

Excellent Boy Material

Mr. Welch came back

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME
SUMMER 1928

"No, I'm sorry to tell you, but you are too late. The Fresh Air Home has closed and we are not taking any more applications. Won't you come earlier next year?" Such is the answer we must give to many mothers and children who continue to come to us even after the closing of the Louisville Fresh Air Home, August 25. This summer the Home was open 9 weeks and 2 days during which time 788 women and children were given vacations. The average length of visit was 8.1 days.

The operation of the Fresh Air Home this year was essentially the same as in the past. A new feature of especial interest, however, was in the development of both a more intensive and extensive boys' program by Mr. Austin Welch. This program included not only the usual amount of fun and play but also what amounted to a thorough drill in the formation of good habits and proper manners. It included activities intended to inspire, to thrill, and to stir the imagination. To many it will be life long memory.

Mr. Welch

Most American boys thrill over tales of the old West, tales of dashing horse riders, lariat-throwing cowpunchers, of men of plains and woods. To them the word "Indian" suggests adventure, thrills, warwhoops, tomahawks, camp fires, pow-wows. Realizing this natural, seemingly inherent yearning, especially found in the city youngster, the boys' camp was turned into a veritable wild West ranch, where dreams become realities.

The first step toward this new development was the removal of the boys' camp to a new site, to a setting befitting the endeavor. Tents were pitched in a wooded area in the rear, very suggestive of the ruggedness desired. The second step was the inauguration of a vigorous program calling for a boy's energy, skill and imagination.

Objectives were established by means of a series of eight tests, as they may be called. These "tests," some prerequisite to others, included proficiency with the lariat, in horsemanship, in "master" horsemanship, tomahawk and dart throwing, forestry, "lumberjacking," and swimming. Each of these accomplishments won merit to the camper in points and decoration.

The imagination will eliminate any necessity of describing the nature of each objective, as each one is easy to visualize. Boys learned poison ivy, trees, their uses, safe forest camp fire building, timber estimation, pulling timber knots, axmanship, twenty parts of a horse, parts of saddle, proper mounting, posting, trick riding (lariat, kerchief pick-up, running mount, etc.), secrets of tomahawk and dart throwing, and mastery of lariat.

Of course swimming played a big part in a day's activities, Fitzgerald's quarry, Floyd's Fork and Lake Louisville being utilized.

Evening camp fires, calling for individual and group stunts, skits and talent, with stories and songs occurred at least three times a week. Tuesdays, being the end of a Camp week, witnessed the preparation and staging of a wild West Rodeo, culminating in a gripping horse race between the Camp's and neighbors' steeds. Eight Rodeos were held.

Initiation into the Camp's honor organization, the Order of Tribemen, climaxed the week's activities. Those boys who by their endeavors in camp activities earned sufficient merit, were admitted, in a most thrilling manner.

154 boys, ranging in age from 9 to 16 were on the Boys' Camp register. Individual accomplishments were:

Lariat men	64	Tomahawkers	36
Horsemen	25	Foresters	24
Master Horsemen	12	Lumberjacks	8
Dart Throwers	51	Swimming	11

Total 231

good
camp
We turn now to the mothers, babies and girls. Everyone's day begins at 6:15. The huge screened windows make possible a grand sweep of country air. To stand at one of these windows in the very early morning--to take in the beauty of the surrounding country, fills one's heart with love and admiration of the place--the trees on the round-about slope with their greenery reaching up into the very blueness of the morning sky--the early sun peeping through the trees, throwing shadows of sunshine along the ground--the long grass wet with heavy dew--around the large porch and under the swings and sliding board, the great brown bare spots, worn so by the tireless play of many little feet--the path leading through the trees down past the old apple tree, on up the hill by the pump where the noble vines fill the air with their sweet fragrance and beyond to the gate at the main road! Is it any wonder that children and mothers glory in it all, after the heat of city streets and alleys, after the stuffy closeness of their rooms over market stores or opposite noisy factories? Nor does the natural beauty of the place alone keep them happy, for their daily program is so complete that few of the busy children have time for homesickness or mischief-making.

By 6:30 the boys and girls have assembled at the flag for their morning salute and song. 6:45 finds everyone down to the last little tow-head in the dining room ready for breakfast, full of plans and pep. Soon after this the boys are off to their camp and the girls return to their bedroom to tidy it for inspection. Many a bed which was a tousled heap of sheets the first morning, is a smooth, well-made affair by the end of the week.

By 8:30 the household duties are completed. The mothers now have time for a morning visit for which they generally choose the swings out under the nearby trees, or some may go even farther out through the meadow or grove for a walk--all of which is in striking contrast to their noisy, smoky yard alongside some factory.

places of interest

The girls in the meantime have had their morning swim in the old quarry behind the house. The remainder of the forenoon may be spent in games, hiking, or a trip to Pewee. Dinner over, a tramp along country roads to Lake Louisville for a swim may be planned-- or a sight-seeing trip thru the Kentucky Confederate Home, the Little Colonels' Home, the Jennie Cassady Rest Cottage or Mount Mercy Sisters' Home. Perhaps a blackberry expedition has been organized or preparations are under way for a picnic supper in some favorite spot.

While the older children are away in the afternoon the mothers and babies are relaxing. Smaller children are usually found napping at 2 or 2:30--tired mothers, too, often lie down with little ones. Later the tots may have a buttered cracker or glass of milk.

evening good times

The evening is usually devoted to "stunts"--a special program by the boys and girls either in the house or around the camp fire, a tacky party, a snipe hunt, or an evening of fortune telling--any number of amusements to make the 8 o'clock bell seem so unnecessary to the children.

good

Doubtless the most picturesque evenings are those spent around the camp fire when the sudden flames light up the faces of the many youngsters in their circle--faces that are following the ghost story, wide-eyed with amazement, faces that are eager and sweet as they look up into the blueness of the sky, their voices filling the stillness of the night with camp melodies. It is here a good work is done--putting a twinkle in children's eyes, instilling in their hearts a strong feeling of comradeship, of sportsmanship, of friendliness which no amount of daily study or work in the city would have given them. These children will soon be the citizens of whom Louisville will be proud.

By 8:30 all are tucked away for the night. Thru the huge windows in the girls room the moonlight shines on "four straight rows of white beds and four straight rows of tired heads." There is a story or two--then all is quiet, absolute country quiet.

used to stay

Many of the people have used all their powers of persuasion to stay at the Home "just one more week" as did Dorothy G. as she blinked back the sudden tears that started when she learned there was no more room for her after her two weeks' stay. It is the same with the younger as with the older. For when one nice Jewish mama turned to her little two year old son with, "Come Hendri, let's go home to papa, huh?"-- he stamped his tiny foot and screamed, "no home, no papa,-- no." Julia C. was so keen to remain another week she worked furiously the day before leaving. That night she listed all she had done and presented it to Miss Eisenman with a look that insisted she could not go--she was indispensable. The list included everything practically, from scrubbing the croquet set to polishing the telephone bells.

Thruout the season remarks such as these reach the teacher's

ears. "Gee, I'd stay all summer if they'd give me the chanct"; "don't these beds look purtty here, so smooth and white"; "eh, look, I gotta night gown to wear, Miss Eisenman gave it to me"; "these nights are so cool and quiet you can sleep like everything, all right"; "aw teacher, are we really goin' swimmin' in a real pool? You know I never have been swimmin' before in all my life--just waded in the gutter when the water plug is opened by our house."

Besides these tell-tale comments from the girls' room the mothers' department often presents proof of circumstances so pitiful and wretched that we feel the existence of the Louisville Fresh Air Home would be justified if it did no more than take these tired, patient mothers with their usual number of babies away from their sordid environment for a few weeks of peace and rest from worries. One mother who with her five small children was recently deserted by her husband said to us, "It does me good just to have the company of these people. At home with no one around I study over my troubles and bawl all day. This is heaven, sure."

The old grandmothers, too, are a joy to the Fresh Air Home. One evening at supper we looked over at two white-headed, feeble grandmothers sitting alone at their little white table, their heads bent over their plates in silent prayer. How alone in the world, how dependent they were, but how thankful for what was theirs.

On August 1 a group of 78 mothers and children were sent to the Fresh Air Home by Miss Ellen Gainey of Wesley House and on August 15 a group of 82 people came from the "Point" with Mrs. A. W. Booker of the Franklin Street Baptist Church. This year, as in the past, the Louisville Fresh Air Home cooperated with other agencies and social organizations of the city, following their request to send people to the Home. The organizations cooperating are the Childrens' Protective Association, Family Service Organization, Childrens' Bureau, Jewish Welfare Federation, Psychological Clinic, Public Health Nursing Association, Ninth & Hill Street Settlement, Calvary Point Community House, Franklin Street Baptist Church and Wesley House.

This year, as in several seasons past, Miss Anna T. Eisenman was the very efficient head of the Louisville Fresh Air Home. Miss Eisenman was assisted again by Austin Welch. Miss Sue Frances Perry succeeded Miss Eloise Roulston as girls' worker. Edgar Murphy again acted as town administrator of the Home.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home feels that it has enjoyed another very successful season and takes this opportunity of thanking those friends and neighbors who cooperated so heartily towards its success.

LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. J. V. Norman, President
Miss Frances Ingram, Vice-President and Managing Director
Mr. Grover Sales, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Percy N. Booth
Mrs. Credo Harris
Mrs. Sam H. McMeekin

STATISTICS OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

1 9 2 8

Home was opened: June 21
Home was closed: August 25
Home was open: 9-2/7 weeks
Number of guests cared for at Home: 788
Number of weeks outing given: 917-4/7
Total number of applications for outings: 1019
 Representing families: 441
Total number who applied but did not go: 231
 Representing families: 113
Number of picnickers and visitors to the Home: 715

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AND THE TIME THAT EACH SPENT AT THE HOME
IN 1928

Individuals	Number of days spent at the Home	Total number of days
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19	1	19
45	2	90
95	3	285
49	4	196
38	5	190
122	6	732
189	7	1323
17	8	136
18	9	162
41	10	410
26	11	286
8	12	96
25	13	325
27	14	378
7	15	105
4	16	64
12	17	204
1	18	18
9	19	171
3	20	60
6	21	126
1	22	22
2	23	46
3	24	72
4	25	100
1	28	28
1	31	31
1	32	32
1	36	36
1	38	38
2	41	82
1	43	43
1	44	44
1	49	49
1	51	51
1	52	52
1	63	63
2	64	128
2	65	130
<u>788</u>		<u>7)6423</u>

917 weeks
4 days

✓ ✓ ✓
a peak year

Mr. Balloran

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME
SUMMER 1929

→ seventh year at Pewee Valley

Deserted. The grass-worn paths where happy tots had romped; the swings and teeter boards which had yielded to the propulsion of eager youngsters at play; the shady groves where resting mothers had nursed and cared for tired and sleeping babes; the spacious dining hall where hungry boys and girls had satisfied their aching "tummies" with wholesome and well-cooked food; the dormitories where fresh, clean, soft beds had beckoned to tired bodies; the tented camp where wild-eyed, thrill-seeking boys had found expression for the restless urge for adventure and romance; the very air which had been filled with joyish shrieks and ripples of childish laughter; all now seemed deserted. The Fresh Air Home had closed. Such were some of the impressions one instructor received shortly after the last crowd of guests had left for their homes.

The closing of the Fresh Air Home on August 26th marked the completion of the seventh year in the present location at Pewee Valley, Kentucky. The completion, too, of a most successful year. Opening on July 1st the Home operated for eight weeks. During that time seven hundred and sixty-six mothers and children were given outings. While this figure falls twenty-two short of equaling the number accommodated the year previous the fact that the Home was open eight weeks compared to over nine weeks in 1928, indicates a marked increase.

The material facilities of the Home were greatly increased during the past season. An abundant water supply, hitherto lacking, was assured with the completion of a spring water reservoir with a capacity of over 7500 gallons. With the installation of an additional pump, the large tank in the rear of the Administration building was utilized and the lavatories and shower baths in the girls' dormitories were opened for the first time. The new side entrances in the mothers' and girls' dormitories greatly relieved the former congestion in the main lobby. Two new outside toilets with concrete tanks added to the convenience of the guests as well as answering to the demands of higher standards of sanitation. Another splendid enlargement was the clearing of the groves in the rear of the Main building for the purpose of affording a quiet resting place for the mothers away from the children's playground. These improvements, especially the completion of the reservoir, prepare the way for the long-dreamed-of erection of a Mothers' cottage, and a swimming pool for the boys and girls is no longer a forlorn hope.

2 more needs to be supplied

The boys' quarters were removed to the original site. Proximity to water facilities and better drainage and the exquisite beauty of the site -- perhaps the most beautiful spot on the entire grounds -- thoroughly warranted the change. Here, under the tall pines, spruces and maples the boys' tents were pitched and here many a boy lived in reality the life which his imagination had often fancied for him. The frontiersman, the pioneer, the cowboy, the Indian, the camper, the trailer -- all became characters of

very interesting

reality in a real drama. "Just like a different world" as one boy put it when it was time for him to return to the city. And a different world it was for most boys. The arrival of a new crowd on Monday afternoons was the beginning of a new life; a life in the open, away from the city streets; free from the confines of stifling tenements, and noise, and dust, and smoke. "Gosh," said one lad of eleven as he breathlessly approached the boys' tents for the first time, "it's jus' like a place I seen in the movies. Tents, 'n trees, 'n fences, 'n ev'rything. Where's my bed?" There are few things more inspiring than to watch a group of youngsters enter the grounds of the Fresh Air Home for the first time.

The first day at the Home was largely taken up with organization into the various groups. The boys were assigned cots in the tents and divided into squads or tribes; each with its own leader. Rules were explained and questions were answered. The mothers, girls, and smaller children were assigned quarters in the two large dormitories. At the ringing of the bell, everyone gathered in the large dining hall for the first meal. Plenty of hot, well-cooked, and well-chosen food greets everyone's appetite and the evidences of complete satisfaction were the lines of empty plates when the meal had been finished. "Why Ma, I've learned to eat carrots and cabbage and red beets, and like 'em" was Gertrude's telephone message to her Mother several days after arriving at the Fresh Air Home. The first evening was spent in renewing old friendships and making new acquaintances. After a thorough inspection of the grounds had been made, the arrival of night brought all together in the main lobby for a "get-together" hour. Songs, stunts, games, and stories enlivened the program and the "good night circle" sent all to their sleeping quarters to rest for the next day's activities.

Tuesdays were always happy days at the Fresh Air Home. The newness of the surroundings and the anxiety with which the youngsters awaited the rising bell brought an early awakening. A morning hike or a dip in the cool waters of the "old quarry" served to quiet the burning energy of many a restless girl and boy. Setting-up exercises to loosen neglected and taut muscles were included in the early morning activities. A salute to "Old Glory" just preceded the attack on one of Mrs. Vissing's appetizing breakfasts.

Breakfast over, everyone -- from the oldest grandmother to the tiniest tot -- became engaged in the various household duties. Dishes were washed, beds were made, tents were swept, floors were polished, the grounds were put in order: all awaiting the scrutinizing eyes of the inspectors. Children knew for the first time the discipline of a task well-done in co-operating with the work around the Home. In the girls' dormitory, many a hand, hitherto careless, was adept before the end of the week in the attainment of a wrinkle-less bed. Little Charles, nine, stopped with the dishes long enough to approach the Head Worker with "don't miss a bowl, Mrs. Armstrong, I just dropped one." And so on through the week.

At the boys' camp a baseball game, boxing matches, dart-throwing, horseback riding, volley ball, tree identification and nature study are but a few of the activities intended to keep the boy interested and to awaken desirable qualities such as courage, self-reliance, and a love of nature. A long swim at the "quarry" was a climax to the morning's activities. Beginner's instruction and life saving for the more advanced swimmers were included in the aquatic program. Lessons in First Aid and observation of Safety principles were worthy inclusions along educational lines.

A hike along the beautiful country roads to Floydsburg, Lake Louisville, the Little Colonel's Home, or to the Jenny Cassedy Rest Cottage was always included in the morning program for the girls. Later, a swim in the "quarry" was enjoyed, while volley ball games, croquet, group games, story telling, and story playing found many ready participants and willing listeners among the girls.

After the noon meal everyone rested. Later the boys were off to Floyd's Fork or Klingelroth Lake for a swim, or perhaps a fishing expedition to the old reservoir near the Confederate Home was undertaken. The girls, meanwhile, found interest in handkerchief-making, basketry, and other handcraft arts. A short hike to the nearby woods or a return to the "quarry" for a late afternoon swim made the supper bell seem all too soon but nevertheless welcome.

While the girls and boys were indulging in active interests, the mothers and smaller children found peace and quiet in the shady groves near the house. The grandmothers too, seeking rest found contentment 'neath the shade of "old apple tree." "This is Heaven," worshiped one young mother as she watched her three youngsters playing in the sand pile. "I never knew a week ago that there was such a place as the Fresh Air Home, and I can hardly believe now that it isn't all a dream." Another mother, in a letter of appreciation, wrote "I shall never forget the enjoyable days I spent out there, and it sure will be sweet memories to me. And how much K enjoyed it, in fact what it meant to all of us, and how hard you tried to have everything so pleasant for everyone. If I live 'till next year I hope to come out again." Such is the testimony of many mothers who were privileged to enjoy vacations at the Fresh Air Home.

The evenings at the Fresh Air Home were always eventful. A hike to Pewee followed by group games and contests on the playground, or a visit to the Confederate Home occupied the early evening. With the approach of night, everyone gathered about the campfire or in the main lobby for a social hour. Songs, stories, and all kinds of stunts made up a program to answer to the demands of eager youth. Friday nights were "stunt" nights. Then, each group among the boys and girls competed in endeavoring to present the best stunt. A "Virginia Reel" or a short play ended the happy gathering.

Special events on the week's program included Hare and Hound chases, track and athletic meets, swimming contests and races, picnic suppers, marshmallow toasts, Indian pow-wows, snipe hunts and night hikes. A farewell party was given during the last week

of the season. A short playlet presented by the girls and a minstrel show by the boys brought the year's social program to a happy ending. It was attended by a great number of outsiders, including many of the Home's neighbors in Pewee Valley and friends from Louisville.

Throughout the season those in charge of the Home made every effort to afford opportunities for the guests to meet their personal obligations. On Sunday mornings, each guest was permitted to attend services at the church of his choice in either Pewee Valley or Crestwood. Sunday afternoons, visitors were most welcome and family reunions and friendly gatherings were in evidence over the entire grounds.

The scenes at the Home on Monday mornings were always interesting to the observer. Reluctant were many of the mothers and children to leave when they were told that their week was over. "Just another day," or "I won't be any trouble," or "I'll sleep anywhere" were some of the earnest pleadings of youngsters when time came for them to go. "Aw Gee! Ma, there's nothing home but beds" was ten-year old Arthur's comment at his mother's assurance that they must leave. Although unhappiness was prevalent, at the same time there was genuine appreciation and thankfulness, humbly and simply voiced, on each occasion.

Italian week was again fittingly celebrated as in the past, and the gathering of the entire family for a picnic on Sunday afternoon renewed Old World traditions long lost in American atmosphere. Wesley House again sent a large group of mothers and children, as did the Franklin Street Baptist Church. Other agencies and organizations which co-operated in selecting guests appropriately in need of outings were the Family Service Organization, Jewish Welfare Federation, Public Health Nursing Association, Children's Protective Association, Psychological Clinic, Children's Bureau, Portland Health Center, Calvary Point Community House, Baptist Good Will Center, and the Ninth and Hill Street Settlement. Neighborhood House was again the City Office for the Home.

Looking to the future, the possibilities of the Fresh Air Home, in the matter of greater expansion, are indeed promising. With an adequate water supply assured, the chief obstacle in the path of progress has been removed. The building of a cottage for the mothers and babies -- a fond hope of many years -- may now be realized. But, for the boys, the problem is different. And right here and now the men workers at the Home wish to express a long cherished hope. And that is, for a wilder, more-rugged, more-isolated site, where the boys may find expression in such activities as woodcraft, forestry, pioneering, and aquatics. The present facilities of the camps of Louisville do not afford outdoor opportunities for the type of boy which the Louisville Fresh Air Home now reaches.

Miss Anna T. Eisenmann, who so capably managed the Fresh Air Home in the past, was unable to take charge this season on account of illness. She was succeeded by Mrs. Anne Armstrong, who managed the Home at its former location in Forest, Kentucky. Mrs. William

Amis, a recent graduate of the University of Louisville, and Miss Pauline Hughes, of the same University, were in charge of the Girls' Division. Mr. Charles Baer, a medical student at the University of Indiana, and Mr. Terrence Halloran, of the Boy Guidance Department of Notre Dame University, supervised the Boys' Department. Mr. Edgar Murphy was town administrator for the Home.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home takes this opportunity to thank most heartily those friends and neighbors in Louisville and Pewee Valley for their aid in making the season of 1929 a most successful one.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence H. Halloran

The Filson Historical Society

LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Miss Frances Ingram, Vice-President and Managing Director
Mr. Grover Sales, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Percy N. Booth
Mrs. Credo Harris
Mrs. Sam H. McMeekin

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

1 9 2 9

Home opened:	July 1	
Home closed:	August 26	
Home was open	8 weeks	
Number of guests:	766	
Number of weeks outing:	1007-6/7	
Total number of applications:		1066
Representing families:		461
Total number who applied but did not go:		300
Representing families:		143
Average days per guest:		9.2
Number of picnickers and visitors:		713

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AND THE TIME EACH SPENT AT THE HOME
IN 1929

INDIVIDUALS	NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT AT THE HOME	TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS
21	2	42
16	3	48
4	4	16
17	5	85
42	6	252
82'	7	574
434	8	3472
10	9	90
14	10	140
4	11	44
8	12	96
18	13	234
24	14	336
28	15	420
7	16	112
8	17	136
7	21	147
5	22	110
1	24	24
1	27	27
5	28	140
2	29	58
2	32	64
2	44	88
4	75	300
<u>766</u>		7)7055
		1007 Weeks
		6 Days

The Filson Historical Society

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

	1926	1927	1928	1929
Number of weeks open	7-6/7	8	9-4/7	8
Number of guests	525	562	788	766
Representing families	235	224	328	328
Total number of applications	742	804	1019	1066
Representing families	324	328	441	461
Number of weeks outing given	535-3/7	645-3/7	917-4/7	1007-6/7
Total number who applied but did not go	217	242	231	300
Representing families	126	104	113	143

INDIVIDUALS

REPRESENTING

FAMILIES

766	Guests at Home	328
287	Given opportunity but unable to go at time	139
13	Applicants to whom it was impossible to give an opportunity to go	4
<u>1066</u>		<u>461</u>

OUTINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING CLASSIFIED GROUPS

Men	0
Women	124
Children (5 and under)	128
Boys (6-----14)	229
Boys (15 and over)	23
Girls (6-----14)	220
Girls (15 and over)	<u>42</u>
	766

5416

Hello Mamma:

Here is the report of my Fresh Air Home

Frances

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME
SUMMER 1929

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The first day at the Home was largely taken up with organization into the various groups. The boys were assigned cots in the tents and divided into squads or tribes; each with its own leader. Rules were explained and questions were answered. The mothers, girls, and smaller children were assigned quarters in the two large dormitories. At the ringing of the bell, everyone gathered in the large dining hall for the first meal. Plenty of hot, well-cooked, and well-chosen food greets everyone's appetite and the evidences of complete satisfaction were the lines of empty plates when the meal had been finished. "Why Ma, I've learned to eat carrots and cabbage and red beets, and like 'em" was Gertrude's telephone message to her Mother several days after arriving at the Fresh Air Home. The first evening was spent in renewing old friendships and making new acquaintances. After a thorough inspection of the grounds had been made, the arrival of night brought all together in the main lobby for a "get-together" hour. Songs, stunts, games, and stories enlivened the program and the "good night circle" sent all to their sleeping quarters to rest for the next day's activities.

Tuesdays were always happy days at the Fresh Air Home. The newness of the surroundings and the anxiety with which the youngsters awaited the rising bell brought an early awakening. A morning hike or a dip in the cool waters of the "old quarry" served to quiet the burning energy of many a restless girl and boy. Setting-up exercises to loosen neglected and taut muscles were included in the early morning activities. A salute to "Old Glory" just preceded the attack on one of Mrs. Vissing's appetizing breakfasts.

Breakfast over, everyone -- from the oldest grandmother to the tiniest tot -- became engaged in the various household duties. Dishes were washed, beds were made, tents were swept, floors were polished, the grounds were put in order: all awaiting the scrutinizing eyes of the inspectors. Children knew for the first time the discipline of a task well-done in co-operating with the work around the Home. In the girls' dormitory, many a hand, hitherto careless, was adept before the end of the week in the attainment of a wrinkle-less bed. Little Charles, nine, stopped with the dishes long enough to approach the Head Worker with "don't miss a bowl, Mrs. Armstrong, I just dropped one." And so on through the week.

At the boys' camp a baseball game, boxing matches, dart-throwing, horseback riding, volley ball, tree identification and nature study are but a few of the activities intended to keep the boy interested and to awaken desirable qualities such as courage, self-reliance, and a love of nature. A long swim at the "quarry" was a climax to the morning's activities. Beginner's instruction and life saving for the more advanced swimmers were included in the aquatic program. Lessons in First Aid and observation of Safety principles were worthy inclusions along educational lines.

A hike along the beautiful country roads to Floydsburg, Lake Louisville, the Little Colonel's Home, or to the Jenny Cassedy Rest Cottage was always included in the morning program for the girls. Later, a swim in the "quarry" was enjoyed, while volley ball games, croquet, group games, story telling, and story playing found many ready participants and willing listeners among the girls.

After the noon meal everyone rested. Later the boys were off to Floyd's Fork or Klingelroth Lake for a swim, or perhaps a fishing expedition to the old reservoir near the Confederate Home was undertaken. The girls, meanwhile, found interest in handkerchief-making, basketry, and other handcraft arts. A short hike to the nearby woods or a return to the "quarry" for a late afternoon swim made the supper bell seem all too soon but nevertheless welcome.

While the girls and boys were indulging in active interests, the mothers and smaller children found peace and quiet in the shady groves near the house. The grandmothers too, seeking rest found contentment 'neath the shade of "old apple tree." "This is Heaven," worshiped one young mother as she watched her three youngsters playing in the sand pile. "I never knew a week ago that there was such a place as the Fresh Air Home, and I can hardly believe now that it isn't all a dream." Another mother, in a letter of appreciation, wrote "I shall never forget the enjoyable days I spent out there, and it sure will be sweet memories to me. And how much K enjoyed it, in fact what it meant to all of us, and how hard you tried to have everything so pleasant for everyone. If I live 'till next year I hope to come out again." Such is the testimony of many mothers who were privileged to enjoy vacations at the Fresh Air Home.

The evenings at the Fresh Air Home were always eventful. A hike to Pewee followed by group games and contests on the playground, or a visit to the Confederate Home occupied the early evening. With the approach of night, everyone gathered about the campfire or in the main lobby for a social hour. Songs, stories, and all kinds of stunts made up a program to answer to the demands of eager youth. Friday nights were "stunt" nights. Then, each group among the boys and girls competed in endeavoring to present the best stunt. A "Virginia Reel" or a short play ended the happy gathering.

Special events on the week's program included Hare and Hound chases, track and athletic meets, swimming contests and races, picnic suppers, marshmallow toasts, Indian pow-wows, snipe hunts and night hikes. A farewell party was given during the last week

of the season. A short playlet presented by the girls and a minstrel show by the boys brought the year's social program to a happy ending. It was attended by a great number of outsiders, including many of the Home's neighbors in Pewee Valley and friends from Louisville.

Throughout the season those in charge of the Home made every effort to afford opportunities for the guests to meet their personal obligations. On Sunday mornings, each guest was permitted to attend services at the church of his choice in either Pewee Valley or Crestwood. Sunday afternoons, visitors were most welcome and family reunions and friendly gatherings were in evidence over the entire grounds.

The scenes at the Home on Monday mornings were always interesting to the observer. Reluctant were many of the mothers and children to leave when they were told that their week was over. "Just another day," or "I won't be any trouble," or "I'll sleep anywhere" were some of the earnest pleadings of youngsters when time came for them to go. "Aw Gee! Ma, there's nothing home but beds" was ten-year old Arthur's comment at his mother's assurance that they must leave. Although unhappiness was prevalent, at the same time there was genuine appreciation and thankfulness, humbly and simply voiced, on each occasion.

Italian week was again fittingly celebrated as in the past, and the gathering of the entire family for a picnic on Sunday afternoon renewed Old World traditions long lost in American atmosphere. Wesley House again sent a large group of mothers and children, as did the Franklin Street Baptist Church. Other agencies and organizations which co-operated in selecting guests appropriately in need of outings were the Family Service Organization, Jewish Welfare Federation, Public Health Nursing Association, Children's Protective Association, Psychological Clinic, Children's Bureau, Portland Health Center, Calvary Point Community House, Baptist Good Will Center, and the Ninth and Hill Street Settlement. Neighborhood House was again the City Office for the Home.

Looking to the future, the possibilities of the Fresh Air Home, in the matter of greater expansion, are indeed promising. With an adequate water supply assured, the chief obstacle in the path of progress has been removed. The building of a cottage for the mothers and babies -- a fond hope of many years -- may now be realized. But, for the boys, the problem is different. And right here and now the men workers at the Home wish to express a long cherished hope. And that is, for a wilder, more-rugged, more-isolated site, where the boys may find expression in such activities as woodcraft, forestry, pioneering, and aquatics. The present facilities of the camps of Louisville do not afford outdoor opportunities for the type of boy which the Louisville Fresh Air Home now reaches.

Miss Anna T. Eisenmann, who so capably managed the Fresh Air Home in the past, was unable to take charge this season on account of illness. She was succeeded by Mrs. Anne Armstrong, who managed the Home at its former location in Forest, Kentucky. Mrs. William

Amis, a recent graduate of the University of Louisville, and Miss Pauline Hughes, of the same University, were in charge of the Girls' Division. Mr. Charles Baer, a medical student at the University of Indiana, and Mr. Terrence Halloran, of the Boy Guidance Department of Notre Dame University, supervised the Boys' Department. Mr. Edgar Murphy was town administrator for the Home.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home takes this opportunity to thank most heartily those friends and neighbors in Louisville and Pewee Valley for their aid in making the season of 1929 a most successful one.

Respectfully submitted,

Terrence H. Halloran

The Filson Historical Society

LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. J. V. Norman, President
Miss Frances Ingram, Vice-President and Managing Director
Mr. Grover Sales, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Percy N. Booth
Mrs. Credo Harris
Mrs. Sam H. McMeekin

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

1 9 2 9

Home opened:	July 1	
Home closed:	August 26	
Home was open	8 weeks	
Number of guests:	766	
Number of weeks outing:	1007-6/7	
Total number of applications:		1066
Representing families:		461
Total number who applied but did not go:		300
Representing families:		143
Average days per guest:		9.2
Number of picnickers and visitors:		713

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS AND THE TIME EACH SPENT AT THE HOME
IN 1929

INDIVIDUALS	NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT AT THE HOME	TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS
21	2	42
16	3	48
4	4	16
17	5	85
42	6	252
82	7	574
434	8	3472
10	9	90
14	10	140
4	11	44
8	12	96
18	13	234
24	14	336
28	15	420
7	16	112
8	17	136
7	21	147
5	22	110
1	24	24
1	27	27
5	28	140
2	29	58
2	32	64
2	44	88
4	75	300

766

7) 7055
1007 Weeks
6 Days

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

	1926	1927	1928	1929
Number of weeks open	7-6/7	8	9-4/7	8
Number of guests	525	562	788	766
Representing families	235	224	328	328
Total number of applications	742	804	1019	1066
Representing families	324	328	441	461
Number of weeks outing given	535-3/7	645-3/7	917-4/7	1007-6/7
Total number who applied but did not go	217	242	231	300
Representing families	126	104	113	143

INDIVIDUALS

REPRESENTING

FAMILIES

766	Guests at Home	328
287	Given opportunity but unable to go at time	139
13	Applicants to whom it was impossible to give an opportunity to go	4
<u>1066</u>		<u>461</u>

OUTINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING CLASSIFIED GROUPS

Men	0
Women	124
Children (5 and under)	128
Boys (6-----14)	229
Boys (15 and over)	23
Girls (6-----14)	220
Girls (15 and over)	42
	<u>766</u>

Louisville Fresh Air Home

INCORPORATED

CITY HEADQUARTERS
428 South First Street

COUNTRY HOME ADDRESS
Pewee Valley, Ky.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mr. J. V. Norman, President
Miss Frances Ingram, Vice-President
and Managing Director
Mr. Grover Sales, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Percy N. Booth
Mrs. Credo Harris
Mr. Leon P. Lewis
Mrs. Sam H. McMeekin

LOUISVILLE, KY.

September 19, 1930.

The enclosed is the 1930 report of the Louisville Fresh Air Home. It was written by Mr. Frank T. Flynn, Jr., of the Boys' Department.

We feel that the Home made more than the usual contribution to Louisville's poor this season. Because of the unusually bad conditions there was a greater need of rest for weary mothers, and of fun, fresh air, wholesome food and sunshine for anemic children.

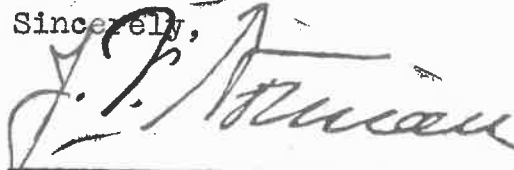
The following are the high spots of the summer's work:

1. 803 outings were given to Louisville's poor -- averaging nine days each.
2. This was the hungriest crowd in the history of the Home -- due to unemployment.
3. 69% of the children at the Home this summer were underweight.
4. These children made an average gain of $3\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. Milk and wholesome food are great health builders.
5. Despite the drought, the water supply of the Home was adequate.

NEEDS: A mothers' cottage and a swimming pool.

If you are interested in these "high spots" read the attached report for more complete and interesting information. Then plan to visit the Louisville Fresh Air Home next summer and see it in operation. A warm welcome awaits you there.

Sincerely,



J. V. Norman, President.

*This evening
check out
me & magraph
page 4.*

5524

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME
SUMMER 1930

The Louisville Fresh Air Home is closed. The happy voices of children no longer are raised in their joyful play, and the wild Indians from the tented camp on the hill have departed to their accustomed haunts. The big house is deserted. The dining hall is bare and empty, and one pauses to wonder if this could be the place where a few short days before scores of persons partook of their meals with the delightful eagerness that betokens a hearty appetite and an appreciation of food well cooked. The dormitories present an orderly array of clean, white beds that formerly offered to the tired ones an appeal that could not be refused. But now there are no tired ones. The mothers have gone, and with them the babies and the girls. The books in their shelves seem lonely sentinels, mute, and unable to tell of the activity that once existed here. Even the birds are quiet now; the life and laughter that once animated the Fresh Air Home has departed with its guests.

The closing of the Louisville Fresh Air Home on August 25th marked the completion of the eighth year in the present location at Pewee Valley, Kentucky. Opening on June 30th the Home operated eight weeks, accommodating during that period eight hundred and three mothers and children. This number was thirty-seven in excess of those afforded outings the year previous.

sanitary facilities
While no extensive construction work was attempted during this year, there was a marked advance in the sanitary facilities occasioned by the completion of an open-tile sewage drainage system. This was done in accordance with the most modern specifications advanced by the Louisville Board of Health, and gives very definite security in the disposal of wastes from the new lavatories and showers.

well
The original site of the boys' camp was retained. This is considered the most beautiful spot on the grounds. The tents were situated under the towering pines, and the entire plot was shaded with the most beautiful of Kentucky's forest trees. Here, there were excellent water and sanitary facilities, ample play spaces, and most desirable of all, heavily-wooded areas where the boy could emulate the pioneer in his relentless tracking of the Indian foe. James Fenimore Cooper's tales became a reality, and it was no uncommon sight to see a boy of ten, his body pressed close to the ground as he quietly moved toward the lair of his imaginary quarry. Here could be forgotten the dust and the noise of the city, the oppressive weariness brought to their bodies by the crowded tenements -- and here a new life could be lived. A dream that seemed only a hope came true, and the dull routine of life was transformed into a world of new

3706

experiences, new delights....happiness. As a visitor once expressed a common opinion: "These cannot be the boys I see on the streets of the city. They look different." And they are different. Their environment has changed for the time being, and they are all boys, with the carefree laughter of boys having a good time. Some of the pallor has gone, and with it the tired lines from the faces that are glowing with expressive joy. Their week in the country is like a new book, starting with the "Lookit them hosses," and ending with the regretful departure, so pitifully expressed by little Sammy _____, "It's like goin' back to jail."

On their arrival the guests were assembled in front of the Main Building, and all were weighed, this supplementing the information given on the medical certificates. The boys were then taken to their tents and the mothers, girls, and children were given beds in the two large dormitories. The anxiously-awaited supper bell brought all to the dining hall, where hot and well-prepared food appeased the appetites of young and old. Evidences of complete satisfaction were the empty plates, and the eager demands for more of 'ev'rythin'!

Soon after supper, all were called into the recreation hall, where songs, games and stunts were enjoyed until bed-time.

At daybreak every boy was 'rarin' to go'. Wild-eyed, they would dart from place to place, exclaiming over each new wonder. A salute to Old Glory and the singing of "America" preceded breakfast, prepared in Mrs. Vissing's delightful style.

After breakfast, everyone turned to the household tasks. Girls, often for the first time, washed the dishes properly, swept correctly, and made their beds without a wrinkle, giving to their work a certain neatness that would serve as good experience for later years. At the tents, the boys of the various groups competed to secure the best order. The floors were swept, cots made up, basins scrubbed, grounds carefully cleaned, and when the whistle for inspection was heard, all stood in readiness, anticipating the pleasure of work well done and properly approved.

The mornings at the tents were spent in the various activities that go to make camp life such a pleasurable experience. Baseball, volley ball, horseshoe pitching, boxing, horseback riding, and football were some of the more popular features. Time was also given to nature study, star lore and First Aid. In addition, hikes through the woods were always popular.

The girls' morning program consisted of a hike along the picturesque country roads to Floydsburg, Crestwood, or to the Little Colonel's Home or the Jenny Cassedy Rest Cottage. Along the way stories were told, and at the destination various games

were played, all adding zest to an interesting walk. These were periods of happy enchantment. On their return, active games were played, and occasionally there would be horseback riding on the less-spirited of the two mares at camp.

After the noon meal, the rest hour began. This was the period of complete relaxation, when one could become hypnotic under the spell of a good book, or perhaps find complete rest in sleep. The boys would take their cots under the trees, and only occasionally could a voice be heard, and that usually defending the merits of a particular hero of fact or fiction. Later the boys went to Floyd's Fork for a swim, or perhaps it would be to the old reservoir near the Kentucky Confederate Home to fish, and again in competition to determine the best fisherman. The fish from long experience were wary, but the desire of the boys was great and the human element usually triumphed. Happy and victorious they would come back to the camp, proudly showing the catch to anyone who was interested.

In the meantime the girls found interest in various types of handicraft. Instruction was given in sewing and crocheting, all tending to create a desire for such work after leaving camp. Later a short hike was made to the nearby woods, and the delightful things of nature were pointed out to them by the instructors. Or, in the wagon they went to the "swimming hole" at Floyd's Fork, returning just in time for the supper bell.

The little tots played in one of the numerous groves near the Main Building. It was a wonderful sight to watch them there -- a picture of happiness and contentment. After a long sleep in the cooling shade of the trees, there would be the various types of kindergarten activities -- coloring pictures, building miniature houses in the sand, participating in the dramatics of childhood, listening with rapt attention to stories, and evidently attaining a fullness of enjoyment. Nearby their mothers sat and read, or talked with one another. One mother's words were typical: "This is the first real rest I've had since I married. I never dreamed of a place where I do nothing but rest."

The evenings at the Louisville Fresh Air Home were gala affairs -- social get-togethers interspersed with campfires and marshmallow toasts on the hill, and the usual Friday evening "show." Groups among the boys and girls gave various stunts, often surpassed in originality by the efforts of their mothers, and community singing was followed by a short play, a Virginia Reel, or specialty and group dancing. Often guests would be present, and they would be induced to contribute their share to the evening's entertainment.

Special events were numerous on the weekly program. The Saturday treasure hunt was particularly a popular feature, and this may have been due to the swim at the end of the hike or to the picnic lunch served. And then, for one group there was the fun of concealing; for the other the seeking of the elusive unknown -- guided only by a faint trail. At the boys' camp a track meet provided a weekly competition that was eagerly anticipated, and a night hike was often a special feature. At the end of the year a farewell party was given, consisting of a minstrel show presented by the boys and a one-act play as the offering of the girls. Numerous friends of the Home from Louisville, and many of the neighbors in Pewee Valley attended.

Opportunities were given all of the guests to meet their religious obligations, and facilities were available for the attendance of church services in Pewee Valley and in Crestwood.

Italian Week was observed as usual, and the wholesome activities enjoyed made it a week long to be remembered. The evening entertainments were quite national in character, and through them ran the color and fire of the race that lives for joy. Visitors were numerous, and the Sunday picnic brought together the whole family from little Rosa to Old Antonio -- all singing happily and losing their cares and troubles in the evident spirit of pleasure and joy.

Wesley House and the Franklin Street Baptist Church again sent a large group of mothers and children. Other co-operating agencies were: Jewish Welfare Federation, Family Service Organization, Public Health Nursing Association, Children's Protective Association, Portland Health Center, Calvary Point Community House, Rose Hudson Community Center, Juvenile Court, John Marshall School, Baptist Good Will Center, and the Ninth and Hill Street Settlement. Neighborhood House was again the City Office for the Home.

Great care was exercised in determining the individuals who were to come to the Louisville Fresh Air Home, and it was significant that all who benefited from its facilities were those who were in need of it. Sixty-nine per cent of the children were underweight and the average increase in weight of three and one-half pounds showed the value of the careful attention that was given to the food requirements of those of the underweight group. Poverty was the keynote of many of the family situations, definitely illustrated by one question of a boy of four: "Pa, is there any furniture left at home?"

Despite the fact that the entire State suffered greatly from drought, the water facilities of the Fresh Air Home were adequate to meet the needs of the guests. To avoid the necessity of extreme economy, an additional nine thousand gallons was

obtained from the City of Louisville. Future possibilities with regard to expansion are unlimited, and a swimming pool and a mothers' cottage are hopes to be realized.

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Mrs. Anna Hanlon Armstrong, who managed the Home the year previous, was Director. Mrs. William Amis, a recent graduate of the University of Louisville, Miss Kathleen Langford, graduate of the Normal School, and Miss Bessie Pressma, a volunteer and student at the University of Louisville were members of the Girls' staff. Mr. Nathan L. Marcus, a medical student at the University of Louisville, and Mr. Frank T. Flynn, Jr. of the Boy Guidance Department of the University of Notre Dame, supervised the Boys' Department. Mr. Edgar Murphy was town administrator for the Home.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home takes this opportunity to thank most heartily those friends and neighbors in Louisville and Pewee Valley for their aid in making the season of 1930 a most successful one.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank T. Flynn, Jr.

LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. J. V. Norman, President
Miss Frances Ingram, Vice-President and Managing Director
Mr. Grover Sales, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Percy N. Booth
Mrs. Credo Harris
Mrs. Sam H. McMeekin

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

1 9 3 0

Home opened:	June 30	
Home closed:	August 25	
Home was open:	8 weeks	
Number of guests:	803	
Number of weeks outing:	1054 6/7	
Total number of applications:		1170
Representing families:		490
Total number who applied but did not go:		367
Representing families:		158
Average days per guest:		9.1
Number of picnickers and visitors		755

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

	1927	1928	1929	1930
Number of weeks open	8	9 4/7	8	8
Number of guests	562	788	766	803
Representing families	224	328	328	332
Total number of applications	804	1019	1066	1170
Representing families	328	441	461	490
Number of weeks outing given	645 3/7	917 4/7	1007 6/7	1054 6/7
Total number who applied but did not go	242	231	300	367
Representing families	104	113	143	158

INDIVIDUALS

803

236

131

1170

REPRESENTING

Guests at Home

Given opportunity but unable to go at time

Applicants to whom it was impossible to give an opportunity to go

FAMILIES

332

105

53

490

OUTINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING CLASSIFIED GROUPS

Men	0
Women	141
Children (5 and under)	132
Boys (6-----14)	234
Boys (15 and over)	19
Girls (6-----14)	239
Girls (15 and over)	38
	<u>803</u>

Louisville Fresh Air Home

INCORPORATED

CITY HEADQUARTERS
428 South First Street

COUNTRY HOME ADDRESS
Pewee Valley, Ky.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mr. J. V. Norman, President
Miss Frances Ingram, Vice-President
and Managing Director
Mr. Grover Sales, Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Percy N. Booth
Mrs. Credo Harris



LOUISVILLE, KY.

October 19, 1931

Dear Friends of the Louisville Fresh Air Home:

This year we are sending you a report giving you a few glimpses of the joy and, we trust, lasting benefits that the Louisville Fresh Air Home supplied for over seven hundred of Louisville's most needy women, babies and children.

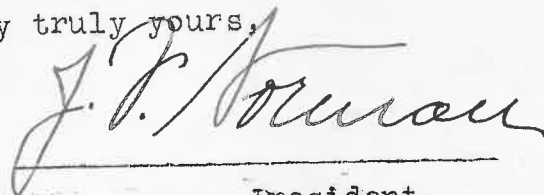
The mothers' and babies' cottage, which has been a dream for many years, became a reality this year through the Mary ~~Potter~~ Gill Foundation, of which the United States Trust Company is trustee.

Through the generous co-operation of the County Commission of Jefferson County and the Fiscal Court of Oldham County, we have arranged to build, early next spring, a much needed roadway from the gate to the buildings.

There were 716 outings given, averaging 7.7 days. It is our hope that when conditions will permit we may be able to secure sufficient funds to operate the Fresh Air Home through-out the summer, and so enable us to give the benefits which the Fresh Air Home affords to a much larger number.

It is not just happiness that you give them in maintaining this Home, it is healthier bodies and minds and a contribution to character building. You are not making one or a few children happy - you are making a definite contribution to the future welfare of the community.

Very truly yours,



President.

In a general way this report might be used.

55106

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME
SUMMER 1931

Were you ever a city child - a city child who spent a week in the country? Oh, you haven't forgotten it! You can't. As long as you live, the memory of it will be yours - to flash forth unexpectedly, to brighten, to gladden you -- even now the memory of it can cheer you on. Do you recall one summer? Vacation - a light wind blowing - white clouds in a blue sky - green grass - trees - a far view - peace in the very soul - strength to go forward - morale.

This is a story of happy children - gay, laughing children, of games, of green fields and trees, of happy evenings in the Recreation Hall, of stories told in the moonlight or by the light of the camp fire, of swimming and hiking, of good meals and comfortable beds - of cold water to drink.

But the story is very short. On an average, he goes back in a week to the crowded home in the hot city. Up two flights (dark and stifling), turn left - that is where the B's live; of course there is no such thing as a cross draft. Out of this into the joy of the Fresh Air Home - no wonder they compare it to Heaven!

The summer of 1931 was a very hot summer and it followed a hard winter. Greater than ever was the longing for a respite - for a refuge in some cases. Weeks and weeks ahead of the opening, by the hundreds they came to Neighborhood House, eager to "sign up" for the Fresh Air Home. There were women with babies in their arms - some half-sick, and weary, weary, Oh! so weary. Not always for themselves they asked; "Could the children go?" -- If only you could have seen the small boys who came to register - solemn, fearful, hopeful. No, their eyes were not the eyes of angels, nor did they look other than they were except for the subdued attitude of intensity. Would she say they couldn't go? She - the registrar - did, sometimes, they knew.

The great day came - Monday afternoon. At three o'clock the chartered car was to start. They were told to come to Neighborhood House at half-past two; some of them came at half-past eleven - to make sure! There were mothers and babies, an old grand-mother, children, children, children, all in their Sunday best and lugging the inevitably bulging suit-case. Half a block to the trolley-car - the trolley-car to Elysium! Elysium specifically located seventeen miles from the city, in Pewee Valley.

In the first group that "went out to the Fresh Air Home" there were one hundred thirty women and children. During the whole of the seven weeks and three days that the Fresh Air Home was open in the summer of 1931, 230 boys and 220 girls from five to fourteen years old, 112 women, 98 children under five years old, 22 boys over fifteen and 34 girls over fifteen years old "went out to the Fresh Air Home" - a total of 716 individuals, belonging to 308 families.

This was all it was possible for the budget to care for. There had been 1380 applications.

Seventeen miles in the crowded trolley-car - the car stopped - the Promised Land. The boys running in the lead, up the lane they came, a quarter of a mile - to the Fresh Air Home. Something new this year! Where the boys' tents used to be is - wonder of wonders! the beautiful new mothers' cottage. It has a porch and is on a slight upland against a background of trees, not far from the entrance to the grounds. It is called the Mary Mother Gill Mothers' Cottage, and here mothers with babies and little children found not only surcease, but comfort and convenience. There are nine bed-rooms, a spacious dormitory, two bathrooms, a linen room and a service pantry for babies' milk. On the long front porch are swings and comfortable chairs. Beyond it is the big main building with the dining-room, the Recreation Hall, and the girls' dormitory, and beyond that, near the woodland, are the boys' tents.

Mary P. Gill Cottage

The last slow little ones came up; Mrs. Armstrong and her assistants took the registration cards and assigned quarters. "Can I sleep in the tent? Can I sleep in the tent?" clamorously from Johnny, aged six. His mother couldn't come. She worked at night. A glimpse into the spotlessness of the Mothers' Cottage and Johnny was satisfied to forego the glamour of life in the tent for the comfort of the cottage. He was even thrilled. "Gee! this is fine. I got a towel and a wash-rag all my own!" Over in the main building a little girl was entranced by the prospect of "a bed all to myself! At home I sleep with my four sisters" - in her one-room home.

Everybody went to the main building to be weighed - they were weighed again before starting home - and how those under weight children had gained! Then came the supper bell - supper in the large airy dining hall. One little boy was overheard - "Think, Mother, of having all the food that you want."

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Total number of applications:		1380
Representing families:		629
Total number who applied but did not go:		664
Representing families:		321
Average days per guest:		7.7
Number of picnickers and visitors		620

COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

	1928	1929	1930	1931
Number of weeks open	9 4/7	8	8	6 3/7
Number of guests	788	766	803	716
Representing families	328	328	332	308
Total number of applications	1019	1066	1170	1380
Representing families	441	461	490	629
Number of weeks outing given	917 4/7	1007 6/7	1054 6/7	788 3/7
Total number who applied but did not go	231	300	367	664
Representing families	113	143	158	321

INDIVIDUALS	REPRESENTING	FAMILIES
716	Guests	308
178	Given opportunity but unable to go at time	89
486	Applicants to whom it was impossible to give an opportunity to go	232
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OUTINGS WERE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING CLASSIFIED GROUPS

Men	0
Women	112
Children (5 and under)	98
Boys (6 ----- 14)	230
Boys (15 and over)	22
Girls (6----- 14)	220
Girls (15 and over)	<u>34</u>
	716

55266

Use much of this material

Louisville Fresh Air Home

INCORPORATED

CITY HEADQUARTERS
428 South First Street

COUNTRY HOME ADDRESS
Pewee Valley, Ky.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mr. J. V. Norman, President
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*Excellent
Mr. Norman
Miss Ingram requires*

LOUISVILLE, KY.

October 19, 1931

very special

Dear Friends of the Louisville Fresh Air Home:

This year we are sending you a report giving you a few glimpses of the joy and, we trust, lasting benefits that the Louisville Fresh Air Home supplied for over seven hundred of Louisville's most needy women, babies and children.

The mothers' and babies' cottage, which has been a dream for many years, became a reality this year through the Mary ~~Pathe~~ Gill Foundation, of which the United States Trust Company is trustee.

Through the generous co-operation of the County Commission of Jefferson County and the Fiscal Court of Oldham County, we have arranged to build, early next spring, a much needed roadway from the gate to the buildings..

There were 716 outings given, averaging 7.7 days. It is our hope that when conditions will permit we may be able to secure sufficient funds to operate the Fresh Air Home through-out the summer, and so enable us to give the benefits which the Fresh Air Home affords to a much larger number.

Good print

It is not just happiness that you give them in maintaining this Home, it is healthier bodies and minds and a contribution to character building. You are not making one or a few children happy - you are making a definite contribution to the future welfare of the community.

Very truly yours,

J. V. Norman

President.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home is a Community Chest Agency

55-210

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME
SUMMER 1931

Were you ever a city child - a city child who spent a week in the country? Oh, you haven't forgotten it! You can't. As long as you live, the memory of it will be yours - to flash forth unexpectedly, to brighten, to gladden you -- even now the memory of it can cheer you on. Do you recall one summer? Vacation - a light wind blowing - white clouds in a blue sky - green grass - trees - a far view - peace in the very soul - strength to go forward - morale.

This is a story of happy children - gay, laughing children, of games, of green fields and trees, of happy evenings in the Recreation Hall, of stories told in the moonlight or by the light of the camp fire, of swimming and hiking, of good meals and comfortable beds - of cold water to drink.

But the story is very short. On an average, he goes back in a week to the crowded home in the hot city. Up two flights (dark and stifling), turn left - that is where the B's live; of course there is no such thing as a cross draft. Out of this into the joy of the Fresh Air Home - no wonder they compare it to Heaven!

The summer of 1931 was a very hot summer and it followed a hard winter. Greater than ever was the longing for a respite - for a refuge in some cases. Weeks and weeks ahead of the opening, by the hundreds they came to Neighborhood House, eager to "sign up" for the Fresh Air Home. There were women with babies in their arms - some half-sick, and weary, weary, Oh! so weary. Not always for themselves they asked; "Could the children go?" -- If only you could have seen the small boys who came to register - solemn, fearful, hopeful. No, their eyes were not the eyes of angels, nor did they look other than they were except for the subdued attitude of intensity. Would she say they couldn't go? She - the registrar - did, sometimes, they knew.

The great day came - Monday afternoon. At three o'clock the chartered car was to start. They were told to come to Neighborhood House at half-past two; some of them came at half-past eleven - to make sure! There were mothers and babies, an old grand-mother, children, children, children, all in their Sunday best and lugging the inevitably bulging suit-case. Half a block to the trolley-car - the trolley-car to Elysium! Elysium specifically located seventeen miles from the city, in Pewee Valley.

In the first group that "went out to the Fresh Air Home" there were one hundred thirty women and children. During the whole of the seven weeks and three days that the Fresh Air Home was open in the summer of 1931, 230 boys and 220 girls from five to fourteen years old, 112 women, 98 children under five years old, 22 boys over fifteen and 34 girls over fifteen years old "went out to the Fresh Air Home" - a total of 716 individuals, belonging to 308 families.

This was all it was possible for the budget to care for. There had been 1380 applications.

Seventeen miles in the crowded trolley-car - the car stopped - the Promised Land. The boys running in the lead, up the lane they came, a quarter of a mile - to the Fresh Air Home. Something new this year! Where the boys' tents used to be is - wonder of wonders! the beautiful new mothers' cottage. It has a porch and is on a slight upland against a background of trees, not far from the entrance to the grounds. It is called the Mary Pether Gill Mothers' Cottage, and here mothers with babies and little children found not only surcease, but comfort and convenience. There are nine bed-rooms, a spacious dormitory, two bathrooms, a linen room and a service pantry for babies' milk. On the long front porch are swings and comfortable chairs. Beyond it is the big main building with the dining-room, the Recreation Hall, and the girls' dormitory, and beyond that, near the woodland, are the boys' tents.

The last slow little ones came up; Mrs. Armstrong and her assistants took the registration cards and assigned quarters. "Can I sleep in the tent? Can I sleep in the tent?" clamorously from Johnny, aged six. His mother couldn't come. She worked at night. A glimpse into the spotlessness of the Mothers' Cottage and Johnny was satisfied to forego the glamour of life in the tent for the comfort of the cottage. He was even thrilled. "Gee! this is fine. I got a towel and a wash-rag all my own!" Over in the main building a little girl was entranced by the prospect of "a bed all to myself! At home I sleep with my four sisters" - in her one-room home.

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	<hr/> 716

3711

Very special 1931 Report of
S. F. A. H.
Use for my story, also that of 1932

178902

The Filson Historical Society

55126

1906 - N.A. furnished children
to the Fresh Air Work
conducted by the 4th Ave
Presbyterian Church.

Miss Powell - a teacher gathered
up these children from her
school other children

President
2542

1927
1937
1947
1952

1919

1929

1939

1949 -

The Filson Historical Society

58176

1935 Jan 4 - Mr. Norman's talk - on S. F. A. H.

1939 9 - Reports of individual workers

Aurora Shelton - Counselor's "kitchen band" after the
ice-breaker games - p. 3.

Marietta Charnock

Mrs. Ruth Otto

Virginia Robinson

J. F. B. Stig ^{also} best of all -

Robert W. H. Horst

Bernadine Fresh Air Home at
Crestwood established in
1906. ~~was~~ Fourth Ave Presbyterian Church
asked N. A. to send children to F. A. H. provided
by it for children who otherwise would have
no summer vacation. Miss Powell ^{who taught at 15th} sent there ^{with}
children

See Rebecca's Thesis p. 94
Board of 3

1919 - May 3 - 3 from H-Board

Mr. Sewa P. Lewis, Mr. Van Wert Norman &

Mrs. Alex B. Bivell

the 2 named in Board Mr. Grove & also +

Miss Frances Johnson

192

The Filson Historical Society

Mr. + Mrs. J. G. Sweet - p. 84
1892 trips to Fern Grove

10th Hour
1889

Mr. S. J. Nunemaker + Mr. Ormsby,
Miss Daisy Powell, a member of the
The Young People's Society of the Fourth Ave
Presbyterian Church - 85th + Maple St. School

1900

1900 - 1st Fresh Air Camp was held at
Beard's Station (now Crestwood) at
Mrs. Hayes house financed by church group
+ other interested citizens - The F.A. Camp
p. 86 - on Bernadine Home, on the farm of Mrs. Stella Hayes
at Camden - 35 children every two weeks

in 1906 N. H. was asked to read

1896. N. H. established Sept 1896

324 E. Jeff -

Sept 1897

428 So. First

1909

1906. N. H. was asked to send more children to the
Bernadine Home.

1908 Miss Powell withdrew - Miss Ingram appointed
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1909 The Summerville Herald Home for mothers & babies
S. F. A. H. took care of children

1910 p 89

1911 p 917 reek Air Home at Forest Ky - Mr. John Barrett

1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917 operated Forest Ky.

1918 - during war served as a ~~station~~ training center for teaching canning
food conservation & cooking to women & girls.

1918. Mrs. Mary Parker Gilb. presented \$5000 with the
provision that it be matched by an equal sum

1919 - S. F. A. Home incorporated S. F. A. H.
5 members - three to represent N. H. Leon P. Sewer
became member of Welfare League.

Mr. F. Ham Communism
Bible versus

Mr. John Barrett - Annotate Sunday
School

1924 - 1925 especially good
and full points (studies)

1927 - Mr. Welch also 1928

1929 -

v d v

1930 - Mr. Frank T. Flynn Jr. sent out by Mr. Hornum

1931 - very special

1932 - very interesting

1934 - shows tragic conditions

1929 - 7th year - Mr. Halloran - good list of workers.
1930 - Mr. Frank J. Flynn - fine report.
1931 P.O. - ^{mother's + Babie's cottage becomes reality} ^{the} ^{foundation of which} ^{is} ^{trustee.} ^{See Report}
Roast - no report.

1932

1933 - Mr. + Mrs. Deaky Cashman surely
if created woodland - See Report -

1934 - See Report

1935 - 4 new shades ^{typical shot}

1936, Motor Car - transfers to country - ^{see} ^{report}

1937. See report - ^{Archives of P.O. &}

^{Paper Shows City Ready}
Also N.H. News, See last page

~~What good N.H. Material~~

Journal office - 1937 through its town
office for Registration of various mills

1938 excellent

1939, Miss Fitzhugh in charge -

WHY—
HOW—

SUPPORTED BY YOU and your fellow contributors to the Louisville Community Chest.

*“Happy hearts and happy faces,
Happy play in grassy places—
That was how, in ancient ages
Children grew to kings and sages.”*

Won't you come next summer and see what your gifts make possible?

19 32
**What
Where
Who
Why
When**

1932
The Board of Trustees of the Louisville Fresh Air Home sends you this report for the summer of 1932—a report of the greatest service ever rendered by the Louisville Fresh Air Home.

The Board knows that you will rejoice with them in being able to bring joy and relief to so many of Louisville's needy ones.

Sincerely,

J. V. Norman,
President.

*"How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest
thing
Ever a child can do!"*

—a swing to catch one's breath out of the depression of poverty, of dreariness, of ill opportunity; a swing "in the air so blue"—literally, a physical lift upward with the chance of a consequent lift in courage—in morale.

WHAT—

The Louisville Fresh Air Home, a Community Chest Agency, for fresh air, fresh strength, and fresh courage for those among us who live in dire need of these essentials to the well-being of themselves and, eventually, their community.



THE NEW ROAD

This past summer the Louisville Fresh Air Home faced the problem of relief; many of those who went were wives and children of unemployed men and actually needed the sustenance afforded by the home.

WHERE—

Nineteen miles from Louisville, in Pewee Valley, is the permanent site of the Louisville Fresh Air Home.

The property is a thirty-one and one-half acre tract with a main building, the Mary Parker Gill Cottage for mothers and babies, and tents for the older boys.

In 1931, by gift from the Mary Parker Gill Fund, a cottage for mothers and babies was erected.

The past year, through the co-operation of the Jefferson and the Oldham County Fiscal Courts, a macadamized road was built from the entrance to the main building.

WHO—

Women	226
Children, 5 and under.....	167
Boys, 6-14 years	323
Girls, 6-14 years	337
Boys, 15 and over.....	42
Girls, 15 and over.....	57

A total of 1152 individuals, belonging to 474 families "went out to the Fresh Air Home."

The average length of the outing given was seven days.

There were 1693 applications.

The point of registration was Neighborhood House.

Each individual was given a medical examination before going to the Home.

The staff consisted of five full-time and one part-time paid worker, and at various times, twenty-five volunteers.

WHY—

Not just because they need fresh air and encouragement, but, also, because of the need of growing up with a brighter, wider outlook than a street without trees can give. In the “grown-up” years to come—so soon—they will be contributing their viewpoints and standards to the composite of the city.

Summer means green trees, outdoor recreations—swimming and hiking maybe—and heat, of course. Suppose it meant **heat** alone, and monotony.

On the chance of being allowed to stay another week, a fourteen-year-old boy walked back to the Fresh Air Home—nineteen miles, barefooted.

WHEN—

In 1932, the Louisville Fresh Air Home opened June 27 and closed August 31, nine weeks and three days.

By gift from the Mary Parker Gill Fund, the last two weeks of this time were financed.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Louisville Fresh Air Home

President

Mr. J. V. Norman

Vice-President and Business Manager

Miss Frances Ingram

Secretary-Treasurer

Mr. Grover Sales

Mr. Percy N. Booth

Mrs. Credo Harris

Camp Director

Miss Josephine Peak

1937

Louisville Fresh Air Home

HEADQUARTERS
428 SOUTH FIRST ST.

COUNTRY HOME ADDRESS
PEWEE VALLEY, KY.

1937

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MR. J. V. NORMAN, PRESIDENT
MISS FRANCES INGRAM, VICE-PRESIDENT
AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
MR. GROVER SALES, SECRETARY-TREASURER
MR. PERCY N. BOOTH
MRS. W. Y. FILLEBROWN
MRS. CREDO HARRIS

LOUISVILLE, KY.

Mrs. John H. McChord
Mr. John Cecil Norman
Mrs. Henry Y. Offutt, Jr.

September 10, 1937.

Dear Friend of the Louisville Fresh Air Home:

The summer of 1937 at the Louisville Fresh Air Home gave vacations to 965, allowing about a week to each person. This number is only 56% of the 1732 who registered to go.

In spite of the difficulties which beset us before opening time - the necessary repairs and repurchases of cots and pillows because of the losses to flood refugee centers - we opened on time and stayed open nine weeks.

The camp workers did a fine job. Many variations appeared in our camp program. Treasure hunts, nature study hikes, games on the lawn, swimming, handicraft, folk dancing in the recreation hall, and singing around the camp fire gave the usual pleasure. Puppet shows of the City Recreation Department, and Orchestra of the W. P. A. furnished the high spots of the week.

We are indebted to our friends for gifts and services of various types, and we want to thank you for your interest in the Home and for your assistance in making its work possible.

Very cordially yours,

Frances Ingram

Frances Ingram, Vice president and
Managing Director.

557 76

The Louisville Fresh Air Home is a camp in a heavily wooded section of beautiful country located nineteen miles from Louisville, in Pewee Valley. The property is a thirty-one and one-half acre tract with a main building, the Mary Parker Gill cottage for mothers and babies, and four shacks for older boys.

The Administration Building is the center of camp life. An Avenue through gorgeous ash trees leads up to this building. From a friendly porch one enters a spacious lobby, back of which are dining room and kitchen. To the right is the recreation hall where a stage provides for amateur theatricals. Here are comfortable chairs for mothers, benches for boys and girls, and cribs where mothers can "park" their sleeping babies. The girls' dormitory and rooms for the camp counselors are in the left wing of the Administration Building. Mothers and babies are housed in the Mary Parker Gill cottage. The four shacks for boys are at a little distance away, beyond a brook which runs under a foot-bridge. Tribal competition has no intrusion from the most tranquil campers beyond the brook.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home is open every summer from eight to ten weeks; it accomodates from 106 to 110 individuals (including mothers, babies, boys and girls) at a time. It is a source of great satisfaction to have this permanent site, after the years of various removals and make-shift tenure. This summer 965 enjoyed vacations here; but this is only 56% of those who registered to go. Of this 965 who went out this year, 57% had been out before.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home serves the entire city of Louisville. The applicants chosen are from highly populated districts which are not vice areas. Seventy families, or 19 per cent of the total number of families, live north of Broadway and west of Fourteenth Street; twenty-one families, or 5 per cent of the total live south of Broadway and west of Fifteenth Street; ninety-two families, or 25 per cent of the total live downtown north of Broadway between Fifteenth and Shelby; forty-five families, or 12 per cent of the total live in the central part of the city between Shelby and Fifteenth Street and south of Broadway as far as the University of Louisville; we have twenty families, or 5 per cent of the total living in South Louisville and Highland Park; by far the greatest number, one hundred and eighteen families, or 31 per cent of the total live on the Lower River Road and "The Point" (north of Broadway and east of Shelby); twelve families, or 3% of the total live in "Fort Hill", a district south of Broadway and east of Shelby. Eighty-three families or 18 per cent are not included in this count because of shortness of time, moving of families and for various other reasons.

The choice of families was based on the need for open air and sunlight and the lack of enough income for a vacation. Many of our families are dependent on some regular form of public donations; 5% receive help from Family Service; 3% from the Municipal Bureau of Social Service; 4% from C. C. C. and N. Y. A. money; 8% are dependent on W. P. A., receiving an average of \$44.00 per month. It is always difficult to find out information about wages. One week a job, two weeks no job, the reluctance of some to seem poor and the unwillingness of others to seem well off for fear their few comforts would cost

them the opportunity of going to the Louisville Fresh Air Home,--are difficulties in the way of fact finding, and although the Louisville Fresh Air Home clears with the Social Service Exchange, we are hampered because of the many applications and the limited time for investigation.

The average family which comes to the Louisville Fresh Air Home has 5.4 members. They live, 63% of them, in cottages; 30% in tenements; the other 7% drift. The average cottage has four rooms; the average apartment in a tenement or over a store, has three rooms. The drifters usually live for short periods with other families. The sanitary facilities are on the mend, but the fact that 80% are without tubs, that 53% have inside toilets but 47% have outside toilets show how much there is to be changed to better housing conditions.

To every one unemployed, there are five working. Seventy-nine per cent of the families have no unemployment; 12% have one out of work; 2% have two out of work; 17% of the mothers work. There are 105 different occupations for men. The building trades and factories employ most men. W. P. A. workers are numerous. Bartenders, bookmakers, photo-peddlers, and cab drivers are all found in this group. The average family income is \$73.00 per month. * *(Try to feed a family)*

Fortunately, we no longer have to justify such recreation as is provided for people existing thinly through their poverty in the city's heat. Would that it were possible for all who eat their own wholesome food, breathe fresh air at home, enjoy swishy baths themselves, and look out over the dewy-cool grass of their own yards, to go see for themselves the enjoyment of these one-week guests from dingy streets. Their moods are deeply felt. These tired mothers have lived lives of servitude; at the Louisville Fresh Air Home a service is rendered them. Counselors provide comfort and ease for mothers; directed play for little children; boys and camp leaders find adventure enough at all times. All that means "the country" is to be enjoyed at the Louisville Fresh Air Home, and the trip out is a part of the pleasant surprise.

If we were standing on the porch of the Louisville Fresh Air Home in Pewee Valley watching the arrival of the group from town we might see Mrs. A getting out of that car. Mrs. A has two rooms on the third floor of a flat over a saloon. One of the rooms has no outside opening. Mrs. A's family has to share the one toilet with the eight families living on the second floor. The stairs going down are so dark that any loose object on them might cause a serious accident. Mrs. A. has four children, all small, and she must rear them on thirty dollars a month.

Mrs. L is getting out of that car by the tree. She is bringing her own children and the children of her sister who has to stay in town and cook for five men. These two sisters each have four children and live in a down-"mansion" of days gone by. Eight families live in this house built to accommodate one family. Mrs. L has not the beaten look in her eye that Mrs. A has. Perhaps, her sister's sharing poverty has been cheering.

The mothers will sit under the trees. For a week they will rest, talk to one another, eat good food, and sleep whole nights through without hearing

*The hopeful aspect of the picture is probably due to the industrial trend upward today. Many families were found several of whose members had jobs with low wages.

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trucks thunder by shaking their rooms and rattling loose windows. During the last ten years the Louisville Fresh Air Home has accommodated from 788 to 1177 individuals each summer.

We have been asked what types of vacations would be open to these people if there were no Louisville Fresh Air Home. Our answer is: Two per cent signified that they might have gone through the Courier Journal Fresh Air Fund; eleven per cent said they might have gone to the country to visit relatives, but that the relatives were as poor as they were; eighty-four per cent said that they would have had no vacation had it not been for the Louisville Fresh Air Home. 1732 applied to go, but only 965 had the trip.

It is always a temptation to tell how much is learned under directed activities, but we know too well how lacking we are in directions for understanding any human scene; so, we watch, year after year, the timeless lift of youth dashing into distance, rising and falling, and striking the smugness and indifference which will wear them thin and diminish the growth of most of them, and as we watch, we become more aware of the need for re-accomodation to reality if we are to get rid of empty technique and sweetened evasion which skimp the growth of youth as we repeat the errors bred by indifference.

The memories that the guests of the Louisville Fresh Air Home will take away each summer will include thoughts of three meals every day, good milk every meal, ice cream one 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 Louisville Fresh Air Home means to food-hungry, pleasure-hungry, nature-hungry mothers, boys and girls.

The Filson

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What an inadequate report - following the story of the flood

Brief?

THE LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME

Summer of 1937

The Louisville Fresh Air Home is thirty-five years old, as nearly as the early records handed down by word of mouth show. Its beginnings were rooted in the new familiar social thinking that life is better lived when there is work and play enough to bring peace to and among individuals. The Louisville Fresh Air Home programs have grown out of the homely wisdom of actual experience. Each year, our hopeful plans have been greatly limited. The recollection of the disappointed who do not get to go always draws a dreary drop upon the summer's enthusiastic work. During the last ten years, 788 to 1177 individuals have been accommodated each summer. The summer of 1937 gave vacations to 965, but 1732 had registered their request to go.

The site of the Louisville Fresh Air Home is a beautifully wooded 31½ acre tract in Pewee Valley, 19 miles from Louisville. The center of camp life is a well-designed Administration Building which houses recreation hall, kitchen, and dormitory for girls and camp counselors. Mothers and babies are housed in the Mary Parker Gill cottage. The boys are beyond a brook which runs under a foot bridge which sets the four shacks apart, in preferred camp style.

Many of our families are dependent on some regular form of public donations (Family Service; Municipal Bureau of Social Service; C.C.C. and N.Y.A. money; and W.P.A.). One week a job, two weeks no job, and through all weeks the fear of losing the few comforts they have. 63% of our families live in cottages of an average of four rooms for the 5.4 members of the family. The average tenement is over a store and has three rooms. The drifters live for short periods with other families. Sanitary facilities are on the mend, but 60% are without tubs, 53% have inside toilets, but 47% have outside toilets.

From the

Unemployment is less. Many of our families have several members with low wages. The building trades and factories employ most men. W.P.A. workers are numerous. There are 105 occupations represented by the labor done by the men workers in the families of our applicants. Factory workers and truck drivers are numerous.

The need for open air and sunlight and the lack of enough income for a vacation determines our choice of families, for the Louisville Fresh Air Home serves the entire city of Louisville. The applicants chosen are from highly populated districts which are not vice areas.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home is open every summer from eight to ten weeks; it accommodates from 106 to 110 individuals (including mothers, babies, boys, and girls) at a time. A few of our people might have gone to the country to visit relatives, but the relatives were as poor as they were. Most of them would have had no vacation if it had not been for the Louisville Fresh Air Home.

Pleasant first impressions, as the cars unload and the guests see the avenue through the age-old ash trees that leads to the "porch-front" of the Administration Building, are quickly reinforced by those who have been there before. They all take away memories of individual beds to sleep in, three meals every day with good milk every meal, and ice cream once or twice a week, and picnic suppers on the grass. Swimming, games, stunts, shows, pony rides, campfire programs, songs, treasure hunts, handicraft, ---all have their eager supporters. Mothers smile often when their thoughts turn to the "stage-room" where they could take their ease while the play went on because little beds were on wheels for their babies to sleep in. Food-hungry or pleasure-hungry, whether inner or outer troubles are allayed, this vacation experience brings satisfactions which the applicants can't get by themselves, ---a good treatment for weary bodies and anxious minds.

Board of Directors, Louisville Fresh Air Home

J. V. Norman, President
Frances Ingram, Vice Pres., Managing Director
Grover G. Sales, Secretary-Treasurer
Percy N. Booth

Mrs. Credo Harris
John Cecil Norman
Mrs. Henry Y. Offutt, Jr.
Mrs. John H. McChord

Louisville Fresh Air Home: A Community Chest Agency

Summer of 1938.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home was open nine weeks and two days. 931 guests, averaging a week each, came and went. 1997 applications were made; 1066 were denied the opportunity to go because capacity to entertain is so limited.

Pleasant and smooth running best describe the 1938 season. The rains came. No struggle with water. No buying and hauling of water as in previous summers. The cistern and reservoirs were full. We had a shower bath in the boys' quarters. Our new lake in the Fitzgerald Quarry was a big delight. In other summers, we had used it; this summer it was ours. The swimming was a more abundant joy when the pool was our own. An improved road was made from the Mother and Baby Cottage to the Administration Building. These three new gains (rock in the roadway, a lake all our own, and a shower for boys) well met some of our great needs. The community itself was very friendly. Neighborhood residents visited us on Puppet Show and W.P.A. Concert nights, and often came on Stunt night. Local people gave us gifts of food and helped with programs. Many friends gave us the use of cars. Young people gave volunteer service. Physicians gave time for the health examination of each guest. The Louisville Free Public Library furnished books.

The 931 who went for that longed-for week took home a country pitcher full of good memories which they can pour out through their less satisfying days this winter. Our guests had "a swell time." There are always records for any enterprise, and the Louisville Fresh Air Home social experience comes through application and assignment, just as jobs do, but the pay is an envelope full of health and happiness. It was good news for the 931 mothers, babies, boys, and girls who were chosen! The number of applications was more than double the capacity of the Home.

Although growth in size is slow, pleasanter conditions prevail now for a comfortable vacation. To the modern shacks with built-in beds and individual chests a new out-door shower for the boys' camp has been added. The boys planted young pine trees this summer to beautify the entrances.

The best new feature is the pool in the quarry. It is lovely, with its high rocky crags outlined with trees and shrubs. The path down from the camp is pretty, too. A car-load of sand (but it needs more sand another year!) took some of the sharpness from the rocks. Many boys and girls were taught the rudiments of swimming. They returned with cards showing their mastery of correct breathing, the armstroke, the flutterkick, floating, and the push-off. All the water of the Louisville Fresh Air Home is under the care of the Board of Health.

The Louisville Fresh Air Home is unique in having all ages at the same time. The tired mother has her children around her but does not have the responsibility of their care. She can sit and talk to other mothers in the big swing under the trees while her children are off on hikes, swimming, learning handcraft, group games, listening to stories, or just playing. All this under the supervision of competent counsellors.

The activity program took a step forward this summer. A candle-lighting ceremonial was held every Sunday evening at dusk. The quality of the singing was excellent, as was the choice of the songs. Older groups enjoyed folk-dancing in the recreation hall. The ever-popular treasure hunt was arranged for each group. Puppet shows and the W.P.A. orchestra were popular extra entertainment. Rest periods with their regularity "rule" were important and, "believe it or not," enjoyed. But, sleeping between sheets and having three meals a day were the most grateful creature-comforts.

Board of Directors, Louisville Fresh Air Home

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Mr. John Cecil Norman
Mrs. Henry Y. Offutt, Jr.
Mrs. John H. McChord

AM

September 10, 1938.

Dear Friend:

I am sending you this 1938 report of the very satisfactory summer at the Louisville Fresh Air Home. Our only regret is that we were unable to take all those who needed to go.

Sincerely yours,

J. V. Norman
J. V. Norman, President

L.F.A.H - Summer 1939

Food

At the close of the 1938 season we rated ourselves according to Suggested Tentative Standards in terms of food for the camper as outlined in "Setting Standards for the Summer Camp", conducted by the Chicago Council of Social Agencies and George Williams College in 1935. We found ourselves a little below par in several instances and we have kept these deficiencies in mind and compensated most of them this summer. We are still not providing the required number of eggs to meet the standard. We average six dozen eggs per week at a cost of from twenty one to twenty five cents a dozen. To meet the standard of 'one egg a day for each person' we would need never less than seven hundred eggs or approximately sixty dozen eggs - ten times as many as we are now using. Some dietitians consider that four eggs per week will meet the minimum need provided other needs are well met. It would require forty dozen eggs each week to meet this standard.

We probably err in not planning different meals for the younger children than for our mothers, older boys, and older girls. We tried at one time to substitute green beans for the little ones when navy beans was on the menu - but the children and their mothers for them spurned the change. Since then no variation has been attempted. An ideal arrangement would be for the small children to have their meals separate from all other campers, with nursery school or kindergarten teachers presiding at the tables and the special diet for young children served.

L.F.A.H. - Summer 1939
The Program and the Staff

The final and highest contribution to the fine morale of the campers this season was listed as the "excellent functioning of the staff,"- and the program in the last analysis is the result of the functioning of the staff. The program has not been as diverse as in previous years, but the activities attempted have been worthwhile and wholeheartedly enjoyed. There have been very few cases of homesickness which ~~is~~ so often is the result of a child's having nothing interesting to do. There have been no complaints from neighbors that our children are getting into their orchards or their vineyard. The esprit de corps of the staff has so permeated the campers that the older boys and girls almost automatically organized their games on the playground each evening after supper. The games with the little children at the same time under the direction of one regular and one volunteer counselor more often than not attracted some of the older children and some of the mothers. The night programs in the recreation hall are always over too soon for most of the campers. They sing with zeal the fine songs in our terribly worn out song books; they squeal with glee and clap enthusiastically for each performance of any of the campers, and would rush pell mell (if permitted to do so) to places on the floor in order to take part in the folk dances. (One boy over six feet tall whose heart growth has not kept pace with his body growth and ^{who} is restricted in his exercise, stayed away from the morning hikes and frequently from the afternoon swims so that he would be permitted to take part in the folk dancing.) The music for the singing and dancing was excellent.

The boys were taught that a complete cleansing shower was part of every day at camp,- and learned to like it. The girls learned to take cold showers after their swim in order to save enough hot water for dish washing. Credit is due the counselors

for these two constructive health practices and for many others- use of foot bath after showers, insistence of absolute cleanliness of quarters with inspection twice a day, methods that make dish washing more sanitary etc.

There was not so much handcraft attempted as in previous years as we had no one person particularly skilled in handcraft- but I do not feel that our program has suffered. The campers have had more hiking and more nature work (boys especially) and all have seemed happier with the program attempted than at any previous season in my experience.

This brings me back to a remark in the opening paragraph of this part of my report - "The program in the last analysis is the result of the functioning of the staff" The men counselors this season were mature, energetic and more interested in the campers than in themselves. This summer at camp was not a vacation with pay - but a real adventure with boys. The increased number of girl workers - three regulars and one or two volunteers instead of one regular and two volunteers - helped solve two of our major difficulties of previous years- (a) one person spreading her efforts so thin over twenty four hours, and (b) no trained person definitely in charge of little children. The three girl workers as well as the boys were more interested in their work than in themselves, they were open to suggestion and exerted a wholesome influence on the girl campers. So I feel keenly that whatever was lacking in variety on the program was made up for in quality.

The kitchen and housekeeping staff also contributed to a successful season. All were earnest in their work and seemed to keep the comfort and happiness of the campers uppermost in their minds.

We missed Tommy Noonan's Puppets each week, also the W.P.A. orchestra - but are grateful to the library for sending us their Puppet Show three mornings during the summer and Warren Gleisner for his Marionettes one night.

The Filson Historical Society

L.F.A.H - Summer 1939

The Campers

What should be the yardstick to determine who shall come to the Louisville Fresh Air Home?

1. Shall the premium be placed on the ineffectual mother who drifts, and a well earned rest be denied the thrifty mother who knows ^{how} to stretch the dollars and donations so that her family makes a good appearance?
2. Shall the misunderstood boy or girl be denied the advantages of camping experience just because there is ample provision for food and clothing in the home but no surplus for recreation?
3. Shall the mother and children in the home where the father fails to take home his wages be denied a week of contentment and recreation because the pay check is sizable for all material needs?
4. Should having a telephone or running an automobile place a family outside the pale of a free vacation?

Each year I am less decided in my own mind as to which thousand of the approximate two thousand registrants should be given the benefit of camping experience. Probably all who register really need what the camp can give - mentally, physically, or socially. I no longer believe that economic need alone should determine the right to a free vacation.

In the time allotted for arranging groups the investigation of cases is probably more superficial than it should be since over half of the group is doomed to disappointment. We have had during the course of the summer families who owned cars and made several trips to the camp during the week to visit campers, families who spent money freely at the stores in Pewee Valley, families with telephones in the home, families who boasted of electric ice-boxes, electric washers, ownership of homes, expensive

clothing and many other things that would indicate the absence of financial worries. And yet all of these campers have enjoyed and I believe benefitted by the time spent here. One settlement group tried to disregard our standards concerning crowding the Mary Parker Gill Cottage beyond the proper capacity. This made rest almost impossible, and one little family (seemingly the one most in need of the vacation) left after one night because the children were so noisy. In this same group the mothers voiced the opinion that we were too strict and that soon we would have no mothers coming out here. This group seemed to be made up of a few members of the settlement's Mother's Club, their friends and relatives regardless of home conditions.

These few incidents have not marred the pleasantness of the summer. The morale has been the highest of the four seasons that I have had the privilege of serving as Camp Director. This is due to several factors:-

1. The improved facilities of the plant.
2. The fact that because of the new shack, it is possible to let boys, who need it for build up physically or otherwise, stay at camp for two weeks or longer.
3. The plan of having a cabin counselor (volunteer) in each shack of boys, who is responsible for certain details of the shack.
4. The incentive of being asked to come back as a volunteer counselor (boys and girls) provided one has measured up as a camper.
5. Last, but not least, the excellent functioning of the staff.

Recommendations

That a more city wide survey be made for recruiting families

The Campers (continued)

to spend a week at the Louisville Fresh Air Home. From conversations with friends employed in the Louisville Public School System I am convinced that many worthy families are being overlooked. As the school population represents more nearly than any other one organization a cross section of the city, it seems that a list of names from the Visiting Teachers of the public and parochial schools in addition to those from the Welfare Agencies would be most comprehensive and a very material help to the Registrar.

The Filson Historical Society

L.F.A.H. - Summer 1939

The Plant

In many respects the Louisville Fresh Air Home is an ideal place for a summer vacation for boys, girls, mothers and little children. The picturesque location of each unit on a different level is almost awe inspiring. And when the lawn in front of the Main Building becomes alive each evening after supper with happy children playing and contented mothers recreating themselves playing or resting, the beauty of the picture is enhanced an hundredfold.

The purchase of the swimming pool and the construction of the shower at the Boy's Camp last season were definite strides in making the Louisville Fresh Air Home a real camp. This season our improvements included a complete new shack at the Boys' Camp (making it possible to house forty boys each week); a better location for the toilet at the Boys' Camp, a concrete floor for the boy counselors' tent, concrete platforms for the two lawn swings, and many minor improvements at the swimming pool such as wooden floats, life buoy, grappling hook etc. - all the work of the man counselor and boy campers. Sufficient water for all purposes has been a noticeable factor in making the summer a pleasant one for all, especially for those who have experienced seasons when water was so scarce that baths were not daily occurrences and drinking water was bought in Louisville.

There are several items, however, that should be kept in mind for future improvements:-

1. New roof on Mary Parker Gill Cottage. Unless this is done soon the plastering will begin falling.

2. The capacity of the cistern at the Mary Parker Gill Cottage is not adequate for the number of people housed in the building.

The Plant - continued

3. The amount of hot water possible at the main building is not sufficient for thoroughly sanitary dishwashing.

4. One system of water pipes should connect the two cisterns at the Main Building, this connection should be permanent, and the pipes should be under the building.

5. Both buildings should be creosoted.

6. Repairs and improvements in the girls' shower room are needed badly.

7. Dormitory at Mary Parker Gill Cottage should be divided into two rooms as soon as possible. Two or more families with small children find it difficult to live together in one room, and we seldom have enough adults without small children to utilize twelve beds.

L.F.A.H - Summer 1939

Volunteer Counselors

The practice of drafting volunteer counselors from the ranks of the former campers has been an incentive to our present campers. Each one who likes to consider himself or herself a potential counselor makes every effort to be a desirable camper. This has a very definite influence for good on the morale of the whole camp. The former campers who are chosen to return as volunteer counselors enjoy their week of 'power' tremendously and I believe benefit from having had definite responsibilities. It is doubtful as to whether these volunteers contribute very much to the camp as counselors except in routine matters but I am convinced that this is a worthwhile practice.

The volunteer counselors from other sources made more of a contribution to the camp than the 'camper counselors', but there were fewer excellent volunteers this season than at any other season during my regime as Camp Director. This is due probably to the fact that there have been no recreation training courses in Louisville for several years and the young people who are interested in giving their services are not equipped as well as those in previous years.

Recommendations

That all agencies desiring volunteer recreation leaders cooperate on a Recreation Training Institute during the winter or spring.

LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
1940

The camping season for 1940 extended from Monday June 24, through Saturday August 31, a period of ten weeks lacking one day. Following is a summary of reports of the camp director and staff, together with general recommendations from the camp director and the registrar. The statistical report is given separately.

Before the camping season opened a meeting was held with the social agencies who were expected to make the greatest use of camping facilities. The general procedure of referral and registration was discussed and the requirements of campers was stated. In addition to this, through the visiting teachers, a list of over 700 names was sent in. Both of these procedures would have been much more effective had they been carried out earlier in the year and well in advance of the camping season.

Perhaps the most valuable change in our program this year has been setting up of a procedure for a uniform examination of all applicants for camping. This was organized and carried out with the help of Dr. Annie Veech of the City Department of Health and with suggestions and help from Mr. Norman. It was followed up by a second step, an inspection by the health department nurses just before departure for camp. The statistical report shows in part the benefits of this procedure. It cannot show the improved health conditions of the camp which can only be estimated. Undoubtedly the campers of Fresh Air Home are living in better conditions than they are in their own homes, yet illness at camp is a threat to the entire camp and probably no part of camp procedure is subject to harsher criticism than the health program. Every safeguard is a step toward safety and toward a guarantee against criticism.

Miss Fitzhugh's report emphasizes the value of the health examination and follows up with recommendations for further improvement in this program and in the general camp set-up. Many of her recommendations regarding improvements of the physical plant are minor and can be covered as a part of our routine procedure in preparing the camp for use another year. The following major recommendations however, have been made and I am listing them together with Mr. Lammers' estimates of costs for construction.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| (1) Construction of a washing unit at the Mary Parker Gill Cottage | \$ 67.00 |
| (2) Construction of a cistern, 19 feet in diameter and 12 feet deep, at the Mary Parker Gill Cottage | 187.00 |
| (3) Installing 7 inch gutters on the roof of the Mary Parker Gill Cottage | 37.00 |
| (4) Construction of a cold storage unit under the dining room of the Frances Ingram Building with a suitable drain | 105.00 |
| (5) Construction of a cistern at the rear of the recreation wing of the Frances Ingram Building | 187.00 |
| (6) Installation of gutters and downspouts to the cistern | 25.00 |

608.00

Don't like implications there has been no illness in years

LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME REPORT
(continued)

- 608 00
- (7) Building an addition to the present kitchen porch to make an overall size of 20 feet wide and 14 feet long
 - (8) Construction of a concrete walk from the north side door of the dining room to the back porch, and building a safety platform at the top of the steps of the side door of the dining room
 - (9) Construction of two toilets at the swimming pool

\$197.00

21.00

110.00

936.00

936
316
640
2

One further item that should be considered for action before cold weather sets in is the planting of trees and shrubbery around the Frances Ingram Building to make it more presentable and to provide shade near the building. From \$30.00 to \$70.00 could be spent for this. The work should be done in the fall in order to insure the best growth of the shrubbery.

Miss Fitzhugh recommends that the age level for older boys be dropped from 9 to 8 taking this age group away from the Mary Parker Gill Cottage. This would lessen the problems with the mothers and younger children and would increase the proportion of campers at the boys camps, where there has been the least demand in the past. The inclusion of this younger age group, however, would ideally require an addition to the staff at the boys camp. I would suggest that we try it for at least part of the coming summer. Perhaps an added worker could be budgeted for 1942 season as that seems desirable.

As we have seen the work of the camp during this season the interest and need seem to point toward different aspects of the health program. Our budget for 1941 provides for a continuation of the health examinations started this summer. In addition, we hope to secure a third year medical student who could, under the direction of the examining doctor in charge, be responsible for a health program at the camp. This would include treatment of first aid cases, an inspection of cases that seem to need medical care and whatever of a general health education program can be carried on with campers whose camping period is limited to a week. This might well be supplemented with a more intensive health education program carried on with the mothers at the Mary Parker Gill Cottage. Dr. Veech has also recommended that the pre-school children be provided a separate diet, and that they be served their meals separate from adults, and that they should go to bed at 7 o'clock. The last of these would be hardest to provide because of the need of added staff and because of the difficulty of educating mothers to an early bed time in the camp environment when the period of camping is limited to a week.

Miss Fitzhugh has asked that we provide new song books for the coming season which certainly are definitely needed and I believe through volunteer typists the need can be met at a cost limited to paper and stencils for mimeographing, with perhaps some slight added charge for binding. Miss Fitzhugh also asks that we consider limiting visiting days for people from Louisville, relatives of campers, to Sundays or possibly to Sundays and one mid-week day, and raises the question about visitors from Pee-wee Valley. From the standpoint of camp administration, it would be better to limit their visits. From the standpoint of establishing good will in the community this is undesirable.

Talk over with Miss Whitney



P

LOUISVILLE FRESH AIR HOME REPORT
(continued)

Miss Klein, in her final report, suggests some changes in forms and registration procedure some of which can be put into effect as a routine part of our program. To carry out her recommendations completely, would require the services of a part-time person at such earlier period than we have budgeted. It may be advisable, if a registrar can be available, to provide this service for a period up to a week during the latter part of the winter to be followed by the actual registration period starting a month or more before camp opens. In order to get referrals in effectively from agencies, a procedure should be set up within at least two months before camp opens. Actually this past year very few of the campers came to register as official referrals, but many of them came as a result of suggestions from the agencies that they apply directly at the registration office. By postponing our arrangements with the agencies until June first, we will find it impossible to secure full cooperation because this cannot be fitted into their program along with their other routine work and the later interruption of summer vacations. The outstanding example of this past year was the list of the 700 families referred late in the month of May by visiting teachers. In the limited time we were not able to make effective use of their list.

Another item that could be handled much more effectively if started earlier, is that of arranging transportation from Louisville to the camp on Mondays. Arrangements could be made for this through various women's clubs and church groups and a schedule be worked out entirely in advance of the camping season. However, this must be done before May since these groups discontinue meetings during the summer. This would make a procedure that has been difficult at times, a relatively easy one and second only to providing bus transportation.

In summing up, I have little basis for comparing the work this year with that of former years. Judging from my contacts with Miss Fitchugh and observations of the running of the camp and of the registration and referral procedure here, I think the season was very successful. I wondered and marvelled at the efficiency and wholesomeness, natural atmosphere of the camp operating under Miss Fitchugh and with an entirely new staff. Of course, this was aided by the fact that many of the campers each camping period were old timers and could help carry on routine procedure and old traditions. The Report boils down to the question of personnel, ironing out some of the rough spots in our procedure and setting up our work far enough in advance so that it can operate effectively.

November 7, 1940

Harold L. Brigham
Managing Director