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RECREATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF
CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS, CHURCHES, AND SCHOOLS
IN OLNEY, ILLINOIS

Submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the Degree
Master of Science in Education
at Eastern Illinois University


By

Betty McVaigh

July, 1962

This paper has been approved by the Head of the Department of Physical Education (Women) of Eastern Illinois University as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Science in Education Degree.

Approved:



Dr. Florence McAfee
Advisor

Date: July 13, 1962

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Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the role of organizations in developing recreation in Olney, Illinois. The organizations to be considered are composed of social clubs, service clubs, lodges, churches, and schools. Due to the present lack of a year-around program in recreation, organizations are important contributors to wholesome recreational pursuits for all citizens.

It is common knowledge that more and more leisure time is available for recreation than ever before in the history of man's existence. This fact implies that more opportunities for recreation need to be offered: more land purchased for recreational use, more facilities made available, more equipment bought, and more personnel employed. Expenses involved in providing recreation tend to make an ideal city-supported recreation program prohibitive. It is important, then, for every interested organization to take some responsibility for meeting the leisure-time needs of its members and the general public.

"Why should service clubs, civic agencies, parent-teacher associations and other local groups be actively interested in community recreation? Because:

1. Opportunities for wholesome recreation are essential for every individual in every community.
2. Recreation contributes to finer, happier living in home and community.
3. A recreation program under competent leadership makes a community a more wholesome,

healthy and safe place in which to live and bring up children.

4. A community with good recreation opportunities tends to attract homeseekers and new industries.
5. The quality of American citizenship is directly influenced by the use which people make of their leisure time.
6. An organization that contributes to the welfare and happiness of its community thereby gains public support for its own program.
7. Many national organizations have officially recognized the importance of recreation, and have urged its promotion on a community-wide basis."¹

Keeping the above reasons for organizations' participation in community recreation in mind, the writer will attempt to discuss the contributions of organizations to recreation at the present time and suggest plans for expanding these contributions.

However, a brief look at Olney and its present city-supported facilities and program must be surveyed before the need and value of support by organizations can be ascertained. From these existing conditions, facilities, and programs will come the basis for judging the aid to recreation by the organizations involved.

1

Pamphlet, Recreation for Your Community. Published by the National Recreation Association, Inc., 1954, p. 4.

Chapter I

A Brief Look at Olney and its City-Supported Recreation

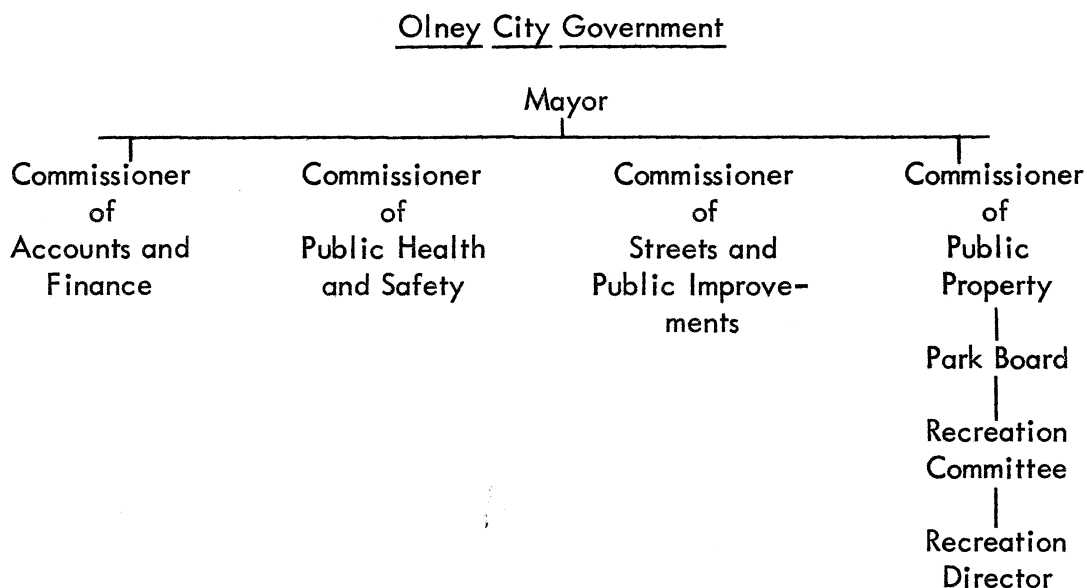
Olney is located in southern Illinois, 125 miles east of St. Louis and 30 miles west of Vincennes, Indiana. The city has a population of 10,000. Industries include the International Shoe Company, American Machine and Foundry Company (Jr. Toy Division), and Kex Manufacturing Company (makers of automobile supplies). Approximately 1,000 people are employed in these three industries. Other businesses in Olney include the Kralis Poultry Company, Ainsbrooke Dress Company, and many companies associated with the oil industry.

The school system in Olney includes three elementary schools, one Junior high school, and one Senior high school. The high school has a capacity of 960 students and serves both the city and the outlying areas. At the present time, a Junior college is being proposed and will be located directly across from the city park on Route 130, according to current plans.

The city reservoir and new lake are municipally owned, and the lake is well suited for water sports. A nine-hole golf course is available for members and guests of the Richland Country Club. Two bowling centers, two theatres, and a skating rink are among the commercial assets of the city.

The city tax-supported recreation program in Olney is under the authority

2
of the Park Board. The relationship of the recreation program to the city government can be shown by the following chart:



Five members serve on the Park Board. The purpose is to allocate the monies from the Park Maintenance and Recreation tax. This tax is levied at the rate of one-half mill per one hundred dollars personal property assessment. The actual amount of revenue for recreation varies from \$12,000 to \$15,000 per year. The Board meets an average of six times each year to elect officers, make the budget and submit it to the city for approval, and consider other pertinent business. Each member serves a three-year term. Budget money is distributed for use in the park.

The original transfer of property dated November 27, 1886, describes the park ground which was obtained. No additions to park property have been made since this time.

"The Richland County Fair Association of the city of Olney in the County of Richland and State of Illinois for and in consideration of Eight Thousand Twenty Six and 96/100 Dollars, in hand paid . . . to the City of Olney, County of Richland and State of Illinois the following described Real Estate: All that part of the West half of the Southwest quarter of Section Thirty four (34) Township Four (4) North Range Ten (10) East, lying North of St. John Street in the City of Olney being Fifty five (55) acres more or less."³

Each of the five Park Board members is responsible for a particular area of the park and facilities and buildings in that area.

The swimming pool with its adjacent dressing rooms, concession stand, and rest rooms is under the supervision of board member Aaron Preston.⁴ The capacity of the pool allows for one hundred fifty people, although as many as two hundred have used the pool simultaneously. Personnel involved in regular open swimming hours consists of the pool manager, three life guards, and two workers who accept admission fees and sell concessions.

⁵ Robert Bass, Park Board member who is responsible for tennis facilities and tournaments, volunteered the following information: Olney has three tennis courts in the park. The courts are asphalt with a concrete base and green paint covers the asphalt. Mr. Bass and the park custodian maintain the courts, nets, signs, etc. The Park Board sponsors a tennis tournament every summer. The tournament is open

³ From the Office of the Circuit Clerk, County Courthouse, Olney, Illinois, Book 21, page 139.

⁴ Interview with Aaron Preston, Park Board member, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

⁵ Interview with Robert Bass, Park Board member, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

to all citizens of Olney with separate divisions for junior, intermediate, and senior participants. Mr. Bass is responsible for the publicity and obtaining awards for the tournament. The tournament scheduling is done by a senior participant. A recent addition to the tennis area was a water fountain constructed for the players. There are no lights for night playing.

Also situated on the park grounds are a race track, amphitheatre, and barns. Mark Hanna⁶ is supervisor of this area as a member of the board. He, himself, contributes much of the repair work and upkeep to the buildings. The capacity of the amphitheatre is 1800. The race track is one-half mile. The Park Board leases the grounds to the Fair Board for the annual Richland County Fair.

Walter Kester⁷ takes the responsibility for all park ground and buildings except the swimming pool, band shell, and racing facilities. A full time park custodian is hired and lives on park ground. Together, these men take care of repairs, additions to facilities, etc. In addition, the custodian rents the community house to groups who may desire its use. The community house is a one-room brick structure used for meetings. During the Fair, it becomes a display center. Street and cemetery crew workers sometimes help with the labor required for maintenance of the grounds.

6

Interview with Mark Hanna, Park Board member, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

7

Interview with Walter Kester, Park Board member, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

8

Howard Summers is president of the Park Board and is supervisor of baseball and football grounds and leagues. The park has two diamonds and an area for football. Little League and Babe Ruth League teams are a part of the summer recreation program but are under Mr. Summer's jurisdiction. The recreation director is not involved with this phase of the program.

In addition to the facilities and areas in the park which have been discussed, three other areas need to be mentioned. There are two play areas for small children. One play area has the following equipment: one slide, eight swings, one merry-go-round, one teeter totter, and one teeter swing. The other play area has four swings. The third area includes a Girl Scout cabin at the north side of the park. Meetings and summer camp are held in the cabin.

9

The summer recreation director, Gene McFarland, is employed by the Park Board to supervise the activities in the summer program except for baseball. The program includes swimming, from beginning classes through senior life saving; archery; tennis; and handicrafts will be offered, when a qualified person is obtainable for this latter position. During the summer of 1961, swimming classes averaged 30 pupils per instructor with a total of approximately 689 participants; 153 pupils took advantage of tennis lessons and 30 enrolled in archery classes. There was a total of 872 boys and girls in the program. All equipment and

8

Interview with Howard Summers, Park Board President, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

9

Interview with Gene McFarland, Director of Summer Recreation and Physical Education Instructor at East Richland High School, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

facilities for the summer program are available in the park. Only children from age 7 through 15 may take advantage of summer recreation except for swimming. The advanced courses in swimming are open to older citizens.

Another city tax levied in Olney is the Band tax. One-half mill per \$100 personal property tax assessment assures the city of band concerts in the summer

10

months. Gus Sliva, director of the band, disclosed that the band concerts have been in existence since the tax was first levied about 1878; and the band concerts have been performed continually except for the years of World War II. Personnel for the concerts are adults, college students, and high school students.

11

Loren Kent has volunteered to help with concerts for the past forty years. He is not reimbursed for his efforts, but likes to donate his services in this manner. He does the actual buying of equipment; organizes personnel; contracts with the city for nine concerts at the band shell in the park; and contracts for two concerts, one during the Richland County Fair and one at the Memorial Day Parade. He also supervises the physical repairs and upkeep of the band shell and surrounding area. Attendance at the summer concerts vary from 200 to 500 at each performance.

In summary, the 55 acre park in Olney is directed by the Park Board. The Board provides for a summer recreation program which uses the facilities of the

10

Interview with Gus Sliva, Band Director and Band Instructor at East Richland High School, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

11

Interview with Loren Kent, Barber and Citizen of Olney, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

park. Many services to the park are donated by Board members and interested citizens since the recreation budget is not adequate for hiring more personnel. Under a separate tax, band concerts are possible in the summer for the enjoyment of Olney citizens. The band also plays for a parade and the Fair.

Chapter II

Recreation Activities of Organizations

12

Fifty civic organizations in Olney were contacted, either by personal interview or by written questionnaire, in order to ascertain each organization's contribution to recreation. Thirty four replies were received. Each club representative was asked to identify activities of his club in addition to regular club meetings which may be considered aiding recreation for members or other citizens. The following clubs or organizations replied:

American Legion Post #30.--The Post sponsors a Christmas dinner for members and their families. After dinner a Santa Claus passes out treats to all children. Six dances are sponsored during the year for members and guests. Admission to most dances is fifty cents per person; New Year's Eve dance is one dollar per person. The Post also sponsors a baseball team at a cost of approximately \$600 each season. Christmas baskets are distributed to needy families each

13

Christmas.

American Legion Auxiliary.--The Auxiliary provides a bingo party for

12

Mimeographed Material, Civic Organizations, by Chamber of Commerce, Olney, Illinois.

13

Interview with Loren Cammon, Post Commander, American Legion Post #30, and Superintendent of Schools, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

patients at Marion Veterans' Hospital. They furnish 160 prizes and musical entertainment for the patients. The members also make 1200 tray favors for the Veterans' hospital. A Christmas party is given for members and Junior members with recreation included in the program. Junior members and Girl Scouts sing carols at the Nativity Scene on the Courthouse lawn before Christmas. ¹⁴

Beta Sigma Phi.--Two members of this sorority make a visit each month to a nursing home in Olney. ¹⁵

Business and Professional Women's Club.--No activities offered outside of regular meetings. ¹⁶

Chamber of Commerce.--No activities offered outside of regular meetings. ¹⁷

Clio Club.--This club is a federated woman's club with cultural and educational interests. Local talent performs as the Clio Christmas Vespers. Members in the Vespers sing annually at the Methodist Church. The public is invited. ¹⁸

Delta Theta Tau.--This social sorority offers no activities outside of regular

14

Interview with Margaret Kocher, President, American Legion Auxiliary, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

15

Interview with Mary Miller, President, Beta Sigma Phi, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

16

Interview with Lillian Coleman, Member, Business and Professional Women's Club, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

17

Interview with Billie Bender, Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

18

Interview with Alice Lorenz, President, Clio Club, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

19
meetings.

Desk and Derrick Club.--This is a special interest club composed of secretaries whose purpose is to learn more about the oil industry. Each secretary takes her employer to dinner annually.

20

Eagles Auxiliary.--No activities outside of regular club meetings.

21

Elks Lodge #926.--The Lodge sponsors one bowling team for men and one team for women members. A teen center is provided in the Elks building. The center is open several nights weekly for teenagers. The center includes a snack bar and a dance floor. Ladies' card parties and Mom and Pop parties are offered monthly for members, plus weekly bingo. Dances are held for members.

22

Extension Council.--This council is affiliated with the Farm Bureau and offers no activities outside of regular club meetings.

23

Farm Bureau.--This organization cooperates with district and state and national efforts to sponsor a Talent Find and a Sports Festival. As the names suggest,

19
Interview with Eva Rule, President, Delta Theta Tau, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

20
Interview with Billie Bender, Member, Desk and Derrick Club, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

21
Interview with Norma Wheat, President, Eagles Auxiliary, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

22
Interview with Al Welker, President, Elks Lodge #926, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

23
Interview with Monty Berry, President, Extension Council, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

the Talent Find consists of talent competition at each level. The Sports Festival²⁴ offers a great variety of sports for children and adult participation.

Forty et Eight.--Members of this club served in France in World War I. They sponsor two boys to Boys' State in Springfield, Illinois, each year. They²⁵ also sponsor a banquet for members and their wives.

Girl Scouts.--Day camping at the city park is one activity of this group in the summer. The girls sing carols for oldsters in the nursing homes at Christmas²⁶ and make tray favors for the hospital in Olney.

Home Bureau.--Craft meetings are held on alternate months for interested members. Crafts include leather work, making marbles, and textile painting.²⁷ These projects are made as gifts for hospital patients or sold at bazaars.

Hospital Auxiliary.--The Auxiliary has in the past offered a library cart which was wheeled to each patient's room. Books for this use were donated by the public library. However, due to the crowded conditions in the hospital, this²⁸ service has been discontinued temporarily.

24

Interview with Joe Rudolphi, Secretary, Farm Bureau, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

25

Interview with Don Parrott, President, Forty et Eight, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

26

Interview with Mrs. John Brown, Board President, Girl Scouts, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

27

Interview with Joan Mellican, Home Adviser for Richland County, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

28

Interview with Lillian Coleman, President, Hospital Auxiliary, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

Jaycees.--The Jaycees sponsor a Youth Jamboree in conjunction with the Illinois Youth Commission. Girls and boys, ages 10 through 15, compete in track events and swimming at the local, state, and national level. A sectional jamboree was sponsored by Olney Jaycees this past year with 350 children participating. Other activities include sponsoring the Teenage Rodeo, Miss Richland County, and professional basketball team performances. Before Christmas each year, the Jaycees give money to underprivileged children between ages 6 and 13. Each child is then taken on a Christmas shopping trip. After shopping, a party is given for the children by the Jaycees. Members of this organization also play kitten ball at local, bi-district, and state level. They also sponsor a tennis tournament which is held at state and national level. In the summer of 1961, 40 boys and girls between ages 10 and 17 entered this tournament. Local businessmen financed the tourney.

Kiwanis.--The annual Easter egg hunt in the park is sponsored by the Kiwanis members. Approximately 1,500 children participate from ages 6 to 12. The Halloween parade with prizes for winners is another activity of the club. They also offer prizes to each school for the best halloween posters. In addition, Kiwanis sponsors a baseball team and has a Christmas party for underprivileged children.

29

Interview with Robert Bass, Member, Jaycees, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

30

Interview with John Scanavino, Member of Jaycees and Tennis Coach at East Richland High School, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

31

Interview with V.M. Lorenz, President, Kiwanis, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

Knights of Columbus.--Actually an affiliate club of the Knights, called the "Columbus Club," carries on the social and recreation aspects of the organization. Approximately 12 dances for members and invited guests are held during the year with an average attendance of 200. One teen-age activity is planned during the year for sons and daughters of members and guests. Numerous picnics, fish fries, and covered dish dinners are held during the year for members and their families.

32

33

Masons.--No activities publicized.

Moose Auxiliary.--Although the primary function of this organization is to help sponsor the Mooseheart home for children at Mooseheart, Illinois, they also sponsor a bowling team and a girl scout troop.

34

35

Olney Garden Club.--No activities outside of regular club meetings.

Olney Women's Club.--This club sponsors a girl scout troop and sponsors a boy in college.

36

32

Interview with Louis Sohoney, President, Knights of Columbus, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

33

Interview with Charles Ahlfield, President, Masons, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

34

Interview with Mrs. Hubert Williams, President, Moose Auxiliary, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

35

Interview with Lillian Coleman, Member, Olney Garden Club, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

36

Interview with Marjorie Hanes, President, Olney Women's Club, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

Petroleum Club.--Members of this club are employees of oil companies whose primary purpose is to learn more about the petroleum industry. Although the Club does not take a direct part in recreation, it makes donations to the Boy Scouts, baseball, Shriner's crippled children, and Shriner's hospital.

Professional Registered Nurses Association.--The Nurses sponsor the Future Nurses' Club at East Richland High School. A major project of the FNC is working as aides (called candy strippers) at the local hospital. The high school girls serve food to the patients, make beds, and entertain patients.

Rebekah Lodge.--Ham and bean suppers are held in order to support Homes at Mattoon and Lincoln, Illinois. The Lodge also has a Christmas party for members, their families, and friends.

Red Cross.--The Red Cross offers no activity of a recreational nature. However, they finance the training of First Aid and Water Safety instructors used in the summer recreation program.

Richland County Medical Society.--No activities outside of regular meetings.

37

Interview with Delbert Runyan, President, Petroleum Club, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

38

Interview with Alice Godeke, President, Professional Registered Nurses Association, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

39

Interview with Christina Bohrer, President, Rebekah Lodge, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

40

Interview with Elmer K. Smith, President, Red Cross, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

41

Interview with Dr. DeKonessey, President, Richland County Medical Society, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

Rotary Club.--Once a year the Rotary challenges the Kiwanis to a soft-ball game as a benefit for Babe Ruth or Little League teams. Members of Rotary play golf matches with other Rotary Clubs. Many leaders of the baseball leagues are Rotarians.

Rural Youth.--This group meets once a month in the community house in the park or in the Farm Bureau building. Purposes of the club are educational and recreational. Members rotate their services as a recreation committee for each meeting. Once a year "officers' training school" is held in which Rural Youth members train recreation leaders of the 4-H Clubs. Rural Youth may also compete in the Talent Find and Sports Festival.

Salvation Army.--No activities that are of a recreational nature.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.--The women of this organization sponsor a Brownie troop, aid the hospital one month a year, and make trips to Marion Hospital to take cigarettes and games to patients.

World War I Auxiliary.--No activities outside of regular club meetings.

42

Interview with Rod Kelley, President, Rotary Club, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

43

Interview with Joan Mellican, Home Adviser for Richland County, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

44

Interview with Bill Shipley, President, Salvation Army, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

45

Interview with Laura Berry, President, V.F.W. Auxiliary, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

46

Interview with Grace McVaigh, Member, World War I Auxiliary, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

Besides the list of organizations presented, other groups make contributions to recreation. Among these groups are the 4-H clubs, schools, and churches.

The 4-H Clubs have many activities in addition to regular club meetings. West Frankfort offers a week of 4-H camp during the summer for interested members. A unique feature in Olney during the summer of 1961 was a day camp for members in Richland County. The camp was located at Miller's Grove at the north side of Olney. Classes in crafts, nature, and games were provided. Home Bureau members furnished food and donated money for other expenses. The cost to each 4-H member was 25¢ per day. 4-H members may also join in the "Share the Fun" Festival held annually. Each club introduces a skit, and judges select one to send to the Springfield State Fair. The Festival is open to the public, and many people are present for the evening of entertainment.

Each parent-teacher association in Olney's three public elementary schools was contacted concerning recreational possibilities. Only one response was obtained, this being from the North Silver Street School. No recreation was provided outside of regular meetings.

East Richland High School helps both directly and indirectly with recreation for the city. Directly, the music groups are very active in community service.

47

Interview with Joan Mellican, Home Adviser for Richland County, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

48

Interview with President, North Silver Street School Parent and Teachers Association, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

The groups sing and play for large audiences at basketball and football games, march in parades, perform at banquets, sing at the hospital, and also play for other civic enterprises. In addition to the music groups, one physical education teacher for men and one physical education teacher for women conduct evening adult education classes once a week for at least two and one-half hours. The classes continue for approximately 12 weeks. The class time is used for exercises, posture training, volleyball games, and other activities.

Indirectly, the school provides recreation by allowing youth groups to use the gymnasium on Saturday mornings with a teacher or supervisor present. No activities are scheduled for Sunday. The three tennis courts, property of the high school, are open for public use whenever school groups are not using them. However, there are no lights on the tennis courts for night use.

The writer did not attempt to interview each church group since it may be surmised that each church's primary purpose is the promotion of religion and any recreational activities would be primarily for church members of a particular denomination only. There is a church basketball league for men in which some church members participate. Also, some churches sponsor men and women's bowling teams, while other churches are opposed to bowling as a form of recreation.

49

Interview with Gus Sliva, Band Director, East Richland High School, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

50

Interview with Gail Lathrop, Principal, East Richland High School, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

51

Interview with Kathleen Mattoon, Mattoon's Olney Bowling Center, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

Chapter III

Summary and Suggestions for Organizations

Community recreation is of necessity thought of in very broad terms. Recreation for one individual may be work for another individual or group. For purposes of clarity two aspects of recreation will be discussed separately: participation and service types of recreation. Participation activities include the active recreational pursuits in which an organization engages directly for its own members and other groups. In this category would fall sports, dance, crafts, and other activities generally considered to be recreation. However, service to others as a humanitarian duty may also be recreation for the volunteers and may result in recreation for the individual or group served. "One of the highest forms of recreation is to use part of one's leisure to do something for someone else."⁵² Service activities include visiting the ill, sponsoring events for others, conducting surveys for the community, etc.

The following charts attempt to illustrate more clearly most of the recreation pursuits of three groups of citizens based on the organization interviews and the city recreation program. Grouped are elementary school children from ages seven to twelve, high school adolescents from ages thirteen to eighteen, and adults. The activities have been placed in the season of the year in which they

fall. Following the high school age and adult age participation-type recreation are lists of services offered to others by the particular age group.

Recreation for 7-12 Age Group

FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	PARTICIPANTS
School Activities				All
Boy and Girl Scouts				All members
4-H				All members
			Recreation Program	All
Halloween Parade			Band Concerts	All
		Easter Egg Hunt		All
			JC Jamboree	Ages 10-15
			JC Tennis Tourney	Ages 10-17

Recreation for 13-18 Age Group

FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER	PARTICIPANTS
School Activities				All
Teen Center				All
Boy and Girl Scouts				All members
4-H and Rural Youth				All members
			Recreation Program (swim only)	All
			Band Concerts	All

Services:

Candy Stripers (high school girls who are members of Future Nurses Club and work at hospital)

Recreation training (service provided by Rural Youth for 4-H recreation leaders)

The 7 through 12 age group may be considered the most fortunate of the three groups as recipients of recreational opportunities. The summer recreation program was particularly designed for this age group. Coupled with school activities during the year, children through twelve years of age are reasonably well provided for regarding their leisure time. Boy and Girl Scout clubs add to constructive use of leisure.

Adolescents considered in the chart (age 13-18) of course engage in more hobbies and clubs connected with the school. Some club meetings are after school or in the evening. Athletic events for boys are very time-consuming. Unfortunately, the summer recreation program does not include this age group except for swimming. Swimmers may work up through a Senior Lifesaving rating in the program. The Elks teen center is open several evenings during the week. Two drawbacks make a limited attendance at the center: the fact that the center is located in the same building as the Elks bar, and the limited facilities in the center. At the present time only a snack bar and dance floor exist. Boy and Girl Scout troops attract some adolescents in this age group, but interest is waning. In the summer months the Jaycee tennis tournament and the Teenage Rodeo attract some participants. Camps for 4-H, Rural Youth, and Boy and Girl Scouts are available. Virtually no activities are provided for adolescents during the school year aside from the teen center and the school. For most students these activities may be adequate. However, the summer for non-swimmers and non-tennis players may be a long one. The writer has noticed a limited attendance at summer band concerts from this age group, although some high school

students perform in the band. The Sports Festival and Talent Find are limited to farmers and their families. Few Olney citizens are farmers.

Adults have least supervised recreation in Olney. Members of various clubs may attend dances, and occasionally dances of a particular club or lodge are open to the public. Adults may bowl through membership in a sponsoring club or church group. Rotary and Kiwanis play one softball game for the public, along with any practices that may precede the game. Adult physical education classes are helpful for adults interested in sports and exercise. Only Home Bureau members may indulge in craft work through their present program. The summer band concerts attract a large adult attendance. In summary, adult active participation in organized recreation is very limited.

Due to the present programs of recreation in Olney as outlined previously, there is a definite need for expanding recreation opportunities for all citizens. Especially is this true of the adult population. Probably the most efficient and coordinated method of providing sufficient recreation would be through the services of a full-time recreation director. This would entail expenses for salaries of the director and his aides and expenses for additional buildings and facilities. Unfortunately, at the present time the city recreation budget does not allow for such a program.

Organizations can do more toward compensating for the lack of a full-time recreation program. If each of the organizations interviewed would provide one recreation event for a special interest group or the general public in addition to their present activities, approximately thirty-five new vistas to recreation would

open. This would break down to an average of about three events every month. Under such action, recreation for Olney would be boosted tremendously.

There are many ways organizations can contribute to leisure-time pursuits. One way is through the hiring or volunteering of a specialist in a given field. For instance, the Home Bureau advanced crafts work for its members. Other organizations may do the same for their members or the public. Other ideas for participation include: woodworking projects; social dance lessons; square and folk dancing; music appreciation and performing groups; hobbies of collecting items; outdoor nature hikes, reading, writing, and speaking groups, drama clubs; sports participation.

Projects as a service to others may be feasible. One of the most outstanding examples recently was the Hospital Auxiliary's efforts in raising funds to equip the Olney Hospital with complete air conditioning. Other efforts involving the hospital may include story-telling to patients, writing letters for patients unable to write, and providing recreation in the form of donating toys and time to play with young patients.

"The medical profession does recognize the important therapeutic values of good morale and a sense of well being brought about through programs of recreation. As a result, hospital administrators are instituting programs of recreation for hospital patients."⁵⁴

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Interview with Lillian Coleman, President, Hospital Auxiliary, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

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Jenny, John H., Introduction to Recreation Education, p. 204.

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Mrs. Mary Hendershott explained that the turnover of patients at the Olney Hospital is great, and that no recreation is needed of a long-standing type. She said reading and story-telling groups would be of value. Flowers and tray favors are popular items to send to the hospital patients from various groups.

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More services can be rendered to nursing homes. At Mark's Nursing Home, a television set has been provided for the people on the ground floor. However, the upstairs floor has no television set. Church groups provide singing. According to Una Burgin Tarpley, Burgin Nursing Homes 1 and 2 are equipped with many radios and television sets. More newspaper and magazines for this group may be a possibility. Golden Years Nursing Home is also equipped with radios and television sets. Most patients have their own newspapers and magazines. One possible service suggested by Lillian Coleman

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Interview with Mrs. Mary Hendershott, Director of Nurses, Olney Hospital, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

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Interview with Betty Walker, Administrative Secretary, Olney Hospital, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

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Interview with Jesse Lambert, Nurses Aid, Mark's Nursing Home, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

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Interview with Una Burgin Tarpley, Citizen, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

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Interview with Francis Davis, Nurse's Aid, Golden Years Nursing Home, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

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Interview with Lillian Coleman, President, Hospital Auxiliary, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

is for interested volunteers to take nursing home patients for short car rides. Many patients who are able to enjoy such a venture may consider such a service to be a high light of their advanced life.

As mentioned in Chapter 1, the playground facilities are made up of only standard equipment such as swings, slides, etc. All equipment is colored in the drab grey painted at the factory from which it came. An idea for color comes from Radke's ⁶¹ article. He suggested painting slides and swings with candy-striped red and white paint over a coat of white enamel. An organization could donate a few quarts of paint and time to this project for both play areas. The effect gained would surely enhance the play areas and surrounding environment.

Playground facilities need to be expanded in the park. Lukashok and Lynch ⁶² discuss types of play areas children want. These include trees and foliage, space, lawns or dirt to dig and mold, hills, big transportation vehicles, and water areas. From this list of "wants," possibilities for improving the present play areas are almost unlimited. One truck load of dirt donated for making a hill would provide much enjoyment at little expense. The Jaycees ⁶³ in one particular city donated much money and labor in providing a giant mound of earth, sand play areas, and sculptured-form equipment for a playground. An

⁶¹ Radke, William H., "A Touch of Color," American City, June, 1958, p. 27.

⁶² Lukashok, Alvin, Lynch, Kevin, "What Types of Play Areas Do Children Want?", American City, June, 1957, p. 15.

⁶³ Warren, Charles F., " 'Dennis the Menace' Playground," American City, February, 1957, p. 202.

old fire engine, plane, or other vehicle with dangerous parts removed might be made accessible by an interested person. New types of play equipment may be made or donated. Centralia, Illinois, has attractive play areas in the city's south side park. The modern forms have been painted bright colors such as red and yellow which attract a big participation group of youngsters. Interested organizations can find much printed material on playground equipment, or they can use their own imaginations to improve the present areas.

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Three men wrote an article discussing the growing importance of recreation for the Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish peoples as projected ten years from now. (The article was published in 1960.) Each representative from the three faiths is assured of the expanding need for recreational outlets for his members. One way in which church groups can help the recreation program is discussed by Tully. He suggested that religious organizations have the right to speak for or against community recreation. He also mentioned that verbal and written support should be given to the recreation programs of other groups by religious organizations.

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Parent-Teachers Associations could do more about providing recreation. Suggested playground equipment for the park may be extended to include the same type of facilities for the elementary school playgrounds. Other recreation,

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Barr, Earl R., Hartman, Maurice M., Solender, Sanford, "Recreation and Church Groups," Recreation, January, 1960, p. 47.

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Tully, Robert, "They Work Together," Recreation, January, 1961, p. 17.

as participation or as service, would be essentially the same for this group as for other organizations.

East Richland High School promotes recreation by the use of facilities when possible. Rent varies with facilities used up to a maximum of \$75. Community groups which do not charge admission to their events may use the gymnasium at a \$20 minimum charge. Physical education teachers also cooperate through offering adult classes.

In the previous discussions, some ideas have been expressed for adding to the recreational possibilities in Olney. However, it must be emphasized that any service or recreation provided should go through proper channels. For example, any service rendered to the park must get approval of the Park Board. Besides the fact that the Board is the authority on matters concerning the park, it may also be of considerable help in offering suggestions for park improvement. Cooperation, then, is the key to a successful recreation improvement plan. Butler says:

". . . there is much to be gained by cooperative planning and action on the part of all agencies furnishing recreation, public and private, to the end that the greatest opportunities for wholesome and satisfying recreation may be extended to all."⁶⁷

In a particular city discussed by Hendrick, cooperation is realized through

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Interview with Gail Lathrop, Principal, East Richland High School, Olney, Illinois, 1962.

67

Butler, George D., Introduction to Community Recreation, p. 46.

an eight-page bulletin announcing the season's activities of community organizations together with the recreation program. "Our special emphasis in providing recreation is interagency cooperation."⁶⁸

There are many examples of cooperation and contributions toward recreation in Olney. As has been previously mentioned, Mr. Loren Kent has aided recreation through his volunteer work with the summer band program for the past forty years. The Hospital Auxiliary has accomplished a big service through raising funds for air conditioning the hospital. The Park Board members spend much time and work on their particular areas of the park. The Board is in the process of adding the fourth tennis court at this time. Also, plans are being made to flood a baseball diamond in the winter to use as an ice skating rink. Plastic material has been ordered for this purpose.

One organization president interviewed by the writer said her club is doing little to aid recreation, but she expressed a desire to do more through participation-type recreation and through service. Another individual expressed the view that organizations are willing to cooperate on endeavors to make a better community.

In addition to the organizations discussed in this paper, there are many more which were not interviewed. Probably many worth-while recreation activities have been promoted and carried out by these organizations and individuals that are not mentioned in this paper. Also the organizations that have been

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Hendrick, Myron N., "Fun is the Feature," American City, March, 1958, p. 35.

discussed may have had many more activities of a recreational nature than were specified during the interviews.

In general, the writer found that organizations in Olney are contributing to leisure-time pursuits for citizens. Many individuals donate both time and money to help develop recreation. Some organizations provide many different types of recreation for members and other citizens. Both participation and service types of recreation are offered. However a few organizations can do more toward providing recreation. Suggestions include developing park and school play areas; providing services for nursing homes and hospitals; and obtaining specialists for active participation in crafts, dancing and hobbies. Through cooperative, enthusiastic members of organizations in Olney, these organizations can continue to provide more recreation for their citizens.

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