



# ANNUAL REPORT

1943

LANCASTER RECREATION ASSOCIATION

LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA



OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

of the

LANCASTER RECREATION ASSOCIATION

M. M. Harnish.....President  
Richard H. Smith.....Vice-President  
Mrs. H.W. Barnard....2nd Vice-President  
Melo H. Hess.....Treasurer  
A. A. Krimmel, Jr....Ass't Treasurer  
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Walter F. Gibble  
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Mrs. Walter K. Baer  
Richard H. Smith  
Rev. C. D. Spotts  
Rev. A. L. Benner

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.

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

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To the Board of Directors of the  
Lancaster Recreation Association:

Following is a brief report of the activities  
conducted by the Lancaster Recreation Association during  
the year 1943.

G. D. Brandon,  
Director of Recreation

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES

PLAYGROUNDS 13 grounds, including 6 city parks and 7 school grounds were open for a period of 8 weeks, from June 28 to August 21. 2500 children were registered with a seasonal attendance of 52,952. The 6 parks continued for a two weeks post-season to September 4, with an attendance of 4,189.

EVENING CENTERS An evening program was conducted on the 6 City Parks especially planned to include adults. Approximately 3000 were registered with an attendance of 17,000.

### SPECIAL ACTIVITIES ON THE PLAYGROUNDS

A 4TH OF JULY PROGRAM was held on each playground.

Storytelling Festival, Treasure Hunts, Baby Shows, Fashion Shows, Doll Shows, Dog Shows, Soap Bubble Contests, Beetle Contests, Model Plane Shows, Handicraft Shows, Spelling Bees, Lantern Shows, Hobby Shows, and many other such programs were held daily, including baseball, volleyball, paddle tennis, quoits, and other athletic games.

### SALE OF WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

Outstanding, was the sale of War Bonds and Stamps on the playgrounds by the children one day a week. The total amount sold was \$2,839.40.

### CITY-WIDE PAGEANT

A pageant was held at 6th Ward Park as the public performance of the season. Children from all the playgrounds participated.

### HANDICRAFT DISPLAY

400 pieces of Handicraft, made by the children on the playgrounds, were on display for 2 weeks in a downtown show window. Exceptionally fine work was done in crafts this year. Ninety percent of this work was done with the use of scraps of non-essential material. The creative value of crafts is invaluable in the lives of growing children.



WADING POOLS The two pools at Rodney Park and Buchanan Park were open daily from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. 600 children were registered. These pools were open through the cooperation of the City Departments of Parks and Water.

FREE SWIMMING LESSONS 400 children were registered for the Free Swimming Lessons which have been sponsored by the Maple Grove Pool, the Lancaster New Era, and our Association, for the past 11 years. 100 children successfully passed the swimming test and received certificates.

STREET SHOWERS 9 city fire hydrants were opened daily for half-hour periods in various sections of the city for children of the neighborhoods. 1200 children were registered and the seasonal attendance was 14,010. This activity is made possible through the cooperation of the City Water Department.

POST SEASON ON THE PARKS The City Park Department and the Welfare Federation each appropriated \$150. or a total of \$300. to keep the 6 parks open two weeks after the regular period, from August 23 to September 4. The attendance during this period was 4,189

#### SUPERVISION

We employed 26 young women to supervise the play-grounds - 18 full-time and 8 part-time. Also 1 Director of Special Activities, 1 Supervisor of Handicraft and 1 Supervisor of Dramatics. The 8 full-time supervisors on the school grounds were paid directly by the School Board.

This year's supervision was somewhat of a problem as many of the supervisors were only of high school age and not one man was available. Even the trucking and erection of equipment and repairing of the same and the removing of it to winter storage was done by the director.

INSTITUTE The annual Institute for Supervisors was held from June 21 to 24. Guest speakers were: Dr. James E. Wagner, Pastor of St. Peter's Reformed Church, Mr. George W. Harwood, Director of the Welfare Federation, and Miss Vesta M. Miller, R.N., Supervisor of the Visiting Nurse Association. These classes were open to the public.

HIKING CLUB 10 hikes were held Saturday afternoons during the spring and autumn seasons. An average of 30 hikers attended each hike. Mr. & Mrs. Grant Barr, of Barr Rose Terrace, very hospitably entertained the group with pumpkin pie and cider when one of our hikes took us past their home.

VICTORY GARDENS 1400 plots were laid out by our Director. This Victory Garden Project, which was initiated by our Board in 1942, was taken up by the Civilian Defense Organization.

COMMUNITY PARTIES 7 Community Dances were held at St. James Parish Hall during the summer months. These parties were held in cooperation with St. James Episcopal Church Group.



INDOOR ACTIVITIESWOMEN'S & GIRLS' PROGRAM

One night a week Edward Hand Jr. High School was open for a women's program of volleyball and basketball. 50 women were registered.

HOSPITAL WORK Four mornings a week the children in the wards of St. Joseph's Hospital and the Lancaster General Hospital were given handicraft, singing and games. This work was done by our Girls' Worker and by our office secretary.

CRAFT SHOP The Craft Shop at the rear of the Community Building, was open 5 nights a week from September to May 31, 1 night for girls and 4 nights for boys. This shop is well equipped with motor tools. 75 girls are registered and 100 boys. The boys made 3 letter holders and 1 mail box for the U.S.O. Also constructed 60 toy wagons for needy children at Christmas.

CLUBS FOR GIRLS & BOYS AT LAFAYETTE SCHOOL A Boys' Club at Lafayette School was open two nights a week from October 1 to April 30. 150 boys were registered.

The Girls' Club at Lafayette School was open 1 night a week with a registration of 75.

MEN'S BASKETBALL 3 nights a week, men's basketball programs were held at Edward Hand and John Reynolds Jr. High Schools. 300 men used the courts at these two schools.

COMMUNITY PARTIES For 24 consecutive years, our Association has been conducting these Community Parties or Dances successfully in the gymnasium of the Y.W.C.A. In 1943 25 Parties were held from November 7 to May 1, with a total attendance of 6,105. 304 service men were in attendance at these dances. 30 volunteers on the Board of Governors help to conduct these affairs. 7 Parties were held during the summer months in St. James Parish Hall and met with considerable success.

OUR GIRLS' WORKER AT CRISPUS ATTUCKS CENTER Our Girls' Worker held dancing classes, games and dramatics for the children of Crispus Attucks Recreation Center 3 afternoons a week and for adults 1 night a week.

LANCASTER BOYS' CLUB, INC. Although this Club is financially on its own, our Association has been requested to take charge of the supervision and the purchasing of equipment for the shopwork. This has been done by our Director. The club has been open daily from 4:00 until dark, with a registration of 300.

ASSISTANCE TO NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES Advise and counsel has been given almost daily by the Director and at the office. Special talks were given at Mount Joy Rotary Club and James Buchanan School Assembly. Our recreation books and files, especially of games for social parties and picnics, are open to the public. Also our picnic kits which have been used daily during the summer months by church groups and civic organizations.



SERIES OF ARTICLES  
ON GAMES IN LOCAL  
NEWSPAPER

The Lancaster New Era accepted our articles on HOME PLAY, and published two articles a week for three months. These articles were composed of all types of games for home use, concluding the series with picnic and outdoor suggestions.

STAFF FOR INDOOR PROGRAM

1 Director of Recreation, 1 Director of Women's and Girls' Activities, 5 men and 4 women for part-time supervision at the basketball programs and for the club work.

VOLUNTEER SUPERVISION 30 young men and women on the Community Party Board.  
17 men and women on the Board of Directors  
7 men and women on the Hiking Club Committee  
2 Theological Seminary boys giving service at the Lancaster Boys' Club, Inc. 2 Seminary boys giving 1 night a week at Crispus Attucks Center, 2 Seminary boys assisting in basketball supervision. 1 woman assisted with handicraft classes at the Craft Shop for Girls.

SUMMARY OF FACILITIES

	<u>Registration</u>
13 Playgrounds	2,500
7 Evening Centers	3,000
2 Wading Pools	600
9 Street Showers	1,200
Free Swimming Classes	400
3 Basketball Centers	300
Sr. Boys Club - Lafayette School	75
Jr. Boys' Club - Lafayette School	75
Girls' Club - Craft Shop	75
Boys' Club - Craft Shop	100
Lancaster Boys' Club, Inc.	300
Women's Recreation Night - East Jr.	50
1 Social Dancing Center	1,000
1 Hiking Club	250
1 Center for Colored People (Crispus Attucks Center)	<u>1,525</u>
	11,450
16 Softball Diamonds	
1 Regulation Diamond	
10 Paddle Tennis Courts	
13 Volleyball Courts	
2 Horse-Shoe Courts	
7 Shuffleboard Courts	
4 Ping-pong Tables	
4 Picnic Kits	
1 Technical Lending Library	
1 35 mm Projector (silent)	
1 16 mm Projector (silent) (300 ft. Film)	
6 Miniature Bowling Alleys	
1 Amateur Bowling Alley (Adapted)	



FINANCIAL STATEMENTRECEIPTSWelfare Federation

Maintenance	\$11,337.46	
Replacement	262.08	
		\$11,599.54

Public Funds

Park Dept.	1,150.00	
Loan	100.00	
Refunds	6.28	
Resale Material	27.20	
Handicraft	46.55	1,330.03

Total Receipts	\$ 12,929.57	
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DISBURSEMENTSAdministrative Expense

Admin. Salaries	\$4920.00	
Office Supplies	99.46	
Telephone	49.23	
Postage	63.67	
Printing	50.79	
Misc. Admin.	35.57	
		5218.72

Service Expense

Salaries	2500.48	
Auto Upkeep	300.00	
Clubs	3311.12	
Educational	23.60	
Ath. Supplies	469.27	
Equip. Repairs	28.79	
Insurance	96.24	
Publicity	36.38	
Conference	25.00	
Nat'l Rec. Ass'n	150.00	
Craft Supplies	138.27	
Service Charges	10.22	
Loan (Community Party)	100.00	
		7189.37

Replacement		262.08
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Total Disbursements	\$12,670.17	
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Balance -		259.40
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		\$12,929.57
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Note: \$1200.00 was paid by the Lancaster School Board directly to the playground supervisors on the School Grounds.

## Crispus Attucks Recreation Center:

Total Receipts	\$5897.65	Total Disbursements	\$5768.63
		Balance	129.02
			\$ 5897.65



## WORDS OF THANKS:

To the Mayor and City Council for office space in the Municipal Building, and the cash donation of \$1000.00 with an additional gift of \$150.00 to pay for supervision on the city parks, including a post season. Also for water in the pools and St. Showers and the care of the parks.

To the Lancaster School Board for the use of 1 grade school and 2 junior high schools for our winter program. Also for funds to pay for the supervision on the 7 school grounds during the playground season.

To the Y.W.C.A. Board and Secretaries for the use of the gymnasium and facilities for our Community Parties.

To The Rev. Robert C. Batchelder, of St. James Church, for the use of the auditorium for our Community Parties during the summer months.

To the Lancaster Newspapers, Inc., for publicity, and especially for the publishing of a series of articles on HOME PLAY in the New Era. Also for the fine pictorial publicity of our Craft Shop and our hospital work.

To Dr. Wm. H. Bollman of the 1st Reformed and Evangelical Church for the use of the Sunday School Room for our Institute and for our Saturday morning Staff Meetings during the playground season.

Thanks to our Recreation Board

Thanks to our National Recreation Association

Thanks to our many friends who have assisted us in any way.

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CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION CENTER

In keeping with the principles of a democracy that additional privileges carry increasing responsibilities, the Crispus Attucks Center, because of more adequate working facilities, has tried to expend its program and accept greater responsibilities and obligations to the community.

CLUBS The regular organized club groups for boys, girls, men and women have functioned more smoothly because there has been adequate space for each to develop a program more in keeping with the desired objectives.

DAY NURSERY The Day Nursery which has now been operating for eleven months is meeting a great and long felt need of working mothers. Thirty-seven children, ranging in age from 18 months to 5 years, are enrolled. An average daily attendance of 18 to 23 is maintained, except during the recent epidemic of colds. A decided improvement in the health behavior habits and mental attitudes of the children is noticeable, not only to those in charge, but even to frequent visitors. A weekly check of weight and general physical condition is made by a physician and nurse. These records are available to parents at all times.

A trained kindergarten teacher and one full time assistant care for the children. The Unitarian Church Service Committee still acts as the sponsoring group and through their efforts an auxiliary has been organized, whose membership is representative of many other church and civic groups. Government assistance partially covers the cost of food. Parents pay a fee of 25¢ per day per child.

PROGRAM FOR SERVICE MEN The Center is one of the agencies cooperating with the U.S.O. and its facilities are at all times available to visiting or local men in the service. During the month of December, 156 service men were entertained through the Center. We alternate monthly between parties at the Center for soldiers from Indiantown Gap Military Reservation and transporting dancing partners from here to the Gap.

At our Christmas Party on December 17, 100 soldiers and the orchestra were present. Among the distinguished guests present were Ralph Metcalf (former Olympic star), several officers from the regular army who had seen foreign service under the late Col. Charles Young, as well as with General B. O. Davis.

INTER-RACIAL COUNCIL Growing out of the increased interest of all racial groups in our program to promote better racial attitudes in the city, we have formed an Inter-racial Council, composed of persons who are interested in all types of community problems which involve the curtailment of rights of minority groups. The personnel of the Council is composed of representatives of the



Catholic, Jewish and Protestant faiths, students and professors from F. & M. College, persons in business, social service, teachers, ministers and lay people. One objective of the Council is to demonstrate to the community that by all citizens working harmoniously together on positive and constructive projects, many fine attitudes can be developed that cannot be brought about otherwise. Much emphasis is put upon fine fellowship through working together. We are convinced that much of our post war planning must be done by just such groups if all persons are to enjoy and make permanently safe the American way of life. The membership of the Council is open to any citizen who believes that Democracy should be practiced as well as defended. Public forums, discussion groups and cultural programs have afforded fine opportunities to get better acquainted.

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP Although our leadership has been much impaired because of losing individuals to the armed forces, we have been able to carry on many activities through the fine cooperation of volunteer leaders from F. & M. Seminary, the Y.W.C.A. staff, Rural Youth Groups and various individuals who have formerly been teachers or nurses. For such splendid assistance we are indeed grateful and realize that our program could not go on without this help.

HOT LUNCH PROJECT Again for the third consecutive winter we express our deep gratitude to the Women's Missionary Federation of Lancaster City and to the Farm Women's Society, who so generously contribute of their money, produce, and time and service to carry on the Hot Lunch Project for our school children. As has been true from the beginning, both white and colored children are included and the dividends in better health, happier youngsters, as well as more alert pupils, more than pay for all the fine service involved. From the expressions of the Missionary Women, they too are receiving a spiritual remuneration that comes to those who touch the lives of children in the capacity of serving.

MEMBERSHIP Because we feel that any good thing is enhanced if we have put forth an effort to obtain it, this year we installed a sliding scale of membership fees. All children up to twelve years of age purchase a membership card for 25¢ (for the year). Those from 12 to 18 years of age pay 50¢ and those from 18 yrs. and up pay \$1.00. No child is deprived of the use of the Center in this way, yet each feels he has made some contribution towards its upkeep.

CRAFT DEPARTMENT Our craft department has made unusual progress now that we have a well equipped shop where many happy hours are spent in creating things with the hands. Under the efficient direction of two instructors, children of all racial groups in the neighborhood sing with contentment as they paint, carve and construct gay projects in various mediums.



GIRL SCOUTS Our Girl Scouts enjoyed an ideal camping period this summer through the generosity of Mrs. Wm. Arnold, who permitted us to use their summer home at Fishing Creek. Gloriously nestled in the picturesque hills of this section of the county, just a short hike from the beautiful Susquehanna River on the site of an old mill, it afforded an ideal spot to carry out a camp program. I am sure that each of the twenty-two scouters came home richer spiritually as well as more physically fit because of this experience. The five counsellors who were along donated their services and the dietician charged only a nominal sum for her services.

We wish to thank each and all of the many kind and interested organizations and individuals who throughout the year have made contributions of money and service toward the promotion of our program.

To the various boards and members of committees we also express our sincere gratitude for their untiring services. We shall be glad when those of our board members who have answered the call of the army will be permitted to return to us.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTER

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Registration</u>
Infancy to 6 yrs.	7th Ward Health Center (25% white children)	150
6 to 10 yrs.	Games & Craft Groups, Tap and Folk Dancing, Athletics, Domestic Art, Bible Class	550
10 to 16 yrs.	Organized Teams, Craft Classes, Discussion Groups, Games, Music, Drama, Shopwork	400
16 yrs. & up	Boards, Committees, Adult Classes, Parent Groups	375
6 to 14 yrs.	Hot Lunch	75
(Church, Fraternal, and other outside groups, also use the Center for social and business meetings.)		
		Total - 1,525

-- RUBY M. PAYNE, DIRECTOR



Lancaster History