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UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

RECREATION IN LOUISVILLE
AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

A Dissertation

Submitted to the Faculty

Of the Graduate School of the University of Louisville

In partial Fulfillment of the

Requirements for the Degree

Of Master of Arts

Department of Sociology

By

Elizabeth Arterburn Wilson

Year

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Name of Student: Elizabeth Arterburn Wilson

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An Historical Sketch

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Approved by a Reading Committee composed of the following members:

Representative of the Department of English:

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In conclusion I extend my appreciation to my sister Ruth Wilson for her invaluable assistance in the preparation of this sketch.

RECREATION IN LOUISVILLE
AN HISTORICAL SKETCH

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I.

INTRODUCTION

DEFINITION*

Recreation is that physical or mental diversion brought into play upon the individual in order to reanimate him after some special strain of work.

Recreation may be in the form of organized play, simple amusement, change of occupation, or merely a gayness of heart in contrast to great seriousness.

- * Prize winning definition of Recreation submitted by a local woman in a city-wide contest conducted by the head resident of Neighborhood House Settlement in 1925.

I.

Dr. Stanton Coit, founder of University Settlement, at the fiftieth anniversary of the settlement, said in part:

"I understand my theme is 'How it came about' - 'How this settlement came about.' Well, I don't know. Things that have really great value nobody knows at the time. I don't know, and I should be ashamed of not knowing, except that I have been reading books on the psychology of great creative artists and they tell me that no artist knows what he is doing until he does it.

"I am sure that I should not have the credit for anything more than the forces of work that went the same way and I was their instrument. I have a sentence here from an author I very much respect which throws light on 'how it came about.' This writer says: 'An idea has strength not like the strength of waves which grow weaker as they advance, but like that of wild fire which, when kindled from a spark, reaches impetuously about and grows stronger as it advances. The strength does not lie in the spark alone but in the tinder lying everywhere around.' I was that tiny spark, and the great heart of New York and America was the tinder. And that is the way it came about.

"The spark was lighted - I don't know how - but it was the tinder that was there; not in the upper classes of America, it was among the people; it is the heart of democracy."

The same is true of the recreation movement, although no one person can be pointed out as the

firelighter. Its growth has been like the spreading of the wildfire, which reaches impetuously about and grows stronger as it advances. This wildfire is natural, a part of life, fanned into warmth and brilliance by the winds of leisure time.

All people have some leisure - that amount of time remaining after the necessary "bread and water" things of life have been attended to - that time in which the individual may do the things he most enjoys. Whether this enjoyment takes the form of an organized game or a parlour trick, determines the type of the individual participant or his adaptability to supervised leisure time direction.

Our complex urban life, our mechanized order of living, our forced unemployment, have contributed significantly to giving the people of America more leisure time. This increase in time for playing has brought with it a corresponding increase in ways of utilizing it. Free play, sports of all kinds, hobbies, amusements, ranging all the way from the penny arcade to grand opera, have resulted. How this leisure time is employed, to a large degree determines the character of the individual. Someone has said that a country is known not by the products it produces, but by the individuals it turns out. How better then can one evaluate the strength of a country than by turning the microscope upon the leisure time activities of its people.

There have been many theories advanced about leisure, play, and recreation.

Rainwater gives us the following:

"Play is a mode of behavior, either individual or collective, involving pleasurable activity of any kind not undertaken for the sake of a reward beyond itself and performed during any age period of the individual, the particular action being determined at a given time by the somatic structure and social attitudes of the agent in conjunction with the life of the group or groups of which he is a member."¹

"Play is not a given type of activity, such as, 'sports,' 'games,' 'recreations,' or 'relaxations'; nor is it the 'motor habits and spirits of the past of the race, persisting in the present' (Hall), although it frequently does exercise 'those nerve centers that are old in the race' (Patrick). It does not consume merely the 'surplus energy' of the individual by 'Superfluous and useless exercises of faculties that have been quiescent' for a time (Spencer) but on the contrary, since 'a person is a center of conscious impulses which realize themselves in full only in realizing a society' (Small), it frequently happens that 'all energy is expended in play' (Patrick) in response to group stimulation.....It does not simply 'prepare for the necessary duties of mature life' (Groos), for it is common to maturity as well as immaturity, involving 'those activities which are not consciously performed for the sake of any reward beyond themselves' (Dewey) during any age period of personal experience and in any portion of a given day, in working hours as well as in leisure time, since 'play is an attitude of mind' (Dewey) that anyone may attain in any situation 'in which interest is self-developing' (Patrick). It is

1. Rainwater, Clarence, The Play Movement in the United States, University of Chicago Press, 1922, p. 8.

pleasurable, relatively spontaneous, a motive force which finds expression in art and in certain types of work, as in the 'instinct of workmanship,' but when balked may take the form of antisocial behavior."²

Veblen in his "Theory of the Leisure Class" says that leisure does not mean indolence or quiescence. It connotes non-productive consumption of time from a sense of the unworthiness of productive work and as an evidence that the individual is wealthy enough not to work and thus can afford a life of idleness. However, Veblen did not attempt to extend his theories beyond the given group, or in his own words, "the leisure class."

In the past few years the leisure class has of a necessity changed from a group, idle from its own volition, to one whose leisure has not become self-imposed. According to Neumeyer³ the beginning of leisure is hidden in antiquity. People have always had some free time, and to fill up this time, whether it be time self-imposed or not, some form of recreation was indulged in. Ceremonials, tribal dances, cantations to the Gods, all held places in the life of the primitive people. Social classes emerged. The upper classes were exempt from menial labor. Tools were invented, thus freeing men from long hours of toil, and as a result culture developed. Cutten says that "civilizations were the product of leisure."⁴

2. Rainwater, Clarence, op. cit., pp. 6-7.

3. Neumeyer, M. H. and E. S., Leisure and Recreation, A. S. Barnes and Co., 1936, p. 15.

4. Cutten, G. B., Threats of Leisure, American Education Press, 1933, p. 2.

In Greece, although leisure was only for the favored aristocrats, games were taught the boys as part of their religion. During the Middle Ages recreation went to the extreme. Betting on fights: cock fights, bull fights, fights between men; fairs, jousts, tournaments, extravaganzas, theatricals, all these veered "to the left." As a result the church stepped in and opposed the pleasures of the people. This interference was unsuccessful and the leisure class continued its pleasures while the rest followed its pace.

In America the early pioneers frowned upon idleness, and regarded play as undesirable. Group activities in the forms of corn-huskings, bean-settings, and wheat threshings, brought groups of people together primarily to accomplish a certain amount of work. However, these gatherings were not without their social side. Spelling bees, "sings," and recitations of Bible verses, held primarily for the sake of "snatching the idle from the Devil," were at the most, social recreation. These forms of leisure time activities were satisfactory as long as the people were settling the land and exploring the natural resources, but as industries grew and cities began to expand, other forms of leisure time activities developed. To the early pioneers, the amount of leisure time, now made possible by the growth of machine industry, would have been unheard of. During the past third of a century, there

has been a complete change of thought. Whereas in the past there had been prejudice, there is now a complete acceptance of sports and amusements as a part of everyday life.

Steiner says:

"Recreation has become so securely entrenched in the habits and folkways of the people that it is now a dominating force wielding strong influence in many directions. In the eager rush to secure more time for recreational activities, Sunday blue laws have been swept aside and the entire week end has for large numbers of people been turned entirely over to the pursuit of pleasure. The growing interest in adult recreation has brought a new and powerful force into the struggle for shorter hours of labor. The opening of the doors of recreation to the mass of people strengthens their determination to attain a standard of living that will include ample provision for the enjoyment of leisure. Cities have found it profitable to build up recreational facilities and give them wide publicity in their efforts to attract new industries and increase their population. So universal has become the interest in recreation that it has led to the building up of huge enterprises reaching out into many fields of business and industry. The manufacture and sale of sporting goods, the furnishing of amusements on a commercial basis, and the vast army of coaches, play directors, professional sportsmen, sport writers, and others who make their living within the field of recreation are powerful forces that have been called into being by the insatiable desire for play and amusement."⁵

This historical sketch will attempt to show how Louisville has moved along with the recreation movement,

5. Steiner, J. F., Americans at Play, McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1933, p. 12.

and an effort will be made to indicate some of the steps made toward the future.

Although Louisville was one of the pioneer cities in the playground movement, assisting in the formation of the National Playground and Recreation Association, it has not kept pace with the ever-increasing need for more and adequate facilities.

The question may arise as to what are considered adequate facilities for a city the size of Louisville.

According to the Children's Bureau, Department of Labor, Washington, D.C., at least three acres of land is needed for a satisfactory playground for children. To be adequate, according to the standards set up by the National Recreation Association, the playground should have a shelter house for both boys and girls and a space for team games and other active play. Such an area can serve four or five hundred children at a time if the program is skillfully organized. Even if the child population is less than this, the space should not be greatly reduced. If the playground is adjacent to a school building in which shelter house facilities are available, a smaller area will serve. In selecting sites, the playground should be situated so that children will have to walk not more than a quarter of a mile to reach it. For every 5,000 population there should be a baseball field, and for every 2,000 there should be one tennis court. Swimming pools should be large enough to care for about ten per

cent of the population in one day.⁶

Louisville, with an estimated population of 335,414 in 1937, falls far below the standards set up by the Children's Bureau. Of this total population, 62,727 are children enrolled in the public and parochial schools; 49,915 are between the ages of five and fourteen years of age. By very simple arithmetic one will see that well over a hundred playgrounds are needed for the child population alone.

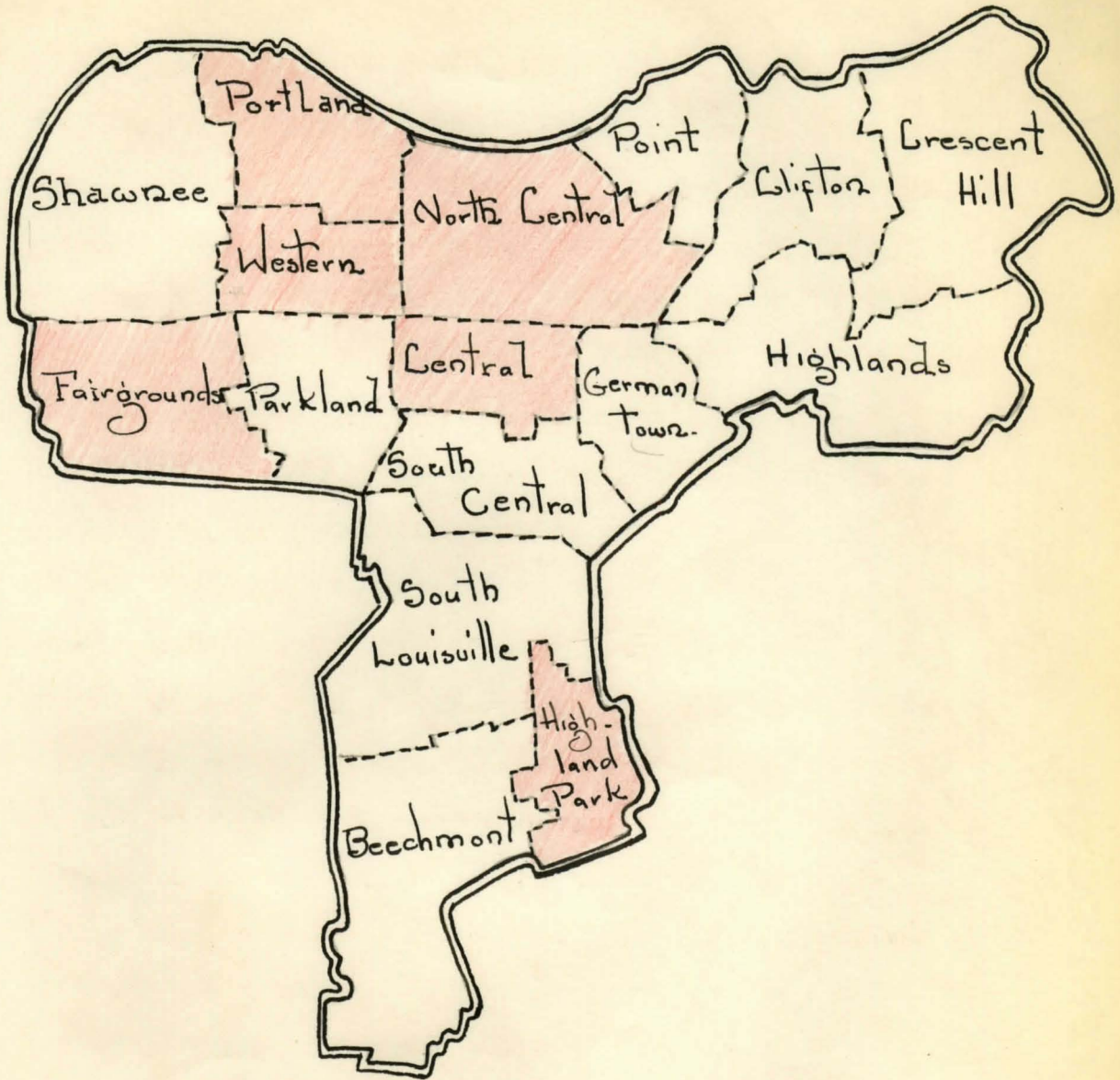
Twenty-eight playgrounds were operated during the summer of 1937, eighteen by the Recreation Division, Department of Public Welfare, and seven by the State Wide Recreation Project of the W.P.A., and three with the assistance of the National Youth Administration.

Every study made of the recreational facilities in Louisville has stressed the need of more play areas. In 1916 the survey made by Mr. L. H. Weir of the National Recreation Association pointed out that at that time there was a need for forty or fifty additional playgrounds, and seven to nine additional parks. This estimate was based on a school population of 36,000. Today with almost twice as many school children, the city affords only twenty-eight playgrounds, which would be an adequate number for a town of an approximate child population of 14,000.

6. Gardner, Ella, Development of a Leisure-Time Program, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1937.

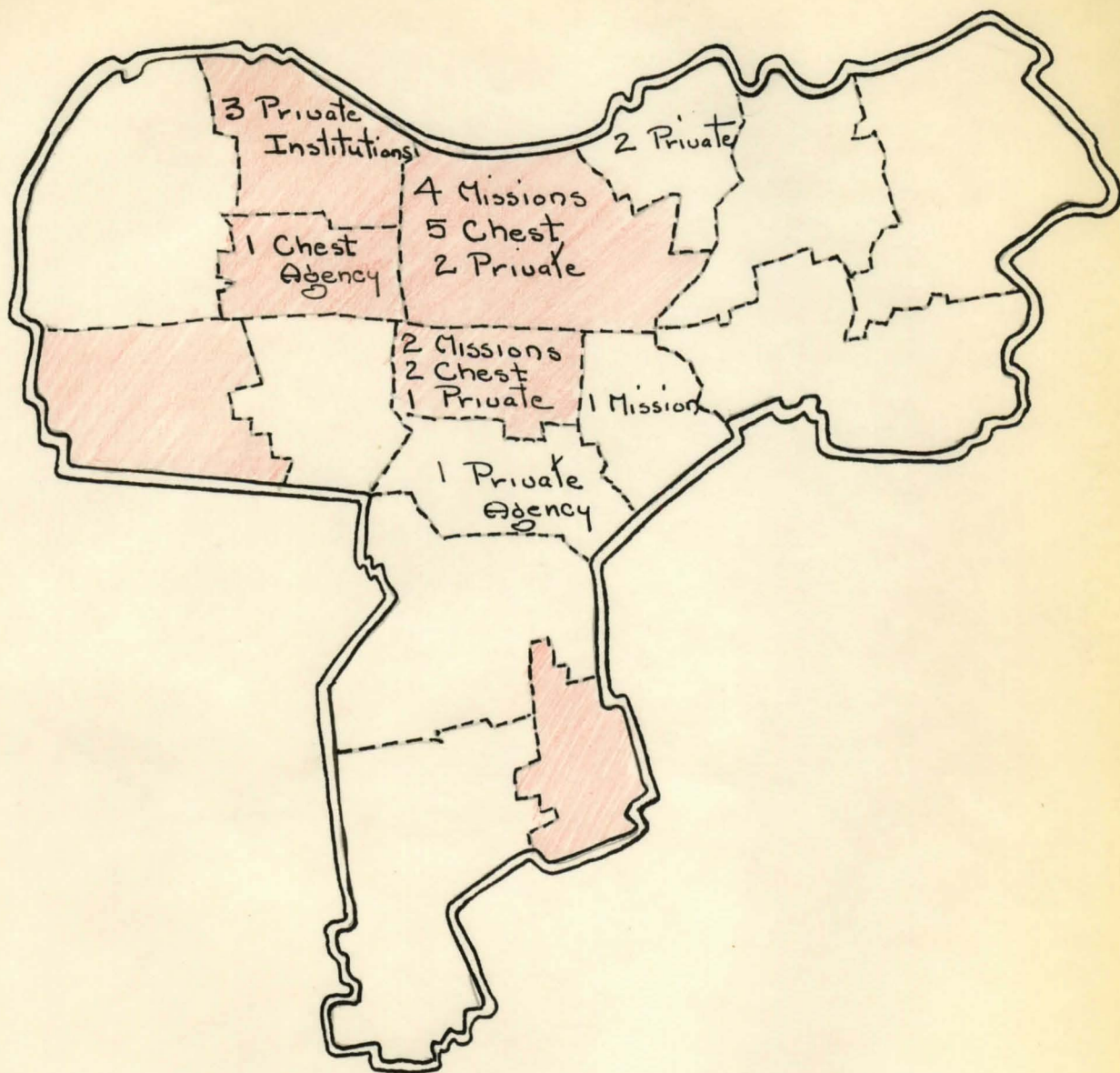
Figures are cold and meaningless unless interpreted in the light of need, but it does not take a highly trained statistician to see that eighty tennis courts, eight private and public swimming pools, seventeen private recreation agencies, fourteen school gymnasiums (opened for a few weeks only in the winter time), and three public golf courses are inadequate to serve the thousands who look to these to fill their leisure time needs. There is a very evident need for swimming pools, as only one of the pools is in the Recreation Division, and that in very bad condition.

Sixteen communities of varying degrees of community interest compose Louisville. They are namely: Shawnee, Portland, Fairgrounds, Western, North Central, Central, South Central, the Point, Clifton, Crescent Hill, the Highlands, Germantown, South Louisville, Parkland, Beechmont, and Highland Park. The maps following are self-explanatory. The shaded sections indicate that there are six areas with a high rate of delinquency. While Louisville is not faced with vast slum areas, it does have two very badly overcrowded sections, both of which are located in the North Central section of the city. Along with the crowded condition goes its handmaidens, high-rate delinquency, health hazards, low tax returns, unsanitary living conditions, and inadequate recreation. Over five thousand children of school age live in these two areas, which are served

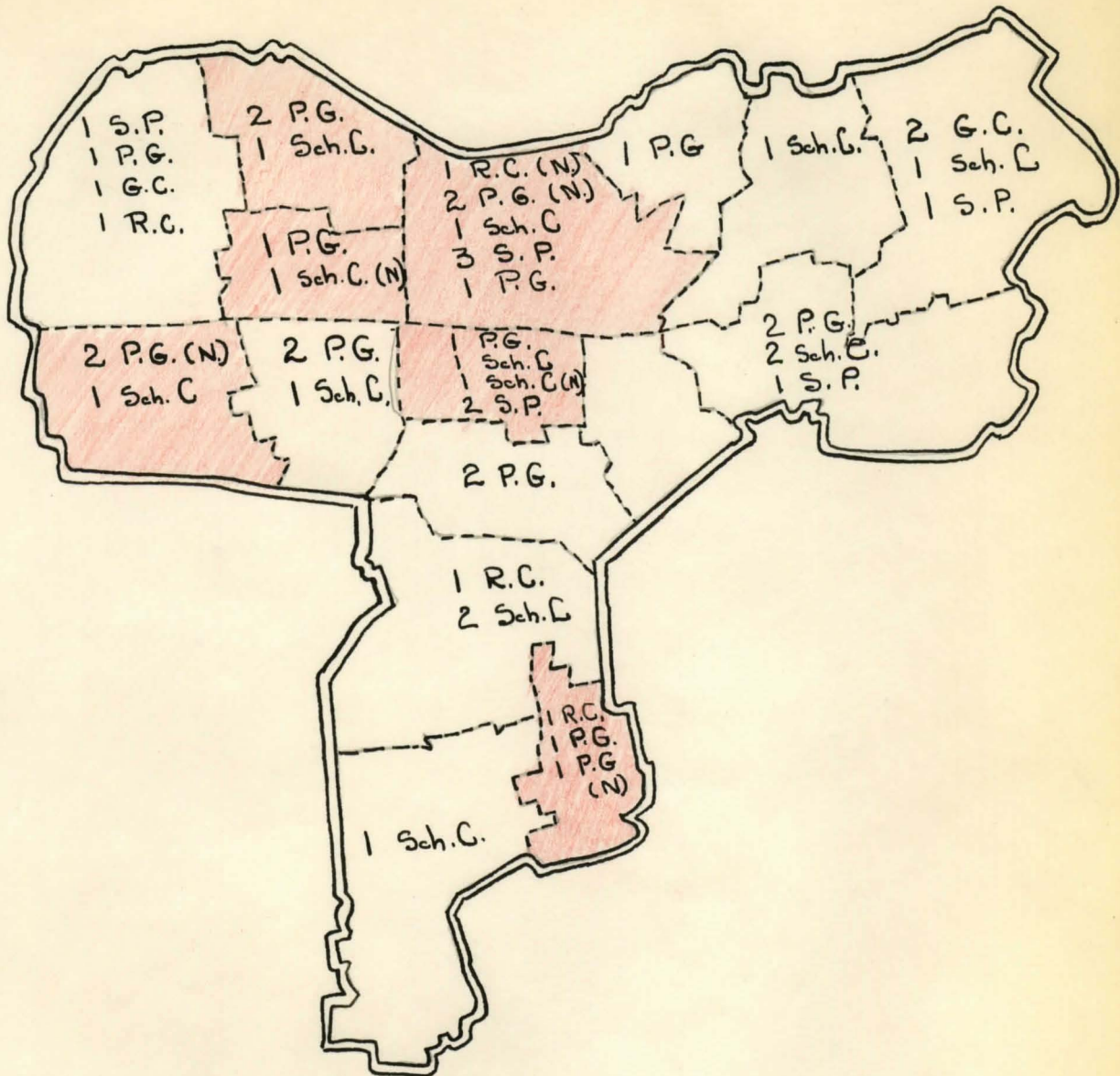


COMMUNITIES IN LOUISVILLE - 1937

Shading denotes high delinquency areas based on Juvenile Court statistics for 1935.



PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES IN LOUISVILLE



PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES IN LOUISVILLE

Legend

P.G.	-----	Playground
P.G. (N)	-----	Playground for Negroes
Sch. C.	-----	School Center
R.C.	-----	Recreation Center
S.P.	-----	Swimming Pool
G.C.	-----	Golf Course

RECREATION FACILITIES
Louisville, Kentucky
1937

Section	Private				Public			
	Private	Chest	Mission	R.C.	P.G.	G.C.	Sch.C.	S.P.
Shawnee	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
*Fair-grounds	0	0	0	0	2-C	0	1	0
Portland	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
*Western	0	1	0	0	1	0	1-C	0
Parkland	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
*North Central	2	5	4	1-C	2-C 1-W	0	1	3
*Central	1	2	2	0	1	0	1-C 1-W	2
South Central	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
South L'ville	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Beechmont	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
*Highland Park	0	0	0	1	1-C 1-W	0	0	0
German-town	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Point	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Clifton	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Highlands	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1
Crescent Hill	<u>0</u> 9	<u>0</u> 8	<u>0</u> 7	<u>0</u> 4	<u>0</u> 19	<u>2</u> 3	<u>1</u> 14	<u>1</u> 8

*Represents high delinquency areas

P.G. - Playground G.C. - Golf Course S.P. - Swimming Pool
Sch. C. - School Center

C denotes facilities for Colored

Figures compiled from map prepared by Juvenile Court Project, 1937.

by eight recreation facilities; five of which are private agencies, two are playgrounds, and one is a community center for Negroes. What intensifies the situation is the fact that one area is predominatingly Negro, and is served by four of the eight facilities. These same areas are vice ridden. Bookies, houses of prostitution, beer joints, low grade picture shows extend beckoning arms to the all too willing youth.

As a counter-irritant to these vicious influences, Louisville offers the following:⁷

Private Recreation
Agencies

1. Baptist Goodwill Center
2. Boy Scout Headquarters
3. Cabbage Patch Settlement
4. Calvary Point Community Center
5. Girl Scout Headquarters
6. Louisville Turners
7. Mackin Council, Y.M.I.
8. Neighborhood House
9. Rose Hudson Community
10. Wesley Community House
11. Y.W.C.A.
12. Y.M.H.A.
13. Y.M.C.A.

Colored

14. Boy Scout Headquarters
15. Phyllis Wheatley - Y.W.C.A.
16. Plymouth Settlement House
17. Presbyterian Colored Missions

Public Recreation
Facilities

Community Centers

1. Highland Park Center
2. Thruston Square Center (Discontinued after Flood)
3. Oakdale Center
4. Shawnee Recreation Bldg.
5. Chestnut Street Center (for Negroes)

Playgrounds

6. Boone Square
7. Central Park
8. Elliott Square
9. Portland
10. Shelby Park
11. Triangle Park
12. Tyler Park
13. Victory

Classes held in the following schools and libraries:

27. Ahrens Trade

7. Bulletin No. 11, Council of Social Agencies, 1937, Recreation and Camps.

Colored (Cont.)

- 18. Downtown
- 19. 36th and Hale

School Centers

- 20. Charles D. Jacob
- 21. Parkland Jr. High
- 22. Shawnee High
- 23. Western Jr. High

Colored

- 24. Jackson Jr. High
- 25. Madison Jr. High
- 26. Virginia Avenue

Classes held in the following schools and libraries: (Cont.)

- 28. Barret Jr. High
- 29. Belknap
- 30. Halleck Hall
- 31. Highland Jr. High
- 32. Eastern Jr. High
- 33. Ellen C. Semple
- 34. duPont Manual (Athletics)
- 35. Southern Jr. High (Athletics)
- 36. George Rogers Clark
- 37. Emmet Field
- 38. Highland Library
- 39. Shelby Library
- 40. Jefferson Library
- 41. Portland Library

Summer Camps

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Camp Mount Mercy | 6. Girl Scout Day Camp |
| 2. Y.W.C.A. | 7. Y.M.H.A. |
| 3. Boy Scouts | 8. Fresh Air Home |
| 4. Camp for Colored Girls | 9. Boy Scout (Colored Division) |
| 5. Girl Scouts | 10. Jennie Casseday Rest Cottage |

In 1937 the Recreation Division of the Department of Public Welfare operated its program on a budget of \$48,554.03. The private Community Chest agencies had a combined budget of \$173,064.00. It is hard to make a comparison between the two as the Recreation Division is a service division only and does not own any property, whereas the private agencies must pay for maintenance and operating cost of their respective centers.

According to the listings in the city directory for 1937, there are 696 commercial and private recreation agencies in Louisville.

- 272 Associations and Clubs
- 228 Lodges
- 43 Halls (Dance and recreation facilities)
- 32 Picture Shows

- 52 Societies
- 25 Pool Rooms
- 11 Private Parks
- 8 Libraries (Private)
- 7 Golf Clubs
- 5 Gymnasiums (Other than school gymnasiums)
- 5 Bowling Alleys
- 4 Theatres
- 1 Boat Dock

In addition to the above facilities available for leisure time activities, in the past few years the churches in Louisville have attempted to include some form of recreation in their young people's program.

Dramatic presentations, swimming parties, bowling parties, hikes, picnics, all have been included. The Catholic churches have turned a good portion of their recreational efforts toward the commercial by giving "Bingo" parties. Enough revenue has been brought in to help build several churches.

Two interesting recreational developments in Louisville are the Otter Creek Reservation and the Municipal Outdoor Theatre, both of which are expected to be opened this year. The Otter Creek reservation will make available camping facilities on land acquired by the Federal Government and the City and improved in the latest National Park manner. The Outdoor Theatre fills a long felt need for some facilities for summer opera, pageants, folk dance festivals, and concerts. The latter is being constructed through a joint committee of the City and the W.P.A. It is planned to open the summer season with light opera on July 1, 1938.

We have been concerned up to now with private and public facilities without mention of the Federal influence on recreation.

The W.P.A. and N.Y.A. have contributed to the Recreation picture through their state wide programs. The set-up is as follows:

"The Recreation Division is charged with the operation of those WPA projects which provide communities with supervisors and leaders for conducting leisure time programs. The purpose of the Division is four-fold:

- "a. To administer through the state offices, in cooperation with local agencies, projects for the employment of relief persons as recreation leaders.
- "b. To give technical supervision through a traveling staff and publications as aids to maintain standards of quality for recreation programs.
- "c. To assist in organizing local training institutes to fit recreation leaders for permanent local employment.
- "d. To promote community organization for the purpose of establishing permanent public recreational agencies.

"Recreation activities are designed to: encourage individual and group creative expression; provide opportunities for education and enjoyment; foster group living and cooperative action in a democracy; teach manual skills; improve health and human relations; reach all age groups throughout the year."⁸

8. Activities of Federal Agencies in the Field of Recreation, W.P.A. Mimeograph Report, Interdepartmental Committee to Coordinate Health and Welfare Activities, 1937.

To carry out this program there are in Louisville forty-eight W.P.A. workers and three supervisors engaged in playground work, athletics, dramatics, orchestra, and crafts in private and public institutions.

The National Youth Administration, while not engaged in establishing or directly promoting recreational activities and facilities, gives valuable assistance to the program through activities of the Project Division and the student aid work. The Project Division administers through state offices projects for the part-time employment of needy youth as recreational assistants and in construction of recreational facilities in the communities, and assists in organizing local training institutes to fit recreational leaders for permanent local programs. The student aid activity, through grants-in-aid to schools, enables them to set up recreational projects for part-time employment of needy students.

In Louisville the N.Y.A. has taken over an unused school building and is remodeling it for a community center. All the work done in preparation for the opening of the center is being done by N.Y.A. project workers.

According to the N.Y.A., the recreation projects have been set up with the following goals in mind:

- a. Leadership development
- b. The development of recreation appreciation
- c. The mental, moral, and physical benefit of the worker
- d. The discovery of latent abilities of the workers
- e. General vocational direction
- f. The sustained interest of the community

A significant aspect of modern recreation is the trend away from the more simple pleasures to activities that require considerable outlay for facilities and play equipment. The forms of recreation most popular now are those which demand an outlay of money, and for this reason it has developed in such an extensive manner only in a period where there was a capacity to meet a rising tide of expenditures.

Jerome Davis in his Capitalism and Its Culture gives us a picture of this cost, quoting Mr. Steiner as saying that in 1929 \$10,000,000,000 was spent on recreation in the United States. But Stuart Chase places the cost at a higher figure, \$21,000,000,000, including in his total funds spent on motoring, flying, candy, tobacco, etc. Mr. Davis says that if society would spend even five per cent of this amount in constructive forms of wholesome and planned recreation, then we would have reasonably adequate facilities for play in the United States. The picture Mr. Davis gives us of our "capitalistic" set-up in recreation is not

pretty, but it is revealing. The picture of our commercial recreation in contrast to non-commercial activities tends to build up "mal-creation" rather than real recreation.

In an attempt to show the real recreation or positive side of the recreation in Louisville, the next few sections will give the background of the local recreation movement.

II.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

NOTE

Many excellent histories of Louisville have been written. From them, and from old newspaper files, I have attempted to cull those parts which describe the recreational activities or relate indirectly to the amusements of the people who settled the town at the Falls and built the great city of Louisville. In selecting these I have tried to keep in mind that only those excerpts should be included which throw light upon the character of the people and their means of enjoying life. A great deal more might have been added, but space, and the object of this thesis, have prevented my extending it to greater lengths.

II.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Every elementary school boy and girl, diligently pouring over thumb-marked history books, knows that the Indians called Kentucky "The Happy Hunting Ground." They know too that many years before Louisville was settled there were no wigwams in this section, and that maize, that invaluable crop of the Red Men, did not grow in Kentucky. Its absence was due not to the fact that the soil was not fertile; it was due to the fact that the Indians felt that Kentucky should not be cluttered up with corn stalks. Kentucky to them was the "Great Park."

According to Rueben T. Durrett:

"It was such a park as no civilized nation has ever set aside for angling and the chase. From the rugged mountains that walled it on the East, to the mighty Mississippi and the lovely Ohio, which bound it on the West, and North, there was a succession of lovely plains and gentle hills and smiling valleys and dark forests and sunny canebrakes in which game of every kind abounded. There were herds of buffalo, of deer, and flocks of turkeys on the hills.. and in the rivers and streams winding through every part of the land there were shoals of fish that it seemed could never be exhausted."⁹

Here, we are told, was a park dedicated to the various Indian tribes, set aside for hunting and

9. Durrett, Reuben T., "The Centenary of Louisville," reprinted in Collected Writings Related to the History of Louisville, Louisville Free Public Library, 1935, pp. 87-88.

fishing, where no human habitation desecrated this common right to the forest and the streams.

Such was the condition of the country known as Kentucky when the first settlers of Louisville came to the Falls of the Ohio. The Indians were revelling in their playground. They knew how to get the most enjoyment out of their leisure time. They knew how to combine their recreation with their quest for a livelihood; they found complete enjoyment in many of the sports which we of the modern age are prone to think of as our exclusive privilege. They rode, they fished, they hunted. They were leading the outdoor life years before the White Man thought of recreation as a means to better living.

But these Indians did not long enjoy the freedom of their undisturbed "Happy Hunting Ground." These first inhabitants of the "Great Park," these natural play leaders, these occupants of the primeval virgin playground of the continent, were soon to be driven out by the settlers who wanted to enjoy for themselves the beauties and the bounties of Kentucky.

History tells us that when General George Rogers Clark, in the spring of 1778, set out upon his expedition against the British garrisons in the Illinois territory, some twenty families assembled at Redstone for the purpose of emigrating to Kentucky. These families, accompanied by a few soldiers came to the

Falls and landed on Corn Island, May 27, 1778. They were the first settlers of Louisville.

Although these first Louisvillians did not live on the mainland but on Corn Island, they soon felt that to protect themselves and their families from the attacks of Indians they should erect some kind of fortification. As a result long rows of log cabins joined together around an inner court were constructed at what is now Twelfth and River Streets, and this group of houses was called a fort. The settlement was ready for occupancy in time for Christmas, and many of the families who had been cooped up on the island since the preceding spring were glad for a chance to "stretch their legs" and move into the fort-like structure.

The first Christmas in Louisville was celebrated in the way in which the settlers had been accustomed to observe it back in their old homes. A feast and a dance were customary. The feast was easy to arrange, but the dance presented a more difficult problem. There was rhythm in the feet of the pioneer boys and girls, even though its expression was handicapped by rough brogans; there were joy and laughter in the hearts of these trail-blazers, but there seemed to be no visible means of procuring the music with which to satisfy their longing.

But the settlers had their dance, and an account of it given by Mr. Durrett brings into light

a quaint old character, Uncle Cato, the Negro fiddler who traded twelve coon skins to a Frenchman for three fiddle strings. His idea was to surprise the "White Folks" by fiddling a merry tune when dinner was over and their appetites for the dance unsatisfied. How the Frenchman stepped in and stole the limelight makes a very interesting story. Aside from the vivid description, the account shows very definitely that human nature has not changed in these one hundred and sixty years. Any modern recreational leader who has attempted to put across a new dance has seen her plans go awry just as Monsieur's did when he began explaining the intricate figures of the Branle and the Pavane. Every playground worker has felt at times as the Frenchman did that perhaps the potential enjoyment of the participants was not worth all the trouble and the energy and the persistence necessary to carry to successful completion the task which he had set out to perform.

The account of the entertainment at this first Christmas party, then, is not only interesting from the standpoint of an historical account of the recreational activities of the first settlers, but more especially because it demonstrates that even in the early days play directors were confronted with problems of discipline in games and dances.

The Frenchman was well versed in the fashionable music and the delicate patterns of the dances of his

native land. He did not know, however, what these pioneers wanted in the way of entertainment. He was woefully ignorant of what was suited to the frontier settlement in this new country.

Perhaps the recreational workers who read this sketch will laugh when they picture themselves attempting to get across to their charges, some of them as foreign in their attitudes as the pioneers who celebrated the first Christmas in Louisville, the same type of recreational activity that the Frenchman advanced.

"First he tried what was known in those days as the Branle. He arranged the dancers in a circle around the room with hands joined, and showed them how to leap in circles and keep one another in constant motion. After giving, as he thought, sufficient instructions to insure success, he took his place at one side of the room, and began to play and direct the dance. But the dancers would not or could not follow the promptings. They got out of time and out of figure too, and some of the boys instead of leaping in circles showed their agility in leap frog over one another's heads. The Frenchman was disgusted and resolved to try another figure.

"He advanced to the center, and after descanting upon the grace and beauty of the minuet, arranged the parties for that dance. He showed them how to make long and graceful bow, how to balance, and how to glide forward. Then taking his position at the side of the room again, he began to play the minuet and direct the figure. But the dancers again either could not or would not obey orders. Instead of gliding they would hop across the floor, and when

they came to the bow instead of drawing it out to a graceful length as indicated by the strain of music, they bobbed their heads up and down in quick succession, like geese dodging a shower of stones. Monsieur was again disgusted, but summoned enough of the courage of despair to make another effort.

"He next introduced the Pavane, and explained that the principle merit of this dance consisted in strutting like peacocks. He instanced Margaret of Valois, and other distinguished French ladies who had made great fame in this dance by strutting like peacocks.

"When he had arranged them on the floor and showed them how to strut, he took his place and began the music. A scene soon followed which surpassed the two previous ones in ridiculousness. As the boys strutted past the girls, the girls laughed at them, and as the girls caught their skirts with their hands on each side and strutted by the boys, the boys would imitate the peculiar cry of the peacock until the whole scene was confusion confounded. Monsieur was disgusted beyond endurance. Although he spoke very fair English when at himself, he now lost the entire use of that tongue, and in his rage and despair rattled away in French, like an empty wagon over a rough pavement. He planted his back against the wall after the first ebullition of passion had subsided, and there stood, with his fiddle under his arm and his bow in his hand, a grim, pale statue of despair."¹⁰

Those of you who are interested in conclusions may be happy to learn that Uncle Cato, whose crestfallen, wizened countenance was the only dark spot in the whole

10. Durrett, R. T., "Southern Bivouac," 1884, reprinted in Collected Writings Related to the History of Louisville, Louisville Library Collections, History Series, Vol. I, 1935, pp. 103-104.

celebration, came forward at the opportune time and saved the day by fiddling "Turkey in the Straw" for the happy revellers to dance the Virginia Reel.

This first Christmas party in Louisville was the forerunner of many "play parties" of pioneer days, and showed the character of the men and women who blazed new paths through the wilderness. They were a happy group of settlers and no amount of hardships or disappointments could prevent their enjoying to the full such entertainment as they were able to create for themselves.

From the fort at Twelfth and River grew the great city of Louisville. General Clark as early as 1779 made a map of the new town at the Falls, and while the streets were neither numbered nor named, we know that he laid out Main, Market, and Jefferson, crossed by streets ranging from First to Twelfth, "with all the territory systematically divided into public lots and private""all the ground between Main Street and the river, and two whole squares where the Court House now stands and a strip south of the Jefferson Street lots, half a square wide extending the whole length of the town...."¹¹ was marked public.

How unfortunate it is for the present generation that the plan was not adopted and adhered to by the City Fathers. Louisville would have been one of the

11. Durrett, R. T., Southern Magazine, 1890, reprinted in Louisville Library Collections, Vol. I, op. cit., p. 83.

most attractive cities on the continent had it possessed these public grounds or parks adorned with the original forest trees. In addition it would have scattered its residential district and widened the housing area early in its history, thus preventing the overcrowded condition of the homes of the poorer classes which are now located where these public grounds were originally planned.¹²

12. "The original plan of Louisville, as well as the act establishing the town, provided for public lots, and but for a great neglect of the Trustees we should now have parks in which the noble trees of the original forest would be preserved, and in which the pure air could be breathed by our citizens. As the city after its incorporation in 1780 was laid out, a strip of land between Green and Walnut streets one hundred and eighty feet wide, and extending from Floyd Street on the east to 12th Street on the west, where it connected with another large body of land of a triangular shape bounded on the north by Grayson, on the east by Twelfth, streets lots, and on the west by the old town line, were to have been public property. While the Trustees had not adopted General Clark's suggestion to hold the lands north of Main St. for public property, they had not sold these lots as they had others, and this fine river front yet belonged to the city. What a noble system of intramural parks these lands would have made with the original forest trees upon them. Early in May, 1786, however, the Trustees passed a resolution for the sale of these public lands. This may not have been their own free choice, for Colonel John Campbell was pressing them without mercy for the sale of lots to pay his mortgage against the Connolly land. After betting about 450 pounds for this mortgage, he brought in another debt of about 600 pounds which he claimed the renegade McKee owed him, and the Leg. of Va. allowed him to collect it from the sale of Louisville lots. There seemed to be nothing for the trustees to do, therefore, but to sell lots to pay Campbell with what they brought. The whole Connolly tract of one thousand acres had been laid off into three hundred half-acre lots and twenty five-acre lots and a dozen or more fractional lots. All were sold

The City Fathers, however, did not see fit to follow the map designed by Clark. Louisville was first laid out in 1789 by William Pope. A subsequent survey was made by William Peyton, assisted by Daniel Sullivan, who went so far as to plot out the lots. It has been said that the two great faults in the plan for Louisville were the lack of alleys and the total disregard for including public squares.

"The total want of public squares, is an evil of much more serious cost, and one which promised hereafter to furnish full employment to the sons of Esculapius and their suite. Rapidly as the town augments its population, a few years will find every foot of ground within its precincts covered with houses, forming ramparts that will keep out that ministering angel of health, a pure and circulating atmosphere and keep within, the demon of contagion, who draws his very existence from the foul and pestilent airs of a pent-up city."¹³

The citizens of early Louisville, however, had not completely abandoned the idea of a public park of some kind, even though they had failed to be far sighted enough to include provision for it when they laid out the city. Like many present day planners they were very argumentative and a great controversy arose over

before the close of the year 1786 at public auction, except the graveyard on Jefferson between 11th and 12th and the court house square on Jeff. bet. 5th and 6th. It all brought about 1,000 pounds, which would equal about \$3,333."*

*Durrett, Rueben T., "The Centenary of Louisville," (1880) reprinted in The Filson Club Proceedings, J. P. Morton Co., 1893, pp. 96-98.

13. McMurtrie, H., 1819, in Louisville Library Collections, 1935, op. cit., p. 20.

the location of Louisville's first public park. About 1830 someone suggested it be in Jacob's Woods, located at what is now First and Broadway. However, Preston Woods, which was that area beginning at what is now Broadway and Underhill and extending east through the Highlands, was advocated as a rival site for Louisville's first park. After much arguing and delays of one kind and another, the Preston site was selected. According to an account in the Herald Post of January 9, 1927:¹⁴

"Those woods had another distinction, not quite so pretty. Far within its precincts was located the 'gallows' tree, from which a number of men who had done murder were swung into eternity. Impromptu affairs, some of these hangings, and usually attended by as many of the populace as could come. The execution of the itinerant Negro preacher, Caution, by name if not by nature, seems to have been the most notable of the hangings there. Many years ago progress took its ax in hand and leveled 'gallows tree.'"

What the early citizens lacked in public parks, they made up for in ponds scattered throughout the city. There were so many of these in fact that one wonders where the early builders found sufficient dry land on which to erect their houses. These ponds gave Louisville a very damp and malarial climate, and diseases caused from this dampness were very common.

Two of the ponds are worth special mention. The more important of them was located at Sixth and

14. Tarvin, A.H., The Herald Post, January 9, 1927.

Market Streets and extended to Sixteenth. It was appropriately called Long Pond, for it was ten blocks in length and nearly half as wide. This lake was the scene of many a merry party, particularly in winter when it was frozen over to a glassy slickness and skaters glided gracefully or cavorted grotesquely on its surface. Early sketches, showing improvised sleds made of kitchen chairs being propelled by the gallant swains of the day while their ladies sat enthroned, are of unusual interest.

Grayson's Pond, beginning at Sixth and Center Streets and extending well past the present location of the Jefferson County Armory, had perhaps the most fascinating history. In 1785 William Shannon acquired a plot of five acres which included a beautiful lake, at least two burying grounds, and a forest of orchard trees. He sold it to Samuel Kirby in the same year for \$183.30, who eventually sold it to John Gwalthmey. The house which stands today on the west side of Sixth Street north of Walnut, immediately north of the old Scottish Rite Cathedral and opposite the Armory, was built in 1810 by Mr. Gwalthmey of brick imported from the East.

Six years later David L. Ward purchased the house and land, including the beautiful lake, and presented them to his daughter, Sallie Ward Downes, noted Kentucky

beauty, on the occasion of her marriage to Frederick M. Grayson.

Old newspaper accounts tell us that this was a very popular place for the idle and the meditative. It was also the scene of many of the baptisms performed in the 1800's, for the natural shape of the banks provided an excellent place for those who wished to observe the ceremonies. Boating in summer and skating in winter were indulged in to a great extent, and when Mr. Grayson, exercising his prerogative as lord and master of the house, began to fill in the lake with earth procured from the numerous mounds around the edges, the citizens set up a loud wail, but to no avail. Louisville's first private park was no more.

In 1840 Louisville had grown in population until it deserved the name of a small city. She had two rivals, however, Portland and Shippingport. Portland, just below the Falls, was monopolizing the great river trade; palatial steamers came and went in endless procession up and down the Ohio, like magnificent parts of a gay parade. Shippingport was also a gay and prosperous town and the home of most of the great river kings. Their open-houses and lavish entertainments were known all along the Ohio.

An interesting account of the performance of a home town orchestra shows the tenor of one phase of recreational activity of that day.

"About this time several young fellows organized a small orchestra that played for dances, picnics and theatrical performances. The father of the late Charles Grainger was one of them. The father of the late Colonel Will Hays was another. One memorable week the elder Booth played Hamlet in Louisville and the orchestra was engaged to furnish the music. The stage manager instructed them with regard to their cues and was particular in impressing upon them that when Ophelia was buried and Booth sprang into her grave the band must play something appropriate for a lovely young girl.

"That evening Booth outshone himself and when the body of the fair Ophelia was brought in and he began 'I loved Ophelia,' etc., the amateur orchestra struck up merrily, 'Oh, Lor, Gals, Don't you Want To Go To Shippingport?' There was an explosion of laughter all over the house and the amateur musicians were saved from sudden death at the hands of the enraged tragedian by timely flight. Booth never acted again in Louisville."¹⁵

The general type of people who lived in early Louisville is described by H. B. Fearson:¹⁶

"I do not feel myself competent to confirm or deny the general claim of the Kentuckians to generosity and warmth of character, of their habits. I would wish to speak with equal diffidence that they drink a great deal, swear a great deal, and gamble a great deal.

"The barbarian practice of 'gouging' with which they are charged, I have not seen occur though I have good reason to believe in its existence. They have also another practice, nearly akin to this called

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15. "In Old Shippingport," Herald Post, Jan. 10, 1927.
16. Fearson, H. B., "Sketches of America, A Narrative of a Journey through the Eastern and Western States of America," 1818, reprinted in Louisville Library Collections, op. cit., pp. 137-139.

'gander pulling.' This diversion consists in tying a live gander to a tree or pole, greasing its neck, riding past it at full gallop, and he who succeeds in pulling off the head of the victim, receives the laurel crown. I think I have heard of a similar practice in Holland, but these are not to be taken as mixed characteristics.

"The life of boarders at an American tavern presents the most senseless and comfortless mode of killing time which I have ever seen. Every house of this description that I have been in is thronged to excess, and there is not a man who appears to have a single earthly object in view, except spitting and smoking segars. I have not seen a book in the hands of any person since I left Philadelphia. Objectionable as these habits are, they afford decided evidence of the prosperity of that country, which can admit so large a body of its citizens to waste in indolence three-fourths of their lives, and would also appear to hold out encouragement to Englishmen with English habits, who could retain their industry amid a nation of indolence, and have sufficient firmness to live in America and yet bid defiance to the deadly example of its natives."

If the above account does nothing else, it serves to give us a picture, how characteristic of the entire state I do not know, of the manner in which the citizens spent their leisure time. Still another picture, in direct contrast, has been painted by Dr. H. McMurtrie: He says that "The theatre, public and private halls, a sober game of whist, or the more scientific one of billiards, with an occasional reunion of friends around the festive board, constitute

the principal amusements; and it is with pleasure I am able to assert without fear of contradiction, that gaming forms no part of them. Whatever may have been the case formerly there is hardly, at the present day, a vestige to be seen of this ridiculous and disgraceful practice, and if it exists at all, it is only to be found in the secret dens of midnight swindlers, within whose walls once to enter is dishonor, infamy, and ruin."¹⁷

Jefferson Street was one of the leading streets of the early nineteenth century, for here was located not only the first theatre but also the first race course.

The theatre was known as The City Theatre and was owned by a man named Tyler. Its exact location was between Third and Fourth on Jefferson, and although at first it was a barn-like structure, in 1818 it underwent considerable alterations and was fitted up in good taste. It is described as a handsome brick structure of three stories, the inside of which was divided into a pit, two tiers of boxes, and a gallery capable of seating in all about 800 persons. Added attractions were a retiring room for the ladies and one containing refreshments for the company in general. According to

17. McMurtrie, H., 1819, in Collected Writings Relating to the History of Louisville, 1935, p. 921.

Oral S. Coad and Edwin Mims, Jr., this theatre was closed in 1829, and theatrical companies seeking a place to perform in Louisville were sent to a makeshift affair, "a cattle shed or stable that had been appropriated and covered with some old canvas, supported by scaffolds, poles, to form a roof, and rough seats on an ascent to the back, and capable of holding about 200 persons, constituted the audience part of the establishment, the lower benches nearest the stage being designated by the name of boxes and the upper nearest the ceiling, the pit."¹⁸

It is interesting to know that Louisville very early was interested in amateur theatricals. Lexington, which was known as a cultural center of the new country west of the Alleghenies, antedated Louisville by ten years in the organization of an amateur dramatic organization. In 1808 a drama institute was formed by certain citizens in Louisville, and amateur performances given for a number of years under its auspices. These continued even after the arrival of the professionals.

As early as 1781 John Harrison brought from Virginia a race horse which ran over the course along Jefferson Street and ".... the horse ran until he beat all ten scrubs matched against him and won all the money."¹⁹

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18. Coad, Oral Sumner, and Mims, Edwin, Jr., The Pageant of America, "The American Stage," Yale University Press, Vol. 14, 1929, p. 125.
19. Durrett, Reuben T., "The Century of Kentucky," Filson Club Proceedings, 1892, in Louisville Library Collections, Vol. I., History Series, Collected Writings Relating to the History of Louisville, 1935, p. 100.

On Jefferson Street too was located what by some is called the first park, although historians seem to differ in their opinions, some claiming that Preston Woods, described earlier in this thesis, has the better claim to the title. Baxter Park was located on West Jefferson Street between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets, accessible by both the Green Street (now Liberty) and the Jefferson Street car lines. It is still used as a public playground.

A description of Baxter Park, appearing in the Herald Post of January 31, 1911, gives us the information that this was the heart of the residential district of the day.

"Baxter Park was primarily a cemetery where many soldiers and civilians who were instrumental in building up greater Louisville were buried. About 1880, however, Baxter Park was purchased by the City authorities and was converted into a public park, with the added beautification of twelve deer, which were donated by E. H. duPont, and were turned loose to graze in the first breathing spot of Louisville then located in the heart of the residence district."²⁰

One of the interesting accounts of early recreational activities tells of the first band concerts rendered every Wednesday night in the Jefferson Street grounds, later supplanted by Bible lectures every Sunday afternoon. Thus, so it is said, during the early

20. The Herald Post, January 31, 1911.

history of the park arrangement of the city, the authorities indicated a desire to cater to the wishes of the public by providing interesting and instructive entertainment for the leisure hours of those privileged to enjoy the first city park.

Baxter Square felt the force of the cyclone of 1890 as it broke with all its fury in the vicinity of this park. Numerous forest trees that had beautified the square were completely destroyed by the cyclonic winds, and St. John's Church, at Twelfth and Jefferson, was completely demolished. Since this church had formerly furnished the organ used in the Sunday Bible services, this diversion had to be eliminated from the program of events.

About 1851 the city of Louisville bought eighty-two and a half acres of ground for \$10,000. This ground was bounded by D and K Streets and Third and Brook Streets and was intended for park purposes. However, in 1860, when a place was needed for a House of Refuge, the city conveyed this property to that institution, reserving forty acres for park purposes. This land is the present site of Belknap Campus. According to Col. Durrett, in a talk given for the Filson Club, he says:

"If this eighty-two and one half acres had been made into a public park according to the original intention it would have been

a very good beginning in that direction. Instead, however, of its becoming a place for the dwellers in the city to breathe pure air and sport among shady trees, it became a kind of prison to keep the bad boys and girls of the city out of mischief."

When Charles D. Jacob became Mayor of Louisville, one of his first moves was to purchase the immense tract in the Southern Knobs, now known as Iroquois or Jacob's Park. The deal for the purchase of this land was consummated the year of the cyclone, but little damage was done to its trees. The cyclone practically devastated another park, Floral Park, located on a private estate near Seventh and Ormsby Avenues. This park was considered "the place" for picnic parties, and its owner made a great deal of money leasing it for amusement purposes. The cyclone is said to have helped in the development of the public parks, for after it had vent its wrath, there was no more Floral Park and the citizens were forced to use the public parks for picnic and amusement purposes.

An interesting account of the park system of Louisville has been given us by Fanny Copley Seavey, who in 1897 described the beauties of these recreational centers in Park and Cemetery.

"The three principal parks of Louisville, Kentucky, are named Iroquoise, Cherokee, and Shawnee - happily selected nomenclature that is poetic, suggestive and appropriate, for that enhanced wilderness

Kentucky, was the chosen hunting ground of the red men, and so beautiful that it may well have typified to their poetic but untutored minds the 'happy hunting grounds' of the Indian hereafter.

"Not only are the names well selected, but they are fittingly applied, for the 306 acres of lovely hill, dale, and sylvan shade, christened Cherokee, fairly represents the leading characteristics of the beautiful country on the upper Tennessee River and its branches that the agriculturally inclined Cherokees chose for their own; while the bold wooded knob, the outpost of those that here skirt the southern side of the valley of the Ohio, that dominates the 550 acres known as Iroquois aptly stands for the 'warlike and powerful' tribe which more than two hundred years ago made life a burden to the peaceful Shawnees whose numerous villages tenanted the shores of the Ohio, then and long afterward known as the Wabash. And thus the name Shawnee is equally fitting for the remaining park of 167 acres lying directly on the south bank of that stream, views of the river and of the Indiana knobs across it constituting its chief attraction."²¹

At the turn of the century the chief recreational activity of the masses in Louisville was bicycling, with riding as a close second. Hundreds of cyclists, appropriately arrayed in togs especially designed for the sport, could be seen peddling their way out Third Street to Southern Parkway where the Iroquois Driving and Cycling Club had erected an ornate and convenient clubhouse. This Club was composed of those who "drive for

21. Seavey, Fanny Copley, Park and Cemetery, Chicago, April, 1897, in Louisville Library Collections, op. cit., p. 248.

recreation in their private vehicles and those who ride a bicycle." The building still stands, a quaint structure in this modern day, with its two wooden towers and its double-decker screened porch. Those hundreds of cyclists would return at dusk, their red and green lights making them look like a swarm of fireflies descending upon the city. The tandem, and even the "bicycle built for three," could frequently be seen, and no more popular song has ever been composed than the one inspired by the cyclist who wrote:

"Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer true,
I'm half crazy, all for the love of you
It won't be a stylish marriage;
We can't afford a carriage.
But you'll look sweet
Upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two."

There was also the Fontaine Ferry Cycle Athletic Club located in the vicinity of Shawnee Park, which is said to have been one of the finest bicycle tracks in the United States. In 1895 it was estimated that 15,000 people in Louisville were using bicycles. The importance of Louisville as a cycle center is shown by the fact that the League of American Wheelmen held its annual meeting in the city.

An organization known as the Athletic Club, formed in 1888 of young men whose primary purpose was the cultivation of the manly sports and the promotion of healthy exercise and physical culture, was a valuable

contribution to the recreational life of the citizens. Its "handsome and ornate building in shingle" was located at Fifth Street near St. Catherine, and consisted of a large, well lighted and well ventilated gymnasium, with all the latest appliances for muscular development and also bath, lavatory, and storage rooms. This gymnasium was used for balls. One of the most interesting articles on this subject tells of the Professor of Athletics, employed by the Club for the purpose of instructing its members in boxing, running, leaping, and other athletic sports.

The Riding Club, an association of ladies and gentlemen who practiced horseback riding, was organized with General John B. Castleman as president. This club held its meetings in a house at the rear of the Auditorium on Fifth and "A" Streets.

Tallyho parties were also interesting forms of recreation. These were particularly popular for Sunday afternoon diversion, and nothing more brilliant has been seen in Louisville than the red-coated drivers with their dozen or more occupants mounted on the high open carriage, singing through the city streets and around the tree-lined park boulevards.

Later came the craze for roller skating. This was begun by the children but rapidly taken up by the older citizens. It was all one's life was worth to

stroll on the sidewalks in certain areas when the skaters were in full swing. No swarm of devastating crickets ever bore down upon an unsuspecting crop of wheat with more diabolical vengeance than these skaters descended upon the populace. So dangerous did they become that a city ordinance was passed to prevent their monopolizing the walks. To alleviate the situation and give the children some place to vent their energies, the Armory was opened on certain days each week for skating. Later skating rinks were built especially for this sport, notable among them being the one at Phoenix Hill in the Highlands, and Fontaine Ferry Park, adjacent to Shawnee. The "craze" subsided a few years after its beginning, but has been revived periodically, particularly in the spring of the year. At the time of writing this, a new rink is planned for Fourth Street on the lot next to the one occupied by the Columbia Hall.

The latter part of the nineteenth century was characterized by the organization of numerous clubs. These, with a short description, are:

The Jockey Club, 1876

This Club was established on ground leased from the Churchill brothers, and consisted of a grand stand, stables, paddock, and modest club house, which later became the residence

of the president, Colonel M. Lewis Clark. It was reorganized in 1895 as the New Louisville Jockey Club and new brick grand stands were added.

The Pendennis Club, 1881

This club was modeled after the Kentucky Club which for some years after the War Between the States had its headquarters in the Anderson mansion on Jefferson Street between Fourth and Fifth. The Pendennis Club's first location was at First and Walnut, and later the commodious quarters on Walnut opposite old Macauley's Theatre. The house was owned by Abram Hunt, who moved in for one week and then decided to go to Europe. Mr. William Belknap bought it and the club procured it from him. Later it was moved to its present luxurious quarters on Walnut between Second and Third.

Standard Club, 1882

This was an organization of Jewish families.

Filson Club, 1884

This Club, which met in the home of its founder, Colonel R. T. Durrett, was organized for the purpose of collecting, preserving, and publishing matters relating to the early history of Kentucky.

Commercial Club, 1887

The purpose of this organization was "to promote the commercial interests and general welfare of the City of Louisville."

Kenton Club, 1888

This was the outgrowth of the University Club, an organization which met in the Fonda Building on Fourth Street between Walnut and Chestnut. The University Club was forced to dissolve itself because of lack of finances and the members then formed the Kenton Club. It was purely social in character.

Watterson Club, 1892

As the name might imply, this was a political club, a Democratic Club. Its life was short and it closed its doors because of finances. There was also another political club about this time known as the Garfield Club. It too was short lived.

Louisville Driving and Fair Association, 1895

The organizers of this Club had great hopes for its future. They purchased an attractive strip of land on the main stem of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and planned to open a trotting race track in time for the G.A.R. encampment. However, too many other attractions competed and the Association had to give up.

Other clubs that flourished in the "Gay Nineties" were the Salmagundi Club with a membership limited to twenty-four; the Conversation Club, the Monday Afternoon Club, the Woman's Club, the Engineers and Architects Club, the Louisville Boat Club, the Louisville Baseball Club, the Louisville Fish and Game Club, the Kentucky Gun Club, the Chess Club, "where the knightly game is the object of special study," and the Polytechnic Society, a literary institution which was the forerunner of the Public Library. The Society owned the building on Fourth between Green and Walnut, the site of Kaufman Straus and Company, and the building erected on it contained a large lecture hall, used as a theatre, a museum, art gallery of paintings and sculpture, and a library of 50,000 volumes.²²

Since the Galt House was the scene of most of the gay parties of the early nineteenth century, something of its history seems to be pertinent here. This famous hostelry was built in 1835 upon ground occupied for many years by the residence of Dr. W. C. Galt at the northeast corner of Second and Main Streets. It was opposite Washington Hall, a well known tavern under the management of Major Aris Throckmorton and Isaac Everett. Here it was that Sallie Ward Downes,

22. Johnson, J. Stoddard, Memorial History of Louisville, Vol. II, Chicago, American Biographical Publishing Co., 1896, pp. 323-326.

famed Kentucky beauty, made history by riding her mare through the lobby to the consternation of the idlers. This structure burned in 1865 and the new Galt House was built one block east.

The early patrons of the Galt House were attracted there partly by the fact that it contained the finest billiard room in the state. However, through the efforts of a moralist bent on wiping out all forms of amusement, the Legislature place such a high tax on billiard tables that the owners of the hotel were forced to abandon the room. The Galt House bar was noted throughout the section and its mint juleps were sought by every traveller to this city. This bar room was the scene of a major tragedy when two men, bystanders who witnessed a quarrel between a prospective bridegroom and his tailor, were accidentally killed in a fight which ensued over the whisky glasses. Because of the notoriety following, the authorities were forced to close the bar, but history tells us they reopened it a little later in another part of the building.²³

Up to the outbreak of the War Between the States, the Galt House was the scene of many fine receptions and balls. Its walls resounded with gaiety;

23. Collected Writings Relating to the History of Louisville, Louisville Library Collection, History Series, Vol. I, 1935.

the social element of Louisville found it the popular place for all their lavish entertainments. With the outbreak of the War, however, and the consequent falling off of Southern patrons, the famous hostelry went into a gradual decline, revived only when the G.A.R. Encampment brought to Louisville scores of Northern soldiers.

This Encampment, in 1895, was the first meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic South of the Ohio River. It is described as "the genuine shaking hands between the two sections, and the obliteration of the bloody chasm across which that function had so long been performed."²⁴ A great deal of preparation had been made to insure its success; Henry Watterson had made speeches as far east as Pittsburgh in an effort to procure the meeting for Louisville. The gaiety of the parades was dispelled by an accident which occurred at Fourth and Broadway. While a section of Battery A of the Louisville Legion was on its way to fire a national salute of forty-four guns, a caisson exploded killing four members of the Battery and the driver. But even the elaborate funeral could not completely dispel the gaiety of the occasion.

"It was a gala week from beginning to end. The days were taken up with parades and meetings of various kinds, and the nights with campfires, dog watches, and various

24. Johnston, Stoddard, Memorial History of Louisville, Vol. I, Chicago, American Biographical Publishing Company, 1896, p. 122.

suitable entertainments, the illumination of the streets attracting great crowds.

"On Saturday the great event was a barbecue in Wilder Park, which was attended by more than 100,000 visitors. It was a Kentucky display which interested the strangers more than any other of the week. Hundreds of beeves, sheep, and pigs were roasted whole on the spot and served with many thousands of gallons of 'burgoo' - a soup peculiar to Kentucky, everything being free. Notwithstanding the great crowds from morning til night, there was ample for all and not a single instance of disorder."²⁵

This sketch would be incomplete without some mention of the Southern Exposition held under the management of Major J. M. Wright in 1883. The site of the Exposition was the grounds on the west side of Fourth Street south of Weissinger Avenue. Included in this tract were forty acres, part of which was what we now know as Central Park. The cost of the Exposition, including the various frame structures, carriage, saw mill, and boiler annexes, art galleries, pavilion, and restaurant, was approximately \$300,000.00. Only the fountain in St. James Court remains to remind us of this stupendous undertaking. During the eighty-eight exhibition days, it is estimated that 770,048 persons attended. The most striking exhibition was the lighting of the grounds by electric lights, then of very recent introduction.

25. Johnston, Stoddard, op. cit., p. 120.

"The display was far in advance of anything seen up to that time, there being 4,800 Edison incandescent lights.The display of textile machinery was particularly fine, while the art gallery, filled chiefly with the paintings from the private galleries of Eastern connoisseurs, was the most valuable loan exhibition in the West."²⁶

The ponds that played such an important part in the early recreational life of Louisville have long since been filled in to form our down-town business streets. The race course on Jefferson is a thing of the past, and in the minds of those who speed out Third Street to watch the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs, a figment of the imagination. The Galt House was razed years ago, its former grandeur faded like the features of a once lovely lady who, seeing her youth and prestige slipping, was powerless to prevent the inroads of old age. The old Bicycle Club on Southern Parkway stands today, a shabby reminder of the Gibson Girl era. No more do the red and green lights of the bicycles flicker like swarms of magic fireflies. Now and then one may catch a glimpse of a boy or girl on a wheel, darting in and out between the fast moving automobiles, but one must look into the past to see bicycling at its height. A few frame

26. Johnston, Stoddard, op. cit., p. 130

structures that were the athletic clubs of yesterday still stand, and the fountain in St. James Court splashes away in the tree enclosed plot, reminding us of the days of the Louisville Exposition.

Louisville's history as it relates to the amusements and the recreational activities of its people is fascinating, and forms a variegated backdrop against which we may place the "props" of our modern play, and before which the actors in the great recreation movement may act out their drama - today and tomorrow.

III.

PUBLIC RECREATION

NOTE

From the minute books and the personal notes of the people who were most influential in bringing about the play movement in Louisville, and from the available material in the Recreation Department, the Community Chest, and the Council of Social Agencies, these facts have been gleaned. Their purpose is to give a running story of the activities which have gone into the inception and the growth of recreation in Louisville.

III.

PUBLIC RECREATION

Karl DeSchwinitz has said, "I believe that recreation is fundamental to the art of living. There can be neither happiness nor good citizenship without it." Then in the same vein, Jerome Davis has added, "Recreation is one of the most fundamental instinctive urges of mankind."

Since the beginning there has been a steady increase in the interest in, and the understanding of, the fundamentals of play as an educational force. It is a long step from the time playgrounds and centers were organized to "keep the children off the streets," or to "amuse them," to the present day. Now these playgrounds are operated as educational institutions making for healthy, socially-minded individuals who are learning democratic citizenship through cooperation and team work in their leisure time activities, and through the development of social consciousness gained in directed group life of their clubs.

It is extremely difficult to set a definite date as the beginning of the play movement in America. There seems to have been some discussion as to this beginning. Some authorities would take us back to the time when the New England Commons was used by

boys for their games, when the grounds were not used for the training of the militia. Still other authorities strive to place the beginning at 1821 when the Latin School of Salem, Massachusetts, tried an experiment of having physical education out of doors.

Harvard, Yale, Williams, Brown, and Amherst Colleges established outdoor gymnasiums about this time, but did not influence public opinion to any appreciable degree. About 1866 the First Church of Boston started a vacation school, in which carpentry, singing, and nature study were taught.

The first instance of funds being voted by a municipality for the purchase of land to be used for playground purposes was in 1872 at Brookline, Massachusetts, but no purchase was made at the time. It was not until years later that the first playground equipped with recreation facilities opened in Chicago, and was known as Washington Park.

The real playground movement as it is known today in America, had its beginning in 1886 in Boston. The idea was not original in this country, but was borrowed bodily from Germany. A traveller to that country was so impressed by the sight of children playing seashore games in sand piles and public parks, that the idea was carried back to America. A letter

by Dr. Marie Zakrzewska to the Massachusetts Emergency and Hygiene Association bore fruit by having several interested women place three sand piles in the yards of the Children's Mission in Boston. Other cities followed the lead of Boston, quick to realize that these "sand gardens" alleviated to some degree the problems of play activities of children in congested districts.

In 1906 the Playground and Recreation Association was formed by a group of interested men and women, leaders in the field of play, recreation, health, and social work. The first meeting was held on April 12, 1906, in the Y.M.C.A. in Washington, D.C. One of the meetings was held at the White House where President Theodore Roosevelt spoke on play leadership, urging that there be no undue limitation of freedom of children. One of the questions brought up for discussion at this meeting was whether there should be a "National Playground Association"; a vote was taken with a favorable result.

The following principles were approved and announced:

- "I. That inasmuch as play under proper conditions is essential to the health and the physical, social, and moral well being of the child, playgrounds are necessary for all children as much as schools.

- "II. The playground system shall represent a plan which will provide a playground within a reasonable walking distance of every child. In order to secure this result it is necessary that this system shall be definitely planned to meet the needs of each section of the city.
- "III. That while there is no inherent relation between spaces and children and the exact amount of space required cannot be determined, we affirm that the play space for each child should not be less than thirty square feet for each child in the school.
- "IV. BE IT RESOLVED: That as playgrounds are a necessity to the well-being of children, they should be constructed on land owned by the city and operated at the expense of same."²⁷

An interesting local angle is noted in a letter to Miss Frances Ingram from Mrs. Mary Anderson Hill, former Head Resident of Neighborhood House, indicating that Mr. Archie Hill, one of the founders of the local settlement, was also instrumental in the establishment of the playground movement.

"He was one of the organizers and among my treasures is a picture of the whole group of organizers on the steps of a public building in Washington, D.C. They are all gaily smiling because they had just com from an interview with President Roosevelt, who heartily approved their plans and ideals. In the group I remember especially Dr. Gulick and that valiant playground missionary, Miss Sadie America of Chicago."

27. Lee, Joseph, "Early Days," an address in the United States Daily, April 27, 1931.

Besides those noted, the organizing committee was composed of the following: Mary E. McDowell, Wallace Hatch, Mrs. Samuel Ammon, William H. Baldwin, Henry S. Curtis, Amalie Hofer, Archibald Hill, Charles Weller, Mari Ruef Hofer, Beulah Kennard, Dr. George M. Kober, Commissioner H. S. McFarland, Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, Myron T. Scudder, Seth T. Stewart, and Dr. Rebecca Stoneroad. During the first year such names as Joseph Lee, Jane Addams, Mary Simkovitch, Felix Warburg, and James G. Phelps Stokes appeared among those who gave impetus to this new movement. This organization helped to unify the playground movement. As a part of its service, its field agents went from place to place putting on publicity campaigns, helping with legislation, and giving practical aid in helping each city launch its individual movements.

Until about 1910 very little attention had been paid to the supervision of the playgrounds, but during that year and the succeeding ones, trained leadership for play areas was considered most seriously. A playground in itself is of very little value unless supervised by trained leaders. Schools for the training of special leaders have since been established and many universities are instituting courses in the field of recreation.

The normal course of the movement is sketched in C. E. Rainwater's book, The Play Movement in the United States:

"The transitions of the play movement are nine in number, as follows:

- "1. From provision for little children to that for all ages of people;
- "2. From facilities operated during the summer months only to those maintained throughout the year;
- "3. From outdoor equipment and activities only, to both outdoor and indoor facilities and events;
- "4. From congested urban districts to both urban and rural communities;
- "5. From philanthropic to community support and control;
- "6. From free play and miscellaneous events to directed play with organized activities and correlated schedules;
- "7. From a simple to a complex field of activities including manual, physical, aesthetic, social, and civic projects;
- "8. From the provision of facilities to the definition of standards for the use of leisure time;
- "9. From individual interests to group and community activities."²⁸

Let us turn now from the general movement in the United States to the more specific, that of

28. Rainwater, C. E., op. cit., p. 192.

Louisville. The local movement closely paralleled that of the national in that it had its beginning on property owned privately and later taken over by municipal interests.

The movement for public parks began through the Salamagundi Club, a club made up of Louisville men interested in civic welfare.

Until about 1885, Iroquois Park (first named Jacob's Park) was the only stretch of land in Louisville which had been purchased for public parks. On July 1, 1890, the Board of Park Commissioners was formed. In 1891 a bond issue was passed, authorizing this commission to spend \$4,000,000.00. Cherokee and Shawnee Parks were then purchased. In 1920 Seneca Park was purchased, and in 1921 ground in the western portion of the city was purchased for park purposes for the colored population and the park was given the name of Chickasaw. A section of ground located in Highland Park was purchased in 1928 for the purpose of building a golf course for Negroes, but the plans did not materialize and the land was used as a playground. To carry out the Indian names, this last was called Seminole Park. These form the major parks in Louisville.

The playground movement locally received its impetus and inspiration from Miss Mary D. Anderson,

now Mrs. Archie A. Hill, who in 1899 started the "movement that resulted in the establishment of what will likely be permanent public playgrounds in this city." Mrs. Hill very modestly gives us an interesting picture of the beginnings:

"As to data on the early days of the Playground Committee in Louisville, I am not sure that my recollections amount to data. Knowing the need for room to play and stimulus to first rate play - hadn't we seen listless children, children innumerable, sitting on curb stones and in dirty passages, hadn't we chased down many a crap game and endeavoured to convert it into something better, but with too little to offer?...We first interested the Woman's Club in the situation. Then we persuaded Mr. Ysanoff of Cleveland, a pioneer in playground work, to come talk to anyone who would listen. Among the listeners was Mr. Robert Kinkead, then a park commissioner. Mr. Kinkead had a large family and a big heart, and his quick appreciation, combined with the generous endeavours of the Woman's Club, many of whom gave personal service to the undertaking, put the movement on its feet."

The Mr. Kinkead, mentioned by Mrs. Hill, subsequently became the president of the Recreation League formed in December, 1900, by a group of interested men and women who met in "Mrs. Trabue's parlor" to discuss the recreational needs of Louisville's children. By happy chance, a copy of Mr. Kinkead's first report has been preserved. As a matter of record, I quote the report, (with the exception of the list of contributors)

feeling assured that a great deal of the philosophy of the first playground leaders might otherwise be lost.

"Louisville, Kentucky
February 15, 1902

"To the Members of the Recreation League
Louisville, Kentucky

"In making this, the first biennial report of the Recreation League, it is proper that some record should be made of the origin of the playground movement in Louisville.

"In 1892 the Board of Park Commissioners constructed an open air gymnasium at Boone Square, in which were placed giant strides, swings, parallel and horizontal bars, sand courts, and see-saws, and about the same time Kenton Place in East Market Street and Logan Place on West Market Street were opened, but no equipment, with the exception of a few swings, was placed therein. In all these places the children were allowed to play without any supervision.

"To Miss Mary D. Anderson, (now Mrs. Archie A. Hill of New York) is due the credit for the movement that resulted in the establishment of what will likely be permanent public playgrounds in this City. In 1899, through her enthusiasm and energy, there was secured a vacant lot on Main Street between Floyd and Brook Streets, which was fitted with swings, see-saws, bars and sand heaps, with proper supervision for the direction of the children's play. Croquet, quoits and basketball were played by the older children, while the smaller ones engaged in Kindergarten games. The average daily attendance at this playground was about forty-six.

"During the summer of 1900, through Miss Anderson's further efforts, the playground movement was somewhat extended. The School Board granted the use of the school yard at Floyd and Chestnut Streets, and that of the Normal School on East Market Street, giving the use of the school swings and see-saws. A trained play instructor, Mr. J. E. Downey, was secured from the International Young Men's Christian Training School of Springfield, Mass. He was present each day at the playgrounds and with the voluntary assistance of several kindergartners, taught the children the various games and supervised their play.

"After the experiments of 1899 and 1900, as people became better acquainted with the subject and the good effects became more apparent, the interest in public playgrounds became somewhat more general, resulting in the calling together by the 'Civic Committee' of the Woman's Club in December, 1900, of quite a large number of persons at the residence of Mrs. E. F. Trabue, at which time and place was formed the 'Recreation League,' and the following officers elected:-

R. C. Kinkead	President
Mrs. E. F. Trabue	First Vice-President
Lafon Allen	Second Vice-President
Miss Mary D. Anderson	Third Vice-President
Prof. W. J. McConathy	Fourth Vice-President
D. G. B. Rose	Treasurer
Miss Mary Verhoeff	Secretary

An Executive Committee was formed composed of such officers, together with Miss Clara Look and Mrs. Harry Whitesides.

"At this meeting there were present Miss Lucy Belknap, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Belknap, Professor W. J. McConathy, Miss Merker, Miss Ainslie, Mrs. Halleck, Mr. and Mrs. John Green, Miss Patty Hill, Rev. E. L. Powell, Professor E. H. Mark, Mr. Ra e, Mr. Allen, Mr. Kinkead, Miss Lafon, Miss Hallie Quigley, Mrs. E. F. Trabue, Mr. Charles Earl Currie, and Miss Clara Look. Mrs. E. F. Trabue subsequently resigned her official position as First Vice-President and Mrs. Harry Whitesides was elected in her place. Miss Mary D. Anderson, upon her removal from the city, resigned as the Third Vice-President and such vacancy remains unfilled.

"To the Executive Committee named above was committed the completion of the organization of the League. On January 3d, 1901, that Committee met and adopted the following

C O N S T I T U T I O N

"Section 1. The name of this organization shall be The Recreation League and its object shall be the encouragement of proper recreation by the public and especially the promotion of public playgrounds throughout the City of Louisville.

"Section 2. Its membership shall consist of any man, woman or child who is interested in the objects of the League as herein set forth and who shall pay an

initiation fee of twenty cents, which shall continue such person in membership so long as he or she may desire.

"Section 3. The officers of the Association shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Fourth Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected annually by the members at a meeting to be called by the Executive Committee, and until the first meeting for an election shall be called and such election held, those members who have heretofore been elected at a preliminary meeting shall hold the offices, viz.:- R. C. Kinhead shall be President, Mrs. E. F. Trabue, First Vice-President; Lafon Allen, Second Vice-President; Miss Mary D. Anderson, Third Vice-President; Mr. W. J. McConathy, Fourth Vice-President; Miss Mary Verhoeff, Secretary; and D. G. B. Rose, Treasurer.

"These officers shall constitute an Executive Committee who shall have the active control and direction of the work of the League. The said Committee shall have full power to fill any vacancy occurring in any of the offices hereinabove provided for; shall call all meetings of the members and do such other acts as may be necessary to carry out in detail the objects of the League.

"At this first meeting of the Executive Committee, it was decided to ask the cooperation of the Board of Park Commissioners in order that the work might be greatly enlarged during the season of 1901. In accordance with such purpose, a communication was addressed to the Board of Park Commissioners requesting:

"First: that the model playground at the Triangle on Third Street be finished and equipped according to the plans adopted by the Board.

"Second: that the then equipment for play purposes in Boone Square and DuPont Square be extended so as to afford better opportunities for the children's play.

"Third: that a play director be placed in each of the four playgrounds at the expense of the Board of Park Commissioners, but to be selected by it and to be under the supervision and guidance of a playground supervisor to be furnished and paid by the Recreation League.

"Fourth: that Baxter square be made a public playground.

"This request resulted in the appointment by the Board of Park Commissioners of a Committee to confer with the Executive Committee of the League, and a conference between the two Committees was held. After this conference the Committee from the Park Board reported to that body the recommendations herein alluded to, and such recommendations were adopted as made and the work prosecuted along the lines indicated. The officers of the Recreation League acknowledge their obligation to the Board of Park Commissioners for their very cordial and generous support in the movement for public play grounds in Louisville.

"As soon as it was known that means would be provided by the Board of Park Commissioners for the payment of salaries of the play directors in the public parks, in addition to the amount that could be raised by the Recreation League, plans for work were laid. Mr. Arthur Leland, a trained instructor from the East, was secured by the League and placed in general charge of all the playgrounds. The Recreation League secured the services of three kindergartners and three young men as assistants of Mr. Leland, so arranging the schedule that these assistants alternated at the various playgrounds, there being one in charge of each playground during the hours of play. By this method the Recreation League was enabled to keep open during the summer from June 23 to September 6, six separate playgrounds as follows: Normal School yard on East Market Street under the control of Miss Mary H. Scribner and Mr. Allen McDonald; at Floyd and Chestnut Street School under the direction of Miss Adele MacGill and Mr. Warren Macfarlane; at the Triangle under the direction of Miss MacGill and Mr. Warren Macfarlane; at duPont Square under the direction of Miss Jessie Davidson and Allen McDonald; at Baxter Square under the direction of Miss Mary H. Scribner and Mr. Neal Hughes; at Boone Square under the direction of Miss Jessie Davidson and Mr. Neal Hughes. The young men directed especially the play of the boys in the various athletic games and the young lady kindergartners directed the play of the girls and the little children. It was thought best to fix an age limit of sixteen years and under to those participating in the play. The Board of Park Commissioners paid the salary, thirty dollars per month, of the play directors in the four public parks or squares under their control, and the League paid the salaries of the directors in the two public school yards. It will be seen from the above that there were two playgrounds in the Eastern end of the City, two in the Southern and two in the Western portion.

"Such is the history of the playground movement in Louisville to this time.

"It may be of interest to detail somewhat the general work of the League as to the manner of conducting these playgrounds in order to invite suggestions as to methods for future use.

"It was found after operating the playgrounds for a few weeks that a certain spirit of competition was manifesting itself in the children and in order to arouse a general interest and to encourage and promote a healthy athletic competition, the 'Louisville Play Ground Athletic Union' was formed, which was governed by a Board of Control consisting of three members of the Recreation League appointed by the President and two members, one boy and one girl, from each playground, the latter being elected by the popular vote of the children of the various playgrounds.

"The Board of Control prepared a schedule of games for inter-playground competition, including tournaments for the boys in baseball and other masculine athletics; and tournaments in basketball, tennis, croquet, etc. for the girls. A regular score was kept of all the games between the teams or clubs from the various playgrounds, and a silk banner or championship trophy was competed for, which, during the past summer, was won by Boone Square, the children of that place having attained the highest general average in all the games. This trophy will be floated at Boone Square during the summer of 1902 and will belong permanently to that playground which succeeds in first winning it for the third time.

"In each of the playgrounds the children were required to wear a button of a color peculiar to that particular playground that such child frequented. These buttons were furnished to the children at one cent, the actual cost, in order to inculcate a feeling of individual interest and responsibility, and it was interesting to note the healthy rivalry which such buttons aroused.

"The movement in Louisville has attracted some outside attention by reason of several novel features, notably the wading pools which have been constructed in Baxter Square and at the Triangle. The Board of Park Commissioners contemplates the completion of the Triangle and Baxter Square during the coming Spring, and it is safe to say that when these two playgrounds are fully completed, they will equal the best in Eastern

cities. Herewith is also submitted a blue print of Baxter Square as it will be ultimately finished.

"The writer had hoped to have data from which could be stated the actual daily attendance at the various playgrounds, but it is found upon looking over the report made by the supervisor that he has omitted to give this information.

"It is useless to dwell upon the necessity for the continued operation of the playgrounds and while it might be desirable to have more of such places established, it is not advisable that any effort be made to enlarge the work during the coming season, but that an earnest effort be made to at least continue the work of last summer. Much good has been accomplished and it is hoped that the League will at once take such steps as may result in the permanent establishment of this movement in Louisville.

"In closing it may not be improper that a few general suggestions or recommendations be made. Experience has taught us:

"First: that the maximum age limit should be reduced to, say, children not exceeding fourteen years of age.

"Second: a kindergartner should be placed in each playground during the entire time that such playground is open and that the work of such kindergartner should be directed solely to the play of the very small children.

"Third: that the cooperation of the Board of Park Commissioners and in addition that of the municipal authorities, should be sought, and to this end it may be suggested that a committee of the lady members of the League wait upon the Mayor and the Board of Park Commissioners for the purpose of securing their cooperation and assistance.

"It is proper that special attention should be called to the valuable services by the "Committee on Ways and Means," of which Miss Clara Look was chairman and Miss Anderson, Miss Booth, Miss Junker, Miss Tarrent, Mr. Rose, and Mr. Allen were members. This Committee did most of the hard work and especially that of keeping the matter before the public through means of the newspapers.

"There is attached hereto the Treasurer's report to October 10, 1901.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. KINKEAD, President"

In 1901 six playgrounds were maintained, four in the city's parks, and two outside. In 1902, seven playgrounds were maintained, four in the parks and three outside.

An account of an interesting experiment performed on the Louisville playgrounds in 1903, which in addition to demonstrating the institution of a novel project, gives a clear, composite picture of the activities of that time, is described in Charities (June 4, 1904) by Arthur Leland, under the title, "Playground Self-Government." This article, better than any chart or set of statistics, graphically portrays the attempt being made by the recreation heads to inject self-government and incidentally to promote "character-building" on its playgrounds during the early years of the twentieth century.

"The public playgrounds of Louisville combine in a most satisfactory way the features of the small park and playground. This development has been possible only through the active co-operation of the Board of Park Commissioners with the Recreation League in the conduct of the work. The park playgrounds are part of the system of interior squares. The park board constructs and maintains them as parks all of the time. They also employ an athletic instructor and a kindergartner who are appointed by the Recreation League and who are on duty six hours a day or during the time that the parks are turned into playgrounds under the control of the Recreation League. All the playgrounds of the city are thus united under one management and the uniformity of work resulting gives splendid opportunity for organization.

"Louisville has many vacant spaces for playroom, but the climate in the summer makes the children rather indisposed to physical activity. It was found necessary to offer special inducements in the way of exciting athletic competition in order to arouse interest. In each playground several teams were formed to compete with each other, the playground winning the most points to receive the championship banner. To carry this on, the playgrounds were organized into a Playground Athletic Union. This Union had entire control of the inter-playground athletics, making out schedules of games, deciding who is eligible to play and settling all disputes. It is governed by a board of control made up of two representatives of the children of each playground, and two representatives of the Recreation League. The president of the League is also president of the board of control. The board meets twice a year. The children seemed so interested in the election of these representatives that the rather elaborate system of partial self government now in operation evolved.

"Every playground is organized into a miniature city having most of the important provisions of the city government in a rudimentary form.

"At the outset two parties were brought together in each playground and these were designated by the names of the candidates for mayor. The regular attendants were registered, only those over eight were entered on the polling lists and primaries were forthwith held. These primaries were wild and exciting. The children were not slow in shouting the names of their favorites. The machine had little to say in the matter, for the conventions stampeded to the popular girls and boys.

"Each playground elects its mayor, who appoints all of the minor officers, and aids the director in enforcing playground laws. The juvenile citizens choose, also a police judge, a board of aldermen, made up of girls, and a council, of boys, which elect their own officers and meet twice each week for the passage of playground laws. At first the children did not show much interest in these meetings, but now they want them oftener, and the city clerk is kept busy recording the ordinances which are passed by both boards and approved by the mayor.

"The mayor appoints a board of public works, which has charge of the manual training of the playground. Several of the children are styled teachers and overlook the different classes in basketry, whittling and raffia work. The president of the board is duly entrusted with the key to the box in which the materials are kept and the whole board helps the younger ones in their work. A board of public safety, also appointed by the mayor, is guardian of the materials of the different games, baseball bats, tennis courts, the basketball and croquet grounds, sees to it that none of the materials are lost and that none plays longer than he should. Members of this board act as umpires in the games. Any dispute which they cannot settle is taken before the police judge. Should the offender appeal, the case is taken to the play director, whose function here is in the nature of a circuit court. The penalties are expulsion from the games for a brief season. The circuit judge sometimes suspends the offender from the playgrounds for a few days, and sometimes the supervisor of playgrounds is called in and sits as judge of the supreme court of appeals.

"In a board of health also is vested the notable responsibility of keeping hands and faces of the children clean, and the health officer does a rushing business every morning when the children come.

"A board of park commissioners has care of the playgrounds. Its members have several little red wagons and every morning go about picking up papers and other waste which they take outside the park and burn. These miniature park boards plant seeds and plants in the borders of the grounds and are zealous in their care.

"One playground has a city librarian appointed by the mayor and the free library loan books, which are given out to the children and returned. A board of trade conducts children and visitors around the park with unction, explaining all its advantages and trying to get them to come again.

"It has been found that when the children pass their own laws or pass upon park and playground regulations the matter of discipline is no longer a problem. They have made excellent choices in the election of officers. At first it was thought that they might choose the bullies and those who had not the best influence. In almost every case, however, it has been found that they select for their rulers just those who are natural leaders, and who would be selected by the play directors as the children having the best influence over the others.

"If it becomes necessary for any of the teachers to expel a boy from the yard the police judge and the mayor attend to the matter and the offender is out of it. If a baseball goes over in the bushes and, so far as appearances go is lost, it is the board of public safety which constitutes itself into a detective force and searches out the boy who took it. It might be added that the suspension of the game till the ball returns is also a great incentive to vigor on the part of Master Sherlock Holmes.

"The Playground Athletic Union, with its board of control, corresponds to the state government, having charge of the

athletics of all playgrounds when they come together in inter-playground competition. They also grant the city charters which are a juvenile adaptation from the Louisville city charter.

"On the whole, the plan of self-government which has been developed gives very satisfactory results. Of course, it is necessary that the youthful lawmakers receive a deal of guidance through suggestions from those in charge. The children have passed upon the rulings of Municipal Park Board and the Recreation League adopting them as statutes from a higher body. With this, these rules have a new meaning in their eyes and are adhered to much more faithfully as soon as they have been accepted as laws.

"Invariably we have had the best results in the playgrounds which have been most successful in athletic competition. It is to be admitted that much has not been accomplished in municipal government at some of the playgrounds, and invariably these playgrounds have been backward in games and in the spirit of cooperation. The conclusion has been reached that the best way to cultivate the spirit of organization in the children is through the medium of team athletics. Perhaps the greatest lesson which has been taught is the lesson of municipal self-government illustrated by actual experience in voting and holding office. Children begin to learn the value of the vote when they see what it will accomplish on the playground. Once they learn its value it will be difficult to rob them of it."²⁹

This project perished in one brief summer; according to the Recreation League's pamphlet of 1905, "You could not be told why better than in the words of

29. Leland, Arthur, "Playground Self-Government," in Charities, Vol. XII, No. 23, June 4, 1904.

one of the children, 'Oh, please don't give us cities, 'cause it don't give us no time for playin.'"

The work progressed slowly from year to year until 1909 when twelve playgrounds were maintained, six of which were on property owned by the Park Board, and six on property lent to the Recreation League for that purpose. During that season, Mr. Austin G. Johnson was in charge of the entire system, and had under him twenty-three instructors. The Park Board appropriated \$1,500.00 for the season to cover the salaries of the supervisor and those instructors placed on playgrounds in the city's parks. The Recreation League paid the salaries of those instructors placed on playgrounds outside of the city's parks, as well as purchased all perishable supplies such as balls, bats, nets, etc. wherever used.

In 1910, at the request of the Louisville Conference of Social Workers, Neighborhood House, in cooperation with the Council of Jewish Women, undertook a survey of the dance hall situation in Louisville. Through the counsel and aid of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, the scope of this survey was widened to include the whole recreational field. However, the only permanent results from the survey were better dance hall regulations.

During this same year the Educational Committee of the Woman's Club began to study "The Wider Use of the School Plant," and in January, 1911, the first school center in Louisville was operated under the auspices of the Woman's Club.

From 1911 to 1916 community centers were conducted in a number of schools. This work was financed either by the Woman's Club or by local organizations of the community in which the schools were located. The schools operated as community centers during some part of this period were the Broadway, Whittier, Washington, Portland, Tingley, Duncan, and Brandeis schools.

In 1915 a Commission was appointed by John H. Buschmeyer, Mayor of Louisville, to study the vice situation in the city. The Commission considered wholesome recreation as the fundamental method of preventing the growth of vice and stated that:

- "1. Most young men and women who go wrong do so as a part of their recreational life.
- "2. Vicious influences on the young are chiefly exerted through companionships formed during recreation.
- "3. The ideals of women in the minds of young men and of men in the minds of girls determine largely whether these young people live clean or vicious lives. These sex ideals are largely formed by the companionships of recreation hours."

The Commission recommended a year-round comprehensive plan of recreation for Louisville, and went so far as to draw up an act creating a Recreation Commission by ordinance whereby the Commission was given power to rent, acquire, and hold property by purchase, condemnation, or contract, and to conduct a year-round program in the schools and libraries. The plan suggested that the General Council of the city levy a tax of not less than one cent nor more than two cents, upon each one hundred dollars of all municipal taxable property.

During the same year, a Recreation Association was formed with Mr. E. S. Tachau as president. Quoting from the recreation notes made by Mrs. John Little, it was decided that:

"A notice be sent to all past friends of recreation beginning with the group in 'Mrs. Trabue's parlour' in 1898, including all succeeding groups and subscribers asking them to become active members of the Recreation Association of Louisville, and advising them of the status of affairs."

As a consequence, a meeting was held in Mr. Lafon Allen's office, Thursday, February 20, 1915. There were twenty-two men and women present, representing such groups as the Park Board, the Retail Merchants' Association, the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., Neighborhood House, the Council of Jewish Women, the Consumers' League, the

Board of Trade, the Women's Club, and other interested individuals.

The object of the Recreation Association of Louisville was "to assist in securing an adequate opportunity for wholesome recreation for every man, woman, and child in Louisville."

At that meeting Mr. Rowland Haynes of the Playground and Recreation Association of America spoke briefly on the recreational needs of Louisville. As a result, in 1916 the Association brought Mr. L. H. Weir of the Recreation Association staff to make an exhaustive survey of the leisure time of the people of Louisville. Mr. Weir's study was considered to be a model of its kind. At that time Louisville had 1,500 acres under the Park Board, twenty acres through cooperation with other agencies. Nine school yards were used as playgrounds, but it was recommended that fourteen other school yards be used. Mr. Weir pointed out several admirable features of the Louisville Park and Recreation System.

- "1. The extent of the property
- "2. The distribution of property in relation to the population
- "3. The good physical features
- "4. The excellent maintenance."

Mr. Weir recommended:

- "1. That the Park Board, the School Board, and the Library Board get together to consider the problem of recreation.
- "2. That all new schools and several old ones were especially adapted to be used for recreation. Fourteen were well suited.
- "3. That there be more facilities for swimming and bathing, and that the pool at Central Park be used all the year.
- "4. That it would cost \$20,000 only for a year-round system.
- "5. That a municipal athletic association be organized such as is in St. Louis."

Growing out of this very comprehensive and exhaustive study, a bill was introduced in the State Legislature to create a Recreation Commission for Louisville, but commercial interests combined to defeat this bill.

From the fall of 1917 to the summer of 1919 the Brandeis, Montgomery, Stoddard Johnston, and Prentice Schools, in addition to several libraries, were used as community centers by the War Camp Community Service. The Art Committee of the Woman's Club served as the committee in charge of this work.

The establishment of Camp Zachary Taylor in Louisville, for the training of soldiers for overseas duty during the World War, brought many problems to

the city. By no means small was the problem of recreation, not only for the soldiers but for those who came to Louisville with them. A War Recreation Board was formed at the direct request of the Training Camp Commission of the War Department. Secretary of War Baker, in appointing the Training Camp Commission, created a body with three distinct purposes:

1. To provide social and recreational facilities within the camps. (This was carried on by the Y.M.C.A., Knights of Columbus, and the Y.M.H.A.)
2. To secure the repression of the sale of liquor to soldiers and the repression of vice in the vicinity of the camps.
3. To organize within the communities adjacent to the camps, all social, civic, recreational, religious, and fraternal organizations and facilities in such a way as to bring the soldiers and the community into wholesome, normal relations.

Mr. Cecil C. North was sent by the Playground and Recreation Association to act as Executive Secretary of the War Recreation Board and worked under the direction of a committee appointed by the Board of Trade.

The work of the Recreation Board was different from that set out above in that it had no jurisdiction within the camp and it had nothing to do with vice or liquor control. It had to do solely with constructive measures undertaken within the city to relate the community and the soldier in the most wholesome way.

There were seventeen sub-committees organized to carry on the War Recreation Board. Mr. Ben Washer headed the Public Recreation Committee and his committee made a census of all public recreation facilities within the city and worked with the townspeople in providing wholesome recreation for both the soldiers and the young people of the community. A Committee on Music and Dramatics was responsible for furnishing entertainers and entertainments for the camp. One of the most active committees was that of the Welfare Committee which undertook to coordinate the work of all the agencies working with young women of the city. Supervision of the dance halls and other places of public amusement fell to this committee, which was headed by Miss Frances Ingram. Mr. Lafon Allen was appointed General Chairman of the War Recreation Board and it was through him that the Board functioned so intelligently.

The leaders in the field of recreation felt that to do a lasting piece of work it was necessary to have more training for its workers. An appeal was sent to the National Federation of Settlements in 1919 for the best person available to come to Louisville to assist in a training institute. As a result, Miss Neva L. Boyd of the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy was sent to conduct an institute. Miss

Boyd is now connected with Northwestern University. Her influence was felt so keenly that in 1922 when the Board of Park Commissioners, realizing that the instructors needed special training in playground technique, joined Neighborhood House in sponsoring a one week Recreation Institute, they again asked Miss Boyd to conduct it. But other plans intervened and Miss Boyd sent one of her former pupils, Miss Ida Levin, to take her place. Miss Levin was a revelation to the young men and women who enrolled for training. Her enthusiasm, her fund of knowledge, her attention to detail did much to inspire those who came to her for training in order to continue in the field of recreation. Sixty-six enrolled for the classes which were conducted at Neighborhood House, with the following organizations represented:

The Park Board	20
Neighborhood House	12
Louisville Fresh Air Home	3
Family Service Organization	10
State Board of Health	3
Unidentified with any organization	12

The institute was extremely successful in that it served as a stimulus to those already in the field of recreation, and an inspiration for those who were not.

It might be appropriate to give a little of the background of the Louisville School of Social Work and its connection with the University of Louisville.

In November, 1918, a meeting was held by members of the Louisville Conference of Social Workers, Board of Workers, and the Welfare League to consider the matter of the establishment of a School of Social Work. Out of this meeting grew the first school, the object of which was to train workers already on the job in the social agencies. The Welfare League and the Conference of Social Work shared the responsibility for the school and classes were held twice a week at the Engineers and Architects Club beginning in December, 1918, from 4:45 to 5:40 o'clock. The subjects of Child Welfare, Family Welfare, Public Health, Industry, Education, and Crime and Delinquency were discussed. One month was devoted to each subject. An Executive Committee composed of Dr. Gardner of the Baptist Theological Seminary, Dr. Caldwell of the University of Louisville, Professor Cotton of the Presbyterian Seminary, Mr. O. L. Reid of the Public School System, Mr. Reuben Post Halleck, Miss Ethel Lovell, Judge R. W. Bingham, President of Louisville Community Council, Mr. George Settle, and Mr. Elwood Street guided the efforts of this first school.

Although the school was not affiliated with the University at that time, one semester's credit was given to the students completing the course by the University, the Normal School, and both the theological seminaries.

Tuition was free to all paid members of the Louisville Conference of Social Workers, and \$1.00 to others.

The Executive Committee recognized that an independent school was more or less of a makeshift and that the real place for the school was in a university.

Negotiations were entered into with both the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville. The plan proposed to the University of Kentucky was that a school should be established under that institution with the courses leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Social Service. The first two years of the proposed course were to be taken at Lexington and the last two in Louisville. This plan fell through and negotiations with the University of Louisville were pressed. The State Board of Health had been up until this time located in Bowling Green, Kentucky, but Dr. Arthur McCormack, the head, was anxious to move it to Louisville where he wished to establish a school of public health in connection with the Medical School of the University of Louisville. Dr. McCormack suggested that the School of Social Work might cooperate in this plan.

The Welfare League entered into an agreement with the University of Louisville by which the League was to pay one half the expenses incident to the carrying on of the School of Social Work, providing

the expense did not exceed \$1,000. Dr. Norman Ware came to the University at this time and took charge of the courses, and various social workers gave lectures. According to information available, there was an enrollment of 130 in the courses offered. At the end of the semester in 1920, there seemed to have been some sort of misunderstanding about the joint financing of the courses offered and as a consequence they were discontinued, although Dr. Ware remained as the head of the Sociology Department. The School of Public Health was discontinued in 1924 because of lack of students.

In 1922 the School of Social Work was reorganized on a different basis from that of the school which had died. The school was to have a separate existence and was to be supported by the Welfare League, although in connection with the University of Louisville. Miss Marjory Warren of Boston was secured as its head. The school was under the Board of Workers, and its Executive Committee conferred with Dr. Ware about credits and fees. The school opened on January 8, 1923, with a registration of seventy-eight, four of whom were full-time students.

In September, 1923, a Department of Occupational Therapy was established at the instigation of the University and of the Welfare League, but against the wishes of the director. This department was discontinued in February, 1925, because of lack of students.

At each step of reorganization there had been felt the need for courses in Recreation. The time of the assistant at Neighborhood House, Miss Vera Paschal, a pupil of Mr. Eduard Lindeman, was given to conduct such a course from January to June, 1923. In September of that year Miss Ida Levin was persuaded to return to Louisville to head up the Recreation Department. It was under Miss Levin's leadership that the Recreation Department received its impetus. A new head of the school was secured in October, 1924, who remained until 1926 when the school went out of existence as a separate institution.

In the spring of 1926 the University of Louisville approved the taking over of the classes of the School of Social Work as part of the Sociology Department. Local executives of the Social Agencies were to be used to teach the various classes, and it was agreed that the University was to assume no extra expense, the cost to be borne by the Community Chest. Miss Levin was made the head of the Recreation Council when the school went out of existence, and gave half of her time to the University classes. Her salary was paid by the Community Chest. The strain of trying to do many jobs soon took its toll, and Miss Levin suffered a nervous breakdown. Workers from Neighborhood House taught the Recreation classes until a substitute teacher was

brought here to take Miss Levin's place. Even after her return, these workers continued to teach the practical courses. Dr. Frank J. O'Brien, Mr. Paul Benjamin, and Mr. Arthur Taylor taught courses in Mental Hygiene, Case Work, and Child Welfare problems. The Recreation classes were taught in the car house at Fourth and Avery, since the University at that time had no gymnasium.

Classes were taught by Miss Levin until 1929 when Dr. Frances Price came to the University as head of the Department of Sociology. Some classes were taught by members of the Recreation Department staff, but no one was available for case work or group work classes under Dr. Price's professorship. In 1930 Dr. Margaret K. Strong was secured partly through the efforts of the American Association of Social Workers to head the Sociology Department. In 1934 the Community Chest offered through the Recreation Council to contribute \$100.00 a month for the school year, September, 1934, to June, 1935, toward the salary of an instructor in group work in the Department of Sociology and Social Work, and Mr. Chester L. Bower was secured to teach these courses. The group work courses were taught in the Sociology and Social Work Department until 1936 when the Division of Social

Administration was established in the Graduate School and group work courses were included in its curriculum.

But let us get back to the running account of the playground movement in Louisville. During the summer of 1923 the Rotary, the Kiwanis, and the Lion's Clubs established playgrounds during the vacation months. The Rotary Club with 247 members equipped two playgrounds at a cost of \$350 each, and expended \$125 on each one for maintenance. The Kiwanis Club with 145 members furnished two supervisors at \$140 a month for the season. The Lion's Club, with 90 members, furnished a playground at Sixth and River at a cost of \$3,300.00 and maintained it at a cost of \$500.00 a year.

These clubs performed a great civic service in promoting wholesome activities in neglected fields. Their mission was realized after they started this needed work, developed it, and turned it over to the City Recreation Department.

In December, 1923, at a joint meeting of the Kentucky Child Welfare League, a state-wide Recreation Committee was formed for the purpose of passing the Home Rule Recreation Act.

The following year, 1924, saw another survey made by the Playground Recreation Association of America under the direction of Mr. Batchelor.

In his survey, Mr. Batchelor recommended in part:

1. Four additional playgrounds.
2. A year-round trained superintendent of recreation to cooperate with the churches, clubs, and social organizations in the city in an effort to develop a plan of community recreation.
3. That the playgrounds be kept open from May 1 to November 1, instead of just during the school vacation and to have paid instructors organize outdoor activities during the rest of the year.
4. To have four tennis courts constructed.

Mr. Batchelor in his report said:

"Approximately 78 per cent of the crimes committed in this country are committed by persons under twenty-one years of age, and approximately 90 per cent during leisure time. In the opinion of experts, the main reason for this dreadful condition of juvenile delinquency is the lack of proper facilities for recreation in the modern city."

On February 6, 1924, after much hard work by interested groups and individuals, the desired Home Rule Recreation Act was passed. It was designated as:

"An act to provide for the establishment, conduct and maintenance of public playgrounds and recreation grounds and centers in and by cities and counties; and authorizing school districts to join in the conduct and operation of such playgrounds and recreation centers."
(Senate Bill 274)

The bill was introduced by a Mr. Caywood and was referred to the Committee on Public Health.

The following resolution, urging the Mayor to call a conference of representatives of the Board of Education, the Board of Park Commissioners, the Woman's Club, men's civic groups, settlements and other recreational organizations, and the churches to consider the problem of recreation and to make recommendations for a city-wide, year-round plan for Louisville, was passed in the spring of 1924 at a meeting of the Louisville Conference of Social Workers.

"RESOLUTION
Submitted at a Meeting of
Louisville Conference of Social Work
March 24, 1924

"WHEREAS the playground movement had its beginning in Louisville in 1900, and

"WHEREAS, the Woman's Club demonstrated the value of Social Center work in the public schools of Louisville from 1911-1915, and

"WHEREAS, demonstrations were made by the War Camp Community Service in the school buildings during 1917-19, and

"WHEREAS, surveys have been made by the National Playground and Recreation Association of America in the years 1911, 1915, and 1924, and

"Organization of Recreation Association of Louisville in 1915,

"WHEREAS the Vice Commission in 1915, in its report, stated that wholesome recreation was the most fundamental method of preventing the growth of vice, and

"Recreation Survey in 1916

"WHEREAS in 1916, the Recreation Committee of Louisville all but passed an all year round recreation act for a city of the first class, and

"WHEREAS, the Rotary Club and Lions Club established playgrounds during the summer of 1923, and

"WHEREAS, representatives of different neighborhoods deplore the lack of wholesome recreation in their respective communities, and

"WHEREAS, the Kentucky Child Welfare Commission united with the Community Chest of Louisville in establishing a state-wide Recreation Committee for the purpose of passing the Home Rule Recreation Act, and

"WHEREAS, the need for recreation is being partially met by the Park Board, the Churches, the Community Chest and other local agencies,

"BE IT RESOLVED: That it is the sense of this meeting that the Mayor be requested to call a conference representing the Park Board, the School Board, the Woman's Club, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, the Settlements, the Associations, the Churches, the Board of Trade, the Kentucky Child Welfare Commission and the Community Chest to consider the problem of recreation in Louisville and bring back recommendations for a city-wide, year round plan for this city."

Subsequently Mayor Huston Quin asked the President of the Community Chest to call a meeting of these groups. The outcome of this meeting was the organization of the Recreation Council, whose function it was to act as a "clearing house and information center," and in an advisory capacity to agencies and to promote interest in an organized program of supervised play.

An interesting history of this council is contained in a mimeographed report entitled, Brief Resume of History and Present Status of the Health Council, Recreation Council, and Family and Child Welfare Council of the Community Chest, issued in the spring of 1926. This account is as follows:

HISTORY OF THE RECREATION COUNCIL

"The Recreation Council whose activities involve a wider scope of agencies outside the Chest than in the Chest was also promoted and organized largely from the outside. The volume of recreational work done in Louisville and the money involved represent the main activities of public and private agencies who, under no construction, will ever become financially affiliated with the Community Chest. Consequently, the handling and promotion of the Recreation Council by organizations outside the Chest as well as by member agencies was logically conducted in a manner in many respects similar to the promotion of the Emerson Survey and the Health Council.

"The Louisville Conference of Social Work, a group of persons interested in social work, dates back a number of years before the Welfare League. Its programs have covered the whole field of social work, its speakers, many of them from outside Louisville, have presented various phases of social work. On March 24, 1924, the Recreational Committee of the Conference assumed responsibility for the meeting which was given over to a discussion of 'The Recreational Facilities of Louisville.' A resolution was passed at this meeting authorizing Mr. Nemser, chairman of the Recreational Committee, to call upon Mayor Quin and ask him to call

a conference representing the Park Board, the Board of Education, civic and luncheon clubs, private agencies interested in recreation, and the Community Chest to consider the problem of recreation in Louisville and to make recommendations for a city-wide, year-round plan. This was done, and Mayor Quin asked Mr. Barnes, as president of the Community Chest, to call a meeting of organizations interested in the recreational problems of Louisville. Such a meeting was held in the Public Library May 23, 1924. At this meeting there was a general representation of both the Chest and non-Chest agencies. Mr. Barnes explained the purpose of the meeting, and a resolution was eventually passed recommending that a Recreation Council under the Advisory Council of the Community Chest be organized. An investigation committee, a nominating committee, and a constitution committee were appointed at this meeting. They subsequently reported at a meeting on June 11, at which time the name of the organization was adopted, The Recreational Division of the Advisory Council of the Community Chest. The constitution was adopted and officers elected.

"The Park Board, largely through the influence of Mr. John Heyburn, had been working with Mr. Batchelor and Mr. Weir, representatives of the Playground and Recreation Association of America. This national

recreational organization had made a recreational survey of Louisville in 1916 which at that time was considered a model study of its kind. Many of the excellent recommendations embodied in this report had not become effective owing to the fact that Louisville had never had a sufficient number of local people trained in recreation available for local jobs. The Recreational Department of the Louisville School of Social Work has been helping to overcome this difficulty as its graduates are being placed at the disposal of the Park Board. Sixteen were employed in 1925. In 1924 the survey of 1916 was revised and brought up to date by Mr. Batchelor and Mr. Weir. The Recreation Council undertook to supplement the public survey with a survey of private recreational facilities and to secure data and recommendations which would be the background for the future activities of the Recreation Council. Such a general study was subsequently made by the Recreation Council under the direction of Mr. F. E. R. Miller who succeeded Mr. Batchelor as regional representative of the Playground and Recreation Association. This study was made with the cooperation of the churches, the Board of Education, the Park Board, and numerous other groups interested in recreation. Mr. Miller gave his final report before the Rotary Club and representatives of the organizations which had cooperated in

making the study. This study places at the disposal of Louisville the same type of information and recommendation made possible to the health field by the Emerson Survey, and the Recreation Council is now making steady progress in securing better cooperation between public and private agencies in the recreation field.

"Thirty-eight organizations are working with the Council, fifteen, or thirty-nine per cent of which are in the Chest, and twenty-three, or sixty-one per cent of which are not members of the Chest."³⁰

In 1925 a survey of private agencies operating in the recreation field was made to supplement the 1916 and the 1924 public recreation surveys made by representatives in order to show the whole task of all the recreational bodies in Louisville. The aim, of course, as in former years, was to show the need of recreation, and particularly for a year-round program of public recreation.

Until 1926 the playgrounds were operated for a period of ten weeks only, but in 1926 and 1927 they were operated for sixteen weeks.

A tremendous step forward was taken when the City of Louisville passed a Bond Issue for \$1,500,000 in the fall of 1927. This meant that for the first

30. Mimeographed report entitled, Brief Resume of History and Present Status of the Health Council, Recreation Council, and Family and Child Welfare Council of the Community Chest, spring, 1926.

time it was possible, because of adequate finances, for the Board of Park Commissioners to operate playgrounds and community centers the year round.

And so the struggles of that first small group of women bore fruit in this Bond Issue. Some of the first members were active at the polls in 1927 when the Issue was up before the voters, and what gratification and reward were theirs in knowing that a difficult task had been well done!

The passage of the bond issue in 1927 permitted the Board of Park Commissioners to enlarge its program and to secure a year round director of recreation. The help of the National Recreation Association was enlisted and Mr. Fay Marvin was employed to take over his duties in 1928. On May 23, 1928, a mass meeting was held at the Woman's Club to introduce to Louisville club women the new director of the Department of Public Recreation.

Shortly after Mr. Marvin's arrival, Mr. Donald McDonald, Chairman of the Recreation Committee of the Board of Park Commissioners, suggested that the Department of Public Recreation and the Recreation Council be housed together so that they might work closely together. The Executive Committee of the Council felt it unwise to make a change at that time. This did not mean, however, that the Recreation Council did not

offer its complete cooperation to the new department. The director of the Council, Miss Ida Levin, was asked to assist with the supervision of the playgrounds, but declined on account of lack of time. The Council did, however, work very closely with the Public Department in acquainting the new director with the local situation, in helping with training institutes, and in setting up the department's program.

In 1929 under the City Government Bill, recreation became a division of the Department of Welfare. The Board of Park Commissioners continued to maintain the majority of physical equipment in public community centers and provide facilities for tennis, golf, and baseball. The Recreation Division is responsible for leadership and program.

The following is the set up of the Department of Public Welfare.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

I. Legal Basis

The new charter of the City of Louisville, consisting of the amendments of 1926 to the original charter of 1893, created by statute (Ky. Statutes, Sec. 2862 (a)) the Department of Public Welfare as one of the six major city departments.

Organization and functions of the Department are outlined by statute as follows:

"The department of public welfare of cities of the first class, when established as provided herein, shall be under the supervision and direction of a director to be designated director of welfare, and shall, except as otherwise provided by law, have exclusive control, under the acts of general assembly and the ordinances of the legislative body of said cities, of all matters relating to the provision of the care of adult and juvenile delinquents, dependents and persons mentally deficient; the investigation of conditions that develop dependency, delinquency and mental deficiency; the education of the public regarding such conditions and the adoption of remedial measures; the provision for and supervision of public amusements and the promotion of opportunities for healthful recreation in play grounds and community centers; the supervision of public baths, comfort stations and cemeteries, the Detention Home, the Home for the Aged and Infirm, the City Workhouse; and may prescribe rules and regulations for the government and discipline of the inmates of the city's charitable and penal institutions, including in such rules general provisions for the deduction, for good conduct, from the time of persons confined in such penal institutions; and the supervision of the maintenance at the University of Louisville of classes in social welfare in order to provide trained workers for service in said department; and such other matters as may by ordinance be placed under the control of the said department not in conflict with any act of the general assembly.

"The director of welfare shall have the power to organize the said department for administrative purposes into such divisions as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the business of said department, and to appoint heads or chiefs of such divisions, who, under the supervision and control of said director, shall have the direction of such division."

Actually, department activities do not include supervision and care of juvenile delinquents, dependents, persons mentally deficient, or supervision of public amusements (except such as come within the scope of the recreation program). Work among juvenile delinquents and dependents is performed by the Louisville and Jefferson County Children's Home, a joint city-county corporation. The state feeble-minded institute and insane asylums provide for the mentally deficient.

An additional duty assigned by ordinance is the supervision of the solicitation of public subscriptions. Such solicitation is prohibited except on a permit issued by the Department.

The Department supervises and is responsible for the following units of organization which are created by ordinance: Division of Recreation; Municipal Bureau of Social Service; Home for the Aged and Infirm; City Workhouse; and the Division of Public Baths, Cemeteries, and Comfort Station. Each division is headed by a superintendent responsible to the Director of Welfare.

Originally a function of the Department of Public Health, pauper burials are now handled by the Department of Public Welfare.

The Department also assists financially the Community Chest, Family Service Organization, and Mothers' Aid.

The new charter made possible the transfer from the old Board of Public Safety to the newly created Department of Public Welfare, the Home for the Aged and Infirm, City Workhouse, and Division of Cemeteries. From the old Board of Public Works came the Division of Public Baths and Comfort Stations. The latter three divisions were later combined to form one division. The Division of Recreation was formerly under the supervision of the Board of Park Commissioners.

Preceded by a committee of three, known as the Municipal Relief Committee, which consisted of the Mayor, President of the Board of Aldermen, and Director of Welfare, the Municipal Relief Bureau was created by ordinance approved August 17, 1932. The name was changed to Municipal Bureau of Social Service on September 1, 1935.

The City of Louisville operates on a budget system installed by Griffenhagen and Associates of Chicago, Illinois, in 1935. The system provides an orderly method of setting up the budget and establishes a vehicle for its systematic administration and control.

All salaries and wages paid to both permanent and temporary employees are set up by salary ordinance No. 358, Series 1934, as amended by General Ordinance No. 116, approved June 16, 1936, and Ordinance No. 378,

Series 1936, approved December 16, 1936. All salaries, increases, changes in classification, etc., are governed by this ordinance which must be used in preparing the budget for personal services.³¹

The Recreation Division is administered by a Superintendent, an Assistant Superintendent, a Supervisor, a Supervisor of Colored Recreation, a Supervisor of Women's Athletics, a Supervisor of Men's Athletics, special instructors in Crafts, Dramatics, two stenographers, a clerk, specialists in marionettes and story telling, twelve full time community center workers, two part time dancing instructors, and a summer time staff to conduct the work on the playgrounds.

The work of the Division is divided into the following divisions:

First: Summer playground program consisting of a varied program of crafts, music, folk dancing, story telling, dramatics, mass games, small children's activities, wading pool activities, and team games.

Second: Municipal Athletic Division which consists of the supervision and organization of all amateur athletics in the city. Baseball leagues,

31. Report from the Department of Public Welfare prepared by John Richardson and Charles Reiger, 1936, (typewritten).

softball leagues for both women and men, football, tennis, basketball, track meets, table tennis, badminton, all fall under this division.

Third: Community Center Division comprises three full time community centers: Highland Park, Oakdale, Chestnut Street Center with their program of clubs, gymnastics, folk dancing, dramatics, crafts, nature study, music, and athletics. There are also seven part time centers, fourteen school gymnasiums in school buildings where a program of gymnasium classes, basketball games, and dancing classes are held. Five libraries are used for children's dancing classes, crafts, and dramatics.

In addition to these major divisions, marionette shows, plays, talks on various recreation subjects, assistance in training institutes, baseball clinics, basketball clinics, athletic demonstrations are given to outside groups.

The following are the figures of attendance for 1937.

September 1, 1936 --- August 31, 1937
(Cumulative)

	Participants	Spectators	Total
White	636,753	426,317	1,063,070
Negro	<u>294,486</u>	<u>105,605</u>	<u>400,091</u>
Total	931,239	531,922	1,463,161

Despite a month's curtailment in activities because of the flood, which came at the height of the winter program, the total attendance was only slightly less than the previous year, although in the number of participants the Division showed a gain of 87, 126.³²

During 1934, at the suggestion of Mayor Neville Miller, Griffenhagen and Associates were retained to make a survey of the City Government and its departments, making recommendations and suggestions for a more efficient administration.

The Recreation Division of the Department of Public Welfare came in for its share of criticism. At the time of the survey the Recreation Division had very few actual records, and many of the facts were based upon estimates. If the survey showed nothing else, it did point to a big need for some system of permanent record keeping, and more pertinent statistics. The survey pointed out that at the time of the investigation that the Division had a very large seasonal staff and a very small permanent year round staff. It was recommended that a few people almost continuously employed could do the work more efficiently. College graduation was set as a qualification for the recreation leaders, and special training in recreation required for those people in a supervisory capacity. As the facilities for a winter time program are so few in

32. Annual Report of the Welfare Department, 1937.

comparison to the summer time under the present set up, the recommendations for staff are not feasible.

The survey showed the facts that the recreation program of the city was carried on by several units of the city government, no one of which is in a position to proceed with a complete program without the assistance and cooperation of the others. The principal agencies involved were the Department of Public Welfare, the Board of Park Commissioners, and the Board of Education. The Griffenhagen survey recommends that the Division of Recreation withdraw entirely from the field of recreation for children of school age during the school term, leaving this to the Board of Education. One serious obstacle to this change lies in the fact that the school day is so short as to preclude the development of any satisfactory recreation program unless it is restricted to the period after school hours, which it should not be. It follows that the transfer of recreation for children of school age to the schools should be made as soon as the school day is lengthened.

In dealing with the elementary school children, the elementary public schools are the logical units, since each serves a geographical area which can easily be reached by the children of that age. To the extent that playground space is available at these schools, they are better adapted for a recreation program than

are the parks which are not so located as to be readily accessible to young children from all parts of the city. School playgrounds should therefore be kept open after school hours and throughout the summer.

It was recommended that school employees should carry on the recreation program for school children through the summer, thereby avoiding the necessity which now exists for the Recreation Division to build up a temporary staff to handle playground activities during the summer.

In the section devoted to the Board of Park Commissioners it is suggested that "it seems logical, inasmuch as all recreation facilities are supplied by the schools and by the Board of Park Commissioners, that all organized recreation be directed by these two branches and not by the Department of Public Welfare. The division of the responsibility between the schools and park authorities should be made so that the Board of Education would be responsible for organized recreation for children of school age and the Board of Park Commissioners for organized adult recreation regardless of whether school or park property is used."

Other recommendations made in the Griffenhagen survey are:

- (a) Playgrounds and playground equipment should be made available at advantageous locations throughout the City in parks and on school grounds.

- (b) All playgrounds should receive sufficient supervision to prevent the destruction of equipment through vandalism or improper usage, and to avoid "bullying" of the smaller children. Persons engaged in such supervision should devote all available extra time to instruction in games, handicraft, and other playground activities.
- (c) In the slum and near-slum areas the playground program should be more extensive, approaching the present program of supervised play.

Other recommendations dealt with program content and financial adjustments.

To those who have been students of recreation and group work it is apparent that the persons making the recreation survey did not have a very broad background of recreation philosophy or of local situations or problems. The Griffenhagen survey lacked the comprehensiveness of the 1916 survey made by Mr. Weir and did not bring to light the evident problems uncovered by the White House Conference, Youth Outside the Home and School survey made in 1933. The survey did show, however, the duplication of sponsorship, and directed the readers to critical consideration of the recreation set up in the public department. An effort was made by the Superintendent of Recreation to carry out the suggestions in so far as he was able, but the experiment ended more disastrously than successfully.

There should be closer cooperation between the groups concerned, but until understanding of recreation and its attendant problems is more widespread no attempt can be made to comply with such a survey.

At the present writing, after much controversy, the Recreation Department has been put under the merit system along with the other divisions in the Health and Welfare Departments. The attempt is too new to make any conclusions, but it is a long step forward from the time when the playground workers were merely volunteers who helped "watch the children."

IV.

INTERPRETATION

IV.

INTERPRETATION

The foregoing sections have dealt with the historical background and the recreation movement both as a whole and as confined to Louisville. An attempt has been made to show how the public and private agencies have tried to fill the leisure time needs of the citizens of this community.

The questions on which an interpretation and evaluation of the movement must be based are these: "How did this movement begin?" "Has the local movement kept pace with the modern trends in recreation?" "Is Louisville's recreation leadership outstanding and adequate?" "Are its finances sufficient for a well rounded program?" "Are the people satisfied with the results?" "Do they wish to push further on into untraveled paths?" "What of Louisville's future as a recreation center?"

It will be noted that the local movement was started by private organizations and individuals interested primarily in the well-being of the small child. For several years provision for play facilities and leadership for young children was the prime motive. Gradually the movement expanded until in 1906 children up to sixteen years of age were included in the program

of directed activities. From the very beginning, the playground movement in Louisville has been a conscious effort on the part of far-sighted, clear-thinking, civic-minded men and women to provide counter-irritants to the evil influences in the city.

In the early days those interested in the welfare of the children realized that leadership should be provided as well as facilities for the leisure time activities. As no specially trained people were available, kindergartners, who were cognizant of the value of play, were enlisted as leaders. This was a wise move, for the foundations laid by them were so strong that soon older children and adults were included in the programs. Public interest was aroused, and soon those who came to watch remained to participate.

The small budget raised by private donations was insufficient to take care of the demand for recreation facilities. Public opinion was aroused to such an extent that municipal authorities were pressed to take over the supervision of the playgrounds. At first the only available assistance was the use of a few school yards, but as early as 1909 this was decried in a "Brief for the Children," prepared by Mr. Lafon Allen, in which the plea, "Give Us a Chance," was emphasized time and again, and the urgent request for more adequate play spaces was reiterated, to supplement the few brick paved school yards already made

available for use. However, even after public opinion had been aroused to the extent that use of certain public parks and properties were turned over for a few months in the summer, the private agencies and interested individuals had to nurture the playgrounds along by supplying the perishable supplies and certain funds for the employment of playground supervisors.

The interest of the few who began this movement has not slackened in the attempt to procure the best possible trained personnel for the recreation activities. The steps have been gradual but they have all led upward. Perhaps the most significant one was the establishment of the School of Social Work to provide a training center for leaders, and particularly its identification with the highest educational center of the city, the University of Louisville. The most recent step is the passage of the Merit Bill. With the workers in the City Health and Welfare Departments now under the merit system as a result of this Bill, Louisville is assured of even better trained leadership than it has had in the past. The Graduate Division of Social Administration of this University gives Louisville the opportunity and the facilities for training her workers while they are in service.

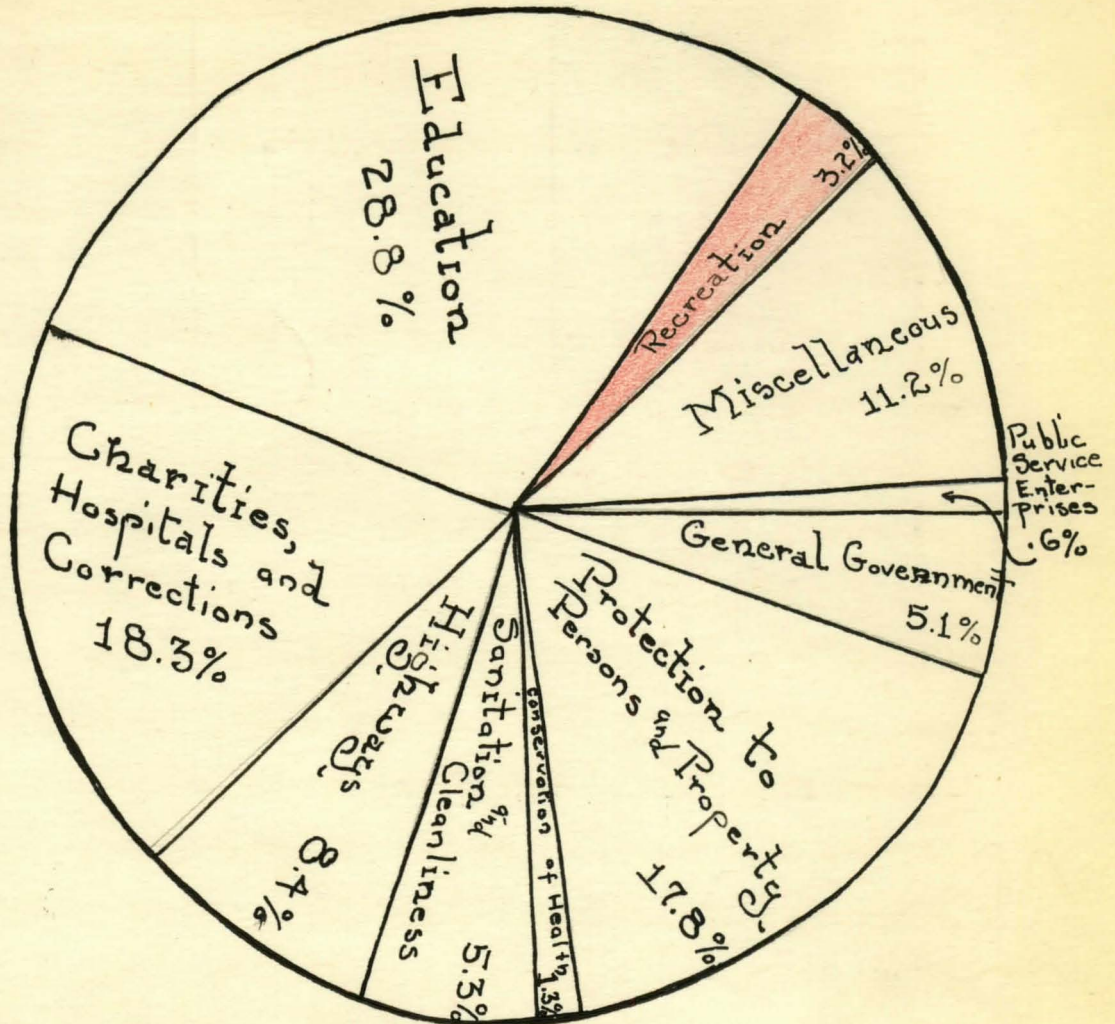
One needs only to note the type of citizen who has been interested in the development of the movement

and the insistence on properly trained personnel, to realize the main reason for its success. There has been no thought of financial gain in the minds of these far-sighted, altruistic citizens; they have had no "axes to grind," no lands to sell to an unsuspecting public for parks, no political ambitions to satisfy. They have been motivated by the highest ideals and have carried out their plans with clearness of perception and steadfastness of purpose. Commercialism has played no part in the furtherance of the plan once it was decided upon.

For purposes of comparison it may be well to show the development in recreation in the United States. This can best be portrayed by the tables which follow. They present the trends of growth in recreation areas and facilities in the United States from 1912 to 1936, the growth of the community recreation movement in the United States from 1909 to 1936, and the summary of community recreation in 1936 in the United States.

These show that cities are attempting to make an effort toward solving the leisure time problems of their citizens. However, one concludes that nothing can be done positively until there is corporate action on the part of all concerned. An adequate budget, trained personnel, and proper facilities, all these enter into the picture to make for a proper leisure time program.

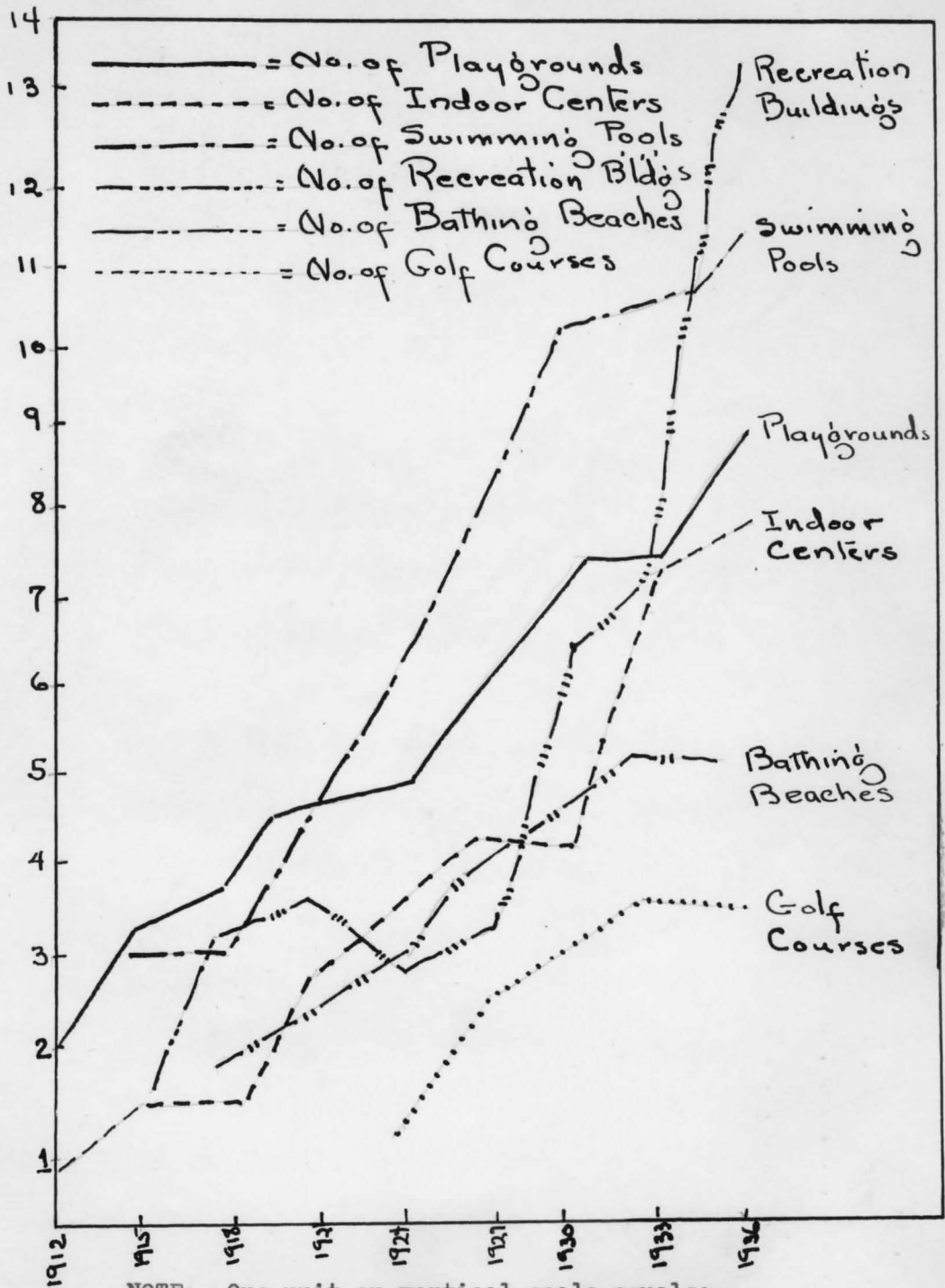
CLASSIFICATION OF EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT,
FISCAL YEAR 1936 - 1937, IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY (33)



General Government	\$ 479,705.82
Protection to Persons and Property	1,553,086.18
Conservation of Health	125,301.82
Sanitation and Cleanliness	510,427.12
Highways	814,085.56
Charities, Hospitals, and Corrections	1,138,067.06
Education	653.89
Recreation	48,554.03
Miscellaneous	211,376.49
Public Service Enterprises	19,558.39
Total	\$ 4,900,816.36

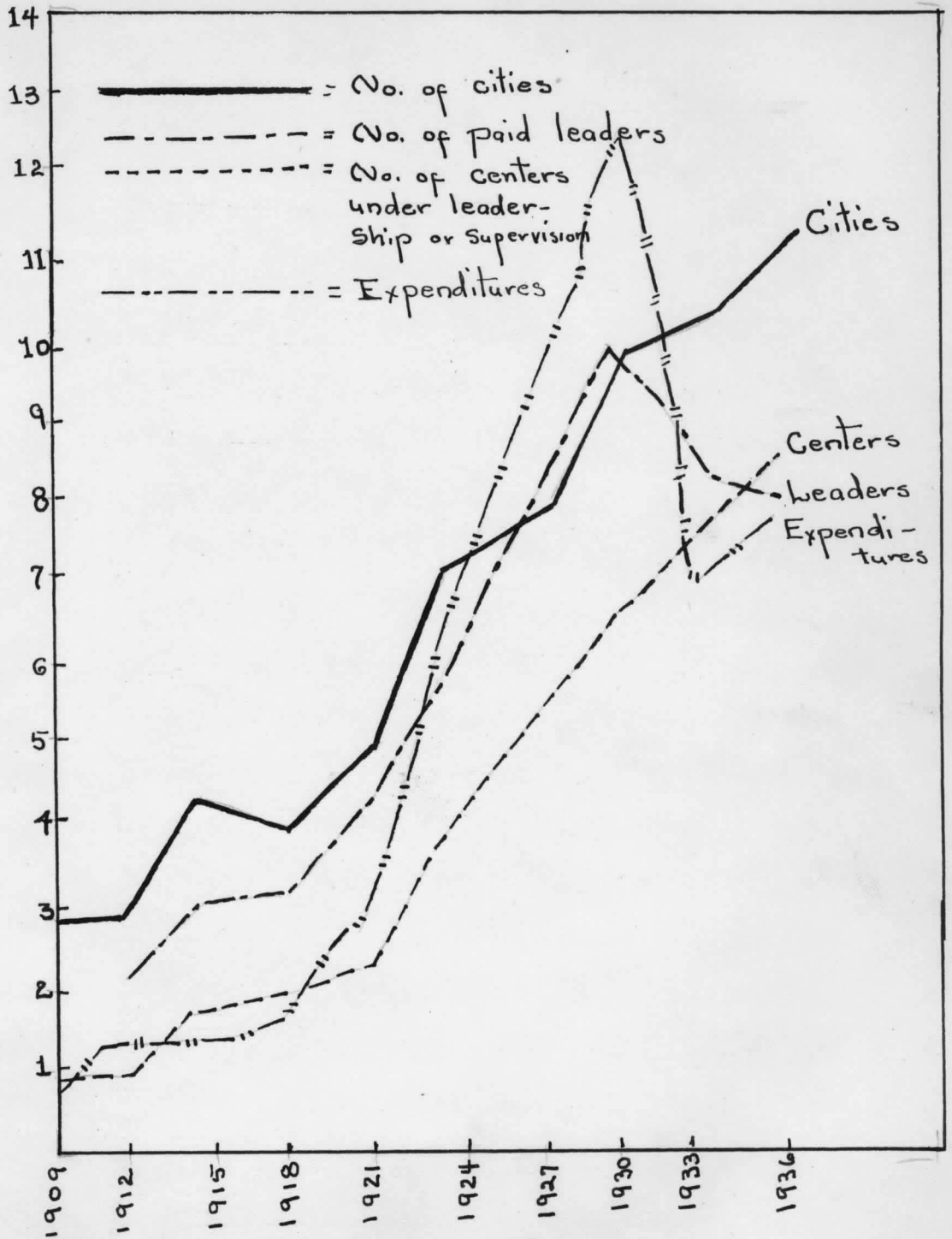
33. Annual Report of the Director of Finance of the City of Louisville, 1936-37, pp. 57-58.

GROWTH IN RECREATION AREAS AND FACILITIES --- 1912-1936
IN THE UNITED STATES



NOTE: One unit on vertical scale equals:
 1,000 outdoor playgrounds under leadership
 500 indoor centers under leadership
 100 swimming pools
 100 recreation buildings under leadership
 100 bathing beaches
 100 golf courses

GROWTH OF COMMUNITY RECREATION MOVEMENT, 1909 - 1936 (35)
IN THE UNITED STATES



NOTE: One unit on vertical scale equals:
 100 cities
 2,500 paid leaders
 2,000 centers under leadership or supervision
 \$3,333,333.33

A SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY RECREATION IN 1936³⁶
IN THE UNITED STATES

Number of cities with play leadership or super- vised facilities-----	1,122
Total number of separate play areas reported----	17,443 ⁽¹⁾
New play areas opened in 1936 for the first time-----	1,275 ⁽²⁾
Total number of play areas and special facilities reported:	
Outdoor playgrounds-----	9,490
Recreation buildings-----	1,347
Indoor recreation centers-----	3,947
Play streets-----	212
Archery ranges-----	270
Athletic fields-----	1,439
Baseball diamonds-----	3,568
Bathing beaches-----	516
Bowling greens-----	184
Golf courses-----	354
Handball courts-----	1,409
Horseshoe courts-----	7,445
Ice skating areas-----	2,411
Picnic areas-----	2,065
Shuffleboard courts-----	1,159
Ski jumps-----	114
Softball diamonds-----	7,369
Stadiums-----	155
Camps - day-----	138
Swimming pools-----	1,142
Tennis courts-----	10,029
Toboggan slides-----	272
Wading pools-----	1,295

Total number of employed recreation leaders-----46,550⁽³⁾

Total number of leaders employed full time
the year round----- 2,792

Total number of volunteer leaders----- 8,579

Total expenditures for public recreation--\$56,287,176.80⁽⁴⁾

(1) This figure includes outdoor playgrounds, recreation buildings, indoor recreation centers, play streets, athletic fields, bathing beaches, golf courses, and summer camps.

(2) Indoor centers open for the first time are not included.

(3) 26,498 of these leaders were paid from Emergency funds.

(4) \$32,341,777.87 of this amount was Emergency funds.

36. Year Book of the National Recreation Association
for 1936, June, 1937.

These tables indicate that according to the national standard Louisville needs more playgrounds, more money with which to equip and staff the recreation centers, and more adequately trained leadership if it is to keep pace with the needs of a growing community and rank high on charts which may include various cities of the United States. There has been a decrease on certain playgrounds in Louisville of the number of paid workers. In some cases this cut in personnel has been as high as fifty per cent in the past ten years, with an increase in the number of children and adults to be served on the play areas. This increase is due to increased population as shown by the latest census figures and an increase in leisure time of the working classes because of their loss of employment.

Louisville has not kept pace with the needs of a growing community. But this slackening has not been due to a lack of interest on the part of the few who began the movement, but to a lack of civic consciousness of the community as a whole.

Dr. Willem van der Wald has made the plea that social workers make a positive approach to people and their problems. That is what public, private, and non-commercial recreation is attempting to do over and against the negative, often commercial activities. The

moment Louisville accepts this positive approach and views recreation and leisure with such an interpretation, then and only then will its citizens agree with Mr. Eduard Lindeman when he says that "recreation is no longer to be considered as mere bodily exercise, but rather as an opportunity for continuing education, for participation in civic affairs, for partaking in aesthetic experience, for developing skills and for the enjoyment of nature." Having once agreed with Mr. Lindeman, Louisville will then take steps to provide ways of making this a reality and not just a new definition of an old term.

Distance lends perspective, and only through perspective may we see how the movement has grown. The clear-thinking, far-sighted men and women who were instrumental in beginning the recreation movement must have felt as C. D. Burns did when he said, "Civilization may depend for its roots upon the way in which work is done; but it depends for its finest flower upon the use of leisure."³⁷ It was the hope of these citizens to develop its "finest flower" through properly supervised group activities. They have tried consistently and with unswerving purpose to educate the community as a whole to a consciousness that would equal theirs. Progress, however, has been slow. There

37. Burns, C. D., Leisure and Modern Society, Harper Brothers, 1932.

has been advancement; there has been an increase in properly trained workers in the field; there has been redoubled energy on the part of the few to educate the masses. But more education is needed to disturb the willing inertia so that new ideas may supplant the jealousies of those individuals who cannot see that the movement is greater than any one person. More education is essential to prevent retarding of growth. The movement is too important, the current of public needs in the way of facilities too swiftly moving to be carried along by a few. The city, like the nation as a whole, needs corporate interest and corporate action on the part of all concerned.

Louisville has grown in every other way. More adequate facilities will be made available; more funds will be allocated for better trained personnel; more vital programs will be established in direct proportion to the arousing of civic consciousness and as the recreation movement keeps step with the growth of the community in other social lines.

"My hope springs from necessity, because I see no way by which the values essential to a technological society can be discovered and realized save through such leisure as will nourish the democratic ideal."³⁸

38. Lindeman, Eduard C., op. cit.

In conclusion, my answers to the questions which I raised in the first part of this chapter are: Louisville has not kept pace with the modern trends in recreation to the extent of supplying adequate facilities and personnel for its rapidly growing population; there has been progress but it has been very slow; its leadership has become increasingly better trained as the years have passed, but there is still need for more and better trained leaders; its finances are by no means adequate for a well rounded program; the people as a whole have not been awakened to their responsibility to provide proper facilities, and only those few who helped in the organization and have followed the growth of the movement in Louisville are anxious to push farther into untraveled paths.

There still remains one question unanswered. "What of Louisville's future as a recreation center?" The answer to this is in the hands and in the minds of the community as a whole. I can only surmise. I can only guess. I can only hope! If the city as a whole would feel and act as the few have felt and acted, there is no reason why Louisville should not attain national recognition for solving its recreation problem.

V.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

V.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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VI.
APPENDIX

VI.

APPENDIX

A.

The following is the complete copy of Senate Bill No. 274 (Home Rule Recreation Act), which provides for the establishment, conduct, and maintenance of public playgrounds and recreation centers.

"IN SENATE
Regular Session

--
Senate Bill No. 274

--
Wednesday, February 6, 1924

"Mr. Caywood introduced the following bill, which was ordered to be printed and referred to the Committee on Public Health, viz.: AN ACT to provide for the establishment, conduct and maintenance of public playgrounds and recreation grounds and centers in and by cities and counties; and authorizing school districts to join in the conduct and operation of such playgrounds and recreation centers.

"Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

"Section 1. The maintenance and operation of the playgrounds and recreation centers is hereby declared to be a proper public municipal purpose for cities of all classes and counties. The city council or board of commissioners of any city, or the fiscal court of any county may dedicate and set apart for the use as playgrounds and recreation centers any lands or buildings owned or leased by such city or county and not devoted to another and inconsistent public use,

and may acquire land or buildings, or both, to be used for such purposes by purchase, lease, condemnation or otherwise.

"Section 2. The city council or board of commissioners of any city, or fiscal court of any county may establish a playground and recreation system and may vest the power to provide, maintain and conduct playgrounds and recreation centers in the park board, board of education or other existing body, or in a playground and recreation board as the governing body may determine. Any board so designated shall have the power to maintain and equip playgrounds and recreation centers and the buildings thereon, and shall, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act, employ trained and qualified playground directors, supervisors, recreation superintendents, or such other officers and employees as they deem proper.

"Section 3. If the city council or board of commissioners of any city, or fiscal court of any county, determines that the power to provide, conduct and maintain playgrounds and recreation centers shall be exercised by a playground and recreation board, such council, commission or court shall, by resolution or ordinance, establish a playground and recreation board in such city or county which shall possess all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities of this Act. Such board, when established, shall consist of five persons to be appointed by the Mayor, Judge of the County Court to serve for terms of five years, or until their successors are appointed, except that the members first appointed shall be so appointed that the term of one member shall expire annually thereafter. Vacancies occurring otherwise than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments and for the unexpired term. Members shall serve without pay.

"Section 4. Any two or more cities, or any city and county, may jointly establish, maintain and conduct a recreation system. Any school district may join with any city or county in providing and conducting public playgrounds and recreation centers.

"Section 5. A playground and recreation board or other authority in which is vested the power to provide, conduct and maintain playgrounds and recreation centers may accept any grant or devise of real estate, or any bequest or gift of money, or any donation the

principal or income of which is to be used for playground or recreation purposes. Money received for such purposes, shall, unless otherwise provided by the terms of the bequest, be deposited with the city or county treasurer to the account of the playground and recreation board, or other body having charge of such work, and may be withdrawn and paid out in the same manner as money appropriated for recreation purposes.

"Section 6. Whenever the city council or board of commissioners of any city or fiscal court of any county establishes a supervised recreation system, in accordance with the provisions of this Act, such council, board or court may provide out of the general funds of such city or county for the purpose of equipping, maintaining and operating such recreation system."

B.

The following information obtained from the office of the Board of Park Commissioners gives the location, acreage, and facilities on the public parks in Louisville.

PARK PROPERTIES, LOCATIONS, ACREAGE and FACILITIES

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY

<u>Park:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Acreage:</u>	<u>Facilities:</u>
Algonquin (Park)	25th & Cypress St.	16.443	2 Recreation Buildings 2 Baseball Diamonds 1 Volley Ball Court 1 Soft Ball Diamond 6 Tennis Courts
Ballard (Play- ground -Col.)	Caldwell St. between Jack- son and Han- cock	1.0	1 Recreation Building 4 Horseshoe Courts 1 Volley Ball Court Swings, See-saws, and Sand-box

<u>Park:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Acreage:</u>	<u>Facilities:</u>
Baxter Sq. (Play-ground -Col.)	11th and 12th Sts. between Jefferson & Liberty	2.1	1 Recreation Building 1 Wading Pool 1 Volley Ball Court 1 Baseball Diamond 2 Horseshoe Courts Swings, See-saws and Sliding Board
Boone Sq. (Play-ground)	19th and 20th Sts. between Rowan and Duncan	4.5	1 Recreation Building 1 Wading Pool 2 Horseshoe Courts 1 Soft Ball Diamond 1 Volley Ball Court Acting Bar, Swings, See-saws and Sand-box
Castleman Park	Castlewood Ave. near Barrett Ave.	1.79	(Used as parkway plot)
Central Park	Fourth to Sixth Sts. between Park and Magnolia	17.2	1 Recreation Building (Park Police Hdqtrs.) 1 Bandstand 8 Tennis Courts 2 Croquet Courts 4 Horseshoe Courts 1 Soft Ball Diamond 1 Wading Pool Swings, See-saws, Slid- ing Board and Sand-box
Cherokee Park	Cherokee Parkway Grinstead Drive and Eastern Park- way	409.3	3 Recreation Buildings 1 Bird Observatory (comp. with collection of mounted birds) 1 Archery Range 5 Tennis Courts 2 Baseball Diamonds 1 Football Field 2 Hockey Fields Bridle Path Lake (with facilities for Lous. Casting Club) Picnic Ovens Swings, See-saws, Sliding Boards and Sand-box 9-Hole Golf Course, com- plete with Club-House
Chickasaw Park (Col.)	46th & Greenwood	76.2	1 Recreation Building 1 Bandstand 1 Lagoon (with four canoe racks)

<u>Park:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Acreage:</u>	<u>Facilities:</u>
Chickawaw Park (Cont.)			1 Football Field 2 Baseball Diamonds 6 Tennis Courts 4 Horseshoe Courts 2 Volley Ball Courts 1 Picnic Oven 1 Wading Pool Swings, See-saws and Sliding Board
Churchill Park	Crittenden Dr. & Southern R.R.	12.56	Park Board Shops and Storage
Geo. Rog- ers Clark Park	Poplar Level Road at McKin- ley Ave.	43.9	(Undeveloped)
Clifton Park (Playground)	Brownsboro Rd. between Coral & Haldeman Aves.	7.0	Swings and See-saws
Crescent Hill Golf Course	Brownsboro Road & Lucille Ave.	77.0	9-Hole Golf Course, com- plete with club-house (leased from Lou. Water Co.) 4 Tennis Courts
Downtown Play- ground	Walnut & Jack- son	2.34	Recreation Building 2 Soft Ball Diamonds Swings, See-saws and Sand- box
Elliott Square (Play- ground)	28th & Maga- zine	3.9	1 Recreation Building 2 Horseshoe Courts 1 Soft Ball Diamond 1 Volley Ball Court 1 Wading Pool Swings, See-saws, Acting Bar, Sliding Board and Sand-Box
Highland Park	Ashbottom Rd. & Phillips Lane	22.00	1 Recreation Building 2 Baseball Diamonds 1 Football Field 1 Wading Pool 2 Tennis Courts Swings, See-saws and Sandbox
Iroquois Park	Southern Sec- tion end of Southern Parkway	676.4	Jacob's Lodge (open to public-on reservation) 6 Pavilions 8 Tennis Courts 1 Baseball Diamond 4 Horseshoe Courts 1 Football Field

<u>Park:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Acreage:</u>	<u>Facilities:</u>
Iroquois Park (Cont.)			Picnic Ovens Bridle Path Swings, See-saws, Sliding Board & Sandbox
Lincoln Park	Fourth & Guthrie adjoining old Custom House	1.0	Bandstand (This park is owned by the Federal Government but the Park Board maintains the grounds.)
Portland (play-ground)	27th & 28th Sts. between Montgomery and High Sts.	4.6	1 Recreation Building 1 Soft Ball Diamond 1 Wading Pool 2 Volley Ball Courts Swings, See-saws, Sliding Board & Sandbox
Seneca Park	Taylorville Road and Cannon's Lane	552.00	4 Tennis Courts 3 Baseball Diamonds 1 Football Field 1 18-Hole Golf Course, complete with clubhouse (This includes a tract of 185 acres, known as Bowman Field, and leased to the Jefferson County Air Board as a municipal airport.)
Seminole Park (Col.)	Ashbottom Road & Pocohontas St.	71.78	Undeveloped
Shawnee Park	Western Section Along Ohio River from Market St. to Broadway	181.5	1 Bandstand 1 Ball House (used for dancing classes, etc.) 2 Pavilions 20 Tennis Courts 16 Baseball Diamonds 2 Football Fields 4 Horseshoe Courts 1 Volley Ball Court 1 Wading Pool 1 Fish Pond 1 Lily Pond Picnic Ovens Swings, See-saws, May Pole, Acting Bar, Sliding Boards and Sandbox 1 18-Hole Golf Course, complete with clubhouse (This land was donated to the City of Louisville by Dr. Baxter and is used by the B.P.C. as a golf course.)

<u>Park:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Acreage:</u>	<u>Facilities:</u>
Shelby Park	One-half block South of Oak St. between Clay and Jackson	17.4	1 Swimming Pool 1 Bath House 1 Recreation Building 1 Wading Pool 11 Tennis Courts 1 Baseball Diamond Swings, See-saws and Sandbox
W. H. Shepard Park (Col.)	17th & Magazine between Broadway and Chestnut	3.0	1 Swimming Pool 1 Bath House 1 Recreation Building 1 Soft Ball Diamond 1 Volley Ball Court Swings, See-saws, Sliding Boards and Sandbox
Story Ave. (Play-ground)	Story Ave. & Market St.	1.0	Undeveloped
Thruston Square	River Road at Wayne & Ohio	4.9	1 Recreation Building 2 Baseball Diamonds 1 Softball Diamond 1 Volley Ball Court 2 Horseshoe Courts 1 Wading Pool Swings, See-saws, Acting Bar, Sliding Boards and Sandbox
Triangle Park (Play-ground)	Third St. & Eastern Pkway	7.3	1 Recreation Building 1 Wading Pool 4 Tennis Courts 1 Baseball Diamond Swings, See-saws, Sliding Board & Sandbox
Tyler Park (Play-ground)	Baxter Avenue & Windsor Place	12.6	Bandstand 6 Tennis Courts 2 Soft Ball Diamonds 1 Horseshoe Court 1 Volley Ball Court Swings, See-saws, Acting Bar & Sandbox
Victory Park	22nd & 23rd Sts. between Greenwood and Ky. Sts.	4.1	1 Recreation Building 1 Soft Ball Diamond 1 Wading Pool 2 Horseshoe Courts 2 Volley Ball Courts Swings, See-saws, Sandbox, Sliding Board and Acting Bar

<u>Park:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Acreage:</u>	<u>Facilities:</u>
Wayside Park (Play-ground)	Southern Pkway & Collins Court	1.6	Undeveloped
Wyandotte Park	East side of Taylor Blvd. South of Oak Park Subdivision	31.0	Undeveloped (Recent addition)
29th & Rowan	29th & Rowan Sts.	3.0 appx.	1 Baseball Diamond 1 Sandbox Swing and See-saws (Property owned by the City-former dumping site-furnished with facilities by Park Board.)
36th & Hale	North West Corner	(N.P.B.P.)	1 Soft Ball Diamond

C.

The mileage of parkways maintained by the Board of Park Commissioners is given below.

MILEAGE OF PARKWAYS

Algonquin Parkway-----	4.5 Miles
Alta Vista Road-----	1.12 "
Cherokee Drive and Cherokee Parkway-----	0.8 "
Cherokee Road-----	1.3 "
Chickasaw Park Road-----	4.5 "
Douglas Boulevard-----	0.9 "
Eastern Parkway-----	3.9 "
Maple Road-----	0.14 "
Shawnee Drive-----	0.5 "
Southern Parkway-----	2.7 "
Western Parkway-----	3.5 "
Road connecting Seneca and Cherokee Parks-----	1.5 "

TOTAL ACREAGE OF PARK SYSTEM

Parks-----	2,129.91 Acres
Playgrounds-----	47.94 "

TOTAL MILEAGE OF PARKWAYS

25.86 Miles

TOTAL PARKWAY MILEAGE IN PARKS

31.7 Miles

D.

The following is a list of Points of Interest in the public parks of Louisville.

POINTS OF INTEREST

COLLECTION OF MOUNTED BIRDS	Now on display in Bird Observatory in Cherokee Park. Donated by the Louisville Polytechnic Society, June 9, 1910.
CHRISTIANSSEN FOUNTAIN	In Cherokee Park. Designed and donated by Miss Christiansen, a teacher in the Louisville Public Schools, in honor of her mother.
DANIEL BOONE STATUE	Donated by C. C. Bickel, Louisville, Kentucky. Designed and executed by Miss Enid Yandell. Placed in Cherokee Park and dedicated June 14, 1906.
HOGAN FOUNTAIN	In Cherokee Park. Donated by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Hogan. Designed and executed by Miss Enid Yandell.
WARDS MILL	At Big Rock, Cherokee Park. Included in tract of approximately seventeen acres donated by Mrs. Sallie R. Carter, November 28, 1899.
CASTLEMAN STATUE	At Cherokee Parkway entrance to Cherokee Park. Erected to General John B. Castleman, one of the sponsors of the Louisville Park System, by the citizens of Louisville. Executed by Terry of New York. Dedicated November 8, 1913.
WALLER MEMORIAL	In Shawnee Park. Donated by Louisville Civic Clubs in compliment to Mrs. Carrie E. Waller. Designed and erected by Woodson and Kratch Monument Company, Louisville.
BIG BROTHER	In Cherokee Park, between Dingle Road and No. 5 Bridge, on left entering Park. Natural tree formation, unique in size and growth.
THREE SISTERS	In Cherokee Park, between Dingle Road and No. 5 Bridge, on the left entering the park. Natural tree growth, three trees growing from one root. Unique formation.