



ANNUAL  
REPORT  
1940

LANCASTER  
RECREATION AND PLAYGROUND  
ASSOCIATION

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ASSOCIATION

(An agency of the Welfare Federation)

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

M. M. Harnish.....President  
H. M. Hoover.....Vice-President  
W. E. Alexander.....Vice-President  
Melo Hess.....Treasurer  
A. A. Krimmel, Jr.....Ass't Treas.  
G. D. Brandon.....Sec'y-Director

Mrs. H. W. Barnard  
C. W. Stehman  
Edward J. Kessler  
Mrs. B. F. Snavely  
W. F. Gible  
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.

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This is a volunteer board  
which meets once a month to  
plan and approve the functions  
of the Lancaster Recreation  
and Playground Association in  
all matters of financial and  
program activities.

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TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
RECREATION & PLAYGROUND ASS'N:

The past year has witnessed progress as a result of added opportunities offered children and adults, especially in the field of creative arts.

Many people are still under the impression that our association only operates playgrounds during the summer months. Although playgrounds have always been and are a major function of this association, we can safely say that our winter program is the busiest time of the year.

CLUBS With the opening of the school buildings late afternoons and evenings as clubs for boys and girls, our association has filled a great need in the lives of these children. Our 11 clubs are veritable "beehives" of activity, under supervision every night in the week during the indoor season. These children, by their enthusiasm and genuine joy, show their appreciation for the opportunity they have been given.

COMMUNITY PARTIES For our teen age young people we have the Community Parties, held weekly in the Y.W.C.A., Saturday evenings during the fall and winter months. These parties have proved their need by running consecutively for 21 years. There are many places to dance on Saturday evenings in Lancaster, but there is no place quite so popular with the young people as the gym. floor at the Y.W.C.A.

MEN'S BASKETBALL For our young men who are basketball minded, we have 8 courts on which 42 games are played weekly during the season. The junior high schools and a parish hall furnish these courts, which are in constant demand.

HIKES For adults, the popularity of our nature hikes is growing each season. Hikes to places of natural and historic interest are taken during the autumn and spring months. Each hike is under the direction of a leader chosen by the committee from the group. Over 200 individuals are registered and our recent hikes have averaged from 40 - 60 in attendance.

ADULT CRAFTS One night a week is reserved for adults at the Craft Shop, and two nights a week is reserved in the Community Building basement for a group of young people interested in art.

DRAMATICS The Community Theatre of Lancaster, which was organized at the conclusion of a dramatic institute held in 1938 in our city by the National Recreation Association, produced 4 plays and 2 pageants in 1940 - THE BAT, WE GIRLS, IF THIS BE TREASON, CHARLIE'S AUNT, PAGEANT OF DEMOCRACY, and THE NATIVITY - all were very successful. The governing board, the directors of plays and various committees are all volunteers. A monthly bulletin, CALLBOARD, is also published by the Theatre, dealing with the varied interests of the group. It is hoped that with our increased financial strength some type of a permanent home may be secured.

RECREATIONAL SERVICE Our office is an information bureau on all phases of recreation. Party and picnic programs are arranged on request. Three picnic kits are required to meet the many calls for this service. Our recreational library is open to the public. Moving pictures on hiking, playgrounds, and clubs are in constant use. We are pleased to note an increasing response on the part of the public to our recreational service.

Our big job is to furnish as much leadership and facilities as possible on a restricted budget. An increasing number of individuals and groups are using the resources of our association yearly.

We are nationally faced with the problem which presents two extremes in our civilization in the field of recreation: the sudden drastic change in our social order which has thrown millions into more or less permanently enforced idleness, and the extreme industrial culture which has forced a large section of our population into an existence of deadening monotony and drudgery with its extreme misery.

Both groups require direction for a recreating program which not only has release outlets, but offers opportunities for real creative expression if the free spirit of democracy and the glory of human personality is to be preserved.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANT D. BRANDON  
Director of Recreation

PLAY CENTERS & FACILITIES

Supervised by our association in  
1940:-

<u>CENTERS</u>	<u>REGISTRATION</u>
14 PLAYGROUNDS	4,500
7 TWILIGHT CENTERS	5,000
2 WADING POOLS	600
3 STREET SHOWERS	1,200
6 BOYS' CLUBS	615
5 GIRLS' CLUBS	540
3 ADULT CLUBS	75
1 CRAFT SHOP	200
3 BASKETBALL CENTERS	840
1 SOCIAL DANCING CENTER	1,000
1 SWIMMING POOL (1 day a wk. Cooperation Maple Grove)	400
1 CRISPUS ATTUCKS CENTER (For Colored People)	<u>1,650</u>
Total -	16,620

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

- 16 Softball Diamonds
    - 1 Regulation Diamond
  - 10 Paddle Tennis Courts
  - 15 Volleyball Courts
    - 2 Horse-Shoe Courts
    - 7 Shuffleboard Courts
    - 4 Ping-pong Tables
    - 3 Picnic Kits
  - 1 Technical Lending Library
  - 1 35 MM Moving Picture Projector
  - 1 16 MM Moving Picture Projector  
(Both Silent)
  - 3000 Ft. Kodachrome
-

SPECIAL ACTIVITIESOn Playgrounds

Handicraft Exhibit	(city-wide)		
Track & Field Moot		"	"
Soap Box Derby		"	"
Kite Contest		"	"
Playgrounds Picnic		"	"
Bicycle Moot		"	"

11	Costume Shows
8	Doll Shows
10	Fashion Shows
15	Pet Shows
10	Amateur Shows
11	Baby Shows
8	Hobby Shows
9	Scavenger Hunts
2	Jitterbug Contests
4	Quoit Tournaments
2	Paddle Tennis Tournaments
5	Free Swimming Classes

Jr. Softball League (city-wide)  
(9 teams)

Sr. Softball League (city-wide)  
(6 teams)

Unlimited Softball League  
(6 teams - city-wide)

Twilight Leagues for Men

Girls' Volleyball League  
(13 teams - city-wide)

At Indoor Centers

18	Shuffleboard Teams
	Adult Art Class
	Handicraft Exhibit
	Halloween Parties
	Christmas Parties
	Easter Parties (Egg Roll)
	May Party
26	Community Parties

Indoor Activities (Con'd)

Cooking Class  
Hiking Club (Seasonable)  
Men's Basketball Tournament  
(30 teams - city-wide)

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In the past thirty-five years recreation has won a place for itself as one of the main divisions of life - side by side with religion, education, health, labor, recreation has taken its place.

Recreation centers give an opportunity for comradeship, for doing things together with people you like. They become centers for living.

Above all, fathers and mothers in America see their children have an opportunity for free, happy, normal childhood under leadership and a measure of discipline.

-- Howard Braucher,  
Secretary  
Nat'l Recreation Ass'n



STAFF

- 1 General Director
- 1 Office Secretary
- 1 Supervisor of Special Activities (Part-time)
- 1 Director of Colored Work
- 2 Supervisors " " (part-time)

Playground Staff

- 34 young men and women were employed by our association to supervise the playgrounds.
- 18 men and 5 women from the W.P.A. Recreation Department supervised the evening playground centers.

Indoor Staff

- 1 man and 1 woman employed by our association for the indoor centers.
- 22 men and 7 women from the W.P.A. Recreation Department supervised the indoor centers.

Volunteer Service

- 25 young men and 18 young women on the Community Party Board.
- 18 men and women on our Board of Directors.
- 2 young men from the Theological Seminary to assist at the Boys' Clubs.

SUPERVISORS' INSTITUTE

Held June 17 to 21, at St. James Parish Hall for the purpose of acquainting the supervisors with the program for the playgrounds. 60 persons attended. This institute was open to the public.

THE NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Our National Recreation Association, with its increased responsibility in relation to defence programs, is constantly mindful of its immediate family. It would seem that the more calls upon its various departments the more material and pertinent information it sends to the local communities.

The fact that we can always go to the National Association for information and assistance strengthens our position and gives us a feeling of greater unity and international scope.

Our grateful thanks to Mr. Braucher and the other officers of the National Recreation Association for the inspiring RECREATION magazine, and the regular stream of bulletins sent out to us from time to time.

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"In recreation we believe there can be maintained and intensified the spirit of adventure, experimentation and enthusiasm that has always characterized the American spirit. In recreation also the more difficult tasks of living and working together can be facilitated by the development of understandings and habits of cooperative action.

...Recreation has a serious responsibility and a high duty in the present days and in the days that lie ahead."

- From Community Recreation, February, 1941, published by Chicago Recreation Commission.

CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION  
AND  
COMMUNITY CENTER

The central theme and objective during the past year has been the new building project. Sixty colored citizens, including the Board of Directors, parents and friends of the children who use the Center, have been working to raise funds for the new building by promoting a series of varied projects. They gave splendid service as solicitors during the annual Welfare Drive, going 300% over the estimated quota for their district.

A value that cannot be measured in dollars and cents is the wide spread attention that has been focused upon our program due to the drive for funds. Since the publicity incidental to raising funds has been released, we have found many new friends in the community who have expressed a desire to help with equipment and leadership when a new building is ready. Likewise our attendance has definitely increased.

We wish to thank the Welfare Federation for carrying our drive along with theirs. Although the procedure was unique to Lancaster we believe it had many merits in publicizing our program and making it stand upon its own merit.

Groups have been much better organized and especially in the case of the Boy Scout Troop #15 has there been decided progress in leadership, interest of parents and work on the part of the members.

A Testimonial Banquet to honor Norwood (Barney) Ewell, was sponsored by the Board of Directors. Barney, as a youngster, was a regular participant in the activities of the Center.

More than 2250 persons were serviced or contacted in some way through the program of Crispus Attucks during the past year. Broken down into groups, the service at the Center was as follows:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Activity</u>	
Infancy-6 yrs.	7th Ward Health Center (25% white children)	
	Registration --	299
6-10 yrs.	Game & Craft Groups (Seasonal Parties)	
	Registration --	375
10-16 yrs.	Organized clubs, craft classes, discussion groups, games, drama and music.	
	Registration --	275
16 & up	Boards, Committees, Adult Classes, Parent Groups.	
	Registration --	300
(Other church & fraternal groups also use the Center.)		
Rockland St.	Children -	400
Playground	Adults -	100
		<hr/>
	Total -	1650

Through talks and programs before various white church and civic groups, the director has contacted approximately 600 persons who do not use the Center. This encourages better race relations in our community.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTRECEIPTSWelfare Federation:

Maintenance \$8582.00

Replacement 340.00

\$8922.00

Public Funds

City Park Dept. \$1000.00

School Board 1200.00

(For supervision)

Bank Dividends 15.10

Crafts Income 40.39

Misc. Rebate 9.082264.57

Total Income -- \$11,186.57

DISBURSEMENTSAdministrative Expense

Salaries \$ 4860.00

Office Supplies 104.41

Telephone 52.95

Postage, Ptg. 151.97

Misc. 33.37

\$5,202.70

Service Expense

Salaries \$3265.00

Auto Upkeep 300.00

Clubs 662.81

Education Work 37.32

Ath. Supplies 833.36

Repairs 68.28

Insurance 143.98

Publicity 31.06

Conference 50.00

Nat'l Ass'n 150.00

Replacement 340.01\$5,881.82

Total Disbursements \$11,084.52

Balance on hand end

of fiscal year - 102.05\$11,186.57

CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION CENTER

Operates on a budget of \$3132.00

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 the city parks and for assistance in providing water for the wading pools and street showers.

To the Lancaster School Board for the use of 4 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 and the Boys' and Girls' Club activities during the indoor season.

To Dr. Wm. H. Bollman of the First Reformed and Evangelical Church, for the use of the Sunday School Room for weekly staff meetings.

To Rev. Robert C. Batchelder, of St. James Episcopal Church, for the use of the Parish Hall, gymnasium and yard, as a playground and club room for the neighborhood boys and girls, and also for the Sunday School Auditorium for the Supervisors' Institute.

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 Department for assistance in supervising the various clubs and playgrounds.

The Recreation & Playground Association is also very grateful to many clubs and individuals, whose names do not appear in this report, 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.

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Recreation & Playground Association  
Municipal Building - 120 N. Duke St  
Lancaster, Pa.

LancasterHistory