

A detailed line drawing illustration for the cover of an annual report. At the top, a large banner is held up by a small boat, with the text 'ANNUAL REPORT 1939' written on it. Below the banner, a larger boat is shown navigating through turbulent, foamy waves. In the upper left corner, several birds are depicted in flight. At the bottom, a rectangular box contains the text 'LANCASTER RECREATION & PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION', with a small fish swimming to the right of the box. The entire scene is rendered in a classic, hand-drawn style.

ANNUAL
REPORT
1939

LANCASTER
RECREATION & PLAYGROUND
ASSOCIATION

Lancaster History

A N N U A L R E P O R T
OF THE
LANCASTER RECREATION AND PLAYGROUND ASSOCIATION



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

M. M. Harnish.....President
H. M. Hoover.....Vice-President
Mrs. Isadore Rosenthal..Vice-President
W. E. Alexander.....Vice-President
Melo Hess.....Treasurer
A. A. Krimmel, Jr.....Ass't-Treasurer
G. D. Brandon.....Secretary-Director

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
W. F. Gibble
H. A. Schnitzer
Mrs. Walter K. Baer
Richard H. Smith

(May 1, 1939 to April 30, 1940)

To the Board of Directors of the Lancaster
Recreation and Playground Association:

Adequate planning for a socially valuable use of leisure has not always been successful due to our inability to change with sufficient rapidity to meet the growing needs. Living as we do in an age of subtle, overnight changes, our program must be prepared to change its pattern to meet the enlarging needs of humanity.

Man has developed power, which when released through industry, has given him freedom for leisure. This increase in power has not eliminated his basic wants for food, clothing and shelter. Recent surveys indicate the interesting fact that as man's living scale increases, the most rapid single increase is in his expenditure for recreation and education.

In spite of widening horizons and material gains, man's fundamental needs and primary urges have remained the same. Our maturing minds and widening human experiences stimulate the desire for an opportunity of realizing the fullness and richness of a well rounded life.

The rich heritage of leisure must be carefully planned if it is to be conserved for the enrichment of life. Each generation of children learns the necessary physical skills and proper social relationship during the hours of play. Boys who have not had the proper opportunities to play in teams still express their gregarious urges by organizing gangs from which the ranks of delinquency are recruited. Adults, for no better reason than that they have been exposed to nothing better, waste hours in purposeless forms of "time-wasters" that add nothing to either human happiness or cultural expansion. What we, as individuals, miss in one period of our lives cannot in full measure be realized in any other period.

To the child who in his helpless dependence looks to his elders for everything and who is entitled to the best our culture can provide, we express the wish that our program may continue to give him the full heritage of natural free play in wholesome surroundings.

To the youth during his period of developing interests, may our program continually reach an increasing number with a rich experience of happy hours of active games and creative expression.

To the adult, an opportunity for music, drama, and appreciation of the great out-of-doors.

To our community at large, an invitation to participate in our program whenever possible.

The report following describes our stewardship during the past year. Our program is far from adequate for the growing needs of the community. No expansion of program has been possible during the past year, aside from increasing the leadership of the winter work, and that has been done at the expense of the summer budget.

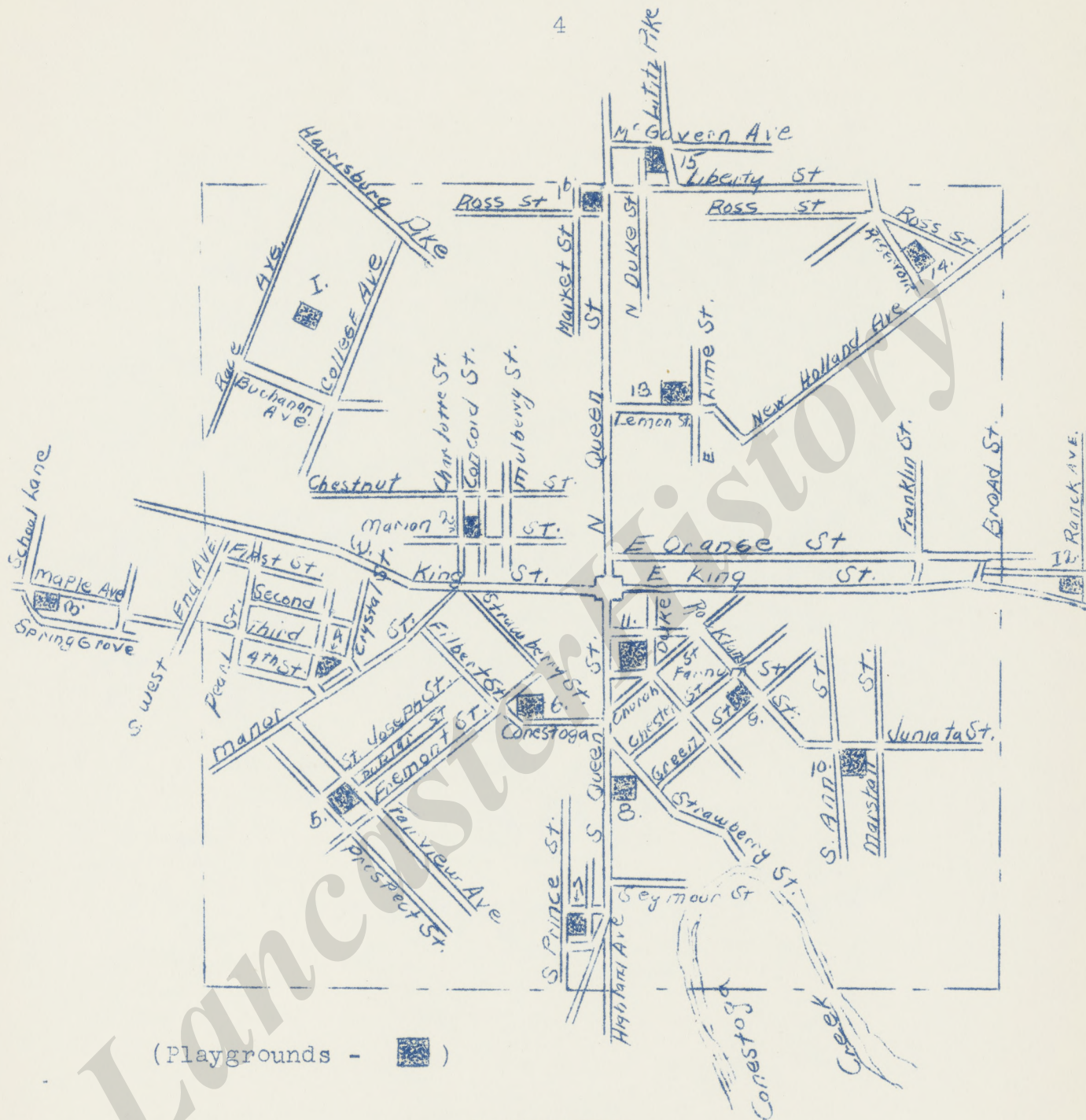
This past year has shown additional service rendered to the community from the office: Advising and planning programs for various organizations, assisting rural groups in organizing play programs, accepting speaking assignments to many groups, giving assistance through our moving picture facilities, helping in the preparation of athletic and other group constitutions and working plans, loaning books from our library on specific recreation programs, securing play spaces for churches and clubs, serving on the board of the Community Theatre group, publishing the "Callboard", a monthly bulletin of the Theatre, and in general acting as a clearing-house for recreational information in the city.

A portion of our summer, and most of our winter program leadership has been furnished by the Education and Recreation Division of the Works Progress Administration. Our association has always practiced rigid economy, which at times has curtailed the usefulness of our program. Whether we will enlarge our sphere of service to the community depends, at this time, on additional assistance, either of a financial nature or through the medium of volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,



Director of Recreation.



PLAYGROUNDS
CITY OF LANCASTER

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Buchanan Park | 9. Rockland & Green |
| 2. Chestnut St. | 10. Edward Hand Jr. High |
| 3. Hamilton Park | 11. Duke St. |
| 4. Rodney Park | 12. Ranck Avenue |
| 5. Fremont St. | 13. Lemon St. |
| 6. John Farnum | 14. Sixth Ward Park |
| 7. South End | 15. North End |
| 8. Strawberry St. | 16. George Ross |



PLAYGROUNDS

Pre Season

4 Playgrounds were opened April 24th, for a daily program from 4:00 until dark. 85,096 visits were made by children and adults to these grounds. This early opening was made possible through W.P.A. supervision.

Summer Season

On June 26, 16 Playgrounds were opened for an 8 weeks' full-time program. 8 of these grounds were open from 9:00 A.M. to dark, and the remaining 8 were open from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

3500 children were recorded to have made 105,525 visits to the playgrounds during this season.

Post Season

7 Playgrounds continued activities after the regular playground season until October 15th. These grounds were open daily during that time from 4:00 P.M. until dark. 20,000 visits were made by children and adults during this season.

TWILIGHT CENTERS

An evening program composed mostly of baseball leagues and free play was continued daily from 5:00 to dark on 7 of the larger playgrounds. 87,738 visits were recorded at these centers.

STREET SHOWERS

10 Street Showers were operated daily for half-hour periods. This is made possible through the City Water Department in supplying the water and truck service to operate the city water plugs. Our association furnishes the supervision. 1200 children made 23,598 visits to these showers during the 8 weeks scheduled.

WADING POOLS

2 pools are open in the city for children at Rodney Park and Buchanan Park. These pools are open during the 8 weeks summer season under supervision from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. daily. The City Department of Parks keeps these pools in good shape and the water is supplied by the City Department of Water. 600 boys and girls made 8,014 visits to these pools on alternate days.

FREE SWIMMING LESSONS

This was the 8th consecutive year free swimming lessons were given to the children 10 years of age and under. These lessons are sponsored by the Lancaster New Era, the Maple Grove Swimming Pool and the Recreation and Playground Association. 1 lesson a week for 5 weeks was given to the 400 children enrolled. 150 passed their tests and were given certificates.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Our Director of Special Activities drew up a well rounded program of interground activities which included:

- July 13 - Kite Contest at Buchanan Park
- July 18 - Annual Playgrounds Picnic at Maple Grove
- July 21 - Bicycle Meet at Maple Grove
- July 27 - Play Day at East Jr. & Buchanan grounds.
- Aug. 3 - Track and Field Meet at Williamson Park
- Aug. 10 - Soap Box Derby at South End Playground
- Aug.6-16 - Girls & Boys Handcraft Exhibit and Bird House Display

Individual Ground Events

- Week of July 3 - Fashion Shows on 12 playgrounds
- " " July 10 - Pet Shows on 14 playgrounds.
- " " July 17 - Baby Shows on 11 playgrounds

(Individual ground events con'd)

Week of July 24 - Hobby Shows on 12 playgrounds
 " " July 31 - Doll Shows on 13 playgrounds
 " " Aug. 7 - Hobo Shows on 8 playgrounds

Leagues and Tournaments Scheduled

Jr. & Sr. Baseball Leagues
 Girls' Volleyball League
 Quoit Tournament
 Paddle Tennis Tournament
 Badminton Tournament

The many children who participate in these activities enter the contests and tournaments with a genuine play spirit and mostly out of sheer joy. It is heartening to see these thousands of children giving their best with only a little homemade ribbon as a reward.

SAFETY PATROL

This very fine addition to our summer program was introduced for the first time this year. Safety Patrol belts were presented on July 10th by Officer Nonnenmocher of the City Police Department and Mr. Dean Gable of the Lancaster Automobile Club, to boys and girls on the 16 playgrounds. This proved to be a very effective means of safety for our grounds and we hope to continue it next year.

SUPERVISION FOR THE SUMMER PROGRAM

From the Recreation & Playground Association:

1 Director of Special Activities
 1 Girls' Handcraft Instructor
 13 Men & 13 Women Playground Supervisors (full-time)
 6 Men and Women for part-time work

From W.P.A. - Dept. of Education & Recreation:

9 Men and 4 Women for pre season playgrounds, for the evening centers during the full-time season and the continued evening work during the post season on 7 of our playgrounds.

From the N.Y.A.: 4 women supervisors assisted at the evening centers.

SUPERVISORS' INSTITUTE

The training classes for supervisors which are held for a period of 1 week previous to the opening of the playgrounds, was held the afternoons of June 19 to 23, from 2:00 to 4:00 o'clock.

Our guest speakers and instructors were:

M. M. Harnish, President, Recreation and Playground Association
 Dr. H. A. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
 John F. Davis, Area Supervisor, Department of Education & Recreation, W.P.A.
 Miss Mildred Ressel, Physical Education Dept. John Reynolds Jr. High School.
 C. W. Armstrong, Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America
 Miss M. E. Critchfield, Librarian, Lancaster Free Public Library
 Miss Vesta M. Miller, R.N., Supervisor, Visiting Nurse Association
 Claude R. Buck, Supervisor, Maintenance Dept. Reading Recreation Department
 Rev. C. D. Spotts, Faculty of F. & M. College, Recreation & Playground Board Director
 Miss Catharine Carter, Staff, Lancaster Newspapers, Inc.

These sessions which were open to the public, were held in the Sunday School Room of the 1st Reformed Church, through the courtesy of Dr. Wm. H. Bollman.

The 8th volume of the annual supervisors publication - THE RECREATIONAL JOURNAL - was published by a group of ten supervisors selected by the staff. This journal is composed of interesting and witty articles written by the supervisors depicting their experiences while working on the playgrounds.

Copies may be secured upon request from our Recreation and Playground office.



CLUBS FOR BOYS & GIRLS

7 Clubs were open during the indoor season, 5 for boys and 2 for girls, from October to April, operating in school buildings.

The Lancaster School Board, in granting permission to use 3 school buildings to house these clubs, has made it possible for 600 boys and girls to participate in a recreation program which covers activities of an educational nature as well as active games. The clubs meet in the basement rooms of Higbee School and Lafayette School and in the corridor and gymnasium of George Ross School.

		<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Weekly</u>	
			<u>Regis.</u>	<u>Atten.</u>
Monday	George Ross Boys' Club	75	50	
Tuesday	Lafayette Jr. Boys' Club	125.	100	
" "	Girls' Recreation Club	80	45	
Wednesday	7th Ward Sr. Boys' Club	75	70	
Thursday	Lafayette Hilltop Boys' C.	75	40	
Friday	Lafayette Girls' Club	80	65	
" "	7th Ward Jr. Boys' Club	90	75	
Totals -		600	440	

The clubs are open from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. Instructions in woodwork, linoleum carving, cork designing, yarn purses, crepepaper work, etc. are given under capable supervision. Also dramatics and singing. The active game program includes: basketball, boxing, wrestling, ping-pong, darts, shinny, shuffleboard, etc.

BASKETBALL PROGRAM

42 basketball teams and their opponents, comprising over 900 young men, played one game a week at Edward Hand Jr. High School, John Reynolds Jr. High School, and St. Mary's Parish Hall.

The Lancaster School Board granted permission to use the two junior high schools 3 nights a week for this activity, and Rev. George W. Brown gave permission to use St. Mary's Parish Hall 2 nights a week.

Over 60 teams requested basketball courts this season, but the facilities available allowed for only 42 teams to be taken care of.

The Annual Tournament was held from March 11 to April 15. The schedule was drawn in three classes and awards were given the winners in each class.

This activity is self-sustaining, the teams paying a nominal fee for the use of the courts, out of which expenses are paid, awards purchased and the balance turned over to the School Board.

COMMUNITY PARTIES

This was the 19th consecutive year for Community Parties. 25 parties were held from November 4 to May 4, in the gymnasium of the Y.W.C.A., every Saturday night from 8:00 to 11:30 o'clock.

The season opened with a large attendance of from 300 to 350 an evening. This attendance dropped to under 200 an evening when a competitive group began operating a similar dance on the same night and attracted the "older" members of our group. This left us the younger members and took care of the overcrowding which was becoming a problem.

This activity is self-sustaining - the patrons paying a small entrance fee which covers expenses of orchestra, gym, janitors, decorations, etc.

Refreshments are served in the cafeteria by the committee during intermission.

(Community Parties Con'd)

The Board of Governors which directs and supervises this activity, is composed of 45 volunteers - young men and women representing 19 different schools and organizations in the city and county. This board meets once every week to plan for the party on the following Saturday, making arrangements for prizes, special dances, orchestras, decorations, securing chaperones, and taking care of all problems that arise.

SUPERVISION FOR THE INDOOR PROGRAM

From the Recreation & Playground Ass'n:

3 Supervisors (men) 1 for general supervision at the Boys' & Girls' Clubs and Basketball Program, and 2 from the Industrial Arts Department of Millersville State Teachers College, for supervision at the Clubs.

From W.P.A. - Dept. of Education & Recreation:

22 men and 8 women Supervisors to carry on the work at the Boys' & Girls' Clubs and the basketball games.

Volunteers: 45 young men and women for the Community Parties. 7 men and women for the Hiking Program, and 1 young man from the Theological Seminary for a Boys' Club.

HIKING CLUB

19 hikes were held in 1939, 9 in the spring, 9 in the fall and 1 Snow Hike in January.

The hikes are held Saturday afternoons, covering nearby sections of the Horse-Shoe Trail, Showers Rock, Trout Run, Trip along the Pequea River, Cutler's Point, and visiting places of interest, such as the Masonic Home Gardens at Elizabethtown and the Cornwall Mines. Between 25 and 30 persons attend the hikes. The club has a membership of 100 men and women.

(Hiking Club Con'd)

The Annual Meeting of the Hiking Club was held in the Sunday School Room of the First Reformed Church, the evening of December 11. 65 members were present and the program included moving pictures of the Appalachian Trail by Mr. D. K. Hock of Reading, and local motion pictures of our hikes by the Director.

The Committee in charge of these hikes is composed of: Mr. Edward J. Kessler, Chairman; Mr. M. M. Harnish, Mr. Henry R. Herr, Miss Mary Bomberger, Mrs. E. C. Klingensmith, Mr. A. W. Shertz, Mr. Roy Albright, Miss Phyllis Bealer, Miss Monta Smith, Miss Margaret Bahn, Mr. Jay Bomberger, and Miss Nancy Klingensmith, Secretary.

DRAMATIC GROUP

The Community Theatre of Lancaster, a dramatic organization which originated during the Institute held in our city by the National Recreation Association for 6 weeks in 1938, has functioned very successfully since that time.

Three major plays are produced each year. This year the plays were: YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU, SUSAN AND GOD, and THREE MEN ON A HORSE. The first play, as in the previous year, was held at F. & M. 's Little Theatre, the latter two were given at Edward Hand Junior High School.

The Community Theatre has 80 members and its purpose 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.

This dramatic group has been of assistance to the Welfare Federation in producing short plays for their conferences, has also presented and coached plays at a number of churches, schools and other organizations requesting their help. Several plays have been given at Hockessen on a percentage basis.

A monthly bulletin - the CALLBOARD - is published by the Community Theatre and mimeographed in our office.

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.

Summary of Individual Contacts

Playgrounds	4500
Twilight Centers	1530
Wading Pools	300
St. Showers	1200
Free Swimming Lessons	400
Boys' & Girls' Clubs	600
Basketball Program	900
Community Parties	1000
Hiking Club	100
Dramatic Group	80
Visitors to office for:	
Interviews, conferences, and program assistance.	<u>250</u>
Total Contacts -	10,860

"But to keep men and women, young boys and girls from despair, from the hideous boredom of having nothing to do, from the crushing sense of not being wanted, of having no place in society and no work to do, of being a problem and not a human being - that is the real task of philanthropy in these long dreary days."

-- Walter Lippmann.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTRECEIPTSWelfare Federation:

Maintenance	\$ 8582.00	
Depreciation	450.00	
Extra Fund from Welfare	<u>100.00</u>	
		\$ 9132.00

Public Funds:

Lanc. City Park Dept.	1000.00	
Lanc. School Board	<u>1200.00</u>	
(For supervision on City Parks and School Grounds)		2200.00

General Income:

Farmers Bank Dividends	15.10	
Community Party Fund (Toward Public Address System)	48.71	
Handcraft Income	<u>47.25</u>	
		111.06

Total Receipts - 111.06 \$11,443.06

DISBURSEMENTSAdministration Expense:

Administrative Salaries	\$ 4860.00	
Office Supplies	123.96	
Telephone & Telegraph	52.78	
Postage & Printing	88.86	
Misc. Admin. Expense	<u>21.97</u>	
		\$ 5147.57

Service Expense:

Service Salaries	4147.98	
Auto Upkeep	300.00	
Educational Work	35.87	
Repairs	41.90	
Conference Expense	50.00	
Nat'l Recreation Ass'n	150.00	
Clubs (For Oct. & Nov. only)	135.14	
Insurance	120.96	
Athletic Supplies	1030.54	
Deprec. & Replacement	352.57	
Misc. General	<u>6.76</u>	
		<u>6371.72</u>

11,519.29

Deficit for year ending Nov. 30, 1939 - 76.23

Total Disbursements - \$11,443.06

CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION CENTER

Promotes: A program of wholesome recreation activities for Lancaster and the county Negro population, including boys, girls and adults.

Maintains: Cooperative services with other civic, social, religious, health and service organizations of Lancaster city and county. Directs educational, historical and literary forums and lyceum programs. During the summer months an outdoor program is carried on at the Rockland St. Playground. Last year, 400 children, white and colored, made 10,227 visits to this playground.

Administered: By a Board of Directors, a Bi-Racial Advisory Board, affiliated with the Recreation and Playground Association, and is an agency member of the Welfare Federation. Operates under a budget granted by the Welfare Federation. In 1939 the Maintenance was: \$2775.00, and the Depreciation was \$35.00.

It employs a full time director to plan and guide the program which includes girls' clubs, boys' clubs, cultural and character influencing groups.

Cooperation: With the Visiting Nurse Association, also with city and county Welfare, and national programs and celebrations.

Participants: Of the city's Negro population of approximately 1500, a total of 1000 persons make up the attendance at the Crispus Attucks Center each month.

As the only one agency to dedicate itself to promote activities available, without limitation, to the Negro boy and girl, it sponsors special programs of history, health, education and music week celebrations.

Span of Existence: For more than a decade the Center has met the unmet needs of over 2000 in the city and county of Lancaster's colored population. For the same period it has directed interracial relationships and activities promoting democratic ideals and tolerant relationships.

Present Needs: The whole community is a beneficiary in proportion as it may encourage this agency to guide, direct and serve the children of this minority group. Their citizenship will be good or bad according to the fullness of our united help.

(Crispus Attucks Center Con'd)

The Board of Directors of the Welfare Federation will conduct along with the regular fall campaign for welfare, a special drive for a Crispus Attucks Recreation Center building fund. The amount to be determined by the location upon with the building would be situated. The type of building needed is a modest plant to have facilities for boys and girls and adults reading, crafts and game rooms, a combination assembly and limited gymnasium space, equipment for household and home crafts. An estimated cost of \$15,000 would anticipate the cooperation of some agency to allow the use of land already owned and the cooperation of some subdivision as sponsor for part of the labor costs.

A group of fifty colored citizens has been organized by E. T. Attwell, director of the Bureau of Colored Work of the National Recreation Association, into a Crispus Attucks Center Building Committee. This organization is sponsoring a series of money raising projects to promote a building fund.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Summary of Individual Contacts

Clubs	1120
Free Play Groups	100
Playground - Rockland St.	400
Parties	800
Special Programs	400
Visitors (For inter-views, conferences, etc.)	75
Social Events: Teas, Suppers, etc. (By outside organizations.)	500
Total Contacts --	<u>3,395</u>

NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Our Annual Meeting suggests another year of growth. While in terms of years we have reached our majority, yet we still have to call frequently upon our parent organization, the National Recreation Association, and, like a good parent, is always ready to offer assistance no matter what the problem may be.

The past year we have had Dr. Clarence Cameron White for our Crispus Attucks Recreation Center choral work, Mr. E. T. Attwell, to assist us in organizing our colored people for a building campaign; Mr. Charles K. Brightbill, to arrange for special service; Mr. E. C. Worman, to survey our volunteer work; and our own District Representative, Mr. J. W. Faust, who visits our city at stated intervals in order to give us the assistance of his wide experience in covering the entire district.

In addition, our association receives the assistance of the National Recreation Association's Bulletin Service and has the privilege of presenting any problems that may arise at any time to the national organization for advice.

The national body is responsible for organizing and conducting the District and National Conferences, which are a source of inspiration and help to the local groups.

We are sincerely grateful for the above and for many other expressions of assistance.

OUR THANKS

To the Mayor and members of the City Council for providing office space in the Municipal Building, the cash donation of \$1000. to assist in taking care of the physical properties of Buchanan, Rodney, John Farnum, South End, 6th Ward, and Rockland St. Playgrounds; and for assistance in providing water for the wading pools and street showers and transportation for attendants at the showers.

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 The 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 Dr. Wm. H. Bollman of the 1st Reformed Church, for the use of the Sunday School Room during our training Institute period.

To the Y.W.C.A. for their generosity in allowing us space for the Community Parties and for their special consideration for the needs of our Crispus Attucks group.

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 clubs and individuals, whose names do not appear, for their help in any way and for 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 participating agencies
of the Welfare Federation, is
located in the Municipal Build-
ing, 120 North Duke Street,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where
this booklet was prepared and
mimeographed.

Lancaster History

Lancaster History