

**THE
BEST YEARS**



ANNUAL REPORT

1948

**LANCASTER RECREATION ASSOCIATION
and the
CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION CENTER
Lancaster, Pennsylvania**

LancasterHistory

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THE LANCASTER RECREATION ASSOCIATION
 AND THE CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION
 CENTER ARE MEMBER AGENCIES OF THE
 COMMUNITY CHEST.

- Foreword -

● CHILDHOOD days are considered by poets and writers as the happiest days of our lives. They are at least the most important and productive days for future happiness and usefulness.

The development and care of this period is one of the most important affairs of our country. Recreation and educational organizations have found that the developing child reacts successfully in graded organized groups.

The closing year has shown an increase in the club type of program. Pre school age children are extremely individualistic, but as they advance in school, group consciousness develops. This fact points the way to the most effective method of training for life. Preparation for life can be measured in a degree by the ability to get along successfully with other people. We must never forget in working with children the child's right to be an individual and not an echo of some person or system.

The child must be taken in easy stages from an individual to a consciousness of his place and responsibility in a group or society. The step is a very natural one. The child's daily contact shows him that some of his needs can be met better as he joins with others in sharing an experience. Naturally, children are not always aware of what is happening to them other than a feeling of pleasure and satisfaction in the group experience.

If we accept the group as the proper medium for all sound development in living and growing, what are some of the results that might follow from such an experience? The first indication that an individual experiences from group work is comradeship and friendship. The fact that he or she is loved and accepted by others fills a fundamental need in their lives. They realize for the first time how much they are like other people without losing their own individuality. They also realize that with the help of others, certain things can be accomplished that they are unable to perform alone. The game becomes more interesting. The project has greater scope. The final results more satisfying. This impresses him with the importance of cooperation or sharing of talents, responsibilities, successes and even failures.

In the group experience he learns that as he spends his energies in developing the group, his individual traits are improved. He finds that he desires to be prompt at meetings. He is willing to assume more responsibility. The words "we", "us", "our club", take on new meaning. "All for one and one for all" concept has greater significance. These binding ties are strengthened by the use of comprehensive names, signs and symbols that connote unity. He accepts the aims and objects of the group which grows in strength as the scope of the group enlarges. The group's aims become a part of his nature. He is willing to defend these aims. This gives him an outlet for sacrificial effort and develops the individual.

He in turn must give up some of his biases, prejudices and pet ideas. These must be sacrificed. He must exercise more restraint and control as a group member than as an individual. He has espoused a cause which demands his best, which he is willing to give for the sheer joy of doing things for the good of the group and the acclaim of his fellow members.

This desire to belong, to act in cooperation with others, is the basis not only of good citizenship, but of destructive unsocial gangs that have at times terrorized our country.

"The average man in prison today was in grade school ten years ago, the man who will be in prison ten years hence is in grade school today."*

The unsolved problem of childhood is the germinating field for crime. Not only must we give boys and girls opportunity for group expression, which is a step in preparation for community life, but we must be sure that the leadership and guidance of these groups is of the type that is going to develop good citizens.

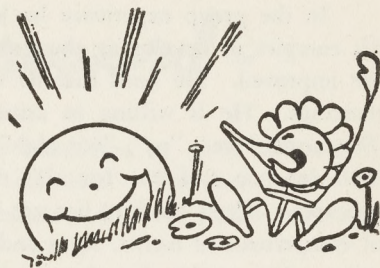
GRANT D. BRANDON,
Director of Recreation.

*JAMES A. JOHNSTON, member of Advisory
Pardon Board, California Crime Commission.

"Citizenship cannot be taught as a cold, abstract thing. It can be taught best through doing things together that yield joy; through playing together."

—TAM DEERING.

*All Thru
The Warm
Summer
Days*



. . . when we grown-ups were trying our best to keep cool, our youngsters — thousands of them — from all sections of the city were busy at the playgrounds with their Softball Leagues, Volleyball, Hobby Shows, Pet Shows, Doll Shows, Pushmobile Contests, Folk Dancing, Story-telling and other important events in their daily playground schedule.

- The 13 playgrounds — 6 of which are City Playgrounds with the Park Department appropriating funds for the supervision and 7 city school grounds for which the School Board provides supervision, were open from June 21 to September 1, with 5000 children registered.

- 42 young men and women were employed from the local colleges and schools as supervisors.

- 2 Wading Pools were open daily at two city parks.

- 10 street showers were operated daily through the cooperation of the City Water Department.

Recreation Institute For Playground Supervisors

The week previous to the opening of the playgrounds was set aside for the annual training period for the supervisors assigned to the playgrounds.

Instruction in theory and practice was given in Handicraft, Puppetry, Folk Dancing, Dramatics and Games by the staff.

Guest speakers were: Mr. M. M. Harnish, President of the Recreation Association; Dr. W. Austin Bishop, Professor of Physical Education and Director of Athletics, F. & M. College; Mr. K. L. Shirk, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Safety; Miss Vesta M. Miller, R. N., Supervisor, Visiting Nurse Assoc.; Mr. Sherman L. Hill, Director, Lancaster Boys' Club; Lancaster Free Public Librarian and a reporter from the Intelligencer Journal Newspaper.

May We Help You

The files of the Recreation Association and the staff are at your service to assist in preparing recreation programs for all occasions.

THREE PICNIC KITS are in daily demand during the summer months for family or club picnics.

MOVIES! Yes. 16 mm silent on Playground Activities, Hiking and Boys' and Girls' Clubs. Also 35 mm slides in color. These are helpful for promotion programs.

The members of the staff are called upon to give talks and instruction to many groups during the year. Daily requests are made at the office for information on some phase of recreation.

As a service agency, the Recreation Association is happy to cooperate whenever possible with the other Red Feather Agencies in the community.

Play Day For All

It's a big day when hundreds of children from the 13 city playgrounds frolic on the Buchanan Park playground. There is close harmony on all teams as children are intermingled with each other and become friends of boys and girls they have never met before.

A special event was the Playground Beauty Contest for girls from the ages of 6 to 12. After an afternoon of rigorous activities, the children enjoyed refreshments. Funds for the refreshments were secured through the sale of 7 tons of scrap paper collected by the children during the summer.

City-Wide Jr. Olympics

The presence in our city of an Olympic Champion — Barney Ewell — sparked our city-wide Jr. Olympic Track Meet. 200 boys and girls participated with keen interest.

With the 1952 Olympics in view, a new champion may be in our midst — who knows?



Free Swimming Lessons

COME ON IN, THE WATER'S FINE

It takes a lot of courage sometimes for the boys and girls to duck under water for the first time, but at the end of their 5th lesson, their faces are alight with joy as a certificate awaits them after successfully swimming 25 feet.

These free swimming lessons are given each year by the Lancaster New Era, Maple Grove and our Recreation Association for children under 10 years of age. This program attracts 400 children.

Annual Handicraft Exhibit

Each day on the playgrounds a period is set aside for making crafts which vary from leatherwork, linoleum carving, painting, sewing, plaster of paris castings, cork, and strawtex, decorative plates, crepe-paper dolls, mesh cloth purses, etc.

At the end of the season several hundred pieces of crafts made by the children on the playgrounds were on display in the show-window of the Manufacturers' Association building.

Hiking Club

Nature activities are possibly the most natural form of Recreation we have.

A hike through the woods and over the fields — with congenial companions restores the tired office girl and the over worked executive in an efficient enjoyable manner.

The hiking club now operates with a twelve months program, hiking weekly and special week-end trips on national holidays. In addition the club enjoys square dancing during the winter months. Officers—Pres. R. V. Ingram; Vice Pres., R. S. McCalley; Sec., Katherine Vindemore; Treas., Isobella F. Wagner; Committee, Mrs. Mary Powers, Miss Amelia Nies, Miss Mabel Barnet, Miss Ruth M. Bauer, Frantz Ritz, G. D. Brandon.



*"Of all the stunts that man can do,
From flying down to talking,
The exercise that beats them all,
Is just plain honest walking."*

Indoor Program

Hibernation In Winter??

No Sir, We Have

Indoor Activities

**800 BOYS and GIRLS
REGISTERED AT 10 CLUBS
600 MEN ON APPROXIMATELY
72 BASKETBALL TEAMS**

. . . . Which gives you an idea of just why hibernation is not possible.

Our Weekly Indoor Schedule of Activities is as follows:

MONDAY

Higbee Jr. Girls' Club	4:00- 5:30	90
Higbee Sr. Girls' Club	7:00- 9:00	60
Craft Shop Boys' Club	7:00- 9:00	75
Lafayette Boys' Club	7:00- 9:00	115
Men's Basketball (Hand)	7:00-10:00	175
Men's Basketball (Reynolds)	7:00-10:00	175

TUESDAY

Craft Shop Sr. Girls	7:00- 9:00	40
Lafayette Jr. Girls' Club	4:00- 5:30	90
Lafayette Sr. Girls' Club	7:00- 9:00	60
Children's Ward Program		
Lanc. General Hospital	10:00-11:30	15
	a. m.	

WEDNESDAY

Stevens Jr. Girls' Club	4:00- 5:30	80
Craft Shop Boys' Club	7:00- 9:00	75
Lafayette Boys' Club	7:00- 9:00	115
Men's Basketball (Hand)	7:00-10:00	175
Men's Basketball (Reynolds)	7:00-10:00	175

THURSDAY

Craft Shop Boys' Club	7:00- 9:00	75
Craft Shop Jr. Girls	4:00- 5:30	75
Rodney Girls' Club	7:00- 9:00	25
Men's Basketball (Hand)	7:00-10:00	175
Men's Basketball (Reynolds)	7:00-10:00	175

SATURDAY

Hiking Club	1:30- 5:30	150
Community Dance (monthly)	8:00-11:30	250

Boys' Activities

The Important Years in Mechanical Training



Give an American boy a wooden crate and in twenty minutes he'll have the wheels off last year's baby carriage and in two hours will have built himself something and be so happy he wouldn't trade places with the Mayor.

America was built by people who knew the joy of working with their hands. Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln — each was a craftsman in his own right. Ford was a mechanic, so was Knudsen, the Fishers were woodworkers. Chrysler had to learn to make tools before he could make automobiles.

When Americans lose the desire to build, the America we know today will vanish. Detroit has a library where boys can borrow tools the same way they borrow books from libraries.

Our aim is not primarily to find more Fords, Fishers, or Chryslers, but to keep that desire to build alive.

Boys' Craft Shop The Craft Shop, located at the rear of 129 East Orange Street, is equipped with power tools and many materials for use in developing craftsmanship. This Club is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 for boys from the ages of 8 to 14. Many projects are made, from corner shelves and tie racks to other useful household articles.

Boys' Club At Lafayette School

Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 you will find Lafayette buzzing with activity. This club is open to all boys from the ages of 6 to 14. Leadership for this club, as well as for the Craft Shop, is secured from the Industrial Arts Department of M.S.T.C. This trained leadership guides the boys in the use of tools enabling them to construct woodwork, linoleum carvings, weaving, seasonal projects, such as Christmas cards and Valentines. Other boys participate in boxing, wrestling, basketball, dodgeball and other activities planned by their supervisors.

Men's Basketball

From October through April, Men's Basketball lures some 600 men into active participation in competitive leagues. 72 teams, playing 3 nights a week on the Edward Hand and John Reynolds basketball floors, made available through the courtesy of the Lancaster School Board.



Community Dance

Our coed program for young adolescents in the city, in cooperation with the Y.W.C.A., conducts one dance a month.

A volunteer committee of 25 young people representing youth agencies from the city and county, plan and conduct these dances.

Hospital Work Boosts Morale

A simple craft brightens many a dull spirit in the Children's Ward of the Lancaster General Hospital.

Our Director of Women's and Girls' Activities, visits the children one day a week. The children look forward to this recreation as an opportunity to forget their illness, by enjoying stories, music and craft projects.

"You can interrupt the improving of a road and ten years later go on with it where you left off, but if you interrupt the decent care for boys and girls and ten years later begin again to feel responsible for them, you can by no means begin where you left off. You find them irreparably grown up, and grown up wrong — enemies and liabilities of the community, rather than friends and assets."

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER.

"The play of children has the mightiest influence on the maintenance or non-maintenance of law.

PLATO.

"Our stage of civilization is not going to depend upon what we do when we work, so much as what we do in our off-time. The moral and physical forces of our country do not lose ground in the hours we are busy on the job. Their battle time is the time of leisure."

HERBERT HOOVER.





600 Girls Can't Be Wrong

That's right, 600 girls are registered in the 8 girls' clubs that are open from October to April.

"I can't wait 'til next week to finish my block print," is the best reward our supervisors could possibly have. Mary Ann can't be wrong. When she finished her block print she has a choice of many other activities to participate in, which all girls love.

There are all types of games to play, a victrola to dance to, parties to make plans and decorations for, songs to learn, books and magazines to read and all types of handicrafts to make with a competent instructor to guide them.

Girls from 6 years of age to 11 are members of the Junior Club, while those 12 years and up are members of the Senior Clubs. Each club meets weekly in school buildings, our Craft Shop and Rodney Recreation Center.

Four of the clubs have been adopted by two outstanding women's clubs as special projects. The Lancaster Quota Club has given special attention since 1944 to the Jr. and Sr. Girls' Clubs at Higbee School, while the Soroptimist Club has for two years had as their project the Lafayette Jr. and Sr. Girls' Clubs. This year, both groups entertained the four girls' clubs with special Christmas Parties and played Santa Claus to approximately 250 girls.



Happy Hours Club

The retired citizens group or Happy Hours Club has started its second year of successful activities.

After 65 What? This is not a popular question, but it is one increasingly asked today and its successful answer is requiring a lot of thought not only on the part of the Government but of Social Agencies concerned with conserving human values at all ages.

We look upon our older folks group not only as people who are enjoying the just rewards of a life of service to their community, but as a group still capable of directing their own activities, along the lines of social, recreational, and cultural expression.

The Happy Hours Club meets monthly during the entire year, and is looking forward to the time when they may have permanent quarters where they can meet daily.

The officers are, President, Mr. Harry L. Brown; Vice Pres., Miss Helen Doty; Secy., Miss Katherine Huber; Comm., Miss Barbara K. Mylin, Mrs. Jessie Zercher, Mrs. B. F. Snively, Mrs. W. K. Baer.

We Are Grateful To Our National Recreation Association

Frequently we take our parents very much for granted. This fact does not change the relationship. The child often forgets to thank his parents simply because he is a parent. We are one of thousands of Recreation Associations in this and other countries whose very existence dates back to an act of generosity on the part of our National Recreation.

Our continued gratitude goes out to our National Recreation Association for the frequent visitations of their representative, Mr. J. W. Faust, and the inspiration from our National Recreation Association leaders.

Crispus Attucks Recreation Center

At times during the life of an organization, dealing in the unpredictable merchandise of children and youth, there come moments which make the effort seem worthwhile. Seldom, however, in the history of a community does it produce an Olympic Star such as our own Barney Ewell. So to Barney, a member of the Crispus Attucks family since he was a small youngster, this report is dedicated. Through the years as a vivacious, mischievous, jovial and most affable personality, Barney has been one of a group of favorite sons of the Center, all of whom have now assumed responsible positions in the life of the community of Lancaster.

Because we believe that only through the complete community integration of all groups can we attain "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness", we try in every phase of the program to give opportunity for the blending and expression of human abilities.

Day Nursery

The Day Nursery graduated to Kindergarten, five members for whom it had cared since they were toddlers. It is gratifying to learn that these children have a definite carryover in habits of cooperation with teachers, social attitudes toward schoolmates and general adjustments to school life, which is not found in children who have not had nursery training.

The Nursery operated 195 days, afforded 2,697 days of child care and served 8,091 meals. Parents fees furnished 30% of operating expenses.

We wish to pay tribute to the memory of the late Mrs. Albert M. Herr, one of the fine friends of the Nursery. Mrs. Herr gave ardent and unreserved service as the President of the Auxiliary of the Nursery since its organization six years ago.

School Lunch

It is hard to measure in words the far reaching benefits to the community that have come through this project so efficiently and conscientiously promoted by the Lancas-

ter Council of Church Women for 8 years. More important than the business efficiency is the deep concern and Christian approach which this group of more than 900 women put into their service.

Special features again were the annual turkey dinner (turkeys again furnished by Miss Sara Kittle) and the annual Christmas Party for more than 140 children.

During the 154 days of operation 11,738 meals were served, 6,802 were free, 41 churches contributed and 908 women gave service.

Girls' Speech Choir

Outstanding in the creative recreation group is a speech choir organized over a year ago. Mrs. Richard Frantz Herr, has developed a technique with this group of 10 to 12 year old girls which approaches the professional. They have made a number of public appearances before P.T.A. and church groups.

Nightingale Glee Club

The Nightingale Glee Club has earned for itself an enviable place as singers of wide range of selections done with artistic interpretation, under the direction of Mrs. Kitty Dunn.

A spring concert, Christmas carolling, appearance before outside groups, and a spring formal dance are among the special features of the club. A joint program with the Speech Choir and a creative dance group is being planned at present.

Chickadees

This is one of the live wire groups of six to nine year old boys whom the athletic director has transformed from an "in your hair and around your feet" aggregation, into a well organized, but none the less wirey club. They like to do all the wholesome activities from tumbling to singing. Feeds, hikes, athletic games, snooze parties (at the Center) are among the program items they enjoy.

Pals

A more self-contained, but none the less active, club is the Pals, 10 to 14 years of age. Basketball, badminton,

talent shows and outdoor activities including camping, are especially enjoyed by them.

Boys 14 to 18 years of age are busy playing basketball in County B League and in the Eastern Pennsylvania School and Community Center League. This group is engaged in all the more highly organized games.

Special Feature

The annual banquet of Silvery Moon Chapter Eastern Star; September, Consul of I.B.P.O.E. of W.; a Citizen's Testimonial banquet honoring Barney Ewell; recital featuring Gloria Wilson, former assistant teacher in the Day Nursery.

The Pilot Club

Our Center has been most fortunate to be adopted as a special project by the Pilot Club of Lancaster. This group of highly trained young women represent a wide scope of professions and business, ranging through artists, teachers, legal and commercial secretaries, business women, social workers and hotel hostess. Through their interest a reservoir of fine volunteer leadership has been released. They have equipped and are supervising a lending library of over 800 volumes at the Center. Leadership is given for story-telling, creative drama, finger painting and sketching. Greatest value lies in the direct contact between our youth and such leadership in cultural areas.

Tribute

Among the many friends whom the Center has had during the years, none was more sincere and dynamic in her quiet and gentle way than Mrs. Sarah Englert. Imbued with the spirit of justice for all, she worked ceaselessly with the youth seeking to encourage them to continue in school and go on with training for higher service in various fields. It was through her efforts as chairlady, that we established a Guidance Committee through which data, school catalogues and advice was given out to junior and senior high school students. In cases where the student desired, aptitude tests were given at Franklin and Marshall College to help the individual choose a career.

Physically a delicate flower, but spiritually, our friend was a tower of strength when following through on Chris-

tian convictions. At a special service of tribute to Mrs. Englert and her place in the Center's family last March, Prof. Donald Englert presented a sound movie projector and screen in his wife's memory.

Work Camp

During November, a week-end work camp attended by young people and leaders, was held at Crispus Attucks. Although the work accomplished — painting, building, bookcases, making tables, sewing drapes and chair covers — was of great material value we feel it was in the area of fellowship that most good was obtained.

FROM FRIDAY evening until Sunday we lived, ate, played, worked and worshipped together. The religious faiths represented were Jewish, Catholic, Protestant.

As the official meeting place of the Lancaster Interracial Council, the Center shares the satisfaction that comes with the increasing influence and growth of this organization at the September retreat held at Kepler Lodge. The year's program was planned, including monthly interracial and interdenominational services, three week-end work camps, a radio and press project, and an employment opportunity committee.

During the fiscal year, the Director gave forty-one talks to civic and church groups in the city and county and Reading, Pa.; served as discussion leader at the Western Regional Conference of Recreation Workers in Kansas City, Mo., and as member of the Advisory and Reception Committee of the National Recreation Congress in Omaha, Neb., and on the teaching staff at Camp Mensch Mill, Evangelical and Reformed Church Camp for 2 weeks during the summer, and a member of the Speakers' Bureau of the Community Chest campaign.

Acknowledgements - -

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Thomas Sylvester for the gift of nine plastic Venetian blinds.

To the Future Teachers of America of F. & M. College for money and canned goods.

To the Kiwanis Club for toys.

To many other individuals and organizations for parties and gifts.

To Lancaster Chapter of the Needlework Guild for garments.

To V.N.A. and Dr. Paul Fletcher for professional services on staff of Well Baby Clinic.

The daily attendance at the Center is 275, covering an age range of 18 months to 50 years and up.

RUBY M. PAYNE,
Director.

LancasterHistory

Financial Statement

DEFICIT 1ST OF YEAR\$ 199.34

RECEIPTS

Community Chest\$14,575.71
 City Park Dept. 5,500.00
 Bequest, W. H. Trost 105.10
 Soroptimist Club 292.00
 Quota Club 50.00
 Sale of apparatus 179.32
 Fees from Handicraft and Basket-
 ball 381.95

\$21,084.08

Total Receipts\$20,884.74

DISBURSEMENTS

Administrative\$ 6,910.86
 Playground and Club Supervision
 and Supplies 10,839.88
 Playground Apparatus and re-
 pairs to equipment 1,025.00
 General Expense 1,945.54

Total Disbursements\$20,709.88

Balance on hand end of year 174.86

\$20,884.74

CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION CENTER

BALANCE ON HAND 1ST OF YEAR\$ 53.60

RECEIPTS

Community Chest\$10,269.02
 Day Nursery Fees, Basketball Fees,
 Memberships 1,333.32
 Gift—Mr. J. A. Weaver 150.00

Total Receipts\$11,805.94

DISBURSEMENTS

Total Administrative and Service
 Expenses\$11,784.79
 BALANCE END OF YEAR 21.15

\$11,805.94

Acknowledgments

Thanks to the Mayor and City Council for office space in the Municipal Building, and for the sum of \$5,500 to pay for supervision on 6 City Park Playgrounds for a ten week's program and for Wading Pools and St. Showers.

Thank to the Lancaster School Board for the use of two grade schools and two junior high schools for the winter program, 7 school grounds for summer playgrounds and the sum of \$2,115.00 paid for supervision on the grounds.

Thanks to Rev. Robert C. Batchelder of St. James' Episcopal Church for the use of the Parish House on several occasions.

Thanks to Rev. Heber W. Becker of St. John's Episcopal Church for the use of the Parish Hall for one of our Girls' Clubs.

Thanks to Rev. H. B. Strock of First Presbyterian Church for the use of the social rooms to conduct our Happy Hours Club program.

Thanks to Dr. Wm. H. Bollman of the First Reformed and Evangelical Church for the use of the Sunday School Room for staff meetings and training center.

Thanks to the Lancaster Quota Club and the Soroptimist Club for sponsoring the girls clubs which meet at Higbee and Lafayette schools. We greatly appreciate their financial assistance and personal leadership during the year.

Thanks to the Lancaster Newspapers, Inc. and the two Broadcasting Stations — WGAL and WLAN for keeping the public informed of our program.

Thanks to Rodney Park Parents' Association for use of their Center for a Girls' Club.

Thanks to many individual friends of the Association for advice and assistance.

Thanks to the volunteer Recreation Board who give many hours to make possible the functioning of a Social Service Agency one of the 18 Red Feather agencies in Lancaster County Community Chest.

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