

ANNUAL REPORT

1941



OUR WORLD

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LANCASTER RECREATION ASSOCIATION
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

ANNUAL REPORT

1891



LancasterHistory

LANCASTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

LANCASTER RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The Lancaster Recreation Association, formerly called the Lancaster Recreation and Playground Association, was incorporated September 22, 1941, under the laws of Pennsylvania.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

M. M. Harnish.....President
 H. M. Hoover.....Vice-President
 W. E. Alexander...2nd Vice-President
 Melo Hess.....Treasurer
 A. A. Krimmel, Jr.....Ass't Treas.
 G. D. Brandon.....Sec'y-Director

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
 Edward J. Kessler
 Mrs. B. F. Snavely

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

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LANCASTER RECREATION ASSOCIATION:

The fact that a program may run along over a period of time in a smooth orderly way may on one hand be a sign of progress and good management, but on the other it may be the sign of a stagnating program. Pulsating life does not run smoothly. We require the stimulus of opposition and difficulty in order that our best efforts may be put forth. Opposition to the expansion of our program has been almost entirely overcome. Municipal cooperation has greatly assisted in securing more adequate facilities, but the problem of trained adequate leadership on a comparatively stationary budget is still with us. In spite of this, the number of activities sponsored and individuals served has shown an increase over last year.

We are happy to report we have at last secured a woman worker to direct our women's and girls' activities. Miss Florence Rhones, a graduate of Sargent College of Boston University, took charge of this part of our work the last week of June, and is gradually building up an active program. The response to this program indicates the definite need in this field.

Our next definite need is for a full-time assistant director for men's and boys' work. At the present time we have only an assistant during the summer months and a part-time assistant on an hourly basis for the winter program. We are now serving 1500

men and boys during the fall and winter, with a director, a part-time assistant, and our W.P.A. directors.

Another field in which expansion is planned is in training volunteer workers for the various church organizations in the city. Several churches which have religious work directors now come to our Craft Shop with their groups for craft instruction, but there are many other churches which do not have this leadership, but have requested help.

In order that our Association purchase a site and take title to our new Crispus Attucks building, it was necessary to become incorporated. This was done September 22, 1941, under the laws of Pennsylvania.

Acting on a request from the Lancaster Boys' Club, Inc., our director was asked to assume directorship of the program of the Boys' Club, with leadership supplied by the Education and Recreation Department of W.P.A. Over 300 boys from 6 to 19 years of age are registered in the club, with an average attendance of 100 boys daily. Juniors used the club in the afternoon and seniors in the evening.

The Welfare Federation has allowed our Association the use of the two rooms at the Craft Shop vacated by the Girl Scouts. This takes care of overcrowding and gives us a room that can be used for quiet games, reading, and group meetings.

During the present emergency the facilities and leadership of

our Association have been offered to the Civilian Defence Organization. Aside from this our Association is endeavoring to keep its regular program as adequate as possible, realizing the fact that in spite of emergencies, life - particularly child life - should be given every opportunity to develop in a normal way.

GRANT D. BRANDON
Director of Recreation

OUR STAFF

1 General Director
1 Office Secretary
1 Supervisor Women's &
Girls' Activities
1 Director of Colored Work
1 Supervisor " " (part-time)
1 Ass't Supv. " " " "

Playground Staff

34 young men and women were employed by our association to supervise the playgrounds. Also 1 Supv. of Handicraft and 1 Director of Special Activities.

11 men and 7 women from the W.P.A. Recreation Dept. supervised the evening playground centers.

Indoor Staff

Aside from our Women's and Girls' Supervisor, our association employed 1 woman assistant and 1 man assistant for the indoor centers.

9 men and 9 women from the W.P.A. Recreation Dept. supervised the indoor centers.

OUTDOOR PROGRAM

PLAYGROUNDS

14 grounds were open for an 8 weeks full-time program - June 24 to August 16 with 4500 children registered. Previous to the opening of the full-time schedule, 6 of these grounds were open for a pre season period - May 15 to June 24, from 3:30 to dark daily.

An active weekly program of events was planned and carried on by the supervisors, including tournaments, shows, baseball, field meets, kite contests, bicycle relays, soap box derby, handicraft, etc.

Our new Supervisor of Girls' and Women's Activities, added many new features to the playgrounds including music, dancing and special Mother Goose Festival for Parents' Night.

A post season schedule was continued from August 16 to October 1, from 3:30 to dark daily.

TWILIGHT CENTERS

7 of the playgrounds were open evenings, specializing on a program for adults. Baseball was the main interest at these centers. Approximately 5000 were registered.

STREET SHOWERS

9 city fire hydrants were opened daily for half-hour periods in various sections of the city for the children of the neighborhood. These were attended by 1200 children seeking relief from

the heat of the summer afternoons. The cooperation of the City Water Department made this possible.

WADING POOLS

2 Pools - Buchanan and Rodney, were open daily for boys and girls during the summer afternoons. 600 children were registered. These pools were open through the cooperation of the City Park Department.



FREE SWIMMING LESSONS

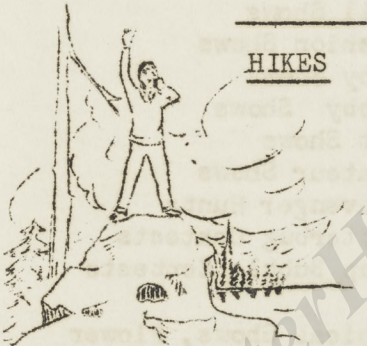
400 children registered for the Free Swimming Lessons, sponsored by Maple Grove Pool, the New Era, and our association. 125 of these children received their swimming certificates.

SUPERVISORS' INSTITUTE

An institute for supervisors, which was also open to the public, was held one week previous to the opening of the playgrounds. Guest speakers were, Rev. Earl F. Fowler, Mrs. Burt R. Glidden and Miss Vesta M. Miller.

SUPERVISORS' MAGAZINE

A very interesting, and may we say most revealing booklet of how the supervisors feel about the playgrounds, was published by the supervisors at the end of the playground season. The amusing account of the summer's work and also the earnest report of their activities, makes this little paper worthwhile. A copy may be secured from our office upon request.

HIKES

One of our most popular activities with adults are the Saturday after-

noon hikes taken in the spring and fall of the year. 7 spring hikes and 6 fall hikes were conducted in 1941. 150 persons are registered on our list and an average of 50 attend the hikes. One hike brought 82 people. There are 14 members on the committee who plan the hikes for the season.

PICNIC & PARTY SERVICE

During the summer months, our 3 picnic kits were used by 42 groups. Games and party suggestions from our files are in constant demand during the entire year. The office recreation library is available to the public.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES ON THE
PLAYGROUNDS

City Wide: Handicraft Exhibit,
Track & Field Meet, Soap
Box Derby, Kite Contest,
Annual Playgrounds Picnic,
and Bicycle Meet.

- 18 Costume Shows
 - 1 Mother Goose Festival
 - 2 Pageants
- 22 Doll Shows
- 11 Fashion Shows
- 14 Baby Shows
- 14 Hobby Shows
- 20 Pet Shows
- 10 Amateur Shows
- 25 Scavenger Hunts
 - 5 Jitterbug Contests
 - 6 Soap Bubble Contests

Also: Musical Shows, Flower
Shows, Backwards Parties,
Peanut Scrambles, Beetle
Contests, Auto Tire Races,
Doggie Roasts, Splash
Parties, Turtle Races
and a St. Shower Beauty
Parade.

Tournaments: Quoits, Paddle
Tennis, Checkers
and Jacks.

Leagues: Jr. Softball (9 teams)
Sr. Softball (6 ")
Volleyball (13 ")
(Girls)
Twilight League (Men)

INDOOR PROGRAM

CLUBS

7 Boys' Clubs and 6 Girls' Clubs, with a registration of 1,275, were open at the three city school buildings through the cooperation of the School Board, at St. Mary's, through the cooperation of Father Brown, at St. James' through the cooperation of Rev. Batchelder, and at our Craft Shop. These clubs were operated from Oct. 1 to April 30, with an after-school period for the younger children and an evening period for the older boys and girls.

These clubs are attended by eager children seeking knowledge and fun through handicrafts including linoleum carving, woodwork of all kinds; active games and quiet games and even magazines to read.

LANCASTER BOYS' CLUB, INC.

This year the Lancaster Boys' Club Committee requested our association to supervise their newly organized Boys' Club on Pershing Avenue. With the help of W.P.A. this club is successfully operating daily from 3:30 to 9:30, with 300 boys registered.

The boys are proud of their club and show their appreciation by attending on an average of 100 daily. The enriched leisure time of these boys is a fitting reward for the individuals who gave of their time and money to make this club possible. A successful play

was given by the boys called, "The Flag Synopsis".

CRAFT SHOP



Our Craft Shop, located at the rear of the Community Building, is our "pride and joy". This little shop, equipped with a wood turning lathe, complete set of wood turning tools, sanding machine and a jig saw, has been a dream for years. It is used daily by from 60 to 75 boys and girls. In the evening it is used by adult groups from the neighborhood and occasionally by church groups.

The girls have a cooking class, there is a room for dramatics and aside from being a fine workshop, it is a source of supply for equipping our other centers.

ST. JAMES PARISH HALL

This Hall, a short distance from the Craft Shop, is used daily by from 40-60 boys and girls, for basketball, bowling, ping-pong and many other active games which cannot be carried on at the Craft Shop. It is also the scene for many of the holiday plays presented by the children. Rev. Batchelder and his committee made this recreation center possible.

ST. MARY'S PARISH HALL

Aside from having the use of the basketball floor at this Hall, Father Brown has allowed us to use several rooms for the younger boys and girls of the neighborhood. A daily after-

school program of activities including handicrafts and active games is attended by 60 boys and girls.

ADULT CLUBS

2 Mothers' Clubs (parents of the boys and girls who attend our clubs) meet one night a week. One at Higbee School and the other at the Lancaster Boys' Club, Inc. These women find recreation in handicrafts, sewing, knitting and at Christmas time one group made toys for the needy children of the neighborhood. 60 women are registered.

An Adult Art Class meets twice a week in the basement of the Community Building. There are 25 registered.

An Adult Handicraft Class meets once a week at the Craft Shop. Registration 25.

BASKETBALL

3 Centers were open for evening basketball for young men of the city at E. & W. Jr. High Schools through the cooperation of the School Board and at St. Mary's through the cooperation of Father Brown. 62 teams used these courts from November 4 to April 17. A tournament was held at the close of the season and trophies were awarded the winners.

Approximately 800 young men participate in this activity.

COMMUNITY PARTY

This activity has been operating for so many years, that we



feel we have nothing new to say about it. However, the very fact that 1941 completed the 22nd consecutive successful season for these parties, is in itself a proof of their value. An average of 250 young people attend these Saturday evening dances. 26 parties were held in 1941, 740 are registered, and our records show the yearly attendance at 6,202. The Y.W.C.A. gymnasium is the scene of this activity.



WOMEN'S NIGHT OF RECREATION

In the fall of 1941, one night a week at the Edward Hand Junior High School, was set aside for women's activities. Rhythmic, tap dancing and volleyball are on the program. 36 women are registered and attend these Thursday night classes under the supervision of our new Women's and Girls' Worker and an assistant.

COMMUNITY THEATRE

Although this group is running "a show of their own", we feel it is a part of our work since it was organized through our association in 1938. Our Director serves in an advisory capacity and the publications of the group are prepared by our office secretary. Four major plays were produced in 1941; the annual Community Christmas pageant was given and this group has assisted various organizations requesting help in directing or in producing plays. Membership 54.

WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' PROGRAM

An attempt has been made this year to expand the program for the girls and women.

The young people's clubs already offer a wide range of activities and we have added to their program the dance in its various forms, tap, folk, square. Singing also has been attempted. These activities should in time prove to be one of the strongest units of the program.

There is a definite need for self-expression in all our lives, especially in the young child, and few other activities offer this opportunity as well as the dance and music.

Our program has and is being built in the hope that besides having the youngsters become familiar with a variety of activities, that they will adopt one or several which will serve as a worthwhile avocation for their leisure hours in later life.

Now what about the girl who has graduated from high school. In school, many avenues for spending her free time and using her energy to good advantage were open to her, but these are no longer available. One of our chief concerns this year was to build a program which would fill the needs of these high school graduates. With this thought in mind, an adult group of 36 individuals has been formed, meeting once a week for rhythmic, tap, and volleyball. A volleyball league of five teams is being organized and we are looking forward to some interesting match

games with some real competition.

This is only a start in our adult program for the women and girls of the community, but we do anticipate expanding it to fill the needs by offering them facilities and leadership at a low cost level so that they may spend their leisure hours in active participation instead of passive spectatorship.

FLORENCE RHONES, Supv.,
Women's & Girls' Program.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES
AT INDOOR CENTERS

Adult Art Class
Adult Handicraft Class
Shuffleboard Teams
Bowling
Hallowe'en Parties
Christmas Parties.
Easter Parties (Egg Roll)
May Party
26 Community Parties
Knitting Classes
Cooking Class
Dramatics
Tap Classes
Square Dancing
Rhythmic Class
Women's Volleyball
Ping-Pong
Men's Basketball

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

- 17 women and 20 men on the
Community Party Board.
- 18 men and women on our Board
of Directors.
- 14 men and women on the Hiking
Club Committee.
- 1 woman giving volunteer
service at the Craft Shop.

SUMMARY

<u>Facilities</u>	<u>Registration</u>
14 Playgrounds	4,500
7 Twilight Centers	5,000
2 Wading Pools	600
9 Street Showers	1,200
<u>Clubs</u>	
Young Boys, Lafayette	50
Young Girls, "	50
Sr. Girls "	125
Sr. Boys "	100
Jr. Boys "	75
Young Boys, Higbee	85
Young Girls "	85
Sr. Girls "	75
St. Mary's Boys	30
St. Mary's Girls	30
St. James & Craft Boys	128
St. James & Craft Girls	142
Lancaster Boys' Club, Inc.	300
Mothers' Club, Higbee	35
Mothers' Club, Lanc. Boys' C.	25
Adults, Craft Shop	25
Adult Art Club	25
Women's Night, E. Jr.	36
3 Basketball Centers	800
1 Social Dancing Center	750
1 Hiking Group	150
Community Theatre Group	54
Free Swimming Class	400
	14,875

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 Projector (silent)	
1 16 mm " " 3000 ft. film	
6 Miniature Bowling Alleys	
1 Amateur Bowling Alley (Adapted)	

FINANCIAL STATEMENTReceiptsWelfare Federation

Maintenance	\$10,136.00	
Replacement	350.00	
		\$10,486.00

Public Funds

Park Dept.	\$ 1000.00	
Bank Dividends	15.50	
Rebate	78.19	
Handicraft	41.27	
		1,134.96
Total Income -		\$11,620.96

DisbursementsAdministrative Expense

Salaries	\$ 4860.00	
Office Supplies	105.90	
Postage, 'Phone	104.45	
Misc. Admin.	40.93	
		\$ 5,111.28

Service Expense

Salaries	2121.35	
Auto Upkeep	300.00	
Clubs	2337.47	
(Supv. & Supplies)		
Education work	45.05	
Repairs	34.55	
Insurance	53.60	
Athletic Equip.	718.89	
Publicity	29.33	
Conference	50.00	
Nat'l Ass'n	150.00	
Handicraft	183.04	
Replacement	350.00	
		\$ 6,373.28

Total Disbursements - \$ 11,484.56

Balance on hand
end fiscal year 136.40

\$ 11,620.96

(Note: Balance not drawn from Welfare Federation due to late employment of Woman Supervisor.)

\$1200.00 was paid by the School Board directly to the Playground Supervisors on the school grounds.

Crispus Attucks Center operates on a budget of \$3244.86.

CRISPUS ATTUCKS
RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Two factors stand out as significant in the past year's program: a decided increase in the number of participants and the unusual interest of outside groups and individuals sponsoring our activities by contributing volunteer leadership and equipment. This is due to the publicity given to the program through the drive for a new building.

Several new ventures in organized groups have been added - a Brownie Girl Scout Troop, shopwork for boys, tap and folk dancing groups and business girls' club. A highlight of the summer program was a week afforded to 30 girls at Kepler Lodge. This privilege marks the crystallization of ten years of cooperative thinking, and indicates better racial understanding.

Christmas Parties

More than 700 children, 200 being white children, were cared for at these parties. This was made possible due to the efforts of two citizens who during the entire year accumulated a fund for this purpose.

St. Paul's (Lititz) Party

For the fifth consecutive year our small children were guests of the Mothers' Class of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lititz.

Other Contributions

Tick Tock Club of Y.W.C.A., Manger Offering of St. John's Episcopal Sunday School, and decorated toys from Glen Mills School.

Hot Lunch Project

In an effort to use every available facility in the community, we are opening a hot lunch project which will serve over 120 children from the 3 schools in this vicinity. Free lunches to children undernourished and unable to pay, and 6¢ to be charged for others. The Interdenominational Missionary Union of the city is the sponsoring group. Government surplus commodities will be used and all racial groups will be served.

Clothing for Needy Families

Needy families will receive re-conditioned clothing supplied by a joint committee from the Missionary Union and Center Board.

New Building for Crispus Attucks

We wish to thank the many friends who have maintained interest and faith in our program as expressed through contributions to the building fund. We hope that the gravity of the national problems will not cause us to overlook the necessity for training better and happier citizens to meet the crisis ahead. We cannot afford to bank the fires of character-building programs when we realize that the future of our nation depends upon the children of today.

Site of Building

The property at 407-411 Howard Avenue has been purchased and already friends with much faith and long vision are giving equipment. We hope that the building will be started as soon as it is expedient.

Our Appreciation

We wish to acknowledge our appreciation to the Service Club of the Unitarian Church which has pledged itself to furnish a Day Nursery to serve 25 children in the new center.

To all friends who in any way helped to make the work of our association worthwhile to the community, we wish to express our deep appreciation.

Our thanks to the National Recreation Association for sending Mr. Attwell to help us solve many problems.

Activities at the Center:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Activity</u>	
Infancy-6 yrs.	7th Ward Health Center (25% white children)	
	Registration --	200
6-10 yrs.	Game & Craft Group Tap Dancing Clubs (Seasonal Parties)	
	Registration --	500
10-16 yrs.	Organized Class in Crafts, discussion groups, games, drama & music.	
	Registration --	300
16 & up	Boards, Committees, Adult Classes, Parent Groups	
	Registration --	300
(Church & fraternal groups also use the Center)	(Total-	1300

RUBY M. PAYNE,
Director.

NATIONAL RECREATION ASS'N

Regardless of the national emergency and the many calls put upon our national office as it takes its place in this emergency, we still continue to receive inspiration and help through the District Representative, the magazine and the bulletin service. Our gratitude to Mr. Braucher and the other members of the national staff for their timely suggestions and continued encouragement.

APPRECIATION

Our Association is very dependent upon municipal, civic, and private agencies for much of its facilities and leadership.

To the Mayor and City Council our thanks for office space in the Municipal Building, cash donation of \$1000, to pay for supervisors on city parks, policing and care of city parks, and for water in wading pools and street showers.

To the Lancaster School Board our thanks for the use of 4 school buildings for recreation activities and for funds to pay for supervisors on 7 school grounds.

To The Rev. George W. Brown, Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church, our thanks for the use of the Parish Hall for club and basketball facilities.

To Dr. William H. Bollman of the First Reformed & Evangelical Church, our thanks for the use of the Sunday School Room for staff meetings.

To The Rev. Robt. C. Batchelder, of St. James Episcopal Church, our thanks for the use of the Parish Hall, gymnasium and yard, as a playground and club room.

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

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

To the W.P.A. Education and Recreation Department, our thanks for assistance in supervising the various clubs and playgrounds.

The Recreation Association is also very grateful to many 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.

The Lancaster Recreation Association is an agency of the Welfare Federation and is located in the Municipal Building, 120 N. Duke Street.

This booklet was prepared and mimeographed in the office,

To the Y. W. C. A., our thanks
 for their generosity in allowing us
 space for the Community Parties
 and for special consideration for
 the needs of our Chinese League
 group.

To the Lancaster Newspapers,
 Inc., our thanks for their inter-
 est and interpretation of our work
 to the public.

To the W. P. A., Boston and
 Education Department, our thanks
 for assistance in supervising the
 various clubs and picnics.

The Education Association in
 its efforts to help individuals
 who are unable to appear in
 this way for their help in any
 way and the kind of material
 presented by boys and girls
 clubs - kind and otherwise
 would not say to look at
 finances.

To every member of the
 Education Board, who has
 may have been taken for granted,
 but nevertheless is appreciated,
 and without which organization
 of the social service type could
 not function.

The Lancaster Education
 Association is an agency
 of the Welfare Education
 and is located in the
 Municipal Building, 120 N.
 Third Street.

This booklet was prepared
 and mimeographed in the
 office.
