1949

Growth in Leisure



LANCASTER RECREATION ASSOCIATION 120 N. Duke St., Lancaster, Penna.

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GRANT D. BRANDON	Director of Recreation
Albert E. Reese, Jr.	Assistant Director
PHYLLIS E. DICKSupervisor	
	Secretary and Supervisor of Craft

The Lancaster Recreation Association and the Crispus Attucks Recreation Center are member agencies of the Community Chest.

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE CITIZENS OF LANCASTER:

Recreation has become a catchword in the way it is expressed by all classes of men, connotating a variety of uses from keeping young boys, or so called delinquents out of jail, to the expressions of art by the adult, thus effecting the seven ages of man from the cradle to the grave. The fact that recreation has acquired in the eyes of the public, such magic factors as to be able to transform boys and girls, is a help and a hinderance.

It is a pleasant feeling for the recreation worker to realize that the world at last recognizes his worth as an important segment of society, but if he is true to his vocation, he must realize that much of this credit is due, not to his profession, but to shallow thinking on the part of the public endeavoring to find a simple cure for a serious flaw in our society.

Recreation is not a palliative. It has a definite function to perform in the lives of our people. As Joseph Lee, so wisely said, "Play for the adult is re-creation, the renewal of life; play for the child is growth, the gaining of life." Recreation is an answer to deep desires in our nature that cannot be ignored without injury to the growing child. Most of child life is play. Nature forms the child through impulses that direct his activity during the plastic stage of his development.

A recreation program in a progressive city has many functions to perform.

- 1. It should lead in discovering the needs of its community, in interpreting their needs in dollars and cents and in meeting these needs in so far as vision, leadership and financial support are possible. This planning must be not only for today, but for the growing needs of the future city. No one cares to anticipate that some future generation may point the finger of scorn to the past with the statement, "Too bad! If someone had only realized our needs while major adjustments were being made years ago in our city, we would not find ourselves in the present predicament". Someone in a growing city must dream dreams and see visions.
- 2. Recreation has no age limits. Our modern methods of living seem to indicate that, not only does the child need recreation to properly develop to maturity, but the retired older person has a need for recreation in order to more gracefully live the declining golden hours of life. Our program is endeavoring to minister not only to the two age extremes, but to all groups. This, of course, does not mean that everyone in our fair city is a member of some phase of our program. It does indicate, however, that in so far as budgets will allow and in cooperation with our other social

agencies in the city, opportunities are offered to all ages to participate in a great variety of recreational forms of expression.

3. A modern Recreation Association has a right to look upon its work, not only as an enjoyable activity participation program, but as a training center which assists in preparing individuals and groups to develop skills and techniques in order to better take care of their own, their family, their industry, their church, and their community needs.

The Recreation Association has leaders in continuous training. These leaders eventually become a part of the community pattern and over a period of years an Association develops an increasing army of trained individuals who, through their community contacts, spread the idea of the wholesome expression of leisure that speaks out loud in a concrete way in better sportsmanship, wider range of wholesome physical expression, and a greater variety of cultural and recreational opportunities.

The past year has seen considerable advancement in all phases of our city recreation. The staff has at last been increased by the addition of Mr. Albert E. Reese, Jr., as Assistant Director, specializing in activities with men and boys, and Miss Phyllis E. Dick, Supervisor of Women and Girls' Activities.

The number of sessions held for the Boys' and Girls' Clubs which meet at Lafayette School, has been increased. These clubs have also been divided into Jr. and Sr. group due to the increase in attendance.

Basketball opportunities for junior and senior boys, normally barred from participation in this game because of lack of proficiency, have been added this year. This activity has been the means of discovering adult volunteers who are assisting in promoting this program.

Grant D. Brandon,

Director of Recreation

"A fundamental condition for the permanent development of a free people is that they shall in childhood learn to govern themselves. Self-government is to be learned as an experience, rather than taught as a theory. Hence in a permanent democracy adequate playgrounds for all the children are a necessity."

-Luther Halsey Gulick, M.D.



Summer Program

PLAYGROUNDS FOR THE YOUNGSTERS

Our children's happiness is a fundamental part of our future. The importance of the summer days when the child is out of school cannot be overemphasized. Definite preparation must be made if this period of the child's life is to count.

Playgrounds are the answer to this. Baseball, softball, and volleyball teams from each of the 13 playgrounds compete for the championship.

Hobby shows, doll shows, pet shows, pushmobile contests, folk dancing, dramatics, handicraft and many other special events keep all ages occupied, daily on the playgrounds. Six of the playgrounds are on City Parks financed by the Dept. of Parks and Public Property, the other seven are situated on the School Grounds and are financed by the School Board. The Recreation Dept. supervise and direct the activities, which continue from June 27 to Labor Day.

WADING POOLS To keep the youngsters cool, 2 wading pools located at Buchanan and Rodney Parks, and 6 Street Showers in various sections of the city were operated daily under supervision with the cooperation of the City Water Department.

TRAINING INSTITUTE

In preparation for the opening of all the summer playgrounds, the complete effort of the staff assisted by many individuals from the city, is directed toward as effective a training as possible for the supervisors who are to assume the responsibility of guiding the activities of the large army of playground children during the summer months.

Instruction is given in theory and practice in all phases of playground work—Handicraft, Folk Dancing, Games, Dramatics, League and Tournaments, Story Telling, Music, First Aid, and management and conduct of all forms of youth activities.

Some of the guest speakers were Mr. M. M. Harnish, President of the Association; Dr. D. L. Biemesderfer, President of Millersville State Teachers College; Commissioner of Streets, Mr. Francis Rineer; Miss Vesta M. Miller, Director of Visiting Nurses; Mrs. Paul Bowermaster, Public Library; Mrs. J. M. Bollinger, New Era; assisted by the Recreation Staff and area supervisors.

"When leisure time is filled with idleness or only amusement, personality decays. With creative leisure time activities, personality develops."—S. Arthur Cassidy.





ANNUAL PLAY DAY

The most "looked-forward-to" event of the summer playgrounds, is the annual PLAY DAY. Hundreds of boys and girls from all 13 playgrounds and our neighbors from Buchanan school eagerly sign their names a week in advance on one team of many that are named after insects. Enthusiastic eyes reveal the enjoyment in meeting new friends.

Keeping in mind weather conditions and purpose of such an event, the 8 games carefully selected and thoroughly enjoyed this summer at Buchanan's Park were: Run, Throw and Catch; Sore-Toe Relay; Zig-Zag Passing Relay; Catch, Throw, Sit; Run and Throw Relay; Beat Ball; Snatch Ball; Fetch and Carry Relay.

A wholesome afternoon was ended with refreshments of chocolate milk and cookies.

FUN IN FARMER JONES' BARNYARD

The Summer Season closed with a Pageant held at Buchanan Park, entitled "Farmer Jones' Barnyard", presented by over one hundred boys and girls from all playgrounds.

Singing games, folk dances, special dances and songs were all accompanied by amplified recordings.

The costumes and scenery were made by the participating children with aid from their playground supervisors.

FREE SWIMMING INSTRUCTIONS

Friday mornings during July and August finds Maple Grove Swimming Pool bustling with over 300 children who have come for their free swimming lessons.

After five periods of instructions, they are given a test at swimming 25 feet and if successful they receive a beginner's certificate. These free lessons are given each year for the past 17 years by the Lancaster New Era, Maple Grove Pool and our Recreation Association, for children under 10 years of age.

ANNUAL HANDICRAFT DISPLAY

The crafts program reached its height of popularity during August, when the children were preparing for the annual exhibit. Several hundred articles were displayed in a downtown show window.

A daily handicraft period is given on each playground. Among the most popular crafts this past summer was gimp weaving. 15,000 yards of this material were used to make bracelets, lanyards, belts, etc. Over a thousand hot dish holders were made, plaster of paris novelty pins, felt pockets and "beanie caps", painted plates, woven straw handbags, and leatherwork, were among the crafts taught on the grounds.

The supervisors were given instruction in all types of crafts during the Institute period.

AT YOUR SERVICE

The files of the Recreation Association and the Staff are available to assist in preparing recreation programs for all occasions.

Four free Picnic Kits were in daily use for family and club picnics.

For promotion programs, we have 16 mm silent movies and 35 mm slides on Boys' and Girls' Clubs, Hiking, and Playground Activities.

The members of the staff were 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 wherever possible with other Red Feather Agencies.



HIKING CLUB

No matter how scientific we may become in research and invention, the successful man must periodically return to nature in order to renew his strength by actual contact with the soul satisfying forces of mother earth, what better way can he enjoy the great out-of-doors than in and with a group of nature lovers all willing to pool their nature lore in one grand weekly outing that will guarantee to drive the cobwebs of office and factory away, thus return the worker from the hike tired and refreshed with a new outlook on life from having spent a few hours in God's great out-of-doors.

Such is the motives of the Hiking Club and the success of this venture is assured by the large enthusiastic group of all ages who have visited some very interesting places in their weekly hikes over hill and dale.

Some of the outstanding places visited are: Old Rag Mountain Virginia, Tuscarora in the N. Mountains, Cumberland, Penna.; Weekend in Pocono Mts., Weekend Hopewell State Park, Calendonia Park, Pa.; sections of Appalachian Trail. The Club has made itself responsible for keeping a portion of The Horse-Shoe Trail cleared and marked.

COMMITTEE

J. Douglas Smith Gladys Hauser Elizabeth Hammond		Vice-President
THELMA HERSHEY		Treasure
RICHARD LAUBE RAYMOND McCulloch	Arlene Hershey Mabel Barnet	RUTH BAUER FRANZ RITZ
	G. D. Brandon	



Winter Program

600 BOYS AND GIRLS REGISTERED AT 9 CLUBS

WHERE GOOD FRIENDS MEET

To many boys, the Lafayette Boys' Club of Lancaster has become a neighborhood meeting house. It's doors are open wide to all boys and the fellowship that has grown out of the associations made there has sent many small feet into paths of useful service.

An attempt is being made to have every boy who comes to the club develop hobbies, sportsmanship, cooperation, and a will to do good. The crowded conditions ever present in the basement of the school, increase the difficulty of engendering these qualities in the boy. The large membership and the regular attendance of members is recognition itself that the boys are succeeding in many immeasurable ways.

For the athlete there can be long hours of stimulating play—basketball, boxing, dodgeball, wrestling, and relay games, are regular events every club night.

For the non-athletic boy there are many activities for him to choose from. A shop filled with power tools under the super-

vision of a skilled craftsman, is one of the most popular areas in the club.

Handwork is another source of joy for many as they make lanyards, seasonal greeting cards, paint plaster of paris pins or do wood carving. For the boy who seeks solitude there are magazines and record albums.

For an evening of wholesome recreation, this club provides a boy with a variety of activities that meet his social, athletic and recreational needs.

When the new school, adjacent to our club is completed, this center will have ample facilities to meet the recreational needs of the boys and girls of the surrounding neighborhood.



SEE YOU AT GIRLS' CLUB

Recreation is a big word with 10 letters in it, and if treated carefully it will work wonders. Who does not agree that the child absorbed in play has neither time or reason to become troublesome. Play, like food and rest, is important to the mental, social, emo-

tional, and ethical development of all children, and what is more natural than for young people to seek out the companionship of others their own age. It is our definite responsibility to encourage this sociability to provide a meeting place, and a variety of activities under the supervision of competent instructors. Often a child has been overheard to say she can't see why Girl's Club isn't everynight instead of once a week.

The seven clubs for girls are divided into Jr. and Sr. groups. Five of the clubs meet in school buildings—Higbee, Lafayette and Stevens Schools—(courtesy of the Lancaster School Board) and two meet at the Craft Shop. The program includes games, sports, singing, dramatics, dancing, and all types of crafts, also special holiday celebrations.



The Lancaster Quota Club has given special attention to the Jr. and Sr. Girls' Clubs at the Higbee School, while the Soroptimist Club has as their project the Lafayette Jr. and Sr. Girls' Clubs. Both groups entertained the girls at Christmas with parties and presented each member with a special gift.



COMMUNITY DANCE

A natural teen-age activity is dancing. Our once a month dance in the Y.W.C.A. gymnasium is the answer. This program since its inception over two decades ago has always been conducted by the youth themselves. Fifteen of the Organizations in the city serving youth educationally and recreationally make up a Volunteer committee who plan and run these dances under the direction of the Recreation Association for the youth of the community.

HOSPITAL RECREATION

The child's psychological needs are the same whether he is sick or well. In addition to medical treatment the hospitalized child needs interesting, satisfying and instructive activity. Proper play brings relaxation and induces the rest that is necessary in the care and treatment of the sick child. A story, game, or song diverts the child's mind from the mental and emotional stress of the effects of pain and thereby conserves his energy for the regaining of physical health. To provide these children with such an opportunity is the aim of the girls director during the weekly visitation period in the childrens' ward of the General Hospital. The holiday decorations that are made and the stories told seem a relaxing period not only to the patients but to the nurses as well endeavoring to change the children's fears of hospitals and give them a greater confidence in the physicians and nurses.

The hospital has volunteered the services of a student nurse as special training. It has been found regarding play that such nursing education contributes to making hospital experience happier and more constructive.

This extra help was greatly appreciated as was the time spent of those before us who helped to make play an accepted part of hospital care.

BOYS CRAFT SHOP

For the boys in our crowded mid-town district we have a conveniently located shop at the rear of 129 E. Orange St., adequately equipped. Many boys come here Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings to participate in a program of woodworking, handicraft instruction and games of the quiet type. The facilities for the physical activities are limited at present, but with the proposed renovations for the mansion house in Musser Park, which is located near by, they should be greatly increased.



BASKETBALL PROGRAM FOR MEN AND BOYS

600 men on approximately 72 basketball teams.

Through the courtesy of the Lancaster School Board, two junior high school basketball floors are made available 3 nights a week from November to April.

These courts are used by the local industries, the "B" League, and also for 2 youth organizations, that is, for boys who cannot make the grade in the adult league, and for the Lancaster Youth Basketball League, which caters to the "also ran boys", to enable them to play on a basketball team.

The past year has seen a change from independent teams to the formation of leagues, which permits more participation and paves the way for a better supervised program.



HAPPY HOURS CLUB

People retire from business, but this does not necessarily suggest that they have retired from life. No community can afford to neglect the retired members of its society. No one has a greater reason to expect an opportunity to gracefully live out their lives than the individuals who have given their lives for their communities. The community, therefore, in attempting to repay its debt of gratitude to its elder citizens, should recognize this debt by making provisions for them to engage at least in recreational and social activities.

Retired individuals still have a contribution to make to their society. The wisdom of experience developed during the active life should be a store house of value to the rising generation.

It is also possible that many of the special skills and talents of this group could be a source of leadership in the community.

Our Happy Hours Club holds monthly meetings during the entire year. Their motto might be:

Grow old along with me!
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which the first was made.
Our times are in his hand
Who saith, "A whole I planned,
Youth shows but half; Trust God;
See all; Nor be afraid."

-Robert Browning.



The officers and committee for 1949 as follows:

President ______ Mr. Harry L. Brown
Vice-President _____ Miss Helen C. Doty
Secretary-Treasurer _____ Miss Katherine Huber

MISS BARBARA K. MYLIN MRS. JOHN SACHS MRS. SILAS OVERDEER

Recreation Board Representatives ------Mrs. B. F. Snavely Mrs. Walter K. Baer

Crispus Attucks

"DEVELOPING CITIZENS PLUS"

All well regulated business houses pause at stated intervals to take inventory of stock and business, to determine whether accepted policies are paying anticipated dividends and yielding increasing assets. Even in the business of helping people to live together happily and harmoniously, there must be regular inventory taking; hence we impose upon the interested public an annual report.

We like to measure our program and its objectives by the philosophy and purpose of a recreation center as so beautifully expressed in the following quotation from our late Mr. Howard Braucher—"A great contribution of the recreation center to people throughout life is to give people an opportunity to adjust happily to each other in sharing music, drama, sports, beauty and all else worth sharing."

In a very special way we are thinking back over a period of twenty years at which time the toddler, Crispus Attucks Center began to feel the pains of a restless child seeking outlets for normal and wholesome development. It was just twenty years ago last November that The Lancaster Recreation Association followed the suggestion of the Director of Recreation and called upon our National office for guidance and assistance in creating a program of activities for Lancaster's colored youth. In answer to this request the late Mr. Ernest T. Attwell, known in more than 300 cities and 35 states as a Field Director of the National Recreation Association was sent to Lancaster. Assisting and co-operating with the city Director of Recreation, he organized a Board of Directors for the Crispus

Burning the Mortgage



Attucks Center, indicated a program of activities, guided the Board in finding a director, assisted in a survey to ascertain the needs and people to be served and kept a watchful eye on our development by many visits to our city (most of which were gifts from our National office.)

Of that original Board of 18 members five are still active on the present Board.

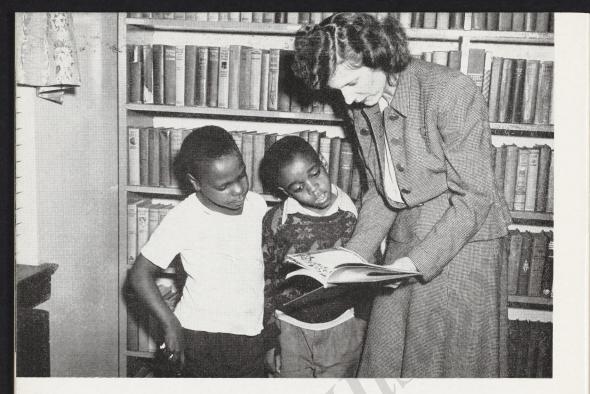
Mr. Attwell fondly called "E.T." by the workers, was with us in all our great moments; he sat with the Social Planning Committee of the Welfare Federation (now The Community Chest) when some brave friends dared to suggest that money be raised for a new building. Mr. Attwell returned to help dedicate that building and again to participate in the mortgage burning. His quiet, modest yet profound philosophy and way of life can be expressed in his own words as stated in the purpose of a Community Center to help train youth to "be citizens plus" to be willing to always go that second mile in order to serve humanity. It is to the memory and service of Mr. Attwell that we dedicate this report.

The supreme need of our time is for people to learn to live in peace and harmony. Surely there is no better place to learn than in a recreation center where the small child, the teen ager, the young adult and the older person may share in numerous happy experiences that lead to self fullfillment for all without injury to any one.

In the words of Mr. Braucher, "Recreation centers help to drive out isolation fear, to bring a feeling of neighborliness, and to give a degree of confidence for going ahead to live fully and freely. In a recreation center we must build for all people everywhere. * * * We must through recreation develop a habit of understanding."





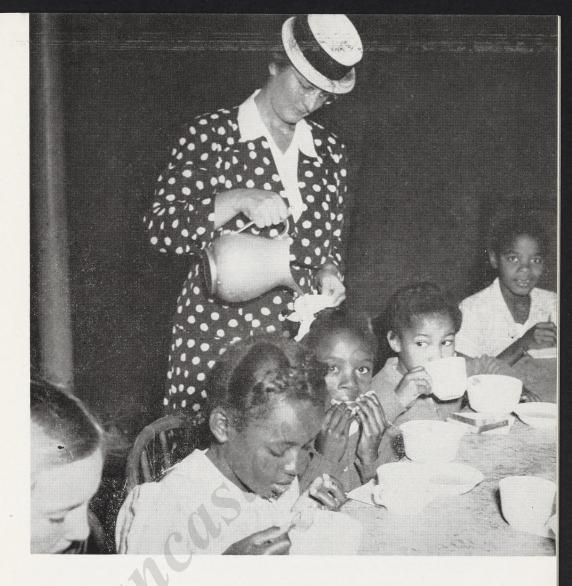


DAY NURSERY

It is significant that during the past year, 2,895 hours of child care were afforded by the Day Nursery and an enrollment of twenty pre school children were given correct diet and a balanced program of activities covering both the physical and cultural fields, were checked regularly by a nurse and physician; but of greater importance is the fact that these children because of such training will be twenty years hence happier, healthier and better trained and adjusted citizens in their various communities.



"Play is not trivial, it is highly serious and of deep significance. Cultivate it and foster it, O Mother, protect and guide it, O Father, To the calm, keen vision of one who truly knows human nature, the spontaneous play of the child discloses the future inner life of the man", Froebel.



HOT LUNCH PROJECT

It is an outstanding example of Christian service that during the past ten years an average of 500 to 700 women per year representing some 45 churches have given their time in serving an average of 9.300 meals per year to upwards of eighty school children daily without regard to race, creed, color or background. Of greater importance is the fact that these women have a vision of brotherhood that embraces all children and that those served do come to realize that goodness, care and concern do exist for all people. Such concern for the welfare of others will be translated in later life into feelings of good will and service in the community where these children live.

ATHLETICS

It matters little that 255 participate in an athletic program which embraces youth from 5 to 35 who play with other youth from all parts of the city on the floor of Crispus Attucks, unless the lessons of fair play and giving one's best for the sake of the team are interpreted later in life to carry over into industry so that as team mates we may work side by side or live side by side as neighbors.

That an interracial group of sincerely interested and consecrated persons meet monthly at the Center to discuss community problems and plan joint projects to build bridges across barriers of employment and housing will be important only as our community catches the vision of this vanguard of workers and continues to let down bars of intolerance for qualified persons of merit in all avenues of community life.

That at the Center busy people trained in cultural and creative fields find time to share their skills as volunteer leaders in music, drama, religious education, newspaper editing and dance, is valuable primarily if our youth catch a glimpse of beauty and spiritual growth which inspires them to leadership and service in alike proportion.

That an average of 287 to 300 persons from the ages of infancy to late adulthood are exposed daily to our program is meaningful only if they are forming habits of beautiful leisure with a carry over that makes them spiritually richer and happier individuals.

Our inventory indicates that Lancaster has an ever increasing number of "Citizens Plus" who give not only of their material possessions but freely of themselves toward the promotion of the great movement of recreation.

I know of no other field of endeavor so rich, so untouched in resources, so challenging in its healing ramifications in today's world of frustration and misunderstanding.

We must continue to work to produce the "Citizens Plus" as we dream with Langston Hughes who writes:

I dream a world where man No other man will scorn, Where love will bless the earth And peace its path adorn.

RUBY M. PAYNE, Director.

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Mrs. George Parker	_Vice-President & Treasurer
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RUBY M. PAYNE	Executive	Director
RUPERT J. TARVER, JR.		Director
REUBEN V. HARDCASTLE		Music
ELIZABETH CARTER	_Supervisor, Day	Nursery
Lula Tucker	Dietician, Da	y Nursery

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We extend our sincere appreciation to the many friends and organizations in our community who gave equipment, leadership, contributions, and shared facilities with us so that our program was greatly enriched.

NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Thanks a million may sound like a lot of gratitude as measured in volume. It is entirely true that every time that we open a letter from our National Recreation Association, receive a call from our district representatives Mr. J. W. Faust and Mr. James Madison, attend a well organized National or District conference we say thanks in our hearts to our National Association for assisting in such an aggressive way, always ready to help the local groups in the solution of their many problems.

Here is our end of the year thanks, may its crescendo reach every member of our national staff with our heart felt appreciation.

"Man reveals himself most fully in his worship and his play."

Howard Braucher.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

THANGINE SITTEMENT	
RECEIPTS	
Balance first of year \$16,678.04 Community Chest \$16,678.04 City of Lancaster \$5,500.00 Soroptimist Club 50.00 Refunds—Sale of Playground Apparatus 340.60 Basketball and Handicraft Fees 855.35	\$ 69.76
	\$23,423.99
Total Receipts	\$23,493.75
DISBURSEMENTS Administrative Salaries\$ 9,200.00 Supervision—Playgrounds and Clubs 9,459.36 Apparatus and Equipment 3,077.24 General Expense 1,739.11	0,
Total DisbursementsBalance on hand end of year	\$23,475.71 18.04
	\$23,493.75
CRISPUS ATTUCKS RECREATION CENTER RECEIPTS Balance first of year	\$ 21.15
	\$12,565.06
Total Receipts	\$12,586.21
DISBURSEMENTS	
Total Administrative and ServiceBalance end of year	\$12,453.10 133.11
	\$12,586.21

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our grateful acknowledgment is extended 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 Street Showers.

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 \$2,130.00 paid for supervision on the grounds.

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

The Millersville State Teachers College for use of classroom for our staff meetings.

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

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.

The Y.W.C.A. Board for the use of the gymnasium for Community Dances and meeting place for Happy Hours Club.

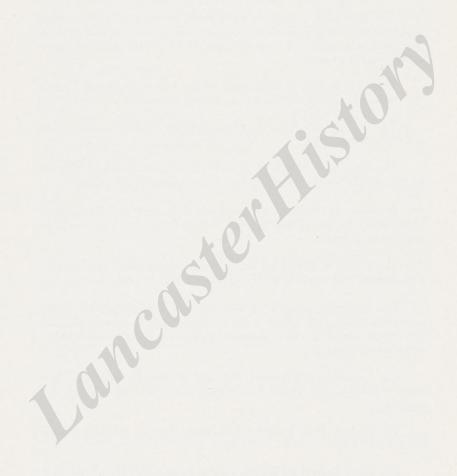
The Lancaster Quota Club and the Soroptimist Club for sponsoring the girls clubs which meet at Higbee and Lafayette schools. We greatly appreciate their financial assistance and personal leadership during the year.

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

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

The many individual friends of the Association for advice and assistance.

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.



LANCASTER RECREATION ASSOCIATION Municipal Bldg., 120 N. Duke St., Lancaster, Pennsylvania



A RED FEATHER AGENCY