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RECREATIONAL SURVEY OF

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

(TITLE)

BY

DAVID M. DECKER

**PLAN B PAPER**

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE DEGREE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION  
AND PREPARED IN COURSE

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 528

IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL, EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY,  
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1962

YEAR

I HEREBY RECOMMEND THIS PLAN B PAPER BE ACCEPTED AS  
FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE DEGREE, M.S. IN ED.

DATE

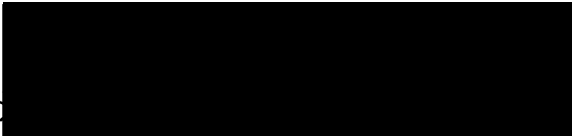
ADVISER

DATE

DEPARTMENT HEAD

This paper has been approved as a requirement in partial fulfillment for the degree, Master of Science in Education.

APPROVED



Dr. John Masley  
Class Instructor

DATE

14 Nov. 1962

APPROVED

Maynard O'Brien

Dr. Maynard O'Brien  
Advisor

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## CHAPTER I

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The primary purpose of this paper was to survey agencies existing in 1959 which contributed something to the over-all recreational program in Champaign. Some of the agencies listed contributed very little to the recreational program in Champaign, Illinois. Most of the recreation the city of Champaign carried on was done through the recreation department, park district, and other interested groups and individuals.

The means by which information concerning leisure needs can be gathered are almost endless. Material can be compiled by observing or interviewing families. The material can then be related to work patterns, household chores, responsibility to relatives, friends, peer groups, parents and community groups. On an even larger scale, the whole community can be viewed to determine how leisure patterns coincide with the community's economy, history and traditions, population distribution, church life, and the locality of the community.

It can be said that the depression years of the thirties, during which the federal and local governments emphasized recreation in both facilities and leadership, served as a

fine demonstration of the value of public recreation.<sup>1</sup> Champaign, Illinois has felt the need for an adequate recreational program for the last few years. Champaign, like many other cities of its size, is trying to meet the need of the people for more leisure time activity. The recreation board and the park board work together in an effort to help provide a full and more enjoyable recreation program in that city.

#### Problem of the Study

1. To determine the available areas and facilities used for recreation in Champaign, Illinois and vicinity.
2. To survey the type of program that is carried on, and what personnel run the program.
3. To determine the organizational setup of the different governing bodies who manage the city, the school, park and the recreation program.
4. To survey the way in which the recreation program is financed, and the financial resources with which this department has to run its program.

#### Scope of the Study

1. To survey the existing areas and facilities available in Champaign.

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1. Charles E. Doll, and Gerald B. Fitzgerald, A Brief History in the United States, (Chicago: The Athletic Institute, 1954), p. 39.

2. To try and determine if all of the available areas and facilities are sufficient to meet the needs of the people.

3. To determine how the recreation program is financed and if all of the possible taxing is being done to have the maximum amount of funds for the recreation program.

#### Limitation of the Study

1. The study includes an analysis of the recreation department and the park district, and the facilities that each has for recreation in and around Champaign. At the present time, recreation is carried on in the parks, schools, recreational centers and other places that have recreation.

2. An appraisal is based on interviews which took place between the heads of the departments and the writer.

#### Method of Research

The method of research was by interview and observation. All of the different departments listed or known to have any type of recreation program in Champaign and vicinity were contacted.

An appraisal of the existing facilities and what facilities will be needed in the future was made. The long range plan had to take into account the possible increase in population and the possible change of interest of the people.

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY OF CHAMPAIGN

The present city of Champaign, Illinois had its beginning in the year 1854.<sup>2</sup> However, a number of related events happened prior to this time which made it possible for the eventual settlement of this city.

Champaign is essentially an outgrowth of expansion of the city of Urbana, Illinois which was founded in 1821. In 1821 two Army survey teams subdivided the area now known as Urbana. At this same time, the first white family to settle in this area established residence by building a ten foot square log cabin. This family was followed by a few more families in the next few years and by 1828 a total of 350 families inhabited the area.<sup>3</sup>

In comparison to most communities, the region now known as Champaign, Illinois was settled very late in the history of Illinois. The reason for this was that early homesteaders tended to follow water courses in their migration westward and stayed away from the flat, waterless prairie land. As a result, this area was by-passed by the early settler. It was not until 1832 that the Treaty of Tippicanoe banished the

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2. J. R. Stewart, Champaign County I (New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1918), p. 365-378.

3. Ibid, p. 366



Indian tribes from the area.<sup>4</sup> In the year of the mass migration, many new families came along to the new area. Many of the families came from the Atlantic Coast Area.

The coming of the Illinois Central Railroad was a very important factor in the beginning of Champaign. At that time the government was giving land to the railroad companies to get them to build lines.

The Federal Government granted the Illinois Central Railroad every alternate square mile along the right-of-way from Chicago to Cairo. Through the selling of this land, the building of the railway was made possible. Since there was more unclaimed land to the west of Urbana, Illinois, the Illinois Central Railroad laid its tracks two miles away. A village sprung up at the railroad and was incorporated at that time as the village of West Urbana.<sup>5</sup>

With the opening of the Illinois Central Railroad from Chicago in 1854 and the building of its depot two miles west of the court house, the best prophets could not foresee that business and population were bound to gravitate to the locality. Before the first trains from Chicago came in, many new buildings were being built. The Illinois Central Railroad seemed to be the spark for the present-day city of Champaign. In 1857, the name was changed to Champaign, and in 1860 the village was incorporated as a city.<sup>6</sup>

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4. Ibid, p. 375.

5. Champaign Chamber of Commerce, A Pamphlet on Champaign, Illinois, 1957, p. 1.

6. Ibid, p. 2.

Champaign, Illinois owes, in part, its growth to an act of the Illinois Legislature in 1867, which awarded the University of Illinois to Champaign County.

In 1862, President Lincoln signed the Land Grant College Act which provided public land to any state which would establish a college of Scientific and Classical studies - Military Tactics - Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts. The Illinois Industrial University was chartered in 1867 and opened in March 2, 1868; the name University of Illinois was adopted in 1885.<sup>7</sup>

The city of Champaign has made great strides in the past one hundred years. Champaign has had many facets that have helped in its growth. The growth in Champaign has been steady, due largely to the ever increasing enrollment at the University of Illinois. Significant industrial growth and Chanute Air Force Base have also contributed to the population increase. Today Champaign covers an area of almost six square miles, and the population has increased until it is approximately 50,000.

At the present the city government of Champaign is in a period of transition. Champaign has had a commission form of government, but it has changed to council manager. The Mayor, Mr. Virgil Lafferty, and the commissioners hired a city manager. The new city manager, Mr. Robert Oldland, took over managing the city in 1958. The council manager form of government allows one man to make the decisions on

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7. Ibid, p. 6.

how the city will be run. The Mayor and Commissioners hired Mr. Oldland and can remove him at anytime and hire another city manager.

## CHAPTER III

### DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

The definitions of the most common terms used in this paper are as follows:

Community: Includes people, geographical territory and a common purpose. The people are held together by psychological bond and may act together consciously or unconsciously in their chief concerns of life. They create, as a result of their common interest, certain institutions of a legal, protective, educational, economical, recreational and religious character. A community includes factors of interdependence and belonging and a sense of usefulness through contributing to the common good.

Leisure: Time, free from work and free from fulfilling the basic obligations and necessities of life, available for pursuits freely decided upon by the individual.

Park: An area permanently dedicated to recreational use and generally characterized by its nature, historic and landscape features. It is used both as passive and active forms of recreation and may be designed to serve the residences of a neighborhood, community, state, region, or nation.

Program: Recreation opportunities which result from the organization and planned use of community recreation resources such as finance, facilities and leadership. The activities of a program may be planned or unplanned, or organized or unorganized, active or passive, and include individual or group participation. The program may also refer to a specific phase of the total program, such as nature program, drama program, and community center programs.

Recreation: The natural expression of certain human interests and needs seeking satisfaction during leisure. It is an individual or group experience motivated primarily by the enjoyment and satisfaction derived therefrom. It takes many forms and may be a planned or spontaneous activity.<sup>8</sup>

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8. Hanson D. Seasome, A Glossary of Public Recreation Terms, (Raleigh, N. C.: N. C. Recreation Commission, June 1956).

## CHAPTER IV

### AGENCIES IN CHAMPAIGN THAT CONTRIBUTE TO RECREATION

The following pages contain a list of public, semi-public, civic, private, and commercial agencies and the officers of some of these agencies which contribute to the recreation facilities in Champaign. These agencies will be fully discussed in the chapters following this list.

#### Public Agencies

Recreation Department-----Supt.-Miss Hazel E. Iungerich  
Park Board (parks)-----Pres.-Mr. Lee Greenman  
County Forest Preserve-----Dir.-Mr. Harry Gelvin  
Police Department-----Chief-Capt. Russell Davis  
Public Schools Community  
District Number 4-----Supt.-Dr. E. H. Mellon  
Association of Commerce----Sec.-Mr. Fred Simmering  
Chamber of Commerce-----Sec.-Mr. John J. Neils

#### Semi-Public

Salvation Army-----Dir.-Major John Ryan  
Young Mens Christian  
Association-----Dir.-Mr. Edward Reinhold  
Farm Bureau-----Dir.-Mr. Frank Grace  
University of Illinois-----Pres.-Dr. David Henry  
Boy Scouts-----Leader-Mr. Charles Wakely  
Girl Scouts-----Leader-Mrs. Mary Guy  
Churches  
Church of the Brethren  
Congregational Church  
Episcopal Chapel of St. John The Divine  
First Baptist Church  
First Methodist Church  
Grace Lutheran Church  
McKinley Foundation  
Nazarene Grace Church  
New Hope Tabernacle  
Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church First  
 St. John's Catholic Chapel  
 St. John's Lutheran Church  
 St. Luke's Church  
 St. Peter's Evangelical & Reformed Church  
 Sinai Temple  
 Westside Church of The Nazarene

Civic Groups

Junior Chamber of Commerce-Sec.-Mr. Russell Dankert  
 Lions Club-----Sec.-Mr. Paul Cruikshank  
 Rotary Club-----Sec.-Mr. William Danielson  
 Kiwanis Club-----Sec.-Mr. Pete Fletcher  
 Sportsman Club-----Sec.-Mr. Thomas Knott  
 Exchange Club-----Sec.-Mr. L. E. Lui  
 Optimist Club-----Sec.-Mr. Buren Donaldson  
 Sporlimist Club-----Sec.-Mrs. Lucia Russian  
 Kennel Club-----Pres.-Mrs. Katie Harris  
 Camera Club-----Pres.-Mrs. Mable Spears  
 Red Cross-----Area Director-Mrs. Sybil Roth

Private

Champaign Country Club-----Sec.-Mr. Charles Gorman  
 Fraternal Orders and Clubs  
   Benevolent and Protective  
     Order of Elks-----Sec.-Mr. Arthur Dilman  
     Loyal Order of the Moose--Sec.-Mr. John W. Willis  
     American Veterans of World  
       War II-----Sec.-Mr. Donnell H. Stoltzfus  
     Knights of Columbus-----Sec.-Mr. Carl Riggins  
     American Legion-----Sec.-Mr. Ben Bolton  
     Veterans of Foreign Wars--Sec.-Mr. Leo Melchi  
     Masonic Order-----Sec.-Mr. E. W. Kortkamp  
     Fraternal Order of Eagles-Sec.-Mr. Robert Muller  
     Independent and Order of  
       Odd Fellows-----Sec.-Mr. Herbert Carico

Commercial Agencies

Stock Car Racing  
 Fishing Camps  
   Paul's Fishing Camp  
   Kaufman's Fishing Camp  
   Rantoul's Fishing Camp  
   Twin Lakes

Billiards, Pool and Cards  
DeLuxe  
Main Street Recreation  
G and G  
Congress  
Bowling Alleys  
Elmwood  
Johnson  
McMillians  
Skating Rinks  
Ice Skating University Rink  
Roller Skating-Elmwood  
Golf  
Pla-Mor Driving Range  
Miniature Golf Course  
Aviation  
Taynor-Harris Aviation Service  
Illini Airport  
Archery  
Paul Crist Archery School  
Dance Instruction  
Arthur Murray Dance Studio  
Jalna's School of Dance  
Mitchell Ruth Claar Ballet Studio  
Rose Thelma Leah  
Theatres  
Co-Ed  
Illini Theatre  
Orpheum Theatre  
Park Theatre  
Princess Theatre  
Twin City Drive-In  
Virginia Theatre  
Wide Screen Drive-In



## CHAPTER V

### THE PART PUBLIC AGENCIES PLAY IN THE RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

#### Recreation Department

The recreational department of Champaign, Illinois is the main source of recreation. There are many aspects of recreation that this department cannot furnish because of the prohibitive cost. The recreation department is administered by a recreation board. The board is made up of five members, the President of the board, Mr. M. G. Snyder; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Johnson; and Mr. E. H. Mellon (Superintendent of Schools, Champaign); Mr. Allen Sabora (Professor of Recreation, University of Illinois); and Mr. Lee Eilbracht (Baseball coach, University of Illinois). The recreation board is the guiding force behind the recreation department.

The chief administrator, responsible for planning the recreational program is Miss Hazel Iungerich. The assistant superintendent, Miss Nelle Hays and two staff workers operate two centers which are open the year round. These centers are Beardsley and Douglas. The two centers offer different types of programs which range from dancing, arts and craft, wrestling and numerous other activities. The centers offer one of the few places where the young people can dance.<sup>9</sup>

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9. Interview with Miss Hazel Iungerich, Superintendent Recreation Champaign, June 1959.

The recreation department has a more extensive program in the summer than they do at other times of the year. The staff is increased to about fifty-five leaders and directors of activities during the summer. Many of the teachers of the Champaign area are hired to help conduct the recreation program that is carried on during the summer. They try to take care of as many people seeking recreation as possible during the summer when the children are out of school and far more adults use the facilities in the summer.

The recreation department does not have the parks under its control, but it does use all of the parks when it has the leadership in the summer. The recreation department does have the two centers and Humko Park. It has the use of the school facilities also. Humko Park is being revamped so it will have additional facilities for the lower age group. At the present time, softball is the only activity conducted at Humko Park.

The recreation department has many different types of programs during the summer. It does try to use all of the available facilities and the personnel to include as many activities as possible for the facilities available. It uses the high school gymnasium for a physical fitness program. This program is open to Junior and Senior High boys. The recreation department uses the school ground whenever the school grounds have equipment that is possible for use advantageously.

As well as a recreation program, this department does offer many other services. For boys in the fifth and sixth grades, it has a sports fundamental program. Square dancing is offered to both boys and girls in the fifth and sixth grades. A crafts program is offered the same as the dancing program. The community crafts shop is located at the Beardsley Center at 1203 North Market Street. The well-equipped crafts shop is open daily for public use. All types of power equipment such as a band saw, jig saw, bench saw, and buffer, among others, are offered. The crafts shop has a large selection of hand tools. The recreation department also has a loaning service. It loans out such items as movie projectors, record players, public address systems, and picnic equipment. The recreation department has services for assisting in the planning of parties, programs and picnics. Leadership is available for these activities whenever possible and requested.

There is a league for men in basketball and softball. The industrial recreation for the men is run by Mr. Emerson Dexter.<sup>10</sup> In the winter the high school gymnasium is used for basketball. In the spring of the year, Humko Park is used by industrial, church, and park leagues for softball. Each of the leagues are separate and are made up by the group for which they are playing. The recreation department furnishes the equipment, umpires, and anything else needed to run the program.

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10. Interview with Emerson Dexter, Mayor of Champaign, July 1959.

Each of the leagues had its own field in softball, and in basketball the teams played on different nights in the gymnasium.

### Park Board

The park board has the job of maintaining the park in Champaign, Illinois. The park board is comprised of five members. The president of the board is Mr. Lee Greenman. Other members are Mr. D. C. Dodds, Mr. William Getman, Mr. Howard Barham and Mr. Burt Greaves. The board has hired a park manager, Mr. Robert H. Milne, who has control of the total park project.<sup>11</sup>

All of the parks are under the control of the park board with the exception of Humko Park. Most of the parks have a variety of facilities for recreation. Some of the items are: benches, chairs, fire places, play areas for all ages, a shelter house, and the different types of athletic fields. Its their job to keep up all of the equipment and facilities for those who use the parks. Each year more and more equipment is added or replaced. The park manager works along with the recreation department in furnishing the type of equipment that will be needed in their program.

### County Forest

The head of the Champaign County Forest Preserve is

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11. Interview with Mr. Lee Greenman, Park Board President, July 1959.

Mr. Harry Gelvin.<sup>12</sup> Mr. Gelvin is the man that wanted or "pushed the most" to have a county park. The park is at Mahomet, Illinois just ten miles from Champaign. The Lake of the Woods offers a large variety of activities. The lake is the main interest, but they have swimming, boating, picnicing and many other family activities. On the weekends many drive to this area for one of the many opportunities. Another part of the Lake of the Woods is the golf club. The golf course is semi-public. A person may become a member or they can just pay the green fees when they play. Since the golf course is one of the few in the vicinity of Champaign that is not a private club, it offers the opportunity for all to play golf at a reasonable cost. The membership is offered for those that will play more at a reduced rate. It will, also, give the manager of the course a chance to know how much money will be available for upkeep of the area.

#### Police Department

The police department of Champaign does have a form of leisure time activity for themselves. One of the many things they do is the sending of a group of boys to camp each year. They get out and make the money in different ways to finance the project. Most of the boys that are selected are those whose parents do not have the money to send them to camp.

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12. Interview with Mr. Harry Gelvin, July 1959.

### Public Schools

The public schools play a fairly large part in the over-all recreation program. The superintendent of schools in Champaign is Dr. E. H. Mellon. The schools cooperate with the recreation department in allowing the recreation department to use their facilities. One of the drawbacks is that Champaign does not have gymnasiums in their grade schools. The only gymnasiums are those in the Junior and Senior High Schools. During the winter the recreation department does use the gymnasiums at night to run their industrial basketball program.

The schools have a program of recreation during the school year. The function of the schools may or may not be classed as recreation, but activities are available for the students who want to take part. The school gymnasiums in Champaign may be rented by any group or individuals as long as they do not use the gymnasium to make a profit. Some of the different organizations do take advantage of being able to rent the gymnasium at a very reasonable cost. The schools and the recreation department work together for the best possible program.

One other phase of the recreation program in the schools is the adult educational program. The school does not run the classes as a form of recreation, but for many of those who take the classes they are a form of recreation. The school has classes in a number of different academic subjects and

in different phases of vocational education. Many do take wood, metal, electrical, and other shop classes as recreation for those individuals who take the class.

## CHAPTER VI

### SEMI-PUBLIC AGENCIES

#### Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has a fairly good recreation program. The Salvation Army is limited in its facilities, but they carry on an extensive program. Almost every night they have some form of activity for those who take part. Some of the activities they carry on are: art craft, sewing craft, bible study, and athletic events like volleyball, badminton, and others. Major John Ryan, the local director, tries to carry on activities that will be of advantage to all. There is a basketball program during the winter which is based on league play.

#### Young Mens Christian Association

The Y.M.C.A. in Champaign offers many opportunities for recreation. The Y.M.C.A. is itself based on recreation. Many forms of recreation take place at the "Y". It should be pointed out that the over-all program of the Y.M.C.A. is for its members. It has a swimming pool, gymnastics, weight room, activity room, game room, and a quiet or reading room. The organization has all of the above at a very low cost.

The way that the "Y" serves the community is in recreation. There are different groups that use the "Y" that do



not belong. Under the guidance of the personnel of the "Y" two age groups hold weekly dances. To go to the dances, a boy or girl does not have to belong to the "Y". It has a gymnasium and swimming program for those that are not members. During the winter it has an industrial basketball program. The team sponsors have to pay a small fee for the use of the gymnasium, but those that take part do not have to be a member of the "Y". There are special classes in different activities for the adults. It does not charge for these classes and all that the people have to do is inquire about when and where the classes are being held. Some of the special instruction classes that it had last year were in judo, golf, social dance, and bridge. During the summer, the "Y" has a town camp for its members, but if the classes are not full, a boy or girl can go to town camp for the same price as that paid by members. The town camp is one of the big projects of the "Y" in the summertime.

#### Farm Bureau

The farm bureau has many "facets" in its organization. Most of the recreation comes in branches of the farm bureau. The head of the farm bureau in Champaign County is Mr. Lyle Grace. Mr. George Onion is the leader of the 4-H and the rural youth. The rural youth is for the single youth seventeen to twenty-seven. The 4-H is to promote leadership among the group and all of the rural youths. It has lectures, tours and

other activities. The 4-H has projects for both boys and girls from ten to twenty-one. The projects must be completed within one year and they generally are a farm type project. Miss Carylton Reesar is the leader of the home economics group. Both sexes may take part in the organization, but basically it is for girls. The leaders try to teach them points on cooking, canning, and other aspects of homemaking. The farm bureau receives all its financial aid through the University of Illinois. The farm bureau is for any person that falls into the age group and wants to take part in their activities.

#### University of Illinois

The University of Illinois is being listed under semi-private agencies because they do not furnish recreation to the people of Champaign, Illinois and vicinity directly. Many of the facilities are used at certain times, but they do not furnish the leadership directly. The areas of the University cannot be used by the recreation department of Champaign, unless they have people in other communities taking part in the activities. One of the times that the University allows Champaign to use the stadium is on the Fourth of July. On this day the Jaycees sponsor a large fireworks display. Since people from many communities take part, the stadium is used. At other times, under the same circumstances, other areas and facilities are used. As an individual, a person can use the areas and nothing will be said. Most of the time the University of Illinois

is interested in their students and the areas are in use in their recreation program. Anyone can play golf on either of the golf courses that are owned by the University. A small green fee is charged when using the University golf courses.

### Boy Scouts

One of the leaders is Mr. Charles Wakely. The Boy Scouts have a great many activities that can be classed as recreation or leisure activities. The Boy Scouts in Champaign have certain activities that are considered as recreation. Their camp site at Camp Drake is, as a whole, recreational. This camp site offers team games, hikes, riding, overnight camp outs, and a great many other activities. The day camp that the scouts have is on the order of hikes and overnight camp outs. These activities give the boys a chance to learn about the out-of-doors and how to live in the woods. The older boys in the area and their leaders have been making trips to scout camps in different parts of the United States.

### Cub Scouts

The Cub Scouts are for those that are between the ages of eight and twelve. Its prime interest or activity is in small hand craft work and many out door activities. The Cub Scouts have their own section at Camp Drake.

### Girl Scouts

The leader of the Girl Scouts in the Champaign area is

Mrs. Mary H. Guy. The Girl Scouts is for girls seven to seventeen years of age. They have day camps. Most of their activities take place at Camp Northfield in Mahomet. The girls go to the camp in the summer for one or two week periods at a nominal cost to them. Most of the time the Girl Scouts activities come from the Girl Scout Handbook.

### Churches

In the city of Champaign, there are a number of different churches and to simplify they will be grouped to a limited degree.

The Catholic churches will be the first that are discussed. At the Holy Cross Catholic Church, the Pastor C. J. Higgins is the head of the church. It has a club for those that are out of school, but who are not married. In this group, the members have many social affairs along with the religious part. The members take part with those from churches in town and out of town. There is the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) for the high school age youth. They have a definite recreation program for all of the Catholic faith. The CYO has dances, sports, cards, and other activities in which they take part. It has a basketball league made up of CYO boys and is played in the Holy Cross gymnasium. For the married groups, square dances and other dances are sponsored by the different churches.

Many of the Protestant churches of Champaign have a very extensive type of recreation program for their members.

The churches will generally decide what type of recreation program its members will have. Most of the Protestant churches have a bible school during the summer. Programs in the bible school are set up according to the facilities available. They have day camps where the children are under the guidance of the leaders in the church, but most of the time they are for the younger members or those of the tot age that take part. Many of the churches take part in the church league in basketball. The church league is held at the First Methodist Church where they use a gymnasium for the activities. The gymnasium of the First Methodist Church in Champaign is used by a number of high school age students that may be of the Methodist faith or belong to a church of another faith. Many do play basketball, roller skate, and attend the dances and movies that are held in the gymnasium. Some groups from the high school may get permission to use the gymnasium for a dance or other activity. Few of the churches do have their own facilities, and they are not able to have as an extensive program as those that have the facilities.

Some of the churches that are new in Champaign do not have any of the above mentioned areas. Many of the new churches are a branch of an older church and they do not have any or very little recreation. With the cost of building today, many of the newer churches did not plan for anything outside of a room for worship.

In the summer the churches have a church league in softball. The softball league is run by the recreation department,

and the churches just sponsor a team. More of the churches take part in summer recreation than in the winter.

## CHAPTER VII

### CIVIC GROUPS

#### Junior Chamber of Commerce

The Jaycees, being a fairly new or young organization, are doing much in recreation for its members and for the people in Champaign. The Jaycees have more to do with recreation than any other one organization of its kind. The Jaycees do not have a recreation program directly, but they sponsor many different types of programs. The manner in which they assist recreation is through helping to raise money to sponsor the different activities. The Jaycees sponsor track, baseball, tennis and many other activities where the winner is sent on to a higher tournament. They have the Jaycees League for boys too old for Little League and too young for American Legion baseball. In their league the members have other groups who help to pay for the cost of the program. One of the things they do for all age groups is the Fourth of July fireworks display. They work hard raising the money for the fireworks display. It has become a high point for the community each year. They have the parade, float judging and the fireworks display. The past year over one hundred thousand people saw the parade or the fireworks display.

The Jaycees work with other organizations in Champaign to promote recreational activities. Their members enjoy spending their free time trying to help others. Though they only hold meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, many of the members have to meet more often to set up the different projects they sponsor or help to sponsor.

#### Lions Club

The majority of the recreation of the Lions comes from the helping to finance or helping to raise money for the community's betterment. The Lions have donated small storage houses on parks, playgrounds, and other similar places. The Lions meet every Wednesday at noon. Their help is more civic than it is recreational.

#### Rotary Club

The Rotary Club meets every Monday at noon in the Tilden Hotel. The members help in giving financial assistance to other clubs, or help the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and organizations of this nature. The Rotary does more in a civic service than it does directly for recreation.

#### Kiwanis Club

The Kiwanis holds their meetings every Thursday at noon. The major project of the Kiwanis Club in recreation is that of coordinating the Little League program. The coordinating club's head, Mr. Pete Fletcher, has the job of helping the different



Little League presidents. The Kiwanis puts on drives and contacts merchants to pay for the equipment and insurance. Each league gets its manager, umpire, and grounds keeper from its immediate locality. The Kiwanis Club does all of the purchasing for all of the clubs. They also have Camp Kiwanis which is at Mahomet, Illinois. This camp is for the Girl Scouts to use. Anything else they would do in recreation would be incidental.

#### Sportsman Club

The Sportsman's Club holds its meetings the first Friday of the month. They hold their meetings at their own building next to the Lake of the Woods. The Sportsman's Club has a small tract of land for the recreation of its own members. They have fishing, picnic areas, and a small play area for the member's children. The Sportsman's Club also gives money to help others carry on recreational activities.

#### Exchange Club

The Exchange Club has its meetings on Tuesday of each week. The club does not have recreation as one of its functions other than the weekly meetings for its members.

#### Optimist Club

The Optimist Club has its meetings at six-thirty p.m. on Thursday of every week. The Optimist Club does not have much to do in over-all recreation programs except for its own

members. They do donate to help sponsor recreation that is carried on by some other group or individuals.

#### Sporlimist Club

The Sporlimist hold their meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. This group of women does help in different ways with recreation. Some members give their time and others give money, but the club meetings and other social functions are about all they have in the way of recreation.

#### Kennel Club

The Kennel Club has its meetings the third Wednesday of each month. The Kennel Club would have to be classed as a special interest group. The members enjoy spending their leisure time working with or discussing their dogs. Many of the members do help the young people learn procedures in dog training. The meetings are held in the home of the secretary of the club, Mrs. Katie Harris.

#### Camera Club

The Camera Club would have to be classed as a special interest group. The Camera Club has its meetings the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Senior High School library. The group is interested in how best to take pictures and the newest and most modern methods. The Camera Club is primarily interested in the promotion of the interest of its own club, and the members spend their leisure time in taking and developing pictures.

### Red Cross

The Red Cross does not have a recreational program, but they do a lot for others to help pass their leisure time. The Gray Ladies go to different hospitals and help give the patients recreation. At Chanute Field the Red Cross has a definite program. They have books, games, movies, and other activities for the boys in the hospitals. The Red Cross Chapter in Champaign, Illinois is primarily there in case of an emergency. The organization sponsors classes in water safety, first aid and Junior Red Cross. The Red Cross has a blood bank and in case of an emergency they help those individuals who are in distress.

## CHAPTER VIII

### PRIVATE AGENCIES

#### Champaign Country Club

The Champaign Country Club is for its members only. The club will allow a person from out of town who is a guest of a member to pay the green fee and play golf. The club does not care to have non-members play since the club is for its members and they do not want it to become crowded. The Champaign Country Club has many facilities for its members.

There is a swimming pool, golf course, tennis courts, club rooms, and dining room at the club and other areas that can be used for recreation by its members. The Country Club has a fee of about three hundred dollars a year to remain a members. It has many advantages for those that can afford to be a member.

#### Fraternal Orders and Clubs

##### Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

The Elks in Champaign, in the past, has done much in helping to sponsor recreation for the youngsters. The Elks Club does a great deal in helping to support the Little League by buying uniforms. It also does many things in a more civic manner. At Christmas the Elks and the Moose Clubs have a Christ-

mas party for the needy children. The Elks donate to almost all of the organizations like the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and similar groups.

The Elks have a very good program for their own members. The club has the following areas in their building: billiards, card room, dance floor, club room lounge, dining facilities, and sleeping rooms. Besides the above mentioned, they sponsor six bowling teams. The Elks will rent parts of their club to different organizations for a very nominal fee. The Champaign "C" Club always has the privilege of using the Elks facilities when they have their yearly meeting.

#### Loyal Order of the Moose

The Moose in Champaign does a great deal in recreation for both its members and others. The lodge buys the tee shirts for the whole farm system of Little Leagues. It gives financial aid to many organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and to any organization of a similar nature. It sponsors a softball team in the industrial league. Around Christmas it has parties for the needy.

The Moose Lodge is one of the newest and the most modern in the area. It has a good program for its members and families. The Moose Lodge in Champaign has the following facilities: club room, reading room, dance floor, bar, dining room, card room, billiard and pool room, and other areas for its members. The Moose sponsors bowling teams who compete in the city league. They also sponsor traveling teams for inter-city competition.

There are many other things that the club does that would have to be classed more as civic than recreation.

#### American Veterans of World War II

The Amvets have very little to do with recreational activities other than for their own members. They have their own club room, bar, and meeting room that is also used for dancing. They sponsor bowling for their members.

#### Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus do a great deal toward recreation. They sponsor two hard ball clubs that play in the Eastern Illinois League and the Junior Eastern Illinois League. The K. of C. have a number of steak and fish fries open to the public. During the summer, they have a two day carnival for the people to help sponsor some of their projects. The K. of C. help by donating money to different activities that give the local boys and girls recreation.

The K. of C. is connected with the Catholic Church. Their meetings are non-recreational in nature, but after the meeting they have different activities for their members. In all, they help a great deal in recreation for both their members and for those that are not a member of the organization.

#### American Legion

The American Legion is for those who have been in the service during wartime. The American Legion supports a baseball team in the American Legion League. The Post 24 team is

sponsored and directed by the American Legion. Most of the legion is for its members and their families. The Legion does not have too many facilities for recreation in their lodge.

#### Veterans of Foreign Wars

To qualify for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, one must have served on sea or foreign soil during time of war. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is mainly for its members and does little unless for a veteran or his family. It does sponsor a bowling team for its members.

#### Masonic Order

The Masonic Lodge does not have much recreation for the public. The Masons are more serious and religious in their nature.

#### Fraternal Order of Eagles

The Eagles is more of a social club and does not carry on too much recreation except for its members. The members in their lodge have different facilities for recreation. They have a club room, card room, meeting hall, and dance floor for its members.

#### Independent and Order of Odd Fellows

The Independent and Order of Odd Fellows has its own lodge building. As a whole, it does not carry on a recreation program or sponsor a recreation program except for a moderate recreational program for its members.

## CHAPTER IX

### COMMERCIAL AGENCIES

#### Stock Car Racing

Every Friday night, there is stock car racing. Mr. Martin, the promotor, tries to have some type of car racing whenever the weather permits.

#### Fishing Camps

A new commercial recreation that has come about in the last few years is fishing camps. Many people in Champaign and vicinity use the fishing camps. Some of the camps feature fishing for "Dad" and a play area for the kids.

#### Billiard Halls and Card Room

In Champaign there are few pool rooms where boys can play pool, snooker, or billiards. Many people enjoy playing pool, and many like to spend their leisure time playing cards. There are four such establishments for those that have the money to play.

#### Bowling Alleys

In Champaign there is only one bowling alley. In Urbana there are two bowling alleys. I have grouped them together because the one bowling alley in Champaign is not large enough to take care of all of those who want to take part. The bowling



alley in Champaign has had the Girls Athletic Association of Champaign Senior High School bowling at the alleys for a number of years.

### Skating Rinks

The only skating rink in Champaign is an ice rink. The ice skating rink is operated by the University of Illinois, but anyone can use the rink. There is a charge to use the rink. There is a roller rink at Urbana. It is the only one in Champaign-Urbana and the immediate vicinity.

### Golf

For those who enjoy golf as a pastime or sport, Champaign has a miniature golf course that is open to the public and there is a driving range in Urbana which also has a miniature course. The University of Illinois has the small nine hole course at the school and a new eighteen hole center at Savoy. Anyone can play by just paying a green fee.

### Aviation

There is an airport at Champaign that is very small but meets the needs of the people. The aviation service of Taynor-Harris has aircraft for rent or hire. The service has days when it will take people up for flights at a reduced rate. There is also an airport in Urbana and one at the University of Illinois at Savoy.

### Archery

There is an archery school operated by Mr. Paul Crist who is available to give instruction to those who desire it. It is a private school and tuition has to be paid.

### Dance Instruction

There are schools where a person can go to receive instruction in dancing. Many people who enjoy dancing attend the school at a reasonable rate. Many youngsters go to the dance schools to learn to tap dance.

### Theatres

In Champaign there are a number of theatres for those who enjoy movie entertainment. Many people use the different movies that are offered in Champaign. Some of the theatres have specials for the children on Saturday mornings during the school year.

## CHAPTER X

### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The details of community recreation in Champaign and vicinity have been pointed out in the preceding pages. The recreation facilities according to national standards do not meet the need of the people as far as being adequate. In the following conclusions and recommendations, it will be pointed out what could be done.

Conclusion 1 There are many different organizations that provide recreation in Champaign. All of the recreation is not organized. The recreation department does not have adequate facilities or money to have a better program. The recreation department is battling finances as well as the people.

Recommendation 1 The recreation board in Champaign should give more support to the recreation department. The present recreation tax, which is .0335, is not sufficient to meet the needs of the people. The tax is not sufficient to pay for the recreation and other departments of the city have to make up the difference. With an additional tax which they could pass by referendum up to the maximum, there could be a better recreational program in Champaign, Illinois.

Conclusion 2 The park board has not purchased land to meet the needs of the people. The parks do not have adequate facilities for recreation. The parks have been mostly for the young and for family picnics. All of the parks do not have any type of shelter houses on the land. They do not have recreational facilities for all age groups at any of the parks.

Recommendation 2 The park board should purchase new lands, for the purpose of new park sights. The park board needs to improve the area and facilities of the existing parks. At the present Champaign has 56 acres of land for parks, and it is recommended that a city the size and population of Champaign have approximately 400 acres for parks. The Champaign park board does have a bond issue up for vote this month, August 1959. The bond issue will help to get new land for parks and to do some of the necessary maintenance on existing parks. The new bond issue is a step in the right direction, but still many new acres need to be acquired to have an adequate amount of land for parks. The city of Champaign does not have a single public swimming pool. There are three pools, but two are private pools and the other belongs to the McKinley Y.M.C.A. Under the new bond issue, it has been proposed to have a new pool. There is a definite need for a pool and the bond up for vote would help the over-all park and recreation facilities a great deal.

Conclusion 3 The people of Champaign are not well informed on what they have in recreation and park facilities. Many of the people do not have enough knowledge about the recreation department to make a good sound judgment about the type of program. The public relation aspect is not adequate in informing the people about what they are doing or what they want to do in their program.

Recommendation 3 The recreation department should keep the people of Champaign informed about their program. The recreation department carries on a year round program at two centers. Due to the lack of facilities, they cannot have an adequate program for all age groups; but they do have many facilities that can be used about which the people in the community are poorly informed.

Conclusion 4 There is a definite lack of adequate facilities and programs for those in the adult-age range. In the programs they have in Champaign, they have overlooked those older than the sixteen year olds. They do have adequate facilities but the recreation department could plan more of a program for all age groups.

Recommendation 4 The recreation department's program should become larger to include all age groups. Added facilities are needed for the adult age groups. Games and activities

and other types of recreation should be included for the adults. The adult or those from age seventeen up should be included in the recreation program and a definite place should be planned in the program for them.

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