
Recreation Planned For All

Summer - Winter

Spring - Fall

1950

LANCASTER RECREATION ASSOCIATION

120 NORTH DUKE STREET
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

LancasterHistory

Training Institute

In order to instill basic ideas and fundamental techniques of playground supervision in the individuals who staff our playgrounds each summer, a short but intensive one week course is given, during which time the supervisors are introduced to every phase of work they will employ.

Instruction is given in handicraft, folk dancing, dramatics, leagues and tournaments, story telling, music, first aid and counsel on many forms or activities.

One innovation which was well received by both regular staff and summer employees was time devoted to actual participation in games and athletic events, in which each supervisor handled equipment and set up actual situations in playground activities.

Another outstanding feature of the training institute was the fine speakers listed as follows: Former Mayor Kendig C. Bare; Dr. Luther H. Ketels, First Methodist Church; Mr. Theodore L. Brubaker, Vice-president of the Recreation Board; Mr. A. H. Spinner, School Board; Miss Vesta M. Miller, R. N., Director of Visiting Nurse Association, and Mrs. Paul Bowermaster, Children's Librarian, Lancaster Free Public Library, assisted by speakers from the Recreation Staff.



Free Swimming Instruction

For 19 years the Recreation Association in cooperation with the New Era and Maple Grove Pool, has offered free swimming instruction to children 10 years of age and under. Every Friday morning at Maple Grove Pool for 5 consecutive weeks this activity engages the interest of over 400 children. This past season saw several second generation children of former successful swimmers taking these lessons.

The wading pools at Buchanan and Rodney Parks are open daily

Joseph Lee Play Day

Six hundred children of the Lancaster Recreation Association met at Buchanan Park under the supervision of our recreation staff and supervisors for an afternoon of fun and frolic on the Annual Joseph Lee Play Day.

Divided into teams representing all playgrounds, they played games with such picturesque names as, "soretoe relay," zig-zag passing relay, and "catch, throw and sit." (The teams were well named, among them being Gremlins, Fireflies, Bats, Locusts and Spiders.)

Following the games, free refreshments were served to all contestants.

This activity is one of the highlights in the summer programs.



Annual Handicraft Exhibit

"Look what I made", exclaimed the children as they gaze in a down town window where there are displayed hundreds of articles made by the children for the exhibition. Pot holders, bracelets, lanyards, belts, plaster of paris novelty pins, felt creations, painted plates and many other objects of beauty and usefulness are made by thousands of children on the summer playgrounds.

A Red Feather Service

The Recreation Association is happy to cooperate with other Red Feather Agencies whenever possible.

Many individuals use the files of the agency during the year as source material for various forms of recreation programs. The staff is available at all times for talks and information on all phases of recreation.

Four free picnic kits are available during the summer months for family or club programs. The Association also has for promotion programs, 16 mm silent movies and 35 mm colored slides on Boy's and Girl's Clubs, Hiking and Playground activities.

"The art of living is a much greater art than the art of making money, of gaining position or power."

--Howard Braucher



Hiking Club

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

--Henry Thacker

Hiking is not only an excellent exercise but also an activity that pay rich dividends in friendship. On nature trips to places of interest the happy hiker forgets the cares and worries of the factory and office. The end of the hike finds the hikers around the camp fire, preparing a snack, drinking coffee and singing songs, concluding a day long to be remembered not only by tired muscles; but also memories of beautiful places in nature and friendships developed.

The Hiking Club now has a year round weekly program, for each season of the year. They have made themselves responsible for the care of 10 miles of the Horse Shoe Trail and a similar distance on the Appalachian Trail.

The officers of the Hiking Club are: President- J. Douglas Smith, Vice President- Miss Anne Kreider, Secretary- Isabelle Wagner, Treasurer- Jane Garnet. The following directors were elected: Mrs. Will Eager, Harold Keller, Robert Ingram, Richard Laube, Arlene Hershey and Ray McCullough.

Girls' Recreation Clubs

There are 575 girls registered in the eight Girls' Clubs which are situated throughout the city. These clubs are established to provide recreation for girls ages 7-12 in the junior groups and ages 12 and over for the senior groups. The program runs from October until April and the girls meet once a week in the following school buildings: Stevens, Higbee and Lafayette; also the Rodney Recreation Center and the Craftshop which is located at the rear of 129 East Orange Street. The Junior and Senior girls at the Lafayette School have discontinued their clubs since April because of inadequate facilities awaiting the completion of the new Lafayette School. The Higbee Club and the Lafayette Club are being partially supported by the Quota Club and the Soroptimist Club. Their work is highlighted by the annual Christmas Party for these club girls. The Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumni chose the Stevens Girls Club for their Christmas Party project this year.





The programs are arranged to provide not only recreation in volleyball, basketball, ping pong, games, checkers, square dancing, social dancing and singing, but also to enable each girl to promote a sense of loyalty, self-expression, and self-confidence. Loyalty to the club and an eager support of its activities, self-expression in the planning of the program with the help of elected officers and self-confidence established through individual or group participation in games and handicraft projects which are available to every member. These traits are stepping-stones toward better citizenship.



Fulton Boy's Recreation Club

This club is the newest member in our family of clubs. It is one of the most enthusiastically received projects undertaken this year.

On the opening night of the club 150 boys registered. This large number of interested boys denotes the great need for recreation in this area of the city. The men in charge of the club have kept the initial enthusiasm from waning by giving the boys an evening of well planned activity which keeps them stepping from 7 until 9 o'clock two evenings each week. The club was divided into Junior and Senior groups because there were inadequate facilities to take care of the 150 boys at one time.

Lafayette Boy's Recreation Club

A club which has the longest history of any boy's club in Lancaster was interrupted this year because of a delay in the building program of the new Lafayette School.

It is hoped that in the very near future this club will be able to continue its program because 60 to 70 boys who attended this club regularly are now without recreational facilities in that area.

The Craftshop Boy's Recreation Club

A cozy haven for boys, complete with pot-belly stove, roaring fire, and checker boards. This old-fashioned picture seems to denote the essence of good fellowship in the homelike atmosphere, to be found in the Craft Shop.

This reconverted hayloft and apartment house has been a boy's club for 12 years and it still retains some of the homespun characteristics of a country store where recreation centered around the cracker barrel. However, every inch of space has been put to work and any boy can find some form of recreation to fill his needs.

He may produce lamp bases from discarded tenpins in the well equipped shop; or he may paint figurines or wall plaques in the art room; have a game of checkers or ping-pong in the game room; or any number of other activities.

Thirty to fifty boys between the ages of 9 and 16, have made the Craft Shop a regular meeting place three nights each week.





Basketball Program

Long before the last football has been kicked, applications for admission to a basketball league are finding their way to the Recreation Office.

This season 58 teams are using the courts furnished through the courtesy of the Lancaster School Board. Two basketball floors are in use three nights every week from November to April.

The Recreation Association in cooperation with other youth serving agencies organized basketball leagues for boys 11 and under; 12 to 14; and 15 to 18. This league has 18 teams from different sections of the city.

The past season saw a change from independent teams to the formation of leagues. A new development this season is a league for girls, 8 teams are now playing in this league.

Community Dance

Our Community Dance has been operating for over a quarter of a century furnishing a Saturday evening dance for the youth of the community at the Y.W.C.A.

This organization is made up of representatives from the Youth Serving Agencies in our City and County who serve as volunteers under the direction of the Recreation Association.

Hobby Show

A general community recreation project was undertaken for the first time this year in the form of a hobby show, which was held in cooperation with the Lancaster Optimist Club.

The success of the show was very gratifying and plans have been made to make this affair an annual event.

An estimated 3000 persons visited the show during the three days in which 100 of the local hobbyist displayed their exhibits. Among some of the outstanding features were: constant hatching of chicks, miniature railroad exhibits, toothpick models, bottles and basket collections, coin collection and many other interesting hobbies.

The Lancaster Recreation Association served as a clearing house for registering applicants, classifying exhibits and planning the format for the show.

The committee is looking forward with great expectations to the next annual hobby show because this affair seemed to arouse the general public to realize what great possibilities lie in the "worthy use of leisure time".



Happy Hours Club

At a recent conference in Washington, considerable emphasis was placed on the fact that America is wasting one of her richest resources, the energies of its older citizens. Aging successfully is not a new problem, but only high-lighted by the recent emphasis on our senior citizens.

The Happy Hours group of Lancaster is endeavoring, by using the talents of this senior group, to make the golden hours of life for these men and women not only more enjoyable, but more productive. This Club holds monthly meetings in the recreation rooms of several of the downtown churches. The programs are social, educational, recreational, and cultural.

"Let Me Grow Lovely"

Let me grow lovely, growing old -

So many fine things to do.

Laces and ivory and gold

And silks need not be new.

There is healing in old trees;

Old streets a glamour hold;

Why may not I, as well as these,

Grow lovely, growing old?

Karle Wilson Baker

The Officers of the Happy Hours Club for 1950 were:

Mr. John Sachs	President
Miss Sarah McGinnis	Vice - President
Miss Katherine Huber	Secretary - Treasurer

Committee

Miss Helen C. Doty	Mrs. E. Silas Overdeer
Mrs. John Sachs	Miss Barbara K. Mylin

Recreation Board Representatives

Mrs. B. F. Snavely	Mrs. Walter K. Baer
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Hospital Work

When the serious illness has passed and the child is on the road of recovery, he will make better progress if given something to occupy his mind and keep his fingers busy. On Friday morning our women's director visits the Children's Ward in the General Hospital. These children look forward to these periods of relaxation when they will be making handicrafts which consists of gimp bracelets, jersey loop potholders, felt lapel pins, construction airplanes, painting plaster of paris figurines and all types of paper construction work. The program also includes reading stories, working puzzles and an occasional movie.

The time flies for the little girl who has to have her tonsils removed because she can go home in a few days, but the girl who has been badly burned and has to stay in one position for weeks, or the boy who has a broken leg needs this recreation diversion and relaxation along with the medical aid. This program has been in existence for the past six years.

Heart Haven

Thursday afternoon at 2:00 when our Women's Director enters the rooms of the boys and girls at Heart Haven she finds half of the children with their sleepy heads buried in their pillows and the other half are just pretending to be asleep. Then the window shades go up and lights are turned on. This means Craft-time for approximately ten girls and six boys and the first question asked, is, "What are we going to make to-day?" The children participate in quiet activity so our program is adapted to their schedule. The crafts the children particularly enjoy are jersey loop potholders for their mothers, gimp bracelets for their brothers and sisters at home, paper construction work of all types and the children make crafts for special events and holidays. The Heart Haven program is very well planned to give the children schooling as well as rest. (And the period of crafts and relaxation during some of their leisure time each week is anticipated with great enthusiasm).

Crispus Attucks

LIVING TEMPLES

"Our recreation centers have been new temples in a new world where every man according to his gifts could be his own strongest, most joyous self; where he could sing his songs, play his violin, act his dramas, rejoice in the beauty and skill of his body. America in her short life has given and voted her billions that all men might find joy and power and growth in living abundantly." "A Treasury of Living" Howard Braucher

There have been few periods in world history when mankind has needed to marshall every spiritual resource within him as he does today. Now we stand almost helplessly by and watch the ideals and priceless principles upon which a free world was established ruthlessly violated, and almost destroyed. We watched our youth pay the supreme sacrifice to preserve a way of life dear to all humanity. Because we can draw upon the rich spiritual heritage that is ours as Americans, we can catch a glimpse of a new day being born in the darkness and confusion that now envelops the world. America, a nation that through the centuries, despite its failures, has under Divine Guidance evolved a civilization in which all men might seek life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and learn to live and live abundantly. America has found deep joy in being alive and sharing the good things of life with others over the world.

No small part in building for peace and better understanding is being played by our own recreation centers, for in reality they are life centers,



where the community develops its center of comradeship, co-operation and fellowship. Through the activities and associations experienced here, youth and adults learn to know others and to find their true selves and are drawn together in an association which kindles the divine spark making them all brothers.

The recreation center of today has become a family unit on a community basis. So like the family itself, the recreation center has its traditions and treasured moments. In the paragraphs that follow we shall review a few pages, covering more than twenty years, in the family album of Crispus Attucks. The characters from the album will speak for themselves.

Pages From The Family Album

I can remember visiting the Center at the age of three to enjoy the Story Hour Period. In later years I participated in plays, group singing, games, crafts, and Girl Reserve Clubs. Life at the Center has always been pleasant to me because the Director has always been a "Mother". Through her guidance I learned to love the worthwhile thing of life.

After high school I was eager to advise a Girl Reserve Club, because I wanted to work with people. As assistant Day Nursery Teacher I try to give the children an introduction to pre-school education, and teach them enough service to the Center, because I have received an abundance of its training.

Gloria L. Wilson (Student)



During my early boyhood and teen age periods I spent many happy hours with my associates at the Crispus Attucks Center, then located in part of a residence at 416 South Duke Street.

I recall with a bit of embarrassment how I could set the place rocking by a few swift maneuvers in the one large game and activity room. I could shake a checker board, grab a ping pong paddle, snatch a piece of music from the piano and slyly bump the heads of two small boys together; then innocently ask the supervisor why the "kids" were so noisy. Fortunately for me the people in charge had a sense of humor.

We as adult citizens are glad to have the new and well equipped building. Here not only my nine year old daughter is a program participant and may obtain her lunch on school days, but I also can enjoy a meeting with my legion post, or my wife may attend a meeting or together we can enjoy a talent program, basketball game, or social hour with our friends.

Kermit Tombs (*Proprietor Chester Street Filling Station*)

"Half the world is on the wrong scent in the pursuit of happiness. They think it consists in having and getting and in being served by others. It consists in giving and in serving others."

--Howard Braucher

The "Old Center" as our gang termed it offered us a place to have many hours of fun and activity. Lacking as it did the facilities for active games we played table and quiet games, did crafts and had club groups. When such activities became monotonous we improvised games such as



"buck, buck, how many fingers up" or played tag up and down the stairway until we were invited to go home by the supervisors. Despite the handicapped and crowded quarters and little equipment, we all returned day after day because the fellowship was like that of one big family.

It is fine that the good and forward looking citizens of Lancaster have helped us to get a new building. It is a real Community Center for it is used by people of all groups.

I keep fit by belonging to "the old men's" basketball team. My 3 year old son Barney, who is enrolled in the Nursery, likes to go with me in the evenings. Sometimes we go as spectators or if in the mood I play checkers while little Barney plays fire engine. To my wife, the Center is a place of social contact. The Well Baby Clinic provided a real and valuable service to her when little Barney was an infant.

It is a real joy and privilege to be a participant in the well organized athletic program at the Center. The addition to the staff of a Boy's Director has met a great need of boys of all ages.

Norwood (Barney) Ewell

Olympic Star of 1948

I feel that the Day Nursery of the Center is meeting a long felt need in our community. I am employed at R. C. A. and my husband, a G.I. student, is attending Howard University, Washington, D.C.

I know that our two year old son, Harvey is safe while I am at work. It is a great comfort to know that he is eating, playing with other children, and resting as a child of his age should. Because trained persons are always in attendance, we as parents have no worries while our children are at the Nursery.

I, too, grew up in the program of the Center, was an active member of craft, drama, story telling, and other clubs. I assisted in conducting story hours as a young adult. I feel that every community needs such institutions as Crispus Attucks.

Mrs. Dorothy Wilson Clark (Mrs. Harvey Clark)



I was a teen ager when I first began going to the Center. My primary interests were camping in summer and the plays and operettas that were given during the winter.

I recall with a real thrill the Paul Green's "No Account Boy" in which I played the leading role. Our cast was invited by the Greenwich, Conn., Recreation Department, to present this play there.

On Saturday afternoon I gave volunteer service as a Story Hour leader.

After I married and had a family, my three children all became participants in the program. I started by taking them to the Well Baby Clinic when they were infants.

When the new building offered day nursery service I enrolled my son, Russell, and he attended until he reached school age. My daughters Gloria and Flossie participated in the activities offered such as music, drama and sports or crafts, according to their choice. Flossie, who is now a student nurse, was a member of the Center's paper staff.

I am still active in one of the projects at Crispus Attucks. I cook for the School Lunch, preparing meals for 50 to 100 children daily.

To me the Center is the back bone of our Community.

Mrs. Ethel Jackson

(Cook at the School Lunch Project)

TO LIVE

To love the beautiful in action, sound, color, form, reality.

To seek truth.

To be real yourself.

Deep in your heart to feel kinship for the men and women with whom you live and work.

To have a vital share in the work of the world.

To be a good sport.

To be not afraid, to be not fearful of a little "splash of splendor" in your own life.

To be not afraid to stand squarely for a principle you yourself will never see triumph.

The Eternal is your soul.

To lift up your eyes in the morning.

To stand erect at noonday.

To bow your head at sunset.

"Treasury of Living" by Howard Braucher

Ruby M. Payne, Director
Crispus Attucks Recreation Center

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mrs. George Parker.....	Vice-President & Treasurer
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Ruby M. Payne.....	Executive Director
Rupert J. Tarver, Jr.....	Athletic Director
Reuben V. Hardcastle.....	Music
Elizabeth Carter.....	Supervisor, Day Nursery
Amy I. Campbell.....	Teacher, Day Nursery
Lula Tucker.....	Dietician, Day Nursery

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We again wish to thank most sincerely all the friends and organizations in the community who helped to make our program possible through gifts of equipment, contributions, and volunteer services.

A bequest left to us by the late Mrs. John A. Malone enabled us to purchase a piano, an electric refrigerator for the Day Nursery and a public address system with turntable.

We wish to pay special tribute to the Lancaster Council of Church Women who are expanding their service to the community each year through the School Lunch Project conducted by them at the Center. This project is now in its eleventh year of operation. During the past school year 900 women gave 4300 hours of service to this project.

We wish to express our appreciation to Mr. Rupert Tarver, Jr., who has been the Director of Athletic Activities for the past three years. He has done outstanding service for Crispus Attucks and the community. While we regret to have him leave our staff, we are glad to see him advance to a new field which we hope will afford still better opportunities for personal growth in recreation work.

NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The National Recreation is synonymous with service. The Lancaster Recreation Association is the grateful recipient for much of this service covering specifically a well written monthly magazine full of inspiration, a bulletin service with new ideas, District Representatives, Mr. J. W. Faust and Mr. James Madison, who call periodically for consultation, and the N. R. A. itself, a fountainhead, international in scope with all the known answers, or information on how to secure them.

We are happy to be able to use the term 'affiliation'. Our hearty thanks to you, N. R. A.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our grateful acknowledgment is extended to - - -

The Mayor and City Council for office space in the Municipal Building, and for the sum of \$5,800.00 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 4 grade schools and two junior high schools for the winter program, 7 school grounds for summer playgrounds and the sum of \$2,385.00 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 Optimist Club for their help in the Hobby Show and the Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumni for their Christmas Party at Stevens Girls Club.

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 gave 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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Lancashire History

