

Sept 14, 1912

## PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTWILLIAM KENT  
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THIRD VICE-PRESIDENTH. S. BRAUCHER  
SECRETARY

Sept. 14, 1912.

Miss Frances MacGregor Ingram,  
Neighborhood House,  
Louisville, Ky.

My dear Miss Ingram:-


Jane Addams has often spoken of the recreation movement as the "municipalization of the settlement", and it has been said many times that the recreation center movement in Chicago is the outgrowth of Hull House. The problems of the recreation movement are largely those of the settlement movement, and the playground director is dealing with many of the same difficulties which are confronting you in your work.

We need your co-operation in this movement: we think we can be of service to you. May we not join hands in helping to provide wholesome recreation for old and young?

Our monthly magazine, The Playground, deals in a very practical manner with the problems which confront settlement workers and all those who are trying to meet the needs of our young people. Under separate cover we have sent you a sample copy of the magazine. The price is \$2.00 a year.

May we not have you among our subscribers?

Sincerely yours,



Secretary

PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT  
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April 4, 1913

Neighborhood House,  
428 S. 1st St.,  
Louisville, Ky.

My dear Sirs:-

Each year the workers from the settle-  
ments have helped much at the Recreation Congresses. The recreation movement is often spoken of as the municipalization of the settlement movement. The experience of neighborhood workers enables them to see the difficulties of municipal recreation centers. So many of our problems are common to both the municipal work and to the work of the neighborhood houses.

Each year quite a large number of settle-  
ments have felt it worth while to send an official representative to the Recreation Congress. We hope that a number of workers from your settlement will be able to attend the Congress this year to be held in Richmond, Virginia, May 6th to 10th. Will it not be possible for you to appoint one or more persons as official representatives? It will mean much to us if you can be represented at this series of meetings.

Sincerely yours,

*H. S. Braucher*

Secretary

July 15, 1914

## PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

METROPOLITAN BUILDING, 1 MADISON AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITYTHEODORE ROOSEVELT  
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SECRETARY

RH/LPH.

July 15, 1914.

Miss Frances Ingram,  
Neighborhood House,  
428 South First St.,  
Louisville, Ky.

My dear Miss Ingram:-

I promised to drop you a line saying what I felt needed to be done in Louisville in regard to the playground and recreation work. This is the first time since leaving Louisville that I have been able to sit down to any dictation.

It seems to me, as I suggested in our conversation that it would be wise to split up the program for improving recreation conditions in Louisville; separating the work for the control and censorship of commercial recreation from the problem of developing the wider and more efficient use of the parks and schools for playground and recreation centers activities. Both of these are important. My own feeling is that the second is even more important than the first, because if we could bring about absolutely perfect commercial recreation it would touch not more than one tenth to one fifth of the recreation life of the city, and so far as the moving pictures are concerned, only on the passive side. The control of commercial recreation is tremendously important on the preventive rather than on the constructive side. Whereas a full fledged recreation system, which for Louisville involves summer playgrounds and after school and Saturday playgrounds for the full ten months in the year, and play fields for the older children and young people, and indoor recreation centers for young people and adults during the winter months, should reach constructively and in a character building way an enrollment which will eventually be bigger than that of the school system, since it goes beyond the school age as well as helps school children.

Both of these are important but it seems to me that the work for the preventive control of commercial recreation should be separated from the work of developing constructive recreation as shown in the wider use of facilities already owned by the city, because the control of commercial recreation if successful, will win enemies, and will take a long time to get established in an unassailable position. It will ~~only~~ *not at present* increase the work of the control of commercial recreation to tie it up in Louisville with the development of the constructive recreation work, while the tying of the two together is likely to hurt, as it has already done, the building up of the constructive recreation system. So the development of these two lines of work must be taken up by two different groups, both working together but not confused in the public minds.

Mr. Chevalier said he thought there was some committee of the Women's Club which was interested in commercial recreation, and that they with the chief of police could work out some improvements in the commercial recreation situation, by using the laws which the city already has,

improve

if the voluntary helpers would stand ready to put in a good deal of time. I could not find, in the little time I was able to give, just what committee this was and he was not very clear in his own mind what it was.

The Recreation Association of Louisville would next fall take up the decision of which side of the recreation work it would most desire to push. It may be possible that I may be able to stop in Louisville, and talk over with those interested some time next fall, although I would not wish to interfere with your committee's doing anything before that, in waiting for the possible visit enroute from me.

The task which seems to await the development on the constructive side is the extension of the playground work to cover more months in the year, and to a better quality of work. If it was found that the Park Board could be brought to see the importance and possibilities of a better quality of work, much might be done by co-operation. It might be possible to get a large appropriation which would permit them to do a better quality of work for the entire period of time on the really fine grounds which they possess. Then in the fall of 1915 could be taken up the matter of legislation which would permit their School Board to spend money for the supervision and establishment of recreation centers, <sup>in school buildings</sup> and which would permit the Association to create a Commission able to spend money for the supervision of activities in facilities controlled by the School and Park Boards, but keeping out the matter of commercial recreation from the work of the recreation commission if it seems wise, just as they will have to be kept separate in Kansas City for five years or more.

I wish to thank you and other residents of Neighborhood House for your many courtesies to me while I was in Louisville, and certainly trust that you and others who are interested in the big recreation problem there, will be able to accomplish definite results, even though it is necessary to go more slowly than we had hoped was necessary.

Sincerely yours.

Rowland Haynes  
Field Secretary.

April 15, 1924

ARTHUR PETER  
HOWARD B. LEE  
GEO. CARY TABB  
ALFRED C. KRIEGER  
JOHN G. HEYBURN

LAW OFFICES  
**PETER, LEE, TABB & KRIEGER**  
INTER-SOUTHERN BLDG.  
LOUISVILLE

April 15th, 1924.

Miss Frances Ingram,  
c/o Neighborhood House,  
422 S. First St.,  
Louisville, Ky.

Dear Miss Ingram:

I am enclosing herewith copy of a report of the Committee on Recreation of the Park Board, which I think may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

JOHN G. HEYBURN,

*John G. Heyburn*  
Chairman Recreation Committee.

JGH.MAJ.  
Enc.

The Filson Historical Society

Louisville, Ky., April 14th, 1924.

TO THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS:

Mr. Batchelder, of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, has just completed a survey of the playground and recreational situation of Louisville, and, in accordance with certain suggestions contained in his report, your Committee on Recreation makes the following recommendations with a view to improving existing facilities, and providing for their fuller and more efficient utilization:

(1) ADDITIONAL PLAYGROUNDS: That the President appoint a Committee to obtain options on suitable playground sites in Portland School Section, in Parkland, in Highland Park and in the northeastern section of the city.

(2) SUPERVISOR OF RECREATION: That the Board include in its next year's budget the salary of a trained year-around superintendent of recreation to take general charge of all recreational activities in the park system, and during the season when outdoor activities are at a standstill; to co-operate with the churches, clubs and social organizations in the city in an effort to develop a comprehensive plan of community recreation.

(3) PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS: That the Board

It would be the function of these instructors, under the supervision of the Supervisor of Recreation, to conduct playgrounds as at present during the summer vacation, and, in addition, to organize wholesome outdoor activities for school children during the rest of the year, including the organization in ward schools of football and baseball teams, and leagues, for the boys, and of suitable activities for the girls.

(4) TENNIS COURTS: That the Board authorize the construction of four (4) tennis courts surfaced ~~or~~ with Kentucky Rock Asphalt, one each to be located in Shawnee, Shelby, Tyler and Central Parks.

Such courts have proven successful in other cities; are, of course, enormously less expensive to maintain than clay courts; are available almost immediately after a rain, and could be used during the fall and winter for roller skating.

The carrying out of the foregoing programme is, of course, contingent upon the Board's ability to secure an increase of at least \$25,000.00 in its appropriation for the coming year. We believe, however, that the benefit to the city of its adoption would be incalculable.

Approximately 78 per cent of the crimes committed in this country are committed by persons under twenty-one

The gang instinct is merely the natural result of a thwarted play instinct. Louisville is no exception to the general rule. Its growth and expansion have been attended by the disappearance of the vacant lots where most of us used to play, and the children are being compelled more and more to depend on the city to provide playgrounds where their surplus energies may be turned into healthy channels.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Chairman Recreation Committee.



April 17, 1924.

Mr. John G. Heyburn,  
Chairman, Recreation Committee,  
Inter-Southern Building,  
Louisville, Ky.

My dear Mr. Heyburn:

It was certainly awfully good of you to send me a copy of the report on Recreation, made to the Park Board. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I want to congratulate you on this report. I think the Park Board should have the support of every intelligent citizen on this contemplated expansion of its work.

You may realize what a thrill your report gave me when I tell you that I have been deeply interested in the Park Board for the last seventeen years. During that time I have kept in close touch with the playgrounds of the city through my own playground at Neighborhood House.

With reiterated congratulations and with every hope that your plan may work out successfully, I am

Respectfully yours,

---

March 27, 1925

# PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MAINTAINING ALSO  
THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION SERVICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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315 FOURTH AVENUE  
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- HARRIS WHITTEMORE  
NAUGATUCK, CONN.

March 27, 1925.

Miss Frances Ingram,  
Neighborhood House,  
428 South First St.,  
Louisville, Ky.

My dear Miss Ingram:

While in Louisville this week I was informed that you were quite ill and not seeing anyone, hence I did not call at Neighborhood House, as I had expected to do, to talk with you about the recreation definitions.

I am sending them in, marked, as it seems to me satisfactorily. I have considered brevity as one of the chief features, and at the same time clearness of statement. I doubt very much if brief statements can be inclusive. You will notice that I have given first consideration to No.4, second to No.2, and third to No.1. I think all of these definitions would benefit by being made more pictorial; for instance, to have such a phrase as I have used in my own definition in the survey - "Play is a cool breeze springing up on a boiling hot day". Some such similes or metaphors will carry over to people who perhaps would not gather much from any other sort of a definition.

I am returning your paper and the resolutions and thank you for submitting them.

The survey is now complete and ready to be presented to the executive committee of the Community Fund and then given publicity.

Thanking you for your very cordial and effective co-operation, and with the further expression of the hope that you will soon be well, I remain

Very sincerely yours,  
*F. E. R. Miller*  
District Representative.

*Mr. Nemser*

*Please return, after indicating your first, second and third choice. Thank you.*

FERM:KW

*Frances Ingram*

Louisville, Ky., April 14th, 1924.

TO THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS:

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(2) SUPERVISOR OF RECREATION: That the Board include in its next year's budget the salary of a trained year-around superintendent of recreation to take general charge of all recreational activities in the park system, and during the season when outdoor activities are at a standstill; to co-operate with the churches, clubs and social organizations in the city in an effort to develop a comprehensive plan of community recreation.

(3) PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS: That the Board also include in its budget for next year the cost of employing playground supervisors and keeping the playgrounds open from May 1st to November 1st, instead of only during the school vacation, as at present.

It would be the function of these instructors, under the supervision of the Supervisor of Recreation, to conduct playgrounds as at present during the summer vacation, and, in addition, to organize wholesome outdoor activities for school children during the rest of the year, including the organization in ward schools of football and baseball teams, and leagues, for the boys, and of suitable activities for the girls.

(4) TENNIS COURTS: That the Board authorize the construction of four (4) tennis courts surfaced ~~with~~ with Kentucky Rock Asphalt, one each to be located in Shawnee, Shelby, Tyler and Central Parks.

Such courts have proven successful in other cities; are, of course, enormously less expensive to maintain than clay courts; are available almost immediately after a rain, and could be used during the fall and winter for roller skating.

The carrying out of the foregoing programme is, of course, contingent upon the Board's ability to secure an increase of at least \$25,000.00 in its appropriation for the coming year. We believe, however, that the benefit to the city of its adoption would be incalculable.

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

February 24, 1925.

Mr. F. E. R. Miller,  
2815 N. New Jersey Street,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Mr. Miller:

Here is another definition of  
recreation, the third. I hope to get  
the others to you in the next few days.

Sincerely,

Frances Ingram.

The Filson Historical Society

5879.

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED

DEFINITIONS OF RECREATION

① Miller - 3rd consideration

Ruskin once gave very briefly the real definition of recreation when he said that gayety of heart during the recreation after hard labor arises naturally out of a deep internal seriousness of disposition. The attitude of mind often changes drudgery into play because it arises from this deep internal seriousness.

3rd Levin

3rd Nunn

Through recreation character is built through the formation of ideals and standards and social adjustments are made which prepare the individual for later life. Through it he turns his energy to constructive action which brings results instead of spending it in bootless idling; he is better prepared for his work in later life; and he lives in play the miniature of the life of the race.

Recreation should be given in the home, the school, the church etc., to take care of the leisure hours of the whole community. This should be directed by skilled workers who can direct the bounding energy of the individual to life-long ambitions and satisfaction.

② Miller 2nd consideration

Recreation is that physical or mental diversion brought into play upon the individual in order to reanimate him after some special strain of work. Recreation may be in the form of organized play, simple amusements, change of occupation or merely a gayness of heart in contrast to great seriousness.

Gayety

I Levin

I Nunn

- Wilson - Nunn 1 - Levin 1 - Miller 2
- Hammerley - Miller 1 - Levin 2 - Nunn 2
- Frost - Miller 3 - Levin 3 - Nunn 3

(3)

### A Definition of Recreation.

If it be true that "the child is father of the man" or as otherwise sometimes stated "is a candidate for humanity" and its usefulness in the adult state may be influenced by conditions of life and conduct in the earlier years, then it is reasonably worth while to inquire into those conditions and examine values.

Individuals activity will probably consist of work, play, or idleness, and of these the two former may be put into the one class, of doing something, and the third of doing nothing or something of no value whatever. Play in itself is to use exercise for pleasure or recreation and recreation has been defined, according to the derivation of the word, as re-creation, or the state of being re-created. Its synonyms include refreshment, diversion, amusement, reanimation.

It is not necessary to go beyond the words play and recreation to perceive how universally play is esteemed of value as a recreative force. They emphasize the thought that play is useful, or may be, when directed into proper channels. Chief importance is to be placed upon the words pleasure and re-creation for in the association of these two conditions the value of play may be found.

While it is natural that one may and often will play alone with the happiest results a large part of play is social in its nature. Almost the entire field of outdoor and indoor games are played by two or more, often by many.

Since pleasure is essential to play, and pleasure in group games necessitates the submergence of individual animosities or personal feelings to the common sport, group games and group play, when properly conducted, are decidedly civilizing in their effect upon the individual, and even in those games in which the element of competition is fully developed the tendency is to play the game fairly leading to the development of individual traits of frankness and fair dealing of the greatest value in daily life. In such play one learns how to live with others. Habits are formed and impulses promoted which are valuable beyond question. The experience from the social organizations such as Boy Scouts, boys and girls clubs, Y.M.C.A.'s and other like organizations have conclusively proved the value of play in character building both for the individual and the community in which they may be.

The value of play and especially of games depends not only upon the mere act of playing but also upon the intelligence and knowledge put into the game. Teaching has a part in games and since the general spirit impelling any form of activity is subject to suggestion, games may be both taught and supervised as well as in any work. The work of a competent leader in play, especially among the young will enhance both skill and pleasure in the game and prevent the introduction of unpleasant thoughts and actions. Thus we see the development of a newer class of social workers who have qualified themselves for conducting group games and sports, a class becoming more numerous and more valuable every day.

Play does not lead to idleness, no purposeful effort even tho its

5464

purpose be the clean pleasure of games or sports can lead to idleness. Idleness is the opposite of activity, it is aimlessness, bootless idling. Keen, earnest active playing is the worst possible training to form habits of doing nothing. Well conducted play must produce an opposite effect. This fact is emphasized, that one learns to enjoy doing things from play and obtains a more useful state.

The extension of play, of the use of free time in recreation in its broader sense, is well worth the investment of thought, time and money, in the home, the playground and elsewhere. To what extent and how regulated, how used or abused is intitled to serious consideration and to that end this survey has been made.

The Filson Historical Society



## Definitions of Recreation

Miller - 1st consideration

4 Recreation is re-creative process necessary to the full fulfillment of every individual desire bringing about moral, cultural, and physical development in proportion to the amount of happiness derived from such participation.

2nd  
Levin

5 The act of consummation of the desire for expression, action, thought play or exercise as a result of an all wise and not to be denied nature, making the necessary adjustments consequent to living conditions as they are.

6 The dictionary defines play as follows: To use any exercise for pleasure or recreation; to do something not as a task or for profit, but for amusement. Recreation is the use of leisure hours in such manner that one's self is forgotten completely in the pleasures and enjoyment of the activity. Play as recreation does quite as much for the future life of the child and youth, if it is planned with a program which is understood as work does. A constructive and well led play program suited to the tastes and ideas of childhood and youth not only prevents waste of time, idleness and waywardness but directs the bounding energies of the individual to those objects which will be a life long ambition and satisfaction. Recreation does not promote idleness but changes the character of the occupation to something which one enjoys doing and from which he has a satisfactory result.

7 To define recreation would be constricting its meaning, and in so doing would limit its field. Recreation is one of the few things that is universal-the benefits are shared alike by rich and poor, and young and old. The reason for this is because recreation comes only after hard labor and the gayness of the heart arises out of a deep internal seriousness of disposition. In recreation all unnaturalness and stillness of manner is done away with-and for this reason the associations and friendships that are formed are more lasting and beneficial. More behavior problems can be prevented through play than by any other means; mental and physical medical cares can be started on the way to recovery through play-therefore recreation is the cure all for moral, mental, and physical ills. Recreation cannot be defined-it is a process rather than anything else that we go through for the re-energating of our selves.

Young Men's Hebrew Association  
Incorporated

Second Street at Jacob

April 6, 1925

Louisville, Ky.

CHARLES NEMSER,  
General Secretary

Apr. 6, 1925

My dear Miss Ingraw.

My choice are as follows. First, # 2  
Second # 4  
Third # 1.

I too has considered brevity and clearness, and the joint view of the man on this street. In this connection Mr. Miller's suggestion that future meeting minutes would help is a good one. All of the definitions are, unfortunately, dry as dust academic and uninspiring. I doubt, however, that I could construct better ones.

Sincerely yours  
Charles Nemser

DEFINITIONS OF RECREATION

*Seah S. Frost*

① *3rd*  
Ruskin once gave very briefly the real definition of recreation when he said that gayety of heart during the recreation after hard labor arises naturally out of a deep internal seriousness of disposition. The attitude of mind often changes drudgery into play because it arises from this deep internal seriousness.

Through recreation character is built through the formation of ideals and standards and social adjustments are made which prepare the individual for later life . Through it he turns his energy to constructive action which brings results instead of spending it in bootless idling; he is better prepared for his work in later life; and he lives in play the miniature of the life of the race.

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*Ruth Wilson*  
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3

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If it be true that "the child is father of the man" or as otherwise sometimes stated "is a candidate for humanity" and its usefulness in the adult state may be influenced by conditions of life and conduct in the earlier years, then it is reasonably worth while to inquire into those conditions and examine values.

Individuals activity will probably consist of work, play, or idleness, and of these the two former may be put into the one class, of doing something, and the third of doing nothing or something of no value whatever. Play in itself is to use exercise for pleasure or recreation and recreation has been defined, according to the derivation of the word, as re-creation, or the state of being re-created. Its synonyms include refreshment, diversion, amusement, reanimation.

It is not necessary to go beyond the words play and recreation to perceive how universally play is esteemed of value as a recreative force. They emphasize the thought that play is useful, or may be, when directed into proper channels. Chief importance is to be placed upon the words pleasure and re-creation for in the association of these two conditions the value of play may be found.

While it is natural that one may and often will play alone with the happiest results a large part of play is social in its nature. Almost the entire field of outdoor and indoor games are played by two or more, often by many.

Since pleasure is essential to play, and pleasure in group games necessitates the submergence of individual animosities or personal feelings to the common sport, group games and group play, when properly conducted, are decidedly civilizing in their effect upon the individual, and even in those games in which the element of competition is fully developed the tendency is to play the game fairly leading to the development of individual traits of frankness and fair dealing of the greatest value in daily life. In such play one learns how to live with others. Habits are formed and impulses promoted which are valuable beyond question. The experience from the social organizations such as Boy Scouts, boys and girls clubs, Y.M.C.A.'s and other like organizations have conclusively proved the value of play in character building both for the individual and the community in which they may be.

The value of play and especially of games depends not only upon the mere act of playing but also upon the intelligence and knowledge put into the game. Teaching has a part in games and since the general spirit impelling any form of activity is subject to suggestion, games may be both taught and supervised as well as in any work. The work of a competent leader in play, especially among the young will enhance both skill and pleasure in the game and prevent the introduction of unpleasant thoughts and actions. Thus we see the development of a newer class of social workers who have qualified themselves for conducting group games and sports, a class becoming more numerous and more valuable every day.

Play does not lead to idleness, no purposeful effort even tho its

Play does not lead to idleness, no purposeful effort even tho its purpose be the clean pleasure of games or sports can lead to idleness. Idleness is the opposite of activity, it is aimlessness, bootless idling. Keen, earnest active playing is the worst possible training to form habits of doing nothing. Well conducted play must produce an opposite effect. This fact is emphasized, that one learns to enjoy doing things from play and obtains a more useful state.

The extension of play, of the use of free time in recreation in its broader sense, is well worth the investment of thought, time and money, in the home, the playground and elsewhere. To what extent and how regulated, how used or abused is entitled to serious consideration and to that end this survey has been made.

Chastine Sprague

The Filson Historical Society

## DEFINITION OF RECREATION.

The dictionary defines play as follows: To use any exercise for pleasure or recreation; to do something not as a task or for profit but for amusement.

Recreation is defined as an act of re-creating; state or fact of being re-created; refreshment; diversion; amusement; reanimation.

This survey deals with recreation as the occupation of free or leisure time in the field of play or diversion.

In play and recreation individual and social adjustments are made and benefits derived which are important in all the other relations and activities of life. Any person by refreshing his memory of childhood days can recall how failures were overcome; courage stimulated; acquaintanceship with the rules of the game acquired; fair play promoted and habits formed which influenced his subsequent life, character and ideals. Play is a subject that deals with an intangible value called human relationships. In play one learns to live with others. Play permits the exercise of that taste and expression which is predictive. It does quite as much for the future life of the child and youth, if it is planned with a program which is understood, as work can. Organizations such as Boy Scouts, boys clubs, boys departments in the Y.M.C.A., furnish abundant illustrative material in point. Girls organizations reveal similar processes. In all of these recreational activities the child and the youth repeat the racial history and experience and are made ready for an advanced adult life in the progress of the race.

The extension of play service in the home, the school, and the leisure hours of the entire community has proved and will prove a highly valuable investment of thought, time and money. A constructive and well led play program suited to the tastes and ideas of childhood and youth not only prevents waste of time, idleness and waywardness but directs the bounding energies of the individual to those objects which will be a life long ambition and satisfaction.

Psychologically considered, "The child is a candidate for humanity." Direct his play thought from foolish, aimless, bootless idling and he will reward his leaders with the most earnest endeavors to win their approval and that of his playfellows.

This survey emphasizes the fact that recreation does not promote idleness but changes the character of the occupation to something which one enjoys doing and from which he gets a satisfactory result.

Ruskin once said that gayety of heart during the reaction after hard labor arises naturally out of deep internal seriousness of disposition. This is recreation in the best sense of the term and is the activity considered throughout this survey.

## Definitions of Recreation

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4 Recreation is re-creative process necessary to the fulfillment of every individual desire bringing about moral, cultural, and physical development in proportion to the amount of happiness derived from such participation.

5 The act of consumation of the desire for expression, action, thought play or exercise as a result of an all wise and not to be denied nature, making the necessary adjustments consequent to living conditions as they are.

6 The dictionary defines play as follows; To use any exercise for pleasure or recreation; to do something not as a task or for profit, but for amusement. Recreation is the use of leisure hours in such manner that one's self is forgotten completely in the pleasures and enjoyment of the activity. ¶ Play as recreation does quite as much for the future life of the child and youth, if it is planned with a program which is understood, as work does. A constructive and well led play program suited to the tastes and ideas of childhood and youth not only prevents waste of time, idleness and waywardness but directs the bounding energies of the individual to those objects which will be a life long ambition and satisfaction. ¶ Recreation does not promote idleness but changes the character of the occupation to something which one enjoys doing and from which he has a satisfactory result. *Rebecca*

7 To define recreation would be constricting its meaning, and in so doing would limit its field. Recreation is one of the few things that is universal-the benefits are shared alike by rich and poor, and young and old. The reason for this is because recreation comes only after hard labor and the gayness of the heart arises out of a deep internal seriousness of disposition. ¶ In recreation all unnaturalness and stillness of manner is done away way-and for this reason the associations and friendships that are formed are more lasting and beneficial. More behavior problems can be prevented through play than by any other means; mental and physical medical cases can be started on the way to recovery through play-therefore recreation is the cure all for moral, mental, and physical ills. ¶ Recreation cannot be defined-it is a process rather than anything else that we go through for the re-energating of our selves.

December 16, 1925.

My dear Miss Ingram:

It is with great pleasure that we announce to you that at the meeting of the Recreation Alumni of the School of Social Work, Thursday, December 10, 1925, you were elected as an honorary member of this association. We hope you will honor us with your acceptance.

*Rebecca Baer*  

---

Secretary.



Oct 29, 1926

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## OF THE

### LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY CHEST

658 SOUTH FOURTH AVENUE

LOUISVILLE, KY.

October 29, 1926

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JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
DR. EDWARD P. WHISTLER  
STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
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TO THOSE INTERESTED IN THE POINT SITUATION:

A meeting was called by the Health and Recreation Councils on July 13th, to consider outlining a program for improving conditions on the Point. At this meeting it was decided to ask the three councils, Family and Child Welfare, Recreation and Health, to study their respective fields and report their findings back to the entire group.

The three councils have completed their studies and a joint report will be presented at a meeting Friday morning, November 5th at eleven o'clock in the office of the Health Council.

Very sincerely yours,

Frances Ingram, Acting Chairman  
Recreation Council

Alex G. Barret, Chairman  
Health Council

MLH:NFB

1100

# PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

MAINTAINING ALSO  
THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION SERVICE AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

JOSEPH LEE, PRESIDENT  
JOHN H. FINLEY, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
JOHN G. WINANT, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

315 FOURTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK CITY

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October 29, 1929

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PLAINFIELD, N. J.

Miss Frances Ingram  
Neighborhood House  
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Miss Ingram

A person not connected with the recreation movement and one who is a close observer of many conferences had the following to say about the recent Recreation Congress at Louisville, Kentucky:


"I am greatly impressed with the entirely successful method used by the Recreation Congress in securing an exchange of ideas and information on Leadership and with the fine way the group discussions were carried on by those assigned to make them most helpful."

I want you to have this brief word at once because it is typical of the favorable comment being received.

Chairmen, summarizers and discussion leaders worked together exceptionally well to the end that the maximum of help was made available to all present. The recreation movement is stronger because of this meeting.

Thank you heartily for the part you had in making the program successful.

Sincerely yours

  
T. E. Rivers, Secretary  
Recreation Congress Committee

P.S. We shall appreciate any suggestions you may have about making the next Congress even better.

TER/RJ

Louisville, Kentucky.  
October 13, 1933.

Miss Shriver,  
Calvary Point Community Center,  
331 N. Campbell Street,  
Louisville, Kentucky.

My dear Miss Shriver:

The White House Conference on Child Health and Protection is making an extensive survey, and as one of the Chairmen on "Youth Outside the Home and School", I am writing to ask you to fill out the enclosed questionnaire. We hope to obtain a full report from every Community Center and Settlement in the city, in order that we may know what has been accomplished in the past, and what may be accomplished in the future.

I shall greatly appreciate your cooperation, if you will fill out the answers, and mail to me before November 1st.

Very sincerely,

---

Alice Hegan Rice

Mrs. Gale Young Rice,  
1444 St. James Court,  
Louisville, Kentucky.

Louisville, Kentucky  
October 26, 1933

Mrs. Cale Young Rice  
1444 St. James Court  
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Mrs. Rice:

I am sending you the settlement questionnaire. I hope that the information will be helpful to you in the study for the White House Conference. If there is any other information that you would like, please let me know.

I am looking forward to a very interesting report from your committee.

Best sincerely,

---

Frances Ingram

The Filson Historical Society

22x66

NEIGHBORHOOD AGENCIES

White    
 Colored

Name of Settlement Neighborhood House

Address 428 South First Street, Louisville, Kentucky

Head Resident Miss Frances Ingram

Has your settlement a denominational affiliation? No. We have Catholics, Jews, and Protestants attending our activities.

How is your settlement supported? The Community Chest

Nationalities served 1. American, 2. Jewish, 3. Italian, 4. Syrian,

5. Other Nationalities as follows:- Holland, Scotland, Belgium, Bohemia

Serbia, Austria, Russia, Dominican Republic, Switzerland, Greece, Poland,

Canada, Spain, Lithuania, Norway, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Hungary,

England, Galicia, Roumania.

Is your settlement governed by a Board of Directors? Yes.

How is your Board appointed? The N. H. Board is self perpetuating.

Registration according to age. Boys (up to 18 years) 1,002,

Girls (up to 18 years) 823, Adults 753 --- Total 2,578.

Enrollment 2,578 Attendance 91,822

Staff (According to last fiscal year)

Number of Resident Staff 5  
 Number of additional full time workers 3  
 Number of part time workers 4  
 Number of Volunteers 72

Physical Setup of Settlement

Number of buildings 3 - Main Building (Club rooms and residence)

Lucy Belknap Building (Boys Game Room, Woodwork shop, and Large club rooms)

Gymnasium (Gym, stage, and shower rooms); Playground Yes - under direction of the Recreation Division during summer season.

Activities:

Please list activities of your settlement and check those that are most successful: Playground, Game Rooms for Boys and children, Music,

Handicraft, dramatics, Girls clubs, Boys Clubs, Adult Clubs, Girls Basket

Ball, Boys Basketball, Gymnasium classes, Well Baby Clinic, Library, Dis-

ussion groups, Mothers Club, Art Class, Citizenship Class, Hikes, trips to

points of interest, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Weekly picture show and enter-

tainments. (See Note 1 - page 4.)

55x76

With what agencies does your settlement link up?

Public Health Nursing Association  Public Library  Girl Scouts   
 Boy Scouts  Girl Reserves  Daily Vacation Bible School   
 City Recreation Department  Summer Camps  Any other agencies  
National Federation of Settlements, Boys Club Federation,

Board of Education

Program - Number of Girls Clubs 3, Number of Boys Clubs 16, Number  
 of Adult Clubs 20, Number of Classes and Kind 32 - Handicraft,

Music, Dramatic, Game rooms, Athletic, Dancing, Homemaking, Citizenship

Game Groups N.H. has game rooms for boys open every afternoon, night, and Saturday mornings; it has a children's game room open every afternoon and Saturday morning.

Music N.H. has a full music department under a supervisor. It has choral classes for each of the four nationalities predominant at the House. It has violin, piano, and voice lessons, the director has done a great deal with social music before and after and between classes. The department is affiliate with the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Dramatics N. H. House has a half time director of dramatics - the dramatics has been made a part of each club in the House, and although no separate department is maintained, it has served as a cooperating activity in all the House groups.

Athletics Neighborhood House conducted its own House league. These Tuesday night games proved to be one of the most popular activities at the House, bringing as it did so many unemployed young men together for wholesome and clean sports.

Hikes From time to time hikes have been taken by club groups, and overnight hikes have been taken by the Scout troop. In other years we have done more hiking as a larger staff permitted us to do so.

Other Activities Neighborhood House has had to change its type of activities considerably this past year due to the fact that a reduced staff was necessary, and in order to handle the larger number of people we have had to do fewer activities with small club groups and handle the larger class activities. We feel however, that the most effective work is accomplished in the smaller group. We try to give such activities that will develop our young people into well rounded beings, culturally, mentally and physically.

Personal Work (Check) If possible give number of visits, etc.

Home visits 695, Hospital visits , Court Cases

Work for Old people

Other types of personal service Personal interviews, family adjustments in foreign families, Correspondence to re-unite foreign families,

What is your settlement's particular type of work? Interpreting the foreign born to America, and America to the foreign born; we feel that Neighborhood House serves as interpreter, instructor, and inspiration to many who take advantage of our many activities. To the ideals of the new country.

Do you have any house dues, or charge for any privileges? Yes. A small fee for club membership, but due to conditions, we have not been able to collect them from all groups. Some clubs have tried putting on suppers, plays etc in order to meet their house obligations, but all groups have not been able to pay the small fee.

How many of your settlement people assist in leadership, and are they successful? We have three leaders from our settlement groups - One leader for an Art Class, one assistant B.B. coach, one assistant on the playground. In the cases of these leaders, we have received very excellent assistance.

Give a brief summary of the social trends of your neighborhood. Our neighbor is a constantly changing one, as evidenced by the 60% turnover in our enrollment last year. Where we used to have a white neighborhood, now it is changing color, due to the many colored families moving in, in contrast to the very open vice rampant in this section, we have some of the very highest honor students of the University, and the public schools living in this section. Bad housing has been very conducive to very bad living conditions, causing family maladjustments, and we in turn feel the reaction. We hope that with a change in administration that it will be possible to make an inroad on the vice in this section.

Do you have an adult clinic? No. We send or take our friends to the City Hospital. A baby Clinic? Yes. It is conducted by the Public Health Nursing Association.

What do you consider the greatest need of the youth in your neighborhood? Decent living conditions, Some means by which the young people could be kept in school, and work for those who are not in school, clean up of the vice infested spots in this section, Of the Adults? The same as for the young people, and some sort of old age security legislation.

Are you stressing character building as the essential thing in all of your activities?

We try, through our many activities, to develop self expression whereby our friends may have a broader interest in life. For instance the tiniest child in our little children's game room receives his first lessons in social adjustments through the daily give and take in his games and contact through this adjustment he learns to take an interest in his fellow man and to fit him self into life's relation ship. The child receives foundations in poetry, music, self expression through story playing, the fundamentals in handicraft through simple paper craft --- and in receiving these he is building a strong character. According to one authority "character is caught, not taught" - and so we try to place within the grasp of our boys, girls, and adults those things that are worth "catching". And in the

NOTE 1. Please list activities of your settlement and check those that are most successful/

We have not checked any activity as being most successful, as the enrollment of some groups may show a larger attendance than some other group - this is not indicative of popularity - as we have had to handle larger groups on account of reduced staff. We feel, as is stated elsewhere that the best work is done in the smaller group.

The Filson Historical Society



Hikes Other activities

Personal Service (Check) If possible give number of visits, etc.

Home visiting 695 Hospital Visits  Court Cases

Work for old people Personal Interviews

Other types of personal service Personal Interviews

What is your settlement's particular type of work? with boys  
Interpretation

Do you have any house dues, or charge for any privileges? Yes - we have not been able to collect them but due to condition

How many of your settlement <sup>boys</sup> people assist in leadership, and are they successful? 3 - (1 leader for Art Class - 1 assistant B.B. coach - 1 typist) - Very good.

Give a brief summary of the social trend of your neighborhood. We have found that vice is more rampant than ever. Due to

patron of (police) we have been unable to check this trend neighborhood is on the move. We have had a 60% turnover in

Do you have an adult clinic? No A baby clinic? Yes

What do you consider the greatest need of the youth in your neighborhood? housing - 25 kids - work keep of the adults? Work -

Are you stressing character building as the essential thing in all your activities?

We try, through our many activities, to develop interest in life  
our friends close living, thinking, and as a  
foundation for right living. We feel that these  
principles are the underlying ones for the  
building of character & when these are instilled  
then the character will take care of itself.

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1934  
Miss Mary B. Statsenburgh,  
Community Chest  
424 West Jefferson St

Louisville, Kentucky  
September 26, 1934

Miss Adele Brandeis, Chairman  
Recreation Council  
Community Chest  
424 West Jefferson Street  
Louisville, Kentucky

My dear Miss Brandeis:

I am very sorry to have been so long answering your letter in regard to the combined Recreation - Family and Child Welfare Councils, but many things have prevented an earlier reply. I have not, however, pushed it aside without a thought, for I have been thinking over and discussing with staff members just how the councils may best serve the recreational or so-called, "character-building" agencies. The following are, I think, pertinent and feasible, and I should like to see something come from them.

In line with the trend toward establishing a better understanding of recreation agencies, the term Education-Recreation has been adopted to describe the activities of such groups. This term was accepted late in 1933 by the National Social Work Council, which subsequently changed its title to that of National Education-Recreation Council. I should suggest, then, that the Chest and our local Council adopt the same designating term, so that the misnomer of "character-building agencies" may gradually be discarded. Nationally, the Federal Council of Churches, Boys' Clubs of America, American Association of Adult Education, Jewish Welfare Board, National Recreation Association, Federation of Arts, National Social Work Council, National Federation of Settlements, Boy Scouts of America, Young Men's Christian Association, and the National Board of Y.W.C.A. have endorsed this terminology. Do you not think that locally the representative organizations should conform in this usage?

Surely, in such times as these, the Chest, the Council, and the individual agencies cannot stress too strongly the need of maintenance of scientific, educational, and recreational work for settlements, because it is in just such places that working class children and young people have the opportunity of friendly association and the chance to give effect to such innate interests as athletics, dramatics, and all expressions of the play spirit. Group association in the arts provides an outstanding way of preventing a self-pitying and warped generation of adults. It has been found true that the maintenance of cultural institutions

under conditions of economic stress is an important means of saving the native ability and potential skill of the generation of children who will carry on in the immediate future. We cannot too strongly emphasize this point of view. The loss of initiative, interest, and skill of a generation which impoverishes its youth cannot be compensated for, and such loss would leave the nation truly poor. Now, as never before, Education-Recreation agencies are necessary.

During the past year, the White House Conference Committee on Youth Outside of Home and School made a survey, and the report of its findings was published by the University of Louisville. Throughout this report, there appear many different suggestions and recommendations which, if followed up by the Council and brought to the attention of the public would further the interests of youth and make safer his environment.

Of the three main recommendations made in the report, one has been fulfilled, that of securing at the University a course for the training of young people in the field of recreation. We should not, however, let the matter rest here, but each agency should support whole-heartedly Mr. Bower in his classes by showing him our interest in his endeavors.

The Council could, I think, do a great deal toward the furtherance of the second recommendation by helping to secure a theatre for youth.

The Boys' Work Council, with its broad representation of both recreation and luncheon clubs of the city, has endorsed and agreed to act upon the third recommendation for wiping out insidious spots in our city.

In the section devoted to the Settlements and Community houses, it has been suggested that those who are more fortunate share with others less so by providing for trips to the country, and the like. One of our Board members, Mrs. Charlie Allen, did this very thing for Neighborhood House children. She threw open her beautiful garden and thereby, gave this group a memory to be turned over in their minds for years to come. One little girl, taken back by the stillness and beauty of the scene, remarked in awe-inspired tones, "Oh, gee, listen to the quiet!" The effect of beauty is a living, breathing thing which will stay with these children throughout life.

Our community is particularly rich in historical resources. Day trips to such places as the tomb of Zachary Taylor (within hiking distance) and to Lincoln's birthplace in Harrodsburg would make the past a living reality. The Lion's Club recently sponsored such trips, and the popularity should extend itself into the planning of other youth programs. Perhaps, the Council might bring together suggestions for trips to Kentucky's little known as well as its famous shrines. It is the job of this Council to promote volunteer service, and this is just another avenue of service for volunteers. There is no better way to make our public socially conscious than to make them volunteers, and I urge that the Council continue to ~~endorse~~ <sup>promote</sup> its volunteer program.

3.

Our two councils, Family and Child Welfare and Recreation, recently united, should encourage a close cooperation of all agencies dealing with the same families. Please feel free to call upon us at Neighborhood House for anything we can do. We are always happy to cooperate with other social agencies.

With the resources of so much valuable material made available through the various government workers, the Council has a new field of work in helping the government with its organization.

Most Sincerely yours,

---

Frances Ingram

The Filson Historical Society

Louisville, Ky.  
May 5, 1938

Dear Miss Ingram:-

Your presence is  
requested to attend a musical  
program sponsored by the  
Mothers Club of Neighborhood  
House Tuesday evening May  
10<sup>th</sup> at 8 P. M. in the Belnap  
Building 428 So. 1st St.

Hoping you will accept  
this invitation. I am,

Cardially Yours,  
Mrs. H. Goldstein  
Co-Chairman

and the group recreational life of adolescents must have fairly thorough treatment and be so inclusive as to unify the whole. My Group Organization and Leadership course, I think, does the latter and my Social Aspects of Play deals with a specific type of group experience and, naturally, includes considerable treatment of child behavior. Mrs. Chorprenning's Social Aspects of Dramatics also deals with a highly specialized type of group experience. In fact, it was so out of joint with the School of Speech point of view that it was placed in the Department of Sociology, and has functioned freely and, I believe, to the satisfaction of all concerned.

If it were possible, I would like to have a course on adolescence given from a really good psychiatric, not psychoanalytic, point of view, but I do not know of anyone able to give such.

In techniques we need games and sports, given from the sociological rather than the physical education point of view; group folk dancing; stage and costume design; handwork; story-telling. Music and plastic and graphic arts are highly to be desired, especially music, but these are too slow in developing to be required. We urge our students who have some equipment to take courses for further development and others to take appreciation courses.

The techniques I look upon merely as tools, but as men without tools would never have got far toward civilization, so the group worker is handicapped without techniques. We must safeguard our workers against becoming mere technicians, however, by giving them a good theoretical background, which gives these techniques meaning. I conceive our courses in Social Aspects of Dramatics, and of Play, and in Group Organization and Leadership to be such courses. They insure constructive use of the production of amateur dramatics, games, sports, folk dancing, handwork, and story-telling. We found that the story-telling courses in our School of Speech fall in our objective, which is to create an interest in literature and stimulate children's reading. Incidentally, the head of the Evanston Library told me she would be glad to have my students tell stories in the Library but that she could not accept students sent her from the School of Speech story-telling courses. It seems that they were bent on entertaining the children with stories, whereas I aim to introduce children to what I conceive as good literature for children through story-telling and through their own reading. I have had to give the story-telling and handwork to my Group Work students without credit or tuition and, of course, without monetary compensation myself. I give the story-telling for half an hour every Tuesday throughout the year during the noon hour, and the handwork as the students can do it on Thursday from 12 to 1. I am going into this detail to show you that we can work out a course, if we are willing to grapple with the difficulties.

At Western Reserve graduate credit is given for handcrafts. I think this is unwarranted and I would never recommend such a thing. I do believe, however, that my two hours of games could be given credit as one credit hour in Social Aspects of Play, but I do not want to give up the fieldwork and neither do I think it advisable to create a four-hour course. I am not sure but I think games and folk dancing are also given credit at Western Reserve. One could easily give the folk dance a folk-lore background that would justify credit, but I have not thought it worth while to do that and, in fact, do not advise it. I think it might be done for undergraduate credit and be very interesting, and academic. ally of good standard, but it is difficult to find a teacher capable of giving it.

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I am sending you our catalog so that you may see what we selected as a field of concentration in Group Work. I would be quite willing to substitute others for some of these, but my letter will indicate what I consider essential. In actual Group Work theory and technique I think the following are a minimum: C17, C18, C19, C20, F1, G1, and the courses in handwork and story-telling. If it were possible, I would add social music.

C18 and 19, and C20, should carry required field work for the third hour, but the case work plan of three hours for one hour of credit cannot be applied. Group Work students must prepare carefully and work intensively while with the group and give extra time for parties, production of plays, and excursions, as well as calling in the homes when necessary or advisable, but groups can meet only at limited times after school and in the evening.

Two versatile Group Work specialists could carry the teaching and the supervision of field work. I teach 8 hours, share in graduate seminar 2 hours bi-weekly, devote 2 required and many extra hours to conferences with students and do all the placing of students and supervising of field work. Obviously the latter is not well done, since I have at present 44 periods of field work a week to supervise.

May I add a final word urging you not to give your students so limited a course that they are unfitted for efficient work. I hope I have given you some help. Please feel quite free to call on me for anything further I can do.

With personal regards and warm appreciation of the hospitality which I have enjoyed in your house, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Neva L. Boyd

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