and enumerablo other events.

The childron are given awards which are made in our office with a linoloum block designed and mado by the handicraft instructor. The block print of award also carrios a dosign suggestive of the event and whon stamped on satin ribbons in various colors, producos a fino award which the childron fool proud to wear.

THE RECREATION JOURNAI, an annual publication writton by the suporvisors, was distributed at the closo of the soason. This 33 pagod volume was ono of the finest, carrying articles from overy playground along with individual pictures of the suporvisors, summarics of tho season's sports, foature 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."

## INDOOR ACTIVITIES

## CLUBS

Our club program for boys and girls is the largest foature on our fall and winter schodulc. This is the 8th soason, and since 1932 has grown from 1 club to the prosent 8 now boing suporviscd.

1045 boys and girls were registerod in the clubs this season. The weckly attendance averages 505.

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

The clubs were opencd in october and continued until tho outdoor season, April 24 th.

The clubs and attendance:

| Monday | Boys ' Club | Georgo Ross School | 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Tue sday | Sr. Boys Club | Fromont St. School | 150 |
| Tue. \& Fri. | Boys ${ }^{\text {Club }}$ | Community Bldg. | 5 |
| Tuesday | Girls : Club | Rockland St.School | 80 |
| Wednesday | Sr. Boys 'Club | Rockland St. School | 100 |
| Thursday | Jr. Boys'Club | Fromont St. School | 300 |
| Friday | Jr. Boys'Club | Rockland St.School | 225 |
| Friday | Girls' Club | Fremont St. School | 100 |
|  | Total | Rogistration -- | 1045 |

The clubs are open from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. and the activitios includo: Basketball, ping-pong, boxing, wrostling, darts, shinney; also handicrafts including: woodwork, linoloum carving, crystal radio sets, erector construction, and tho girls also make baskets and vases with cropepaper twist, yarm pursos, etc. The Boys' Club held in the Community Building is open from 4:15 to 6:00.

The clubs in tho school buildings meet in basement quarters and the facilitios are not ideal, but in spite of this thoy have a good time and learn meny useful things. Until better quarters can bo securod these clubs are filling a great noed in tho social and recreational life of the boys and girls who attend the wookly sessions.

## BASKETBALL PROGRAM

This was the loth consccutive year our basketball program has been carried on for the young men of the city.

Through the courtesy of the Lancastor 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 Holl 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 l hight a weck 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 mon one evoning's activity per week.

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

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

This activity is self-sustaining, the toams 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 l8th consecutive year these parties were hold and the attendance is at a high poak, running anywhere from 250 to 380 an evening, with a total registration of 1,500 young peoplo.

The Board of Govornors directing and supervising this activity, is composed of 30 voluntecrs - 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 cheperones, and taking care of all problems that arise.

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

## SUPERVISION FOR INDOOR PROGRAM

W.P.A. 12 mon and 2 women were nssignod by the County Supervisor of the Works Progross Administrati on to superviso the activities of the boysi and girls' clubs and the basketball program.
N.Y.A. $I$ man and 1 woman were suppliod 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. and assisted in were assignod to our association this year, and asted in supervising our winter activitios. RECREATION \& PLAYGROUND ASS'N Aside from the Director, 2 part-time to fill supervisory positions l woman were omployed CRI SPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION CENTER Aside from the Director of I woman was omployed by that the Crispus Attucks Centor, supervise in one 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 tho Community Partios during the winter.

## REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

1 man to assist in supervising at the boysi clubs. This was also volunteer service.
"Adolosconts, porhaps moro than any other group, need to have thoir drives integrated around intorosts which commend their full output of enorgy. They nood intorests which bring thom together in groups for common aims. Lacking such interests, or lacking the materials and facilities for the outlet of such interests, these young pooplo tum to illicit modes of play as naturally as the thirsting man stumbles toward the mirago. It is a violent donunciation of socioty in genoral and of oducation in particular that our avorage criminal is ninetoen yoars old."

## DRAMATICS



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

The instituto covered the ontire ficld for the amateur, such as: organization, selection of plays, casting, directing, specch, making scenery, costumes, lighting, make-up, etc. Also puppetry, pageantry, and roligious 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 institutc 6 of these plays were presented on July 7 th and 8 th 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 3 rd major play is to be presented later this season.

The Commity 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.

## RECREATI ONAL 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 Recreati on and Playground Association.)

During the summer of 1938, a membership of 300 children, white and colored, made 6,000 visits to the Strawberry S.t. 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. Attwoll'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 roligious 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 <br> 450

Free Play Groups ..... 100
Playground (Strawberry) ..... 300
Parties ..... 625
Special Activities ..... 196Visitors for inter-views, conferences, etc. 75Social Events by outsideorganizations:Teas, 300Suppers, etc.Total Contacts - 1,996

FINANCIAL REPORT

## RECEI PTS

| Welfare | Federation: |
| :--- | ---: |
| Maintenance <br> Replacement | $\$ 8582.00$ |
| 500.00 |  |

$\$ 9082.00$
Public Funds:
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { Lancaster City Park Dept. } & 1000.00 \\ \text { Lancaster School Board } & 1125.00 \\ \text { (Paid to } 10 \text { supervisors } & \\ \text { on } 6 \text { school grounds.) } & \end{array}$ 2125.00

Donations
Junior League
(For special equipment)

200.00

General Income
Farmers Bank Dividends
15.10

Refund - Handicraft
41.90

Community Party Fund
39.88
(Toward Mimeo.Machine)
296.88

## Total Receipts -

$\$ 11.503 .88$

## DI SBURSEMENTS

Administration Expense
Administrative Salaries Misc. Expenses
\$4432. 50
270.64

$$
4703.14
$$

Service Expense
Service Salaries
3909.06

Athletic Supplies
914.28

Service Expenses
707.83

$$
5531.17
$$

General Expense
Mimeograph \& Adding
Machines $\quad 270.00$
National Recreation Ass'n 150.00
Replacement
665.87

Misc. General
286.64
1372.51

Total Disbursements -
Deficit at end of year - \$11,606.82
$\$ 102.94$

## 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."

## OUR THANKS

To the Mayor and members of the City Council for providing office space in the Municipal Building, the cash donation of $\$ 1000$., assistanco in taking care of and providing police protection on Buchanan, Rodney, John Farmum, 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 \& Greon 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 ${ }^{\prime}$ and girls' clubs - material wo otherwiso would not have, due to lack of finances.

To overy 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.

