

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

428 SOUTH FIRST STREET

LOUISVILLE, KY.

February 2, 1937

My dear Family:

Yesterday brought in our first mail - the first for over a week. During this flood no trains could come in or go out of the city. All of our stations were practically submerged. The one at Tenth and Broadway faired better than the rest but could not be reached on account of the flooded conditions of the southern section.

Rumors were very startling a week ago last Wednesday during the "Follow-Your-Dollar" exhibit. Friday morning, January 22, the exhibit was to have closed officially and the Community Chest drive was to begin at 6 o'clock that evening with a grand banquet at the Armory with 1,200 people present. Friday morning the word went forth that the banquet was called off on account of the flood. What really happened that night was that 250 refugees were housed at the Armory instead.

Jan. 22nd
Friday morning a call came from the Welfare Department of the City Hall asking if Neighborhood House could lend its facilities if necessary on account of the flood. Of course, I said yes. Friday evening about 6, a W.P.A. worker, representing the Welfare Department, came in to look over the quarters and said that they would do. I went back at once into the boys' locker room in the gymnasium and we cleared the deck to establish a kitchen there. As it happened, this kitchen proved rather inadequate and very soon the stage of our gym was turned into a kitchen. After clearing for the kitchen we brought over any number of ten foot table tops and horses to support them to spread about the gym floor. The W.P.A. sent in cooks and helpers. The N.Y.A. established at Neighborhood House headed up the work. It grew by leaps and bounds. Monday about 4000 were fed from our gym; Tuesday 7000; Wednesday 10,000. We furnished meals for people of various types - for a group of 12 marooned in one section of the city; for a high school housing 600 refugees; for the refugees at first at the Armory, they soon numbered 1000; straight along we fed the workers at the City Hall. At first there were 600 of these and we furnished four meals a day there - morning, noon, night, and mid-night. We fed the men who built the pontoon bridge. Mr. Moll, who built the bridge, said he was going to put up a sign, "Built by Moll and fed by Neighborhood House." Of course, this wasn't done. But the 250 men who built the bridge were given three meals a day here. By Thursday the situation was gotten pretty well in hand.

At first, Neighborhood House loaned not only its rooms, but also some of its plates, cups, saucers, and various kitchen utensils.

The water, in due process of time, filled our basement, which meant a very cold house for us with the furnace out of commission. The water also came up about 19 feet on our front walk to the very door step leading up to the house. I discovered that our chief virtue was that we were on high ground. The back gate was left open and the trucks furnished by the city and individuals, chugged in all day and night. A fire was kept burning day and night, burning all the accumulation of paper boxes and trash. The garbage, for a time, was heaped on a nearby lot to the north of the alley that runs by Christ Church.

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For the first three or four days a lot of people came to the house for food. These, however, were discouraged from continuing with the exception of the many drivers of trucks and others looking after some phase of the work. It was estimated that we fed about 500 a day for a number of days.

About Tuesday, the report went forth that there wasn't a loaf of bread in Louisville. This was due to a lard shortage and also to the fact that both bakeries and packing houses were under water. At this time we opened up a second kitchen in the Lucy Belknap building and also used the kitchen in our own house to help out. One woman made biscuits all day in the Lucy Belknap building and Evelyn made them all afternoon in our own kitchen.

The whole business had many interesting aspects. One day when the call went forth for some meat to make soup, three cows were sent in. Mr. Kahn asked the Miller's Restaurant, facing Second Street, if they could handle the cooking of this meat. This they gladly did.

At first, there was such wild excitement. Some of those who offered machines and were supposed to take food to the marooned took it other places. In one instance, 100 steaks were lost. Many orders went amiss. (I think a lot of people who had the opportunity feathered their own nests).

We began to close out at Neighborhood House about Saturday. Other kitchens were opening in various parts of the city and the emergency was over.

The Red Cross considers this the greatest disaster they have ever handled and they said that the first feeding was handled better than they had ever seen it before and the major part of the feeding was attended to here at Neighborhood House. These are some of the reports I have had.

It was pretty bad to be without heat, except for some coal oil stoves; with gas that couldn't be depended on; to have no light except candles, some electric lanterns and coal oil lamps and lanterns; and to do without water except for one hour a day when we filled all we could (this always had to be boiled).

With all the food for the canteen we fared very well because much came in as gifts and much was confiscated and much was purchased. I am now trying to pick up the pieces. I tried to hold on to the situation as best I could but it was pretty difficult at times with strange men bobbing in at every door at all times of the day or night.

I was amused that Sarah advised me to drop a postal card every day. This would have been quite useless with no mail going out. I thought telegrams and the telephone would be very satisfactory.

The flood is still high but is subsiding more rapidly each day and if the engineers and sanitary experts can take the situation in hand we ought to get back to normal pretty soon. It was certainly a doleful sight to have every store and school, church and institution closed. Many of the schools and churches were used to house people and some of them are now being used as hospitals.

Will write when I can.

Much love, especially for Mamma
Frances *Jing* *Sarah*

March 23, 1937

Miss Lillie M. Peck, Secretary
National Federation of Settlements
147 Avenue B
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Peck:

I shall await with interest news of
the Philadelphia situation.

The Halleck Hall paper I mentioned
to you is enclosed. Please make sugges-
tions for its use. Might it find a place
in the Recreation Magazine of the National
Playground Association?

I am looking forward to seeing you
in Bloomington.

Much affection,

Frances Ingram

*P.S.
I sent the mimeographed material
by Mrs. Hill to list (I sent you)
of contributors to the flood fund
7-9.*

55026

**THE WATERS OF THE OHIO RECEDE!
THE SPIRIT OF LOUISVILLE ARISES!**

TRUSTING IN GOD; BY COURAGE, BY FAITH, BY WORKING TOGETHER,
WE WILL BUILD A BETTER AND A GREATER LOUISVILLE

The Filson Historical Society

55 x 2 1/2
---MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON MORALE---

SURVEY ASSOCIATES
The Survey — Survey Graphic
112 East 19 Street · New York

June 4, 1937

Dear Miss Ingram:

Of all years, this flood year is not one in which Neighborhood House should take on outside obligations. But that you did, that you joined Survey Associates in this 25th anniversary year of ours, is something I shall always prize.

Thank you so much for your covering letter of May 13 which I had not read when I saw you at Bloomington. And heard you. For you really did a marvelous thing in your paper in letting us share something of those experiences of yours and the feel of the people in standing up to disaster.

Sincerely,



Paul Kellogg
Editor

Miss Frances Ingram

pk js f

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This chapter
should be labeled
emergencies
Neighborhood -
Family -
disaster at
Hickman

good copy

1.

The Story of the Neighborhood House Canteen

In ~~January~~ 1937 Louisville was swept by the most devastating flood in its history. Neighborhood House was strategically located for serving the city during this catastrophe, and for nine days its facilities tried to meet the imperative urgency of every alarming hour of the flood. The Welfare Department of the City of Louisville asked for the use of the facilities of Neighborhood House. A kitchen was made ready in the locker of the gymnasium and tables were set up on horses in the gymnasium. Our job was to feed the hungry. Two days later, this kitchen was moved to the stage of the gymnasium; still later all kitchens of Neighborhood House were used for canteen service.

On January 23rd, 200 meals were served in the gymnasium and 900 meals were sent to workers at the City Hall where four meals a day were served to about 600 individuals - both night and day workers; to families marooned in their homes; to refugee groups marooned in the Armory, in high schools and in other temporary quarters; later to the 250 workers who built our pontoon bridge.

All day boats docked at our front entrance and all day and all night trucks backed in through the rear gate of our playground bringing supplies and both day and night our eighteen stoves kept food going to refugee centers. The back waters met the river in many places so that the unpredictable wet and dry spots close together made relief difficult throughout the city.

At about six o'clock on that first bleak morning of our canteen service, provisions were sent in, workers arrived to prepare breakfast, and a truck driver brought a load of refugees he thought should be fed before they were taken to a housing center. Only a few refugees were brought to Neighborhood House and those only to be fed before being taken on to a refugee center. All day long good friends of Neighborhood House called to volunteer their services to help in any way possible.

Canteen service mounted with the flood. At the peak (Wednesday, January 27) 1000 meals were served in the gymnasium and 8100 meals were sent out to workers and refugees. On this day, the Salvation Army began canteen service and restaurants began to open. For a few days, Neighborhood House supplemented the food supply for two of the Salvation Army Feeding Stations. After January 27th, our service dwindled until on Sunday, January 31st, we sent out only 3600 meals. Our estimate of 45000 meals is certainly lower than it actually was.

Over 100 people including the Neighborhood House staff, helped with the canteen service. The Welfare Department sent in many W.P.A. workers who served valiantly as cooks and assistants. Representing the City Hall, the Liaison officers were Messrs. Ray and James. Mass. The call over the radio brought in volunteers. Christ Church Cathedral and Miller's Restaurant helped when the job began to get unwieldy. The City Hall put trucks and cars at the disposal of the canteen. Mr. John Kahn, who was superintending the U. I. A. Project sponsored by Neighborhood House served as director of the canteen.

At first, gas was intermittent; when we no longer had gas, we used oil stoves; electricity

made a brave run, then signed off at midnight the third day. The radio had kept all people aware of all things; when battery sets became our dependence, we knew less and feared more. We knew that railroads were giving free transportation to refugees; that neighboring towns were inviting our people; that busses were coming after them. These vivid changes and separations went on day and night. Soldiers, policemen borrowed from other cities, nurses were every where. Airplanes flew low searching our flooded areas. Not until after the waters had gone down did we find out how angry and damaging they were.

Fifty gallons of soup, sixty gallons of coffee, a thousand meat sandwiches, one hundred pork chops, eight hundred biscuits, forty gallons of beef stew, three hundred pounds of spare ribs and kraut - such were the quantities which were needed for truck drivers, boat crew, City Hall men on sand-bag detail and centers where hundreds lived on two meals a day. There was never any lack of food for long. In one instance we received epicurean delicacies. When refrigeration stopped, our proud neighbor, the Pen-
 Dennis Club sent us 215 fowls, a large quantity of refrigerated out-of-season vegetables and meat, turkeys, capons, sprig chickens, caviar, ducks, game meat, lobster, fish and crab meat. To train chef for the cooking of such food was a rare and challenging task. The kitchen of the Lucy Belknap had served many banguets. This time the cooking was for unseen, uncounted guests who were to enjoy the luxuries brought by mischance. A high bank of snow which packed itself against the side of our main building served our refrigeration plant.

In retrospect, two incidents show how bewildered but willing were we all.

Those who
 collected

When a call went out for meat to make soup six sides of beef were sent in. It was then that our nearness to Miller's Restaurant became a great advantage. Mr. Miller offered his kitchen equipment, personnel and supervision with no reserve. On this same day there was not a loaf of bread to be had in Louisville, so the cook at Neighborhood House (with a record of twenty years' good biscuit making) along with other cooks gave their time to the making of biscuits.

Neighborhood House had everything to do with The Seelbach Hotel sent distilled water. The Ford Motor Company gave us storage for incoming supplies. A clinic in our dining room "scrubbed typhoid shots" to the multitude.

When the flood was over and the canteen closed, Neighborhood House put itself in order. This required about a month with the aid of cleaners, carpenters and plumbers. The long rows of cots for workers to sleep on quickly went elsewhere and room after room became itself again. The enormous utensils which cooked and carried food were redistributed by the Welfare Department to more recently opened kitchens. Our big rear gate was rebuilt. Playground equipment was searched for and recovered. The gymnasium floor was scrubbed and waxed and the hard wear of kitchen usage removed by expert cleaners. The snappers back into place. Ours was a cheerful job compared with the experience of those who housed refugees or were housed in refugee centers. Neighborhood House housed only one refugee and that was our beloved Minnie Thompson who had faithfully served the settlement ^{as maid} for twenty-five years or more. I asked the man at the Engine House near her cottage to bring her to Neighborhood House when it was necessary for her to be.

evacuated. They did and there on the third floor with the staff residents Minnie was cared for by Miss Cornelia Schoemaker a resident nurse. I jokingly told Minnie she was the only green on the place.

While Neighborhood House was busy answering the city-wide demand we did not know how our neighbors fared. Our staff workers (some of them marooned, others cut off by high water but active in relief work wherever they were) all made a safe return. They visited our settlement friends as fast as possible. Many families had had more than one removal. An explosion in our neighborhood killed one of our former club members. Several houses in which our friends had lived were condemned. It was difficult to locate some of our neighbors.

The families of our American Mothers' Club were hardest hit. The shocking suddenness of the water's rise and the freakish spottiness of its behavior made it impossible to tell that houses in the same block would differ many feet in water level. There were ridges of contrast every where. Houses and little businesses very close to gether enjoyed dry grounds and prosperity while their nearby neighbors lost every thing but their lives in the swirling water.

And oh how heart warming were those many letters from settlement friends throughout the country with their checks and expressions of sympathy. The letters ranged from that of the Orioles in Detroit who sent "there" dues for the year (thirty-five cents) hoping that other clubs "would" do the same - to Mr. Kennedy's letter saying that we might invest in lolly pops to enjoy while

watching the boats go by as the waters went down. I did not know until that letter came how we were to have a Mothers Club party. Then I knew. And oh what a celebration we had ^{with} all the fathers there. All the tragedies were forgotten in the joy of that occasion.

Clothing I was sent to us ^{also}. Very few of our people saved anything except what they "wore out" as they saved themselves. Much needed garments have been clutched in grateful appreciation. The American Red Cross moved ever forward in its efficient and effective program for the Ohio Mississippi Valley flood of 1937 in Jefferson County, Kentucky and within ~~six months~~ six months had cleared up and was ready to move on.

Souisville arose as one to meet this disaster. Neighbors learned to know each other. They evidenced a new sense of responsibility. The churches ^{made} arose as one to capture this new spirituality. Leaders on all sides organized to hold the gains of the tragedy. The slogan of Mayor Miller's Committee on Morale is indicative of the spirit of the new time.

"The Waters of the Ohio recede!

The spirit of Souisville arises!

Trusting in God; by courage, by faith, by working ^{together}

We will build a better and a greater Souisville." And so neighborliness was given a new boost by the most dramatic episode in the history of Kentucky.

The Story of the Neighborhood House Canteen

January

In 1937 Louisville was swept by the most devastating flood in its history. Neighborhood House was strategically located for serving the city during this catastrophe, and for nine days its facilities tried to meet the imperative urgency of every alarming hour of the flood. The Welfare Department of the City of Louisville asked for the use of the facilities of Neighborhood House. A kitchen was made ready in the locker room of the gymnasium and tables were set up on shores in the gymnasium. Our job was to feed the hungry. Two days later, this kitchen was moved to the stage of the gymnasium; still later all kitchens of Neighborhood House were used for canteen service. On January 23rd, 200 meals were served in the gymnasium and 900 meals were sent to ^{the day and night staff of} workers at the City Hall ~~where~~;

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PLAYGROUND		Boys	Girls	Adults	Mixed	Workers	Total	Total Attendance
Morning								
Afternoon								
Night								
TOTAL PLAYGROUND								
Folk Dancing	Playground Notes							
Swimming								
Showers								
Industrial Arts								
Outside Service								
MUSIC SCHOOL		Boys	Girls	Adults	Mixed	Workers	Total	
Lessons								
Piano								
Violin								
Voice								
Practice Classes								
Clubs								
Special Occasions At Settlement								
Outside Settlement								
Number of Meetings Visits—Music School		Music School Notes						
TOTAL MUSIC SCHOOL								
CLUBS								
TOTAL CLUBS								
DATE								
GRAND TOTAL		Forward						

where four meals a day were served 500 to 600 individuals; to families marooned in their homes; to refugee groups marooned in the Armory, in high schools and in other temporary quarters; later to the 250 workers who built our pontoon bridge in 26 hours. All day boats docked at our front entrance and all day ^{and all night} trucks backed in through the rear gate of our play ground bringing supplies, and both day and night our 18 stoves ^{kept prepared} ~~kept~~ food ~~going~~ ^{going} to Refugee centers. The back waters met the river in many places, so the unpredictable wet and dry spots

close together made relief difficult.

At about six o'clock on that first bleak morning of our canteen service provisions were sent in, workers arrived to prepare breakfast, and a truck driver brought a load of refugees he thought should be fed before they were taken to a housing center. Only a few refugees were brought to Neighborhood House and those only to be fed before being taken on to refugee center. All day long good friends of Neighborhood House called to volunteers

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Outside Service							
MUSIC SCHOOL	Boys	Girls	Adults	Mixed	Workers	Total	
Lessons							
Piano							
Violin							
Voice							
Practice							
Classes							
Clubs							
Special Occasions							
At Settlement							
Outside Settlement							
Number of Meetings							
Visits—Music School	Music School Notes						
TOTAL MUSIC SCHOOL							
CLUBS							
TOTAL CLUBS							
DATE							
GRAND TOTAL	Forward						

their services or to help in any way possible.

Canteen service mounted with the flood. At the peak (Wednesday January 27) 1,000 meals were served in the gymnasium and 8100 meals sent out to workers and refugees. On this day, the Salvation Army began canteen service and restaurants began to open. For a few days, Neighbourhood House supplemented the food supply for two of the Salvation Army Feeding Stations. After January 27th, our service dwindled until, on Sunday, January 31st we sent out only 3600 meals. Our estimate of 45,000 meals is certainly lower than it actually was. Over 100 people, including the Neighbourhood House staff, helped with the canteen service. The Welfare Department sent in many W.P.A. workers who served valiantly as cooks and assistants. ~~Two~~ ^{the messrs. Ray and James S. Moss} liaison officers representing the City Hall. The call over the radio brought in volunteers. Christ Church Cathedral and Miller's Restaurant helped

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Clubs								
Special Occasions								
At Settlement								
Outside Settlement								
Number of Meetings								
Visits—Music School		Music School Notes						
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when the job began to get unwieldy. The City Hall put trucks and cars at the disposal of the canteen. Mr. John Kahn, who was superintending the N.Y.C. Project sponsored by Neighborhood House served as director of the canteen.

At first, gas was intermittent; when we no longer had gas, we used oilstoves; electricity made a brave run, then signed off at midnight the third day. The radio had kept all people aware of all things; when battery sets became our dependence, we knew less and feared more. We knew that railroads were giving free transportation to refugees; that neighboring towns ^{were offering to care for} ~~us~~ ^{our refugees}; that trucks were coming after them. These vivid changes and separations went on night and day. Soldiers, ^{from other cities} ~~borrowed~~ policemen, nurses were every where. Airplanes flew low searching ^{our} flooded areas. Not until after the waters ^{had gone} ~~went~~ down did we find out how angry and damaging they were.

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Lessons								
Piano								
Violin								
Voice								
Practice Classes								
Clubs								
Special Occasions At Settlement								
Outside Settlement								
Number of Meetings:								
Visits—Music School				Music School Notes				
TOTAL MUSIC SCHOOL								
CLUBS								
TOTAL CLUBS								
DATE								
GRAND TOTAL		Forward						

Fifty gallons of soup, 60 gallons of coffee, a
 thousand meat sandwiches, one hundred
 pounds of pork chops, eight hundred biscuits,
 forty gallons of beefsteak, three hundred
 pounds of spare ribs and brant — such were the
 quantities which were needed for busch drivers,
 boat crew, City Hall, men on sand-bag detail,
 and centers where hundreds lived on two meals
 a day. There was never any lack of food
 for long, and in one instance, we received epicurean
 delicacies. When refrigeration stopped, our proud
 neighbor, the Penderinis Club, sent us 215 fowl,
 a large quantity of refrigerated out-of-season
 vegetables and meat — turkeys, capons, spring
 chickens, caviar, ducks, game meat, lobster, fish
 and crab meat. To turn chef for the cooking
 of such food was a rare and challenging
 task. The kitchen of the Lucy Belknap Bldg.
 has served many banquets. This time,
 the cooking was for unseen, uncounted
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Outside Settlement							
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Visits—Music School	Music School Notes						
TOTAL MUSIC SCHOOL							
CLUBS	<p>Mr James L. Mass, liaison officer related the following incident</p> <p>One night a colored truck driver came in; he was cold, wet, and hungry. As we happened to have it, we asked him if he wanted turkey, chicken or duck. He answered, Have you any pork chops? We did have the pork chops. So after it was all over, this liaison officer said, some might think the best of it was we had the pork chops when they were called for -- But he</p>						
TOTAL CLUBS							
DATE							
GRAND TOTAL	<p>Howard</p> <p>additionally added the best of it all was in which the people of that neighborhood had responded to the call from Neighborhood House.</p>						

In retrospect, two incidents show how bewildered but willing we all were. When a call went out for meat to make soup, ^{side sides of} three cows ~~were~~ were sent in. It was ^{that} our nearness to Miller's Restaurant became a great advantage. Mr.

Miller offered his kitchen, equipment, personnel and supervision without reserve. On this same day there was not a loaf of bread to be had in Louisville, so the cook at Neighborhood House (with a record of 20 years good biscuit making), along with cooks, gave their time to the making of biscuits.

Neighborhood House had everything to do with. The Seelbach Hotel sent distilled water. The Ford Motor Company gave us storage for incoming supplies. A clinic in our dining room "served typhoid shots" to the multitude.

When the flood was over and the canteen closed, Neighborhood House put itself in order. This required about a month with the aid of cleaners, carpenters and plumbers. ~~The long rows of cots~~

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While Neighborhood House was busy answering city-wide demand, we did not know how neighbors fared. Our staff workers (some of them marooned, others cut off by high water but active in relief work wherever they were) all made a safe return. They visited our settlement friends as fast as possible. Many families had more than one removal. An explosion in our neighborhood killed one of our

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Special Occasions At Settlement								
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TOTAL MUSIC SCHOOL								
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GRAND TOTAL		Forward						

former club members, and several ^{houses} ~~nearby~~ ^(friends?) in which our settlement ^{neighbors} had lived were condemned. It was difficult to locate some of our neighbors. The families of our Mothers' Club members were hardest hit. The ^{shocking} suddenness of the water's rise and the freakish spottiness of its behavior made it impossible to tell that houses in the same block would differ many feet in water level. There were ridges of contrast everywhere, houses and little businesses very close to getting enjoyed dry grounds and prosperity while their nearest neighbors lost everything but their lives in the swirling water.

And oh how heart warming were those many letters from settlement friends ~~through~~ ^{out the country} with their expressions of sympathy and generous checks coming from clubs of the boys and girls, men and women, settlement federations and residents of settlements throughout the country. The letters ranged from that of the Oracles in Lebrail

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who sent "share" dues for the ^{winter} year, to Mr. Kennedy's letter saying that we might invest in lolly papers to enjoy while watching the boats go by as the waters went down. I did not know until that letter came how we were to give a party to the Mothers' Club. Then I knew.

Some clothing was sent us too. Very few of our people saved any thing except what they "wore out" as they saved themselves. Much needed garments have been clutched in grateful appreciation.

★ Louisville arose as one to meet this disaster.
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They evidenced a new sense of responsibility. The churches arose as one to capture this new spirituality. Leaders on all sides organized to hold the gains of the disaster. The slogan of Mayor Miller's Committee on Morale is indicative of the spirit of the new time.

"The Waters of the Ohio Recede!"

The spirit of Louisville arises!
Trusting in God; by courage, by faith, by working together
We will build a better and a greater Louisville."

And so neighborliness was given a new boost by the most dramatic episode in the history of Kentucky.

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE ATTENDANCE RECORD

PLAYGROUND	Boys	Girls	Adults	Mixed	Workers	Total	Total Attendance
Morning							
Afternoon							
Night							
TOTAL PLAYGROUND							
Folk Dancing	Playground Notes						
Swimming							
Showers							
Industrial Arts							
Outside Service							
MUSIC SCHOOL	Boys	Girls	Adults	Mixed	Workers	Total	
Lessons							
Piano							
Violin							
Voice							
Practice							
Classes							
Clubs							
Special Occasions							
At Settlement							
Outside Settlement							
Number of Meetings							
Visits—Music School	Music School Notes						
TOTAL MUSIC SCHOOL							
CLUBS							
<p>* The American Red Cross moved ever forward in its efficient and effective program, and without loss of momentum had cleaned up and was ready to move out.</p>							
TOTAL CLUBS							
DATE							
GRAND TOTAL	Forward						

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE ATTENDANCE RECORD

neighborhood House Canteen

January 22-31, 1937

PLAYGROUND						Total Attendance	
Morning						Total	Total
Afternoon							
Night							
TOTAL PLAYGROUND							
Folk Dancing						Playground Notes	
Swimming							
Showers							
Industrial Arts							
Outside Service							
MUSIC SCHOOL							
Lessons						Boys	Girls
Piano						Adults	Mixed
Violin						Workers	Total
Voice							
Practice							
Classes							
Clubs							
Special Occasions							
At Settlement							

Pin this on your coat

MY PLEDGE

I will not complain.
 I will not spread bad news.
 I will be encouraging, helpful,
 friendly.
 I will work unselfishly.
 I will give all I can.
 I will do my part toward building
 a better and a greater
 LOUISVILLE

AND

**I Dare You
 To Catch Me
 Not Smiling**

—Mayor's Committee on Morale—

*The accompanying Brochure is sent you as
 a remembrance of the Great Flood in nineteen hundred
 and thirty-seven, and the wonderful recovery that has
 followed.*

*It is also sent as an appreciation for the
 substantial business we have received during the year
 that has closed.*

*Wishing you good health, happiness and
 prosperity in the years to come.*

The Standard Printing Company
INCORPORATED
Louisville, Kentucky

and He will heal us. He hath smitten and He will bind us up.' 'Except Jehovah build the house, they labor in vain that build it. The imperative duty of the Church in this extremity is the proclamation of the gospel of Christ which is the power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeth. It must become the prophetic voice in the midst of a stricken people calling to repentance and life. For this experience of ours will mean nothing unless it arrests the secular drift and calls prodigal humanity back to the Father's House.

" 'If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land.—Second Chronicles 7:14.'

Churches' Role Told.

"It is a time when the religious forces of our city will be glad to co-operate in the task of moral and spiritual recovery which can be done only through the churches. The Louisville Council of Churches, the Ministerial Association, and the Pastors' Conferences of the various communions will give all possible help to the churches, but the primary responsibility rests upon the local congregations and their ministers and leaders. We urge upon them, therefore, to carry on in the name of the Great Master.


"To be sure, all must continue to lend a helping hand in material reconstruction by financial contributions to general community funds, by co-operating fully with the civic, State and national agencies, and by urging their people personally to give their services wherever needed.

"In addition let the churches work out their own programs of service in their local communities. Without conflicting with, but rather supplementing the work of civic organizations, visitation among the poor to comfort and encourage, to offer the goodwill and help of the Church will be of incalculable value. It may be suggested also that churches in the stricken area could find no better way to lay afresh the foundations of future service, when they are ready to resume their work, than by a wide extension of mutual aid among their members. Surely this is a time for Christian stewardship and brotherhood. It is further suggested that church buildings be kept open with someone present to give comfort and counsel to the many who will be seeking help. Let us lay careful plans and give ourselves constantly to our Lord's great purpose—"that they may have life and have it abundantly."

"Our appeal is to all Christians, not only to those who have been accustomed to active service, but to the many who have hitherto been inactive. There are many men and women of genuine religious convictions who for one cause or another have not co-operated with the churches. In a day like this, the challenge comes with a new imperative to 'stand fast in one spirit with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.' "

Richard L. McCready, chairman of the special committee; Horace Cady Wilson, president of the Ministerial Association; I. R. Ladd, president of the Council of Churches, and John Lowe Fort, executive secretary of the Council of Churches.

Reprint from the Courier Journal, Feb. 8, 1937.



The Louisville Council of Churches


—AND—

The Louisville Ministerial Association

—TO THE—

Churches and the People

554 SO. THIRD ST. LOUISVILLE, KY.
TELEPHONE, JA. 7925



The Louisville Ministerial Association and the Louisville Council of Churches addressed the following message to the churches and the people of Louisville and Kentucky:

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

"He who spoke these words was no mere dreamer nor self-deceived enthusiast. He is not only the best known, He was and is the most practical of teachers. Human history is the demonstration of this fact. If, then, there is to be permanent and lasting recovery from the great disaster which has befallen us, the part of wisdom is to give heed to His counsel."

"Necessarily, the physical needs of our people have been calling most loudly for help. The foremost disciple of the Greatest of Teachers declared—'Howbeit, that is not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural.' And another has strikingly put the same truth—'If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not the things needful for the body; what doth it profit?'"

Churches' Part Told.

"By God's providence and mercy these needs of the bodies of men have been, and will continue to be met. Food has been abundant, and none, practically, has gone hungry; and he that had two coats has imparted to him that had none. It must be a matter for great thankfulness, that our churches, among the first to be called upon, were likewise among the first to respond. Abandoning at the request of the civil authorities, their regular services, they opened their doors to all in distress, without distinction of creed, race or color; if they in anywise represented their Master, they could do no other. They have been, and will continue as long as the need exists, places of refuge and

shelter, dispensaries, clinics, hospitals, and depots for supplies, for food and clothing; and they have rejoiced to be thus used.

"We cannot be too grateful for the fact that this, God's order, has been recognized by the leaders of America, from the foundation of our Government until now. The first act of the Cavaliers at Jamestown, as of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, upon landing, was to fall upon their knees in thanksgiving and supplication to Almighty God. When the wheels of the Constitutional Convention became deadlocked, it was Benjamin Franklin, who counselled that body that help could come only from the Source of all order and all law.

Divine Guidance Held Need.

"No sooner was George Washington, the first and greatest of our Presidents, inaugurated, than immediately upon taking oath of office, he went aloft to the House of God to implore divine guidance in the uncharted path which lay before him. And all his successors in that mightiest office in the entire political world, have declared their belief in the necessity of religious faith and conduct. Washington, in his immortal Farewell Address to the American people, used these words: 'Whatever may be conceded to the effects of refined education upon minds of peculiar structure, wisdom and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.' And so we find the last of Washington's successors, seeking guidance in the House of God each time immediately before his inauguration."

"And it is most gratifying that in our commercial as well as civic life today we find acknowledgment of the same spiritual need. When leaders and seers of the business world like Roger Babson, the president of the American Chamber of Commerce, and innumerable others, tell us that permanent financial recovery rests

upon moral and spiritual foundations, the church has no need to apologize for insistence upon its message. In an address before the convention of American Hardware Manufacturers' Association and the National Wholesale Hardware Association at Atlantic City last October, Mr. W. H. Prentiss, Jr., president Armstrong Cork Company, Lancaster, Penn., said: 'The true function of a business organization goes beyond the creation of mere goods and services. It must reach down into the lives of the people and help provide them with a larger measure of the good things of life—in plain language, it seems to us that we fall short of our duty in the present crisis, if we are not wise enough to embody in our business lives, the ethical principles of the Sermon on the Mount, the parable of the Good Samaritan, and the Golden Rule. Without such vision, democracy in a highly developed industrial civilization will perish.'

Scripture Is Quoted.

"A striking and attractive piece of literature prepared for this year's Community Chest appeal was headed by these words of Jesus: 'Not by bread alone!' A city is not built by mere animals, it is built by men; men created in the image of their Creator; men who look up and not down; men who aspire to the highest; men whose destiny as Tennyson said is to work out the brute and let the ape and tiger in their unregenerate nature die. And not only the poet but the men of science today strike the note. The celebrated Dr. Robert A. Milliken says, 'Whatever the achievements of science may be, man's supreme need will be religion.'"

"Therefore, the Church must not fail to vision and interpret this calamity in the light of religious reality which shines from the word of God. Said the prophet of old, 'Come and let us return unto Jehovah, for He hath torn

use in
lower
situation!

everybody what
to do * ~~more~~ ~~big~~
~~to say~~ ^{added to the excitement}
More "big shots"
came into existence
during that flood
than probably
ever were created before

72x55

The Community Chest cordially invites you
to visit the

"Follow Your Dollar Exposition"

at the

Armory on Sunday afternoon, January 17, 1937,
From 2:00 to 5:00 P. M.

The Exposition does not open officially until January 18,
but a preview will be held on Sunday which will be of
interest to campaign workers and board members.

85x246 Admission Free

No Solicitation of Gifts

hubb + swirl, dash -
 + crash + Turmoil
 and general excite-
 ment and useless
 of waste of energy
 with ~~big~~ ^{old} men +
~~little~~ ^{middle} ~~young~~ men ^{all} ~~and~~ ^{photos}
 little boys, all ^{running}
 around telling ^{an} ~~something~~

5326

Red Cross Workers.

1. Mrs Della Hagley A. 1482
 Mrs Irving - Portland.
 Mrs Kallman - Mrs Wilson

2.

TRUSTING IN GOD

By Courage, By Faith, By Working
Together, We Will Build a Better
and a Greater Louisville

This flood has shown how weak is man; in a day the waters have covered our city; extinguished our lights; flooded our homes; stopped our factories; closed our schools, our churches and our courts. The whole life of the city has suddenly changed its course. Nature lays her hand upon us, and all man's boasted strength is as nothing.

The flood has also shown us how strong we are. In this disaster comparatively few of our people have perished; our hearts and homes, our purses have been opened; and we have found a strength we did not know we possessed: that strength is from God! And not only the hearts of our own people, but those of our entire State and Nation have come to the rescue. "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these ye have done it unto Me."

TRUSTING IN GOD

Man's strength is no match for a flood; but God is the source of all power. His ever-ruling providence can make all things work together for good.

BY COURAGE

True heroism is carrying on with a smile in the midst of difficulty, as well as showing bravery in danger. The severest test of courage lies ahead.

(OVER)

BY FAITH

"All things are possible to him that believeth." "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." Real faith is trust in God's wisdom and purpose when the way seems dark.

BY WORKING TOGETHER

White and Black, Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant, we have been working together. We must keep it up. Let us realize that we are truly fellow-workers with God as well as with one another.

WE WILL BUILD A BETTER AND A GREATER LOUISVILLE

A city is not built of brick and mortar, nor of wood and stone alone; it is built of, as it is built by, the men and women who inhabit it. Louisville must have better homes, better churches, better schools, better courts, better streets, better sewers, better bridges, a better social, industrial, political and religious life. For all these we need better men and women. It is our work to build and re-build all this.

Therefore

TRUSTING IN GOD, BY COURAGE, BY
FAITH, BY WORKING TOGETHER,
WE WILL BUILD A BETTER AND
A GREATER LOUISVILLE

Mayor's Committee on Morale

A Posthumous Flood Paper

Now that the Louisville flood waters have been driven to their entombment way down in the Gulf of Mexico, we folks at home are beginning to recollect a few fortunate experiences which we are going to cite for recovery texts. This page is about recreation as a means to bodily and mental control in a great emergency.

Setting (Time: January 24 - February 4, 1937
(Place: A Refugee Center in once of the City's largest high school buildings.

Characters: 850 refugees, negroes and whites.

Memorable Recollections: The rescuing of a small baby from a fainting mother's arms, as she fell on the temporary landing dock.

The dividing of 150 cots and blankets among 850 people.

The completion of the bridge which connected this relief station with dry land.

The spread of the saviors of appetizing food when a good cook lifted the lids from her kettles.

The starting of play groups for small colored children.

The finding of a story teller for those who wanted to stand around and listen.

Big boys and girls being given the use of the gymnasium, and supervised play beginning.

The white children being given the same program as soon as they arrived.

The wild racing through the halls stopping. Shoes and other articles no longer being thrown at window panes.

Dishwashers beginning to hum at their work.

A basketball game between colored and white boys being played.

Older folks beginning to gather in the large cafeteria in the evenings after supper was over. At first, the different social levels were self conscious in the direction of cliques. But there was some one there who would not let such lines form. She was a leader of a Mothers' Club in a settlement house. By nature she was gracious. She liked people so much that she started visiting at once. She read the old newspapers (there were no new ones!) and commented upon the headlines and unusual articles; she made every new acquaintance friendly to sociability in this flood-enforced proximity. On the second day the large coal stove in the cafeteria room was the center of groups of men and women who were happy to talk with one another. The elegant refugee who wore her jewels out from her flooded home was no longer aloof from the happy chatter of the other refugees.

The singing of spirituals. At first, spotty snatches of humming groups. This mass of life becoming choral! A negro song leader standing there directing a girls' quartet; then a men's quartet; and soon after, a chorus of little children. Like the harvest festivals of gratitude; we had one big evening of the singing of spirituals. Hundreds of negro voices of beautiful quality sang to a white audience which knew it was enjoying the excellent gifts of another race's culture. This talented negro group leader was presenting the music of faith and hope and confidence. Music was breeding a new state of mind.

Climax: Some one mentioned the President's Birthday Ball. Quickly, out of the same brain which forestalled the property damage to the fine new high school building, came the suggestion that this refugee center have a ball. A volunteer supplied the music. The guests arrived in the gym. An entertainment committee brought extra candles and flashlights to brighten dark corners. There was no receiving line. The guests wore simple "sports" outfits, many of which were soiled and worn. No governor or mayor attended. Young ladies could "break" the young men on the dance floor. The one man piano-player knew most of the new and all of the oldest tunes to which we danced from seven to nine. There was no grand march, but everyone joined in singing. Intermissions brought distilled water which tasted as good as the best punch of any party.

Conclusion: It is weeks now since this relief station was closed. The four chemists who distilled drinking water are now back in the business world; the unassorted thousand who went back and forth daily through this school building have been supplanted by assorted youth, moving by schedule toward diplomas, this year or next. The damage to this particular building has been estimated, and found to have been very small compared to the great demands made upon it.

Our text is, "Trained recreation leadership preserves morale and property; gives any mass of life a pleasureable interest. Let us applaud the rich results of singing and play."