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HISTORY OF THE RECREATION
AND
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION
PROJECTS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 1933 — DECEMBER 1935

PREPARED FOR
MR JAMES K REID - SUPERINTENDENT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
RECREATION

BY ARTHUR H. MILLER

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HISTORY OF THE RECREATION AND
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROJECTS
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
FROM JANUARY 1933 TO DECEMBER 1935

HISTORY OF THE RECREATION AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROJECTS

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~~Compiled~~ by

ARTHUR H. MILLER

Pioneering in the field of the social sciences is a unique and precarious distinction. To the men and women of Los Angeles county, its elected and appointed officials of government, its employees in several departments and its civic leaders, belongs the distinction of being first in the United States to cope with the economic and social menace of the depression by mustering the most potent factor of the depression itself, the training and experience of its hundreds of unemployed white collar citizens, into the service.

Rapidly developing into a county-wide movement, it became a march of the constructive and swiftly organized forces of recreation against the devastating inroads of juvenile delinquency. Three years of retrenchment in appropriations and budgetary allotments to the established recreation and delinquency prevention departments had resulted in curtailment of facilities and personnel at a time of the greatest need.

Unemployment and forced idleness had thrown a tremendous burden on the organized recreation systems of the county, out of all proportion to the funds at their disposal with which to carry it. Even normal progress and growth to meet public demands were impossible. Voices were raised in protest and appeal but were met with fiscal records of an appalling depletion in taxes. The desperate answer of controllers and boards was, 'Cut! Necessities come first.' And so the situation was deadlocked; the menace of delinquency increased and public morale approached a condition of public hysteria.

The Los Angeles County Probation Department, in the front line of defense with its kindred agencies, was making a desperate stand under the handicap of curtailed budgets. It raised warning signals of a serious nature. From years of experience in coping with delinquency problems, it pointed out that the situation was getting out of hand. Its reports indicated that the home, which must bear the brunt of un-

employment and forced idleness, was having a hard time of it and more often than not its morale was not of sufficient resilience to withstand the pressure. In a growing wave it was ceasing to exist as an harmonious and homogenous whole and was either breaking down into a group of warring units or dissolving completely. With the influence of the home weakened or gone, juvenile delinquency followed.

This was the dire predicament in which Los Angeles county found itself in January of 1933. Many minds were struggling with the problem and seeking the solution. In the Probation Department, Coordinating Councils were formed to muster all community organizations and agencies into a united effort to cope with the causes of juvenile delinquency. Under this sponsorship as well as that of the County Employees Association, surveys and spot maps were hastily made to reveal the geographical areas of delinquency, the basic causes, the extent and the increase. The Los Angeles County Department of Recreation was throwing all of its resources into the effort exerted by the Probation Department. The National Recreation Association was giving aid through its western office and all of the organized recreation departments were cooperating. No doubt many other public and private agencies were grappling with the situation, but as their work was not directly a part of the beginning of the projects, it is not covered in this record.

During the first six months of 1933, a small group of workers carefully chosen for their special qualifications, functioned in an experimental way in the field under the Los Angeles County Probation and Recreation Departments. The plan of action tentatively applied was that organized and directed playground activities for the youth of the delinquency infested areas would draw the youthful offenders away from the ranks of mischievous gangs and anti-social groups by furnishing them an outlet in healthful and character-building play.

The experiment was closely watched and the results obtained through this recreational approach to the delinquency and maladjustment problem were so immediately and convincingly successful that the heads of the two county departments vitally concerned, James K. Reid of the Recreation Department and Kenyon Scudder of the Probation Department, made plans during the month of June, 1933, for the development of the work during

the summer as a relief work project on a county-wide basis - the first application of the idea to be made anywhere in the United States. To carry out this idea required entire cooperation and united efforts of Federal and State governments and several County departments.

The first steps toward a realization of this plan for a united attack on the problem were taken at a conference held in June, 1933, in the office of John R. Quinn, chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Among those present besides Mr. Quinn were: Ray C. Branion, State Emergency Relief Administrator; James K. Reid; Kenyon Scudder; Judge Samuel R. Blake of the County Juvenile Court; A. C. Price of the County Welfare Department and Kenneth S. Beam of the Coordinating Councils.

At this conference a plan was agreed upon for the employment of workers in recreation and delinquency prevention work, to be paid a relief budget wage from County-matched funds of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. As a result, the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Recreation Project No. 821, was inaugurated on July 6, 1933.

The theory was that educated men and women could well be transferred from manual labor to which they had been assigned to earn R. F. C. relief, to tasks which they were better qualified to perform. It was reasoned that it was senseless to waste the talent of trained men and women in manual labor when they could be enlisted in socially important work for the same R. F. C. wage. So it was decided to send them into areas of the county where juvenile delinquency was prevalent, in an effort to eliminate, by sociological methods, gangs of youthful law-breakers.

The Los Angeles County Recreation Department was unanimously selected as the logical county agency to organize, coordinate and operate the plan. Mr. James K. Reid, head of the department, entrusted the active leadership to two men, Virgil Dahl, already a member of his staff, and Major Arthur H. Miller, formerly District Representative on the staff of the National Recreation Association for New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and organizer of county-wide recreation systems in those states.

Full speed ahead was the order of the day - and night. One week after the approval was given, the plan of organization and operation was set up covering the entire county. All details of the assignment of workers, timekeeping and reporting, and the control of the project were worked out. At the outset it was necessary to set up a rotating schedule of assignments to each job because of the variation in the number of monthly working hours allowed each worker by the County Welfare Department. The family relief budget determined the number of work hours and hence the earnings. It was found that a rotation of three workers was required to man each job continuously on scheduled working days.

Interviewing and selection of workers to fit the wide range of a year-round recreation program, to discover special qualifications and avocations and to ascertain the background of education, training and experience, was a huge and painstaking task. To be of any real value, it had to be done thoroughly and well, for in a large measure, the success of the work depended on it. A special service record form was devised and these were filled out by every worker. As the job progressed it was found that avocations weighed heavily in selections and results. Frequently the avocational contributions to the program proved of greater value than educational and training background. They were spontaneous, and the spirit of the worker was a dynamic motivating force. The final selection and placement of all workers was made by Major Miller. All of this organization work was so expedited that by July 15, 1933, there were 300 workers actually working on the project. Eventually more than 1500 workers, many of them college trained, were assigned to the project on a rotation basis which allowed a maximum of 500 workers a day on the job.

The permanent recreation departments throughout the county quickly absorbed all of these workers and appealed for more. The rapid adjustments made by these departments to meet the emergency program was an outstanding credit to the resourcefulness of their executives and the initiative and flexibility of their staffs. These were the city recreation departments of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, Santa Monica, Glendale, Compton, Pomona and Alhambra, the Los Angeles City school system, the County Department of Education and the County Recreation Department which stretched its

slender budget to provide all of the headquarters facilities, telephones, supplies and mimeographing.

The staff of the Probation Department, under the active leadership of Kenyon Scudder, Karl Holton and Kenneth Beam, backed by the powerful Coordinating Councils, were driving in on the problem from another approach. Their efforts in the field were directed toward home contacts in delinquency infested areas, reaching the pre-delinquents as well as the delinquents, counseling with parents, suggesting remedial action and bolstering home morale. This program absorbed several hundred workers who were designated as delinquency prevention workers (D. P.) to distinguish them from the playground workers (P. G.), since the requirements and approach of each group were essentially different.

Importance was attached at the outset to keeping accurate reports, records and statistics on the progress of the work. This was fortunate as the entire nation became interested in the experiment. Federal officials in Washington eagerly awaited the weekly and monthly progress reports. The National Recreation Association was helpfully alert and intensely interested. All subsequent nation-wide developments under succeeding State and Federal agencies were based on the organization methods and systems conceived in the Los Angeles County work of 1933. The reporting, record keeping and statistical section, ^{was} ~~was~~ under the supervision of C. E. Triggs, E. D. Golden, Charles Brander and M. T. Felso.

The necessity for a training program was also considered of major importance at the beginning. Practically all of the workers were totally devoid of actual training and experience in, or knowledge of, a well rounded recreation program for all ages. There was interest, enthusiasm and innate ability. These were potent elements to work with but they needed guidance, instruction and development from the ground up. So a system of weekly recreation training institutes covering the entire county was organized and conducted by Marion E. Miller, a recreation executive of ten years' experience who had specialized in institutes and activities organization in Pennsylvania. She carried on ten weekly sessions at centrally located schools, with an average enrollment of 800 workers, continuing this work until March, 1934, when she was appointed by Mr. Reid as administrator of the project. A manual of year-round recreation ac-

tivities for all age groups was developed for the guidance of the workers and made extensive use of in the building of the program.

All of these activities were immediately reflected in a county-wide decrease in juvenile delinquency that was nothing short of astounding. Boys who had grown away from home influences were soon convinced that organized play was just as exciting as running wild in mischief-making gangs. Even fathers, forced into complete or partial idleness by the depression, and mothers, burdened by more than their share of cares, found recreation available for their participation that resulted in better health and a more cheerful mental outlook.

The net result of the first month (July) of the project's operation was a reduction of 13% in juvenile delinquency cases over July of the previous year, while the playground attendance increased 38.2%. When the project was inaugurated there were 268 supervised playgrounds in Los Angeles County available for use, but of these only 64 were in condition to operate at capacity, most of them being in large population areas. The directors of the project moved forthwith to amend this condition. Within a few weeks not only were the 268 County playgrounds being operated at capacity, but also 85 new playgrounds had been opened,--an increase of 31.7%. This increase represented an outstanding benefit to the County in itself but it assumed an even greater importance when considered from the viewpoint that these new playgrounds were operating in 37 of the smaller communities which theretofore did not have supervised play centers of any description.

As the beneficial work of the project continued during the summer, the universal approbation of its achievements, not only among the higher official circles of the County but also among the citizenry the county over, was manifested in a great quantity of requests and appeals that its continuity be unbroken by the approaching fall school term and the work be carried on into the school year.

A meeting of recreation executives from every section of the county, together with representatives of many county departments and ^{Mayor George Braden} the Western Representative of the National Recreation Association, was held during the first week of September. The reports of the activities exceeded the fondest hopes of those who had been so closely associated with

the development of the project since its inception. The work was highly praised and the unanimous opinion of the meeting was that the project should continue on a year-round basis.

Plans were then made to effect a speedy transition from the intensive summer program of recreation activities to the more highly organized winter schedule. With the opening of the fall school session these plans were put into operation, using, as in the summer work, the R. F. C. workers through the coordinating and cooperating agency of the Los Angeles County Department of Recreation.

Although this plan did not contemplate any expansion of the program, it did provide for a continuous driving effort to put into complete use all existing recreational facilities in Los Angeles county, particularly the many fine school properties with their outdoor play areas, gymnasiums, auditoriums and vocational equipment. The formulated plan was a broad one, not only covering the ensuing school year but also looking forward to a comprehensive program for the summer vacation period of 1934.

The transition from the summer activities to the winter program was no small job in itself. The changes were necessarily drastic, in that day-time activities had to be remodelled to fit the available periods remaining from actual school work, or after school hours, and Saturdays and Sundays. It also included the development of recreational activities for adults during evening hours. Despite these problems, the transition was made during September without lessening the efficiency or momentum of the project in any particular.

An unusual amount of work was necessary in the smaller communities in which had been established the 37 new recreation centers due to the fact that in addition to the training institutes and the promotion of the program itself, carried forward by Marion Miller, official sponsorship had to be secured and trained by her in the work.

As the R. F. C. program of relief employment drew to a close during November, it was apparent that this project was one of the conspicuous successes of the year. That its work should terminate with the R. F. C. was unthinkable and hence, with the advent of the Civil Works Administration (C. W. A.) into the national unemployment situation, the delinquency project was one of the first to be transferred to the new regime. The

R. F. C. ceased to function as far as relief employment was concerned on November 24, 1933, and three days later, November 27, the project was operating, without interruption, under the C. W. A. The designation was changed from R. F. C. #821 to C. W. A. #8288. The operation of the project continued under the entire jurisdiction of James K. Reid and the staff of the County Recreation Department.

The change brought the opportunity of increased service and activity for it was now possible to replace the rotation method by the continuous employment of workers. The personnel quota having been raised to approximately 1000 persons, additional workers were selected and the entire staff continued under intensive training in methods of organizing and conducting recreational and delinquency prevention activities.

The increased quota of workers came as a tangible recognition of the achievements of the project. Under the C. W. A. the workers were not only employed on a full time basis of 30 hours per week, but also their pay was raised from 40¢ to 50¢ per hour.

These advances occasioned a fresh impetus to the work throughout the county. Many of the smaller communities which had been holding back from a complete participation in the program due to the former lack of continuity in the services of the workers, now embraced the program whole-heartedly. Recreation appropriations were made in communities which hitherto had made none. Departments were established and workers employed. There was recognition of recreation as a function of local government. As a result the work surged ahead under the sponsorship of the C. W. A. to new heights of accomplishments during the months of December, 1933, and January, February and March of 1934.

With the closing of the C. W. A. program the latter part of March, universal regret was voiced from official and private sources that this splendid work would be terminated. They did not reckon, however, with a situation unique in social service annals, for such was the momentum of the work that in many communities the work was carried on by enthusiastic workers without expectation of financial reward. Parents and children who had been given the privilege of recreational activities seemed to sense its priceless advantages and large numbers continued to participate. Sponsors, who had caught the vision of the service, also did everything in their power to keep the work going.

At the inception of the project the question of physical facilities was an immediate and pressing one, especially in the large unincorporated areas where mushroom growth was many jumps ahead of playground planning and development. The Belvedere district for example, had sprung up within a comparatively few years to a population of 75,000 in $5\frac{1}{2}$ square miles with a maximum population density of 16,120 per square mile, the highest Mexican population of any area of its size in California as well as one of the highest juvenile delinquency rates in the county. There was the Hollenbeck Heights area with a population of 97,000 in $7\frac{1}{2}$ square miles, a maximum population density of 19,150 per square mile and the highest delinquency rate in the county, running up to as high as 72 per 1,000 of juvenile population. It was imperative that recreation areas and leadership be found immediately. Many of the more remote areas and communities which had never had organized playgrounds and were not particularly interested constituted another problem. Community leaders had to be found and convinced of the importance of organized recreation under trained leadership. At first opposition had to be overcome in certain quarters. An approach had to be found to provincialism, sometimes in the appeal of one single activity in the hope of leading to a broader program. This work was entrusted to Marion Miller with her experience in program planning and activities organization. Frequently the more spectacular events were resorted to such as doll shows, pet shows and the children's Fiesta in order to arouse community interest. Invariably they were successful.

Generally in the large incorporated cities the problem was partially solved due to the fact that there were already in existence 268 supervised playgrounds. ^{True} ~~There~~ it was that only 68 of this number were being used to capacity because of curtailment of personnel. These playgrounds were about equally distributed between school grounds and recreation department centers. If the project had not had the advantage of having these playgrounds available it is obvious that it could not have been so quickly successful.

As it was, the majority were located in the urban centers which left the sparsely settled areas where delinquency is often a serious problem with ^{out} playgrounds. This was remedied with the establishment of 85 new playgrounds in 37 communities. Where the school grounds were not adequate due to their location or lack of sufficient space, private owners of unused and suitable lots and tracts were appealed to to donate the use of their

land. Without exception it was found that land owners were willing to do this.

The method of securing land was also applied to the problem of equipment and improvements. Playgrounds already established were more or less completely equipped. In the event that school or other funds were not available for the purchase of equipment, the situation was met by appealing to organizations, individuals and business men. The response was both heartening and generous. No really necessary piece of equipment was left unprovided for. Seemingly impossible problems of obtaining equipment were solved by appealing to civic and patriotic organizations for aid. In one instance a swimming pool was built entirely without cost, labor, material and equipment being donated. Sponsorship of each unit of the expanding system by civic organizations or leaders generally went with their interest and enthusiasm in the work.

Telephone and electric light companies donated poles and mail order houses supplied the chicken wire for back-stops; hardware and sporting-goods stores supplied athletic equipment; lumber companies gave lumber and cement; contractors loaned the use of machinery for grading; oil companies donated oil and gasoline and hundreds of citizens gave freely of their labor. Such was the outpouring of sympathetic assistance in recognition of the worth of the work and the sincerity of the workers.

In addition to the recreational areas, school grounds were thrown open and equipment, gymnasias, stages and swimming pools were obtained from school boards. In many instances school rooms and auditoriums were thrown open for the evening activities of both children and adults. Almost without exception it was found that school boards were glad to cooperate with the movement in this way.

It is of historic interest to record here before passing on to the next phase of recreation project under the State Emergency Relief Administration program, that several other projects which later leaped into national significance and scope were conceived, planned, organized and put into operation by the County Recreation Department under James K. Reid's directorship and under the active leadership of Mr. Dahl and Major Miller during the last six months of 1933.

Among these were the Musicians Project which quickly absorbed 400 unemployed professional musicians; the Drama Project, forerunner of the Federal Theater Project,

for unemployed actors and actresses; the clerical and teaching projects for the Los Angeles County Department of Education which absorbed about 500 teachers and clerks, and the Crossing Guard Project which absorbed some 800 men. The pioneer accomplishments of each one of these projects would make an interesting story in itself. Suffice it to state here that in the planning and organization work done in the establishment of these projects was laid the foundation for all of the successive set-ups of professional, technical, women's work and community service projects in the State of California and in the entire nation under various Emergency Relief Administration titles, under the Works Progress Administration and under the Work Projects Administration. All were built on these first experiments and the methods used were so sound that they were universally adopted with little or no basic modifications.

Following through with our history of the Recreation and Delinquency Prevention Project in Los Angeles County we now come to the closing of the C. W. A. in February and March, 1934, and the inauguration of the State Emergency Relief Administration which opened for business on May 1, 1934.

To brush past this transition without a brief comment would be to deprive it of its significance in the trend of events and particularly in relation to the recreation project and those who organized it. The R. F. C. was a fund-matching arrangement between the Federal government and political subdivisions. The C. W. A. was a straight Federal pump-priming plan to curb the depression and put money into circulation. The S. E. R. A. was a fund-matching arrangement between Federal and State governments with a return to the relief budget wage.

The first word received in Los Angeles County of the folding up of the C. W. A. and the establishment of its successor, the S. E. R. A., came from Ray C. Branion, State Administrator, who commissioned Messers. Dahl and Miller in February, 1934, to plan and organize the S. E. R. A. and be ready to take over the work program and case load (About 60,000) of the C. W. A. at the earliest possible moment. The job was to be done completely and thoroughly and without any fanfare of trumpets or publicity, using the tried and proven staff of the recreation project in places of supervisory responsibility. Then followed several months of intense activity.

Working day and night, personnel was selected and trained in new procedures, a central headquarters at 741 South Flower Street and 23 district placement offices throughout the county were leased, remodeled and equipped, and a multitude of other things accomplished - all new, untried and experimental. But all of that is another story - many stories.

With the loyal and hearty cooperation of the capable staff of the recreation project, the new S. E. R. A. opened all of its doors throughout the county on May 1, 1934. Major Arthur H. Miller was appointed Chief of the Placement and Administrative Personnel Division, and Mr. Dahl was appointed Chief of the Professional, Technical and Women's Work Division. Frank Y. McLaughlin was named Director of S. E. R. A. for Los Angeles County. In July Mr. Dahl was appointed Director of S. E. R. A. for Riverside County and Major Miller became Chief of the Professional, Technical and Women's Work Division, remaining in that capacity until April, 1935, when he became Southern Area Director.

With the advent of the S. E. R. A., the Recreation and Delinquency Prevention Project No. 8288, with more than 1000 on its rolls, became Projects No. 1-E4-10 and No. 1-E4-15, with numerous subsidiary projects, and in March, 1934, Superintendent James K. Reid appointed Marion E. Miller Project Administrator. She rebuilt the staff, appointing new supervisors to the vacancies left by those who went to S. E. R. A. The relief budget wage system was again installed; the training institutes were continued and strengthened. Under the new regime, the program continued its worthy service to the entire county, sponsored and fostered by the Los Angeles County Recreation Department, and receiving constant help from its old friends in the S. E. R. A. All of the accumulated experience of a year of operation was brought to bear in the service extended to the outlying cities and communities throughout Los Angeles County.

In September, 1934, Marion Miller was succeeded as Project Administrator by Laura Chase who was succeeded in turn by Gladys Meredith, both having been field supervisors in the program during its development. Miss Meredith has conducted the affairs of the project with distinction and successfully accomplished its transition from the S. E. R. A. program to the W. P. A. program in December, 1935. The chief change in this transition was the adoption of the security wage for workers, certification being required from the State Relief Administration for assignment.

Throughout its operation, the philosophy of the project was based upon the idea that if youthful hands and minds are kept busy in organized recreational activities, they will not be forced by idleness into mischief-making gangs that frequently run afoul the law and inevitably lead them toward criminal careers. On this foundation was the structure reared as a service to the people. From the financial standpoint the logic employed was that it is far cheaper to prevent the creation of a criminal by removing the cause than to punish the offender against our social codes after the offense has been committed.

The amazing thing about the project is that the narration of its progress bristles with an array of achievements, both from the standpoint of the induction of people into its activities and its prevention of delinquency. One could not reasonably expect such a pioneer movement to succeed from the outset, as did this project. Yet the evidence is conclusive. The records are so voluminous with accomplishments that we can but wonder at their scope and finality.

During the latter part of August, 1933, the average weekly attendance at playgrounds served by the project in Los Angeles County vaulted to a total of over 1,750,000 persons. The average weekly number of participants in playground activities for the same period rose from slightly less than 50,000 for the first part of July to close to 600,000 by the end of August. As the personnel of the project was enlarged, and as the workers became more efficient in their labor during the following months, the weekly average of participants increased rapidly until in February, 1934, it attained the staggering peak of 2,574,000.

In Russian Town, a tough section of Los Angeles where delinquency had always been troublesome, there was a total of 45 cases reported for March, 1933. When the project went into this field the doubtful ones wagged their heads dolefully. Here was a spot that would defy corrective measures; yet the workers applied themselves so assiduously that the number of delinquency cases began at once to drop until in March, 1934, they had been reduced to 9 cases, a decrease of 80% over the same month of the previous year.

South Gate is a small town in the industrial district lying south of Los Angeles. It had meager recreational facilities for its youngsters and, as a result, the delinquency problem was prevalent. Project workers changed all this. They were influential in securing

better playground facilities and succeeded in getting the boys into the work, with the result, according to police records, of an 85% drop in delinquency cases.

When project workers opened their campaign in Miles Park, a municipal recreation center of Huntington Park, in July, 1933, the average daily attendance was around 35 small children. By the first week of September of the same year their activities resulted in an increased daily attendance averaging 600 boys and girls of all ages, not to mention the fact that approximately 250 men were cavorting daily in baseball, horse-shoes, chess and other activities.

Aside from this statistical array, there is a higher and a more tangible record of accomplishment. It concerns itself with the raising of community and family morale, a strengthening of family ties through mutual interests and activities, and a brighter and more hopeful outlook upon life. All of these problems related definitely to an emergency of near crisis proportions. So well was the work done that the real crisis was swiftly passed. Then followed the phase of reconstruction requiring a continuing though diminishing service. To continue the program, essentially an emergency one, beyond this phase as a function and responsibility of Federal government, even as an unemployment relief expedient, has raised the question in many places as to the proper time for returning the responsibility to the local governmental agencies and political subdivisions where it normally rests. Beyond its fulfilling the purpose for which it was created, it has been pointed out that the undue prolongation as a Federal administration responsibility of even so splendid a service as this has proven to be, will lead to failure on the part of local government to conduct one of its most important and valuable functions - one of which it should be particularly jealous - organized recreation.

ORGANIZATION CHARTS

Recreation and Delinquency Prevention Project No. 821

July 1933 - - Reconstruction Finance Corporation

* * * * *

Recreation and Delinquency Prevention Project No. 8288

Musicians Project No. 8297 and Ten Other Projects

December 1933 - - Civil Works Administration

* * * * *

Recreation and Delinquency Prevention Project No. 1 - E4 - 10

Other County Recreation Projects Under Supervision of the County

Department of Recreation

August 1934 - - State Emergency Relief Administration

* * * * *

Professional, Technical and Women's Work Division, S.E.R.A.

July 1934

CHART OF ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS
 DELINQUENCY PREVENTION & RECREATION PROJECT # 821 - 1
 L.A. COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION - CAMPS & PLAYGROUNDS
 240 SOUTH BROADWAY - JULY - 1953

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 JOHN R. QUINN - CHAIRMAN

ADVISORY COMMITTEE										JUDGE SAMUEL R. BLAKE - CHAIRMAN									
PROBATION DEPT	COORDINATING COUNCILS	COUNTY RECREATION DEPT	COUNTY WELFARE	R. F. G.	COUNTY SCHOOLS	JUVENILE RESEARCH COMMITTEE	L.A. CITY SCHOOLS	L.A. CITY PLAYGROUNDS	SHERIFF'S OFFICE	K. SCUDDER	K. S. BEAM	J. K. REID	A. G. PRICE	A. C. BRANION	A. CLIFTON	DR. NEUMEYER	C. L. GLENN	RAY HOYT	E. BISCAILLON

JAMES K. REID
 Superintendent

VIRGIL DAHL
 ARTHUR MILLER

CHIEF
 TIMEKEEPER

L.A. COUNTY RECREATION EXEC. OF ORGANIZED DEPTS WITH FUNCTION OF SELECTION, ASSIGNMENT AND PROGRAMMING

1	TIMEKEEPER	125
2	"	20
3	"	30
4	"	20
5	"	20
6	"	20
7	"	
8	"	
9	"	
10	"	
11	"	
12	"	
13	"	
14	"	
15	"	
16	ASST	

L.A. COUNTY UNINCORPORATED & SMALLER COMMUNITIES WITH DESIGNATED RECREATION HEAD (PD. OR VOLUNTEERED) WITH FUNCTION OF SELECTION & ASSIGNMENT

PROGRAM PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	% WORKERS
BELVEDERE	20
ALHAMBRA-SAN GABRIEL	20
ARCADIA	4
ATHENS ON THE HILL	2
BURBANK	8
CLAREMONT	4
COMPTON CLEANWATER	15
WILLOWBROOK	4
COVINA	4
EXCELSIOR H.S.	12
GARDENA	8
LANCASTER	2
GLENDORA	4
MONROVIA	20
PALMDALE	2
POMONA	4

FOUR INTERVIEWERS WITH FUNCTION OF INTERVIEWING AND RECOMMENDATION FOR ASSIGNMENT

FINAL ANALYSIS & ASSIGNMENT OF WORKERS BY MR. MILLER TO THE FOLLOWING WITH FUNCTION OF PLACING & PROGRAMMING.

L.A. CITY D. PLGDS.	% WORKERS
L.A. CITY SCHOOLS	125
CO-ORDINATE. COUN.	40
PROBATION DEPT	20
MISCELLANEOUS	50
	30

SAN FERNANDO	10	% WORKERS
TORRANCE	4	
SOUTHHEAST	35	
WILMAR	4	
WHITTIER	4	
BALDWIN PARK	4	
EL MONTE	4	
AZUSA	4	

STATISTICAL

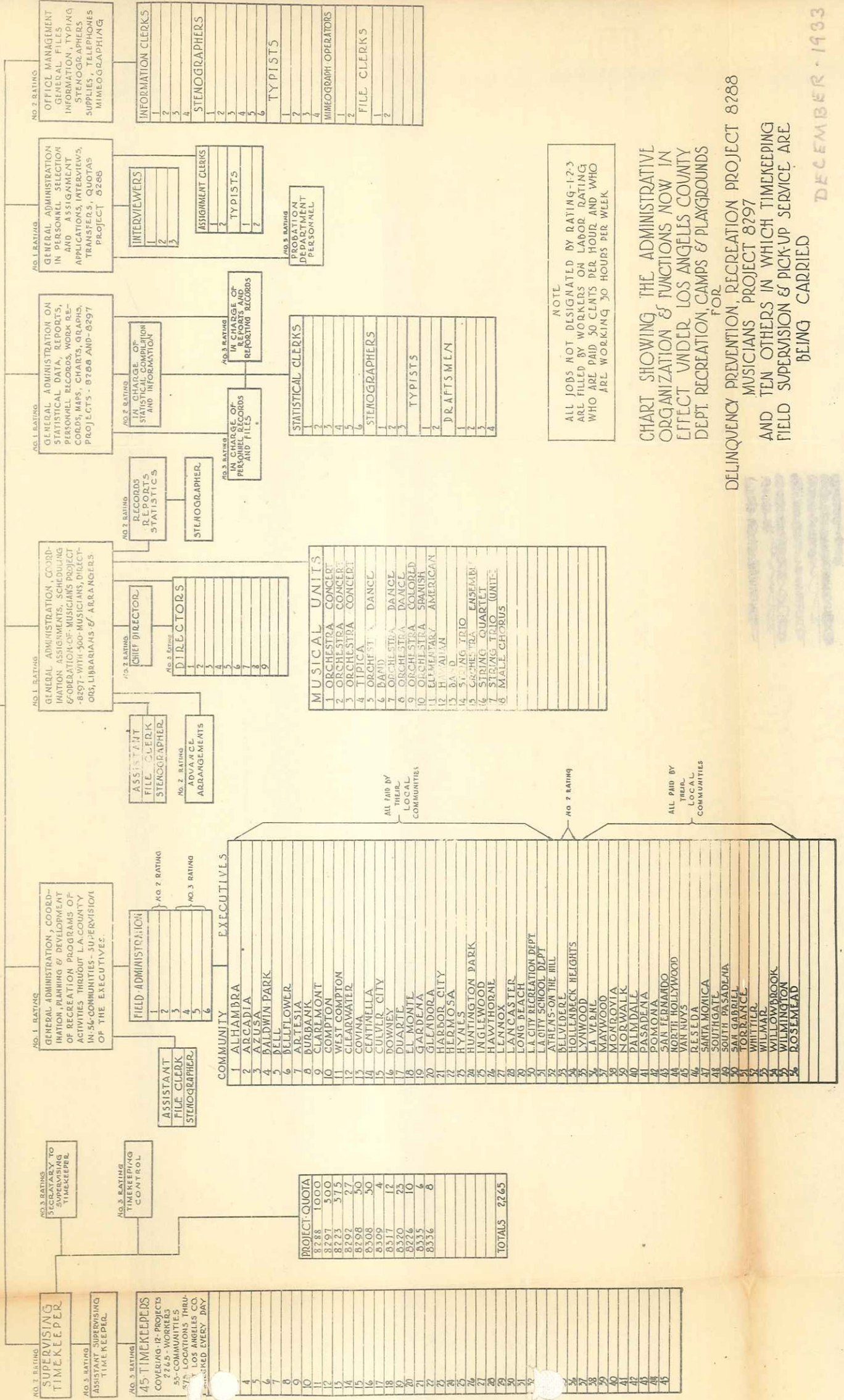
OFFICE

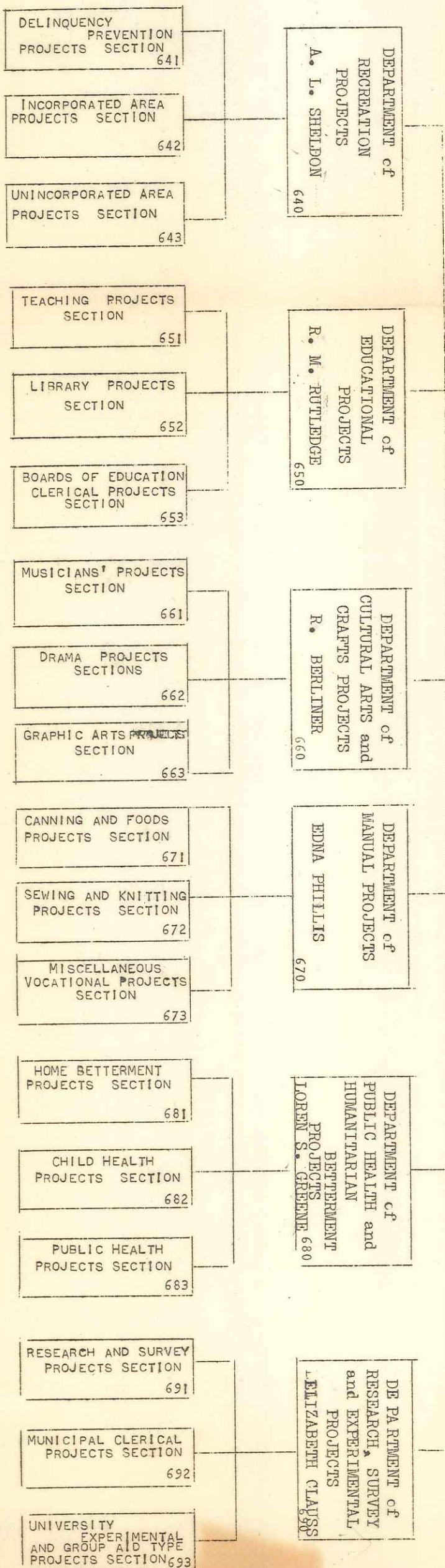
PERSONNEL	CONTROL REPORT ANALYS.	SURVEYS MAPS WK. ANA.	CHARTS GRAPHS	TYP - LISTS	STE - NOS	MIMED	FILE CLKS
CLK	CLK	CLK	DRAFTS MAN	OPERATOR	OPERATOR	OPERATOR	OPERATOR
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

727 WORKERS REQUIRED ON PRESENT JOB ASSIGNMENT BASIS.
 (DOES NOT INCLUDE REPLACEMENTS)

JAMES K. REID
SUPERINTENDENT

VIRGIL DAHL
ARTHUR MILLER





* DIVISION CHIEF *
ARTHUR H. MILLER
600

ORGANIZATION CHART
P. T. & W. W. DIVISION, SERA
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
July 6, 1934

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

July 10, 1933 - March 10, 1934

STATISTICAL SUMMARY:

~~Following~~ Following ~~pages~~ will be found a compilation of purely statistical data and information on the project for the two-month period of its operation during the Summer months prior to the opening of the schools.

Naturally these statistical facts cannot include human interest information which was exerpted every week from thousands of reports of our workers, timekeepers and local executives. These, in themselves, would comprise a volume of inestimable value to anyone interested in this field of endeavor. They are on file, for reference, together with all records of this project, in the office of the Los Angeles County Department of Recreation, Camps and Playgrounds.

~~Original copy of the report is in the office of the County Department of Recreation, Camps and Playgrounds.~~
~~Copy of the report is in the office of the County Department of Recreation, Camps and Playgrounds.~~

STATISTICAL DATA & INFORMATION PROJECT #821
JULY 10TH to SEPTEMBER 10TH, 1933, Inc.

1.	Number playgrounds where R.F.C. workers employed, under organiaed recreation systems	268	
	New areas opened,	85	
	Total,		353
2.	Total attendance on these playgrounds:		
	(a) Total attendance, 1933 - 6,261,273		
	(b) Total Attendance, 1932 - 4,529,763		
	(c) Increase over , 1933 - 1,731,510		
	(d) % Increase Over 1932 - 38.2		
3.	New playgrounds opened in smaller communities throughout county this Summer by efforts of County Recreation Department with help of R.F.C. workers,		85
4.	Number playgrounds where capacity operation was made possible by R.F.C. workers,		204
5.	Number playgrounds served by County Recreation Dept. alone which are located in communities unserved by organized recreation systems,		123
	The child population of this area is		150,000
	Approximate population in county areas not being served by the organized recreation systems of Los Angeles City, Long Beach or Pasadena,	1,000,000	
6.	Number of separate communities served:		51
7.	Number of communities where, through use of R.F.C. workers, playgrounds were opened for first time,		35

8.	Total participation in activities under full direction of R. F. C. workers		1,046,991
9.	Number playground activities conducted by R.F.C. workers,		2,059
10.	Total R.F.C. workers assignments (rotating basis)	2,434	
	Total R.F.C. workers expirations (rotating basis)	1,913	
11.	Average number of workers per day for season based on five working days per week	537	
12.	Average budget days per worker per month for season	8	
13.	Average monthly labor turn-over, percent	300	
14.	Approximate number of spectators at games, sports and other activities where R.F.C. workers were assigned,	880,461	
15.	Contacts by "DP" workers:		
	(a) Group contacts	1,828	
	(b) Individual delinquent & pre-delinquent contacts	15,107	
	(c) Individual pre-delinquency cases investigated	2,604	
	(d) Home visits	9,863	
	(e) Total contacts		29,402
16.	Number of individual workers employed on Project #821 (no duplication of workers)		1,542
17.	Total payroll R.F.C. Project #821 for July 10th to Sept. 10th, inclusive		\$75,542.
18.	Cost per unit of attendance from R.F.C. Funds		.0125
19.	Cost of supplies for Project to L. A. County Department of Recreation		\$225
20.	Cost per unit of attendance to L. A. County Recreation Department		.00003

4. QUOTA AND PAY OF WORKERS INCREASED, PROJECT NUMBER CHANGED.

Under the Civil Works Service, the quota of workers allowed under Project #821 was increased to 1,000 which was recognized as a tribute to the esteem in which this work is held. Workers were not only employed on a permanent basis but their hourly pay was increased from 40¢ to a minimum of 50¢. The number of the project under which it has functioned since July 10th, was changed from #821 to #8288.

4. CONTINUITY OF SERVICE GIVES NEW IMPETUS:

With the continuous service of our workers, a new impetus was given to the programs throughout the County. One of the main difficulties, particularly in the smaller communities, was the lack of continuity of service due to the ever changing staff of workers.

Encouraged by this new opportunity, a number of communities which had been holding back, came forward with requests for workers and within two weeks after the change some very fine programs were under way. On the closing date of this report (December 9th) there are 856 workers employed on Project #821, all of them working 30 hours per week. They have all been carefully chosen for special qualifications and abilities with consideration of educational background, experience, and training.

7. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS FOR PERIODS COVERED BY THIS REPORT:

SEPTEMBER 9th TO NOVEMBER 25th (ROTATING SCHEDULE OF WORKERS)

WORKER DATA:

1. Average number of workers employed daily in all departments..... 463
2. Average budget days per worker per month..... 8
3. Average monthly labor turnover..... 300%

Playground Work:

1. Number of separate communities served..... 44
2. Average number of workers employed daily..... 431
3. Total number of participants in activities supervised by these workers..... 1,232,617
4. Number of recreation areas served by this project..... 318
5. Total attendance on the 318 areas being served as shown by reports of workers for this period..... 3,075,991
6. Average weekly attendance..... 279,635
7. Total number of spectators..... 737,898

Delinquency Prevention:

1. Average number of workers employed daily..... 32

2. Number of groups contacted..... 507
3. Number of delinquency cases investigated.... 159
4. Individual and home contacts for purpose of delinquency prevention..... 13,479
5. New recreation activities organized by these workers..... 135

Note: The 32 workers were engaged solely in delinquency prevention work. In addition, there were approximately 170 playground workers making part-time delinquency prevention contacts in connection with recreation programs.

NOVEMBER 28th TO DECEMBER 9th (FULL TIME SERVICE OF WORKERS)

Worker Data:

1. Number of workers employed on Dec. 9th..... 856
2. Average number of workers employed daily..... 720
3. Number of hours per worker per week..... 30
(6 days of work; 5 hours per day)
4. Rate of pay for all workers... 50¢ per hour.

Playground Work:

1. Number of separate communities served..... 53
2. Average number of workers employed daily..... 738
3. Total number of participants in activities supervised by these workers.....220,133
4. Number of recreation areas served..... 328
5. Total attendance on these areas as shown by reports of workers for this period.....570,224
6. Average weekly attendance.....285,112
7. Total number of spectators..... 75,349

Delinquency Prevention:

1. Average number of workers employed daily..... 38
2. Number of groups contacted..... 70
3. Number of delinquency cases investigated..... 8
4. Individual and home contacts for purpose of delinquency prevention..... 519
5. New recreation activities organized by these workers..... 37

RECAPITULATION FOR ENTIRE PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 9th TO DECEMBER 10th, 1933.

Playground Work:

1. Total number of participants in activities supervised by these workers.....1,452,750
2. Total attendance on all areas as shown by reports of these workers.....3,646,215
3. Average weekly attendance..... 280,478
4. Total number of spectators..... 813,247

Am

Delinquency Prevention:

1. Number of groups contacted..... 577
2. Number of delinquency cases investigated..... 167
3. Individual and home contacts for purpose of delinquency prevention.....13,998
4. New recreation activities organized by these workers 172

On the date of December 21st there were 946 workers employed on this project, serving 53 communities and working at 226 schools and 102 other public recreation centers or a total of 328 recreation areas, serving a population of 2,500,000 persons throughout Los Angeles County.

Allen

COMPOSITE STUDY
OF
STATISTICAL ANALYSES COVERING
DELINQUENCY PREVENTION AND RECREATION
July 10, 1933 -- March 10, 1934

RFC & CWS

WORKER DATA

1. Total number of workers on all projects.....	2,581
2. Total number of days worked.....	101,329
3. Total number of hours worked.....	587,541

PLAYGROUND WORK

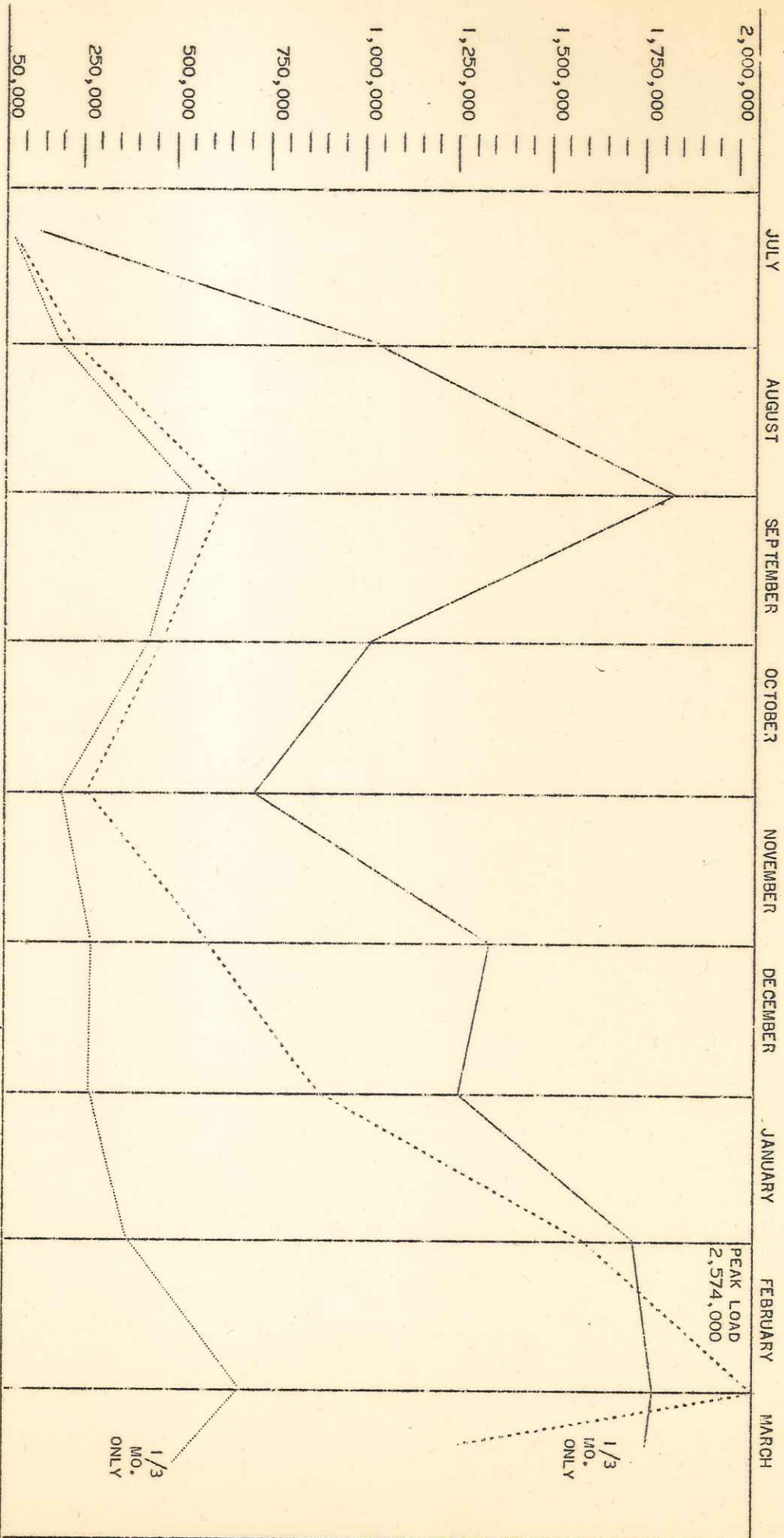
1. Number of separate communities served.....	61
2. Average number of workers employed daily.....	411.3
3. Total participation in all activities (Number of times all children or adults participated.....)	8,593,599
4. Average weekly participation.....	238,711.9
5. Number of recreation areas being served.....	328
6. Total attendance at all centers as shown by workers' weekly reports.....	
Boys	4,598,433
Girls	3,204,673
Adults	2,041,823
TOTAL.....	9,847,929
7. Average weekly attendance.....	273,553.3
8. Total number of spectators.....	3,411,837
9. Average weekly number of spectators.....	94,773.3

DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

1. Number of towns served.....	12
2. Average number of workers employed daily.....	30.3
3. Number of groups contacted.....	5,813
4. Number of delinquency cases investigated.....	31,474
5. Individual and home contacts for purpose of delinquency prevention.....	26,425
6. New Recreation Activities organized by these workers.....	645
7. Number of New Facilities.....	78

On March 10, 1934, 61 communities were being served by 328 Recreation Centers in Los Angeles County with a population of approximately 2,500,000.

PLAYGROUND ACTIVITY
 JULY 10, 1933 - MARCH 10, 1934.
 G.E.R. - R.F.C. - F.E.R.A. - C.W.A.



WEEKLY AVERAGE NUMBER OF WORKERS
 (USING 6 HOUR DAY AND 4 DAY WEEK) 616.95

PEAK LOAD
 2,574,000

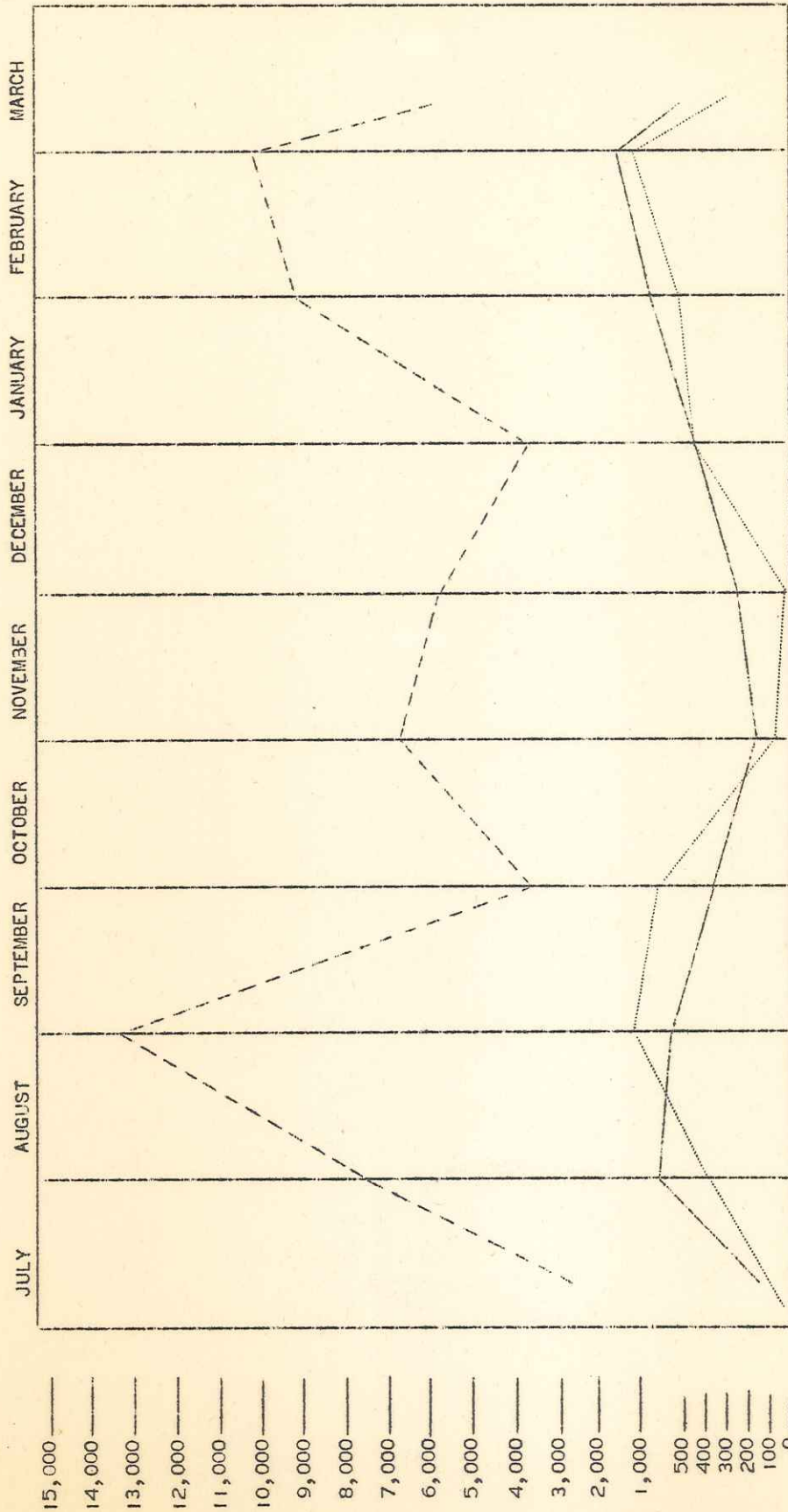
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SOURCE OF DATA - WORKERS' WEEKLY REPORTS
 ATTENDANCE _____
 PARTICIPANTS _____
 (MANY PARTICIPATED IN MORE THAN ONE
 ACTIVITY)
 SPECTATORS.....

DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACTIVITY

JULY 10, 1933 - MARCH 10, 1934
 C.E.R. - R.F.C. - F.E.R.A. - C.W.A.



SOURCE OF DATA - WORKERS' WEEKLY REPORTS
 GROUPS CONTACTED _____
 INDIVIDUALS " - - - - -
 DELINQ. CASES INVEST.

S U M M A R Y

1. PROGRAM PLANNING

2. ACTIVITIES

3. WORKER TRAINING

July 10 - September 10, 1933

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF A SPECIALIST
IN PROGRAM PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND ANALYSIS.
MARION E. MILLER

PROGRAM AND WORKER TRAINING SERVICE REQUIRED:

In order to render effective service to the 35 communities in which new playgrounds were established during the Summer, as well as to those where the playground work was in experimental stage, it was necessary to secure the services of a worker of considerable experience in activity programs, playground administration and the training of workers. We were able to secure for this work the services of ^{Marion E. Miller} a woman of 10 years experience as associate superintendent of ~~another~~ county recreation system *in Pennsylvania.*

INSTITUTES HELD AND PROGRAMS PLANNED:

During the period covered by this report ^(July 10 - Sept 10, 1933) she held 123 conferences with local executives, exclusive of group conferences with committees and ~~groups~~ playground workers. Weekly training institutes and conferences with workers were conducted under her supervision in 33 communities for the purpose of planning and developing suitable playground activities and for training R. F. C. workers in the fundamentals of playground work.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Specific programs were initiated, followed up and carried through on the playgrounds of 33 separate communities. These programs included many kinds of practical and no-cost handcraft activities for girls and boys of various ages, music in many playground adaptations, story-telling of many kinds, folk dancing, game leading, pageantry and dramatics, organized athletic sports and team-games for girls and boys, club activities for girls and boys and exhibitions.

SPECTACULAR MASS EVENTS:

Spectacular events were organized and staged in 24 communities to focus local interest on the playgrounds. Thousands of children and adults participated in these activities among which were Baby Parades, Juvenile Circuses and Fairs, Mardi Gras, Pet Shows, Lantern Fetes, Home Talent Shows and various mass competitive activities.

STORY TELLERS AND OTHER SPECIALISTS CHOSEN:

This worker selected from our R.F.C. applicants four young women for story-telling and arranged their itineraries to cover all of the playgrounds in the small communities. These story tellers, costumed as gypsies, were very popular, were awaited eagerly and welcomed enthusiastically by thousands of children who were ever pleading for more and more stories. Several other specialists were also selected and itineraries arranged to assist in other phases of the program.

APPRECIATION OF THIS SERVICE:

This service was greatly appreciated by everyone connected with the work in the various communities to which it was rendered and without it the playground programs with untrained workers would have fallen far short of expectations. In most of the outlying communities the number of available R.F.C. workers was far more limited than in Los Angeles City and very few workers with playground experience or training were to be found. This rendered the task difficult and made our service practically essential. The work accomplished is proof of the value of this type of county coordinating, worker training and promotional service to the smaller communities which are not served by any organized recreation system.

EXERPTS FROM REPORTS:

A carefully prepared report on her work in ~~each~~ ^{each} community was submitted ^{to} the County Recreation Department by this worker, subdivided under the following topical headings: Program Analysis; New Activities Being Developed; Cooperation and Ability of Workers; Community Attitude and Response; Recommendations. Following are a few exerpts from the reports of this worker showing the careful planning and development of programs:

COVINA:

" To give ~~impetus~~ ^{impetus} to the development of the boys' program, I suggested a boys' Track Meet and Field Day to be held August 11th. The Directors agreed that we would have to do something to attract the boys and got behind the suggestion with real interest and a will to put it over. We worked out ~~the~~ events, ways and means to get the word to the public, which included a movie trailer, announcements in the newspapers and posters in strategic places. We also decided to have a Girl's Track meet the following week because it would add to the interest and enthusiasm.

Considerable discussion took place at this meeting on the daily program and how to strengthen it. I gave patterns and help in handcraft and suggestions as to how to work out the other phases of a good daily program.

A Fair was planned on this visit to include a general exhibition of all types of work done on the playgrounds this summer and will include handcraft exhibitions of both boys' and girls' work, a pantomime, an exhibition of wrestling - taught by our ~~own~~ ^{specialist} ~~and~~ - a pet show, then, after a picnic supper, as a grand finale, a lantern fete will be held instead of the customary fireworks. Patterns and help in the making of lanterns was given ~~to~~ and the program planned for the Fair."

A demonstration of handcraft was given also patterns and help in making them. They were welcomed with great enthusiasm on the part of the director. The man worker had not yet reported on the ground, so suggestions and patterns for boys's work ~~was~~ ^{were} to be passed on through the director.

In going over the daily program and suggestions for music,

we discovered that the director could obtain the volunteer services of a music teacher, who would not only give instruction, but lend her twenty different instruments, as well. She was sure that before the end of the season, the girls' orchestra would be able to appear for a public concert."

ARGADIA:

" With a little persuasion and talking over patterns and samples of handcraft that I had with me, both the executive and worker decided to include handcraft in their program and to redouble their efforts to get a woman leader, also to get their leaders to meet with me in the near future for instruction in this work.

They also saw that story-telling would be an ideal thing to do in the hot hours of the afternoon when the children did not wish to be out in the sun. We couldn't go much farther into a well-rounded program to include music, safety, nature study, etc. until we get more workers who are qualified to do these things.

A Pet Show was planned and all of the details worked out which will probably be held next Monday evening at 7 o'clock on the playground. I also worked out a tag to be given each pet in addition to some very inexpensive prizes to be given by local people."

EL MONTE:

" A very enthusiastic and glowing picture was given me by both directors on the playground and the Mayor about the success of the Mardi Gras and Baby Parade which had been planned and worked out on my previous visit.

Over 200 children and babies were in the line of march, which was headed by the Mayor, Chief of Police, and some volunteer drummers. The playground directors reported to me that the enthusiasm and cooperation of the parents had been won in a greater degree than they had dared hope for."

POMONA:

" A well balanced program was talked over and the committee and workers present realized they were not strong in every phase of a well-rounded program. An outline of suggestions was given which they plan to keep for reference and to inaugurate as many as possible the remainder of this year. In talking over special events, we decided it would be best to concentrate on the event planned for the 25th as anything used before that might foreshadow it and time wouldn't permit anything after the 25th. The workers seemed above the average and had a more intelligent understanding of the work than I sometimes find."

BALDWIN PARK:

" Suggestions for a spectacular event were welcome, so details were worked out for a Pet Show. Great enthusiasm was evinced on the part of all workers. The executive was consulted for his approval of the plans and the President of the Rotary Club promised that Rotary would sponsor the event, donate prizes and act as judges. The publisher of the local newspaper plans to feature playground events as they come along.

The Pet Show was planned for August 9th in the late

afternoon. Brief plans were made for a water sports event to take place some time ~~the~~ the near future. The instructor of swimming planned to start instructions with this event in mind. Patterns and help in handcraft ~~was~~ also given at this visit.

AZUSA:

" The executor ^{Mr.} and I had a long talk about the philosophy of play and right approach. I talked over the outline and suggestions made by this department on daily program planning and special events. He seemed very pleased with every suggestion and wishes me to talk with his workers as soon as he is able to get them together.

Thinking in terms of adult recreation, I suggested the possibility of this department providing a specialist in wrestling and boxing. He was pleased with the suggestion and talked it over with another man who promised to have Rotary go in for it.

The executive asked that I come back as often as possible to give further help in carrying out their program."

COMPTON:

" Along with the Pet Show, we planned a Mardie Gras to be held a week or so after the Pet Show; also to be sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and the merchants.

On this visit we tried to work out ways and means of continuing the recreation program after the opening of school. It presents quite a problem because of the lack of school buildings since the earthquake. The executive, however, agrees that it would be very worth while to not only continue the playground work, but to work along vocational and avocational lines.

I met with a sewing club and helped them work out plans for quilting, rag rug making and toy making in the future."

INGLEWOOD:

" A meeting of all workers of this district had been called by the executive for this contact. A short institute was conducted at which I explained the standards set by this department for a well-rounded program of recreation, went into detail in explaining my patterns on handcraft, planned a Lantern Fete for the near future, gave suggestions on how to proceed in the organization of the various phases of a recreational program such as music, dramatics, story-telling, safety, organized sports, etc., and encouraged free discussion of problems confronting each of the different workers.

As part of the institute I gave some instruction in story telling, technique, voice, selection of story, appeal, etc., and introduced one of our story tellers who told a story as a demonstration."

HUNTINGTON PARK:

" The work covered at this visit was in preparation for the institute. Plans and discussions covering special activities of a spectacular nature as a climax to the summer season took place. The workers who attended this preliminary meeting expressed the opinion that they had benefitted tremendously by the suggestions and by a general exchange of ideas.

Help was given in handcraft and patterns explained. These too, met with unstinted enthusiasm. At the request of the executive I gave a talk at an institute of the entire group of workers of this district on a well-rounded and diversified program of recreation activities, both juvenile and adult. I urged the careful working out of a daily program on every center to include music, story-telling, handcraft, safety study, nature study, free play games, organized sports, folk dancing, etc. adapting it to the particular needs of the center and community. I went into some detail on each of these activities, showing how to proceed with organization and urged that if the workers felt unprepared to go ahead with any of these projects, to go to their local library and enlist the aid of the librarian in selecting books which would help them.

MONROVIA:

" A very great improvement has become apparent in the general program of this entire district since my last visit. Weekly institutes are now being held at which time the executive discusses program plans for the following week and general problems.

One of the negro playground workers from Duarte is organizing a Harmonica Band and Toy Symphony Band and on one of the playgrounds in Monrovia, the nucleus of a sketch club is being formed.

The girl teaching the sketching is one of the regular R. F. C. workers. This is, in my mind, the outstanding bit of program of any of the communities. The executive was particularly pleased with the reception the Pooch Parade received and because of its great success was planning a Pet Show for August 22nd. The Pooch Parade was planned and details worked out in my previous visits.

HERMOSA BEACH:

" On my previous visit, we worked out a Pet Show which will be held this coming Saturday, September 2nd, 1933, and the whole town, from the kids to the councilmen, is literally agog with the show. Frenzied telephone calls were being made to print shops, people who will act as judges, etc.

A good start has been made on building a new athletic field and playground with a battery of tennis courts, volley ball courts, baseball diamond, space for playground apparatus and free play area."

REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITIES * *

BY THE LOCAL RECREATION DEPARTMENTS * *

July 10 - September 10, 1933

EXCERPT FROM RECREATIONAL EXECUTIVES' REPORTS

Executive reporting - Walter L. Scott

"Eighty-six people are now employed on this project in Long Beach, of these, 65 men and 21 are women. The quota allowed is 150, and it is planned to place this number as rapidly as eligible men and women are found.

Fifty-seven of this number are working under the Municipal Recreation Department. The remaining 29 are assigned to the School Playgrounds.

Every member of the staff is experienced in work to which he has been assigned. All these staff workers were eligible at the County Welfare Department under the R. F. C. rules, and were judged qualified for the work by our Department.

Our records show that of the total, 42 have had a high school education, and 31, a college education. The staff includes trained school teachers, Y. M. C. A. secretaries, newspapermen, engineers, scout masters, etc.

The allotment of working time allowed these people varies from 4 to 20 days per month. The average is 11.3 days, thus necessitating a shift of approximately 3 people to hold one position for a month. At present between 60 and 70 people are working every day.

AREAS COVERED BY THE R. F. C. STAFF

R. F. C. beach supervisors are located at the following beaches; Park Avenue, Marine Stadium, Golden Avenue, Termino Avenue, Brighton Beach, Molino Avenue, Cherry Avenue, Third Place and Rainbow Lagoon.

R. F. C. play directors are located at Recreation Park, Rainbow Lagoon Bay Shore, Colorado Lagoon Boat House, Tulare, Marine Stadium, Silverado Park, Houghton Park, South and Alamitos, and at the following schools; Signal Hill, Edison, Burnett, Lafayette, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Adams, Naples and Temple.

R. F. C. garden supervisors are located at Recreation Park, Burbank, Signal Hill, and Garfield Schools.

Special and traveling teachers are assigned to teaching art, handcraft, music and dramatics and various play centers.

Home contact workers work in wide areas surrounding play centers, informing parents of the play program, and inviting their children's participation.

Walter L. Scott - 2

WORK BEING ACCOMPLISHED BY R. F. C. STAFF

"Perhaps the most valuable and significant field of work made possible through the R. F. C. funds, is the home contact campaign being carried on by nine home contact workers.

For the first few days these men and women visited homes near play centers, talked to parents, presented information leaflets from the Recreation Department, and invited the parents to send their children to the nearest play area. In the week ending July 15, 1933, such contacts were made.

At present a similar campaign is being carried on at homes of known problems, anti-social and unstable children whose names have been given us by school counselors and welfare agencies.

While many play areas and recreational facilities are available only through the R. F. C. workers, the entire program has been augmented by the supplementary project inasmuch as regular recreation employees can devote their time to other fields. Among the activities aided by the R. F. C. workers, the following may be mentioned:

Pageants: Seven of these will be presented in August alone.

Play days: Various play days for both boys and girls will be held during the summer. Among the sports scheduled for these play days are horse-shoes, paddle tennis, track and field events, bicycle racing, volley ball, croquet, etc.

Contests: Tennis championship tournaments, field and track championship olympiads, and baseball league playoffs will be held.

In addition, sports and games conducted at the fifteen playgrounds will be led by R. F. C. workers.

Four gardens will be supervised solely by R.F.C.workers.

Group leaders will be assigned for the following club groups; book lovers, first aid, rod and reel, scrap book, sewing, song leading, stamp collecting, story telling, puzzles, dramatics, etc.

Seven swimming instructors have been selected from R. F. C. Staff.

Walter L. Scott - 3

OUTSTANDING FACTS REGARDING THE R.F.C. PROJECT

"Despite curtailed recreation budgets, we are able to offer this summer as a result of the supplementary R. F. C. Project, greater recreation facilities than usual.

In addition to the supplementary workers on areas supervised by regular Recreation Commission employees, there are approximately 25 areas, including vacant lots, which it would not be possible to cover except through R. F. C. workers.

Despite the handicap of working with a shifting staff, an efficient organization has been perfected by Mrs. Vinnie Gee Eaton, to allow a continuous supply of R.F.C. workers. Much detail and office work is also handled by R.F.C. workers.

Long Beach is now employing more R.F.C. "white collar" workers in recreation than any other area in the county, with the possible exception of Los Angeles."

-0-

"I am very much interested in knowing how long this project will remain effective. If it should be continued into the first semester of the ensuing school year, we might be able to promote recreational activities on most of our elementary school sites from 3:30 or 4:00 until 6:00 daily as well as on Saturdays.

We appreciate the interest which the County Recreation Department has taken in this project. We also wish to congratulate you upon your organization and method of gathering data, which means will undoubtedly be the greatest influence in maintaining this project for a considerable time. Personally, I believe this project is very much worth while, and I hope that it can continue.

Ten recreational clubs have recently been organized;

Walter L. Scott - 4

They are:

- a. Handcraft
- b. Cartooning and art
- c. Leather work
- d. Bird House Construction
- e. Games and Puzzles
- f. Scrap Book
- g. Stamp Collection
- h. Harmonica
- i. Sing-song
- j. Rhythms

Eight workers were assigned to make Home contacts during this week; Six were assigned to direct personal calls, and two were assigned to generally advertise the activities. Between the dates of July 5 and July 29, 22 different home contact workers were employed. Between the dates mentioned, 861 personal calls were made by these workers from lists submitted by school counselors and deans, and by Catholic Welfare workers. In addition, there has been a total of 1,942 general home calls made in which there was a total of 3,148 children contacts. These general home calls were for the purpose of advertising activities, and for inviting children to attend the playground and recreational activities.

Let me say we are happy to report that this project has meant a great deal to us in our summer program, and we believe our system of handling the project is sufficiently well organized to assure its complete success until the project is completed."

EXCERPTS FROM RECREATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Executive reporting - Morgan T. Whitehead

"At Belvedere Community House, there is one women's director, and one boy's director; the same applies to Santa Maria Welfare Center. I also have placed at the corner of Brooklyn and Ford Streets an experienced playground director of middle age, who has contacted to date 115 boys from the ages of 6 to 15. This worker gives each one of them a card to either the Soledad Club or to Miss Jackson. Miss Jackson reports that she has had an increase of approximately 40. For some time past we have had numerous complaints from the Sheriff's Office, and the merchants in this locality about the boys jumping on trucks, and causing other considerable damage, and this activity on the part of this worker has brought commendation from both the Sheriff's Office and the merchants.

Miss Stelzer and the Catholic Big Sisters are doing a wonderful work at San Basil's playground, bearing in mind that up until a few weeks ago they had no playground facilities whatsoever - until I installed horse-shoes, croquet, volley ball and hand ball.

At Santa Maria, Miss Burdick reports that her attendance is holding its usual number this year over and above the decrease last year - this being on account of new facilities being installed, comprising horse-shoes, and outside boxing arena, hand ball and soft ball games. On July 19th we had three boxing bouts of 5 rounds - 1 minute each, and our actual adult spectators numbered 475; this included the mothers and fathers of the Santa Maria Welfare District. I also assisted Miss Burdick in taking approximately 40 Mexican mothers to Hermosa Beach July 19th.

The Soledad Club, corner of Brooklyn and McDonnell Sts., attendance has been good; this playground is used mostly by men from 18 to 40 years of age, playing horseshoes and soft baseball, and am glad to say that most of this activity is from 6 P. M. to darkness. However, in the daytime, the children have the use of the playgrounds at the Brooklyn Avenue Public School with the exception of 9 A. M. to 11 A. M. when Soledad is used entirely by the girls' summer school of Soledad Catholic Church, numbering approximately 60 girls, ranging from 8 to 16 years of age. On account of crossing the street at this intersection, I have had an R. F. C. worker from Brooklyn and Ford conduct these girls across the street, both coming and going to playgrounds.

At Hollenbeck Y. M. C. A. the field worker has increased membership approximately 75 per day; this being on account of the Y. M. C. A. not being able heretofore to have a paid worker on the playgrounds.

"At the Harrison school, corner of Ramona and Harrison Streets, I placed a Miss Adler for children's activities, and this young lady has formed a dramatic and nature study club, and her attendance for the first time, at this school, is approximately 70 children - from 6 to 14 years of age. A few days ago, she gave a recital for the benefit of the mothers and fathers in this locality.

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"On July 27th I completed construction of a cement wading pool 16 x 18 ft., 14 inches deep for Santa Maria Welfare Center. We opened the pool at 10 A. M. Thursday, and the actual count of boys from 6 to 12 years of age was 95; at 2 P. M. we opened the pool again for girls and the actual count was 135. The above figures being those of Miss Burdick. There has also been started at this center a Summer school for boys and girls; the school actually numbers, daily, 400. These children are taught by the Sisters of Mercy and range from 6 to 16 years of age.

On July 25th I turned over to Miss Jackson the lot known as Loucks Garden Project for her personal supervision, and which was developed by Mexican labor donated from the neighborhood. The actual workers on this lot, daily, are 17 boys ranging from 8 to 18 years of age, each one bearing in mind that there is competition, and there are prizes to be awarded by Miss Jackson for the best developed plot.

With 7 laborers from the Welfare Department, a Mr. L. Ruiz of the Soledad Club is developing a very high-class big league baseball diamond, and garden project on 10 of the acres of land donated for their use by the Hellman Estate. This baseball diamond will be the only one east of Evergreen Avenue, and will be under the supervision of the Soledad and Santa Maria Boys Club. I might call your attention to the fact that the majority of my workers in the Belvedere District are musicians of considerable note, and also playground experience, and we expect, in the near future, to give a musicale at the Belvedere Junior High School, also, at Miss Jackson's house, and Santa Maria Welfare.

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"Entertainment given by children from 5 to 18, also adults, from community district, comprising Santa Maria, Bethel, and Russian people. There were 14 numbers on program, and attendance was 1152. Above held in Belvedere Junior High Auditorium. Mr. Miller spoke, explaining project. The above entertainment is the first and largest ever held in Belvedere for the benefit of foreign people. The Board of Education has notified me that this department is welcome to use any school auditorium at any time, for such purposes."

"In Hollenbeck Heights, after much missionary work on the part of co-workers, there are two new playgrounds, one at 6th and Euclid, and one at 3rd and Boyd. These new playgrounds were formerly vacant lots, and have been cleared off by boys 10 to 18 years of age, and are in neighborhoods where there were no recreation facilities, and I personally visited both on August 4th, and counted 72 boys, all busy at some game. The Boyd Street ground is located northeast off 4th St. bridge, and has been a rendezvous for gangs who have heretofore caused considerable damage to Peck & Hills, Warren Bailey, and several dairies, and is now patrolled by three boys each play hour, who have been signed up as trustees by my co-worker, James Arnet."

I am starting August 7th to clear Lacy Field, having been promised 12 men by Miss Court, for Monday A. M. I am well pleased with the work by my workers" .

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"On above programs this past week, much progress was made at Lacy Field, and while the field was being cleared off, there was an attendance of approximately 100 children from 8 to 18 years of age, taking advantage of some place to play. This is the first time any playground activity has been shown in this district, children having to go to Belvedere Jr. High, or in the streets. Mrs. Stewart, Secy. Monday Noon Club, and six others, all active in Civic affairs in Belvedere, meet on above field twice a week to contact my co-worker."

I have secured the Strand Theatre for August 22nd, 1 P. M. (gratis) for a Kiddies' Revue, and all set with fourteen vaudeville acts, and Buck Jones Bank, prizes to be given to kiddies who help create interest in Lacy Field.

The attendance at Soledad grounds has increased to approximately 125 children, and this increase is due to the activities of both the Priest and members of Soledad Church, Cor. Brooklyn and McDonnell.

"The boxing bout at Santa Maria 7 P. M. August 9th, was 4-3 min. rounds, attendance approximately 700 people."

"At Cleland House, (Miss Jackson) we are all set with circus to be held August 16th, 17th, 18th, all evening shows. There will be 18 acts, both professional and amateur. Side wall curtains, etc. all donated.

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"At Cleland House playgrounds, we held a Circus August 16th, 17th, 18th, 7 P. M. until 9:30, admission charged 3 cents each, 2 for 5 cents. 75% were children. We were fortunate in having Harry Lee of Paramount Studios direct this show, which he did with all local talent, excepting Miss Florence Lorretto, world famous Acrobatic Trapeze performer, and who is now on location substituting Maureen Sullivan in new picture Tarzen Mates, and loaned by Paramount to us one night. The following firms donating to this show were as follows:

W. P. Fuller Co. - Paint
Globe Linen Supply Co. 744 E. 8th Ave., canvas for
circus sign.
Hauser Packing Co., 525 ft. 8' canvas
KGEF Radio Station, (Mr. Salinas)
Santa Maria Clinic (Humphrey & N.Y. Sts.), chairs.
Demphry Bus. Co., Transportation for band.
Buck Jones Ranger Band, 40 pieces, (Mr. Martin,
Strand Theatre)
Serrano's Orchestra (25 pieces)

The above entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by all, from the fact that the nearest picture show is 2 miles away, and cash much farther.

At the boys garden of 17 plots, will say that results are beginning to show in planting, and boys are faithfully working. This of course, under Miss Jackson's supervision.

I have with Miss Jackson's help revived interest in Community Betterment Club, and their membership now exceeds 75, and their meetings will be held 1st and 15th of each month.

At Santa Maria Center, there has been approximately 200 children 6 to 10 years of age, enjoy wading pool each day, also held Wednesday night under supervision of Bert Colima, there were 3 boxing bouts held, and actual count of spectators was 727 - 60% being fathers and mothers.

M.T.Whitehead - 5

"With Rev. Amentaz, of Soledad Catholic Church, we planned a community meeting of Belvedere to be held at Soledad Playground Sunday 2 P. M.

At new Playground of Belvedere Park Mexican Baptist Church, we have a class of 30 girls and 50 boys, 6 to 16 each morning 9 to 11 A. M. also in charge of Rev. Ortiona. I am also having co-meeting with 9 other Mexican Preachers, and Mr. Beam Tuesday August 22nd, 3 P. M.

At Lacy Field we have been donated 5 telephone poles, 2400 sq. ft. netting (Whiting Mead) 5 or more benches from U.P.R.R. Lumber from various firms, and we hope to be able to have a ball game Saturday August 25th, between Old Timers Ball Club, and Belvedere Merchants Ball Club. We have Music donated, and hope that I may be given privilege of using this talent insofar as they are registered at various welfare offices. More to follow on Lacy Field.

Tuesday at 1 P. M. August 22nd, co-worker Ramey has secured Strand Theatre, all talent, and \$25.00 worth of film, gratis to give a Kiddies' Revue for children of Belvedere Gardens, free of charge.

This is an invitation to all to attend and see for yourself the appreciation Belvedere Community is showing for the co-operation from Recreation Dept.

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In making survey of above district, (Hollenbeck Heights) several weeks ago, I found a necessity of additional playgrounds, and with co-worker Arnett, found a vacant lot N.E. of east end of 4th St. bridge, and cleaned lot and started games, of horse-shoes, soft ball, etc. This neighborhood is undoubtedly the toughest in above district, as it is just east of River and U. P. tracks, and where boys have the privilege of conversation with R.R. hoboes, who entice boys to steal and break in R.R. cars, also use B.B. guns shooting at people. Arnett called at the boys' houses, got co-operation from parents, and when Arnett left job, I placed co-worker Costa who carried on, and only yesterday landed the 2 leaders of boys gangs, and took them home to parents, who punished both boys, and was most grateful to Costa for his work. The neighborhood women are so grateful to Costa that they alternately have him eat lunch with them, also supply drinking water for the boys while playing. Costa is also working with Police in rounding up boys.

"The co-operation has been 100% from residents of Hollenbeck, especially from Rev. Rossi, of Italian Church, also from Sears-Roebuck. There is considerable work to be done in above district, but we have overcome the worst, which has been bad adult influence. In the Russian district, which is partly west of River, I placed co-worker Geo. Kanakoff, who has worked with Leo. Stackly of Russian Civic Club, and I may state that there are 2 classes of Russians;- The Holy Jumpers and the Holakins, who have refused help from past co-worker, however, we have been successful having organized the Russian Language School on Glass St., and attached please find program, which is now in session every morning. Kanakoff is today (Saturday) taking 25 boys to Elysian Park, and has accepted (with my permission) an invitation to teach Sunday School every Sunday for them. His talks and teachings to them each morning is respect for our Government, also the New Testament.

When I first worked in this district, it was through Mrs. Troyer, and previously the Russian Jews had formented trouble, both religious and otherwise, but as all pure Russians are both much more intelligent than pure Caucasian, we have been able to make much progress.

We are at present having 100% co-operation from the fathers and mothers in this district, and hope to make a good showing in the near future.

In Belvedere (Mexican District) Santa Maria Center Playground work of children from 14 to 18 is less on account of them being away berry picking; however, the wading pool has lost none of it's customers. We also have had an average attendance of 22 boys 18 to 30 who train for boxing daily, and it is a plasure to see these boys who (previously had been hanging around pool halls) are taking advantage of instruction from Bert Colima.

At Lacy Field we have cleared about 9 acres, scraped same with trucks and scraper, flooded same with hose from Fire Department, erected 6 telephone poles 25 ft. high and 2400 ft. wire for back stop, about 100 ft. of 8 ft. netting extending from back stop each way, 2 player dug outs, with shade, also a bleacher stand of about 100 people capacity, this formerly used by Merchants Club, at field 1 mile East. All trucks, lumber, etc. used in above were donated by Merchants of Belvedere and Street Car Co.

We are having a track and field meet of kids 6 to 18 on Sept. 1st, about 1,000 entries at present, still coming. We have races of all kinds, including white, black, and yellow, also a good time is assured all who come.

M.T.Whitehead - 7

"On September 3rd, we are having a ball game, Belvedere Semi-Pro team, vs. Old Timers' Club, which will include such as Ping Bodie, Louis Eschart, Wally Hood, Wheezer Dell and others. Judge Wood, of Belvedere Court will be Master of Ceremonies, and incidentally he is one of our best boosters and a co-worker of mine, plus the U.P. Ry., who donated 10 benches to the playground. While we are not yet in shape for children to use grounds, I have counted several times as many as 75 on grounds, making their own amusement, however, I supplied them with soft ball, and a set of boxing gloves, which are being used continuously."

At Lacy Field we held a track and field meet Friday afternoon. Program opened at 12:30 with a parade headed by Buck Jones Band, and approximately 1400 children from 6 to 22 years of age, the festivities lasting until 5 P. M. Our prizes were donated by Belvedere Merchants, some of which were Strand Theatre, Sears-Roebuck, Whiting Mead, Gen'l Paint Co., and Atwater Kent. Approximate attendance was 1500, in addition to about 400 parents at 4:30 P. M."

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"At Cleland House attendance is still increasing, as children are returning home from berry and fruit picking, and I notice a steady increase of fathers and mothers attending and taking an interest in activities at the above Welfare Center. I have also noticed a marked decrease in discontentment here, due to the fact of active work of our co-workers.

Friday night at Belvedere Junior High we gave an entertainment by children and adults from 6 to 50. We had 14 program numbers, and entertainers numbered approximately 125 persons. We also had handcraft exhibition of children's work, which pleased the parents. Attendance approximately 1,000, of which 60% were fathers and mothers.

All of the above entertainment was by and for this district and included all denominations. Ninety percent, Mexicans, some, of course, being very dark of color, this being due to scarcity of soap, no doubt. However, a good time was had by all, especially Mr. Beam and O. O. Owen.

At Lacy Field, September 3rd, (Sunday) we had a ball game between old timers and Belvedere Stars. Our attendance was approximately 1500 people. Judge Woods being master of Ceremonies, with a loud speaker hook-up by General Paint Co., and all ball players claimed Lacy Field is one of the best in the County.

M.T.Whitehead - 8

"Labor Day we had a double-header game, and attendance about 1600 people. We have finished building and now in use, a sand box 14 x 16, also a hand ball backstop 14 x 16 and both activities busy from 8:30 to 6:00 P.M. plus the ball grounds.

P.S. also attached please find letter from American Legion, of which I will have more to say in my next report."

East Los Angeles Post 323
The American Legion
777 McDonnell Ave.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Sept. 7, 1933

Mr. Thomas P. Smith,
Schools & Playground Committee,
East Los Angeles Association of Civic Clubs,
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Smith:

East Los Angeles Post 323, The American Legion takes pleasure in informing you that it has voted to present to the new community playground a suitable American Flag. If the flag loaned to your committee will do for the time being, it occurred to this Post that the presentation of the flag could take place on Armistice Day, and that possibly some other patriotic demonstration could be arranged on that day if such a program would be agreeable to the committee.

This Post wishes to extend to the committee its congratulations, and thanks for the splendid progress so far made, and wishes to assure the committee that it can count on the whole-hearted support of this organization.

Thanking you ever so much, we are,

Sincerely and Cordially,

EAST LOS ANGELES POST 323
THE AMERICAN LEGION

By W. H. Hoefener

EXCERPTS FROM RECREATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Executive reporting - J. C. Henderson

"Field worker Jack Vincent at South Park Playground called upon a report received from a woman in the neighborhood that boys were damaging her lawn. He enlisted the help of some of the older boys in tracking down the culprits and finally rounded up and organized into an athletic club at South Park Playground approximately 50 boys.

The pre-delinquent boys brought to State Street by police are beginning to think of the playgrounds as a place to play, rather than a prison, as they first called our grounds. Many of these boys are bringing their friends to the grounds. They are entering into the games and tournaments on the grounds and enjoying them.

As we get further into this project we are amazed and delighted with the unusual skill possessed by some of the workers.

Captain Collins commanding the Hollenbeck precinct reports that some 200 youngsters were cleared off the east side streets in the first week of the campaign.

We feel that it has been of great benefit to the City of Long Beach in helping to keep down delinquency in this area, and hope they realize that the Recreation Commission budget for this year has been greatly reduced on account of the recent earthquake.

We want you to know that we do appreciate the assistance that has been given our department by the addition of these well qualified and enthusiastic workers, and we congratulate you for your good work on this project.

Some interesting developments are taking place with the special field workers. Reports of the men assigned to Poinsettia problem and to the south side problem are attached. The two men working out of the 77th Street Police Station have proved to be very valuable, and Lieutenant Hanson has asked for a third man and for a woman with office experience to help in further clean-up of this area.

At the Harvard Playground, through the cooperation of the R.F.C. workers, our own playground staff and the Police Department, a gang of some thirty to forty boys was taken in hand. Complaints were filed, as shown in the attached papers,

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Recreation Executive reports, continued

J. C. Henderson

on the felony cases, and the remainder of the boys are being organized into the Harvard Athletic Club. This gang has been a thorn in the side of the district for two or three years. There have been innumerable complaints of damage to property, petty theft, insulting remarks to girls, profanity, gambling, etc., and if this one gang can be broken up, it will be well worth the cost of all R.F.C. efforts on the south side."

EXCERPTS FROM RECREATIONAL EXECUTIVES' REPORTS

Executive reporting - Minnie L. Rosenberry

WILMAR

"The boys' directors say that they find the average boy unfamiliar with most outdoor games, but that with supervision he develops into a playmate with others in games of his liking, and shows a preference for staying on the playground to going to the swimming hole. On the playground he is kept out of questionable company."

"The Garvey School playground is quite a busy place. I see new faces every day. The boys are learning new games; dominoes, checkers, croquet, and horse-shoes."

EXCERPTS FROM RECREATIONAL EXECUTIVES' REPORTS

Executive reporting - Walter J. Price

"The attendance at each of the playgrounds - of which we have four increased amazingly last week, the total being 1,867 as against 885 for the previous week".

"I sincerely hope that all other communities enjoying these privileges are deriving as much benefit as Burbank."

EXCERPTS FROM RECREATIONAL EXECUTIVES' REPORTS

Executive reporting - A. R. Veenker

"I want to let you know that we are making good use of the men and women whom we are accepting as assistants through the R.F.C. funds in our summer playground, and recreation activities. These workers are assisting as follows:

1. Aiding in making a neighborhood survey within a radius of five blocks within each of our playgrounds.
2. Organizing new groups in playground activities as they appear as a result of this survey. In many cases children playing in the street were persuaded to transfer their games to the playgrounds.
3. The formation of LOYALTY AND PATRIOTIC GROUPS at each center.
4. Emphasizing the development of better citizenship through more personal supervision."

EXCERPTS FROM RECREATIONAL EXECUTIVES' REPORTS

Executive reporting - Claude C. Downing

"Reporting on the general results and value of the recreation project, I wish to say that we consider Project #821 about the biggest thing that ever happened to us. It has enabled us to fill out our own staff, as well as extend service into San Gabriel and Temple City.

Our education survey resulted in a large increase in attendance, a far better understanding of our problem on the part of the people, and also a keener insight on our part into the view point held by the average tax-payer.

At first we were somewhat doubtful as to the value of the services of the people available, but after a conference with you, I determined not to expect too much and to make the best of the situation. The results have been most gratifying. With only one exception, the people selected have more than fulfilled expectations. They have adapted themselves to the situation admirably. In several cases a natural ability for playground work has been manifest.

Up to date we have used a total of forty three different people, and this spread of employment has been of material help to a class of people who otherwise were finding it difficult, if not impossible, to find a place under any of the other county projects. We are enjoying this opportunity to serve.

Your staff has been so unflinchingly helpful in this work, that I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for it."

EXCERPT FROM RECREATIONAL EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Executive reporting - S. B. Nylander

"Despite the unusual amount of hot weather during the past week, attendance at the various play areas of the South East district has shown continued increase in attendance. This is largely due to the intensive campaign carried on here in bringing the recreation program to the attention of parents and also is due to the varied program that is being carried on in the playgrounds. I might also add that it is also due to the high type of qualified workers that we have who are giving more time than their work orders call for to make the Los Angeles County Recreation program a success.

As stated in my last week's report, we are placing even greater emphasis than in the past on the delinquency prevention work, and am very happy to report that the various local law enforcing officials report a decided decrease in the number of juvenile offenders that come before them.

Chief of Police English of Huntington Park informs us that he is practically having no trouble with juvenile offenders as he has had in the past, and the few lone cases that do come to his attention are usually from outside districts.

HUNTINGTON PARK: All areas report increase in attendance. Particularly is this true for the new area that we were able to open in Miles Park - there has never been any real recreational activity here and never any supervision. This is the area where I reported an increase in attendance of 35 per day to 450 per day with a daily average of about 350. Handcraft classes have been started here, together with various types of athletic activity and a new type of bowling which is causing quite a bit of interest and which I will send in a special report of within a few days. We have been able to build up a fine class of older boys by putting on an instructor in boxing and also continuing the radio and harmonic band classes.

I also wish to report an attendance of about two hundred men each day in the City Park on Pacific Boulevard. We hope to make a fine adult recreational set-up on this small park before the end of the month.

SOUTH GATE: We have been successful in having the San Gabriel school playground opened for two nights a week for the use of young men and women. This area is controlled by the Los Angeles School Department and the lighting has been made possible through the cooperation of the South Gate City officials.

Permission has finally been secured from the Los Angeles School Board to open the women's side of the South Gate High School, and we are sending a woman worker to this area this coming week, and I am confident that we will soon have an excellent

attendance of girls and young women - there has been none to speak of in the past, and there certainly has been a great need for women's activities in this community.

LYNWOOD: Five areas have been opened in Lynwood by our R.F.C. workers, and a splendid program is being carried out both for the children and adults. A fine program of athletic activity for young men and women is being carried out in the evenings on a lighted area provided by the local school board. The local school board is giving us a very fine kind of co-operation, and the reports of the workers from this district will probably portray the program carried on in a much better way by the statistical figures that your department is compiling.

I reported briefly on our aquatic program: last week an aquatic program without a swimming pool, wading pond or a beach; a program that has been made possible through securing the cooperation of the local fire departments. Daily, in almost every one of our towns, we have the local fire department set up their apparatus at specified times at the different recreational areas and the hose is turned on. On these hot days you can appreciate the results; here are some of the figures for the past week, figures that are not in any of our workers' reports:

Aquatics:	Huntington Park	600	participants	ea.	wk.
	Bell	750	"	"	"
	South Gate	375	"	"	"
	Lynwood	300	"	"	"

May I suggest that this program be extended to other areas as well as to various parts of the city of Los Angeles?

I have been asked by members of the school boards and local officials in the various communities if they can expect to receive the same sort of help and service during the school year. My answer has been that I believe that it may be arranged. They want the work to continue as an after school activity and also in many cases as an evening program for adults. I sincerely hope that we will be able to continue for I know that recreational work as sponsored and carried out by the Los Angeles County Recreation Department is producing results--not only in taking care of the tremendous amount of leisure time of our people unemployed but also those who are working under the N.R.A. agreement, and also the program is providing a large factor in decreasing delinquency problems."

"Last week we sent down to Wrigley Ball Park 150 boys between the ages of 10 and 18 as guests of the local ball park management! This feature is to be extended to us for the remainder of the local baseball season. Last Tuesday 250 boys and girls of the Southeast district were taken to the ball park under the supervision of our local play directors, and transported through the courtesy of local merchants.

Local service clubs are cooperating excellently with the delinquency prevention and recreation program, and have agreed to sponsor many groups of boys and girls in localities where there are no definite character-building agencies to take care of their problems. As an example - the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and local Masonic Clubs in South Gate, where the delinquency problem is particularly acute, are sponsoring four groups of what might be called, practically, pre-delinquent types. One of these organizations, through material that we have furnished them have individually made over 1,000 calls and contacts in their neighborhood, calling the "DP" and recreation program to their attention."

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"One of the outstanding pieces of work, I believe, that has been accomplished in this district, during the past month, is in connection with the four gangs of pre-delinquent boys who were reported in my report of last week. I am very happy to report that a large percentage of these boys have been contacted by one of our delinquency prevention workers in the southeast district, Mr. Ben Houghkirk, and organized into two distinct boys clubs, which are being sponsored by the American Legion of South Gate and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Six other organizations have pledged their unstinted support to the founding and continuance of other boys clubs as they may be needed.

A new program has been started in the play area of South Gate and Huntington Park in the form of children's choruses and, through the children in the play area, we hope before long to be able to build up community "sings" in the various communities of the Southeast District, as an adult evening activity.

We have been able to open up additional facilities in several of the play areas for special handcraft work which would have an appeal to older boys. This has been done in the form of making useful pieces of furniture for the home. During the past week, over 100 pieces of furniture have been made by these older boys in six areas."

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"Attendance at each of these areas has increased from 25% to as high as 700% during the last three weeks with even a greater increase in attendance expected before the end of August.

We have continued to be very fortunate in being able to select unusually well qualified workers to carry on the program and trust that their "PG" & "DP" reports will reflect their qualifications and fine work in your final analysis.

During the past week a new area has been opened in Downey and is progressing far beyond our expectations. The attendance should run over 200 a day before the end of the coming week and a most varied program has been started already. Outstanding is the wonderful support and cooperation that is being given by the local school board. They have not only thrown open all of their buildings for the use of our workers but they are also providing all necessary equipment including special shop and handcraft materials.

All communities report increased attendance in the newly opened recreational areas; the morale has been increased materially and adult attention and interest is constantly being focused on the work that is being carried on in their respective areas by the Los Angeles County Recreational Department.

All R.F.C. workers under project #821 in the Southeast district meet regularly every Tuesday morning in the South Gate City Hall where ideas are exchanged by the workers, displays of various types of activities and demonstrations given of worth-while recreational programs. Workers in this district who have completed their work orders attend at their own volition, feeling that they will be able to secure more information on how to carry on their work when they again go on duty."

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"Mr. Lionel DeSilva, Executive in charge of the Inglewood district has built up a fine program of recreational activities and is being assisted by Mr. U. J. Edwards and R.F.C. workers.

One of the outstanding features of the program being carried out in the Inglewood district is the municipal Boys' Camp in Tujunga Canyon. From 25 to 35 boys are taken care of in this camp every week - tents, clothing and food supplied are donated by local merchants with an excellent staff of R.F.C. workers making the contacts that secure the supplies each week. Two R.F.C. workers are on duty 24 hours of the day at the camp and have created a fine camp program."

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S. B. Nylander
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"A very complete program was put on at the Corona Avenue School where a special exhibit was staged to show the work of the adult sewing classes which were established a month ago. We were ably assisted by Mr. Swalley whom you sent out to us some time ago. Mr. Swalley not only put on a separate performance of his own but acted as master of ceremonies for approximately 200 children and 400 mothers and fathers.

287 boys and girls were taken to see the Coast League State ball game at Wrigley Park last Wednesday night through the courtesy of the ball park manager and the cooperation of local merchants who donated automobiles and trucks for their transportation. Practically every playground in the Southeast was represented and practically every director took from ten to twenty-five boys.

The early part of this week I left with Mrs. Miller copy of our Winter schedule supplementing the reports which I sent in on the 23d of August. In these reports you will notice that we are planning to open several new play areas in connection with the rural schools' program and, incidentally, we are planning putting on adult evening activities at least one night a week in these areas, rooms and auditoriums having been secured through the cooperation of the local school boards.

I am enclosing five letters which have been sent to our office at Huntington Park regarding the programs. I believe these letters are of particular interest due to the fact that representative groups and leaders from the communities expressed their appreciation and interest in the work which has been carried on."

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THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN-FAMILY DEFENSE LEAGUE
Rev. Wm. Mathew Holderby, President-Director.

Huntington Park, Calif.
September 5, 1933

"If to express appreciation is to offer encouragement to a group of workers facing a very serious responsibility in a public cause during a nation's crisis, then I want to write you my feelings after being present at your conference of the Los Angeles County Recreation Workers held at South Gate Tuesday morning, September 5, 1933.

No one could doubt the enthusiasm and intelligence of your staff. Their reports of the developed activities for the groups they supervised and with whom they worked was thrilling. You were compelled to believe they were making good at their task. Especially in the showing of the handwork that some were able to display did you see both the resourcefulness and ingenuity of the leaders to do things out of literally nothing as well as the cleverness of the children and youth who could be taught to be so practical as their finished objects of labor showed them to be.

As I have come to know of the vision and courage that led this work to be initiated as equally I also have learned how definitely it is an application of effort to solve the problem of growing juvenile delinquency, I am certain that its potentialities are such that as the Los Angeles County Recreation Department continues this cooperation with the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court, a pattern method can be developed, as it is applied in other populous centers of America.

I trust you shall be enabled to continue this worthy social project for all of its usefulness and benefits it can contribute.

Very sincerely yours,

Signed: Wm. Matthew Holderby

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CITY OF SOUTH GATE

The Complete City
Post Street at Victoria Ave.
Jefferson 5101
South Gate, California

September 1, 1933

Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Bureau
Department of Playgrounds of Los Angeles Co.
Los Angeles, California

Gentlemen:

Because of the high type of work, which has been done in the playgrounds of our City and because of the many beneficial results, therefrom, I desire to express my most sincere appreciation and trust that your body will make it possible that this work be continued on the same schedule as at present.

This area has, heretofore, been without any parks or playground facilities and this expenditure which is being made here, I am sure will bring lasting benefits.

Again thanking you for this service rendered our community and hoping for its continuance, I beg to remain

Yours very sincerely,

Signed: H. C. Peiffer
H. C. Peiffer, City Clerk

HCP:MH

EXCERPTS FROM THE

REPORTS OF THE FIELD WORKERS

July 10 - September 10, 1933

A FEW EXERPTS FROM REPORTS OF
460 FIELD WORKERS.

"Three playgrounds made and practically equipped,- Reo Vista Field, La Purisima Stage and Arena, Opal Street Recreation Hall, and the opening of Hollenbeck Field which the City abandoned July 1, 1933. On these above mentioned fields we take care of 130 to 150 boys per day ranging in age from 10 to 24 years. Each boy is supervised in some special type of athletics. We have two adult Mexican baseball teams, 30 members (18 to 32 years.) Have scheduled several Sunday games for them. They practice two days each week. In the Recreational Hall we have 20 to 35 girls, two hours each P. M. with games, this is in connection with work at Santa Isabel."

" There are seven definite neighborhoods in the district and I am working for the establishment of a local cooperating organization in each neighborhood including representatives from the churches, local associations and business men. In one, strictly industrial neighborhood I am working with the plant managers using athletic activities. The general idea is meeting with hearty acceptance. I have a definite series of engagements and speaking appointments lined up which it is hoped will be very productive."

" I have introduced the Mothers' Recreation League as a means to increase attendance at the playgrounds and to bring the influence of the home into active cooperation with the Directors working on the playgrounds."

" I have personally talked with a number of parents, especially of boys now on probation, and they feel that opening of the school for play would be of material help in keeping the boys out of mischief. In that connection I have secured the signatures of about 18 or 20 boys who have pledged themselves to attend the playground and to obtain attendance of their friends if such play facilities were made available."

" Ten parents of children found playing on the streets were informed of facilities and advantages of the playground nearest their home. As a result, sixteen children of these parents were reported on playgrounds the following day."

" Playground plunge continues to be the best drawing card for new patrons. The 'Water Circus' held this week drew a huge crowd; 1500 parents and children. Have arranged to cooperate fully with the playground until the beginning of my next work period. Until then, in the capacity of 'Volunteer' worker, I shall continue with those playground activities with which I have been associated through the past three weeks."

A FEW EXERPTS FROM REPORTS
OF 933 PLAYGROUND WORKERS.

" The Lincoln School playground is in the heart of a Mexican settlement in San Gabriel, so most of the youngsters at this playground are Mexicans. They have appreciated the playground very much, after they found out by the solicitation of one of our directors that the playground was there for their service, and the aim was to provide supervised play during vacation for their children, to take them off the streets and away from uncontrolled gangs. The attendance is between one and two hundred each day, with about twice as many boys as girls. I consider this to be remarkable, because we have had so little equipment and material to give them to work with that I was afraid the kiddies would become disgusted, but each day they have come back just as energetic and very appreciative for the material and equipment we have had to offer."

" Organized mountain camp of 23 boys and secured the permission of each boy's parent for boy to make the trip. Made arrangements with local merchants and organizations for all supplies used at camp. I made a trip to camp, 7/28/33, to take additional fresh supplies. Made arrangements with manager of local theatre for Saturday morning show; contacting citizens interested in the boys' camp."

" It is difficult for people to go to unfamiliar places. "Bring a stranger" day each month to the playground and have groups of children show them around.-- A special feature to be emphasized in linking the home with the playground is the carrying by the children to the home definite ideas of home leisure-time activities. I would suggest "Home Club Night" once a week with suggested programs by the playground as a good start."

" Friday I talked so long and hard I almost lost my voice. We went first to Lynwood to Woodrow Wilson School and had about 60 children. At Downey High School, our next stop, we had about 95 to 100 children. From there we went to Bell, Corona School, for a group of 85 to 90. Next to Huntington Park telling stories to 70 children at Miles Park and to 40 children at Middleton School. At Liberty School at South Gate we had about 40 children, in a very interested group. They are carrying on their work in tents and doing very well. We stopped at Maywood late in the afternoon, but almost everyone had gone by then."

" As there are a number of Japanese and Mexican boys about 12 to 17 years of age in the neighborhood, I have talked to the leaders of each race. These fellows have started club activities and have promised to give me a list of names and addresses of their prospective members. Of course, I have made these same arrangements with the American boys."

EXERPTS FROM
TIMEKEEPER'S REPORTS

" Alhambra: Playgrounds continuing a flourishing business under able supervision. Lincoln School in San Gabriel shows every shady spot with a bit of active humanity of Mexican variety doing clay-modeling, handcraft work of other variety or playing ball or croquet."

" Many of our workers are so enthused they continue working, even though their work orders have expired, and expect no recompense, outside of their personal pleasure in doing good for the community. I have talked with mothers who are very enthused with the open school playground, as they know that their children are not playing in the streets or getting into various forms of mischief in the unsupervised gangs of children."

" Wilmington has an active playground program functioning. Many new beach projects are instituted in Cabrillo and Terminal Island Beaches."

" Inglewood still doing magnificent work, the interest running so high that several workers at the expiration of the budget continue on, their interest being as it is. These people deserve great praise. Tujunga Boys' Camp is still most popular, only the more unfortunate boys permitted for eligibility. The food transportation and supplies are all furnished by local merchants. The camp counselors are carefully picked, military or Boy Scout experience necessary."

" Santa Monica Staged their N.R.A. Theme Play last Saturday and meeting with such a success it will be broadcast over the local broadcasting station. Some very lovely pottery products are being made by their Arts and Crafts Classes. The beach program functioning smoothly and quite popular with all the groups and ages."

" Pasadena: Averaging about 18 workers. This district moving along smoothly. Workers are doing nice development work; also are creating a great deal of interest among children."

" Glendale: Averaging about 12 workers. This district is being handled the most efficiently of any in my territory, due to cooperation of Recreation Department."

" LaVerne: Two workers are getting Mexican children organized at one school, and three workers are working with white children at another. The work is somewhat new to them, but their efforts are being rewarded by the increase in attendance."

" School grounds are again taking on the appearance of regular school time play. A circus has been promoted and has had its first showing in one of the larger parks before thousands of children and adults. To this date a total of 209 men and

women have been placed in this project, and the impact of their fine efforts has been most definitely felt. One R. F. C. man at the Tulare Lagoon had 105 youngsters at one time in his beginners swimming class."

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" The workers that are supervising this expanse of Beach are going especially fine work. They watch the beach playground apparatus; instruct the numerous games and sports; and supervise the general order of the beach, all of which is conducive to the general welfare of all beach-goers."

The children are kept occupied by swimming lessons according to their ability, beginning, intermediate and advanced. During the intervening times they are kept busy playing volley ball, indoor baseball, paddle tennis, checkers and sand modeling for the tiny tots. Those interested in sailing and boating have organized a sailing club. Weekly boat races are held in which keen competition and sportsmanship are exhibited. This area is outstanding in bringing about the aim of Project #821."

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" One of the most marked accomplishments of this project has manifested itself in the work being done at the Brighton Beach area. Brighton Beach is probably the largest single beach area in this district. The work of beach supervision has done much to cause an increase in use of this beach. That, in years before, was known as the backyard of the Terminal Island. Constructive supervision here has helped the general morale of this beach to such an extent that it ranks with the best beaches."

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" I have noticed a large increase in the number of children attending these school playgrounds. The regular playground instructors, employed by the School department, have expressed tremendous satisfaction for the type of people sent by department under Job #821. All school playgrounds were overburdened with inadequately handled children. My past experience in public affairs, and welfare in general, enables me to state that this newly-created department is of tremendous value to the citizens of the County of Los Angeles."

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" Out of six instances of prejudice against the playgrounds, four mothers were won over by the workers sufficiently to send their children either the very same day as called upon or the day following the visit. Children coming to the playground for the first time in response to these neighborhood calls are given special attention, i. e. being recognized and greeted cordially, shown about the playground and taught how to use the equipment, play games, and make themselves happy in general."

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" It does one good to see the children playing and occupied as it keeps them off the street. Most of the girls I have talked with enjoy the work- they feel they are helping to build the younger generation. Thursday morning I went to the Manchester playground, it being "free swim" day, there were 1000 children there ranging in ages from 2 to 18, and it was a wonderful sight. The attendance at all playgrounds is very good."