

The Louisville Fresh Air Home

The Louisville Fresh Air Home is a veritable haven of rest to the city's tired mothers and a source of joy to their children. To those mothers grown old before their time thru hardship and drudgery, it brings sunshine and happiness. To the youngsters, those lean little anemic mites, who are forced by circumstances to spend the summer months in the sweltering city playing long into the night on the steaming streets amidst the dangerous traffic, it brings grass, trees, and flowers; fresh air, wholesome food, and no end of good times.

The Fresh Air Home is the summer camp of Neighborhood House and is situated in what is perhaps the loveliest spot in Pewee Valley. Cool shady trees make a lacy canopy under which the youngsters can play all day long without fear of the street traffic. To approach the main building one ambles along a picturesque avenue of stately trees which seem to whisper by the nodding of the foliage overhead, "Welcome to the Fresh Air Home".

Emerging from the avenue one finds oneself at the top of a knoll on which has been erected a substantial frame structure of the bungalow type. A spacious front porch fitted with swings and comfortable benches invites the newly arriving mothers and children to tarry awhile. Inside, the building is divided into several rooms - a massive living room with a huge stone fireplace greets the arrival while to

the right and left of that are the living quarters for mothers and babies and back of it is the dining room.

The kitchen, pantries, and store-rooms are at the rear and are connected with the dining room by a serving room with a cafeteria arrangement where the guests are served good wholesome food and plenty of it.

The boys and girls have tents to sleep in, and they find the novelty of them much more interesting than sleeping indoors.

Long before opening time the head of the Fresh Air Home is submerged with applications for admittance, and as soon as a family or an individual packs up baggage to go home, there is a request - urgent, usually - that they be allowed to return as soon as possible next summer. Each family is allowed from a week to ten days at the camp. Ten days often produces a remarkable change in the physical well being of the anemic children, the sickly babies, and the tired mothers.

The guests of the home are permitted to come with congenial friends. Once out in the country, the children are allowed practically the freedom of the place. Of course, the mothers and older children do some part of the work to help out, but, even so, much of their time is their own. Trained workers provide games and plan ~~plan~~ entertainment for the guests and thus they find delightful recreation. Sometimes there is a hayride thru the neighboring towns. Old and young pile upon the wagon of sweet smelling hay and jog along under the full moon. What a contrast this is to the

narrowed view these people have of the moon from between the walls of their closely built houses in the city.

Then there is the marshmallow roasting prepared for one night's entertainment. Everyone hikes off to the old quarry, and by the light of the camp fires, which are welcomed on the cool nights, ^{they} ~~sing~~ ^{their} ~~songs~~ and toast their marshmallows. What does it matter if marshmallows are frequently burned to a crisp? It is fun, and fun is what these youngsters need to make life worth living.

There is swimming at the old rock quarry half a mile away, and games of all discription to occupy the time. For the little ones there is a sandbox, and swings, and slides. For the boys there is a ball field, and for all there is a spacious seat around the old apple tree where Miss Nicklies tells a thousand and one wonderful tales. Perhaps dinner is the greatest of the day's happenings. Just imagine having a whole week to eat someone's else cooking and not having to ~~ask~~ ~~imp~~ to make a quarter's worth of beans feed six hungry mouths.

Thru the vacations the home affords, life is made more worth living to hundreds of the less fortunate in our midst. Many tired mothers go back to the tasks that were irksome beyond compare and take up their duties with an enthusiasm that they never dreamed was possible. They have been rejuvenated, as it were, by the fresh air, wholesome food, good times, and sunshine of the Louisville Fresh Air Home.

The Fresh Air Home

The fresh air work of Neighborhood House has been a joyous and rewarding experience from first to last. In summer when streets are hot and the air burns in the crowded sections of Louisville 500 to 1000 mothers and children may have an annual care free week at The Fresh Air Home. A pleasure resort out under big trees where tired resorters have good food, room comforts and recreation planned for them is a benefaction to those who give it as well as for those who receive it. The first pretty day in spring brings applications. One year the first sunny day in January brought a group of small boys who came "to sign up" for the summer's outing. But registration of course and all that it entails comes much later. But who is to gainsay the desire and appreciation of a little boy? One youngster said his brother who wanted to go "lit in prayer" and didn't stop until he was on the train to take him there."

Registration is well under way, ^{early in} about the first of June. There must be a physician's certificate. The food problem (mothers' feeding of babies) and the necessary night clothes are questions to be discussed. No bed is vacant a night at the Fresh Air Home. Sleep is refreshing there. Night sounds are good to listen to and night breezes blowing through grass and leafy branches freshens the air with a pleasant wood smell.

No anxiety for the morrow can intrude. Inresponsibility is part of the pleasure of resorting at The Louisville Fresh Air Home. Friends of the venture all seemed so unaware of being engaged in social endeavor. They were following helpful clues for their plan to put a vacation at the disposal of those who had no break in monotony. No ambitious program, just a plan to offer a week or two in the country.

In 1900 The Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church ~~honored~~ ^{pioneered in giving} the first fresh air

outing to children

in the way of ^{a vacation in the country} ~~the way of~~ 3.

camp work in this city. In 1900, the first fresh air camp was held at Beard's Station ~~now~~ (now Crestwood, Kentucky) at Mrs. Hayes' home and was financed by the church group and other ^{public spirited} interested citizens. Outstanding among these were Mr. Frank Nunemacher and Mr. Henry Ormsby. Miss Daisy Powell, a member of the Young People's Society of the church taught ^{in a} at the Thirteenth and Maple Public School where the need was great for such outings as the camp afforded. To this place Miss Powell was able to send thirty-five children every two weeks. The children were selected from her school from lists presented by other teachers, from churches, and from Neighborhood House. The staff consisted of a director and a cook. The program consisted of simple games and hikes. A horse and wagon were the chief source of entertainment. Cleanliness and health rules were

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emphasized at the camp. Later this camp was called the Bernardine Home. It was conducted each summer either at the Hays' home or at the farm of Mrs. Hella Meyers at Camden, Kentucky.

In 1906 Neighborhood House was asked to send more children to the Bernardine Home. The children were selected from the neighborhood and later taken to the camp by the settlement workers.

In 1908 Miss Powell was ill and as it was necessary for her to withdraw from the work Neighborhood House being the only organization in the field, took over the task of selecting the ~~entire group~~ of children to attend the camp. Mr. Ormsby appointed me vice president

~~Head Resident~~ was made vice president of the fresh air group committee. From that time on Neighborhood House assumed the responsibility of planning and organizing the camps ^{residents} and securing children for these vacation trips.

In 1909 the Louisville Herald opened a Fresh Air Home for the mothers and babies of Louisville. Neighborhood House was asked ~~her~~ to help select find a place for the new vacation home and to select the staff. This was done ~~and~~ a large residence near Anchorage, Kentucky, was chosen and a staff duly ^{installed,} ~~selected.~~ This was quite a ^{for Neighborhood House} heavy responsibility, but ~~it~~ ~~the~~ could not resist the challenge.

Through volunteer service of staff and friends groups were registered for both camps, children (boys and girls) for the Bernardine Camp and mothers and babies for the Herald Camp.

Later the problems of the fresh air camp work and the need for the extension of the program were presented to the Louisville Conference of Social Workers with the result that I was appointed chairman of a committee to look further into the situation and to recommend a plan to deal with the various problems. A plan for the consolidation of the two camps was submitted and accepted. The Herald agreed to the consolidation and assumed the responsibility for raising money for its support while Neighborhood House was responsible for the selection of the staff, maintenance of the program, registering of camp visitors and the opening and closing of the camp. The Recreation League, an organization that had formerly been responsible for the supervision of the play grounds of Louisville, agreed to be the official sponsor of this project. Through Mr. John

It was then that Mrs. Sally Way's home at Forest was rented for the Fresh Air ~~Work~~. The home was opened here in 1911. Fortunately Forest was close to Anchorage and Anchorage proved to be a wonderful neighbor. Through Mr. John Barrett, the Sunday School boys of the Anchorage Presbyterian Church gathered up all the vegetables in Anchorage that could be spared for the Fresh Air Home. This was done every Monday morning. Mr. Stuart Chevalier and Mrs. Leo Bernheim raised many additional contributions. Through Miss Alecina Booth, a sewing circle of the Unitarian Church made garments for many of the ^{hard-working} children. Never was there such a splendid group as this loosely organized Committee.

The work of the camp was extended by co-operation with other social agencies. The Associated Charities sent many of their clients to the camp as did the Babies Milk Fund

Association. Later the Red Cross, the Social Service Department of the City Hospital, the Cabbage Patch Settlement and Wesley House were sending groups to the camp. The community, as well as the social workers recognized what a real need the work of the Fresh Air Home was meeting.

During the trying time of the war, the Fresh Air Home not only served as a vacation place but also as a training center for teaching canning, food conservation and cooking to women and girls.

The first encouragement toward the dream of establishing a permanent Fresh Air Home came ~~there~~ through a generous offer of Mrs. Mary Parker Gill. In 1918, she presented \$5000 to the Committee with the provision that it be matched by an equal sum. Mrs. Gill's interest

had grown out of her own experience of having had children for free vacations at her country home in New York. Her experience had convinced her of the value of this type of work. Action in the matter was delayed by the war, not until later could this offer be taken advantage of as a working plan for the enlargement of the camp.

Happy summer followed happy summer at Forest through 1918. Then this camp site was sold and it was necessary to move. ~~The~~ ^{the} old hotel at the top of the hill at South Park was rented for the summer of 1919. This was a very delightful but expensive venture. The following summer we ^{returned to} rented Mrs. Della Meyers farm ^{at Camden.} ~~again.~~ The farm ^{of} one hundred acres was an ideal spot for a camp but the inadequate housing facilities made it necessary to set up tents to care for the ^{various} groups.

In 1921, Mr. Rowhatten Woolbridge gave to the Louisville Fresh Air Home the sum of \$2,000. In order to ^{take} advantage of Mrs. Mary P. Gill's offer, the Louisville Herald conducted a campaign for building funds and raised \$6,564.56. The amount included Mr. Woolbridge's \$2,000 and \$1,000 from Mr. Theodore Krebs.

But to go back - in 1919 the Fresh Air Home was incorporated under the name Louisville Fresh Air Home. It became a member of the Welfare League and receiving its budget through the funds of that organization. Under the articles of incorporation, the loosely formed committee of previous days became a board of five members three of whom represented the Neighborhood House Board and two of whom were chosen ~~from~~ outside the Board of Neighborhood House. The three chosen to represent Neighborhood House were Mrs. Alex Barrett, Mr. Van Dyke Norman and Mr. Leon P. Lewis. The two outside of the Neighborhood House Board

were Mr. Grover Sales and Miss Frances Ingram

omit?

For the enlightenment of those not acquainted with Welfare League procedure, no ^{one} executive can be a member of its own Board of Directors. The Herald gave its columns from then on for the raising money for the permanent site. Under the new board the affairs of the Home went on as usual with headquarters and administration office at Neighborhood House.

On June 27, 1929 the Louisville Fresh Air Home opened its doors at its permanent location on Maplewood Avenue in Pewee Valley, Kentucky. At last we ~~were~~ ^{had} coming into our ~~very~~ own home (in the great ~~out doors~~ ^{country}). This is now known as Valley Camp.

omit?

But "What's in a name? that which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet."

Crestwood, Camden and Pewee Valley are the places which have sheltered and refreshed the thousands who have gone to the Fresh Air Home during the years between 1907 and 1939.

On June 27, 1923 the Louisville Fresh Air Home opened its doors at its permanent location on Maples in Pewee Valley, Kentucky. At last we had come into our own home in the great outdoors, our home which brings happiness in summer to boys and girls, mothers and babies who otherwise have no escape from the withering heat in the overcrowded districts in which they live.

At last we had come into possession of our own Home, but the completion of our plans took almost twenty years.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home is situated seventeen miles from Louisville in Pewee

Valley, Ky. Through an avenue lined with ash trees, we enter the thirty-one and a half acre tract. On the left among the trees, on a slight rise is the Mary Parker Gill Cottage for mothers and babies. To the right across the open field and over a little hill are the boys' tents. Straight ahead is the main building with the dining hall, the recreation hall, and the girls' dormitory.

Here came each summer ^{as many} boys, girls, mothers and babies as we could comfortably accommodate. Some summers we were not able to take half of those who applied to go.

A week was the average length of the visit. From over-crowded stifling districts they came in groups - national, neighborhood. Many of them already knew each other - but not in this setting of wide bluesky, grass and green trees.

Up at six thirty in the morning. After

breakfast, dish-washing and straightening of quarters by the guests; and then with all its open brightness, its long shadows and new sunshine the day of pleasure in the country begins - cool breezes, shade and sunshine, play and rest. Mothers and babies sit on the wide porches, little children play among the trees nearby. Further off, under the supervision of their counselors, the larger children - boys and girls - play games. There is hiking and swimming in our wonderful pool, books from the Souisville Free Public Library, a pony given by a neighbor and trips to the nearby home of The Little Colonel. In the evening in the big recreation hall there are great group games, and singing of songs old and new with everybody joining in. Each Saturday afternoon the little children are taken on a hike, and the older children join in the treasure hunt, racing across the open fields and the woodland of the thirty-one and a half acres of the Souisville Fresh Air Home, and coming at last to the back of the properties for the

camp - fire supper.

Saturday night; and Monday, for this group the visit becomes a bright memory to help to carry them over those extra-hard places in the year of poverty and ill-opportunity. The outing ensures to them also a brighter outlook on life than a street without trees can give. Here children grow up into citizens of to-morrow in this composite that is our community

The Filson Historical Society

Boy Scouts

A few weeks ago, I made arrangements for the troupe of Boy Scouts to take a trip with me to The Fresh Air Home, a summer home supported by the Community Chest. We had intended to spend the night but the weather turned cold with a little snow, the ground was frozen and the air was very unpleasant. I was secretly in hopes that it would be called off and I certainly didn't intend to spend the night. I was very much disappointed when six of the boys came in early that morning ready to go. The American Business Club furnished me with a coupe with a rumble seat, to take the boys on this trip.

After the addition of two sweaters, a coat and a top coat, I was ready. I felt a little sorry for the boys who were to ride in the rumble seat and wondered how I was going to arrange it so that no one would have to ride outside in the "below freezing" air very long at a time. I didn't have to worry long about this because when I walked out the front door all six boys were trying to get into the rumble; two were crying from being pushed out, by the older boys and as three was the capacity of the seat, the fourth was still fighting for a place.

I felt confident that it wouldn't take but a few minutes of riding as cold as it was to settle this argument. I was badly mistaken. Even though ice was freezing on the windshield, the argument lasted throughout the day and I found it very difficult to divide the trip among them so that in their own minds they shared equally.

Jan 4, 1935 - Radio talk given by Mr. Norman - 1935

LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

In this new year with the glow of Christmas still in our hearts, and the memory of the children's happiness brightening our way, will you visit with me, in memory and vision, the Louisville Fresh Air Home - this one of the Community Chest's agencies which brings happiness in summer to boys and girls, mothers and babies who otherwise would have no escape from the withering heat in the over-crowded districts in which they live.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home is situated seventeen miles from Louisville in PeWee Valley, Kentucky. Through an avenue lined with ash trees, we enter the thirty-one and a half acre tract. On the left among the trees, on a slight rise is the Mary Parker Gill Cottage for Mothers and Babies. To the right across the open field and over a little hill are the boy's tents. Straight ahead is the main building with the dining hall, the recreation hall, and the girls' dormitory.

Here came last summer a thousand eight-eight boys and girls, mother and babies. Sixteen hundred eighty-three had come to Neighborhood House - the place of registration - to "sign up for the Fresh Air Home".

A week is the average length of the visit. From over-crowded, stifling districts they come in groups - national, neighborhood. Most of them already know each other - but not in this setting of wide blue sky, grass and green trees.

Up at six thirty in the morning. After breakfast, dish-washing and straightening of quarters by the guests; and then with all its open brightness, its long shadows and new sunshine the day of pleasure in the country begins - cool breezes, shade and sunshine, play and rest. Mothers and babies sit on the wide porches, little children play among the trees nearby. Further off, under the supervision of their counselors, the larger children - boys and girls - play games. There is hiking, and swimming at Lake Louisville, books from the Louisville Free Public Library, a

pony given by a neighbor and trips to the nearby home of The Little Colonel. In the evening in the big recreation hall there are Great group games, and singing of songs old and new with everybody joining in. Each Saturday afternoon the little children are taken on a hike, and the older children join in the treasure hunt, racing across the open fields and the woodland of the thrity-one and a half acres of the Louisville Fresh Air Home, and coming at last to the back of the property for the camp-fire supper.

Saturday night; and Monday, for this group the visit becomes a bright memory to help to carry them over those extra-hard places in the year of poverty and ill-opportunity. As we, the stronger and more fortunate, look forward to our vacation for next summer, let us stretch our a helping hand now to ensure to them also a brighter outlook on life than a street without trees can give.

Come to the Louisville Fresh Air Home next summer and see us - Children growing up into citizens of to-morrow - and see what it is that you supporters of the Community Chest give to us in sheer joy - and in vision and standards for to-morrow in this composite that is our community.

Radio talk by Mr. J. V. Norman, President,
Louisville Fresh Air Home
W.H.A.S. Friday, January 4, 1935, 4:25 P.M. -4:30 P.M.

This afternoon we are happy to take you with us to see the Louisville Fresh Air Home.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home, one of the thirty-six agencies of the Community Chest, is located in PeWee Valley, Kentucky. Last summer, in 1934, from June 28 to August 31, 1088 boys and girls and mothers and babies were given opportunity for rest and refreshment in the country. A striking contrast to the heat of the city streets and alleys and the stuffy closeness of rooms over stores or opposite noisy factories.

Through an avenue of Ash trees we come to the Main Building of the Louisville Fresh Air Home. We have passed the Mary Parker Gill Cottage for mothers and babies. To the right over the hill are the boy's tents. In the Main Building is the girl's dormitory, the dining hall, the recreation hall. Across the front of the Main Building is a long wide porch with rocking chairs and swings. Here mothers with babies sit on hot afternoons while children play under the trees nearby. From many sections of the city they have come for this respite from the heat of over crowded districts. Last summer 1683 came to Neighborhood House, the point of registration, requesting the outing. It was possible to send only 1088 boys and girls and mothers and babies.

Early each Monday afternoon a group - gathers at Neighborhood House bag and baggage with a certificate of health ready for the trip to the Louisville Fresh Air Home!

1936

THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME STORY

It is much the same story but with the 1936 variations. The Louisville Fresh Air Home was open for nine weeks and gave outings to 888 individuals, averaging seven days each, on its beautifully wooded tract with wide play spaces at Pewee Valley.

On these spacious grounds the mothers and babies were housed in the Mary Parker Gill Cottage. The boys were taken care of in the four new shacks in the woods. The girls were allotted to the dormitory in the administration building where are also found the recreation hall, dining room, and kitchen. Oh! The fun in this great dining room--not only "good eats" but songs and hilarious good times.

But -- this summer was attended by ^{un}usual difficulties on account of drought and the consequent bad water condition. To meet this condition the City Board of Health required that every guest take three typhoid shots before going to the Home.

The city registration office at Neighborhood House, 428 South First St was a busy place. Here applicants came from every section of the city to "sign up." Here typhoid clinics were held. Here the marvelously helpful motor corps met the prospective guests whom they transported to the country. Here the applicants begged not for a "place in the sun" but for a week of pure joy in the country. One mother declared that her visit there was a week of Heaven itself.

And why?----Three meals a day with no mental anguish as to how they would be bought and paid for and with little physical exertion as to the preparation. Airy rooms, clean beds, running water, shady trees, green grass and comfortable rockers. All of this with the opportunity to swim, dance, play games and even dress up and take part in a show, is what the Fresh Air Home means to weary mothers.

Three meals every day, good milk every meal, ice cream once or twice a week, swimming, individual beds to sleep in, handicraft, campfire programs, stunts, shows, games, treasure hunts, picnic suppers, pony rides, campfire songs, green grass, and rolling hills. This is what the Fresh Air Home means to food-hungry, pleasure-hungry, nature-hungry boys and girls.

"OFF THE RECORD"

IN THE CITY ----- Registrar's Office.

A grandmother who just "wants to set" and get the feel of the country in her bones again.

A snappy eyed boy and a pale faced girl, a mother with six children in tow -- all walking miles to take the typhoid shots.

IN THE COUNTRY ----- Louisville Fresh Air Home, Pewee Valley.

"Gee, this milk tastes like cream. And do we really have a glass of milk every meal?"

"Go on boy, taste this cottage cheese. It ain't bitter like that you get in the city."

Lady, do we have "eats" like this every meal? If we do, I'd like to live here."

THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME IS A COMMUNITY CHEST AGENCY

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It is a pleasant task to compile the story of The Louisville Fresh Air Home. In summer, when streets are hot and the air burns in the crowded parts of Louisville, ^{500 or 1000} mothers and children may ^{have} register for an annual care-free week at the Fresh Air Home. A pleasure resort out under big trees where tired resorters have good food, room comforts, ^{and} recreation planned for them is a benefaction to those who give it as well as those who take it. The first pretty day in Spring brings applications. Then follows a physician's certificate. The food problem (mothers' feeding of babies) & the collecting of night clothes are needs next discussed. No bed is vacant at night at the Fresh Air Home. ^{Sleep is refreshing there.} Night sounds are good to listen to and night breezes blow through grass and leafy branches which freshen the air with pleasant wood smell. No anxiety for the morrow can intrude ~~here~~. Inresponsibility is part of the pleasure of resorting at The Louisville Fresh Air Home.

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The minutes in the files of the Fresh Air Home make interesting reading. Friends of the venture all seem so unaware of being engaged in social endeavor. They were following helpful clues for their plan to put a vacation at the disposal of those who had no break in monotony. No ambitious program, just a plan to offer a week or two in the country.

The names of the promoters of this health-and-pleasure plan, The Louisville Fresh Air Home, are proud names in Louisville's citigeny. Mr. Frank Munermacher and Mr. Henry Ormsby Churchman with an ^{inspired} ~~entirely~~ vision, established the Bernadine Fresh Air Home at Crestwood in . "Miss Bessie" was in charge. There was room for 35 children at a time, little boys and girls for one or two weeks. Miss ^{Harris} ~~Harris~~ Rowlette, Teacher at 13th and Maple, ^(Sp. ?) gathered up children in that neighborhood for the Bernadine Home. The

Presbyterians, ^{mainly} paid for the outing. Mr. Ormsby
and Mr. Kuenenacher solicited funds
for it.

In 190⁶, Neighborhood House, along
with other organizations, was asked to
supply some of the children who were to
go to the Berwadiene Home. Miss ^{Frances} Ingram,
head resident of Neighborhood House,
took them to the L. and N. station
at Tenth Street and put them on the
outgoing train. That was thirty years
ago, and a train trip was a big event.

Fewer and fewer people helped Miss
Rowlette; then, one summer, Miss Rowlette
was ill. Neighborhood House, being the
only organization in the field, was asked
to take charge of the Fresh Air Home. This
was in 1911. Miss Ingram went to
see Mr. Ormsby (then president of the
Bank). Miss ^{Frances} Ingram, ^{herself an Episcopalian,} vice president of this
Presbyterian group, and they went out
and looked into the place and plans
of the Crestwood vacation spot which
was later to become the Linnville Fresh Air Home.

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Miss Ingram's first recruiting visit was
to a street south of 12th Street ^{near Zane,} called
"21 row", after the repeated pattern of the
houses. This unique piece of housing
had been left ^{to} the city from the Civil
War ^{days}. Miss Ingram looked up names
of children who had gone to ~~the Fresh
Air Home~~ the previous year. Heads
came out of windows as word went
around that she was ^{was} visiting in
behalf of the Fresh Air Home. A
drunken woman from a second floor
said, "I don't want my child to go to ~~the Fresh Air Home~~
they washed a ^{her} child's mouth
out with soap last year."

Later, the Herald decided to open
a Fresh Air Home for mothers and
babies, and ^{Miss Ingram of} the Neighborhood House was
asked to find a place acceptable.
A house in 3, ^(other side of X) near Anchorage
was rented and consolidation took ¹²
place. The Bernadine Home and
the Herald's mother-and-baby home
went under one management. The
Bernadine Home and the Mother-and-baby

management had sometimes found it hard to match the number of boys and girls with the mother and baby number. When boys and girls visited mothers they wanted to stay; so, Bernadine had said they mustn't visit parents.

The Louisville Conference of Social Workers took up the question and made Miss Ingram chairman for consolidation. The Herald was glad to consolidate. For succeeding years, Neighborhood House did the work with its workers who were in town summers. The Herald raised money needed for salaries and

rented Miss Sally Way's home at Forest.

The name of another, Presbyterian Churchman looms large at this time. Every Monday morning Mr John Barrett, together with his Sunday School boys, gathered up all the vegetables in Anchorage for the Fresh Air Home.

Though a rather loosely organized committee, there was a very dependable treasurer, Mr Stuart Chevalier who sent out notices for the Fresh Air Home,

and Mrs Lee Bernheim stood out as the go-getter VI
of needed contributions.
We went along this way for years.

Through Mrs Alexandra South,
The Unitarian Church Sewing circle
made night garments and slips for
children for Fresh Air Home children.
Dry groceries and bread were usually
given us by interested friends.

When it came time to accept money
that might be used for building a home,
Mrs Mary Parker Gill presented her
generous proposition of \$5,000 to be matched
by an equal sum. Mrs Gill's
interest had come from her own experience
of having had children sent to her
home in New York state. She had kept
up contacts with these children for years
after their vacations with her.

The Fresh Air Home wanted to become
incorporated. When this was done, it was
considered wise to have three representatives
of the Neighborhood House Board serve
on the Fresh Air Home Committee. The
new board was made up of Frances
Ingram, President; Stuart Chevalier,

Treasurer; Leon P. Lewis; Mr Van Dyke VII
Norman; Mrs Alex G. Barnett.

About this time, the art of humanity received the vital aid of a new friend of childhood. Mrs Waller started the Waller Doll Club. Her story is this: she had heard some orphans say they had never tasted a strawberry. Mrs Waller was so startled that she immediately organized and gave the rest of her life to raising funds to give orphans pleasure. The Orphans' Pleasure Club and The Waller Doll Club resulted. One year 200 interested people were proud to collect Christmas toys for orphans. Mrs Waller included Neighborhood House and The Fresh Air Home. When she saw that there were Jewish groups at both places, she said, ^{gave permission for} the toys should go into game and play rooms and be used all the year. Nothing awkward was tolerated by Mrs Waller. Syrians, Jews, Italians, Americans, — all children should have "the makings" of pleasure.

Crestwood, Camden, and Pawee Valley are the places which have sheltered and refreshed the 3 thousands who have gone to the Fresh Air Home during the years between 1907 and 1937.

The farm at Camden, ^{near the grove,} rented from Mrs. Della Meyers for the summers of 1920-²³ offered, offered interesting farm life. Wading in the creek during the day, fiddles and guitars for Virginia Reels, campfires and marshmallows toasts in the evening built community spirit which lasted long after blackberry picking and sunset suppers had become the long ago. Miss Anna T. Eisenmann managed the Fresh Air Home during these four summers. Mr. J. W. Selph of La Grange furnished our supply of water. We had a Base Ball diamond, too! Miss Eisenmann was a great lover of the country. She could make anything grow. Her vegetables and flowers made admiring friends for the Fresh Air Home.

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On June 27, 1923, the Louisville

Fresh Air Home opened its doors at Tx
its permanent location on Maplewood
Avenue in Pewee Valley. The preparation
for this permanent home is an interesting
chapter. Many improvements had to
be made. The architect, Mr. E. T. Hutchins,
directed the reconstruction of the building.
He gave his services as a contribution
from himself and Mrs Hutchins.
Mr. Powhattan Woodruff's story
3 1/2 acres

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The Filson Historical Society

X

Experiences both gay and sad come to mind as the pages of "minutes" kept over the thirty year period are read again. An added respect for human relations came out of demonstrations in the war cooking and canning at the Fresh Air Home in the summer of 1918. The ^{Old South} Park Hotel would be but a name ^{to us} without the pleasure it gave to 321 persons in the summer of 1919. There was gratitude for pleasure received. One woman wanted to sew to pay for crutches we got for her.

The Fresh Air Home has always cooperated with other organizations. When Dr. O'Brien sought homes in the country for problem children he first spent six weeks with them at the Fresh Air Home before our vacation season began. The story of antagonistic Jimmy illustrates the beneficence of this approach to boys' work. Jimmy had a vicious dog and he guaranteed to make any boy at the home as mean as his dog in a week's time. But after five weeks, Jimmy had lost interest in his own guarantee. He even liked

out - n. 19.

the resources of peace.

Transportation to and from the Fresh Air Home has always been a pleasure mingled with convenience. Friends in recent years, have put spacious cars at our disposal and we were soon there.

But time was when our immigrant friends were abhorred on street cars as they "lugged" their clothes in sheets and delayed the stop and start with such encumbrances as baby buggies.

On one of our trips, an electric storm blew out the fuse at the station and there was no return trip that night.

Children remember best the rabbit holes and Coly, the horse, and the fascination of efforts to take care of Coly. Mothers remember how good it is to sit and rest and not worry. One mother cured herself of crying and "never had it come back"; another mother says "out there it's the stormiest sky I ever seen".

38,000.00 is the expenditure which has been put into our present equipment. For that money we have a graded

roadway to the house; an outdoor swimming pool; an athletic field; small bath house; a boys' dormitory; a mothers' cottage; an administration building, including dormitory and recreation hall. The recreation hall is, along with the dining room, the singing and companionship room.

Mr. Grover Sales says - - - - -

The Filson Historical Society

Give total number through years.

12526

Report of Marietta Charnell.
1939.

The purpose of the Louisville Fresh Air Home is to provide a week's vacation to underprivileged mothers and children. This week's vacation covers a variety of educational activities in which the character, personality, physical ability, leadership and body of the camper are developed. These traits are developed in activities such as: (1) swimming, where the campers are instructed in water safety. Instructions in swimming cannot be given during the regular swimming period because of an insufficient number of life guards. A special period is arranged for each group of girl campers in which they receive instructions in beginning and advanced swimming. I have found this arrangement to be very successful and beneficial as most of the campers do not have the opportunity to receive any swimming instructions whatsoever; (2) hikes - two hikes are planned for each week, but the program is flexible enough so that short nature hikes may be taken if the group proved to be quite active and interested in naturalistic things. The first hike is taken to visit some historical sight, such as Duncan Memorial, Little Colonel's Home, The Old Soldiers Home and the Wexler's prison. The second hike is taken to Lake Louisville where the girls enjoy their picnic lunch sitting on the beach watching swimmers and fishermen; (3) playground activities, such as ring tennis, paddle tennis, volley ball, cage ball, and soft ball are enjoyed by all. By participating in these leadership and fair play are developed. When it gets too dark to use equipment and until it is time to go into the recreational hall the campers join in on the children's games and enjoy them immensely; (4) evening programs. One evening is set aside each week to give the camper an opportunity to perform before an audience, and thus exercise his talents. The other evenings are devoted to stunts, singing and folk dancing, and novelty events in which the campers participate with the greatest enthusiasm. The evening programs are planned so that wholesome activities are provided for all who are

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vacationing here. No one has the feeling of being left out. If any camper should have that feeling it is of her own making. We try to encourage the timid child in all activities; (5) handicraft - this part of our program is very interesting to most of the girls as they make things of their own creation; (5) inspection - this is an important routine in the daily program as it reaches good health habits, cooperation, honesty and a sense of good fellowship among the girls. They are inspected as to general personal appearance, such as nails, teeth, hair, clothing and the condition of their bunks. The girls are instructed as to how their beds should be made and as to how they should be kept at all times. A gold star is awarded the bunk that has done all it should do and is the neatest in appearance. Daily health habits should be encouraged by informing the campers of the necessity of keeping clean and neat. Each girl is required to take a shower after swimming and after a long hike not merely for its cleansing purposes but for the relaxation and stimulation it affords. As an incentive for keeping clean a chart is put up so that all the girls may see their own progress and the progress of others. The element of competition immediately enters in and each girl tries to do better than the next one. But the necessity of keeping clean and not the competitive element should be encouraged.

By participating in all the activities of camp life with cooperation and a spirit of good will each camper derives most of the benefits they afford. All in all this camping season has been very successful and beneficial to all.

Recommendations:

1. Due to the fact that the girls like to go barefooted down to the pool, a path should be cut thru the woods down the hill as far as the creek. This could be done by a few of the older boys in the first week of the camping season.
2. A bridge of log should be built over the creek on the way down to the pool. As it stands now there is danger in crossing it especially after a rain. This could be built by the boys as a handicraft project.

3. The remodeling of the girls shower room is of the utmost necessity. The galvanized tin is so worn, cracked and rusted that the water has seeped thru and had rotted the flooring and foundation. It is very dark and dingy place to walk into and due to the fact that the floor never thoroughly dries it is very unsanitary. More air and sunlight is needed in the room and that could be provided very easily by cutting away the trees and vines that have grown over the windows. By using the suggested plan this shower room could be remodeled at an estimated cost of \$.

The Filson Historical Society

MARY PARKER GILL COTTAGE
Summer 1939 -

Report of Mrs. Ruth Otto.

Nearing the end of my second year as supervisor of the Mary Parker Gill Cottage of the Louisville Fresh Air Home, I feel that it has indeed been a great privilege to have been able to contribute even a tiny bit to the comfort and happiness of the many boys, girls, mothers and babies that we have had with us. With last year's experience this my second year, was naturally easier, and it was quite a pleasure to welcome back the ones to whom I tried to give a week of happiness last summer.

Any mother who loves a summer vacation in the country would have quite an easy time having a week of pleasure, providing there was no sickness or cross children to interfere. With our competent counselors, I feel that we have kept our children, as a whole, quite happy this season.

Our mothers, this year, seemed to enjoy the swimming more. With two counselors on the hill, doing handcraft in the morning and playing games in the afternoon with the children, the mothers had quite a bit of free time to enjoy themselves with swimming, hiking and various other pleasures. Many were quite content to rest under the trees in comfortable rockers doing handwork. No one is forced to do any recreational activity which she does not like. Once a week we had a program in the recreation hall which was heartily enjoyed by all. They seemed to drop years from their ages. Things would seem so hopeless at the beginning of our rehearsals but the ones who seemed the most quiet and reserved would step forth and surprise all with their latent ability.

Our dining room system was changed this year with quite a bit of success. Each counselor giving his or her group the table regulations which before were given by one person. This avoided quite a bit of confusion. Having charge of the dining room, I could see a great improvement.

Being the pianist here, one of my duties was to conduct a rhythm band composed of the small children. The first day of some weeks our little band seemed almost impossible. So often little children have no sense of rhythm and the improvised instruments we used made the task doubly hard but by diligent practice we were able to surprise our audience at the end of the week. It would have been a joy to have kept some groups the entire summer. I feel confident that I would have a rhythm band to feel proud of then.

My most pleasant task was accompanying the singing in the evening, although I feel we lacked leadership. Enough time was not given to new songs. We noticed that thruout the day our boys and girls sang "our" songs in preference to the current popular songs.

The folk dancing was one of the high lights of the day - every one taking part. Even our mothers threw their cares aside and danced gaily with their children.

My chief criticism for the season was the overcrowding the Mothers' cottage. Such a condition causes a very unpleasant week. The children become irritable and quarrelsome and cause the mothers to be unpleasant to each other. The rest period is far from quiet. Everybody seems to be in everybody's way. I would say that the number sent out each week should be given as much consideration as all the other requirements. A perfect balanced crowd means a perfect week. When four beds are available, a mother with four children is sometime sent out making it necessary for two children to sleep in one bed. A child with insufficient rest is an unpleasant child. Two children cannot sleep comfortably on our single beds.

Recommendations: - let - telephone communication - if only between the two buildings.

2. A place in each room to hang clothing.
3. The interior (walls and ceilings) as well as the exterior needs painting badly.
4. A new roof.
5. A partition in the dormitory making more rooms for small children.
6. More eggs in diet.

REPORT OF VIRGINIA ROBINSON

August 28, 1939.

The Summer Camp at Louisville Fresh Air Home has proved very beneficial to most of its campers. Each camper is allowed to stay one week. They come on Monday afternoon and leave the following Monday morning. During the time they are here they have a chance to develop their character, their physical body and also good health habits.

The morning starts with a rising bell at seven o'clock. Until this bell rings there is to be no noise of any sort on the grounds. When the bell does ring each camper is up, washed, dressed and ready for Flag Raising at seven forty-five. Last year there was only 30 minutes between the rising bell and Flag Raising the extra fifteen minutes has proven very helpful to every one; it gives more time thus encouraging the camper to clean his or her teeth or wash more properly. Time is a very important factor with most of our campers. If too little time is given they rush and leave undone the most important things, still if too much time is given they don't know how to use it properly.

Breakfast is at eight o'clock. The campers march into the dining room from Flag Raising. They sing the Blessing. There are three chorals given for them to be seated, the first is for the Mothers, the second for the girls and the third for the boys. Some one from each of the boys and girls tables is asked to serve the water and milk, while the Counselors serve the food. The mothers do all the serving at their tables.

Some of the boys and girls are not in the habit of waiting until every one is served before they eat. We try to teach them what best manners are, by having them wait until every one is served before they eat, also by having each person appointed a certain task which avoids the commotion of having every one jumping up yelling "may I do this?". After they practice these table manners three times a day for seven days they more likely would want to change things than

they would continue in this unruly manner. Each person is taught very carefully how to clean his or her dishes so as to keep the dish water from overflowing a garbage pan. Two or three persons from each table are asked to wash dishes. They wash the dishes and set the table for the next meal. Every meal is conducted in the like manner.

After breakfast every one goes to his or her respective place and cleans up for inspection. The girls have personal inspection and bunk inspection. Personal inspection includes an examination of the teeth, hair and nails. Bunk inspection includes the beds and floor. The girls are divided into three parts and are called Bunk one, two and three. Each regular counselor has charge of a bunk. One gold star is given to the cleanest and neatest bunk. At the end of the week a small award is given to the member of the bunk having the most stars.

Two mornings a week are set aside for hikes for the girls, one the first of the week and one the last. The other mornings are taken up with stunt practices and handicraft. This summer we have made picture frames, pine cone pins and many other things - they may help to remember the Fresh Air Home.

There is a warning bell at ten minutes of twelve, this gives every one ten minutes in which to get washed for dinner.

After dinner there is a candy store where the campers are allowed to buy five cents worth of candy each day. They have forty-five minutes to visit with the other campers or do anything they choose before rest hour. Rest hour starts at one-thirty and lasts until three o'clock, during which time each camper is to be absolutely quiet. They may read, write, or do anything they desire so long as they stay on their beds and are quiet.

After rest hour every one that wishes may go swimming. The swimming period is from three to four-thirty. Everyone that goes swimming is required to take a shower. Those who do not swim may take one if they choose.

The girls have bank inspection again at five-fifteen.

A warning bell is rung at five-twenty and supper at five-thirty.

After supper everyone is out on the play ground where various games are played. Some of the games played by older boys and girls are ring tennis, paddle tennis, volley ball, cage ball, soft ball and some circle games. There are a number of circle games played with little children, some are Looby Loos, Qats, Beans, Pans and Barley Grow, Farmer in the Dell, Wherry Bush.

When it is too dark to play outside everyone comes into the recreation hall, this is the time everyone likes best and looks forward to with great anticipation. Here we have group singing that everyone enters into very enthusiastically. At the end of the week we have a Hit Parade. One night is set aside for singing and folk dancing alone. All other nights the program consists of singing, some sort of stunt, indoor track meet, or some other planned program and the time left is taken up with folk dancing. At nine o'clock we sing Lullaby and then Taps.

The Filson Historical Society

REPORT OF BOYS WORKER

J. P. BERTING

Summer of 1939.

With a great deal of sincere regret I find fast approaching the end of a very enjoyable camping season. It has been my happy privilege to have been working in a camp with a most excellent and considerate staff. A camp situated where natural beauty and the possibilities of material of interest in the fields of natural science are unlimited.

Being a bit one-sided, that is with a personal enjoyment of science, and seeing how much hopeful curiosity can easily be aroused in the camper by explaining some of the scientific facts that were quite easily brought together, I hope that during the next season the fields of biology, botany and geology can be a bit further developed. That is that many more things of real interest along these lines brought to the camper.

By means of hikes - I have found a very useful instrument for accomplishing many purposes. Primarily I have found that on the hikes many interesting things can be shown that otherwise would not be available on the camping grounds. The trees of Pewee Valley and the surrounding vicinity have been the object of many discussions on our hiking trips. The possibilities of making up a short course in trees and their identification should not be overlooked. The course need no tedious study and preparation on the part of the camper. The instructor, however, should be well acquainted with the ordinary species so prevalent. I have found that on hikes when the subject of trees is begun - the boys never pass a new tree but what he does not take a special interest in it and wishes to know its name. Secondly I think that no better form of healthful exercise can be obtained. It is certainly not too strenuous and never exerts the camper to a point where but a few minutes rest would not quickly end all fatigue.

In accomplishing a mental and physical factor by hikes you also can help a great deal in quieting him - during periods that calmness and rest are essential - rest hour and in the evening.

Another science that I think is of a major interest to boys is Geology. Hunting fossil rock and seeing the different ancient rock formations has held the interest of the campers on many occasions.

Of less physical activity on the part of the camper - nevertheless, accompanied I believe by more mental interest have been the dissecting of some of the small animals and explaining the parts to the campers. This study also I believe can be elaborated on - to become a definite course of instruction and I am sure that it will constitute a major camping interest.

One picnic a week on which we eat a meal away from the camp has been a real treat for the boys. In the future it might be varied with a overnight trip on which a temporary shelter could be built in a woods either on the L.F.A.K. grounds or in a woods away from camp.

As for other camp activities during the day time, I have found that a morning of fishing meets with enthusiastic approval of the group, shown by their orderly manner and cooperation during that morning.

"Horseback" battles have also been of a special interest and resulted in an active participation on the part of all of the boy campers.

The games after the evening meal have been softball and ring tennis, which I think have been much enjoyed by the whole camping body.

I had hoped to have one group to visit Mr. Chamberlin's museum, after the evening meal each week, but did not get the opportunity to carry it out. It should be possible to do so next season as he has many things of real interest to boys in his collections. To have one outdoor meet every week would work very well, I am sure. This season so far we have had only one and the campers seemed to enjoy it very much.

The evening programs, as they have been carried out, have been very good. The one evening that could be worked on most for improve-

ment is the camp fire on Sunday night.

The boys on this evening have been very active in programs - altho liking short skits better than plays where it requires a great deal of rehearsals and costuming.

In speaking of the camp fires on Sunday night. I believe that the closest to the ideal was reached during the latter part of the season - when the camp fire became a more solemn occasion instead of one of hilarious comedy as the first camp fire of the season proved to be. This was accomplished mainly by having ample seating room at the camp fire for each person and to have them seated in one continuous circle.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The length of time for each camper to stay at camp should be two weeks instead of one, the present time limit. By extending the length of time that a camper is at camp, I believe many more worthwhile activities can be accomplished that are quite impossible at the present. In the **first place**, it would allow much more time to be more thorough in many of the activities of the camp. In the field of swimming by having a two week course worked out many of the boys that come to camp and cannot swim could be pretty far advanced in the added time.

The same principle applies to Geology and in the study of trees. Even the dissection work could be advanced so as to give a fairly interesting and complete ground knowledge of many facts that the young camper is only too happy to add to his store of knowledge. Also by giving the camper the two weeks when he first comes out we could eliminate the "repeat camper". The camper who comes back many times disturbs the program in many ways. By having new campers and campers who have been out the week before together - always the thing of interest to the new campers have lost their appeal to the old camper and this situation requires real effort in order that the interest of both may be held strongly on the current program.

The idea of having cabin counselors as leaders for each shack of

boys has been excellent development. However, I do believe that picking cabin counselors from the camper group has been much more successful than the sending of older boys with the stipulation that they become cabin counselors, as I find generally the designated counselor expects many more privileges and does less work than the boys that are picked from the group. Important to the cabin counselor idea is to see that there are five or six good sized boys in each camping group.

I am of the opinion that another shower the same size as the one now present ~~would~~ be of great value. It is rather difficult for forty-two boys to take a shower at the present with only one shower. Each camper should be required to take at least one shower a day. (A second shower could be easily built adjoining the existing one).

The path from the main building to the boys camp should be "stepped off". That is a stairs should be built on the hill. This could be easily done by cutting steps in the earth and holding the dirt from being washed away with logs or by means of large slabs of stone. When there is a hard rain this path becomes a small creek and is dangerous for the boys to travel.

The grass should be cut twice each season - as when there is a dry season especially this year, it becomes very high before the end of the season.

Also the poison ivy should be cut away from all the paths and places where children play twice each season. There has been very much of it for the last three or four weeks this year which has constituted a serious health menace.

The boys' shacks No. 1 and No. 2 should have brick piers on the side that goes down the hill, which would make them much more substantial and eliminate the lean that shows up in Cabin No. 2 at the present time.

The boys' toilet at the boys' camp should have the air

vents on the roof extended about a foot higher and deodorizer used in the latrine at the rear of same.

Swimming Pool - A dam should be built on the side opposite the beach in order to keep the mud from washing down into the pool after large rains. This is important as the mud will constitute a real problem in a few years.

There should be a boys and girls toilet at the pool. As this makes a real health problem and causes difficulty in keeping the pool free of filth. I discovered at one time five or six evidences of human excrement, which is easily washed from the bank to the pool when it rains. The water in the pool should be chlorinated each week with at least 12 cans of chloride of lime. This is required in order to make the pool fit for swimming.

Ten pounds of copper sulphate should be used at the beginning of the season for algae control and five pounds added each two weeks.

A pier should be built into the deep water in order to have a safe place to dive, also there should be ladders from same so that the swimmers can get out of the pool. As the only way of getting out of the pool at present is to climb up a mud bank which is not at all safe.

Another cork ring buoy should be available. One for each side of the pool.

If it is possible to spend some money on the beach a permanent asset can be added by building a concrete base around it and filling it in with sand. On the end going into the water steps going into the pool would give the impression of an up-to-date built pool, and would be very handy for the small children wading in the shallow part.

The tent in the boys camp should have all guy ropes that are not in good working order removed and new ones put into their place.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Length of time for the campers extended to two weeks.
2. Cabin counselors picked from capper group.
3. Additional shower at boys camp.

4. Reconstruction of path from boys camp to main building.
5. Grass should be cut twice each season.
6. Poison Ivy should be cut out twice each season.
7. Piers built for shacks No. 1 and 2.
8. Vents in boys toilets extended.
9. Dam should be built at swimming pool.
10. Boys and girls toilet built at swimming pool.
11. Pool chlorinated with 12 cans of chloride of lime each week.
12. Copper Sulphate added to the pool for algae control.
13. Pier built at swimming pool.
14. Additional cork ring busy
15. Repair of counselor's tent.

REPORT OF ROBERT L. KOHNHORST

ASSISTANT TO JOHN F. BERTING.

August 27, 1939.

During the period of the Fresh Air Camp this summer, I will try to sum up its activities.

On the boys side we have had from 32 to 40 boys each week, each group remaining from Monday thru Monday. The first thing the boys are taught is discipline and respect for the rights of others. Careful instructions are given them pertaining to their conduct during their vacation and that importance of cleanliness, manners, camp boundaries, etc.

In the morning the boys rise at 7, those who wish take a shower, then make up their beds neatly and clean up camp thoroughly. Then in half an hour the bunks are ready for a competitive inspection and at the weeks end the winning bunk is rewarded with a prize. This arouses a spirit of teamwork and makes for better cooperation among boys. At each meal the group is carefully counted to see that no one has left the camp from homesickness or other reasons.

At meals the boys were served by older counselors. I would suggest that next year each group leader assist the counselor in order to save time.

All boys took turns with dishes and a few helped in kitchen when necessary. After breakfast a hike was looked forward to with much enthusiasm.

These hikes into the country around Pewee Valley bring a boy into close contact with nature and give him a deeper appreciation of beauty and nature. Especially informative were the geological hunts in the nearby quarry for Indian arrowheads, stoneage man's relics and various minerals. Also very exciting were the hunts for snakes, turtles and frogs, which were captured and brought to the camp doctor who dissected them and pointed out the anatomy and showed how strong the heart was even after death.

We also took an interesting trip thru the woman's prison, which

gives one a real appreciation of American freedom.

For our Americanism we also raised Old Glory every morning and sang "America" together.

Once a week we took an all day hike to picturesque Lake Louisville, sometimes wading two miles up the creek and eating in a lonely barn. One one of these we were fortunate enough to have Mr. Chamberlain of Pewee with us. He told the boys of the earlier history of the country.

On returning for dinner each boy took a bath; we had plenty of plain, wholesome food, well cooked and served and best of all piano playing before and singing at the end of each meal.

Mail was given out at noon and letters written in the after meal rest period of at least one and a half hours before swim. Candy was sold after dinner only, with each camper allowed a nickel's worth.

On the rest period the boys read from the library and kept quiet for the more studious ones.

Then came the swim, which was always eagerly anticipated. In this period we always gave the campers careful instructions about the rocks in the quarry and used the Boy Scout "Buddy" system, whereby each boy has a partner of his own ability who must stay near him in the water and who must hold up his buddy's hand when the guards blow the whistle. Here I suggest that the Fresh Air Home put up for 1940 a more careful swimming system, such as a buddy board with numbers to be checked by each boy as he enters and leaves the water. Also we should have an hour's swimming instruction every morning, and an extra life buoy to throw from the opposite end of the pool and an improved diving board which would discourage swimmers from diving all over the pool as the Sunday visitors do unaware.

After swim camp is cleaned up and inspected, and stunts are prepared for the night.

After supper baseball games are played against Pewee with a picked team from camp. This is softball and would be more interesting I think with a real baseball. Several of the boys were interested and

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tryouts in professional baseball.

As soon as it got too dark to play we had our night program and sang songs and had folk dances. Social dances I think would be more interesting to the older boys as many have said.

After the program we had a boy's campfire for the benefit of the ones who didn't participate in the program. These boys told stories and sang songs.

On Sunday night we held open air campfires which are more beautiful and inspiring.

The whole scheme of the Louisville Fresh Air Home brings out the best in any boy, girl or adult. The whole staff that I worked with were all kindly and helpful and cooperated at all times for the welfare of the camp.

For improvements in 1940, I suggest:

1 extra shower bath

1 extra life preserver for swim

Extra cabins and two weeks for each camper

1 counselor for each cabin

1 pair 16 ounce boxing gloves

1 acrobatic bar.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT L. KORNHORST

Counselor

310 E. College St.,

Louisville, Ky. - Wa. 1798

REPORT OF AURALIA SHELTON

Summer 1939.

The primary function of the Louisville Fresh Air Home is to provide a week's vacation for under-privileged mothers and children in an atmosphere which is conducive to good health habits, physical development, cooperation, consideration of others and proper use of leisure. This aim had been fulfilled by the following activities:

1. **HANDICRAFT** - Approximately two mornings a week were devoted to handicraft for the older girls. These handicraft periods were under the direction of one regular and one volunteer counselor. Although a lack of proper materials limited our activities along this line I feel that our handicraft projects have been quite successful. The girls seemed to enjoy making picture frames, memory books, splatter prints, hot pads, pine cone pins, and other simple articles which are not only fun to make but are also quite useful. Projects of this sort, although comparatively simple, help to stimulate the creative ability which so often has been dormant in this type of people.

2. **HIKES** - There were two planned hikes each week for the girls. First, a hike to some historical site, such as Duncan Memorial, the Little Colonel's Home, or the State Prison for Women; second, a longer hike to Lake Louisville each Saturday. On this hike we took a picnic lunch and ate at the lake. The girls seemed to consider this one of the most enjoyable activities of the week.

3. **OTHER MORNING ACTIVITIES** - The remaining mornings were used for practicing for "stunt nights", for teaching the girls new folk games, and for occasional short nature hikes.

4. **SMALL CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** - Each morning a regular and volunteer counselor was on duty at the Mary Parker Gill cottage to work with the children under ten years of age. These children were taught to make such things as paper chains, lanterns, simple

pocketbooks, wind mills and paper boats. Much time was devoted to storytelling, and to teaching the children various games. Frequently the children were taken on short hikes around the grounds and surrounding neighborhood. On these hikes we usually stopped to pick wild flowers growing along the road and to tell stories. The children looked forward to these walks along the country roads as a special treat and almost every day someone asked to be taken on a hike.

5. SWIMMING - Each day after a rest period of one hour and a half all the campers who so desired were allowed to go swimming. The swimming period was one of the high-lights of the day in the minds of the campers, and without a doubt this healthful exercise played an important part in the camp program. There were three life guards on duty, each covering a section of the pool, while several other counselors were in the water assisting the smaller children.

After swimming each camper was required to take a shower, thus encouraging good health habits. Sometimes at the beginning of the week some of the girls would rebel at having to take a shower, but by the end of the week most of them appreciated its value and wanted to stay in the shower longer than the two minutes allotted them.

6. INSPECTION - In the girls' dormitory inspection was held twice a day. The beds in the dormitory were arranged in three rows, or "bunks". One regular counselor was responsible for each bunk. A chart was kept and after inspection a gold star was given to the bunk which had attained the most points. At the end of the week a small award was given to the bunk which had received the largest number of stars.

The morning inspection was held about one half hour after breakfast and consisted of both personal and bunk inspection, while the afternoon inspection, which followed the swimming period, consisted of only bunk inspection.

The purpose of this daily inspection was to encourage good health habits, neatness and a spirit of cooperation among the girls.

7. PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES - Each evening after supper the older

campers gathered on the playground for such games as volley ball, ring tennis, paddle tennis, soft ball, and cage ball. The smaller children, under the supervision of several counselors, gathered on the lawn to play such games as "Mulberry Bush", "Lobby Loo", "Thorn Rose", "Farmers in the Dell". Often the mothers joined in these games and invariably after it became too dark to play court games, the older children would join the younger ones and almost all the campers would be in one big circle heartily enjoying these games.

Besides providing a means of wholesome recreation and healthful exercise at a delightful time of the day, this playground period also encouraged team work, good sportsmanship, leadership, fairplay and patience.

8. EVENING PROGRAMS - A different program was planned for each night of the week. On Monday nights the campers were entertained by a counselor's "kitchen band", thus enabling them to become acquainted with the various counselors. After the band had performed we played ice-breaker games, so that the campers might learn to know each other. Some of the other programs were amateur hour, stunt night, professor Quiz, Indoor Track Meet, Hit Parade of Fresh Air News songs, and a campfire each Sunday night.

No matter what other entertainment was planned for the evening, there was always a time set aside for group singing and folk dancing, both of which the boys and girls participated in with a great deal of enthusiasm.

By the end of the week each camper had had a chance to participate in several of the evening programs, and thus to become an integral part of the camp community.

The evening program was probably the outstanding activity of the day. It provided an opportunity for the campers to display individual talent, and to learn to cooperate in the planning and execution of group activities, besides stimulating such traits of character as patience, leadership, and good sportsmanship.

Taken as a whole, I feel that this season at the Louisville Fresh Air Home has been most satisfactory and highly beneficial, not only to the campers, but also to those who have been privileged to serve as counselors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. An iron framework for the children's swings in front of the Mary Parker Gill cottage. The legs of which the present framework is made have rotted to such an extent that the children can no longer swing in safety.

2. A more substantial support for the sliding board. Every time a child climbs up the ladder the slide totters perilously.

3. A sandbox in front of the Mary Parker Gill cottage. Both years I was at the Louisville Fresh Air Home as a volunteer there was a sand pile in the frontyard of the cottage and playing in the sand proved to be one of the favorite sources of recreation for the children. This year many of the children asked about the sand pile and seemed to miss it. Building sand castles is a safe, wholesome and inexpensive pastime which should not be denied them.

4. Some means should be provided whereby the eight and nine year old boys who stay at the Mary Parker Gill cottage would not be required to use the same outdoor toilet which is used by the mothers and all of the girls under ten years of age. The present arrangement produces such situations as a nine year old boy asking a counselor if he might "go to the greenhouse" with an eight year old girl who was not even a member of his family.

5. I realize that it is extremely difficult to plan meals for such a large number of people on a necessarily limited food budget, but it seems to me that it would be better to cut down on some other item, if possible, so that the small children would not have to eat the same kind of food as their mothers. Kidney beans, sauerkraut, chili, corn on the cob, etc., might be wholesome dishes for adults and other children, but are certainly not desirable nourishment for

two, three and four year old children. Of course there is the argument that any food the campers receive here is better than that which campers ~~would~~ are accustomed to eating at home. Be that as it may, at the Fresh Air Home we try to provide better living conditions for the campers than are provided by their home environment. In order to accomplish this aim, it seems essential that each camper, especially the small children, receive the proper kind of food.

6. A path should be cut leading from the main building to the swimming pool. ~~There~~ is already a path connecting the boys camp with the pool, but at present it is necessary for the girls to wade through very high weeds before they reach the quarry. Perhaps during the first week of camp, some of the boy campers, under the leadership of some older person, could cut a path to the pool and thus eliminate an unpleasant daily walk for the girls. Also it would be desirable if the boys could build a log bridge across the small creek which the girls have to cross on their way to the pool. The present crossing of stepping stones is highly unsatisfactory.

7. More lights are needed in the recreation hall. At present there is ~~one~~ row of lights down the center of the hall, leaving part of the room in semi-darkness. A more satisfactory arrangement would be to have two rows of lights, one on each side of the room.

8. A small first-aid kit should be provided for use at the swimming pool. This is equally as important as grappling hooks and a life buoy. This plan was discussed this year, but never carried out.

9. Above all else, the girls' shower room should be made more sanitary.

2/11
N. 2516

P. C. Sumner - 6/1000 2/11 208.10
112.50
35 20.
20

J. A. J.

341
13 N/m

A hurried start,
subject to reprisals!

Oct 10
2 2/10
12) 500
48
20
120
120
120
96
3
2
98
3

150
300
1500
8000

In 1907 N. H., along with other organizations
asked to supply some of these children -
N. H. sent some in. Then took them
to L. + N. at 10th St. Station to outgoing train.

Herald

Fewer + fewer people helped Miss Rowlette.

One summer Miss Rowlette was ill; then N. H.
(being only organization in the field) was asked to
take charge of F. A. Home. (Get date). Some
difficulty out there - Cook, Mrs Frost, circulated
bad reports about "Miss Bessie". Miss Ingrain
went to bank to see Mr. Ouesby about this. "Miss
Bessie" had her company late at night. What bank?
President of
Mr. Ouesby made F. Ingrain V. Pres. of this
loose Presbyterian group. Went out + looked
into matters - stopped loud mouth of cook.

First visit - went down to 21 row (a street
south of 30 12th St. (unique piece of housing
inherited from Civil War) near 30th St). Looked up names
of children who had gone previous year; had
come out of window to view me - word had
gone around that I was visiting in behalf of
F. A. home. A drunken woman from 2nd
floor) "they washed child's mouth out with
soap last year."

Later the Herald decided to open F. A.
Home for mothers + babies (can get dates
from this on), so N. H. was asked to find a
place acceptable (7.7) me (baquiers) rented a

house in ? near Anchorage (other side) 3

Consolidation took place.

Bernadine Home - Mother - Baby management
Sometimes hard to match number of boys
& girls with mother & baby number. When
boys & girls visit mothers they wanted to stay
So, Bernadine said they mustn't visit ^{Parents}

Law. Conference of social workers took up
question & made Miss Ingram chairman
for consolidation which Herald did

N. H. did work for years ^{with workers here}
Mrs Lee Bernheim stood out - asked for
contributions

Buy groceries, bread.

Herald raised money ^{needed for salaries}
rented Miss Sally Way's home
Pres. Church (Mr. John Barrett as "angel")
every Monday morning his Sunday School boys
gathered up all the vegetables in Anchorage

for F. A. Home
Mr. Stuart Chevalier sent out notice
for F. A. Home
Treasurer of this loose committee

We went along for years this way.
Unitarian Church sewing circle made
night garments & slips for children ^{F. A. Home}
When it came time to accept money that night
be used for bldg. a home (Mrs. ^{Mary Parks} ^{Alsil's} proposition
5,000 to be matched) write the story. Her own ^{interest}

grew out of fact that children had been (4
sent to her home in N.Y.C. & she had
kept up contact for years with these visitors
First check from her was $\frac{100.00}{100.00}$ ^{to F.A. Home} (see minutes)
When F.A. Home wanted to become incorporated,
it was considered wise to have 3 representatives
of N.H. Home board serve on F.A. Home
Committee. F. Ingram, Pres. Chevalier,
Treasurer, Leon P. Lewis + Mr Tom Norman,
Mrs Alex Barrett.

This statement important: New board made
up of 3 N.H. board + ?

Very generous - Mrs Waller ^{big} of the Waller Doll Club <sup>partly kind expansive
being helpful
negative example</sup>
(has been to some institution
Pres. of Orphan Pleasure Club + Waller Doll Club
(some orphans had never tasted a strawberry
Mrs Waller so startled that she immediately
+ gave rest of her life to raising
funds to give orphans pleasure. Waller
Doll Club raised loads of toys, a Xmas
procession of ^{who were} 200 ^{pride to collect for orphans} one year. Mrs Waller
includes N.H. — first got toys for N.H.
game room to play with all year (Xmas
awkward because Jewish neighborhood)
Mrs Waller gave toys to F.A. Home.

Weeks at F.A. Home for various groups,
Syrian, Jewish, + Italian - lovely pictures. See
also Mrs Sapinsky's article

Stones
 Russian Jewish
 Mrs Freeman, Jewish immigrant, (5 or 6 stones)
 big - out at F.A. home careless in care of her baby
 (about washing) tiny, screaming baby, - "I can't help it"
 if God give me a "weak" baby - as she dangled
 him in her hands - opening bags - women had to
 her husband about her travels etc.
 Deposits - early 8 or 9 A.M. - all her belongings in a
 sheet at N.H. ^{also left her children + left at 3 P.M. time to} _{to 7.4.50}

Seeing Miss ^{Fillian} being ~~etc~~ + Mrs Sapoznikoff
 looking a hair-pulling.
 Immigrants once abhorred on street car (her
 baby buggies + sheets).
 When time to go, oldest boy had disappeared. Sent
 word to husband to look for him. Boy had
 become tired and started to go without fare. Conductor
 transferred boy to group + family reunites.

Mrs. Bass - Miss Ingram helped her get
 ready to go to F.A. home. One of children
 feeble-minded. Liked motion of car + cries
 loudly when car stopped. Passengers amused
 because they knew what to expect when any
 one had to get off.

Electric storm blew out fuse at
 station one trip, so Miss Ingram never got
 to home.
 One picturesque touch: Mrs Meyers lived
 all alone at one of later F.A. homes. Not
 afraid because she could shoot a pistol pretty good
 Mrs. Meyers resented having water examined.

1923 Well to be dynamited to revive it or new one drilled. (see next page) Some firms no longer in business
Notes on Well, pump, etc. at F. A. home
1923 regular closing time August 31.

June 27, 1923 L. F. A. Home opened its doors at
its permanent location in Pewee Valley, Maplewood Ave
9 weeks open - 363 guests - a week to 10 days each.
723 applied

what activities? - list.

"Spend the day" parties.

Recreation tent.

homes in country found for problems? Interesting Chapter
books. early F.A. home opened for Dr. O'Brien's
problem children. Story of antagonistic Jimmy
& dog.

Songs originated

List organizations F.A. home has cooperated with.
Story of woman who wanted to sew to pay for crutches

Summers of 1923, '22, '21, & '20 Miss Anna
Eisemann managed F.A. home.

1922 & '23, Mr J. W. Selph of Ft. Snice furnished
supply of water. Blackberry picking - "I picked two"
Base Ball diamond at F.A.

Sundays at F.A. home.
Suppers & sunsets & bedtime bells. "Starriest
sky I ever seen", - Armenian moths. Garden

Mr. Walter D. Meyer 1927
3 1/2 acres Pewee F.A. Home

1918 Mrs. Sill's offer
Mr Powhatan Woodbridge offered \$2000.00
Herald campaign conducted - netted 12000.00 (Gill & Woodbridge)

Boys' Camp

mention doctor throughout the years
Clover field.

Colly, the house
rabbit holes

Mary P. Gill.

Crestwood
Camden
Peewee Valley

Improvements at F. A. Home.

Camp at Camden 1922 Mrs. ^{Della} Myers

Hutchings' s receipted bill for \$60.64 - 1922

See Report Sept. 1, 1922 ^{HS} on community spirit.
camp fires, marshmallow ^{roasts}; trading in creek.
fiddles - guitars; Virginia Reel! Coal Sewerage

Summer 1921 (June 22 - Aug. 31) - 10 weeks - 457
Emma B., aged 9

Purchase of Calvert property in Peewee (present site)

Mr. Powhellan Woodbridge - 15 acres 9 ave
+ 2000

1919 Summer - F. A. Home at old South
Park Hotel - 321 (1918 - 474)

Rented farm at Camden - 1920

Farm life interesting
stories from summer 1920

1918 Demonstrations in war cooking + canning
at F. A. Home

1917 - 484

1915 - 9 weeks - 673 - Tom Bisco here then

1914 - 9 weeks - 732

1913-1914 Anna B. Haulon (Mrs. Armstrong)

1912 - 588 - Frances M. Hall

55226