A study of recreation interests and needs of Negro youth in relation to social planning in Miami, Florida, 1951

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A STUDY OF RECREATION INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF NEGRO YOUTH IN RELATION TO SOCIAL PLANNING IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, 1951

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ATLANTA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

BY
WALTER COURTNEY PINKSTON

ATLANTA, GEORGIA
AUGUST 1951
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter I. INTRODUCTION .......................... 1
  Significance of Study .................................. 1
  Purpose of Study ...................................... 2
  Scope and Limitations .................................. 3
  Method of Procedure .................................... 4
  Socio-Economic Characteristics .......................... 4

II. RECREATION FACILITIES ............................ 8
  Liberty City .......................................... 11
  Washington Heights .................................... 17
  Coconut Grove ......................................... 24

III. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION PROGRAM .......... 29
  Public Agencies ........................................ 31
  Private Agencies ....................................... 41

IV. RECREATION NEEDS AND INTERESTS .................. 50
  Liberty City .......................................... 52
  Washington Heights .................................... 54
  Coconut Grove ......................................... 57

V. CONCLUSIONS ........................................ 63
  Findings ................................................ 63
  Recommendations ....................................... 66

APPENDIX .................................................. 68
  Questionnaire ......................................... 69
  Extract .................................................. 71
  Map of Greater Miami .................................. 72

BIBLIOGRAPHY ............................................ 73
# LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Number of Boys and Girls Interviewed by Area....................</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Use of Facilities by Areas and Sex.............................</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Handicraft Participation........................................</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Playground Activities by Area, Sex and Age......................</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Club Affiliations by Sex........................................</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Recreation Interests in Liberty City.............................</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Club Affiliations in Liberty City................................</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Recreation Interests in Washington Heights.......................</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Club Affiliations in Washington Heights..........................</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Recreation Interests in Coconut Grove............................</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Club Affiliations in Coconut Grove................................</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Significance of Study

Within recent years people have become more conscious of the fact that recreation, is an integral part of the process of socialization, is one of the essential factors in the development of opportunities for a more wholesome existence in any given community. Recreation has come into focus as being "as necessary and as normal as the work whereby one earns his daily bread."\(^1\) This is especially true in urban areas where the current trend is toward more leisure time as the result of shorter working hours for all employees.

Working from the premise that the child has a right to play just as much as an individual has the right to food and shelter,\(^2\) society should be seriously concerned with the combined efforts of the psychologist, the sociologist and the educator - all of whom have made definite contributions toward advancements in the area of recreation. They would have us know: (1) that play is essential for good mental and physical hygiene; (2) that there are marked relationships between the positive and negative aspects of the incidences of juvenile delinquency and the lack of recreational opportunities designed


to meet the needs of today's youth;\(^1\) and (3) that the success of the learning process, resulting in the socially accepted personality, is partially attributed to the amount of wholesome and satisfactory recreational experiences injected into the process.

Of equal importance, then, is the question of whether or not physical facilities and agency sponsored programs, public and private, bespeak wise social planning by the community leadership with respect to its youth.

As a result of suggestions made by members of the Recreation Committee of the Greater Miami Urban League, this writer elected to inquire into the recreation setup for Negro youth of Miami in order to establish some bases upon which present facilities and programs might be improved and, wherever necessary and possible, new ones might be added.

**Purpose of Study**

The purpose of this study, fourfold in nature, is as follows: to determine the number and types of recreation facilities and programs available to Negro youth in this geographical area; to describe the physical aspects of these facilities; to examine recreation programs sponsored by public and private agencies to discover to what extent the needs of these youth are being met as partially determined by their interests and choices; and to discover to what extent basic social planning

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in the area of recreation is effective in the promotion of community well-being.

Scope and Limitations

This study was confined to the geographical area of Metropolitan Miami, Florida, which includes within its boundaries three densely populated Negro districts, namely, Liberty City, Washington Heights (or Central Negro District), and Coconut Grove. One of the largest cities in the state of Florida, Miami has an overall population of 246,938\(^1\) of which 43,788 are Negroes.\(^2\)

Findings of this study are determined by information obtained from schedules circulated among students in the public schools of the three Negro sections concerned; from interviews with boys and girls making use of the facilities found in the respective areas; and from information derived from other contacts with individuals and organizations representing a suitable cross section of the population. The writer selected students from grades four through twelve, because the ages in which he was interested are generally found in these grades.

Due to the time element involved, it was impossible to complete as many schedules as were originally planned; however, school administrators, sympathizing with the project, gave their

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\(^2\)See Appendix, p.
fullest cooperation whenever possible. The writer also experienced a more willing attitude on the part of the younger students to cooperate, but the proper execution of the questionnaire, when left entirely up to them, would suffer because of their lack of experience in having filled out such questionnaire heretofore.

Method of Procedure

The data for this study were obtained by means of circulating questionnaires among 289 students of the various schools of the Negro districts. This method was employed to ascertain the interests of the boys and girls in the use of recreational facilities found in their respective residential areas. Questions comprising the schedule were formed after consulting several source materials dealing with the different aspects of the problem to be treated, such as survey techniques, Recreation standards, and effective social planning. Personal interviews and observation were other approaches employed in obtaining additional information necessary to complete this study.

Socio-Economic Characteristics

The Negro occupies a strategic place in the socio-economic pattern of the City of Miami. According to a survey conducted

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1National Recreation Association, _Know Your Community_, May, 1944.
2Ibid.
3Joanna Colcord, _Your Community_ (New York, 1941), pp. 156-83.
by the National Urban League, one fourth of the employed workers in the city are Negroes - of which the bulk is in the domestic service category. This is to be expected inasmuch as Miami is chiefly a resort area. The next largest number of employees will be found in the labor-mechanic group, followed by the laundry workers. Florida State Employment Service reveals that of the 3,086 city employees, 721 or 23.3 per cent are Negroes. These include one municipal judge (in charge of the Negro Court), one public librarian, two library aides, forty police patrolmen, two clerks, one clerk-typist and laborers. The highest number of professional and semi-professional employees are found in the school teacher bracket. Of the approximately 2800 public school teachers, 403 are Negroes. Although there were no figures submitted to substantiate his assertion, the director of the Negro Division of the Florida State Employment Service makes the following statement:

It is our interpretation that the Negro is playing a more vital role in the industrial pattern of this city than he has heretofore. We are entering various industrial plants in capacities other than unskilled laborers in much larger numbers than in previous years.

One of Miami's chief social problems is that of housing

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1 National Urban League, Review of Economic and Cultural Problems in Dade County (New York, 1943), pp. 7-8.
2 Interviews with Director Melvin R. Jackson (Florida State Employment Service, Miami, Florida, June 16 and 21, 1951).
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
for Negroes. Two of the areas concerned in this study have been termed Miami’s “two blighted areas.” They are Washington Heights and Coconut Grove. According to a survey made jointly by planning agencies of the city, 50.4 per cent of the dwelling units in Washington Heights and fifty-two per cent of the dwelling units in Coconut Grove, respectively, were substandard. However, due to the fact that 37.1 per cent of the families had total incomes above $200.00 per month, there was some indication that substantial housing for this segment could be provided by private capital. On the other hand, the 23.5 per cent whose total family income was less than $150.00 per month indicated a need for some form of low cost housing. At this writing, plans are still in litigation for the construction of one thousand public housing units for Negroes in different sections of the county to supplement the 987 units now located in Liberty City. It is the feeling that these additional units will alleviate the unwholesome conditions of the two blighted areas.

Although not considered a major social problem in the areas concerned, correspondence with Juvenile Court authorities reveals that "theft, truancy [and] running away from home" comprise the chief categories in which Negro youths are

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1Planning Board of the City of Miami, Florida. Dwelling Conditions In the Two Principal Blighted Areas (Miami, Florida, n.d.)

2Ibid., p. 67.

3Interview with Judge Walter H. Beckham (Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Miami, Florida, June 16, 1951)
reported for delinquent acts. To the question of "How do these figures compare with those of white youth," the answer given was "more theft - less other offenses."  

A modern detention home with trained staff, now in operation, and the establishing of a Juvenile Aid Bureau in the Police Department, with Negro police officers working with Negro children, are steps being taken to combat the delinquency problem.
CHAPTER II

RECREATION FACILITIES

To build upon what is already available is an evidence of soundness on the part of any and all agencies in a community responsible for the social planning of that community. By the same token, no community would wisely attempt to modify its recreation set up without first ascertaining what facilities are available; in what physical condition these facilities are; and the establishment of the adequacy of said facilities in terms of community needs.

The National Recreation Association has set standards governing the adequacy of certain outdoor and indoor recreation facilities. The playground, usually the first area that comes to mind in any discussion pertaining to recreation, is defined as follows:\(^1\)

"... an out of door area used by children of both sexes ... devoted to a variety of play and recreation activities adopted to the different age groups, sexes and the peculiar needs and interests of the community."

A playground of at least 2.75 acres per 1,000 neighborhood population should be within a quarter of a mile of every home in the community. In neighborhoods of more than 5,000 population, it is generally advisable to develop more than one playground since it is difficult to secure land space in access of


8
six acres within the corporate limits of urban communities.\textsuperscript{1}

A well planned playground is attractive and laid out in such a manner that each age group can take part in its desired activities without interference with other groups. The ideal plan for playgrounds include facilities and areas permitting the widest range of activities such as specialized features as well as informal play. Playgrounds are generally designed to accommodate children between the ages of five and fifteen. But what about the age groups fifteen and up?

Again, the ideal situation would be the establishment of a playfield for those fifteen years of age and up within a half mile distance of every home in the community, depending upon the population density. Although twenty acres are generally required to provide the essential features of a playfield,\textsuperscript{2} ten to twelve acres may suffice. The playfield should provide the following features:\textsuperscript{3}

Children's playground; areas for several major field games and sports for men and women; courts for tennis, shuffleboard, bocce, badminton, volley ball 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.

\textsuperscript{1}National Recreation Association, \textit{Standards For Neighborhood Recreation Areas and Facilities} (New York, 1944), p. 5.

\textsuperscript{2}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 6.

\textsuperscript{3}\textit{Ibid.}
Of equal importance is the fact that indoor facilities have their definite place in the total recreation set up of the community. A city with a population as large as that of Miami should provide the following indoor facilities for its Negro population:¹

1. Gymnasiums, one for each 10,000 of the population or less
2. Auditorium or assembly hall, one for each 20,000 of the population or less
3. Social or play room, one for each 10,000 or the population or less
4. Informal reading and quiet game room, one for each 10,000 of the population or less
5. Active game room, one for each 10,000 of the population or less
6. Arts and crafts workshop, one for each 10,000 of the population or less
7. Club or multiple use room, one for each 4,000 of the population or less
8. Indoor swimming pool, one for each 50,000 of the population or less

Although, in some communities, it is a question as to which branch or department of the municipal government should have the authority of administration, it is generally agreed that each community should afford library facilities for its total population. Generally accepted as an educational institution, the library still has its place in recreation as a place affording opportunities for passive leisure time activities.

Authorities generally agree that each community should provide types of recreation facilities in which the widest

¹National Recreation Association, Know Your Community (New York, 1943), pp. 22-23.
variety of activities can be engaged in by all age groups of the population. Therefore, for the purpose of this study, the facilities surveyed in the three geographical locations concerned fall within the following categories: playgrounds (including indoor activities of centers located on the property), swimming (pools and beaches), theatres, and libraries.

Liberty City

Playgrounds:—The current trend in planning recreation areas is that, as nearly as possible, the playground or playfield should adjoin the school site, in order that maximum use can be made of the facility at all times. Although there are three public schools in the Liberty City area, the total playground area is less than three acres. This area is used jointly by the Liberty City Elementary School, with an attendance roll of approximately 1000 pupils, and the Dorsey High School, which has an enrollment of 1355. There is a limited amount of athletic equipment on the playground, notwithstanding the fact that it has to be used for all athletic activities of both schools. The total equipment consists of two basketball courts (also used for volley ball), a horsehoe pit and two goal posts for football practice. There is very little use made of this facility after school hours and during the summer months. This is partially due to the lack of proper supervision and

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1Interview with Assistant Supervisor Baker N. Hindman (Dade County Board of Public Instruction, Miami, Florida, June 28, 1951)
Inadequate equipment.

In the Liberty Square Housing Project, a 987 unit project administered by the Miami Housing Authority, there is set aside a playground of approximately one acre in size. Located in the center of this project, the playground offers opportunities for soft ball, volley ball, shuffleboard and basketball. On the surface, this would seem to indicate that outdoor facilities at Liberty Square were quite diversified, but it must be taken into consideration that the shuffleboard court and the volley ball court constitute a combination court, thus only one activity can be performed at one time. The same is true with softball and basketball. Provisions for the latter are in the short cut field of the soft ball diamond, thus, making it impossible to conduct the two activities simultaneously. According to the National Recreation Association, the play areas of Liberty City do not come up to standards with respect to size and diversity of activities.

To assure maximum attendance, enjoyment and use of all facilities, competent leadership and supervision must be in evidence. C. Gilbert Wrenn and D. L. Harley, known authorities on leisure time activities, agree that "Nothing will contribute more to the pleasure and profit the public obtains from

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1Interview with Director Knox Eldridge (Department of Welfare, Miami, Florida, June 15, 1951)

its recreational facilities than guidance in their use."¹ The National Recreation Association sets the following minimum standards for leadership in a well organized recreation program:²

1. A superintendent of recreation, employed full time the year round for communities of 8,000 or more population.

2. A director and assistants for each playground, playfield, recreation building or indoor center.

All workers should be selected by a genuine merit system whether by civil service or some other method.

In order to maintain effectiveness in the operation of recreation facilities, all workers should further be required to take short courses, attend recreation workshops and institutes periodically, or engage in other activities enabling them to keep abreast with current recreation trends.

As has been stated, there is only supervision of activities on the playground used by Dorsey High School and Liberty City Elementary School during school hours. Due to this lack of leadership the worth of this facility after such hours is practically nil, thus creating a waste of much needed land space for recreation. However, the city of Miami employes two full time (One each, male and female) recreation supervisors at the Liberty Square playground. Although a full time employee,


the female worker puts in only the afternoon hours at Liberty Square - the morning hours being spent with a pre-school group at Dixie Park in Washington Heights. The part time employee, usually female, is hired during the summer months. These positions are filled by civil service appointees, having degrees in physical education or equivalent experience in playground supervision. Their hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The workers divide the Saturday hours, alternating weekly between morning and afternoon. Thus, each works full time five and one half days per week. The playgrounds, though open, are not supervised on Sundays.

For indoor facilities, the population of Liberty City turns to the "cafetoria" (a combination cafeteria and auditorium) of the elementary school and the auditorium of the Liberty Square Housing project. The cafetoria is of the most modern design with a seating capacity of approximately 750 persons, an intercommunication and public address system, fluorescent lights, and a small stage. For other than school purposes, this facility is used by youth and civic groups with special permission from the Dade County School authorities, who assess a small fee according to the activity.

Indoor accommodations at Liberty Square include an auditorium with a seating capacity of approximately 500. This facility also houses a kitchen, a small library (now being used by Negro police patrolmen as their headquarters), and a thirty-five capacity day nursery. Having movable seats, the auditorium accommodates most of the teen-age dances, fashion shows, art
exhibits, and other youth activities. According to the manager of the project, this facility is in use at least four nights per week by the school age groups of the community. Upon inspection of the school cafeteria and the project's auditorium, it was noted by the writer that both facilities were kept in excellent condition with respect to cleanliness and maintenance.

The James E. Scott Community Association, a private group work agency, financed by the Community Chest of Dade County, is located on 15th Avenue at 62d Terrace. Situated on the periphery of the Liberty Square Housing Project, this agency is housed in a small storefront building which is only large enough to house the administrative activities of the agency and a small workshop that accommodated about ten boys. This agency is discussed in detail in Chapter III.

Swimming: Although there are no swimming facilities for the Negro youth in Liberty City, twenty-four of the twenty-seven boys and twenty-six of the forty girls interviewed engaged in swimming activities. (See Tables 1 and 2). This means that the boys and girls of this area must travel a distance of six miles to Washington Heights, or twelve miles to Virginia Beach, a Dade County owned and operated facility.

Theatres: The only form of wholesome commercial

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1Interview with Manager William W. McBride (Liberty Square Housing Project, Miami, Florida, June 16, 1951)

2Interview with Director Olive B. Alexander (James E. Scott Community Association, Miami, Florida, June 29, 1951).
recreation for the Negro youth of Liberty City is one motion picture theatre, accommodating approximately 300 people. Twenty-four of the thirty-seven boys and thirty-four of the forty girls, or eighty-six per cent of the total indicated their attendance at the movies. (See Table 2). The average attendance for that number was once weekly.

**TABLE 1**

**NUMBER OF BOYS AND GIRLS INTERVIEWED BY AREAS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty City</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Heights</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut Grove</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the Liberty Theatre belongs to the Wometco Theatre Chain, which manages four of the six theatres in the Negro sections of Miami, it receives the current shows one week later than the downtown theatres, hence, twenty-four of the fifty-eight boys and girls answering in the affirmative indicated their attendance at theatres in other sections of the city, preferably, the theatre in the Washington Heights area.

Library: - Of the sixty-seven boys and girls interviewed in the Liberty City area, fifty-four or eighty-two per cent indicated their attendance at a library. In answer to the question "Which library do you attend?", fifty-one or ninety-four per cent of the total replied, "the school." It is not known
whether or not the high percentage of attendance at the school library is due to the fact that in the high school, the library is also used for home room and study hall activities. But it is known that there are no other available library facilities in the Liberty City area.

### TABLE 2

**USE OF FACILITIES BY AREAS AND SEX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Liberty City</th>
<th>Washington Heights</th>
<th>Coconut Grove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Boys (97)</td>
<td>Girls (129)</td>
<td>Boys (218)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Girls (221)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Girls (113)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatres</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Washington Heights

Playgrounds: Washington Heights affords the greatest diversification of recreation facilities for the Negro youth of the city of Miami. One elementary school, two primary schools and one high school are located in the area. Of these four schools, two make use of the city's playground to carry on their major outdoor activities. One of the schools, the high school, is located two blocks from the playground it uses. Students have to walk this distance to and from the playground during the days scheduled for physical training. This school, with an enrollment of 1,598, has an outdoor area of approximately one
third acre. Recreation facilities are a combination double basketball-volleyball court, and a small drill and physical education area. This small outdoor space is not open to the public after school hours. So from the standpoint of a recreation facility serving the community, the school grounds in the Washington Heights area are of little or no value to the community at large.

All sixty-two boys and sixty-eight of the girls interviewed indicated their patronage of one or both of the two publically owned and operated playgrounds in the Washington Heights area. (See Table 2). Dorsey Park, consisting of 2.52 acres is very poorly located with respect to its accessibility to persons who would use it. There is a very heavily travelled thoroughfare running between the field and the residences of its would be patrons. The field, surrounded by ten foot concrete wall with four wooden gates and a very poor lighting system, is used as a commercial facility during the different athletic seasons. In answer to the question "What playground do you attend?" only fourteen boys and eleven girls answered "Dorsey Park." The playing field is used alternately for softball, baseball, and football; however, it is open five and one half days per week for other recreation purposes; and too, the only equipment on the field consists of two practice basketball backboards, two

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1 Baker N. Hindman, op. cit.
2 Knox Eldridge, op. cit.
goal posts, and a section of removable bleachers.

The city of Miami employs one full time male supervisor and one part time female assistant (during the summer months) who are in attendance all during the operating hours of the playground.

Dixie Park, located in the very center of the Washington Heights section, is smaller in area than Dorsey Park. Of the 130 boys and girls indicating their attendance at a playground, 105 named Dixie Park as their choice. This playground's entire 2.08 acreage is surrounded by a six to eight foot high galvanized wire fence with appropriate openings. Although attempts have been made to rectify the situation, a portion of the field cannot be used during the rainy season due to improper drainage.

Playground facilities at Dixie Park include: a children's corner, a combination softball-baseball diamond, two basketball courts, one combination tennis-volleyball court. The children's corner is well equipped with jungle bars, swings, merry-go-round, and sand boxes. The areas used for competitive athletic activities are lighted during the respective seasons.

Open six days per week, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., activities are supervised by two full time employees of the city of Miami. The same as in Liberty City, Dixie Park supervisors also alternate their Saturdays between the morning and afternoon hours.

Swimming: The only swimming pool available to the Negro population of Miami is located in Dixie Park. Of those boys

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1Knox Eldridge, op. cit.
and girls indicating their participation in swimming activities,\(^1\) fifty-one and twenty-nine, respectively, named Dixie Park pool as their place for swimming. This pool, completed in the Spring of 1950, can accommodate approximately 300 bathers at one time. Although, not coming up to standards of the National Recreation Association, which states that the "total bathing facilities should be capable of serving three per cent of the total population ..."\(^2\) Dixie Pool certainly alleviates the swimming problems of the Negro youth in Miami. The only other bathing facility available to Negroes is Virginia Beach, owned and operated by Dade County and located approximately six miles south of the city.

The swimming pool is in operation six days per week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the summer months and 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. during the school term. There are two full time male supervisors on duty daily who are also certified by the American Red Cross as qualified life guards.

Indoor facilities: Booker T. Washington High School houses the only publically owned auditorium in the Central Negro District. This facility has a capacity for 900 people. It is well lighted and excellently maintained, but has very poor acoustics. Occasional operettas, amateur hours and special moving picture shows are sponsored here by the young people of the community.

\(^1\)Table 2, p. 17.
\(^2\)National Recreation Association, Know Your Community (New York, 1943), p. 22.
Other groups may use the auditorium with special permission from Dade County School Board. Immovable seats make this auditorium of no use other than for the purposes stated.

The Youth Center, privately owned and operated by the Greater Miami Urban League, but located in Dixie Park, has a limited indoor space, accommodating approximately 250 people. This center is widely used by teen-agers for week-end dances, parties and the like. This building also houses branch offices of the Young Men's Christian Associations and the Young Women's Christian Associations, the Girl Scouts and the Miami Urban League. Its conference room and administrative offices provide limited space for small groups and teen-age club activities. The city of Miami provides indoor game equipment and shares its outdoor supervisors when necessary. This facility is open six days per week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the summer months and Saturdays, and from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. during school days. However, use of the facility after 6 p.m. may be obtained by contacting the Greater Miami Urban League.

St. Agnes Episcopal Church, very centrally located, operates a combination Youth and Adult Center. Its indoor facilities consists of a 750 capacity auditorium, a kitchen and one small meeting room. The auditorium is periodically used for roller skating and dancing. However, the use of this facility by the general public is subject to the discretion of the
church. Of the 109 boys and girls indicating their participation in dance activities, thirty-two named the Episcopal Center as their choice. From observation this center is much better appointed as to lighting, size, and attractiveness than the one in Dixie Park, but its religious air is not too attractive to the younger set.

The combined indoor resources of the whole Washington Heights area do not reach the minimum standards for indoor recreation as are outlined on page 13.

Libraries: Studies conducted in such cities as St. Louis and Chicago, revealed that two-thirds of the reading material borrowed from the public libraries are obtained by persons under thirty years of age. This indicates that the younger people are library conscious, but there is still the question of the adequacy of library facilities designed for the exclusive use of Negroes.

Dorsey Memorial Library, a branch of the public library system, is located on the northeastern boundary of the Washington Heights district. Situated on N. W. 1st Avenue, one of the busiest and most heavily travelled thoroughfares, it is a small two room structure, housing approximately 5300 volumes and


2Wrenn and Harley, op. cit., p. 87.

3Interview with Librarian Helen M. Dorsett (Miami, Florida, June 16, 1951).
periodicals. It is very poorly lighted, but is very well maintained. Its staff consists of one chief librarian and two assistants. Prior to July, 1951, books not on the shelves at the Dorsey branch could be obtained from the main branch by the Dorsey librarian. This procedure sometimes took one to two days.

Of the 107 boys and girls in the Washington Heights area indicating their attendance at a library, eighty-one named the Dorsey branch as their choice. This situation is just the reverse of the Liberty City area, which has only school library facilities. Of the latest developments regarding library facilities for the Negroes of Miami, John A. Diaz of the Pittsburgh Courier says:

Further indications that this resort city of Miami is fast becoming the most liberal in the South were made last week when the new million-dollar city public library opened its doors for business, and admitted Negroes to participate at all times in its vast facilities. Heretofore, Negro citizens of Miami were deprived of their city library's full facilities ... But Negroes have had their own branch library in the central Negro District.

Needless to say, this small library, named for a Negro philanthropist, Dorsey Memorial, was sadly inadequate to meet the reading needs of the Negro population of Miami ...

It is probably the only city-owned public library in the South which Negroes are permitted to enter and use all the facilities available to whites.

The building is air-conditioned throughout. The glass windows are specially treated to absorb heat. It has a small auditorium with stage and seating space for 300 on the second floor.

On this floor are private reading rooms for research work. It has a children's room with special furniture of three different heights for different age

1"Miami Opens Million Dollar Library to All Races," Pittsburgh Courier, June 14, 1951, p. 3.
groups. It has a special room which will contain all the valuable reference books of Florida.

Book shelving has been provided for 325,000 volumes. Since the opening of this library, scores of Negroes who never before had a library card from the main public library in Miami, obtained these cards without the slightest difficulty...

It was built at a cost of $1,500,200. It has 61,000 square feet of floor space.

Theatres: Of the six motion picture houses available to Negroes in Miami, four are located in the Washington Heights area. Very strategically situated, these theatres claim a great deal of the time of the boys and girls interviewed during this study. The fifty-four boys and the sixty-three girls affirming their attendance at the movies\(^1\) indicated an average of one and one half times per week. The capacity of these theatres range in accommodations from 500 to 1500 persons. All, with one exception, has some sort of cooling system. Most young people attend the Ritz and the Modern theatres. These two are more centrally located and carry the latest films that are released to Negro theatres.

Coconut Grove

Playground: All public playground facilities and activities for Negroes in Coconut Grove are found at the Grand Avenue Park. Covering an area of five acres,\(^2\) this playground also accommodates the regular athletic activities of the George Washington Carver High School, which is situated on the periphery

\(^1\)See Table 2, p. 17.

\(^2\)Knox Eldridge, \textit{op. cit.}
of the playground. This public school has an enrollment of 1133.¹ The entire area is surrounded by a galvanized wire fence six to eight feet high and topped with barbed wire. The playing field is alternately used for softball, baseball, and touch football. There are sectional and movable bleachers to one side of the field.

According to the National Recreation Association, the playground should be divided into separate sections or areas to permit simultaneous but diversified activity. This condition does exist at the Grand Avenue Park. There is a children's corner with appropriate swings, merry-go-round, slides, and jungle bars. There are two double tennis courts, two combination basketball and volleyball courts, four shuffleboard lanes, and four horseshoe pits. There is also a patio (shelter building) where ping pong and other table games are played. The tennis and basketball areas are sufficiently lighted for night activities.

One full time male and one female part time worker are employed by the city of Miami to supervise the program of the playground. The facility is open to the public six days per week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the summer months and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. during the school term.

Of the thirty-seven boys and the fifty-two girls interviewed during this study, thirty-two and forty-five, respectively, indicated their attendance periodically at Grand Avenue

¹Baker N. Hindman, op. cit.
Of the remaining interviews, two girls and one boy stated no desire for playground activities; four gave the answer "go to Miami" for recreation. The remaining five interviewed made no response.

Swimming: There are no swimming facilities for Negroes in Coconut Grove. Virginia Beach, owned and operated by the Park Department of Dade County, is within four miles of Coconut Grove. Although Virginia Beach is nearer to Coconut Grove than Dixie Pool, nineteen boys and twelve girls indicated their preference for the pool. This can be attributed to the fact that it costs forty cents more to get to Virginia Beach than to Dixie Park.

Library: The school library is the only facility used by the Negro population of Coconut Grove. All contacts, with the exception of three boys and five girls named this library as their place of attendance.

Theatres: The Wometco Theatre Chain operates one theatre in the Coconut Grove section for Negroes. This air-cooled, 600 capacity city movie house is situated in the heart of the community. However, this is also the worst and roughest section of the area with respect to loiterers and dypsomaniacs. There are three Bar-Package stores and one public dance hall within a one hundred yard radius of the theatre. "Going to the

1See Table 2, p. 17.
2Ibid.
show" is generally a favorite pastime of boys and girls within the age brackets of this study, but those boys and girls of Coconut Grove indicated a comparatively lower attendance than those of the other areas contacted. (See Tables 1 and 2).\textsuperscript{1} This situation is attributed to the location of the theatre and the inaccessibility of the downtown theatres. Although there is a regular bus transportation between the two areas, the distance and the necessity for transferring from one bus to another are discouraging factors in the situation.

For other indoor recreation opportunities, the youth of Coconut Grove make use of the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. This is an old wooden structure capable of accommodating approximately 300 persons. There are kitchen facilities, two meeting rooms for clubs and smaller groups, two dressing rooms and a small stage. This hall is open upon request to any community group providing its own supervision. Youth organizations must have one adult sponsor for each twenty-five boys and girls. This hall serves as a focal point for many of the social activities of the community including the club parties and weekend teen-age dances.

Summary:—As a whole, recreation areas and facilities for Negro youth of Miami are inadequate according to the standards of the National Recreation Association and other authorities in the field. Of the three areas surveyed, Grand Avenue Park most

\textsuperscript{1}Ibid.
nearly approached the size standards according to the population-acreage ratio. But Dixie Park's central location and diversified layout affords greater opportunities for more simultaneous activities. Because of the absence of certain facilities in their respective areas, Negro youth must content themselves with their immediate surroundings, or travel great distances to other sections of the city in order to satisfy their needs.
CHAPTER III

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION PROGRAMS

The general public is prone to agree with C. Gilbert Wrenn and D. L. Harley who advance the "re-creative" concept of recreation. This concept would have us believe that recreation is a medium through which wilted spirits are revived, lost energies are restored, and tired bodies and minds are refreshed.¹

The social work profession agrees with the foregoing concept, but with the addition that there is also that creative aspect of recreation through which primary values of leisure pursuit can be measured. These values are increased or decreased in number according to the contributions recreation makes to one's life.

Youth needs the opportunities to follow his normal inclinations under the sympathetic guidance and leadership of adults who are able to appreciate his problems, even if they do not always know the solution to them. The social work profession deems it necessary that youth be left not alone to his own immature and "inexperienced experimenting"² to discover whether or not his pursuits of satisfying experiences are properly directed.

One of the primary factors in a community's approach to its recreation problems is the affixation of responsibilities.

¹C. Gilbert Wrenn and D. L. Harley, op. cit., p. xv.
Of this situation, the National Recreation Association has the following to say:

1. 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. 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.

2. These areas and facilities should be provided primarily on the basis of needs of the entire neighborhood or community.

3. Recreation areas and facilities provide maximum service only when adequate funds are made available for leadership, operation, and maintenance. Like all other service, recreation costs money.

Local government, being cognizant of its responsibilities for providing recreation facilities for the population, is making definite contributions in terms of finance, personnel and limited programs. It must be realized that private agencies have a responsibility to help fill in the "gaps" where the public agencies stop in completing the mobilization of all community resources. Further, both types of agencies should concern themselves not only with facilities, but also with programs designed to bring about maximum benefits to all for whom such programs are to be administered.

Concerning recreation and social planning for Negro youth, C. Gilbert Wrenn and D. L. Harley observe that there are social,  

\[1\text{National Recreation Association, Standards for Neighborhood Recreation Areas and Facilities (New York, 1944), p. 2.}\]
economic and political handicaps imposed upon the Negro which may cause its youth to develop attitudes unfavorable to his own welfare and to that of society. Through wholesome recreation these attitudes may be modified if not totally redirected into favorable ones.¹

In the discussion of the media through which Miami is approaching its responsibilities of social planning for Negro youth, the programs of public and private agencies dealing directly with Negro youth are considered in the ensuing paragraphs.

Public Agencies

Schools:—Of the thirteen schools for Negroes in Dade County, five are located in the corporate boundaries of the city of Miami, two of which are high schools, one primary, and two elementary. The combined enrollment of these schools is 4,992.² The most common way in which schools contribute to the recreational life of the boy or girl is to include subjects in the curricula that have beneficial influence upon the student's use of leisure time. Courses in vocational training and home economics are included in the curricula of all Negro schools contacted during this study. In the high schools, such courses as wood work, metal work, carpentry, radio, and

¹C. Gilbert Wrenn and D. L. Harley, op. cit., p. 20.
²Baker N. Hindman, op. cit.
leather work are offered for boys. The home economic courses offered girls include sewing, cooking, pottery making, interior decorating, weaving, and leather-work. The elementary school offers a limited handicraft course for both sexes. Basically, the courses mentioned in the high schools were designed to appeal to the different sexes, but the practicality of their application in leisure time pursuits stimulates the enrollment of some boys in courses offered for girls and vice versa. About thirty per cent of the students indicating their participation in cooking activities are boys. (See Table 3). Although certain courses are designed for the different sexes, as has been stated, these courses are not closed to members of the opposite sex if they find it convenient to attend. Courses in tailoring are offered in Liberty City and Washington Heights, but not in Coconut Grove, thus explaining the low participation score in Coconut Grove in comparison with those of the other two sections.

Another way in which the schools contribute to the recreation program for youth is through its physical education and extra-class athletic activities, such as football, basketball, tennis and softball. The only criticism against this contribution is that there is little opportunity for mass participation when these activities are put on a competitive basis between schools. More stress should be placed on intra-mural

1P. 33.
2Ibid.
athletic activities. It will be noted that a large per cent of those boys and girls interviewed indicated that they do participate in sports either at school or other places of recreation. (See Table 4)

### TABLE 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Liberty City</td>
<td>Washngtn Hghts</td>
<td>Coconut Grove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketry</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceramics</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawing</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quilting</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewing</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaving</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood work</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio*</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Course in Radio is only conducted in the High School serving Liberty City.

There are no official clubs organized strictly for recreation purposes in the schools. However, through participation in class clubs, such as the Biology Club, the Sewing Circle, Future Teachers, the Home Makers, and the Reading Guilds, though academic in nature yet without the formal discipline demanded in the classrooms, there are opportunities for uninhibited expression, thus relieving tension and giving rise to the creative
aspect of recreation. Clubs and national affiliated organizations sponsoring programs in the schools will be discussed later.

### TABLE 4

**PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES BY AREA, SEX AND AGE GROUPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Liberty City</th>
<th></th>
<th>Washngton Hghts</th>
<th></th>
<th>Coconut Grove</th>
<th></th>
<th>Coconut Grove</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2242</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>347</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dramatics</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoes</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roller Sktn</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volley Ball</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Music and dramatic courses are two media with recreational influences that are very popular with the great majority of boys and girls. A course in Public School Music is required of all high school students, but participation in the musical organizations of the schools is voluntary. One hundred and forty-three boys and 142 girls indicated their participation in one or more musical activities. A combined total of 128 boys and girls indicated their participation in activities connected with
Playgrounds: Through its Recreation Division, the City of Miami operates four public playgrounds for Negroes: namely Grand Avenue Park, in Coconut Grove; Dixie and Dorsey Parks, in Washington Heights, and Liberty Square Playground in Liberty City. The Recreation Division assumes the responsibility for planning the entire programs for all recreation facilities under its jurisdiction. This is done without the consultation of the Negro supervisors. There is distributed to each facility, twice yearly, a master schedule and program from which all program elements are executed.

The diversification of the program is dependent upon what facilities are available at each playground. Hence, the program at Dixie Park is more extensive than those of the other three playgrounds, in that, a variety of activities evolving around the swimming pool are features that are not possible to be sponsored at the other parks.

Inter-park competitive athletic activities and tournaments are encouraged among the four playgrounds. There are basketball, softball, and volleyball leagues with seasonal schedules. The program also includes special features such as, pet shows, bathing beauty contests, Park King and Queen contests, periodic band concerts, talent shows; classes in baton twirling (at Dorsey High School); tap, social, and folk dancing (at Dixie Park).

The following list shows activities that are included in the regular program for the four Negro playgrounds:
Activities Common Additional Activities Activities Peculiar to
To All Playgrounds at Dixie and Grand Avenue Parks Certain Parks
Baseball
Basketball
Badminton
Volleyball
Horseshoe pitching
Table tennis
Games

Tennis

Dixie Park:
Swimming

Dorsey Park:
Commercial Activities
Talent shows
Boxing
Wrestling

Participation in the above listed activities is discussed in Chapter IV.

Swimming: The only two facilities offering opportunities for swimming and bathing for Negroes are the Dixie Park Pool, operated by the City of Miami and the county operated Virginia Beach.

Having been open less than a year, Dixie Park pool is still in the experimental stage insofar as a definite program is concerned. The supervisor indicated that to date no definite program for the general public had been effected. There was only an hourly schedule adhered to on the days the pool is open.\(^1\)

However, the Recreation Division of the City of Miami, has worked out an agreement with the Dade County School Board to conduct classes in swimming and water safety during the regular school term.\(^2\) Classes began in the Spring Semester, 1951, for the

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\(^1\)Interview with Supervisor Booker T. Hayes (Dixie Park Swimming Pool, Miami, Florida, June 21, 1951)

\(^2\)Knox Eldridge, op. cit.
junior and senior male high school students of Booker T. Washington High School, (Washington Heights). There were no classes for girls at the time of this writing.

Classes are conducted during the scheduled recreation periods of the respective classes. Each participant is required to take one 50 minute swimming period per week. The success of this activity will determine whether this activity will be included in the regular curriculum for girls in the future.¹

Since the opening of the pool, there have been conducted several special events which are to be included in the permanent program of the pool. Those events included: a city wide bathing beauty contest, attracting approximately 950 persons in the audience and 32 teenage participants; one city wide swimming meet, attracting some 400 spectators and 61 participants, all under twenty years of age; and three Saturday Night Swim-Dance parties. These parties attracted an average of 300 teenagers.²

Hereofore young people, desiring certificates for life guards, had to go out of the city to attend aquatic schools in order to qualify. Arrangements are being made with the local chapter of the American Red Cross to conduct an annual aquatic school for Negro youth at Dixie Park.

¹Baker N. Hindman, op. cit.
²Booker T. Hayes, op. cit.
The supervisor gives the figure of 6440 as the attendance record for the fiscal year 1950-51.\(^1\) Participation of boys and girls in swimming activities is indicated in Tables 2 and 4.

The two full time supervisors at the pool possesses sufficient educational and physical qualifications to conduct a planned program when given the consent of the City of Miami.

The City of Miami spent $158,997 for its recreation program during the fiscal year of 1950-51. Of this amount $37,252 was spent for the salaries and programs of facilities serving Negroes.\(^2\) These figures do not include the cost of maintenance of the facilities as that item is defrayed by the Park Division, City of Miami.

Special seasonal activities constitute the program of Virginia Beach, located approximately six miles south of the city and operated by the County. Fourth of July Celebrations, Annual Coconut Festivals, Labor Day Celebrations, and the Easter Sunrise Service are the main items on the fiscal year's program. Regular field day activities are planned for all age groups during the Fourth of July and the Labor Day celebrations. All participants in the Coconut Festival are selected from the public schools. Competitive skits, folk dancing teams, musical groups and individual performers vie for cash prizes and other awards furnished by the County. It is estimated that the

\(^1\)Ibid.

\(^2\)Knox Eldridge, op. cit.
average of 2000 young people, between the ages of 9 and 21 take part in these festivities. The most popular of the County sponsored activities is the Easter Sunrise Service. Music and drama groups from the public schools furnish the participants in the pageant. Other than these special events, the County Park Department has no set program for its beach facility. Open the year round, this facility does offer opportunities for unorganized self planned recreation.

Libraries:—The public school libraries' programs are designed so as to educate more boys and girls to realize the values of using all available library facilities, including those outside the schools. Library Orientation is a requirement for each first year junior high school student (7th grade), and Reorientation, for the 10th grader. Although, prior to July 7th, 1951, Negroes were not permitted to use the main branch facilities of the city library system, planned tours of that branch were conducted annually by each Junior and Senior High School Department.

Resulting from the post-planning session of the Dade County School Librarians, June, 1950, library clubs were organized in each school. The purpose of these clubs is to stimulate more interest in the general use of the library without too

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1Interview with Director Jerry Donovan (Dade County Parks Department, Miami, Florida, June 21, 1951).

2Interview with Librarian Juanita Stirrup (Booker T. Washington High School, Miami, Florida, June 21, 1951).
much of the class room demands of systematized study. These clubs make use of the project method in operating a yearly program. They chose "International Good Will" as a theme for the 1950-51 school term. Each month the clubs, under the guidance of their respective librarians, would select some foreign country around which exhibits of reading materials, native dress, and pictures of different scenes of that country would be put on display. Whenever possible, costumes, generally on a loan basis from some costume shop, are added to authenticate the exhibits. Speakers, singers and dancers of that particular country are solicited to appear on the regular programs of these clubs.

Table 2\(^1\) will show that, as a whole, participation in library activities ranked second to that of playground participation. Notwithstanding the fact that the library clubs reach a large segment of the youth population, 81 interviews in the Washington Heights area named the Dorsey Branch Library as their choice. This indicates that the activities in the high school clubs are able to be enjoyed without being academically identified as purely library activities. Library activities as interests of boys and girls are discussed in Chapter IV.

In speaking of public libraries, Wrenn and Harley say that "the two short comings \[of public libraries\] are that there are not enough of them and those that we do have do not make

\(\text{1p. 17.}\)
themselves attractive enough to youth. Likewise, the lack of a definite program to stimulate participation in whatever there is to offer supports the general concept of the community that the library is a place where shelves of outdated dictionaries and encyclopedia are stored for no particular reason. This is not so with the Dorsey Memorial Branch of the city library system. This branch cooperated with the school libraries in obtaining books not available in the school libraries. It also cooperates with the school library clubs in their annual projects by permitting these clubs to use its facilities for exhibits and displays. It further cooperates with other groups working with youth groups such as the Youth Roundup. This organization is sponsored by the Youth Editor of one of the leading daily papers, the Miami Daily News.

Private Agencies

Hardly any community is offered sufficient opportunities for wholesome recreation by public agencies, hence, certain private social work agencies have to share in filling the gaps found in the total recreation program of the community.

There are five such agencies dealing with recreation for Negro youth in Miami, Florida.
Y. M. C. A.: The George Washington Carver Branch Y. M. C. A. occupies only office space in the Youth Center, located in

\[1\] C. Gilbert Wrenn and D. L. Harley, op. cit., p. 20.
Dixie Park. Due to the lack of housing facilities, the branch is able to operate only a decentralized program in the public schools of the county. There are at present 485 members in the 9-14 age group; 125 in the 15-19 age group; and 290 in the 20 and up age group.¹ There are three HI-Y groups and four Gray-Y groups in the Miami area. Having as its purposes "the development of Christian personality and building a Christian society for the youth of Miami ..." the program of the "Y" is carried monthly to the groups located in the schools. Table 5 will show that of a total of 126 boys interviewed during this study, twenty-three or 13.1 per cent indicated membership in the Y. M. C. A. The executive secretary, the only staff member in the branch, makes the explanation that his program would be more effective and would reach more boys if the branch had its own building. He states that "to carry on an adequate program, a regular camp and YMCA owned building is needed. We do not have either."² Special features of the Y's program include Summer Day Camp, bi-weekly teenage dances and the Annual Hi-Y Prom. The Day Camp program is merely a handicraft class, conducted for a two week period in July in the conference room of the Youth Center. The attendance for 1951 was 50 boys. The bi-weekly teenage dances average 300 in attendance. The yearly

¹Interview with Executive Secretary Mannatee I. Brannerman (George Washington Carver Branch YWCA, Miami, Florida, June 21, 1951).

²Ibid.
budget for the last three years has increased from $6500 in 1949 to $7800 in 1951. The membership in the 9-19 age bracket has remained comparatively constant.¹

TABLE 5

CLUB AFFILIATIONS BY SEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Fire Girls</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Clubs</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scouts</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Clubs</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts</td>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Clubs</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Clubs</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y. M. C. A.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y. W. C. A.</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Y. W. C. A.:—The Murrell Branch Y. W. C. A. is also housed in the Youth Center. Its staff consists of a director, Y-Teen Director, and a secretary-bookkeeper. Due to the lack of facilities, this agency, too, is handicapped by having to carry on a decentralized program in the schools. The Y-Teen Department of the branch has a membership of 792 girls ranging in ages from 12 to 18. The Y-Teen program strives "to provide experiences for Teenagers which will aid their development along

¹Ibid.
better moral, spiritual, physical and mental lines.\footnote{1} There are two Y-Teen organizations in each of the three high schools. Advisors for these groups are faculty members of the respective schools. Table 5 shows that of the 163 girls interviewed 83 or 50.9 per cent indicated their membership in the "Y". Special features of the branch include summer swimming and tennis classes. These classes are open to non-members in the community. Whether they are conducted annually depends upon the interest shown at registration time. There were 40 girls registered in the swimming and tennis class during the 1950 session.\footnote{2} To the question "Are your program and facilities adequate...?" the Y-Teen Director replied, "Inadequate... We need a "Y" building with a well equipped recreation room and a place for outdoor and day camping activities." The Director continues with, "the Miami Negro community needs training in civic mindness. Our adults are not sufficiently interested in youth to devote the necessary volunteer time to their efforts."\footnote{3}

Girl Scouts: One of the objectives of the Girl Scouts of America is "to provide creative activities for girls during leisure hours."\footnote{4} There are eight Girl Scouts organizations in the

\footnote{1}Interview with Y-Teen Director Ethel Ferguson (Murrell Branch YWCA, Miami, Florida, June 21, 1951).
\footnote{2}Ibid.
\footnote{3}Ibid.
\footnote{4}Interview with Director Annie Lee Mann (Hibiscus Area Council, Girl Scouts of America, Miami, Florida, June 21, 1951).
Miami area. Six of these groups are in the public schools and two, in the churches. There are only 454 girls in the scouting movement in Miami. This can be partially due to the fact that the organization has been without a director for about eleven months prior to the employment of the present director, April, 1951. The present director, not professionally trained for the work, is undergoing a period of inservice training. Activities of the troops are planned by the Scout Executive of the Dade County Area Council and the new director. For the last three years, the agency has conducted a day camp program at Virginia Beach. The enrollment for 1950 was 43 girls. Registration for the 1951 session was 63 as of June 21, 1951.¹ Table 5 shows that 79 girls or approximately half of the total interviewed are members of the Girl Scouts.²

Boy Scouts: Of the youth serving organizations, the Boy Scout program seems to be reaching more Negro Youth. Table 5 shows that of the total of 126 boys interviewed, eighty-three or sixty-five per cent indicated their membership in the scouting movement. Although he works in two adjacent counties, the scout executive is able to keep close contact among the scout leaders and the committeemen responsible for the program in Miami. There are monthly meetings of each pack, troop, and the Scoutmasters' Council. The Area Council Committee meets

¹Ibid.
²Ibid.
bi-monthly. Frequent Court of Honor ceremonies have been effective in stimulating youth to participate in the scouting movement. Enrollment of 402 boys in 1947 has increased to 961 as of June 16, 1951.

The camping site for Miami scouts is located on a 40 acre tract of land approximately 20 miles south of the city. Camp facilities include a dining hall-administration building, four ten-boy huts, an indoor shower with appropriate toilet facilities, and an abandoned rock quarry converted into a lake.

The camping season, divided into six two-week sessions, is held June 15 through August 15, annually. There is a fee of $9.00 per boy per session. The Lend-a-Hand fund, under the direction of a news columnist from the Miami Herald donates annually to the camping program of the scouts. The 1951 contribution defrayed the cost of 30 camp-o-ships. As of May 15, there were 260 applications for the 1951 camping session.

James E. Scott Community Association: A private group work agency is housed in a crude building once used as a store. It is located on the periphery of the Liberty City Housing Projects. Its program objective is "to provide educational and recreational activities for all age groups including the preschool child, the teenagers and the older age groups." Its

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1Interview with Scout Executive E. N. Taylor (South Florida Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, Miami, Florida, June 21, 1951).

2Interview with Director Olville Alexander (James E. Scott Community Association, Miami, Florida, June 29, 1951).
staff consists of two professional and one clerical person. Its program reached the following groups and numbers for the 1950-51 fiscal year: pre-school, 58; six to twelve, 440; thirteen to 19, 509; and adults, 749.\footnote{Ibid.} None of the interviews in the Liberty City area indicated participation in activities of the Scott Association per se, but due to the fact that this agency co-sponsors at the Housing Project several teenage activities with the recreation worker employed by the city, the director is too modest to claim the credit. The Association plans to put into effect a summer program which will include a play school for pre-school children, handicrafts, dancing, and dramatic arts for teenagers, and a volunteers' training institute.

Other Agencies:-- The Recreation Committee of the Greater Miami Urban League seeks to discover "gaps" in the whole recreation setup in Miami, which may include inadequate land areas for recreational purposes and ineffective programs. The committee makes a report to the executive board of the League who, in turn, relays such recommendations to the appropriate source for the consideration of such problems as are pointed out by the League.

The Welfare Planning Council of Dade County acts as a clearing house for all social agencies of the Community Chest and those non-Chest agencies who seek the services of the
Council. Through its Research Department, a Recreation Resources Index has been compiled for use by all community agencies, public and private, that are interested in the total recreation picture of the county. The Council also screens the budget requests of all Chest agencies prior to the annual allocation of funds to the respective agencies.

All of the aforenamed private agencies are members of and receive over 95 per cent of their fund from the Community Chest of Dade County. Those agencies with membership groups average less than two per cent of their yearly budget from membership drives. Other sources of income, such as outright gifts, are usually earmarked by the donor for some specific project of the receiving agency, so the gift must be spent for that project and not added to operating budget.

Summary:— The programs for Miami's Negro playgrounds are well planned, according to what appears on paper, but the impracticality of their being effected as per schedules is supported by the fact that outdoor and indoor facilities are inadequate to accommodate the neighborhood population. According to their educational and physical qualifications, all supervisors meet the requirements for executing planned programs. The question is, however, whether or not two persons are sufficient in number to properly supervise all activities that should be engaged in simultaneously at each playground.

The common problem that affects the limited programs of the YM. and the YWCA's are the shortages of staff and the lack
of physical facilities owned by these agencies. Each executive expressed the feeling that their respective agencies were not getting the desired support from the community. From the items listed as features of their respective programs, the duplications in evidence in certain areas may contribute to the apparent lack of the community's interest.
CHAPTER IV

RECREATION NEEDS AND INTERESTS

In an attempt to discuss the recreation needs and interests of youth, one should consider the social pattern of the environment in which youth is destined to participate. With modern conveniences providing more leisure time for all age groups in all strata of society, today's youth find themselves in an ever pressing state of needing to "do something" to keep them satisfactorily occupied. There is that urge to move about among other youth of their age and with seemingly like desires and urges. Youth seek to become involved in one or more recreational activities providing media through which their tensions and emotions can be relieved and expressed.

Youth generally make a conscientious effort to find and use these recreational media for their satisfaction, without giving a thought as to whether they have been designed for their well-being. From that observation, authorities dealing with youth problems, have agreed that:¹

1. Nearly all youth need more opportunities for certain essential types of leisure activities.

2. The problem of providing leisure time activities for a number of groups of youth who are especially under-privileged in recreation demands particular attention.

3. There is need for guidance in the use of opportunities for cultural recreation.

¹C. Gilbert Wrenn and D. L. Harley, op. cit., p. 4.
Some of the essential types of leisure activities which tend to assist in the development of physically fit and mentally alert youth are those which provide: (1) opportunities for youth to participate in games, sports, and other outdoor activities; (2) opportunities for creative experiences; (3) opportunities for fuller social life; and (4) opportunities for recreation at home.¹

Those recreational opportunities providing for creative experiences for youth such as participation in dance, dramatic, and musical activities, help youth to become well rounded and poised individuals.

That recreation is no substitute for a job is generally understood, but the unemployed person usually becomes the delinquent person. The same situation may apply to the lives of the youth of the community. Recreation helps to occupy their minds during those times when they are without anything else to do except walk the streets.

Those activities representing the combined programs of all agencies dealing with recreation for Negro youth in Miami were selected for this study.

That Negro youth have been denied equality in the use of recreational facilities in the City of Miami is no indication that their interests should differ from those of other youth who have had access to a wider variety of recreational

¹Ibid., p. 5.
opportunities.

An analysis of the material contained in this chapter will show that Negro youth in all three areas concerned are interested in some activities for which no facilities or programs have been provided.

**TABLE 6**

RECREATION INTERESTS IN LIBERTY CITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acting</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Leather Work</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Marionettes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Metal Work</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballet Dancing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Painting</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Playwriting</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketery</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Puppetry</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bowling, Indoor</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Quilting</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling, Outdoor</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Roller Skating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choral Music</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sewing</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Singing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Social Dancing</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawing</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folk Dancing</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Storytelling</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
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<td>Swimming</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Tap Dancing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Volley Ball</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Weaving</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horseshoes</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Wood Work</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental Music</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liberty City

Twenty-four boys and thirty-six girls indicated their interest in swimming in spite of the fact that there are no swimming facilities in Liberty City. The same is true in the
case of golf, tennis and bowling. Those athletic activities chosen by boys in the order of their preference were: (1) swimming, (2) basketball, (3) soft ball and bowling, and (4) baseball, horseshoe pitching, and golf. The girls chose (1) softball and swimming, (2) basketball, (3) bowling, indoor, and (4) horseshoe pitching, roller skating. Of the seventeen girls indicating interest in roller skating, only two gave roller skating as the answer to the question "What do you do for recreation?"

The sidewalks running through the Liberty Square Housing Project are used by the boys and girls for skating purposes. The majority of the equipment for the other activities in which actual participation is indicated is found on the playground located in the project.

Eight of the nineteen boys indicating interest in sewing were in the 9 to 14 age group; four were students in a school that offered no courses in tailoring; and the other eleven were students in a high school where tailoring courses are offered.

Quilting was taught in connection with furniture upholstering, therefore there were a greater number of boys than girls taking that course.

Eighty-two boys and girls expressed interest in forms of dancing other than social. This was a decided indication that boys and girls have an inclination for the creative forms of recreation.

Those boys and girls expressing interest in music, literary
and dramatic activities are students in schools which sponsor these activities through the departments of classes.

Twenty-six boys expressed interest in the Boy Scouts. This was a total of eight in excess of the actual membership among the boys interviewed. (See Table 7.)

### TABLE 7

**CLUB AFFILIATIONS IN LIBERTY CITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>185</strong></td>
<td><strong>64</strong></td>
<td><strong>121</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Fire Girls</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Clubs</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scouts</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Clubs</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Clubs</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Clubs</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y. M. C. A.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Y. W. C. A.</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interest in the Girl Scouts was consistent with its membership among the girls interviewed in Liberty City. Likewise the four boys expressing interest in the Young Men's Christian Association coincides with the number indicating their interest in the organization when interviewed.

Although there are 4-H clubs in the public schools, only two boys and seven girls indicated membership in the organization.

**Washington Heights**

Of the sixty-two boys interviewed in the Washington
heights area, the following activities are their first four interests: Swimming, basketball, softball and baseball. (See Table 8.) The first four interests of the seventy-one girls are: (1) softball, (2) Basketball and bowling, (3) swimming and (4) volleyball. Nineteen boys and thirty-four girls indicated their interest in golf, despite the fact that there were no golfing facilities in the Washington Heights area.

**TABLE 8**

**RECREATION INTERESTS IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acting</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Instrumental Music</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Leather Work</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>Marionettes</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ballet Dancing</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Metal Work</td>
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<td>Baseball</td>
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<td>Painting</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Playwriting</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketery</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling, Indoor</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Puppetry</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling, Outdoor</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Quilting</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choral Music</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Roller Skating</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Singing</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Sewing</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawing</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Social Dancing</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folk Dancing</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Storytelling</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Tap Dancing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hockery</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Volley Ball</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseshoe</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Weaving</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Woodwork</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other interests expressed where there were little or no facilities available to accommodate the interests were in bowling and roller skating.
Although not listed on the questionnaire, the need for a gymnasium was expressed by sixteen boys and eleven girls. Eleven girls also expressed interest in baseball, which was not ordinarily scheduled for them on either the school or the public playgrounds.

It will be noted in Table 8 that eleven girls and four boys expressed their interest in outdoor bowling. This situation is quite unusual in that none of the playgrounds in the city of Miami schedules outdoor bowling.

Twenty-three boys and twenty-two girls indicated their interest in tap, ballet, and folk dancing. Twenty-seven boys and thirty-six girls named social dancing as their interest.

The boys and girls in Washington Heights, too, showed an inclination toward the creative element of recreation by indicating interests in musical and dramatic activities. Acting is the most popular form of the drama that is attractive to young people. Eighteen boys and twenty-three girls chose acting as one of their interests. This was an indication of the inclination of boys and girls toward the cultural and creative aspects of recreation.

The fifty-eight boys expressing interest in the Boy Scouts represented eighteen boys in excess of the registered members of the movement as indicated in Table 9. Thirty-nine girls indicated their interest in the scouting movement. This number was six in excess of the membership among the girls interviewed as indicated in Table 9.
TABLE 9
CLUB AFFILIATIONS IN WASHINGTON HEIGHTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Fire Girls</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Clubs</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scouts</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Clubs</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Clubs</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Clubs</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.M.C.A.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.W.C.A.</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coconut Grove

Notwithstanding the fact that Grand Avenue Park and Christ Episcopal Church of Coconut Grove offered a wide variety of recreational opportunities for the youth of that neighborhood, the interests of the boys and girls interviewed were indicative of a gap in the total recreation picture of the area.

Basketball, horseshoe pitching, swimming, and softball stood out as the first four choices of interests for the boys of Coconut Grove. The girls of the same area chose softball, swimming, basketball and volley ball as their first four interests. As in the cases of Liberty City and Washington Heights, interest was expressed by both boys and girls for bowling, swimming and golf. There is less side walk area in Coconut Grove than in any other of the areas in question, yet there was still interest being expressed in roller skating. (See Table 10).
The Boy and Girl Scouts conducted very active programs in the Coconut Grove section. A great majority of the boys and girls indicating interest for hiking were members of the scouting movement.

There was no tailoring course in the high school of Coconut Grove, but there was the indication that twenty-four boys were interested in this trade.

As was true in the other areas, there were no classes in weaving or basketry, but those two activities were chosen by youth of both sexes.
Light furniture upholstery was offered girls of the Home Economics department of the school, but only four girls expressed an interest in woodwork.

Neither boys nor girls expressed interest in puppetry. Acting, storytelling, and playwriting attracted twenty-one boys and thirty-one girls. Social dancing still ranked above other forms of dancing. Instrumental music was chosen by eighteen boys, while twenty-six girls expressed marked interest in choral music. Drawing and painting were the interests of thirty boys and fifty girls.

**TABLE 11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Fire Girls</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Clubs</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boy Scouts</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Clubs</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Clubs</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Clubs</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.M.C.A.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y.W.C.A.</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Boy Scouts and the Y.W.C.A. claimed the highest memberships among the boys and girls interviewed in Coconut Grove. There was no known Camp Fire Girls organization in that area. Even though there were thirty girls indicating membership in the Girl Scouts, forty-one, or an excess of eleven expressed interest in the movement. There were four boys in excess of the twenty-five members who were interested in the scouting
The writer was not able to ascertain what church clubs were active in the area of recreation. The majority of the boys and girls indicating affiliations with church clubs merely inserted the word "church" after the statement, "Name the Club to which you belong?"

Eighteen boys and thirty girls indicated affiliations with neighborhood clubs. Whether or not these clubs were as well organized as the Young Men's and the Young Women's Christian Associations, or the Boy and Girl Scouts, a substantial number of boys and girls indicated that the clubs were worthy of commanding the interest of a sizable segment of Miami's youth.

Without exception, all boys and girls indicated the accessibility to a radio. The recreational importance of the radio can be measured in terms of its stimulation of those who listen to "what it has to say." For the teenager, it is an escape into a world of adventure, make-believe, and romance. Its five o'clock "Bop" programs act acquiesces for youth to give vent to his desires to "jump awhile". Its quizz programs permit youth to match his wits with boys and girls who have been designated as geniuses.

The most general complaint was against the triviality of some of the programs to which boys and girls are exposed. The responses to "Name your favorite program" ran the gamut from "The Greatest Story Ever Told" to "Jump and Jive With J. J."

The three programs most frequently named by the different
age groups were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Ages 9-14</th>
<th>Ages 15-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;The Lone Ranger&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Ebony Express&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Big John and Sparkey&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Mr. Keene&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;The Shadow&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;The Fat Man&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Ages 9-14</th>
<th>Ages 15-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Baby Snooks&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Ebony Express&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;My Friend Irma&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Stella Dallas&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;The Beulah Show&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;Lux Theatre of the Air&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is particularly desirable that youth engage in leisure time pursuits that will expand their interests and develop their personalities. Wrenn and Harley believe that there is little to be gained in these directions from the average motion picture. They further state that "the criticism is frequently made of motion pictures that they fail to do a good job even within their restricted field - entertainment."¹

Be that as it may, of the 289 boys and girls questioned during this study, 215 or 74 per cent indicated their attendance at the movies.² Generally, Miami's Negro theatres show "B" run shows. Two of the four downtown theatres specialize in wild west shows. Fortunately, only six boys and four girls named these theatres as their choice of attendance.

Summary:— Boys and girls of the three Negro areas of Miami, expressed common interest in some activities for which there have been little or no facilities provided by either public or private

²See Table 2, p. 17.
agencies. Among these interests are: golf, bowling, roller skating and swimming facilities in Liberty City and Coconut Grove.

The need for instruction in creative and interpretative dancing; opportunities for more participation in dramatic activities and additional vocational courses in the schools are in evidence. Analysis of the data leads one to suspect that the programs of the Boy and Girl Scouts are attracting an increasing number of youth to their movements.

If private agencies and organized clubs are to live up to their responsibilities of helping to fill the gaps in the total recreation set up of the City of Miami, expansions in staffs, programs, and facilities must be affected.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS

The primary aim of this study has been to point out whether public and private recreation facilities and programs are meeting the needs of Negro youth of Miami, Florida, according to certain standards set forth by authorities in the field of recreation. It is with that point of view that the following findings and recommendations are stated.

Findings

1. There are four playgrounds operated by the city of Miami. They are: Dixie Park and Dorsey Park, both located in the central Negro district of the city, known as Washington Heights; Grand Avenue Park, Coconut Grove; and the playground located in the center of the Liberty Square Housing Project, Liberty City.

2. The combined total acreage of playground space set aside for the exclusive use of the Negro constituency of the city of Miami is 9.60 acres. This falls far short of the population-acreage ratio which recommends 2.75 acres for each 1,000 population. Neither is there sufficient space to allow for an appreciable diversification of activities.

3. The dearth of equipment at the Dorsey Park playground curtails the maximum use of the play area that is available.

4. The Recreation Division of the City of Miami assumes the total responsibility for planning the programs for all of
its recreation facilities, including the Negro playgrounds. This is done without consultation of the Negro supervisors.

5. All playgrounds in the Negro districts of Miami are staffed with supervisors who have degrees in physical education, or who have experiences in playground supervision equivalent to that of the educational qualifications. These positions are filled by civil service appointments.

6. Of the private group work agencies dealing with recreation among Negro youth, the Boy Scouts organization is the only one that has a camping site. It is located twenty miles south of the city of Miami. Camping facilities include a dining-hall-administration building, four ten-boy huts, indoor shower and toilet facilities, and a lake for swimming and fishing.

7. Present facilities of the Young Men's and the Young Women's Christian Associations may or may not impede the effectiveness of their operations, depending upon the objectives of their respective programs. Neither agency cites any proposed activities it would like to sponsor provided facilities at the Youth Center. Each agency sponsors two teen-age dances per month. The Young Men's Christian Association holds its annual Phalanx Prom at the center. Other than Committee of Management meetings, these agencies make no further use of the center. Although it is possible to engage the conference room or the auditorium at any time provided it is cleared through the office of the Greater Miami Urban League.

8. The common problems affecting the limited programs of
the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations as stated by each executive secretary are first, the lack of agency owned property on which physical facilities peculiar to those particular agencies could be established, and second, the shortage of staffs.

9. There is duplication in the program elements of the Y-Teen Department, Murial Branch Young Women's Christian Associations, and that of Dixie Park's pool. Both attempt to conduct classes in swimming. The Y-Teens also conduct tennis classes on the city's tennis court at Dixie Park.

10. Common interests expressed by the Negro youth of Miami are in some activities for which there have been little or no programs planned nor facilities provided. Most frequently expressed were interests in golf, bowling, roller skating and swimming in Liberty City and Coconut Grove. Interest was also expressed in the establishment of a gymnasium. There is no gymnasium in the whole of Dade County for Negroes.

11. Among the Negro youth, there is a decided inclination toward the creative aspect of recreation. This is indicated by first, the interests expressed in interpretive dancing, participation in dramatic activities, and affiliations with musical and literary organizations; and second, by the interests expressed in such crafts as weaving, basket making and ceramic art.

In light of the above listed findings, it is concluded that, as the result of social planning by public and private
agencies of Miami, definite approaches have been made toward satisfying the recreational needs of the Negro youth. However, these approaches have yet to meet the minimum requirements necessary to bring up the standards of facilities and programs comensurate with those standards set forth by accepted authorities.

Recommendations

1. That the City of Miami be petitioned to increase the number of playgrounds designed for Negroes or permit them to use the other playground facilities not currently designed for them.

2. That the City of Miami expand the acreage of playground spaces in the Washington Heights and Liberty City areas according to the population-acreage ratio recommended by the National Recreation Association.

3. That the Dade County Board of Public Instruction be petitioned to include in the curricula of the Negro schools additional subjects providing opportunities for cultural experiences.

4. That the Y-Teen Department of the Muriel Branch Young Women's Christian Association combine its effort with those of the City of Miami in exploring the possibilities of conducting swimming and tennis classes for those young people who are not already enrolled in such classes.

5. That the Young Men's Christian Association and the Young Women's Christian Association initiate proceedings
leading toward the acquisition of their own properties sufficient to establish such facilities as will aid them in affecting a program geared to meet the needs and interests of the constituency of the community.

6. That, until the Girl Scouts acquire their own property, they attempt to affect an agreement with the Boy Scouts organization to use its camping facilities during those periods the camp is not in use by the boys.

7. That private group work agencies take the initiative in providing opportunities for the creative outlets of youth's emotions, without duplicating that which is already being attempted by the schools and other organizations.

8. That public and private agencies combine their forces in an all out effort to provide those facilities for which need is evidenced by expressed interests of the Negro youth.

9. That there be closer coordination and cooperation among all agencies, public and private, responsible for social planning in the area of recreation for the entire population of Miami, in order that no segment of this population be denied opportunities for seeking and satisfying its recreational needs.
APPENDIX
A STUDY OF RECREATION INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF NEGRO
YOUTH IN RELATION TO SOCIAL PLANNING IN
MIAMI, FLORIDA
1951
QUESTIONNAIRE

NOTE:
Please print all answers plainly. Date ________________

Name ______________________ Age ___ Sex ___ Grade ___
Address _____________________ Name of your school _______

1. What do you do for recreation? ________________________

2. Do you have to take a bus to get to any recreation activity?
If answer is "yes" state what activity. ____________________
How far is the activity from where you live? ______________

3. What playground do you go to? __________ How often? ______
Is there a leader or director at the playground? _______
What equipment is there on the playground? ______________

How far is the playground from your home? ______________

4. Do you dance? ______ Where do you dance? _______ Do you
have to pay for the dances? ______ If "yes," how much? ___
Who gives the dances? _________________________________

5. Do you swim? _______ How often do you swim? _______
Where do you swim? ________ How far? _________________

6. Do you use the library? ______ Which library? ___________
How far is the library from your home? _________________

7. Do you attend the movies? ______ How often? _________
Where is the movie you attend? _________________________
How far is the movie from your home? __________________

8. Do you belong to a club? ______ Name of club ________
Where do you meet? _______ How often? _________________
What do you do at the meetings? _______________________

9. Do you have a radio? ______ How often do you listen to your
radio? ___________ Name your favorite program ________

69
10. From the following list of activities, indicate your first, second, third, and fourth choices by placing "1" in front of your first choice, "2" in front of your second choice, "3" in front of your third choice, and "4" in front of your fourth choice.

ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES
- Archery
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Badminton
- Bowling, Indoor
- Bowling, Outdoor
- Golf
- Handball
- Horseshoes
- Hockey
- Football
- Roller Skating
- Soccer
- Softball
- Tennis
- Hiking
- Volleyball
- Swimming
- Playing Games

HANDICRAFT
- Sewing
- Cooking
- Quilting
- Painting
- Drawing
- Weaving
- Metal Work
- Basketry
- Wood Work
- Leather Work
- Pottery

MUSIC
- Choral Singing
- Orchestra
- Community Singing
- Instrumental

DRAMA
- Playwriting
- Storytelling
- Acting
- Marionettes
- Puppetry

CLUBS
- Girl Scouts
- Boy Scouts
- Camp Fire Girls
- 4-H Club
- Dramatic Club
- Social Club
- Music Club
- Literary Club
- Nature Study Club
- Church Club

11. What other activities in the above list would you be interested in if facilities are now available or if facilities for those activities would be provided? Indicate your choice by placing an "X" behind the name of the activity. Check for each group.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESIGNATION</th>
<th>GENERAL PROGRAM</th>
<th>SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK OF JUNE 18TH</td>
<td>STRESS SAFETY AND FIRST AID PROGRAMS. Clean-up Programs Start Play in Leagues Organized during first week Start Handicraft and Story Hour Keep playground Bulletin up to date.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFETY WEEK AND OPENING WEEK OF ORGANIZED PLAY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEEK OF JUNE 25TH</td>
<td>Send notes home by the boys and girls on the playground inviting their mothers and dads to visit the playground.</td>
<td>Arrange volleyball games between mothers and daughters; arrange softball games between fathers and sons. Arrange horseshoe between fathers and sons. Sign up for Tennis classes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>