METHODS AND PROCEDURES IN DETERMINING

A RECREATION PROGRAM FOR THE

CITY OF DENTON, TEXAS

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North Texas State Teachers College in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For the Degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

BY

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Denton, Texas

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES  .................................................... iv
LIST OF FIGURES. .................................................. v

Chapter

I. THE PROBLEM. .................................................... 1

II. NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION  .................. 3

III. WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION RECREATION PROGRAM  .... 29

IV. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR RECREATION DIRECTORS  .......... 41

V. PROGRAM AND PARTICIPATION .................................. 51

VI. RECREATIONAL SUPERVISORY PROCEDURE ............... 63

VII. CONCLUSIONS .................................................. 86

BIBLIOGRAPHY ....................................................... 94
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Apparatus and Equipment on Children's Playground</td>
<td>17, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Equipment on Neighborhood Playfields</td>
<td>21, 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Organizational Recreation</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Recreational Administration</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Educational Table of Recreation Workers</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Previous Job Table of Recreation Workers</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 'Can Teach and Do Table'</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. General Characteristics of WPA Recreation Workers</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. General Program for Denton Recreation Program</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Community Program</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Figure</td>
<td>Participation Records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Social Recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Dramatic Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Arts and Crafts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Playground Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Special Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Athletic Activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>59</td>
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CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM

The Purpose of This Study: The purpose of this study was to determine to what extent the existing Recreation Program of Denton, Texas provides for the leisure time needs of the citizens of Denton.

After the existing program was surveyed, the results were compared with the standards set up by the National Recreation Association for a city the size of Denton. From a comparison of the present program and the standards, an effort was made to formulate a program that would meet the leisure time needs of the citizenship of Denton.

Method of Procedure: The survey and questionnaire methods were employed because they were more adaptable and practical for this particular study that was the bibliographical method. The survey and questionnaire methods were especially usable in gaining information of the existing recreational conditions. These methods also proved valuable in determining the needs and desires of the citizens in regard to the type of recreation they would choose for their leisure hours.

The material for this study was obtained by two methods. First, questionnaires were sent to religious and civic organizations and to public schools of the city. Second, a survey was made to determine the existing status of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Areas</th>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>Program</td>
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Scope of the Surveys and Questionnaires: Through the questionnaires the writer sought to determine what activities are now being offered or sponsored by various public and private organizations in the city of Denton. A further attempt was made to determine to what extent these activities reached the entire population of the city. Likewise, the standards set up by the National Recreation Association were used as a measuring stick in determining to what extent the areas now in use adequately provide for the leisure time activities of the citizenship of the town. Also the adequacy of the provided facilities, as compared with the number of people to use them was measured by the survey. From these surveys and questionnaires, a recreation program was planned that would provide for the leisure time needs of the entire population of Denton.

Treatment of the Data: The data obtained from the surveys and questionnaires resolved itself into three topics for comparison:

First, the type of recreational activities now being sponsored in the City of Denton by public and private organizations.

Second, the efficiency of the existing program as compared with the needs of Denton citizenship. These needs were based upon the standards set up by the National Recreation Association.

Third, the type of program necessary to fulfill the recreational needs of the children, youth, and adults of Denton.
CHAPTER II

NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The National Recreation Association took the lead in the recreational movement in America. The magazine, "Recreation", the monthly publication of the Association, printed the following history of the development of recreation under the guidance of the National Recreation Association.

During the winter of 1905, a group of people was called together in New York City to consider the question of organizing a course for training those who were working on the playgrounds in New York City. This group had three meetings in the spring and fall of that year. On November 3, 1905, Dr. Gulick and a group of interested people were discussing the matter of organizing the playgrounds and concluded the attempt would not be a success, so the suggestion was made for the organization of a National Playground Association. The committee wrote to Mr. Joseph Lee to join the group to consider the organization, but Mr. Lee suggested that the group become a committee of the American Civic Association. This suggestion did not meet the approval of the group so they discussed the organization of a National Playground Association. Funds were raised and a meeting held. A constitution was written and adopted without a change except the changing of the name from "National Playground Association" to Playground Association of America. It was recommended that there be an annual congress held and that the association publish a magazine called "Recreation".
When the organization meeting was first discussed, President Roosevelt agreed to serve as Honorary President and Jacob Riis agreed to serve as Honorary Vice President of the organization. The fact that Jacob Riis and President Roosevelt were willing to lend their influence helped greatly in giving recreation an accepted place throughout the country. Jacob Riis was always willing to do anything in his power to help the new organization. His budding enthusiasm and his deep and abiding faith in the value of play for his adopted country was an inspiration for all who came in contact with him. Mr. Gulick, who was elected as the first president of the organization, had such personal qualities, such ability as a speaker, such vividness of description at private interviews, such unfailing enthusiasm, that through his presentation, the new movement made a very great appeal that carried the gospel of play to a great many audiences.

The first annual congress of the Association was held in Chicago, June 20-22, 1907. This meeting had a most unusual quality of vitality, freshness, and enthusiasm. Though the number of delegates attending the meetings was small, the spirit was such that a very unusual interest was manifested in the meeting. It was clear that the time was ripe for the new movement and the country was ready to accept the organization that would provide for their leisure time needs.

For the next meeting, in order to secure a good representation of city officials, letters were written to mayors of all principal cities asking them to send a delegate to the meeting. These letters
were signed by President Roosevelt and this gave the first general recognition from the country at large.

The Playground Association of America has grown from an enthusiastic start to its now national place in America. The organization has grown from an advising group to a supervising and assisting organization of professional workers. The organization now sends out professionally trained persons to assist the cities in the organization of city recreation programs. The services of the Association now include the following aids for Recreation and related fields:

1. Cities are given personal service through visits of field workers.

2. Communities are helped to secure more adequate recreation opportunities for negroes of the communities.

3. Community Drama Service sends out material on amateur drama problems.

4. Park problems are solved through the assistance of field workers.

5. Recreation service from field secretaries on athletics for women and girls is rendered.

6. In 1931 all cities reported at the National Recreation Congress.

7. Institutions receive help on play programs for their institutions.

8. Correspondence and consultation service is available.

9. Monthly Bulletin Service is available to all cities.

10. Association publication, "Recreation" is a monthly magazine available to all cities.
Music Service of the Association conducts institutes, issues bulletins, gives correspondence and consultation service.

In 1931 the Playground Association of America held its Twenty-fifth Anniversary meeting. By that time the organization had been recognized throughout the nation. At the meeting President Hoover addressed the group, saying:

I have followed the work of the association for many years. It has taken a most significant and a magnificent part in the whole recreational development of the country. Its work today is of increasing importance because of the growing congestion of cities, on one hand, and the increasing leisure of our people, on the other. The whole recreational movement is one not only vital to the public health, but it is vital to public welfare.

The growing congestion of the cities presents new problems of physical and moral and mental training of children on one hand, and the growing leisure caused by shortened hours of labor presents increasing problems in provision of opportunity for proper use of increasing leisure for adults. Many less problems in government arise which concern people while they are at work than while they are at leisure. They do not often go to jail for activities when they are on their jobs. Most of our problems arise when people are off the job. Every progress in constructive recreation for leisure time not only improves health, but also morals.

The Federal Government, during the period of the Association's activities and to a considerable degree due to the effects of the Association, has developed in itself a great number of recreation activities. I assure that the growth of social aspects of government will increase the interest of the government in recreational questions, and we need the assistance of the Association in directing these policies. If there is anything that we can do to cooperate with the Association in any direction you will find a most hearty welcome to the views of the Association in every section of the government.

The association has spread its services and influences over the entire nation and has done much toward the professional advancement

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of recreation. The Association has formulated standards by which cities may build their recreation programs. There are survey forms sent out by the Association by which existing programs may be measured to find to what extent the program fulfills the recreational needs of the community.

The standards of the National Recreation Association and the community surveys and questionnaires were used in this study in measuring the present program in the City of Denton to find to what extent the program was efficient in providing for the leisure time needs of the citizens of Denton.

The standards as set up by the National Recreation Association for a city of 10,500 population are as follows:

1. There should be at least one acre of park and recreation space within the city for each 100 population.

2. Every community should provide a safe and sanitary place for little children under school age to play.

3. In parts of cities where population is congested, the utilization of all possible areas such as interior playgrounds, roof playgrounds, near-by vacant lot playgrounds, and special areas reserved for the young children in the playgrounds and other public open spaces, is highly desirable.

4. Areas for these children should contain sand boxes, large building blocks, small slides, baby swings, benches, and play houses. Toilet facilities and drinking water must be provided except in case of interior block playgrounds.

5. A city too should have adequate playgrounds for children within one half mile and preferable one third mile of all children of
school age. The best location for such play areas is generally adjacent to or in connection with the elementary schools. Where the schools are too great a distance from one another or where school play areas are inadequate in size, additional playgrounds for children of this age should be provided so that each child may have adequate opportunity for games, sports, and other play activities.

6. These playgrounds should be fenced, well drained and well surfaced. They should contain fields with two or three backstops for junior and playground baseball, one or two tennis courts, several games courts, and so far as possible interchangeable areas for volley ball and basketball, paddle tennis, horseshoes, adequate space for free play, and a jumping pit and a straightaway. Apparatus such as swings, slides, horizontal ladder, and traveling rings is important. A wading pool should be included in the section for the younger children. On some playgrounds, it may be necessary to provide a section for the children of pre-school age. Sanitary facilities, drinking water, and at least simple shelter with storage facilities should be provided either in the adjacent school or in an independent building.

7. The general layout should permit maximum use of the playground by the younger children, by older boys and girls; the younger children in a separate area preferably near the girls section; older boys and older girls in separate divisions or with provision for scheduled use of certain facilities and special games areas. While intended primarily for children, these playgrounds should be available for use by the young people and adults during
the evening and at other special times. The area used for baseball should be available for football, soccer, field hockey, and other sports in a modified form.

8. In addition there should be neighborhood playfields of ten acres or more, within, at the most, a mile of all homes in the community. These areas are primarily for the recreational use of young people although they may also provide some facilities for children. Many of these areas will be at or adjoining junior or senior high school sites but, if the latter are not adequate and are not properly situated, additional areas will need be acquired. Every junior high school should have such a play area and senior high schools should have larger areas of at least twenty acres. Of course all these areas should be available for community as well as school use.

9. The play areas should be well drained and surfaced and should contain facilities for games and sports, probably two major baseball fields with several auxiliary diamonds for junior and midget ball, ten to fifteen tennis courts and provision for other games such as handball, bowling on the green, croquet, rogue, as well as other types of games. Some of them might contain permanent layouts for track and field athletics. Sections of these fields should be set aside exclusively for the use of women and girls and equipped for soccer, field hockey, playground baseball, and other games, that women like. Where needed, they should provide a neighborhood playground of the type mentioned above. Sanitary facilities, and drinking water, as well as locker, bathing and dressing facilities should be available either in an adjacent school or in an independent field house where there are rooms for the directors, supplies, and storage.
10. One or two of the larger areas, probably adjacent to senior high school in the city, should be equipped for use as standard athletic fields with dressing rooms, locker, shower bath and toilet facilities. This should be properly fenced in so that admission may be made when desired.

11. All these recreation areas should be beautified.

12. Unless state, county, or national parks or forests are readily accessible from the city there should probably be also a large extra-urban park of the reservation type for hiking, picnicing, nature study, and similar activities.

13. There should be opportunity for swimming and if suitable natural water areas, such as beaches, are not available, artificial pools should be built. The junior and senior high schools should provide swimming all the year round. Wherever possible water facilities should be available for all kinds of boating activities and in suitable climates there should be well distributed opportunities for skating and other outdoor activities in the winter time.

14. All school buildings should afford recreation facilities which are suitable and are made available for community use. Except for small schools, which should have a playroom, every elementary school should have either an auditorium with a stage and a gymnasium, or a combined gymnasium and auditorium. Each high school should have two gymnasiums, an indoor pool, and an auditorium with stage facilities and club rooms. In neighborhoods where schools cannot be readily made to provide comfortable and
convenient facilities for recreational activities, special community recreation buildings may be necessary.

15. There should be available for the enjoyment of children and adults well distributed library facilities, art and nature museums, botanical gardens, and zoological gardens if possible.

16. Every such city should have a superintendent of recreation and an assistant, both of whom are well trained and of high character. One of these workers should be a man and one a woman. The superintendent should receive not less than $2500 a year. There should be special workers available, either on a full-time year-round basis or giving service equivalent to the full-time service of two workers. They should be paid not less than $2100 each per year serving as director or supervisor of several or all of the following: athletics, handcraft, musical activities, dramatic activities, social recreation, and nature activities which included camping and hiking.

17. Each playground should be usable after school hours and until dark under leadership every day in the year in which outdoor play is practicable. It is desirable to have certain parts of the grounds lighted for evening play.

18. In general, there should be at least two directors for each playground, one man and woman, with additional assistance as necessary on the larger grounds or for special activities. Each school building should be available as a community center in accordance with demand, with a director in charge of each center, with specialized assistance as is necessary to provide leadership in the various activities desired by the neighborhood.

19. The play and leisure time interests of people are so numer-
ous that it is almost impossible to list a suitable program of activities. In general, the program should provide opportunities in games, sports, music, dramatics, social recreation, cultural, literary, and scientific adventures in their various forms and degrees. This program should be so varied that it will meet the needs of the entire population. In general, the recreation program should stand willing to provide inexpensive facilities and leadership for any desired and worthwhile leisure time activity for which there is a demand from a reasonable number of people, and should provide opportunity for training of volunteer leadership in various recreation activities. It should also be prepared to assist community groups in picnics, particularly by loaning equipment and in the planning of programs.

20. There must, of course, be an administrative group charged with the responsibility for developing and administering the recreational program. Such administrative machinery should be able to use, so far as is consistent with other use, all public and private facilities offering recreational possibilities; should direct the program; secure high grade personnel; secure and administer budgets; and be constantly alert to enlarge the service, both through acquisition and use, of additional facilities in accordance with the city plan and through development of the program of activities. It is believed that, other things being equal, the best results can be obtained when the recreation program is administered by a recreation board or committee composed of individuals who are keenly interested in community recreation and service without pay.²

Using the above standards as a basis for measuring the facilities, programs, areas, and activities of the Denton Recreation Program the following facts concerning the phases of the program were obtained.

**Population:** Denton is a city of 10,500, with an additional 4,500 yearly enrollment in the two colleges of the city which are Texas State College For Women and North Texas State Teachers College.

**Public Finance:** The financial rating of Denton was as follows:

1. Assessed valuation was $6,190,932.00.
2. The total city budget for 1937 was $402,224.00, and the tax rate for 1937 was $175.00.
3. The city debt service budget for the past year was $724,000.00.
4. The city's current budget for education is $105,000.00.
5. The current recreational budget is $1,650.00 which sum provides for a park caretaker's salary, for all beautification of the city parks as well as $250.00 for recreational equipment and $450.00 for the summer salary of a man supervisor.

**Administration:** The form of local government in Denton was a Mayor and Commissioners. The administrative set-up for recreational purposes was a recreational council which was to meet and advise with the recreation superintendent and sponsor's supervisor. The city park board, who was the sponsor of the recreation program, furnished all equipment and provided needed playground and office facilities.

**Other Factors:** In the city of Denton the delinquent and crime records showed that only fourteen delinquent cases were brought to
trial in 1937. No records had been kept on cases that were only brought up for council.

The death rate for the 10,500 population of the city of Denton for 1937 was 8.27. There were thirty-four recorded cases of children's street accidents in 1937. This number included only those cases that were serious enough to require doctor's treatment; no records were kept of minor street accidents.

Public Recreation: In the city of Denton there were 66.51 acres available for public recreation. This acreage included the City Park and the school play areas of the city. In park space, this acreage allowed .15 acre per person. There were included in this acreage two city parks, one colored park, three elementary school playgrounds, one junior high and one senior high school playgrounds, two neighborhood play fields, and one athletic field. This acreage did not include the recreation facilities of the two colleges, since these facilities were not open to the public.

The city park has been beautified and is maintained by a full-time park caretaker. The school areas were cared for by the janitors of each school, who were full-time caretakers. The junior and senior areas were cared for by a yard janitor who was a full-time caretaker. The neighborhood areas were cared for by the city, but there was no full-time caretaker for the work.

The sizes of the individual playgrounds were as follows:

- West Ward School playground, 1 acre
- Lee School playground, 1 acre
- Junior and Senior High, 7.75 acres
- North Ward School playground, 1.68 acres
- Fred Douglass Park (colored), 4.8 acres
East End Park, 2 acres
West End play field, 1.82 acres
Athletic Field, 18 acres
City Park, 20 acres
Congress Ave. play field, 3.7 acres

Apparatus and Equipment on Children’s Playgrounds: Each of the three elementary school playgrounds had some equipment for free play periods. Of the three school playgrounds, North Ward was best equipped. It had one merry-go-round, two horizontal bars, six swings, two traveling rings, one giant stride, and two drinking fountains. Lee School playground ranked second in equipment. It had four seesaws, one giant stride, one horizontal bar, and six outside drinking fountains. West Ward had one giant stride, four seesaws but the ground had no outside drinking fountains.

The Fred Douglass Park, for colored citizens, had no playground equipment. The West End Park had one wading pool, one merry-go-round, and one slide. There was a hydrant but no drinking fountain on the play area.

The City Park was the best equipped of all the playgrounds. Equipment in the City Park included one large slide, one smaller slide, twelve swings, one sand box, one giant stride, eight seesaws, one wading pool, four merry-go-rounds, and two drinking fountains.

Each play area had a free play space that could be used interchangeably for seasonal sports and free play activities. Portable iron goal posts were used on the grounds in order to facilitate greater use of play area.

West Ward had a basketball court laid off with permanent backboards for goals. The other play areas were not equipped for basket-
ball. The North Ward and the West Ward playgrounds each had one volley ball court. There were also two volley ball courts in the City Park. None of the children's playgrounds were equipped with tennis courts. Each of the children's playgrounds was equipped for horseshoes, washers, and tenequoit. The playgrounds equipped for children did not have straightaways or jumping pits. (A comparison of the apparatus and equipment on the Children's Playground is shown on the Table on page 17.)

**Neighborhood Playfields:** The East End Park was equipped with a football field which was also used for soccer, three volley ball courts, one croquet court, and one playground baseball diamond. Horseshoes and washers were furnished for the playfield by the Recreation Project but there were no tables and benches on the playfield.

The Congress Avenue playfield was divided into three areas; two baseball diamonds, and one children's playground. One of the baseball diamonds was used by the junior boys' softball league and the other was used by the senior boys' softball league. The children's playground was equipped with croquet, horseshoes, washers, sand box, and an area for free play.

The Athletic Field was equipped with one football field which was usable for soccer, four tennis courts, and a stadium with a seating capacity of 2,400.

The City Park was equipped with one wading pool, one outdoor theater, one outdoor fireplace, six tables and benches for picnics, one children's playground, two volley ball courts, two playground baseball diamonds, a croquet court, horseshoes, table tennis, shuffleboard, washers, table croquet, and minor games. (Refer to Table I.)
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<tr>
<th>APPARATUS AND EQUIPMENT ON THE CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND</th>
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<td>Swings (regular)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giant Stride</td>
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<tr>
<td>See-Saws</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traveling Rings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horizontal Bar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horizontal Ladder</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Jungle Gym</td>
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<td>Jungle Gym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance Beam</td>
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<td>Gymnasium Frame</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wading Pool</td>
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<td>Flag Pole</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Building Block Platform</td>
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*N.W.—North Ward Playground; W.W.—West Ward Playground; L.S.—Lee School Playground; W.E.P.—West End Park; Park—Children’s Playground Park; F.D.P.—Fred Douglass Park (colored)
Other Active Recreation Areas: The City of Denton had two baseball diamonds in the City Park, two diamonds on Congress Avenue playfield, and one on the East End playfield. The Athletic field had one football field, one stadium, and four tennis courts. The City of Denton had one privately owned swimming pool but there was a bathing beach at Lake Dallas, seven miles from Denton, which was used by a large number of people from Denton.

There were no winter sports areas in or near Denton. The weather in Denton did not justify the building of such areas. Of the four neighborhood playfields, only two of the playfields had a children's playground in connection with the field. The City Park had a portion of its area equipped for small children which included play apparatus, wading pool, and a sand box. The Congress Avenue playfield had a city block adjacent to the baseball diamonds for the small children's play area. This area had shade trees and was equipped with a sand box and minor games.

There was only one building on the four neighborhood playfields. This building was in the City Park and was used interchangeably as a band stand and an outdoor theater. The platform had just recently been extended, making a platform large enough to be used for little theater productions in the summer. There had been no preparation made to enclose the platform to facilitate its use in the winter months.

Basketball courts had not been laid out on any of the Denton neighborhood playfields; there were, however, three volley ball courts on the East End Park, and two in the City Park. There was a football field on the East End Park, Congress Avenue Field, and the Athletic Field. The City Park had no area for football. All of the neighbor-
hood playfields except the Athletic Field were equipped for playground baseball. The City Park and the Congress Avenue playfield each had two baseball diamonds. There were no handball courts on any of the areas. Only the Athletic Field had been provided with tennis courts and there were four on this field.

No provision had been made on any of the fields for the following minor games: bowling, clock golf, or archery. Only the City Park had been provided with paddle tennis and shuffle board. The East End Park, Congress Avenue Field, and the City Park had provided croquet on their areas. There was no preparation for a running track or a jumping pit on any of the fields. (Table II gives a comparison of the equipment on all four playfields.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>East End Park</th>
<th>Congress Ave. Field</th>
<th>Athletic Field</th>
<th>City Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SWIMMING POOL</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WADING POOL</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIELD HOUSE</strong> (unless school building is available)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BLEACHERS</strong></td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STADIUM (with lockers, showers, etc.)</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTDOOR THEATER</strong></td>
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<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OUTDOOR FIREPLACE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TABLES AND BENCHES (for picnics)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WINTER SPORT FACILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ski Jump</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toboggan Slide</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skating Rink</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sled Slide</td>
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<td><strong>BAND STAND</strong></td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BALL FIELDS (football, soccer, baseball)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BASKETBALL</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VOLLEY BALL</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PLAYGROUND BASEBALL</strong></td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HANDBALL</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HORSESHOES</strong></td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td><strong>TENNIS</strong></td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PADDLE TENNIS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BOWLING</strong></td>
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<td>Congress Ave. Field</td>
<td>Athletic Field</td>
<td>City Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCHERY</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLOCK GOLF</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
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<td>SHUFFLE BOARD</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RUNNING TRACK</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>JUMPING PIT</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Buildings: In the City of Denton, none of the schools opened their buildings for recreational purposes. On the North Ward playground there was a small school annex that was available to the recreation project as an indoor center for rainy day programs. There was no community center in the city. The auditorium of the City Hall was available to the community to use for forums, programs, or similar types of community recreation. The gymnasium of the senior high school during the winter of 1938 was made available to the city for an adult athletic league.

Denton did not have a municipal swimming pool or fieldhouse. There was one private pool in the city. It was located in the southeast part of the city.

Personnel: The City of Denton had one man who was paid part-time by the city. He was the athletic coach of the high school and spent the summer months supervising the athletic activities of the boys and men of the city. There was one full time recreation superintendent who was paid by the government on a WPA Recreation Project set up in the city. The government also paid the salaries of fifteen directors on the WPA Recreation Project. The training and education of these directors is described in full in Chapter IV.

Program: All of the playgrounds under the leadership of the recreation directors were open twelve months of the year. The playgrounds were open for after-school participation of the school children, and were open all day on Saturdays. There was only one field lighted for night use and that was the City Park. There were lights on the baseball diamonds in the City Park. The participation records were kept of those taking part in the opportunities of the
recreation program and the attendance reached as high as 4,500
in a single week.

All neighborhood playfields remained open during school vaca-
tion period with supervision of all activities on the playfields.

Activities: The program made provision for interested groups
to participate in the following physical recreation activities:
baseball, touch football, relay games, active playground games,
free active play, volley ball, horseshoes, shuffle board, tennis,
hiking, and basketball. The phases of community drama offered to
the public were: story telling and story acting. In the field
of social recreation the citizens of Denton participated in the
following activities: social games, community night recreation,
and social community gatherings. Paper work, painting, sewing,
and woodwork were the phases of art and craft that were offered
to the participants of the recreation program. Tap dancing and
folk games constituted the rhythmic activities of the program. The
educational and civic activities of the program were in the form of
forums and holiday programs and celebrations. The program of recrea-
tion had made no provision for extension service, such as supplying
leaders, equipment, suggestions, and material for the programs for
the groups in the city. The recreational program did, however, fur-
nish entertainment in the form of prepared programs for the clubs
and organizations of the city.

Commercial Recreation: The motion pictures of Denton were one
of the most popular phases of commercial recreation. There were
four motion pictures in the City of Denton; the Texas, the Palace,
the Dreamland, and the Plaza. The seating capacities of the theaters
ranged from, Texas Theater, 900, to the Plaza, 350. The picture shows had five performances daily with an average weekly attendance of 10,000 to 12,000. The pictures shown in the Texas, the Palace, and the Dreamland were passed on by the National Board of Censors. Admission charges for these shows were 10¢, 15¢, 20¢, 25¢, and 35¢. The Texas Theater provided a Pop Eye Club for the children. The club met on Saturdays.

The City of Denton had no regulatory ordinances in regard to the shows, except in regard to safety regulations.

Denton had no pool and billiard halls or bowling alleys. There were no public dance halls in the city. The two colleges and the high school had school dances in their gymnasiums. The only skating rink in Denton was an occasional traveling tent rink that stopped in the city for a few weeks stay. The one privately owned swimming pool in Denton was the only swimming pool in the city. The two colleges each had a swimming pool for its own students. The high school did not have a swimming pool. Lake Dallas, located seven miles east of Denton, provided many of the citizens with a place for fishing, swimming, and boating.

Denton had one commercial golf course located five miles out on the Fort Worth highway. The course, an eighteen hole course, charged a fee of twenty-five cents for nine holes, and fifty cents for eighteen holes. The total weekly use of the course was about three hundred. There was a country club in connection with the course and it was used by about two hundred weekly, for dances, parties, and other socials. There were no commercially operated tennis courts at the Country Club nor in the City of Denton.

*Private and Semi-Public Recreation: The private and public organi-
zations of the city were sent questionnaires to determine to what extent they provided recreation for their own membership and sponsored recreation for other groups. From this questionnaire, a fairly accurate picture was obtained as to the amount and extent of the recreation program being carried on in Denton.

In the majority of answers, the organizations reported some type of recreation for their own membership in the form of parties, picnics, bridge clubs, or social games at meeting time. Some organizations reported that they sponsored a commercial team from their organization in the City League. One group reported that it furnished transportation for the high school football boys who lived in the country, thus enabling the boys to play ball. No group reported an organized recreation program. The Boy Scouts reported that part of each meeting was devoted to some type of recreation for the membership. The Girl Scouts gave the same report. (Tabla III shows the activities provided by the different organizations in the city.)

There was a baseball league in the city with eight teams participating. The schedule called for play twice each week in the City Park. The members of the teams in the league were men in the city who belonged to some organization or church group, such as the Lions Club, the Kiwanis Club, and the Methodist Team. The organizations which entered teams in the league each had to pay $50 for three months participation in the league. This money was used to buy equipment and to pay for two referees for the games. These referees served all summer. Each organization furnished its players with colored suits.
The players on the teams averaged 30 years of age. No player who was under 21 was allowed to play. Only the most skilled baseball players were chosen to represent the organization in the league.

Some of the churches of Denton provided facilities for the recreation of their membership and others made no provision whatsoever. Two of the churches had recreation rooms in the basement of their churches, with a room equipped for church socials, as well as a small stage in the basement for plays and programs. Seven churches in Denton had only church socials as a Recreation Program. The public was welcome to these socials but were not given an invitation to attend. Three churches had no socials at all for their membership. One church reported no program because of a lack of facilities. This church sponsored participants in the district tennis and softball tournaments. One church reported a recreation room twenty-four by forty feet. This room was equipped for ping pong, checkers, chess, dominoes, and other table and minor games for the church membership. The church sponsored six play days monthly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organizations Offering Recreation Activities</th>
<th>Type of Recreational Activities Offered by the Organizations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent-Teachers Association</td>
<td>Parties and bridge clubs for its own membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Boosters Club</td>
<td>No activities; provided transportation for high school football boys living out on rural routes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional and Business Women's Club</td>
<td>Parties and bridge clubs for its own membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts</td>
<td>Part of each meeting given over to games and contests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scouts</td>
<td>Part of each meeting given over to games and contests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federated Woman's Club</td>
<td>Parties and social gatherings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Board</td>
<td>Sponsored the recreation program, social meetings for its membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Sponsor entertainment programs over the county, monthly dinner meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Annual banquet; sponsor picnics for young people's organizations and assist with a district-wide play day, interscholastic days, and high school senior days for high school students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiwanis Club</td>
<td>Luncheon meetings; sponsors softball teams for their membership in the City League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotary Club</td>
<td>Dances and social gatherings for its membership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lions Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Legion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER III

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION RECREATION PROGRAM

In the last three years the government has taken very definite steps in assisting the development of recreational departments. Under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration, Recreation Projects have been set up and given leadership in cities and counties over the United States. An account of the progress of Recreation under leadership of the government is given in the following paragraph.

The Works Program was initiated by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, which appropriated funds to provide relief, work relief, and to increase employment by providing useful projects. Under authority granted by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, the President established the Works Progress Administration by Executive Order No. 7034 dated May 6, 1935.

The division of Recreation Projects, one of the four Works Divisions of the Federal Works Progress Administration, was under the general supervision of the Deputy Administrator, and was under the direct supervision of a Federal Director of Recreation Projects. Edward C. Lindeman, outstanding social leader, served as Federal Director of the Recreation Program.

In the State of Texas the Recreation Program was a statewide project under the Division of Operations. A state supervisor, first, Mr. Walter S. Knox, and later, Mr. Houston Crump was on the State Staff, and was responsible to the Works Progress

29
Program Administrator, through the office of the State Director of Operation, for promotion, selection, planning and operation of Recreation Projects in the state.

Directly responsible to the State Supervisor were the District Supervisors of Recreation. In each district there could be five to twenty-five Recreation Project Superintendents who were directly responsible for city and county Recreation Programs. Table IV shows the administrative set up of Recreation.

All of these offices were filled by persons paid by the funds from the Works Progress Administration. The size of the project determined the number of WPA workers assigned to each city and county Project to do the actual directing and instructing of activities on the playgrounds and in the play centers.

If a Recreation Project is to be set up in a city or county there would have to be some organization willing to sponsor the Project. There were certain requirements that the government made of this organization prior to the opening of the Project. They were as listed below:

1. There had to be playground space and indoor facilities sufficient to carry on the Project.

2. There had to be sufficient funds to buy equipment and office supplies for the operation of a Recreation Project.

3. A Recreation Council had to be organized to advise with the Recreation Superintendent.

4. One city employee in addition to the Project Superintendent had to give supervision to the Project.

This person was known as the "Sponsor's Supervisor".
TABLE 4
RECREATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Local

State

Recreation Association of Texas

City

Recreation Project Sponsor

Recreation Council

Sponsor's Supervisor

Junior Recreation Workers

State

National Government

President

Federal Director of Recreation Projects

State Supervisor of Recreation

District Supervisor of Recreation

Recreation Project Superintendent

WPA Recreation Workers
When all requirements were met by the city, the District Supervisor worked out a "Project Proposal". The amount of money allowed for WPA Recreation worker's salaries was in proportion to the amount the city set up. The per cent for Denton was 33.1% for the city and 66.9% for the governmental salaries.

After the sponsor agreed to furnish the equipment, the sponsor's supervisor and the play and office facilities, the government furnished the needed labor with a quota of eighteen workers for the Denton Project and one full-time supervisor to be in charge of the Project.

The WPA recreation directors were chosen by the Project Superintendent. Each worker, who was a certified WPA client, was interviewed by the Superintendent and asked to fill out an application blank. This blank secured such information as: age, education, capabilities, responsibilities, and previous types of employment they had had. These applications were retained and were filed in the Personnel Files of the workers who were hired to work on the Project.

The workers were required to have at least a seventh grade education or its equivalent. This was quite necessary since the workers were required to read the professional books and material and to do research work in the field of recreation.

The second requirement for a worker to become a recreation director was previous experience in some phase of recreation; music, games, handcraft, athletics, nature lore, or social recreation. Some had previous experience in conducting games for church socials or school parties. Some had taken up different phases of
handcraft as a hobby and had reached unusually high degree of skill in following this hobby. Any such experience was helpful in preparing the worker for the work in recreation.

The third requirement was an interest in children and the patience to handle them in the most desirable way. This requirement was the most difficult one in which to classify the worker at the time of application. The only means of determining the interest of a person in children was by questioning the worker in regard to his past experience and work with children.

Directors: The directors chosen to work on the Denton Project were of varying degrees of skills and with a wide range of training. Of the group chosen, one colored woman had a B.S. Degree, one white woman and one white man had received two years of college training, one colored woman had one year college training, three white women were high school graduates, one white woman had three years high school training, one white man had two years of high school work, one white woman and one man had one year high school training, and three white women and one colored man had completed their elementary education.

Previous Positions: Concerning their previous positions, it was found that one white woman, one white man, and two colored women had been teachers; two white men and four white women had done only unskilled labor; three white women had done housework; one colored man had been a cook; and one white woman had been a waitress.

Age: The workers ranged in age from twenty to forty-eight. The records of the workers on the Project showed that five were
single and ten were married. Pertaining to the question of special capabilities, the directors answered that they felt capable along the following lines: one white man and one white woman in music; one white woman and two colored women in art; two colored women in expression; three white men and one colored man in athletics; three white men, five white women, one colored man, and two colored women in minor sports and games; one white man and one white woman in handcraft; one white man, five white women and two colored women in story telling; one white man in journalism, bookkeeping, and filing; and two white women in filing, general office work, and stenography.

Assignment: After the workers were hired, they were placed on the Project in accordance with their qualifications. One girl was placed in the office to do the office work required by the Project; one white man, capable of bookkeeping and filing, was assigned as timekeeper on the Project; and one white man and one white woman, both with music ability, were assigned as special music directors to teach music and organize musical groups, bands, glee clubs, and orchestra. The remaining workers were placed on the five playgrounds to teach and supervise in the following phases of recreation: handcraft, art, drama, story telling, games, athletics, sports, and free play periods.

Salaries: These directors were paid salaries ranging from $24.00 per month to $54.00 per month. Their salaries and classification were based on their education, special training, and ability. Since the Project did not operate on Sundays and holi-
days, the directors worked a required one hundred and twenty hours per month which average five hours daily.

The Denton WPA Recreation Project was opened July 7, 1937. The Denton Park Board, for whom the government set up certain requirements, sponsored the Project.

First, as sponsor of the Project, the City Park Board was required to furnish all equipment needed by the Project. It set aside $250.00 to buy equipment during the ten months the Project was set up to operate.

**Equipment:** Equipment that was bought included: footballs, volley balls, volleyball nets, basket balls, softballs, bats, bases, handcraft kit for each playground, soccer balls, horseshoes, washers, croquet sets, all office supplies, dominos, checkers, table tennis sets, and an equipment box for each playground in which to keep all equipment.

**Supervisor:** The City Park Board was also requested to furnish a sponsor's supervisor, who was paid during the summer by the Park Board. This supervisor was the man from the high school physical education department. The duty of the sponsor's supervisor was to plan and supervise the conducting of all tournaments for the men and boys. In the winter the supervisor taught in the day time and his supervision was, for the most part, confined to those activities scheduled at night.

**Housing:** A third requirement the government made of the sponsor was to furnish all playgrounds, indoor facilities, and office space for the supervisor. During the ten months the Project had been in operation, the sponsor had furnished the playgrounds on
the three ward schools, the City Park, the playground on Congress Avenue, and the Fred Douglass Park (for colored). Indoor facilities for these playgrounds were: North Ward Annex, basement of the Methodist Church, Old City Hall Building, and the Church of Christ (colored). Office space was furnished in the Chamber of Commerce Office in the City Hall.

Recreation Council: The fourth requirement was that the City organize a Recreation Council that would support the recreation program and that would decide the policies of the Project. The sponsor of the program, the City Park Board, appointed a committee for the purpose of selecting this council. The committee asked the president of each active organization in the city to submit a list of names of the members best qualified to serve on a recreation council from their organization. The committee took these submitted names and selected one representative from each organization. A council of nineteen members was organized. This council met once each month, the third Wednesday at five P.M. in the City Hall Council Room, to decide the policies and issues before the Project for the coming month.

The following organization had representatives on the council:

- Park Board
- American Legion
- Schools
- Parent-Teachers Association
- Junior Chamber of Commerce
- Boy Scouts
- Senior Chamber of Commerce
- Girl Scouts
- Pasters Association
- North Texas State Teachers College
- Kiwanis Club
- Texas State College For Women
- Rotary Club
- City Officials
- Lions Club
- Federated Woman's Club
- Business and Professional Women's Club
### Table 5

**Educational Table of Recreation Workers**

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<td>A.B. Degree</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>Elementary</td>
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*Sample: Tables 5, 6, 7, and 8 are forms used on the Denton Recreation Project.*
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**TABLE 7**

"CAN TEACH AND DO TABLE"  
OF  
RECREATIONAL WORKERS

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</table>

| Age of Workers | White | | | Colored | | |
|----------------|-------|---|---|-------|---|
|                | Men   | Women | Men | Women |
| 20-25          | 2     | 4    | 1   |       |
| 26-30          |       | 1    | 1   |       |
| 31-35          |       | 2    |     |       |
| 36-40          |       | 1    |     |       |
| 41-45          |       | 1    |     |       |
| 46-50          |       | 2    |     |       |
CHAPTER IV

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR RECREATIONAL DIRECTORS

The recreational directors were given a thorough and intensive training period before they ever took charge of the playgrounds.

The Project in Denton devoted the first week of operation to an institute for the recreation directors in an attempt to train them for their duties as playground directors. In this training institute, the following phases of recreational work were discussed by qualified speakers from Teachers College and the Supervisory Staff:

1. Recreation: Its Purpose and Goal
2. Working Regulations for Recreation Directors
3. Rules for Conducting and Organizing a Softball Tournament
4. Rules for Organizing and Conducting Tournaments, Contests, and Special Activities
5. What is Play and Why Supervise It
6. How to Conduct Story Hours
7. Suggested Uses for Left-Overs in Handcraft
8. How to Conduct a Swimming Meet
9. Rules for Teaching Group Games
10. Making Usable Patterns for Playground Handcraft
11. Sportsmanship Through Recreation

This institute included also observation of playgrounds and playground activities being taught by the Supervisory Staff. After
the first week of intensive training, the directors were required to meet once each week throughout the year for a two hour training period. These training periods included lectures, demonstrations, picture reels of sport techniques, participation in practices of skills to be taught, and teaching by the directors of activities that were to be taught later on the playgrounds. The institute included also research work on problems arising out of the work of the directors. Some of these problems were:

1. By What Means Can The Best Discipline Be Secured
2. How Can A Director Best Prepare Himself for His Work
3. How Can the City of Denton Be Made Music Conscious
4. How To Develop Sportsmanship Through Recreation
5. How Do the Children of Denton Spend their Leisure Hours
6. Planning the Most Effective Office Routine for a Recreation Project
7. How May a Recreation Director Best Gain the Confidence and Cooperation of the Children of the Playground
8. Making the Recreation Room an Asset to the City of Denton
9. Organizing Our Reference Material Into a Recreation Reference Library

The directors solved these research problems by reading references on the subject and by interviewing people who were trained in that field or in related fields. The information gained was assimilated and worked into a solution of the problem at hand.

The County Library books were available to the workers and there were in the library some very excellent references on recreation. Also the project had access to the State Office Library in
San Antonio. Any book could be secured for use on the Project for a period of at least two weeks. The Project subscribed also to "Recreation", the monthly publication of the National Recreation Association and to the Bulletin Service of the same Association. These two sources of material were invaluable to the professional advancement of the recreation directors of Denton.

Operating in a city of two colleges, the directors had the opportunity of conferring with any of the qualified members of the staffs of the two colleges. The Art, Music, Speech, and Physical Education Departments were most cooperative in advising the directors in their research work.

Taking one piece of work as an example of the extent of the research problem worked on by the recreation directors, a very efficient office routine for a recreation project was evolved by one director. The girl working in the recreation office made a survey of the scope and phases of office work required in a recreation office. From the information gained in the survey, she planned a daily routine to be followed in efficiently accomplishing all of the responsibilities of a recreation office. The director also planned a filing procedure to facilitate greater accuracy in keeping all materials pertaining to recreation and all forms concerning WPA records. This piece of work definitely increased the efficiency of the work done by this director as well as gained for her additional knowledge of office procedures, and gave her experience in the scientific solution of problems arising in her field of work.

The program of training was planned for a year in advance in
order to see the entire needs of the directors in relation to
the program to be offered. In planning such an institute, the
scope of the year's program was kept in mind. Also the weak-
nesses of the directors to be trained was considered. This was
done after the supervisor had observed on the playgrounds for a
period of four to six months. After such a period of observation,
the following program was planned for the directors of the Denton
Recreation Project.

DENTON RECREATION PROJECT

TRAINING INSTITUTE--1938 *

FOR: WPA PLAYGROUND PROJECT DIRECTORS

PLACE:  CITY HALL AUDITORIUM--221 N. ELM STREET, DENTON, TEXAS

SPONSORS: WPA RECREATION COUNCIL AND THE CITY PARK BOARD

OBJECTIVES: To give the directors the fundamental knowledge and
skills of the play activities and the possibilities
of character training through play so that the direc-
tors may better serve the people of Denton.

CO-OPERATING AGENCIES: Denton Teachers College, Texas State College
For Women; Recreation Council, City Park Board, and
the Supervisory Staff.

TYPE OF TRAINING: Institute to be held Friday morning of each week.
Lectures on institute topics followed by discussions
and questions by the recreation directors. Demostrations
of fundamental skills followed by practice by
the directors.

CONTENT OF THE PROGRAM:

1. Theory of Recreation

* Program Form adopted from form used on the Denton Recreation Project.
2. Organization of playgrounds and playground activities

3. Rules for Organizing and Conducting Leagues in Team Activities: Softball, Football, Basketball, etc.

4. Character Development Through Recreation

5. Handcraft For Playgrounds

6. Growth and Development of Personnel

7. Music as an Essential to a Recreation Program

8. The Place of Drama in Recreation

9. Planning and Conducting Community Recreation Nights

10. Rhythm in Recreation

11. Planning and Conducting Play Days

12. Games For Recreation

PERSONNEL: Members of the Denton Teachers College Staff, Faculty members of Texas State College For Women, WPA Supervisory Staff, Sponsor's Supervisor, Members of the Recreation Council, City Park Board, and City Officials.

PHASES OF RECREATION INCLUDED IN TRAINING COURSE:

1. Theory of Recreation
   a. The Scope of Recreation
   b. Purpose and Goals of Recreation
   c. Methods By Which the Goals Can Be Reached
   d. What Is Play, Why the Need For Supervision
   e. Early History of Play
   f. Effects of Play—Physical, Mental, and Social

2. Organization of Playgrounds and Playground Activities
   a. Playground Layouts and Utilization of Play Areas
   b. Safety on the Playgrounds
c. Junior Leadership on the Playgrounds

3. Rules for Organizing and Conducting Leagues in Team Activities
   a. Rules for playing softball
      Method of coaching softball
      Rules for organizing and conducting a softball league
   b. Rules for playing football
      Method of coaching football
      Rules for organizing and conducting a football league
   c. Rules for playing volley ball
      Method of coaching volley ball
      Rules for organizing and conducting a volley ball league
   d. Rules for playing basketball
      Method of coaching basketball
      Rules for organizing and conducting a basketball league
   e. Rules for playing speed ball
      Method of coaching speed ball
      Rules for organizing and conducting a speed ball league

4. Character Development Through Recreation
   a. Sportsmanship in play activities
   b. Leadership training for junior playground leaders

5. Handcraft for Playgrounds
a. Wood Craft
   Book Ends
   Door Stops
   Magazine Racks
   Bird Houses
   Tie Racks
   Boats
b. Use of Scraps and Thread
   Hot Pot Holders
   Bird Cages (yarn)
   Doll Clothes and Bedding
   Quilts
c. Tin Craft
   Sugar Shells
   Ash Trays
d. Puppetry
   Making Dolls
   Writing Plays
   Conducting Plays
e. Art
   Painting Pictures
   Painting Silhouettes
   Making Spatter Prints

6. Growth and Development of the Personnel
a. Standards and Regulations for the recreation directors
b. Necessity for high moral standards among recreation directors
c. Professional ethics among recreation directors

d. References for social and mental development of directors

7. Music as an Essential Part of a Recreation Program

a. Channels for music
   - Singing games
   - Rhythmic games
   - Rhythmic bands

b. Instrumental
   - Civic orchestra
   - Band
   - Piano

c. Vocal
   - Adult glee clubs
   - Children's glee clubs
   - Community sing songs

d. Leadership in music promotion
   - Sponsor music groups
   - Promote music as a hobby

8. The Place of Drama in the Recreation Program

a. Drama in recreation
   - The art of story telling
   - Dramatization of stories
   - Use of playlets

b. Significance of Dramatic training in the development of poise, diction, delivery, etc.

c. The art of directing
   - Best methods
Practical demonstrations
Casting, costuming, and settings
Methods of make-up
Casting and production of one-act play by the directors

9. Planning and Conducting Community Recreation Nights
   a. Organizing and conducting an adult athletic league
   b. Planning and giving programs for community night gatherings
   c. Planning and giving adult folk dancing

10. Rhythm in recreation
    a. Singing games for small children
    b. Folk and tap dancing for boys and girls
    c. Folk and square dances for adults

11. Planning and Conducting Play Days
    a. Distribution of responsibilities
    b. Program planning
    c. Plan of contesting
       Color teams
       Play area teams
    d. Promotion of play day
    e. Organization and layout of play area for play day
    f. Conducting the play day

12. Games for Recreation
    a. Active Games
    b. Quiet Games
    c. Singing Games
    d. Guessing Games
e. Games with a Ball
f. Games requiring Minor Equipment
g. Indoor Games
h. Party Games
i. Contest Games
j. Adult Games
CHAPTER V

PROGRAM AND PARTICIPATION

The program for the Denton Recreation Project was planned by the year. It included a general community program and a general playground program. The Superintendent and the sponsor's supervisor planned the general programs. These programs were planned for Fall, Winter, and Summer. (Refer to Tables 9 & 10.) The specific activities of the special departments such as music and dancing were planned by the director for that special activity. These activities were, of course, supervised by the Superintendent. The activities planned and the participation records shown indicated that the Denton Program, was, for the most part, an outdoor program because of a lack of sufficient indoor facilities. Fluctuation in participation records were a partially accurate indicator as to the kind of weather that prevailed in Denton for the week represented.

Some other factors influenced participation records. The weeks the music departments presented programs and the weeks that special contests and tournaments were held the records showed a decided increase for that activity. A decided fluctuation in participation was shown in the handcraft activities when the supply of paint bought by the sponsor was exhausted. The children were supposed to furnish the additional paint. It was found, however that the children, in most cases, did not have the money to buy the paint.

The specific activities for the individual playgrounds were planned by the playground directors for that playground. The activities
on the plan were checked by the superintendent, and one copy was filed in the office and the other returned to the director. When the program was not well planned, the director was called in for a conference and the plans were discussed. When possible, the director, with a suggestion from the superintendent, was allowed to make the needed changes to the more desirable activity for the children.

All city wide contests including all of the playgrounds were planned by the Superintendent. Such contests usually followed a playground contest in the activity on all playgrounds.

The winners on each playground were automatically eligible to compete in the city wide contest. Most city wide contests were conducted in the City Park, since it was more centrally located. For all contests calling for a field, such as soccer, speedball, etc., the East End Park was used for the young boys, and the Athletic Field was used for the senior and junior boys.

One special phase of the recreation program that filled a very definite need in the City of Denton was a Recreation Room for men and boys. In the fall, after the Project had been in operation about three months, a Recreation Room was fitted up by the directors, in which the older men and boys spent their leisure time playing under supervision and in desirable surroundings. This room was equipped with lights and heat, and the following playing equipment:

One table tennis set
One table croquet set
Five tables and chairs for table games
Six sets of dominoes
Three sets of checkers
Five box puzzles
One marble game
One floor shuffle game
One bean bag game
One peg on the wall game
One box hockey game

Most of the games were made by the recreation directors as part of their training in equipment construction for indoor games. The sponsor bought all necessary material for the construction of the equipment. Stoves, chairs, and tables for the room were contributed by interested citizens and the Chamber of Commerce. After the room was completed, it easily accommodated fifty to sixty men and boys at a cost of only $9.67 to the City Park Board. One director supervised the activities in the recreation room and planned and conducted tournaments in the activities offered.

Records were kept of the participants in the activities offered in this room. A figure showing the participants each week is given on page 57.

The music part of the recreation program included piano and instrumental music instruction. The advanced participants were organized into a recreation band in the winter of 1937-38. This group received many requests to play for programs in and around the City of Denton. They also played for recreation programs in the City Hall Auditorium. The piano participants were given individual lessons twice weekly. As soon as the students were
advanced enough to play musical selections they were allowed to play on programs given by the Recreation Project. Many of the younger participants, after a few months lessons, gave piano selections on community programs. Regardless of age or social position in the city the opportunities of the music department of the Recreation Project were open to any citizen in Denton. The participant who received instrumental instruction was required to furnish his own instrument and to buy his music. The piano participants were required to buy their music but free instruction was given on the piano in the City Hall Auditorium.

Weekly records of all participation in activities offered by the recreation project had been kept since the initiation of the program. Figures showing the participation records for all phases of the program are shown on pages 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, and 62. Since the program was, for the most part, an outdoor program the fluctuation in these records quite often indicated the kind of weather prevalent for that week.

The participation on the playgrounds was checked at intervals and the largest number present at any one time was recorded as the record for that day. These records also included individuals who were spectators at the activities when the count was made. Special programs, contests, and tournaments had a definite influence on the records; the records increasing decidedly during the weeks such special activities were scheduled.
TABLE 9

GENERAL PROGRAM FOR DENTON RECREATION PROGRAM

PLAYGROUND PROGRAM:

FALL:
Volley Ball League
Croquet
Handcraft
Games and Contests
Story Hour
Social Recreation
Orchestra and Rhythm Band
Tag Football League
Tenikoit

WINTER:
Basketball League
Soccer League
Games and Contests
Handcraft
Social Recreation
Story Hour
Orchestra and Rhythm Band

SUMMER:
Softball League
Handcraft
Social Recreation
Drama
Orchestra and Rhythm Band
Swimming

Croquet
Tennis
Tumbling
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<td>GENERAL PROGRAM FOR DENTON RECREATION PROGRAM</td>
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**COMMUNITY PROGRAM:**

**FALL:**
- Volley Ball League
- Community Recreation Nights
- Community Music Nights
- Tennis
- Adult Orchestra

**WINTER:**
- Basketball League
- Community Recreation Nights
- Community Music Nights
- Men and Boys Recreation Room
- Adult Orchestra

**SUMMER:**
- Softball League
- Community Music Appreciation Programs (monthly)
- Community Recreation Nights
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Forum Discussion Group
- Adult Orchestra
- Men and Boys Recreational Activities (in City Park)
Fig. 1 Weekly Participation Records of Social Recreation Activities of the Denton Recreation Program From August 6, 1937 to April 23, 1938
Fig. 2 Weekly Participation Records of Dramatic Activities of The Denton Recreation Program From Sept. 6, 1937 to April 23, 1938
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Fig. 3 Weekly Participation Records of the Arts and Crafts Activities of the Denton Recreation Program From August 13, 1937 to April 23, 1938
Fig. 4 Weekly Participation Records of Playground Activities of the Denton Recreation Program From August 12, 1937 to April 23, 1938
Fig. 5 Weekly Participation Records of Special Activities of The Denton Recreation Program From Oct. 6, to April 23, 1938
Fig. 6 Weekly Participation Records of Athletic Activities of the Denton Recreation Program From August 13, 1937 to April 25, 1938
CHAPTER VI

RECREATIONAL SUPERVISORY PROCEDURE

When the Denton Project was initiated, there was no available supervisory procedure for supervising city recreation programs. By experimentations, surveys, and study the following procedure for supervising the recreation program was set up. The supervisory plan was changed from time to time to fit the needs of the program when survey and study revealed the procedure, as first set up, was inadequate. The techniques as described in the following pages are those used on the Denton Recreation Project.

The success of any recreation program depends, to a very great extent, upon its leadership. The position of supervisor must be filled by a trained, experienced, and well balanced individual. The training of a supervisor should cover every phase of recreation: drama, art, craft, music, athletics, club organization, rhythm, and administrative and supervisory methods.

The playground leader must be of a sociable disposition and one who is generally liked by others. Enthusiasm, youthful spirit, human understanding and sympathy are qualities, in addition to those always demanded in any profession, which contribute greatly to success in recreation work. A sense of humor is a valuable asset to a playground worker. The successful leaders are those in whom the spirit of play never dies and who retain through life an active interest in wholesome forms of play. 1

1 G.D. Butler, Playgrounds Their Administration and Operation, p. 55.
Background of Recreation Directors: There are many pertinent questions facing the supervisor but probably the first and most vital one pertains to the directors working with him. In all fairness to the directors, the supervisor should have a general knowledge of the ability, training, experience, and responsibility of each worker. All the above items will quite definitely affect the work of the individual. This information may be gained in several different ways. Application blanks and personal talents and interests surveys filled out by the director prior to their selection will perhaps contain a great deal of the needed information. An autobiography written after the director begins work and a personality rating will give a great deal more information. Samples of forms used on the Denton Recreation Project for gaining this information follow in this thesis.

The information, however gained, should be filed as the first record in the "Personnel File" of the individual director. This data will be of great value in classification of directors and in assignment of responsibilities for each director. No director should be loaded beyond his or her ability. The information gained will also form a criteria for formulating training courses for the recreation directors. In-service training of recreation directors is a very vital part of the progress and the growth of a recreation department. Only as the directors grow and increase their ability and skill so will the recreation program grow and more nearly meet the needs of the citizens for whom it was planned.
PERSONAL TALENTS AND INTERESTS SURVEY*

(Check items in which you have had experience. Double check those in which you have served as director or leader. Put a circle around those in which you like to engage.)

NAME: __________________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________________

PHONE NUMBER: _________________________________

**Athletics**

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Football
- Golf
- Skating
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track Sports
- Volley Ball
- Archery

**Handcraft**

- Basketry
- Needlework
- Soap-carving
- Wood-carving
- Leather-carving
- Hiking
- Horseshoe Pitching
- Kodaking

**Arts**

- Painting
- Poster Making
- Sketching
- Camping
- Camp Fires
- Croquet
- Debates
- Discussion Clubs

**Music**

- Glee or Choral Singing
- Solo Singing
- Instrumental
- Piano
- Brass
- Reed
- String
- Nature Lore
- Party Planning
- Picnics
- Playgrounds
- Reading Clubs
- Skiing
- Social Games
- Story Telling
- Tobogganing

**Dramatics**

- Acting
- Costume Making
- Making Scenery
- Lighting
- Make-Up

Add any activity other than listed here that you have had experience with or in.

* All forms to follow are samples of forms used on the Denton Recreation Project.
APPLICANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE
FOR
PLAYGROUND LEADERSHIP

DATE

NAME

Last First Middle
Age Address Phone

Elementary School Attended When

High School Attended When

College Attended When

2. What recreational training or experience have you had?

3. In what clubs or organizations have you been an active member in the last two years

4. Do you have a Red Cross First Aid Certificate for current year?

5. Are you prepared to teach any of the following?

Piano Art (what type?) Piano Art (what type?)
Dancing (what type?) Singing Tumbling
Instrument (musical, what type?) Puppetry Story Telling
Expression Dramatics Handcraft

6. Do you have experience in any of the following?

Stenographic Work Bookkeeping Journalistic Work
Taking Dictation Advertising Filing
General Clerical Work

7. What positions have you held during the last five years? Specify length of time at each place and the work done.

8. Married No. of children Ages

9. Is your husband working? Where?

10. How many people are dependent upon you for support? Who

11. Have you worked with WPA? When? Where?

REMARKS:
Pre-Visit Conference: The second step for the supervisor was to inform her directors of any regulations and standards to be upheld in the recreation program. This was done by an individual pre-visit conference. In this conference the supervisor discussed also with the directors the points on which his or her work was to be judged. This point was very important in order to avoid such after visit excuses as: "Why, I didn't know that was of any importance in directing play." There must be complete understanding between the directors and the supervisor and the pre-visit conference furnished one of the very best means of starting such an understanding.

Another point in favor of the pre-visit conference was the opportunity offered to discuss program activities. Many faults and mistakes may be corrected in this conference and so prevent their ever being made on the playground. In this way, each director is able to do his or her work more efficiently.

The problem of playground program planning should be the cooperative effort of every director and the supervisor. It is the supervisor's responsibility to coordinate the work in such a way that the end result is a well-rounded program, which includes every phase of recreation. Athletics should be scheduled by seasons; special programs should be planned for special days; as Valentine, Easter, etc.; drama should be given its place; handcraft must be included; and social recreation merits a place in every recreation program.

The planning of the daily games and playground contests was done by each director. She fitted the games to her age group. These daily programs, however, were approved by the supervisor before they were presented. Program planning calls for the utmost skill in leader-
ship on the part of the recreation supervisor. The supervisor allowed the directors to do the greater part of the program planning in order that they might grow and develop but, at the same time, there was direction and leadership of their planning in order that the end result would be the desired one.

It must be remembered that the planned program was only a tentative skeleton around which each director was to build a rich, vital program of the activities in which the participants were most interested. The specific activities for each day's program for the coming week were planned on a program form and turned in to the supervisor on each Monday. In this way, the supervisor had time to approve the plan or discuss any phase of it that needed to be justified by the director.

A sample form of a weekly program planning outline used on the Denton Recreation Project follows.
Denton Recreation Project

Weekly Program Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directors in charge</th>
<th>Playground</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>193</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon.</td>
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<td>Tues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs.</td>
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<td>Fri.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Parties or Programs:
Visitations: After the program was set up, the supervisor had to fulfill another of the responsibilities; that of visitation. The first point under supervisory visits was the matter of scheduling visits. Supervision has outgrown the stage of "snoopervision". In fairness to the directors, they should know when the supervisor will visit their playground. A week's scheduled visits are shown on page 72 as made on the playgrounds of the Denton Recreation Project.

In addition to the scheduled visits the supervisor should visit any playground upon request. This visit may be for the purpose of helping the directors or for the purpose of seeing some special contest or tournament planned by the director.

The supervisor sometimes made a third type visit to the playground directors. This visit was not scheduled and sometimes not requested, but the supervisor felt there was a need for additional leadership and guidance on the part of certain directors. In such cases the supervisor visited these directors as often as she felt there was a need for such help and guidance as she could give the directors.

It was during these three types of visits that the supervisor secured information on how well her directors were doing the work of directing the leisure-time activities of the participants. A supervisory card was used to write down such observations as the supervisor felt should be called to the attention of the director. These comments included both commendations and condemnations. When the supervisor returned to the office after such a visit, her evaluation of the work was recorded. An attempt was made to think through the situation and arrive at conclusions for suggested improvements before the director came in for the after-visit conference. A tentative form for recording
Another point for consideration during a visit to the playgrounds was the matter of checking equipment and apparatus. A checking sheet for the equipment of each playground was kept on file. The equipment box was checked against this list with notations made of any broken equipment or any equipment needing repair. All apparatus was checked for accident hazards. From these two lists and the request for material slips from each director, the supervisor made out a monthly equipment list and submitted it to the sponsor's supervisor who ordered all equipment.
## OBSERVATION SCHEDULE

### DENTON RECREATION PROJECT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>DIRECTORS TO BE OBSERVED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday p.m.</td>
<td>Old City Hall</td>
<td>Mr. Taylor--Mr. Bush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday p.m.</td>
<td>City Park</td>
<td>Mrs. Trice--Miss Darnell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday p.m.</td>
<td>Lee School</td>
<td>Mrs. Hobson--Mrs. Boyles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday p.m.</td>
<td>West Ward</td>
<td>Miss Dunn--Miss Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday p.m.</td>
<td>Fred Douglass</td>
<td>Mrs. Pendarvis--Mrs. Thomas--Mr. Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday a.m.</td>
<td>City Hall Aud.</td>
<td>Mrs. Garrett--Mr. Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday p.m.</td>
<td>North Ward</td>
<td>Mrs. Lawson--Mr. Chastain--Mr. Weems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every day</td>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Miss Henrich</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
After-Visit Conference: After each director was visited, the supervisor scheduled, for the next day if possible, an individual conference with the director. There are some very important points to be considered by any supervisor regarding an after-visit conference. These points are as follows:

1. Conference technique:
   a. The supervisor must have all the facts about the director and situation.
   b. The supervisor should make criticism only after she has made a careful analysis of the whole situation.
   c. The supervisor should find out what purpose the director had in mind.
   d. She should get the director to express her opinion as to how successful her methods are in her opinion.
   e. The supervisor should put herself in the director's place and ask herself what she would like to get from supervisory conference.
   f. The supervisor should never hurry through in interview; it is much better to postpone it.
   g. Criticisms of any procedures or practices used on the playground should be given one at a time and give plenty of time for the director to understand the criticism.
   h. Criticisms of a director's work should be done in a suggestive manner, never in a commanding tone.
   i. The directors must be given opportunity to catch the suggestion and work out an idea.
   j. Criticisms should be made direct yet in a courteous, friendly, and business like way.
k. Criticisms should be painstakingly fair.
l. The supervisor should, while supervising a director, locate
her elements of strength as well as faults and weaknesses.
m. The supervisor must center her criticisms around the pro-
cedures and practices of the director as observed on the
playground, instead of personal faults.
n. The supervisor must be able to make a distinction between
essentials and non-essentials in taking notes on visitations
to the playgrounds.
o. All criticisms from a supervisor must be of a constructive
nature.
p. The supervisor must express a friendly interest in the pro-
blems and progress of the directors.

2. Results expected of the conference:

a. An individual conference should stimulate and educate the
recreation directors so that self-analysis, self-criticism,
and self-improvement will follow as results.
b. Supervision, through the conference, should encourage
initiative, independence, and assumption of responsibility.
c. Individual conference should help the directors formulate
standards and goals for playground direction.
d. The director should have more confidence in her procedures
and methods after an individual conference.
e. The director should have new sources of material, helpful
suggestions on all her problems after an individual conference.
A second type of conference used frequently in recreation supervision was the group conference. The group conference was of value in supervision for several reasons. First, there were usually problems that were common to many playgrounds; some few were common to all. Such problems could profitably be discussed in a group allowing the members of the group to express their opinion and offer suggestions and possible solutions to the problem. This experience in problem solving was very valuable to the recreation directors. Second, was the opportunity offered for group commendations. This was a most valuable part of the supervisor's procedure. Good work on the part of the group should be recognized and the group conference offered an excellent opportunity for such commendation. Third, was the opportunity for reviewing or demonstrating some outstanding piece of work done by one playground director. This quite often served as an inspiration to some other director or as an incentive to encourage other directors to step forward and use their initiative in their work. The opportunity to give recognition for an outstanding piece of work was also very valuable.

Group conferences were valuable in work on programs, city-wide tournaments and contests, and promotion of the recreation program in general. They were used with evident results on the Denton Project.

The frequency of individual and group conferences were determined by the needs of the recreation directors, as a general rule, however, an individual conference followed every scheduled visit. These scheduled visits ranged from weekly to once or twice monthly.
The general conferences should be held monthly or every two months; more often when there is a need for it.
SUPERVISORY REPORT
FOR
AFTER-VISIT CONFERENCE

1. Desirable traits observed

2. Attitude toward work

3. Discipline on ground

4. Type of activities being taught

5. Knowledge of activities

6. Use of child leadership

7. Attitude toward children

8. Weaknesses found

9. Recommendations for overcoming weaknesses found

10. Suggestions for professional growth of director
Supervisory Files: It is of vital importance to a supervisor to have a cumulative file on the recreation directors working with her. These files serve many purposes; for example, reclassification of directors, promotion of directors, as a basis for assigning additional responsibility, as a basis for recommendations for professional improvement, or as a basis for demotion.

In order for a supervisor to be absolutely fair and honest in her dealings with her recreation directors, records must be kept of their work, their professional growth, personality improvement, skills and abilities acquired, and attitudes and habits formed. This information can best be gathered by having a "Personnel File" for each director which would include the following information:

1. Application blank containing a record of such skills, abilities, and education as the director had when he started to work as recreation director.

2. Interest and ability survey, which will indicated the phases of recreation in which the director has had training, those in which he has had experience, and those in which he would prefer working.

3. Personality rating, a subjective rating of the personal traits and characteristics as the director has shown on the playground.

4. Visitation records, showing the information gained during observation of the director's skills, abilities, attitudes, and procedures and methods of direction.

5. Summary for after-visit conference, in which is recorded summary of visit notations, analysis of situations, and recommendations for improvement. This record is necessary in order to check
the growth and development of the directors from one visit to another.

6. Semi-annual report, containing an analysis of the work done by a director in six months in direction of recreation activities. This report gives a summary of all phases of the work of the director.

7. Annual report, containing an analysis and summary of the accomplishments of a recreation director for one year's work.

8. Research and programs--Included in the "Personnel File" should be a copy of any research work done by the directors and a copy of any outstanding programs given by the directors.

Such a file forms the basis for the professional rating of recreation directors. It also offers a very definite justification for all recommendations for professional or personal growth and development of the recreation directors that the supervisor might feel a need for suggesting. The directors can see a very clear picture of what they have or have not accomplished during the year. Such records often prevent the personal feelings of supervisor and director entering into reclassifications and promotions. The actual data is there to support whatever recommendations the supervisor may make.

It is well for the supervisor to keep a file on herself in order to check growth and development in a very definite way.

Records of research work done, of professional talks made, of professional books read, and of professional articles or papers written should all be filed or recorded in the supervisor's file. Where possible, to have a rating of her work made by a member of the recreation council or some other advisory board often points out weak-
nesses and needs for growth that might otherwise go unnoticed by the supervisor. A similar rating sheet was used on the Denton Project and filled out by the district supervisor, the chairman of the Recreation Council, and two of the Recreation directors. Self ratings have their value in analysis of a recreation supervisor's work and can often be used to advantage.

The most essential point for any supervisor to remember and practice is the absolute necessity for professional growth and development. Supervisors must be progressive and be able to meet the needs and demands of the day. Then and then alone can a supervisor really do an efficient piece of supervision and guidance.
RATING OF SUPERVISOR

By Director

I. Personal Qualities:

1. Voice
2. Personal Appearance
3. Poise
4. Professional Appearance
5. Sociability (Meeting the Public)

II. Professional Ability:

1. Attitude toward work
2. Attitude toward community
3. Interest in progress of work
4. Professional preparation for work
5. Resourcefulness
6. Alert to grasp opportunities for program advancement
7. Commends efforts of Directors
8. Open-minded and fair in classification of Directors
9. Advancement of program through research and study
10. Used ethical ideas and motives in work

III. Director Training Ability:

1. Attempts to build desire for improvement
2. Gives recognition for all outstanding work by directors
3. Develops self-confidence in directors
4. Corrects errors by commendation of correct method
5. Encourages professional reading by directors
6. Plans institutes for advancement of workers
7. Willingness to demonstrate on grounds when necessary
Rating for Supervisor (Cont'd.)

8. Cooperates with the directors in every way

9. Encourages social development of directors

10. Tests preparation of directors in training period

These traits are to be graded by points as follows:

- Excellent: 4 points
- Good: 3 points
- Medium: 2 points
- Poor: 1 point
RATING FOR DIRECTORS

I. Personal Qualities:
   1. Voice
   2. Punctuality
   3. Resourcefulness
   4. Alertness
   5. Initiative

II. Professional Spirit:
   1. Attitude toward children
   2. Attitude toward community
   3. Interest in the work
   4. Cooperation
   5. Preparation

III. Teaching Ability:
   1. Arouse interest
   2. Reaches all members of the playground
   3. Shows preparation
   4. Commends effort

IV. Disciplinary Ability:
   1. Uses ethical ideas and motives
   2. Develops self-control
   3. Uses interest as a means to discipline
   4. Corrects misconduct by commendation of good conduct

These traits are to be graded by points as follows:
   Excellent----------------------5 points
   Good--------------------------4 points
   Medium-----------------------3 points
   Poor-------------------------2 points
   Very Poor---------------------1 point
Semi-Annual report of ____________________________ Playground

Director of Recreation on ____________________________

For the Months of ____________________________ 193

1. Number of days spent visiting the playgrounds?

2. Number of professional books read?

3. Number of days absent from work?

4. Number of regular visits made?

5. Number of special visits made?

6. Number of times when conditions were favorable?
   Unfavorable?

7. Suggestions given to Directors:
   Number of "Yes"?
   "No"?

8. Number of activities taught?

9. Number of activities observed?

10. Number of directors meetings held?

11. Number of conferences held with individual directors?

12. Number of suggestions made to supervisor by directors?

13. Enter "remarks" on the back of sheet.

14. Have all questions of directors been replied to?
SUMMARY OF SUPERVISION
OF
DENTON RECREATION PROJECT

PLAYGROUND FOR YEAR OF 19

Director of Playground

Total number of visits to the playground for the year

Number of individual conferences with director for the year

Number of general conferences the director attended for the year

Individual research problems completed by the director for the year

Group research problems worked on for the year

Commendable skills shown during the year

Weaknesses overcome during the year

Outstanding programs given

Number of suggestions used by the directors

Number of suggestions that were repeated by supervisor

Problem children helped during year

Uses made of child leadership

Improvements shown during the year

Number of skills acquired in phases of recreation
CHAPTER VII
CONCLUSIONS

From the facts gained through the surveys and questionnaires used in studying the existing Recreation Program in Denton and a comparison of these facts with the standards of the National Recreation Association, the following conclusions were reached:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STANDARDS OF N.R.A.</th>
<th>EXISTING CONDITIONS</th>
<th>RECOMMENDATIONS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLAYGROUNDS:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. One acre of park and recreation space within the city for each 100 population.</td>
<td>1. Total acreage for recreation in the City of Denton includes 56.51 acres for 10,500 population.</td>
<td>1. Acquisition of an additional 38.49 acres in order to have 1 acre for every 100 population.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Safe place for children under school age to play.</td>
<td>2. Five playgrounds located in three sections of the city.</td>
<td>2. Need for a playground in the northwest section of the city for the small children of that section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Where population is congested, desirable to utilize all possible areas, roof playgrounds, vacant lots, interior playgrounds, for young children to play.</td>
<td>3. School playgrounds, City Park, one small play park, colored park only playgrounds for small children.</td>
<td>3. Development of playgrounds in each section of the city for the use of young children in each section to prevent their going so far to play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Areas for these children should contain sand boxes, large building blocks, small slides, baby swings, benches, and play houses. Toilet and drinking facilities.</td>
<td>4. Sand boxes (1), Large building blocks (0), Small slides (2), Baby swings, (0), Benches 50, Play houses (1), Toilet facilities (6), Drinking fountains (10) on three of 6 playgrounds.</td>
<td>4. Add 5 sand boxes, set of large building blocks for each playground, add 4 small slides to each playground. Benches to be added, 50, Add 5 playhouses to the 5 playgrounds not having one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STANDARDS OF N.R.A.</td>
<td>EXISTING CONDITIONS</td>
<td>RECOMMENDATIONS</td>
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<td>4. Cont'd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Playground within one half mile of all children of school age.</td>
<td>5. Play areas in the city now place every home within a half mile of a play area or neighborhood playfield, with one exception of the extreme regions in the East, North, South, and West of the city.</td>
<td>5. Areas are sufficient in location but should be larger in size and better equipped.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Playgrounds should be fenced, well drained, and well surfaced. They should have fields with two or three backstops, one or two tennis courts, and several games courts. Area for volley ball, basket ball, paddle tennis, horseshoes, space for free play, jumping pit and straightaway.</td>
<td>6. All playgrounds are well drained, well surfaced, but none are fenced. Four backstops on three playgrounds, no tennis courts on any playground, 5 volley ball courts, 1 basketball, 0 paddle tennis, 6 horseshoes, 6 spaces for free play, 1 jumping pit, 0 straightaways.</td>
<td>6. Fences should be placed around 6 playgrounds for small children. One backstop added to 2 playgrounds, and two added to three playgrounds. One tennis court added to each of 6 playgrounds. Add volley ball court to 2 playgrounds, basketball court added to 5 playgrounds, paddle tennis courts added to all 6 playgrounds. Horseshoes are sufficient. Add jumping pit to 5 playgrounds, and straightaway to all six playgrounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The young children should be in a separate area, preferably near the girls, older boys and girls in separate divisions or with provision for scheduled use of certain facilities.</td>
<td>7. City Park and West End Park provide for the small children to play in a separate division. All other playgrounds are open to the use of all ages.</td>
<td>7. Separate division provided on each of four playgrounds for the use of small children and division of areas for older boys and girls on all grounds.</td>
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</table>
8. There should be a neighborhood playfield of ten acres or more within a mile, at the most, of every home in the community. Junior High School should have a ten-acre playfield, and Senior High School should have at least twenty acres in a playfield.

9. These playfields should be well-drained, surfaced, and contain certain facilities for games and sports. Areas should contain: two baseball diamonds, ten to fifteen tennis courts, provision for handball, bowling, croquet, roque, and other types of games. Sanitary facilities, drinking water, lockers, bathing and dressing facilities, should be available in an adjacent school or in an independent field house, with room for the directors and a supply and storage room.

10. One or two of the larger areas, probably adjacent to the high school in the city, should be equipped for use as standard athletic field, with dressing rooms, lockers, shower baths, and toilet facilities. This should

8. Denton has four playfields, totaling 45.7 acres. Senior High has one 18-acre playfield, Junior High has no playfield for their school.

9. One playfield is well surfaced. Two fields are well drained, the other is not. Two diamonds on two of the four grounds, one on a third field and none on the fourth one. Four tennis courts on one field and none on the other three. No provision for handball, roque, bowling, drinking facilities on one of the playfields, none on the other three. Lockers on one of the playfields, none on the others. Bathing facilities for one of the field houses, none for the other three. No room for the directors, equipment boxes on two of the playfields.

9. Two playfields need to be surfaced and leveled and one needs to be better drained. One diamond added to one playfield, and two added to one field. Two or three tennis courts added to the three fields having none. Provision for handball, roque and bowling on all four fields. Drinking facilities added to three playfields. Lockers and dressing facilities added to three playfields. Bathing facilities added to three fields. Room for directors added to all four fields. Equipment boxes added to two playfields.

10. One field, adjacent to the high school is equipped for use as standard athletic field, with dressing rooms, locker, shower bath and toilet facilities. This area is fenced in so that charge can be made when desired.

10. Present facilities meet requirements.
10. Cont'd.
be properly fenced in so that admission may be made when desired.

11. All these recreation facilities should be beautified.

11. City Park is beautified but the other three fields have not yet been beautified.

11. Beautification of the three playfields not now beautified.

12. Unless state, county, or national parks or forests are readily accessible from the city there should be also a large extra-urban park of the reservation type for hiking, picnicking, nature study, and similar activities.

12. No state, county, or national park or forest is readily accessible to the city. Lake Dallas is seven miles from the city and is used for picnicking, swimming, boating, and fishing.

12. There should be a large extra-urban park of the reservation type for picnicking, nature study, and similar activities.

13. Opportunity for swimming should be provided; if natural water areas are not available, artificial pools should be built. The Junior and Senior High Schools should provide swimming all year round. Wherever possible water facilities should be available for all kinds of boating activities and in suitable climates there should be well distributed opportunities for skating and other outdoor activities in the winter time.

13. Denton has one swimming pool, privately owned, located in the southeast part of the city. The pool is opened in the summer only, for three months. Lake Dallas is located seven miles from Denton and is used for boating, swimming, picnicking, and hiking. Weather is not conducive to participation in winter sports to a great extent in Denton.

13. A municipal swimming pool is needed to meet the needs of the citizens of the city. Some provision should be made for the swimming needs of the negro population.

14. All school buildings should afford recreation facilities which are suitable and are made available for

14. One school annex has been made available for recreation use, no school building has been

14. The auditoriums of the elementary schools should be made available for com-
community use. Except for small schools which should have a play room, every elementary school should have an auditorium with a stage and a gymnasium or a combined auditorium and gymnasium. Each high school should have two gymnasiums, indoor pool, an auditorium with stage facilities and club rooms. Where schools cannot be made to provide comfortable and convenient recreation facilities, special community recreation buildings may be necessary.

14. Cont'd.

15. There should be available for the enjoyment of children and adults well distributed library facilities, art and nature museums, botanical gardens, and zoological gardens, if possible.

15. Denton has a County Library, located on the third floor of the Court House. The two colleges have art and nature museums that are open to the public, but there are no municipal art and nature museums in the city. Texas State College for Women has a botanical garden; there are no zoological gardens.

16. Every city should have a superintendent of recreation and an assistant, both of whom are well-16. There is a superintendent hired by the Works Progress Administration and a sponsor's super-
munity recreation. A room in each elementary school should be equipped for a play room to be used by the school and for recreational purposes. There needs to be a shelter house built on each of the playgrounds except North Ward where the school annex has been made available for recreation purposes. The facilities of the high school should be made available for community recreation. There is a need for central community recreation building to house the county library, city museum, office and room for girl and boy scouts, display room, recreation offices community gymnasium, games room, reading room, lounge, council room, kitchen, showers.

A full time assistant superintendent should be secured for the recreation project. The
16. Cont'd.

trained and of high character. One of these should be a man and one a woman. The superintendent should receive not less than $2500.00 a year. There should be special workers available, either on full time year-round basis or giving service equivalent to the full-time service of two workers. They should be paid not less than $2100.00 each per year as director or supervisor of several or all of the following: athletics, handicraft, social recreation, dramatics, nature activities, which would include camping and hiking, music.

17. Each playground should be usable after school hours and until dark under leadership every day in the year in which outdoor play is practicable. It is desirable to have certain parts of the grounds lighted for evening play.

18. There should be at least two directors for each playground, one man and woman, with additional assistance as necessary on the larger grounds or for special

visor hired by the city for supervision in the summer months only. The superintendent is a woman and received $1800.00 a year; was a physical education major in college, and had two years teaching experience. The Works Progress Administration hired and paid the salaries of fifteen workers for the recreation project. Two of these workers were skilled in music and taught music only. The remaining thirteen worked as playground directors. The highest salary paid any of the workers was $694.00 a year.

17. At present all school grounds, excepting Junior and Senior High City Park should be equipped with lights in order to facilitate evening play. Schools are usable after school hours and until dark under leadership every day in the year that outdoor play is practicable. The City Park is the only playground at the present that is lighted for evening play.

18. Four of the playgrounds each had one man and woman director. The remaining playgrounds had only women directors with the sponsor's supervisor assisting salary of the superintendent should be raised $700.00 in order to meet the scheduled salary. The city should hire at least five special directors in addition to the WPA directors. The city and the two colleges should cooperate and use the senior majors from the two colleges for direction and supervision of the following activities: dancing, dramatics, social recreation, music, and arts and crafts. These students should receive remuneration from the city, and credit in teaching experience from the college.
18. Cont'd.

activities. Each school building should be available as a community center in accordance with the demand, with a director in charge of each center with special assistance as is necessary to provide leadership in the various activities desired by the neighborhood.

19. The program should provide opportunities in games, sports, music, dramatics, social recreation, cultural, literary, and scientific adventures in their various forms and degrees. The program should stand willing to provide inexpensive facilities and leadership for any desired and worthwhile leisure time activity for which there is a demand from a reasonable number of people, and should provide opportunity for training of volunteer leadership in various recreation activities. It should also be prepared to assist community groups in picnics, particularly by loaning equipment and in the planning of programs.

19. The recreation program included playground games, athletics, piano and instrumental music, story telling, expression, handcraft, social recreation, adult forums, swimming, and community music nights. No provision had been made for recreation in the scientific field. Leadership training had not been sponsored outside of the directors of the project. No preparation had been made to assist community groups in picnics by the loan of equipment or program planning.

19. The existing program included the various phases of recreation set up in the standards but there should be included more cultural and scientific forms of recreation in the program and leadership training of volunteer workers should be provided. A progressive games kit including games sufficient to care for fifty to one hundred participants should be made available to community groups and suggestive programs for all types of entertainment should be available at all times from the recreation office.
20. There must of course be an administrative group charged with the responsibility for developing and administering the recreational program. Such administrative machinery should be able to use so far as is consistent with other use all public and private facilities offering recreational possibilities; should direct the program; secure high grade personnel; secure and administer budget; and be constantly alert to enlarge the service, both through acquisition and use, of additional facilities in accordance with the city plan and through development of the program of activities. It is believed that, other things being equal, the best results can be obtained when the recreation program is administered by a recreation board or committee composed of individuals who are keenly interested in community recreation and service without pay.

**STANDARDS OF N.R.A.**

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

20. The Denton Recreation Program had an administrative council composed of volunteer workers, including a member from each active organization in the City of Denton. This council secured use of all playgrounds, indoor facilities, passed on all policies of the program, acquired additional facilities and supported the program in all activities sponsored. The budget was furnished by the City Park Board.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

20. The Recreation Council should have more direct authority in determining the amount and expenditure of the budget set up for the recreation program.
Abraham, R.M., Diversions and Pastimes, 1935
Ashley, S.F., Modern School Supervision, Industrial Arts & Vocational Education, 1935
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