THE DEVELOPING OF A RECREATION PROGRAM FOR THE
CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF CONROE, TEXAS

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THE DEVELOPING OF A RECREATION PROGRAM FOR THE
CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF CONROE, TEXAS

THESIS

Presented to the Graduate Council of the North
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by
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The information as set forth on this map is taken from a drawing of the Map of Montgomery County as drawn in the General Land Office, Austin, Texas, March 1901, and from a copy of the Abstract Record of the School Districts of Montgomery County, which is filed in the County Superintendent's office of Conroe, Texas.
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

"Re cre' a tion...to give power over or effectiveness; as one who has become exhausted. The refreshment of body or mind after toil; by diversion, amusement, pleasurable exercise or enjoyment."¹

Recreation is usually considered the antithesis of work. It is true that relatively few people today find recreation in their work, but there are individuals whose work is so absorbing and satisfying as to make it a form of recreation. The late Thomas A. Edison, for example, gave himself so completely to creative work in his laboratory that he felt no need for recreation outside of his working hours. As a rule, however, recreation is a leisure-time activity and for most people the opportunities for it are largely confined to their leisure hours.²

Recreation has been defined as refreshment, diversion, or as the less serious and more passive types of playful activity. Those definitions are too general or limited to be correct.

History and Location of Montgomery County

The history of Montgomery County dates back to the days of Stephen F. Austin and his colonization of the territory


²George D. Butler, Introduction to Community Recreation, p. 3.
which later became a part of what is now the State of Texas. The portion of Montgomery County west of the San Jacinto River, extending westward to the Brazos River and northward to the Old San Antonio Road, was a part of Stephen Austin's fourth and last colony. The first trading post was located on Town Creek, about a half-mile north of the present site of Montgomery. This was owned by Jacob Shannon, the great-grandfather of the Shannons now living at Dobbin. Montgomery County was legally created December 14, 1837, and it included, besides the present county, Grimes, Walker, and Madison Counties. Conroe was chosen as the county seat and from that time the little town grew rapidly. In 1846 it was large enough to be incorporated. Nat Hart Davis was the first mayor. The first courthouse was a log house about twenty feet square. The second courthouse was a small two-story building.3

There is no record of the earliest schools, but from the beginning the citizens seemed to have realized the supreme importance of good schools and to have planned for them. Quite early, J. G. Arnold donated a lot for a public school and he also proposed to give a lot in the southwestern part of town as a future site for a school.4

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3Chamber of Commerce Records, "Early History of Montgomery County", 1931.
4Ibid.
Large church buildings were erected by both the Methodists and Baptists in 1850 and 1852, respectively.\textsuperscript{5} 

How Conroe Got Its Name

Prior to 1841 Captain Isaac Conroe operated a small lumber mill at Haltom, south of the present site of Conroe, Texas. In January 1841, he purchased a tract of land and the following October moved his mill to a location at present known as Beach, two miles east of Conroe. After completion of the mill, a two and one-half mile tram was built to the I & GN Railroad. Willis was the nearest post office and regular trips by horseback were made to get the mail. Dr. Parnell of Willis was the nearest physician.

Captain Conroe lived in Houston and came to his mill each Sunday afternoon and returned on Saturday. It was necessary for him to "flag the train" to make the trip to Houston. On one such trip, Captain Conroe happened to sit with an official of the railroad named H. M. Hoxy. He approached this gentleman about making regular stops at what is now Conroe. This was arranged and Captain Conroe undertook to arrange sale of tickets. The stop was called "Conroe's Switch" and later became Conroe. A post office was later established and Captain Conroe became the first postmaster. W. M. Conroe, a son of Captain Isaac

\textsuperscript{5Ibid.}
Conroe, and E. I. Conroe, the grandson of the Captain, at present reside in Conroe.\textsuperscript{6}

Conroe grew as a lumber center but did not attain its stride in growth until the oil field east of the city was brought in, in December 1931. This brought refineries, a carbon black plant and associated service industries. Conroe is now a modern city of some 7,500 people with paved streets, modern public buildings and a fine public school plant and hospital.

Limitation

This study will include only the Independent School District of Conroe, Texas, as shown in Figure 1. This district includes 306.28 square miles with nine schools, one community center, one Boy Scout camp, one Girl Scout camp, and one nine-hole golf course.

The information was gathered from the following sources:

1. Personal Interviews.
   a. Head of recreation department.
   b. Leaders of social organizations.
   c. Church organizations.
   d. Golf manager of Conroe Country Club.
   e. Other interested citizens.

2. Research into documentary material.

\textsuperscript{6}Conference with E. I. Conroe, Jr.
Fig. 1

THE AREA INCLUDED IN THE CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
b. Minutes of School Board.
c. Montgomery County records.
d. Chamber of Commerce records.
e. County School Superintendent's records.
f. Other documents of the city, county or schools where information might be found.

Treatment of Data

The writer of this thesis, with the aid of the listed sources, has attempted to develop plans for a recreation program for the Conroe Independent School District of Conroe, Texas.

Upon the recommendation of the community recreation executives assembled at the Recreation Congress at Louisville, Kentucky, in October, 1929, the National Recreation Association appointed a committee of twelve persons, under the chairmanship of George Hjelte, now Superintendent of Playgrounds and Recreation in Los Angeles, California, to make a study and render a report on desirable standards of training, experience, selection and salaries in community recreation work.7

The tentative report of this committee was presented at the National Recreation Congress at Atlantic City on October 7, 1930. A number of recommendations which were made at this

meeting were incorporated in a final report which was subse-
quently printed and which has had a wide distribution.

It was the firm belief of this committee that emphasis
must be placed upon adequate preparation for the work and that
this preparation should be generally comparable in amount and
thoroughness to that required for the profession most closely
related to it, namely, public education. To achieve this
standard it will be necessary to offer compensations somewhat
commensurate with the preparation desired.

The lack of adequate recreation space in city neighbor-
hoods greatly concerns all who are interested in the develop-
ment of opportunities for better living in American cities. 8
People have come to appreciate the importance of recreation
in their daily lives and are demanding more adequate neighbor-
hood recreation facilities and services. This explains why
recreation areas and facilities have a large place in postwar
public works programs. Sound economy and wise social planning
demand that adequate recreation opportunities be provided in
the large scale housing and neighborhood redevelopment project
proposed for the postwar period. The shortcomings of existing
city neighborhoods must be corrected and past mistakes must
not be repeated in new communities.

8Ibid.
Basic Principles

The provision of recreation areas and facilities in residential neighborhoods is an essential responsibility of local government. In law and in practice, recreation is recognized as a function of local government. City and school authorities in hundreds of communities have provided recreation areas and indoor facilities for the use of the people. It is the responsibility of local authorities to see that in every residential neighborhood the people have the recreation areas and facilities (indoor and outdoor) essential for satisfactory leisure time living throughout the year.

These areas and facilities should be provided primarily on the basis of the needs of the entire neighborhood or community. In general, it is not advisable or economical to provide them for the exclusive use of special groups, such as the tenants of a public or private housing project. It is true that the housing agencies commonly provide those indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that serve as a substitute for the facilities usually afforded by the normal home. The provision of playgrounds, play fields, and indoor recreation facilities, however, is essentially the community's job and should be related to the needs of the entire neighborhood or community.

Recreation areas and facilities provide maximum service only when adequate funds are made available for leadership,
operation, and maintenance. Like all other services, recreation costs money. Recreation areas and buildings need to be properly maintained in order to be kept clean, safe, and attractive. Competent leadership is even more important, for it assures maximum attendance, enjoyment, and use. Without leadership, much of the city investment is lost.\(^9\)

\(^9\)Ibid, p. 5.
CHAPTER II

NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION STANDARDS
FOR FACILITIES

Since the success of any project depends partially on the facilities at hand, it was deemed necessary to secure basic standards for facilities. Since the National Recreation Association is the highest authority in this field, the following recommendations will be used as a basis for the analysis used in the succeeding chapter.

Park, recreation, and city planning authorities agree that in each municipality there should be at least one acre of publicly owned park and recreation space for each 100 of the local population. This acreage should be distributed among the various types of properties that comprise a well-balanced park and recreation system. The statement which follows is concerned with only two types, the playground and the playfield. These are the basic outdoor areas that serve the year-round needs of all the people and that should be readily accessible to all neighborhoods. Furthermore, even though variable factors in each city require individual study, the space requirements of the playground and playfield can be fairly determined in relation to the population, and there is considerable agreement among recreation, school, park and
housing authorities as to normal space standards for these areas. Other types of park and recreation properties serve important functions, but any city that provides adequate playgrounds and playfields for all residential neighborhoods has gone far toward meeting the basic recreational needs of the people. Few cities can boast of such an achievement.

The Neighborhood Playground

For many years the playground has been defined as an outdoor area which provides opportunities for children, primarily from six to fourteen inclusive, to take part in a variety of fundamental and enjoyable play activities. Its space requirements, location, facilities, and operation have been determined largely by the recreation needs of this age group. It has long been recognized that there should be a children's playground as well as a school within easy walking distance of every home, and every soundly conceived plan for city recreation provides a playground near the center of each neighborhood. Since the playground served primarily children of grammar school age, a desirable location in most cases was at or adjoining the elementary school site.¹

The following standards as to location, size and facilities are recommended for the neighborhood playground:

1. There should be a playground within a quarter to a half mile of every home. In densely built-up neighborhoods a playground is needed within a quarter mile of every home; under the most favorable neighborhood conditions, no person should be obliged to walk more than one half mile to reach a playground.

2. For the city as a whole there should be one acre of neighborhood playground space for each 800 of the present or estimated future population.

3. The space requirements for neighborhoods of different populations vary as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present or Estimated Future Population of Neighborhood</th>
<th>Minimum Size of the Playground Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2.75 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>3.25 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>4.00 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>5.00 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>6.00 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the neighborhood has much more than 5,000 population, it is generally preferable to develop more than one playground to serve it. This is because it is often difficult to obtain suitable properties larger than six acres. Furthermore, two smaller playgrounds, if ample in size and properly located, will be nearer more homes and will attract a greater total attendance than a single larger playground. An existing playground that falls far short of the recommended space standard

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cannot serve the needs of all the people of the neighborhood. Unless it can be enlarged, such a playground should generally be developed for and restricted to children's use.

4. The playground should have most of the following features: corner for preschool children; an apparatus area; an open space for informal play; fields for games such as softball, modified soccer, and touch football; courts for tennis, handball, horseshoes, paddle tennis, volleyball and other games; an area for quiet games, crafts, dramatics, and story-telling; a corner for table games and other activities for old people; shelter house; wading pool. Trees and other plant materials should be introduced insofar as practicable.

The Playfield

The playfield is the type of recreation area that provides varied facilities primarily for the use of young people and adults, although a section is often developed as a playground for the children of the surrounding neighborhood. The playfield affords opportunities for young people and adults to engage in many valuable and popular forms of recreation that require too much space to be carried on at the neighborhood playground. Among these activities are baseball, football, soccer, field hockey, archery and picnicking. An outdoor theatre, recreation building, and swimming pool are common playfield features. Unlike the athletic field which is
developed only for highly specialized sports such as baseball, football and track, the playfield is an area designed for diversified use by people of all ages.

Most people will attend the playfield less frequently than the playground because it is farther from their homes and because many playfield activities such as baseball or swimming require a considerable time period. Experience has shown they will walk a longer distance for such activities. Each section of the city should have an adequate properly developed playfield; in general a playfield will meet the needs of the people served by four neighborhood playgrounds. There are advantages in locating the playfield on or adjoining the high school site. If sufficient suitable land is obtainable, part of the playfield may be developed as a landscape park; in this case the area is called a playfield-park.

The following standards as to size, location and features are recommended for the playfield:3

1. There should be a playfield within a half mile to a mile of every home, the distance depending upon population density and ease of access.

2. For the city as a whole there should be one acre of playfield for each 800 of the present or estimated future population.

3Ibid.
3. Ten to twelve acres is the minimum site which will serve as a playfield, but an area of twenty acres is generally required to provide the essential features. Sometimes more acreage is needed. A playfield should be provided for at least every 20,000 of the population. Larger population units can better be served by two smaller playfields than by a single large area.

4. The playfield should have most of the following features: children's playground; areas for several major field games and sports for men and for women; courts for tennis, shuffleboard, bocce, badminton, volleyball and other games; lawn area for such activities as croquet, archery, clock golf; swimming pool; outdoor theater; center with council ring for day camping; picnic center for small groups; facilities for winter sports; recreation building; and parking area. Opportunities for landscape development should be fully utilized.

Standards for Indoor Recreation Facilities

Indoor recreation spaces and facilities as well as outdoor areas are needed if people are to have opportunity for a well-balanced recreation life throughout the year. Many activities can only be carried on successfully indoors. During much of the year outdoor activities are restricted by climate and weather; hence buildings are needed where recreation
programs can be carried on. Any plan for furnishing adequate recreation service to the people of a neighborhood or community must include a consideration of the nature, availability, and extent of existing indoor recreation facilities, and of the additional facilities needed.

The question of standards for indoor recreation facilities has received little consideration although school authorities have indicated the space needed primarily for pupils enrolled in schools, and the federal housing agency has adopted standards for minimum indoor recreation space for public housing projects. In addition to schools and community buildings in housing projects, there are many public buildings with facilities designed or suitable for recreation. They include shelter houses, city auditoriums, field houses, youth centers, and specialized buildings such as an arts and crafts center, theater, sports arena or indoor swimming pool.

The Recreation Building

These various buildings serve a useful purpose. Nevertheless, a well-rounded indoor recreation program that makes a vital contribution to the leisure time of the people requires a building with diversified indoor facilities serving varied recreational interests. Examples of such a building are the community house, the school building designed and operated as an indoor recreation center, and the community recreation building.
Such a building should be located near the center of the community or section of the city it is intended to serve. In general, a desirable site is at or adjoining the playfield serving the same area. Such an arrangement makes possible a combined indoor-outdoor recreation center and makes for efficiency of service and economy of operation. To serve its purpose such a building must be generally and regularly available for the recreational use of the entire community the year round. Unless a building provides facilities that make possible a program that meets the varied community needs, and unless the periods and conditions of use are satisfactory, it cannot serve as a real community recreation building.

The following standards are recommended:\(^4\)

1. "There should be a community recreation building or center within a half mile to a mile of every home, the distance depending upon population density and ease of access.

2. Such a building, or center, should be provided for at least every 20,000 of the population.

3. It should be generally and regularly available for the recreational use of the entire community throughout the year.

4. It should provide most of the following facilities:

   Gymnasium, with seats for spectators, lockers and showers, suitable for basketball, volleyball and other floor games, gymnasium classes,
and dances, socials, holiday celebrations and similar activities.

Assembly hall or auditorium with stage, and preferably with removable seats, for concerts, lectures, movies, dramatics, rallies, banquets, recreation demonstrations and community gatherings.

Room for informal reading and quiet table games, where an individual may drop in for a few minutes or spend an evening with one or more friends.

Room equipped for various types of arts and crafts activities.

Social or play room for small group parties, square dancing, play rehearsals, and other activities involving fairly small groups.

Room for table tennis, billiards, darts, shuffleboard and active table games.

Two or more club or multiple-use rooms for club and committee meetings and hobby groups of all kinds.

Refreshment stand or snack bar.

Kitchen for preparing meals and simple refreshments and also for cooking and canning classes.

Office for the director.

Essential service rooms and facilities including ample storage spaces for equipment and supplies."

Indoor Recreation Facilities

An appraisal of a city's indoor recreation resources must take into account not only the multiple-use recreation buildings but all buildings that have facilities regularly available for community recreation use. The specific

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interests of different communities vary, but experience has shown that in general the indoor facilities required to serve these interests are similar. Local conditions or needs may make desirable special features such as a music room, pistol range, bowling alleys, dark room, or library.

The following standards represent the indoor facilities that should be available for community recreation use in every city, regardless of the type of building in which they are provided:

"A gymnasium for each 10,000 of the population or less.
An auditorium or assembly hall for each 20,000 or less.
A social room or play room for each 10,000 or less.
An informal reading and quiet game room for each 10,000 or less.
An indoor game room for each 10,000 or less.
A room equipped as an arts and crafts workshop for each 10,000 or less.
A club or multiple-use room for each 4,000 or less.
An indoor swimming pool for each 50,000 or less."^^6

6Ibid., p. 9.
CHAPTER III

RECREATION FACILITIES IN CONROE INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

With the foregoing standards as a basis the writer will, in the succeeding chapters, analyze the present recreation program of the Conroe Independent School District and make recommendations for changes in this program to meet the standards set by the National Recreation Association.

Table 1 contains a suggested list of recreation activities which should be included in a balanced program of recreation with the tabulation of the facilities included in Conroe Independent School District. The school offered facilities for twenty-eight activities,\(^1\) the city for fourteen,\(^2\) and private individuals for eighteen.\(^3\)

It is to be noted that the school offers no facilities for bicycling, bowling, canoeing, croquet, dominoes, fencing, forty-two, fishing, gardening, golf, horseback riding, hunting, knitting, marching, miniature golf, polo, rowing, radio, ping tennis, skating, scouting and washers.

\(^1\)Conference with J. L. McCullough.
\(^2\)Ibid.
\(^3\)Ibid.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Archery</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Baseball</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Basketball</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Badminton</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Bicycling</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Boxing</td>
<td>1 ring</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Bridge</td>
<td>1 hall</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Clubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Bowling alleys</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Calisthenics</td>
<td>2 gyms</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Canoeing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Camping</td>
<td>1 ground</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Checkers</td>
<td>1 hall</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Croquet</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Dominoes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 halls</td>
<td>Clubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Fencing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Football</td>
<td>3 fields</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Forty-Two</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2 halls</td>
<td>Clubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Fishing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Gardening</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Clubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Golf</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1 Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. Handball</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. Hiking</td>
<td>1 Club</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. Hockey</td>
<td>2 fields</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24. Horseshoe Pitching</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Horseback Riding</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26. Hunting</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27. Knitting</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28. Marching</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29. Miniature Golf</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. Movies</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Paddle Tennis</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Ping Pong</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Picnics</td>
<td>1 ground</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Pool</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35. Playground Games</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36. Polo</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37. Reading</td>
<td>3 libraries</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Rhythmics</td>
<td>3 gymnasiums</td>
<td>1 hall</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 1—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Private</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39. Rowing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40. Radio</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. Ring Tennis</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. Skating</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. Scouting</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6 troup</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. Swimming</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. Soccer</td>
<td>3 fields</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Speedball</td>
<td>2 fields</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47. Social &amp; Folk Dancing</td>
<td>3 halls</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. Track</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. Tennis</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50. Volleyball</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. Washers</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. Wrestling</td>
<td>1 ring</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are no privately owned facilities for archery, baseball, basketball, badminton, bicycling, boxing, bowling, calisthenics, checkers, fencing, football, handball, hiking, hockey, horseshoe pitching, marching, miniature golf, movies, paddle tennis, playground games, polo, reading, radio, ring tennis, skating, scouting, soccer, speedball, track, tennis, volleyball, washers, and wrestling.

The city offers no facilities for archery, basketball, badminton, bicycling, boxing, bridge, bowling, calisthenics, croquet, fencing, football, gardening, golf, handball, hockey, horseshoe pitching, hunting, knitting, miniature golf, paddle tennis, ping pong, pool, playground games, polo, reading, rhythms, radio, ring tennis, swimming, soccer,
speedball, social and folk dancing, track, tennis, volleyball, washers, and wrestling.

An analysis of data which pertains to recreational facilities available in the Conroe Independent School District shows that some provision, either school, city or private, is made for carrying on all the activities listed in Table 1 except bicycling, bowling, fencing, miniature golf, polo, radio, ring tennis, and washers.

Prior to 1935 the chief forms of recreation in the Conroe Independent School District were hiking, picnicing, fishing, clubs, sand lot baseball, football, outdoor basketball and volleyball, picture shows and dancing to some extent. ¹

Due to the increasing necessity, the present football field and grandstands were built in 1935, as shown in Figure 2, at a cost of $8,500.00. The grandstands, constructed of steel and wood, were erected on the west and east sides of the gridiron. These stands have a seating capacity of 6,500. On top of the west stadium and even with the fifty-yard line, a shaded and illuminated press box, costing approximately $3,000.00, was erected. Then in 1938 a ¹⁴⁰-yard track costing $5,000.00 was built around the football field. In 1944

¹Personal interview with J. L. McCullough.
Fig. 2

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES INCLUDED IN THE
CROCKETT HIGH SCHOOL OF THE CONROE
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
the athletic department installed a lighting system for the field, with five steel towers located on each side of the field. Each tower carries eight 1000-watt lamps. All of the lights are controlled by a master switch. The electric score board was bought in 1946 for $2,700.00 and installed on the south end of the field.\(^5\)

The physical education building at the David Crockett High School was erected in 1936 at a cost of $25,000.00, as in Figure 2. The gymnasium has a movable partition which divides it into two smaller gymnasiums for boys and girls physical education classes. There are two basketball courts laid out, one in each side, which become one large court when the partition is removed. It has a seating capacity of 2,500. The boys' locker and shower room is located on one end of the building and the girls' on the opposite end. Each will accommodate one hundred children at one time. The building also contains two offices, two large storerooms, a stage with curtains, piano, and some of the props located at one end of the gymnasium. All basketball games for the past year, both high school and independent leagues, were played in this gymnasium.\(^6\)

\(^5\)Ibid. \(^6\)Ibid.
Prior to 1938 there were no available facilities for tennis, but in that same year three concrete tennis courts, costing $500.00 each, were constructed on one end of the campus near the physical education building, as in Figure 2. In addition to their original objective, these courts are now used for basketball, volleyball and skating.  

On the playground area of the Crockett Senior High School a softball field with lights was constructed in the summer of 1945 at a cost of $1,250.00 and two touch football fields were completed at the same time at a cost of $200.00 each, as in Figure 3.

As shown in Figure 4, in 1939 the Travis Junior High School was completed and on September 8 opened for the first time. This building was constructed at a cost of $85,000.00 which included the physical education room and gymnasium. This gymnasium also has a movable partition which separates it into two parts in order that both boys and girls may use it at the same time. When the partition, or middle wall, is moved back it provides a full basketball court. The seating capacity of the gymnasium is 1,200 and all Travis Junior High School basketball games are played there. In 1946 two softball diamonds were constructed on the large playground area behind the school at a cost of $100.00 each. Also, this same year one touch football field costing $250.00 was built.

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7Ibid.  
8Ibid.  
9Public School Record, Inventory for 1947.
Fig. 3

PLAYGROUND AREA OF THE CROCKETT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL,
CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Fig. 4

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES INCLUDED IN THE TRAVIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL OF THE CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
As shown in Figure 5, in 1942, at a cost of $1,500.00, the Sam Houston Elementary School playground was equipped with the following facilities: six wave slides, three sand boxes, two sets of swings with six swings to each set, six seesaws and two softball diamonds.10

The Recreation Building and Swimming Pool were completed in 1941 at a cost of $94,000.00, as in Figure 6. The pool has a 225,000-gallon capacity and ranges from three feet to ten feet in depth. There is a twenty-five by sixty foot wading pool adjacent to the large pool on one end and on the other are two five-foot diving boards and one twelve-foot board. Several rows of benches are provided on one side which will accommodate 250. There are separate locker rooms for boys and girls, an entrance with ticket window, and an engine room.11

By the latter part of 1934 the city had built a baseball park, with the regulation diamond and stands with a seating capacity of 2,500, at a cost of $6,000.00, as shown in Figure 7. In 1942 lights were installed at the park at a cost of $2,500.00. The city turned the baseball park over to the Conroe Independent School District in 1945 for operation and

10Personal Interview with J. L. McCullough.

Building and facilities included in the Conroe Independent School District.

**Fig. 5**

- **378 yards**
  - Swings
  - Marble Ground
  - Seesaws
  - Wave Slides

- **300 yards**
  - Bus Barn
  - Softball Field

- **30 yards**
  - Softball Field

Elementary School 1-6 (750)

Scale 1" = 150'
THE COMMUNITY CENTER AND SWIMMING POOL OF THE CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Fig. 7

THE AREA AND FACILITIES OF THE CITY BASEBALL PARK
maintenance. However, the Conroe "Wildcats", a semi-professional club, and the American Legion team use the park as well as the school teams.\textsuperscript{12}

A club was formed in 1930 for the purpose of financing a nine-hole golf course. Work was begun on this project September 1, 1930 and it was completed June 24, 1931. The course is 3,750 yards long and has a par of thirty-six. It was built at a cost of $13,000.00 and at the same time a $5,000.00 clubhouse was completed.\textsuperscript{13}

\textsuperscript{12}\textit{Minute Book of the City Council}, August 21, 1934.

\textsuperscript{13}\textit{Country Club record of 1936-37}, Conroe, Texas.
CHAPTER IV.

THE PRESENT RECREATION PROGRAM OF THE CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Conroe Independent School District has a set-up wherein the athletic director is in complete charge of the Recreation Department. He has four assistants to help him carry on the recreation work for the District.

The playgrounds and athletic fields over which the Recreation Department operates were obtained and furnished by the Conroe Independent School District. The golf course is owned by the Conroe Country Club. The recreation building was built by the School District. The boys and girls scout camps were made possible by donations from the Rotary and Lions Clubs of Conroe and by individual donations from citizens.

The recreation program of the Conroe Independent School District includes the intramural, summer and interscholastic league programs, basketball league, softball league, community center, swimming program, golf, arts and crafts, summer symphony, drama, scouting, and recreation for colored.

Intramural Program

The Crockett High School of the Conroe Independent School District carried on a complete Intramural program for both
boys and girls of the high school during the 1947-48 school year. The program for the boys included touch football, soccer, speed ball, basketball, softball, ping pong, tennis, track and swimming. The girls' program included basketball, softball, ping pong, tennis, and swimming. Gold medals were given winners in each sport. A loving cup was given the boy and girl making the most points during the entire year.

Summer Program

A summer program was carried on in the Conroe Independent School District for boys from eight to fifteen years of age. This program was run from nine to eleven A.M. each day, Mondays through Fridays, during the months of June, July, and August. The sports included football, baseball, softball, basketball, boxing, wrestling, ping pong, archery, and swimming and a school-paid instructor was in charge of the entire program.

Interscholastic League

As the data in Table 2 shows, of the six Interscholastic League sports entered by the David Crockett High School of the Conroe Independent School District, football and baseball were the only sports which were able to pay their own expenses and realize a profit. Ten football games were played with eight won and two lost. Of the twenty-four baseball
games played, sixteen were won and eight lost. Gross football receipts amounted to $12,000.00 with $3,000.00 expense, leaving a profit of $9,000.00, while baseball had gross receipts of $600.00 and $450.00 expense, or a profit of $150.00. Basketball incurred $750.00 expense but gross receipts amounted to only $565.00, which made a deficit of $185.00 for this sport. Likewise, tennis incurred $75.00 expense but had no gross receipts, however, the girls took honors in this sport by winning in the District Meet. There were no League teams in swimming or golf. The total gross receipts from these sports amounted to $13,165.00 and, less $4,275.00 total expense, the League realized a profit of $8,890.00 last year.¹

### TABLE 2


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>No. of Games</th>
<th>Gross Receipts</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Profit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Played</td>
<td>Won</td>
<td>Lost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$12,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$565.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>Girls won District</td>
<td>00.00</td>
<td>75.00</td>
<td>75.00*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE 2--Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>No. of Games</th>
<th>Gross Receipts</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Net Profit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Played Won</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>No Team</td>
<td>00.00</td>
<td>00.00</td>
<td>00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>No Team</td>
<td>00.00</td>
<td>00.00</td>
<td>00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>$13,165.00</td>
<td>$4,275.00</td>
<td>$8,890.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Deficit

The year 1947-48 Travis Junior High School played football and basketball. Eight football games were played, with six won and two lost, and twenty basketball games were played, with fifteen won and five lost. No charge was made for either of these sports. The expense money was provided from the athletic fund of the Conroe Independent School District. Total expenses for football amounted to $2,000.00 and for basketball $850.00, making a grand total of $2,850.00.

Booker T. Washington High School for the colored played eight football games, winning four and losing four. After deducting $1,050.00 in expenses from the gross receipts of $2,500.00, a net profit of $1,450.00 remained.

A summary of the net loss and net profit for each school participating in Interscholastic League sports, as reflected in Table 3, shows a total net profit of $10,340.00 and a total
net loss of only $2,850.00, or a net profit for the District of $8,490.00.²

**TABLE 3**

**NET PROFIT AND LOSS OF THE THREE SCHOOLS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN SPORTS IN THE CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Net Profit</th>
<th>Net Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Crockett High School</td>
<td>$8,890.00</td>
<td>$2,850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis Junior High School</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booker T. Washington High School (Colored)</td>
<td>1,450.00</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,340.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,850.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conroe Independent School District Basketball League

The Conroe Independent School District sponsored a basketball league in which six teams from the District took part. The teams which entered were Rush Motors, Red Rocks, Superior Oil, "B" Team, Houston Oil and Willis.

These teams played a double round robin schedule to determine the winner. A charge of ten cents was made for admission to the games. This money was used to pay the officials and to buy a trophy for the winning team.

The final standing of the teams in this league is shown in Table 4. Rush Motors, winner in the league, won nine games.

and lost only one, a percentage of .900. Red Rocks placed second with eight games won and two lost and Superior Oil placed third with seven wins and three losses, a percentage of .800 and .700, respectively. The remaining three teams had percentages of .300 and under.\footnote{Ibid.}

\begin{table}
\centering
\caption{The Final Standing of the Teams in the Independent Basketball League of the Conroe Independent School District}
\begin{tabular}{|l|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Basketball League Teams} & \textbf{Final Standing} \\
\hline
 & \textbf{Won} & \textbf{Lost} & \textbf{Pct.} \\
\hline
Rush Motors & 9 & 1 & .900 \\
Red Rocks & 8 & 2 & .800 \\
Superior Oil & 7 & 3 & .700 \\
"B" Team & 3 & 7 & .300 \\
Houston Oil & 2 & 8 & .200 \\
Willis & 1 & 9 & .100 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

The league played sixty games, playing before some 3,000 people and taking in $300.00.

Conroe Shrine Basketball Tournament

On January 2 and 3, 1948 Conroe High School held its Annual Basketball Tournament and issued invitations to the following teams: Jeff Davis, Sweeney, Stephen F. Austin, 

\footnote{Ibid.}
Galena Park, Lamar, Lufkin, Sam Houston, Bryan, Trinity, St. Thomas, Milby, Beaumont, Livingston, Huntsville, Palestine, Pasadena and Goose Creek. The tournament was sponsored by the Conroe Shrine Club and all of the profit went to the Shrine Crippled Children's Program. After all expenses were deducted, there remained a profit of $375.00.4

The tournament was a twelve-team meet with a championship bracket and also a consolation bracket. A trophy and ten gold basketballs were given winners in the championship bracket. A trophy and ten silver basketballs were given second place winners; a trophy was given third place winner. In the consolation bracket a trophy was given the winner. Individual awards were given to players who made the All-Tournament team. The coach of the winning team was presented a beautiful wrist watch.

The twelve teams which accepted the invitation were Sweeney, Stephen F. Austin, Galena Park, Lamar, Lufkin, Bryan, Sam Houston, Jeff Davis, Trinity, St. Thomas and Milby, the twelfth team being Conroe.

Milby won the championship by defeating Jeff Davis thirty-six to thirty. Jeff Davis won second place trophy, Lamar won the third place trophy, and Conroe won the consolation trophy by defeating Sweeney forty-two to twenty-eight.

---

4Shrine Club Report, Basketball Tournament of 1948.
Conroe Invitation Field and Track Meet

The eighth annual Conroe Invitation Track and Field Meet was held Saturday, March 20, 1948. Gold, silver and bronze awards were given to winners in all events. The team winning the meet received a large trophy as well as each winning relay team. The high point man received an individual trophy.

Invitations were mailed to almost every Class AA and Class A school in southeastern Texas. In addition, announcement of the meet was published in the Houston and Conroe newspapers, with instructions for interested schools to write for entry blanks. This gave every school in this region the opportunity to enter the meet, in the event they had not received a written invitation.

There were more than 450 athletes from fifty schools entered in the meet. Among the outstanding athletes which participated there was Robert Leming, high hurdler of Beaumont, Al Milheim, sprinter from Jeff Davis of Houston, and Bob Ternell, shot putter from Reagan of Houston. The outstanding relay team was entered by Goose Creek. Each contestant was required to pay an entrance fee of twenty-five cents.

Preliminaries were held at ten A.M. and the finals in all events were run off at two-thirty P.M. Texas Interscholastic Rules governed the meet.
Beaumont won the meet with seventy-two points while Reagan was second with sixty-eight points. Robert Leming from Beaumont was high point man.

The thirteen events which made up the track meet, first place winners and their respective schools are reflected in Table 5. The 120-yard high hurdles was won by Robert Leming of Beaumont, the 100-yard dash by Al Milheim of Jeff Davis, the one mile run by James Bonner of A & M Consolidated, and the 440-yard dash by Charles Dewald of Conroe. In the relays Lamar won the 440-yard relay while Goose Creek was victor of the 880-yard relay, sprint medley and one mile relay. Reagan of Houston took first place honors in three events, namely, the pole vault which was won by H. D. Tomkins, the broad jump won by Robert Lindow and the shot put won by Bob Ternell. The high jump winner was Paul Alexander of Livingston and the discus winner Lewis Nichols of Fairbanks.\(^5\)

\textbf{TABLE 5}

\textbf{TRACK EVENTS AND RESULTS OF THE CONROE INTERSCHOLASTIC TRACK MEET OF THE CONROE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track Event</th>
<th>First Place Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contestant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120 yard High Hurdles</td>
<td>Robert Leming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 yard Dash</td>
<td>Al Milheim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Mile Run</td>
<td>James Bonner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^5\)\textit{Athletic Report of 1948, Conroe Independent School District.}
TABLE 5--Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track Event</th>
<th>First Place Winners</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contestant</td>
<td>School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>440 yard Dash</td>
<td>Charles Dewald</td>
<td>Conroe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>440 yard Relay</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lamar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>880 yard Relay</td>
<td></td>
<td>Goose Creek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprint Medley</td>
<td></td>
<td>Goose Creek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Mile Relay</td>
<td></td>
<td>Goose Creek</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pole Vault</td>
<td>H. D. Tomkins</td>
<td>Reagan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad Jump</td>
<td>Robert Lindow</td>
<td>Reagan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Jump</td>
<td>Paul Alexander</td>
<td>Livingston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot Put</td>
<td>Bob Ternell</td>
<td>Reagan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discus</td>
<td>Lewis Nichols</td>
<td>Fairbanks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conroe Independent School District
Softball League

The Conroe Independent School District sponsored a softball league in which four teams from the District took part. The teams which entered were Rush Motors, Midland Gas, Superior Oil, and Humble.

The teams played two double round robin schedules to determine the winner. No charges were made for any of these games. The Conroe Independent School District paid all the expenses which were $700.00 for lights, $250.00 for upkeep of the field, $200.00 for a new backstop, and $100.00 for bats and balls. The winning team received a trophy.

In the final standing, as shown in Table 6, Rush Motors was the winning team with ten games won and two lost, a
percentage of .833. The remaining teams' standing were as follows: Superior Oil, eight won and four lost, percentage .666; Midland Gas, four won and eight lost, percentage .333; Humble, two won and ten lost, percentage .166.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Softball League Teams</th>
<th>Final Standing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rush Motors</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superior Oil</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midland Gas</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humble</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Center or Recreation Building

The Recreation Building was built in 1941 by the Conroe Independent School District. The cost of construction of the building was $94,000.00 and the land on which it was erected was purchased by the School District at a cost of $1,100.00. The swimming pool is built on a portion of this same land.  

The Recreation Building has a large office which is occupied by H. N. Anderson, Superintendent of Schools in the Conroe


Independent School District. This office and a comfortable lounge are connected by the foyer or main entrance. Adjoining the lounge is a large kitchen with facilities to prepare for parties and banquets. The building also contains a large playroom with two ping pong tables, two shuffle board areas, twelve game tables and a reading space. The remainder of the building is a room seventy-five by eighty feet which serves a dual purpose. It may be used for dancing, as it contains a nickelodian and sandwich counter, or it may be used for tennis, badminton and volleyball, since the courts are laid out or painted on the floor.

The Recreation Building is open to the public four days and nights each week. It is open to the school children the remaining two days and nights, Sundays excluded. When public organizations have the use of the building, they are required to pay a fee of $5.00 per meeting. The building is owned and operated by the School District and is supervised by the athletic director.

On September 1, 1947 the initial meeting of the square dancing club was held at the community center with twenty couples present. The club met each Monday night thereafter for fourteen weeks. Thirty-six couples joined the club paying a membership fee of $10.00 per couple. The total fees received were $360.00. Rent of the hall during this time
amounted to $70.00 and the instructor from Houston was paid $210.00. After these expenses were deducted from the money received from fees, there was a balance of $50.00 in the club treasury.8

The first Monday night in each month the club met for a party and charged fifty cents per couple. During the fourteen-week period this netted $80.00. The $130.00 which had accumulated in the club fund was used to defray the expenses of a large party which was given the final Monday night. Thirty-two couples attended this party.

To give other clubs the privilege of using the hall, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights were left open. There were but ten nights out of the past year in which the community center was not in use. Use of the hall for the complete year contributed $750.00 to the athletic fund. Practically every club or organization in Conroe used the center at least once during the year.

On Friday and Saturday nights the center is left open to school children and the public alike. They may dance, read, play ping pong, shuffle board, cards, and other types of games of their choice.

8Square Dancing Club Record of 1947-18, Conroe, Texas.
Swimming Pool

The Conroe Independent School District owns and operates a swimming pool which is 105 feet long, fifty feet wide, and has an average depth of five and one-half feet. It has a capacity of 225,000 gallons, including a wading pool, and is located adjacent to the recreation building. The athletic director is in full charge of the pool.

The first six weeks and the last six weeks of each school year it is open to school children only. The girls' and boys' physical education classes of the high school use the pool on Mondays and Tuesdays, respectively; the girls' and boys' physical education classes of the junior high school use the pool on Wednesdays and Thursdays, respectively; Friday the elementary school uses the pool. In all classes instruction is given in swimming.

During the summer months of June, July and August the pool is open to the public six days each week from four to six in the afternoon and from seven-thirty to ten o'clock at night. Admission for children is nine cents and for adults it is thirty-five cents.

During the three-month period, as reflected in Table 7, 759 adults swam in the afternoon and 1,587 at night, making a total of 2,346 adults participating in this activity. The number of children who swam in afternoons was 6,104 and at
night 7,892, making a total of 13,996 children participating in this activity. This constituted a grand total of 16,342 participating in swimming during the three-month period, an average of 1,257 weekly.9

| TABLE 7 |
| THE NUMBER OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN WHO SWAM AT DAY AND NIGHT WEEKLY DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST, 1947 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2-7</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9-14</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16-21</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23-28</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30-July 5</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 7-12</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14-19</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21-26</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28-August 2</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4-9</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 11-16</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18-23</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 25-30</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1587</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>7892</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total proceeds from this activity amounted to $2,291.88 and the expenses connected with it amounted to $1,095.00, which

represented the salary of $495.00 paid to the ticket window operator and $600.00 to the boy and girl custodians of the locker rooms. This resulted in a net profit of $1,196.88, which was placed in the athletic fund.\(^{10}\)

Each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings children were given swimming lessons from nine to eleven o'clock. Three forty-minute periods were offered each day and each class met twice a week, either on Tuesday and Thursday or on Wednesday and Friday, with a separate class for boys and girls each period. These classes were divided into three groups: non-swimmers, swimmers, and junior lifesaving. Two instructors were provided each day.

As shown in Table 8, during the three-month period 1,763 boys and 1,392 girls took swimming lessons.

**TABLE 8**

**NUMBER OF BOYS AND GIRLS TAKING SWIMMING LESSONS EACH WEEK DURING JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST, 1947**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2-7</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9-14</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 16-21</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 23-28</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 30-July 5</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{10}\)Tbid.
TABLE 8—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 7-12</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 14-19</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 21-26</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 28-August 2</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4-9</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 11-16</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 18-23</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 25-30</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1763</td>
<td>1392</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Golf Course

Five miles west of the city of Conroe is a nine-hole golf course. It was built in 1930 at a cost of $18,000.00, including the club house. There are also picnic and camping grounds alongside a large lake which is kept well-stocked with a variety of fish.

During the past year this club had a membership of 275, at a fee of $36.00 each, which amounted to $10,900.00.11

On July 4th and 5th the club sponsored a medal score tournament. This was divided into the Championship, First, Second, and Third flights and each entrant was required to pay $2.00. The first place winner in each flight received $24.00

11Personal Interview with Ty Cobb.
and second place winners received $16.00 in trade at the club's store.

On July 25, 26 and 27 Conroe held its annual invitation golf tournament. The championship flight consisted of thirty-two players and the other four flights had sixteen each. The winner of the championship flight received a $100 War Bond, second place a $50 War Bond, and consolation also received a $50 War Bond. The first place winners in each of the other flights received a $50 War Bond and second place winners a $25 War Bond. There was a total of ninety-six entered in the tournament.

During the year six Scotch Tournaments were held for the men and women. In this tournament each man was paired with a woman, the couple using the same ball, and the game played by alternating each shot. The low scorers won the tournament. After each of these occasions the Ladies Golf Association, which had been organized earlier in the year, served refreshments.

On October 29th the Ladies Golf Association held its first tournament, with thirty-two entries. The tournament was played in foursomes and the score for each was kept on the total eighteen holes. Mrs. L. C. Bernett won the tournament by low score of 106. An entry fee of one dollar was charged and this money was used for prizes.
The Ladies Golf Association boasted a membership of thirty-six the past year.\textsuperscript{12}

Arts and Crafts

In cooperation with the adult homemaking department of the Conroe Independent School District, a club was formed in the recreation center for courses in charm and personality, wardrobe planning and upkeep, and dressmaking and allied domestic arts. In connection with domestic arts this group made twenty-five beautifully designed quilts which were donated to the Red Cross.\textsuperscript{13}

Both adults and children participated in the Arts and Crafts program working with paper, wood, leather, clay and metal. Among the many articles made were puppets and marionettes, doll furniture, jewelry, tags, bird houses and kites.

Summer Symphony

The Conroe Independent School District's summer symphony orchestra has presented to the public six concerts during the past season with an estimated attendance of 4,500 for the season.\textsuperscript{14}

\textsuperscript{12}Records of Ladies Golf Association 1947-48, Conroe Country Club.

\textsuperscript{13}Personal interview with Mrs. Bob Shaw.

\textsuperscript{14}Personal interview with H. C. Cannon.
Drama

The Conroe Civic Theatre in the last year has presented five plays and the producers are stressing to the children that production is as much pleasure as acting and that for the most part it does not require special skill.

Boy and Girl Scouts in the Conroe Independent School District

Conroe has two fine scout camps, one for boys and one for girls, located three miles south of the city. Living quarters are provided for the caretakers of each camp. The boy scout house will accommodate 125 and the girl scout house accommodates fifty. On the property there are two lakes which are excellent for fishing, swimming or boating. There are adequate picnic grounds with swings and slides for the scouts. The property covers an area of 425 acres.

Conroe has ten boys' troops and five girls' troops, each of which spent at least one week at the camp last summer.15

Recreation for Colored

The recreation department operates a well-equipped park and playground for the colored citizens. The area consists of five acres of land and contains the following facilities: one well-lighted softball diamond, two tennis courts, a band stand,

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15 Personal interview with Fred Lamp.
swings, seesaws, slides, picnic tables and benches, and a large gymnasium. Trained leaders are on duty the year round.

Thus, in light of the standards set by the National Recreation Association, the Conroe Independent School District meets the requirements for the outdoor facilities in that it does have fields, courts, pools, playgrounds and playfields.

It meets the indoor standards for the recreation building which has all of the necessary facilities for games, sports, crafts, clubs, music and drama.

It does not meet the standards of location of these facilities, however, for these are not within one-quarter to one-half mile of each family in the community. Likewise, the staff needs to be enlarged and additional voluntary workers added.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

In light of the standards set by the National Recreation Association, the following conclusions are drawn for the recreation program of the Conroe Independent School District:

1. The Conroe Independent School District has grown from a one-room schoolhouse to a model school system with money and equipment to operate a balanced recreation program for the public.

2. The District not only operates but finances the recreation program for the public.

3. The Athletic Department has made great progress in its summer program for children.

4. The Recreation Department has maintained leaders under whose guidance the recreation program has steadily advanced.

5. The Recreation Department provides facilities for the colored people of the city.

6. The School Board in united effort has met the demands for establishment of various types of activities, namely, physical, creative, social, mental and service, to meet the requests and gain the interest of the entire population of the Conroe Independent School District.
7. The Athletic Department more than meets the needs of the students in Interscholastic League competition.

8. The recreation program makes provision for softball leagues.

9. An adequate community center is open to the public from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., daily except Sunday.

10. An excellent swimming program is carried out during school term and summer months.

11. A nine-hole golf course located near the city provides facilities for this sport.

12. Programs of arts and crafts, summer symphony, drama, and many others are carried on in the summer months.

13. There are camps in which boy and girl scouts may carry on an adequate program.

Recommendations

In view of the standards set by the National Recreation Association and the conclusions drawn from this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Basketball goals should be put up on the three tennis courts at the Crockett High School and lights installed; the courts could then be used both night and day for tennis, volleyball and basketball.
2. Adequate instruction should be provided for persons desiring to learn new activities and those desiring to acquire more skill in their chosen activity.

3. In the open space at the community center it is recommended that the following facilities be built: four tennis courts, two volleyball courts, three shuffle board courts, two croquet courts, two horseshoe pits, one eighteen-hole miniature golf course, spray pond, barbecue pits and tables, jungle gym set, one large sand box, four see-saws, six swings, and one parallel bar, and that benches and chairs be placed under the shade trees.

4. A football field, 440-yard track, and grand stands to seat two thousand people should be built at the junior high school.

5. In the open space at the junior high school three courts for playing basketball, volleyball and tennis should be built.

6. Two softball fields and two touch football fields should also be built in the open space at the junior high school.

7. At the elementary school there should be additional swings, see-saws, sand boxes and another wave slide.

8. A summer program should be worked out for the young people of the Conroe Independent School District which could be run from five-thirty each afternoon until 10:00 P.M.
9. The nine-hole golf course should be extended to eighteen holes.

10. The school should sponsor both swimming and golf in their Interscholastic League program.

11. Other clubs should be organized with functions parallel to the present clubs, in order to interest more people in a wider variety of recreational activities.
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