An ecological study of the Negro in Ward Seven

Murphy Cleophas Williams

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AN ECOLOGICAL STUDY

of

THE NEGRO IN WARD SEVEN

by

Murphy Cleophas Williams, A. B.

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree of Master of Arts
in the Department of Sociology
of the
Municipal University of Omaha
May, 1947
PREFACE

The author of this thesis deeply appreciates the cooperation of persons and agencies who contributed much necessary information. For guidance and advice, he is especially indebted to Dr. T. Earl Sullenger, Head of the Department of Sociology of the University of Omaha. The author is grateful to Mrs. Anna Lee Williams for diligent secretarial assistance. He acknowledges with sincerity the data given and made available by the following agencies and individuals: Visiting Nurses' Association of Omaha, Department of Health of Omaha, Juvenile Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, Omaha Police Department, Family Service of Omaha, Douglas County Assistance Bureau, Attendance Office of Board of Education of Omaha, Bethel Baptist Church of South Omaha, South Omaha Ministers, M. M. Taylor, Industrial Secretary of the Omaha Urban League, E. M. Ouren, Manager, Federal Housing Authority, South Side Terrace Homes, Omaha, Alyce Wilson, Executive Secretary of Woodson Center, South Omaha, Dr. S. B. Northcross, South Omaha Physician.
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INTRODUCTION

The concept of the term "ecology" as it relates to sociology and social research is well interpreted in Gist and Halbert's book, *Urban Society*. These authors hold that:

Human beings array themselves in a certain fashion over the face of the globe. The forms of this spatial distribution of persons and institutions has been designated, Human Ecology, a term borrowed in part from the botanists and zoologists. Warming, Adams, Allee, Wheeler, and others have indicated how plants and animals distributed themselves in communities and other segregated areas as results of the processes of competition and selection. The location and distribution of plants to each other is no more accidental than the distribution of human beings; the same processes of competition and selection determine the spatial patterns and arrangement of all living forms from the humblest plant or animal to civilized man in his complex urban environment.1

From the above explanation and from the interpretations of the term "ecology" in the writings of Park and Burgess and others, we get the idea that an ecological study involves the spatial, selective and distributive functions and relations of human beings in a given geographical and cultural area, and that these functions and relations characterize the forms and types of social interaction.

Map 1
South Omaha
Geographical Boundaries of Ward Seven

Grover St

Harrison St
South Omaha and particularly Ward Seven is a unique geographical and cultural area for such a study. We have therefore chosen Ward Seven for an ecological study of the South Omaha Negro. Ward Seven in Omaha is a cultural area with sentiments, traditions, and a history of its own; has homogeneity and is in a common locality. The packing plant area is in the center of this region and the life of the larger neighborhood revolves around and centers in this industry. Including the yards and physical plants, this area occupies about one-fourth the entire geographical area of the neighborhood. This study is primarily concerned the Negro in South Omaha, practically all of whom are in Ward Seven. The geographical boundaries of Ward Seven and the cultural boundaries of South Omaha are shown in Map 1.

The author with three years experience as a minister in one of the Negro churches in Ward Seven has along with other ministers, social agencies, and civic leaders felt keenly the handicaps and difficulties in executing programs of constructive social service without such a study as this we are making. It is hoped that we shall present adequate factual information which may be used scientifically to broaden our knowledge and understanding of the total life

2. T. E. Sullenger, Studies in Urban Society, p. 119
of the Negro and his relationship to other people in this area.

The purpose of this study is also to point out the experiences in this ecological setting which are constructive and the ones which are destructive in the light of the physical, social, and economic status of the Negroes in Ward Seven. We hope this study will be a stimulus for further and more detail study of the Negro in this area.

We desired to gather as much data as possible for the years 1945 and 1946 so as to include a portion of the post-war period. This was a difficult task especially in securing reliable statistical data. Knowing this, we accept the 1940 Census as the most dependable resource of statistical facts in the study.

There was also the difficulty breaking the information down for the Negro in Ward Seven. Most of the recorded data covers the entire Negro population as is also true with much of the general information. Much of it was not recorded according to race, but with the cooperation of those mentioned in the preface we hope the picture of the Negro in Ward Seven is well presented ecologically.
TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED

We found in our study that in an ecological study most of the sociological techniques in social research must be employed to some degree. Observation with the problem involved and the purpose of the study in mind proved very fruitful. This certainly necessitated a schedule in order to utilize the values of observation in securing data.

Statistics were of inevitable importance in the gathering of information.

We found general surveys and research studies valuable and especially the one that has been made in Ward Seven in South Omaha by Dr. T. Earl Sullenger.

The major technique was the personal interview. The writer interviewed social workers, ministers, welfare workers, juvenile court officers, nurses, teachers, men of the streets, common laborers, business men, housewives and all persons whom he thought could share information.

The historical method was also employed in checking records of public and private institutions or agencies.

With the techniques mentioned above we have attempted to gather and analyze data on South Omaha's Negro population, housing conditions, economic status, health, social agencies, adult and juvenile delinquency, recreation, interracial and fraternal organizations, and churches.
HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE NEGRO IN WARD SEVEN

Ward Seven in South Omaha is now the second largest meat packing center in the world. It has had a colorful history and one which is of great interest to the students of social forces. The nationality groups have frequently shifted in location and have changed many times in their relative importance, depending on the needs and development of the packing industry.

One may say literally that the stock yards and the packing business have made South Omaha, for no village was there until the last quarter of the nineteenth century. There were a few scattered homes, to be sure; and a great orchard belonging to a brewer who lived in Schuyler. There was only a small bank and a store or two in what was practically open country. Germans and Irish made up most of the population of the community at that time.

South Omaha began to take form in 1883 when the Union Stock Yards Company was organized with an authorized stock of $1,000,000. From this point there was a rapid population growth. Packing houses were established. Armour, Cudahy, Fowler and Swift & Company all were established in 1886.

South Omaha was incorporated under the laws of the State of Nebraska on October 16, 1886; and was made a city of the second class by the governor's proclamation on Decem-
ber 13, 1887. The first business center was on West Q Street, along the south side of the stock yards. The first residences were located there also. The social life of the town soon moved east and north toward the Spring Lake Park neighborhood, around Twenty-second and G Streets. The opening of the Stock Yard Exchange Hotel in 1886 furnished a center for entertainment and society affairs.

Churches began to be organized. Various nationality groups dominated the population at different times -- the Irish first, then the German, then the Polish, followed by the Bohemian. The Lithuanians by 1904 established a small colony. Then came the Hungarians, followed by the Serbians in the early part of the century. A small group of Roumanians settled around Twenty-ninth and T Streets in this same period. A few other nationalities also came.

The Negro population in South Omaha was negligible until the end of the first decade of the twentieth century. The migration that came in response to the need of the packers was transitory and shifting. Men left their families in the South and came here to work. Wages were so small, however, that they could not send for their families or help them in any way. So the families were often starving in the South, while the men drifted about from place to place in the North, lacking the stabilizing influence of homes. During and after World War I, when wages rose and the unions were organized, there was a marked improvement. Most of the
men sent or brought their families, bought or rented homes, and settled down to make good citizens.

The first colony was in the suburb of Albright, and on L, M and N Streets, from Twenty-fifth to Twenty-seventh Streets. Now, however, Negroes are thickly scattered throughout the region from Q to Y Streets, and from Twenty-seventh to Thirty-sixth Streets. The Albright Addition also has a thickly populated area of Negroes between Y and Harrison on Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh; and between Washington and Madison, from Twenty-first to Twenty-third Streets. See Map 2 showing distribution of Negro population.

The first Negro family to settle in South Omaha was that of Mr. Henry Sims. This family came in 1869 and settled at Twenty-fourth and J Streets. Henry Sims' wife was Cora Sims; and there were five children in the family. One of his daughters, Mrs. Jennie B. Reed, still lives in South Omaha. Between 1889 and 1895 other families settled in South Omaha. These included the Wilsons who located at Twenty-fifth and S Streets. This family included five children. One of these children still lives in South Omaha. William and Rachel Dudley arrived with their five children in that period. One Dudley child still lives in the area.

Map 2

Distribution of Negro Population in Ward Seven
The Clark family was another family to arrive in those early years, and some of its members still reside there. The men of these families worked in the packing industry. It was immediately after World War I that South Omaha's Negro population grew to numbers of consequence, and their social life began to take form.

In conclusion, it is emphasized that the packing industry was the influence that brought Negroes to Omaha during and after World War I. However, there were a few Negro families in South Omaha as early as 1889. The first colony of Negroes settled on L, M. and N Streets, between Twenty-fifth and Twenty-seventh Streets. Not long after World War I, Negro social life in South Omaha began to take form. Most of the first generation of Negroes in Ward Seven were born in the South.
In our historical sketch of the Negro in South Omaha we pointed out that the mass of Negroes came to South Omaha during and after World War I. We might add that not only was the packing industry attractive to them but also railroad work opportunities.

With the opening of these industrial opportunities many Negroes came to Omaha to improve their economic conditions. The economic motive was the chief reason for the mass movement to Omaha as it was to other industrial cities in the north. The ravages of the boll weevils in the summer of 1915 and 1916 greatly diminished the crops over most of the densely populated sections of the black belt and served as another incentive for the migration. The lack of educational opportunities and the inadequacy of school facilities was another urge. The unfair treatment of Negroes at the hands of courts and guardians of peace was another factor. Discussion played an important part. The talk in the barber shops and grocery stores where men assembled soon began to formulate reasons for leaving the South. Other factors, perhaps equally as strong were lack of privileges, the drudgery of farm life and segregation.

Table I shows the number of whites and Negroes according to sex by city wards. In 1930 the total population of Omaha was 214,006 people of which 11,123, or 5.2% were Negroes. According to the U. S. Census of 1930 there was

### TABLE I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City &amp; Ward</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Sex Male</th>
<th>Sex Female</th>
<th>Color White</th>
<th>Color Negro</th>
<th>Per Cent Negro</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td>214,000</td>
<td>105,896</td>
<td>108,110</td>
<td>201,657</td>
<td>11,123</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 1</td>
<td>21,936</td>
<td>10,739</td>
<td>11,197</td>
<td>21,860</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>0.003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 2</td>
<td>16,763</td>
<td>8,323</td>
<td>3,440</td>
<td>10,757</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>36.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 3</td>
<td>15,508</td>
<td>8,126</td>
<td>7,382</td>
<td>13,494</td>
<td>1,798</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 4</td>
<td>8,420</td>
<td>4,874</td>
<td>3,246</td>
<td>8,035</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 5</td>
<td>20,478</td>
<td>10,243</td>
<td>10,235</td>
<td>19,966</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 6</td>
<td>13,589</td>
<td>6,864</td>
<td>6,725</td>
<td>13,339</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 7</td>
<td>18,937</td>
<td>9,951</td>
<td>8,986</td>
<td>17,218</td>
<td>1,305</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 8</td>
<td>19,765</td>
<td>9,828</td>
<td>9,937</td>
<td>19,706</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 9</td>
<td>23,949</td>
<td>10,768</td>
<td>13,181</td>
<td>23,673</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 10</td>
<td>19,172</td>
<td>8,674</td>
<td>10,498</td>
<td>19,012</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>0.007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 11</td>
<td>21,059</td>
<td>10,314</td>
<td>10,745</td>
<td>20,557</td>
<td>481</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 12</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>7,192</td>
<td>7,208</td>
<td>14,040</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>0.023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* U. S. Census Statistics - 1930
## TABLE II

Population Distribution by Wards (1940)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward &amp; City</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>All Sex Classes</th>
<th>White Native</th>
<th>F. Born</th>
<th>Negro Races</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td>223,844</td>
<td>108,750</td>
<td>115,094</td>
<td>91,044</td>
<td>11,668</td>
<td>5,920</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 1</td>
<td>21,906</td>
<td>10,575</td>
<td>9,789</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 2</td>
<td>17,712</td>
<td>8,636</td>
<td>9,076</td>
<td>4,408</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>3,512</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 3</td>
<td>17,540</td>
<td>7,144</td>
<td>10,550</td>
<td>6,757</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 4</td>
<td>8,158</td>
<td>4,648</td>
<td>3,510</td>
<td>3,980</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 5</td>
<td>20,166</td>
<td>9,867</td>
<td>10,298</td>
<td>7,862</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 6</td>
<td>13,401</td>
<td>6,671</td>
<td>6,730</td>
<td>5,659</td>
<td>965</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 7</td>
<td>19,314</td>
<td>9,962</td>
<td>9,352</td>
<td>7,661</td>
<td>1,739</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 8</td>
<td>21,375</td>
<td>10,326</td>
<td>11,049</td>
<td>9,182</td>
<td>1,114</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 9</td>
<td>25,371</td>
<td>11,184</td>
<td>14,187</td>
<td>10,277</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 10</td>
<td>20,388</td>
<td>9,027</td>
<td>11,361</td>
<td>8,216</td>
<td>762</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 11</td>
<td>23,140</td>
<td>11,103</td>
<td>12,032</td>
<td>9,991</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 12</td>
<td>15,374</td>
<td>7,602</td>
<td>7,772</td>
<td>6,828</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* U. S. Census Statistics - 1940
in Ward Seven a total population of 18,937 and of this total the Negro population in the Ward was 1,305 or 6.9%.

In Table II the U. S. Census of 1940 shows a total population of 223,844 for the city of Omaha, 91,044 native white males and 98,282 native white females; 11,668 foreign born males and 10,643 foreign born females; 5,920 Negro males and 6,095 Negro females; and there were 118 males of other races and 71 females of other races. We might also note that there was a total of all classes of 108,750 males and 115,094 females. It was significant to note that there was a total of 6344 more females of all classes than males of all classes. There were 7241 more native white females than males. There were 25 more foreign born males than females; and there were 175 more Negro females than males.

Now let us look at Ward Seven in the 1940 Census. There was a total population of 19,314 - 9,962 males of all classes and 9,352 females of all classes; 7,661 total white males and 7,412 total white females; 1,739 foreign born males and 1,416 foreign born females; 552 Negro males and 517 Negro females. There was in Ward Seven a total of 610 more males than females of all classes; 249 more white males than white females; 323 more foreign born males than foreign born females; and 35 more Negro males than Negro females.

Table III is a comparison of the total number of whites and Negroes in Omaha and in Ward Seven in 1930 and 1940.
A comparison of the total population in the 1930 and 1940 Census shows that the total population in 1930 of 214,006 grew to 223,844 by 1940, an increase of 9,839 in ten years. The total population of 18,937 in Ward Seven in 1930 grew to 19,314 by 1940, a gain of 377. The total Negro population of 1,305 in Ward Seven in 1930 dropped to 1,069 in 1940, a decrease of 236.

The fall of population in Ward Seven from 1,305 in 1930 to 1,069 in 1940 may have been partially due to the establishment of the Terrace Homes in the most densely populated area of Negroes in South Omaha at that time. The housing project took over the area bound on the north by R Street on the west by Thirtieth Street (with the exception of one block—from S to T), on the east by Twenty-seventh and on the south by W. The boundary was moved eastward between S and T Streets because the land was occupied by a church and some well maintained houses which were prohibitive in price. See Map 3*, showing South Side Terrace Homes area.

5. Laura M. Heacock, Social Significance of the Housing Project with Special Emphasis on the North Side Project, p. 99

* Large map accompanying text.
Unfortunately we were not able to get the exact number of Negroes who lived in the area before the housing project was constructed. On the basis of information gathered in interviews with long-time residents of the area, we estimate that six hundred Negroes lived in this area; and that a small percentage of the population of the area was white. There were 169 houses in the area and seven of them were vacant. We are sure that there were large numbers of Negro families in 1938, 1939, and 1940 who sought houses in other areas in South Omaha, but there was severe opposition to this. Discrimination of race reached to its heights during this period and there was a sentiment that the better areas of the neighborhood would be kept exclusively for whites. A large number of families were forced against their will to move to the near northside. Some of them went into the project, but not as many as were expected. They wanted homes of their own. Plans were made for 25% or 30% of the housing units to be occupied by Negroes, but only about ten per cent was necessary.

According to a recent survey in which we participated, the 1945 population of Negroes in South Omaha was 1,469. Most of them lived in Ward Seven. This estimate was based on the following tables which show the voting population in Ward Seven in 1945 and the population according to school districts in 1945 in Ward Seven. We used the fall of 1946 school census which was the latest school data.
TABLE IV

Negro Voting Population of Ward Seven

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>1941</th>
<th>1943</th>
<th>1945</th>
<th>1947</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>98</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

637 428 566 485

TABLE V

Population by School Districts in Ward Seven

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>1943</th>
<th>1944</th>
<th>1945</th>
<th>1946</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westside</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>1170</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>1188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>2313</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>2441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>337</td>
<td>2222</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We took the last presidential year of 1945 in which there were 566 registered voters. The total population of Negroes in the Westside, Highland, and Madison school districts in 1945 was 337 (from age five to sixteen). The number of registered voters multiplied by two plus the school
district report should give the population. This would mean that the Negro population in 1945 was 1,469. Realizing that the 1940 U. S. Census report of population is most reliable, we are basing this study primarily on that report. It gives a total of 1,069 as the Negro population in Ward Seven in 1940. According to these figures there was an increase of 400 in Negro population between 1940 and 1945.

Mobility of the population in Ward Seven: According to Dr. Sullenger's interpretation of mobility —

Intro-urban mobility has reference to the movement of people within an individual city. There are three kinds of mobility. Horizontal mobility refers to movement of people from one residence to another and implies a degree of permanence. It is sometimes referred to as physical, geographical or ecological mobility. Vertical mobility is the movement of the social status of individuals to a higher or lower social standing or position. It is psychological in nature. Vertical mobility is frequently associated with horizontal mobility. As an individual ascends or descends in social status a change in residence may follow.

The total population as has been pointed out was 18,937 in 1930 and 19,295 in 1940. The mobilization rate in 1937 was 4.6%, a decrease of 7% since 1928. One possible reason for this drop at that time was removal of prohibition laws which reduced bootlegging which entailed a pressing need for frequent shifting of residences.

6. Nebraska Writers Project, Works Project Administration, p. 3
In 1937 the mobile population was distributed by occupational groups as follows: unskilled 41.2%; skilled 17.2%, professional and managerial 11.3%; clerical and sales 9.2%; semi-skilled 19.1%; service 7.2%; unclassified 4.8%. Negros were included largely in the semi-skilled and service percentages. Home ownership of the mobile population amounted to 25.5%, a very high percentage, due probably to the stability of employees in the packing houses and the widespread campaign for home-ownership, in the district, followed by easy financing.7

There is a high Negro percentage of home ownership in Ward Seven as will be shown in the following chapter.

Guidances show that mobility among all groups has been considerably high since 1937 and 1940. This has been due to the vast number of new homes constructed in this area and the construction of the South Side Terrace Homes. The War has had its effect also. From a recent survey made by one of the students at the University of Omaha, between 1942 and 1945 there was a total of 6,157 moves into purchased homes and 14,547 moves into rented homes in Omaha. This was a total of 20,704 moves during this period for the entire city. It was found that in Ward Seven there were 500 moves into purchased homes and 961 moves into

7. Ibid, pp. 6-7
rented homes. This was a total of 1,461 moves in Ward Seven which is approximately 7% of the moves of the entire city. This shows that mobility in Ward Seven in recent years has been far beyond average. Most of the mobility among Negroes meanwhile has been horizontal and this has not been very high in comparison to others.

Summary: The Negro population was of little consequence in South Omaha until 1915 and 1916. During these years there was a substantial emigration of Negroes from the south on account of adverse agricultural, economic, social and internal conditions existing there. Although the Negro population in Ward Seven grew to 1,305 by 1930, there was a drop to 1,069 by 1940. One factor was dislocation of Negroes in this ward by the construction of South Side Terrace Homes. An additional cause of this decrease was the protest on part of white persons and groups against Negroes moving into the better parts of Ward Seven, especially the section immediately west of Thirtieth Street and south of R. A 1945 survey shows that there is a Negro population of 1,609. However, the population report upon which this study is based primarily is the U. S. Census report of 1940.

Ward Seven has a high mobility rate. Since 1940 the mobility rate among Negroes has been average, while mobility for the Ward in general has constantly risen.
HOUSING

We consider the problem of housing a vitally important one. Where people live and the condition of the houses in which they live contribute to the way they think and act. It is difficult to live in a hole and not be a rat; however, there are a lot of rats that do not live in holes. The house with a garden conception of life, in urban America, has little more than a fanciful dream or ideal, at least for the great majority of dwellers in megalopolis. Accompanying the development of industrialism was a correlative concentration of population in the great manufacturing and commercial centers. With location of manufacturing and related activities in the central areas of the city during the nineteenth century, the wage earning population dependent upon industry was forced to live in fairly close proximity to the place of labor because transportation facilities were at that time not adequate to convey the workers to more remote residential areas. The results were that almost unbelievable concentration of people was the central areas of the city. What was true of America was also true of European cities, particularly the city of industrial England. Acre after acre of tenement houses, many of them mere rookeries hardly fit for human habitation, were erected to accommodate the industrial and commercial workers who were being
relied upon to make the wheel of progress turn. Such could be just as accurately said of South Omaha.

At this point, we must refer again to Professor Burgess' zoning theory of the city which can be applied to all cities in some degree. In his analysis of the ecological pattern- ing of Chicago, he listed five concentric zones and describes the economics and social status of those who live in them. They are: The central business districts. This area is characterized by retailing and wholesaling, commercial activities, department stores, etc. Zone two is the zone of transition. This area immediately surrounds the business district and is considered an area of constant change. Industrial expansion contributes to making this zone transitory. People of low income, old world immigrants and rural migrants, and unconventional folks generally occupy this zone. Zone three was called by Burgess the zone of the Workingmen's Homes. This zone is superior to the slum area in its physical appearance; it is characterized by workers of a low economic status, but with sufficient income to share some of the comforts of the city. Zone four is the zone of middle class dwellers. This is populated mainly by privileged classes, professional people, owners of small business, and other middle class dwellers as described by Burgess.6

This zoning is concentric. McKensie explains that there are six major ecological processes: concentration, centralization, decentralization, segregation, invasion, and succession. This process produces the ecological patterning of the city.

Say Professors Noel P. Gist and L. A. Halbert:

In 1934 and 1936 the Works Progress Administration assembled information on approximately eight million occupied dwelling units located in 205 urban communities in various parts of the country.

The survey showed that thirty per cent were in good condition, forty-four and eight-tenths per cent needed minor repairs, thirteen and nine-tenths per cent were in need of major repairs, and two and three-tenths per cent were unfit for human habitation. Interpreted differently of the eight million dwelling units included in the survey about three million were in good condition, three and one-half million needed minor repairs, slightly over a million needed major repairs, and upwards of two hundred thousand were unfit to use. Since approximately forty per cent of the seventeen million urban families were included in the study, it might reasonably be estimated, on the basis of these figures, that about 350,000 families live in homes appraised unfit for human use while two and one-half million reside in dwellings needing major repairs.

Estimating four persons to the family, we arrived at the conclusion that almost a million and a half persons live in houses unfit for use and that nine million and a half are in dwellings needing major repairs.

Half of the houses, the survey showed were built before 1915 and a fourth before 1894. Cities in the southeastern section of the country showed

7. Cf - Ibid, p. 146
the highest percentage of substandard houses, whereas, communities in the northeast division had the lowest percentage. 3

The survey also showed the appalling condition of household facilities and room space in homes about which there is no present need for characterization.

Let us now look at the housing condition for Negroes in Ward Seven. We are justified in saying that Omaha, along with other cities, has its quota of substandard houses. * This is especially true in some of the densely populated sections where Negroes live, in Ward Seven.

The ecological pattern of our city follows that of Chicago only in principle. We understand that subcenters also have in many cases the concentric pattern. In Ward Seven, we have the business district, packing industry, and stock yards forming the central area of South Omaha. The first zone which immediately borders the packing houses on the south may be considered a zone in transition. This is a blighted area, characterized by vice. From Twenty-seventh to Thirtieth Streets, between Q and R, approximately eight per cent of the houses occupied by Negroes consist of the

8. Ibid, pp. 544-545.

* Schnapper says in his book, Public Housing in America, pp. 13-14, that, "Since substandard housing may result from a variety of objective and subjective conditions, it is not possible to set up a precise and rigid definition of the concept. However, absence of sanitary facilities, unsafe conditions of the physical structure of the dwelling, overcrowding, and the presence of extra families are all factors which render a dwelling unit substandard."
multiple family type of structures. Approximately ninety per cent are single family dwelling units. Yet a large percentage of these are inhabited by more than one family. Five white and eight Mexican families are in the area. From Thirtieth to Thirty-third Streets, between Q and R there is a larger percentage of houses of fair condition. Yet in this area there are a few excellently kept homes. The blighted area is located mainly between Twenty-seventh and Thirtieth Streets, between Q and R. This is the slum area of Ward Seven. There we have most of the multiple family dwellings, unsanitary conditions, congestion, and poor household facilities. Some families live in the rear and upstairs over business places on Q Street. Map 4 shows distribution of blighted Negro areas in Ward Seven. Most of the houses in other areas of Ward Seven are fair. There are a few questionable ones on Twenty-fifth Street, between O and Q, and on South Twenty-fourth Street. There are similar houses which may be classified as substandard between Thirtieth and Thirty-first Streets on V, and from Thirty-second to Thirty-third Streets between V and W. There are a few additional modern, well-kept homes, scattered in all sections of the concentrated Negro neighborhoods of Ward Seven, especially in the Albright Addition, and the section between R and S Streets on Thirtieth. See Map 5 showing density of Negro population.

* Large map accompanying text.
Map 4

Distribution of Blighted Negro Areas in Ward Seven

- Unsatisfactory
- Very unsatisfactory
- Poor
Map 5
Density of Negro Population in Ward Seven
The percentage of substandard houses among Negroes in Ward Seven is low in comparison with that of some other thickly populated areas in the city. It would be difficult to estimate the number of substandard houses in which Negroes live in South Omaha. However, a local physician estimated that eighty-five per cent of the dwellings of Negroes in South Omaha are substandard.

The housing condition and the areas in which Negroes live is not a matter of choice. It is primarily a matter of economic and racial segregation. A recent survey showed that the housing condition of Ward Seven in general has improved greatly in the last few years. In fact, more new homes have been built in Ward Seven than any other area in the city in recent years. The survey showed that 391 new homes were built and 41 old homes torn down in Ward Seven between 1942 and 1945. Of this total that were built 278 are the Upland Parkway Homes, and 93 are the Wilson Circle Homes. These homes are located between Twenty-seventh and Thirty-sixth Streets from V to Jefferson. None of these homes are salable to Negroes. With the exception of the Terrace Homes there are practically no new homes in Ward Seven occupied by Negroes.

In almost every northern city the question of Negro housing and ownership of property has become a serious strain in the harmonious relationship between the races. Here we find Negro segregation a fact. As a rule they can obtain housing only in the least desirable residential sections where they gain possession by paying a higher rental.

* A recent survey made by Mrs. Pickens, Sociology student, University of Omaha.
than was paid by the South Europeans and Russian Jews who are thus induced to live elsewhere under more favorable conditions. When a Negro with some means attempts to secure residence in a better neighborhood among white neighbors, he is at once met with opposition—legal and social. Real estate men in many cities have inserted clauses in their land contract to prevent sale or rental to Negroes. This means of aggregating the Negro was challenged in the courts, and carried to the higher court, the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, in a decision rendered May 24, 1946, declared such contracts valid and constitutional. This segregation in northern industrial cities works a serious hardship on the Negro. Hemmed in as the Negro quarter generally is, and as individuals unable to obtain residence in better neighborhoods, they are compelled to live under conditions that are a menace to their health, morals and social welfare.

This is the case in South Omaha which was greatly revealed in 1938 and 1939 when the area is where the South Side Terrace Homes was to be cleared. As indicated in a previous chapter, it is estimated that six hundred Negroes occupied homes in this area. There were in the area 169 houses of which seven were vacant. 162 were substandard. The 169 houses only covered twelve acres. No paved streets, dirt roads; the majority of the homes had outdoor toilets; unsanitary congested conditions characterized the area. Disease, delinquency and crime flourished. One apartment house had as high as twelve families in it. The placing of the Terrace Homes therefore replaced 169 substandard houses in the area described above, which was a slum area.

of the highest degree, with 552 modern dwelling units in which sixty-six Negro families live.

A number of Negroes who lived in the project area sought to purchase other homes in Ward Seven but severe protests came from other racial and religious groups. One religious organization in the neighborhood publicly protested Negroes living in any place west of Thirtieth Street. But in spite of this there were enough homes bought in the area to characterize it as a part of the Negro area. Also one of the Negro churches that was in the project area was relocated between R and S on Thirtieth Street. However, because of the restrictive covenants imposed by other racial groups in South Omaha, we estimate that eighty per cent of the houses in which Negroes live outside of the project are owned or being bought by them.
ECONOMIC STATUS

Prior to the year 1910 the American Negro generally was thought of in terms of an agricultural worker and his status that of a rural dweller.

The depressed condition of the rural south beginning about 1910 was impetus to these rural dwellers with a low earning power to first turn cityward. According to a recent study, the movement between 1900 and 1910 was slow and still kept the Negroes in the majority in a number of southern towns. From 1910 to 1930, new causes became prominent which played a large part in causing a feeling of unrest and stimulated a move cityward. The primary reason was better economic conditions. During the period of the two World Wars unparallelled opportunities for Negroes were opened of which they readily took advantage. During World War II the shift of Negro population from the south was amazing. By the thousands they filled the metropolitan areas. Cities like Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, California cities received thousands of Negroes; and according to recent reports they are not going back south. They are in these

10. J. Harvey Kerns, Industrial and Business Life of Negroes in Omaha, 1933, p. 3
cities to stay. This period has been to many Negroes economic emancipation.

During the war Omaha had its increase of Negro population also. It is estimated that the Negro population increased about 2,000 during the war period.

Now let us look at the economic status of the Negro in Omaha and in Ward Seven. The following table shows white and Negro employment in Omaha according to an address delivered by the Industrial Secretary of the Urban League recently, with statistical facts taken from U. S. Employment Census for 1945:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE VI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White, Negro Employment, Omaha % of 1940 U. S. Census</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed white people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White on public emergency work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White seeking work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White not in labor force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was shown that in 1940 Negroes were participating in 120 employment categories in Omaha - representing 126 jobs in professions and semi-professions, 67 jobs as proprietors, managers and officials, 91 jobs in the clerical and sales field, 100 jobs as craftsmen, foremen and such,

* Omaha Urban League
518 jobs as operatives, 503 jobs as domestic service workers, 54 jobs as protective service workers, 1,416 jobs as other service workers, 2 jobs as farm laborers, 490 jobs as general laborers, and 20 jobs in occupations not reported.

The total population of Negroes fourteen years old and over was 9,441. 6,263 of this number were in labor force, 3,396 of this number were employed either practicing a profession, running a business or gainfully employed. This represented sixty-five per cent.

At the same time 891, or seventeen per cent, were working on WPA or some other public emergency work. This was a grand total of 4,287 Negroes employed while 629 men and 342 women were seeking work.

Negroes were active in 120 categories of work—gainful employment, professions, business operations and working for themselves. There were 96 categories of work activities in which there were no Negroes at all, 60 categories in which only white men worked representing 5,042 jobs and 36 categories in which only white women worked. This was a total of 6,692 jobs in categories where not a single Negro was employed.

While Negroes held a total of 4,287 jobs, white people held a total of 83,137 jobs. Therefore Negroes were five per cent of the total population but held only four and eight-tenths per cent of the total jobs.

In Table VII we see growth in the professional and semi-professional fields. We note that the salary range
TABLE VII

Analysis of
Professional and Semi-Professional Negroes in Omaha in 1947*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROFESSIONAL</th>
<th>1947</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Yearly Increase</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>$2000 to $5000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>$2000 to $6000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>$1000 to $5000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalists</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>F-1</td>
<td>$1000 to $7000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacists</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>$3000 to $7000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemists</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>$2000 to $3000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>$2000 to $3000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinarian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>$4000 to $5000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>$1000 to $3000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Workers</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>$1000 to $5000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Sec'y's</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>M-2</td>
<td>$3000 to $4000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morticians</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>$4000 to $7000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Instructors</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>$4000 to $7000</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public School Teach.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>F-12</td>
<td>$2000 to $3000</td>
<td>15-Active</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other College grads</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>F-6</td>
<td>$3000 to $5000</td>
<td>Inactive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Miscellaneous

Operative
Cooking School       | 1  | F   | $2000 to $3000    | Active |
Operative
Beauty School        | 2  | F   | $2000 to $5000    | Active |

* Survey made by Miss Jeanne Rudd, Sociology student, University of Omaha.
for professional and semi-professional workers is from $1000 to $7000 per year. Physicians, dentists, lawyers, morticians and journalists are in the highest income categories. We do not have the income scale for 1940, the table only refers to 1947. Reports indicate that in seven years we have an increase of four attorneys. Most important is the increase of twelve teachers in the public schools. Of the total professionals in Omaha, for 1947, Ward Seven has one physician, no dentists, no lawyers, no journalists, no pharmacists, no chemists, no accountants, no veterinarians, no nurses, four social workers, one executive secretary, no morticians, no music instructors, one public school teachers, five active college graduates, and approximately twenty who have had some college training, no cooking school, no beauty school, five clergymen and one physician.

According to Table VIII, in the clerical and sales category there were 65 males employed, 8 seeking work, 26 females employed, 10 seeking work. This figure has changed some over the six and one-half years. We have more mail clerks, but a little growth in stenographers, typists and clerical workers, telephone operators, office machine operators, insurance operators, sales ladies and sales agents.

In the trade and craft category we had 97 males employed and 36 seeking jobs; 3 females employed, 4 seeking jobs.

The Omaha Urban League reports that in a recent contact with 10 retailers, 34 manufacturers, 3 transportation companies, and 12 service establishments, all employed from
**TABLE VIII**

Employment Census of Negro and White
According to Thirteen Categories of Work—1940
Omaha Urban League

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment Vocation</th>
<th>Employed Males</th>
<th>Employed Females</th>
<th>Seeking Work Males</th>
<th>Seeking Work Females</th>
<th>Total Working Males</th>
<th>Total Working Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional &amp; Semi-profess.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers &amp; Farm Managers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proprietors, Managers &amp; officials</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical Sales &amp; Kindred</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craftsmen, Foremen &amp; Kindred</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operators &amp; Kindred</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Service Workers</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>479</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>503</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective Service Workers</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Service Workers</td>
<td>1021</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>1416</td>
<td>209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Laborers Foremen</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Laborers</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction Laborers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupations not Reported</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* U. S. Census Employment Report (1940)
25 to 100 persons (excluding the packing industry). It was found that they employed a total of 193 women, 183 men and of this total 54 were classed as skilled. The ten large retailers which employed 60 women and 35 men pay an average of $35.00 weekly to the men and $22.00 weekly to the women. The 34 manufacturers which employ 87 men and 113 women pay an average wage of $40.00 to the men and $27.50 to the women per week. Three large transportation firms revealed a total of nine men and no women. They paid an average wage of $33.00 weekly. Twelve service companies employed 52 men and 20 women. The average wage for the men was $35.00 weekly and the women $25.00 weekly. Of the total number of Negro workers 376 in this study, one was clerical, 54 skilled and 322 common laborers.

In the domestic service category, we had 24 male employees working and six seeking jobs, 479 women working and 85 seeking employment.

In the category of protective service workers, we had 54 males and no women; nine firemen in the fire department, 21 guards and watchmen; 11 policemen, and 13 service soldiers. None of these (except one policeman) were in South Omaha.

In the category of other service workers, not domestic nor protective, we had 1,021 males employed and 142 seeking jobs. There were 395 women employed and 67 seeking work. This category includes barbers, beauticians, manicurists, janitors, porters, cooks, elevator operators, waiters, and practical nurses. The largest number of men were porters,
Janitors and waiters. The largest number of women were servants (not domestic), waitresses, charwomen, lodging-housekeepers, and beauticians. We had 1,163 Negroes employed in this category. More than 100 of these service workers live in Ward Seven.

In the category of operatives, which means men who attend filling stations, or drive or operate mechanisms, we had 483 men working and 61 seeking work; 35 females working and 42 seeking work.

The largest number of Negro women in 1940 were employed in laundry operations. There was a total of 518 in this field. We had less than twenty-five seamstresses and dressmakers belong to this group.

Business establishments operated by Negroes in Ward Seven in 1946 included: two grocery stores, one pressing and tailoring shop, three restaurants, one transfer company, two barber shops, one garage, six beauty shops, and one pool room. These establishments employed approximately fifty persons in 1946. Most of the employees were Negroes.

The largest number of Negro males in 1940 were employed in the packing industry. This has been true over the years and is still true. The railroad industry, along with such work as chauffeurs, truck drivers, and delivery men, employ the second largest number of Negro males.

Out of the total Negro population in Omaha, 5,500 are gainfully employed. Of this total it is estimated that
2,500 are employed in the packing industry. Approximately 250 of the packing house workers live in Ward Seven. Since this is true, a discussion of the four major packing houses in Ward Seven is important. Especially is this true in understanding the economic life of the Negro in this area. The packing industry is in the heart of Ward Seven, not only geographically, and economically, but socially. The discussion which follows is not an effort to evaluate the industry's program, but simply an explanation of it.

- Wilson Company -

The Wilson Packing Plant is the smallest of the four South Omaha plants. It is also the youngest, being established here only twenty-six years. Up until 1938 this house was called the Dold Packing Plant, but at this time it was bought by the Wilson Company. The number of persons employed has risen from 400 men and eighty women in 1933 to 942 men and 196 women at the present time. It still maintains an office staff of about 100. Approximately 18% of the men are Negro men and 2% of the women are Negro women.

On account of its small size, the Wilson Plant finds little need for an organized recreational or social program. However, it has a functioning bowling league, and several softball teams. No Negroes are participating in the bowling, but are active on the softball teams. The
girls employed in the plant and those in the office have their own social gatherings. The spirit of friendship is evident in the whole organization.

No educational work is carried on by this plant, nor does it have a pension system. Plans are being made now however, for a pension system.

The company has an Employee Mutual Benefit Fund. After five years an employee's beneficiaries will receive $1,000 at his death and $200 funeral benefits. A sick benefit is also included. Originally, when it was the Dold Company, there was a system of group insurance. In this system, after four months continuous service, employees were entitled to insurance ranging from $1,000 to $10,000. The premiums were paid one-half by the company and one-half by the employees. The expense for the men in most cases was $.60 per month.

The minimum age of employment is the same as in the other plants -- eighteen years. No maximum limit has been set.

The Wilson Company gives its employees paid vacations according to the following regulations. One year and under five years of continuous service a one weeks paid vacation is available. Five years and under fifteen years two weeks vacation for women; and five years and under twenty, two weeks vacation for men.

The Wilson Company gives its employees paid vacations according to the following regulations. One week for one
year and up to five years of continuous service. Two weeks for women between five and fifteen years of service in the plant. Two weeks for men with between five and twenty years of service. All females with fifteen or more years get three weeks, and all men with or above twenty years get three weeks vacation. Employees with five to ten years service may get one months leave; ten to fifteen, two months leave; and over fifteen three months leave.

The percentage turnover in this plant is low. All of the skilled work is done by steady workers who have held their positions over a period of time. Some of the skilled workers are Negroes. The labor turnover is found only in the rough labor group. Often a group of laborers of this type are hired for a particular job and laid off as soon as the job is completed.

The plant has a branch of the National Credit Union Association also.

Wilson Packing Plant recognizes eight holidays during the year and the employees receive pay for those days if they work their scheduled hours the day prior and after the holiday.

There is a guarantee of thirty-six hours per week for employees unless they break their own time.

This company has one doctor, two registered nurses, and one nurse's aid. The nurses make calls to homes of employees when they are ill.
Armours is the largest plant in Omaha. It has 2,200 employees and 280 office workers. Of the total employees, 300 are women. Of the total office workers 60 are women.

Social activities for employees: This company has an entirely self-supporting bowling league in which there is a large participation. No Negroes seem to take part. Teams of various departments compete with each other for the championship with the accompanying honor of having their names engraved on the Lester Armour Cup and having their pictures printed in the plant paper. The paper is called the Star News.

Department supervisors and plant executives are organized in a club, social in nature, with a death benefit attached. One of the duties performed by this group is the securing and sending of flowers in cases of sickness or death.

A small percentage of employees are Negroes. In the past there were recreational organizations within this group for the purpose of meeting its peculiar cultural needs. They do not exist at present.

The company does not feel that there are sufficient advantages in sponsoring athletic activities as it has done in the past. Many times such activities created friction among employees.

Educational opportunities for employees: In the matter of education, Armour depends on outside agencies.
They no longer find it necessary to conduct classes in the English language as they did before and during World War I. They feel that this would be a duplication of night schools sponsored by other agencies.

The plant paper, The Star News, published every two weeks deserves mention under the subject of educational opportunities. It is published by the employees and contains articles of interest contributed by employees in all different plant departments. Editorials by the Armour Company president, interesting "personals", pictures and snapshots. Executives believe that the paper really goes into the homes of its employees and is read by them; for with a copy given to every employee as he leaves the plant, never more than two or three copies are found discarded in the streets. The morale-building and interest-arousing influence of the paper is undoubtedly great. Negro employees share fully the use and benefits of this paper.

The Employee's Representation Plan does not exist any more. This plan dealt with all matters concerning wages, factory conditions, etc. There was an authorized board composed of the management and employee representatives which functioned through the following committees: 1. Plant Operation and Working Conditions, 2. Safety and Sanitation, 3. Group Insurance and Collecting, 4. Suggestion and Publicity. The plan was very effective but the organized labor unions have taken the functions out of it.
Average hours of employment: Employment of thirty-six hours per week is guaranteed, and time and a half is paid for work exceeding ten hours in any one day or fifty-four hours in any one week.

Health program: The health program of the Armour plant is carried on by means of cooperation with other agencies in the city. A group insurance system handled through the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, entitled the employee, who has been in service of the company six months, a free nursing of the Visiting Nurses Association.

Age of employment: In Armour's plant the minimum age of employment is eighteen years. Although no definite age maximum has been set, the employment manager of the plant reported that few of advanced years are hired.

Percentage of turnover: The yearly labor turnover averages from 70 to 70%. Approximately 800 employees have paid vacations. The length of the vacation is determined by the number of years in service at the plant. The plan is similar to that of Wilson Company.

Credit Union Plan: This plan originated in Germany in 1848. It started in the United States in Massachusetts in 1909. Following is the meaning and some of the major points of the plan.

A credit union is a cooperative society organized under a state law within a specific group of people, for the two-fold purpose of supplying the members of that group with a plan of systematic saving and of making it
possible for them to take care of their own credit problems at a legitimate rate. To become a member of the union in the plant one must be an employee, and must agree to save a certain unit of a designated amount at the rate of so much on his pay days. It may be done this way, or the employee may buy units of a certain amount in cash. The money may be withdrawn at any time as from a bank, and is invested in loans exclusively, for members for provident purposes at a legitimate rate. This plan is to encourage thrift. The Armour Company is proud of this plan.

Pension System: Armour has no organized pension system covering its hourly paid employees. Other employees, office workers, managers, etc. pay three per cent of their salary into a pension fund of one million dollars donated by the Armour Company. Those eligible to pensions are pensioned when they reach the age of sixty or sixty-five years. The amount of each pension is calculated separately, the calculations being based upon the length of service of the employee and his average earning during the last ten years of service.

Insurance systems, sickness and accidents among the Armour Company employees are covered in two ways. Compensation, required by state laws, cover all accidents occurring while at work within the plant. Group insurance handled through the Metropolitan Life Insurance covers all sickness and accidents originating outside of the plant.
All employees are entitled to this insurance after six months continuous service. A break is allowed in this six months if some unavoidable cause, such as temporary dismissal due to lack of work, has compelled the recipient to be absent.

After the six months of service, the insurance goes into effect without medical examination and with no limitation as to the age of employee. The cost, very small in comparison to the benefits received, is thirty-five cents per week for men and twenty-five cents per week for women. This covers sickness, accidents, and death. The benefits received are $1,200 in case of death and $12 per week for as long as thirteen weeks in a case of prolonged sickness. Sickness insurance is computed starting the second week, due to the numerous cases of a few days indisposition. Women receive $900 death benefit. The death benefit may be paid during lifetime if an employee is totally disabled for life and makes a request for such an arrangement.

Employees also receive some sickness benefit from the unions.

- Swift and Company -

Second in size to Armours, the Swift company employs 1,800 workers, 1,500 of whom are plant workers. Of the plant workers approximately 130 are women.
The social activities of the plant are very limited, in comparison with a few years ago. A clause of the Wagner Labor Act influenced the discontinuation of some of the social activities.

The educational activities are limited to training in plant processes. Employees are encouraged, however, to attend night schools which are available to them. The branch of the Omaha Public Library is discontinued.

Swift has a plant newspaper, The Swift Arrow, which is published monthly and distributed among the employees. Like Armour, new developments took the place of the Employee's Representation Plan.

The Pension System: The company has created for the benefit of its faithful employees, a more than two million dollar pension fund. The fund is administered by a board of five members appointed annually by the directors. Eligibility for a pension is based upon the following rules:

1. The Board may pension any male employee who has been in service continuously for twenty-five years or more and who has attained the age of sixty.

2. All male employees who have attained the age of sixty-five and have been in service continuously for twenty-five years shall be pensioned.

The rules for female employees are similar to those of males except that their minimum age of pensioning is fifty and the maximum is fifty-five.
Employees who are over forty at the time of entering service of the company are not eligible for pension.

The Board also has the right to pension any employee who has been in continuous service twenty years or more and who is permanently incapacitated through no fault of his own.

The amount of pension is computed similarly to that of Armours Company. In no case can the amount exceed $1500 per year nor be less than $240 per year.

The widow or minor children of a deceased employee who has been in service twenty years is entitled to a pension not to exceed $2500 per year.

The above are the rules of the pension plan.

The Insurance System: Swift offers to each of its employees a dual system of insurance. First, there is what is known as the Employee's Benefit Association. The funds for this association are in part donated by the Swift Company and in part paid by the members themselves. All employees are eligible, the amount of insurance which they may carry being determined by the amount of wages which they receive. The premiums are small and the policy furnishes adequate sickness, accident and death benefits.

The second plan is known as group insurance. This plan, handled by the Aetna Life Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, is available to all members of the Employment Benefit Association discussed above. The premiums for the insurance, too, are decidedly lower than
than those on a regular commercial policy. It is the desire of the company that each employee shall have both the Employee's Benefit Association and a group life insurance policy.

Age of employment: Like other companies the minimum age is eighteen and the maximum is no set age.

In this company the turnover is greatly influenced by fluctuations in receipts of livestock.

Credit system: Swift, too, has a branch of the National Credit Union.

The company tries to provide for its employees forty hours work per week as far as it is practical.

Health: Swift Plant has a doctor in attendance during half of each day and a nurse during the entire day. Much care and attention is given the sick.

- Cudahy Company -

The Cudahy plant employs more people than any of the others. It has approximately 2500 employees at present including its office workers. About twenty nationalities are represented in the plant. It is estimated that nineteen per cent of the employees are Negroes.

For the same reasons given by the other plants, Cudahy engages in very few recreational activities. Boxing, dancing, and various entertaining attractions have been discarded. The annual summer picnic was observed up to the last few years. For a number of years the Negro and
white baseball teams have not been promoted, nor has the bowling teams functioned.

The Cudahy Sick Benefit Plan makes similar provisions for its employees that the other plants make. On account of the large number of employees, and the nature of the work, two doctors and one nurse comprise the full time medical corps.

Summary: Negroes in Ward Seven need a larger variety of businesses and better trained people to operate them.

Racial discrimination in employment by business enterprises has aided in forcing the majority of the working Negro population into ordinary categories of employment. Lack of vocational training has also contributed to this problem. The social agencies including the churches are making plans to aid in providing vocational guidance for Negro youth in Ward Seven. There is great need for cooperative efforts by Negroes to provide employment for the same.

A large majority of Omaha's female Negroes are employed in the service category. More than 100 of the Negroes employed in Ward Seven are in this category.

Negroes are operating sixteen small businesses in Ward Seven.

There is a relatively small percentage of the Negro population in Ward Seven employed in the professional and semi-professional category.

Negroes generally are found in the low income brackets so far as permanent employment is concerned.
Approximately 250 Negroes are employed in the packing industry in Ward Seven. There are a few skilled workers in the packing industry, but the majority of the Negro employees from Ward Seven are unskilled workers. Ward Seven has Negroes who work in all departments of the plants except the office where no Negroes are employed. One government meat inspector lives in Ward Seven. Negroes share all the general benefits which the industry offers, and race relations in the plants are good.

In spite of many of the handicaps pointed out, the Ward Seven Negro shows vast economic improvement. As was pointed out in the previous chapter the majority of the families outside the South Side Terrace Homes own their homes.
DELINQUENCY

We consider delinquency to be a mild or severe deviation from the accepted social norm. The previous explanation of the housing condition for Negroes in Ward Seven certainly gives reason to expect a high degree of delinquency among both adults and juveniles. In fact, the two cannot be separated. In practically every case of juvenile delinquency there is also adult delinquency in some form. We may further point out that in Ward Seven there is represented about nineteen various nationality groups with varying languages and cultural conflicts; perhaps nor formal but informal. Even though these various nationalities have their own churches and private social organizations, they are working together in the industries and other face to face contacts, laying foundations for peculiar racial assertiveness.

May we refer again to part of the area most densely populated by Negroes for further description. From Twenty-seventh to Twenty-ninth Streets, between Q and R, there are three grocery stores, one drug store, two beauty shops, one of which accommodates both races, a local Negro physician's office, twelve taverns, most of which are frequented by all groups, but are operated by whites, three pool rooms, one of which is operated by Negroes, one
club house for adult Negroes where such activities as dancing, card playing, and the like are carried on. It also has a bar. There are four restaurants and cafes in this area one of which is operated by Negroes. There are two barber shops, one tailor shop, and two shoeshine parlors. Most of these business places are congested and are questionable from the standpoint of sanitation. Only those who frequent these places can tell what activities are carried on in them. All of these business sites are on the south side of Q Street, with Armours packing house on the north side. People live upstairs over and in the rear of many of these places. Scattered about in Ward Seven are other areas also conducive to crime and delinquency wherever recreational opportunities are scarce. In this locality lie factors contributing to adult and juvenile delinquency, because much of the social life of the people is found here.

- Adult Delinquency -

The following table taken from the records of the Police Department of Omaha shows the number of adult arrests in 1945 and 1946 for Omaha as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE IX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Police Department of Omaha operates from two police stations. The Central and the South Side Stations. The latter serves South Omaha primarily. On the basis of Table X the adult arrests made from the South Side Police Station constituted eight and eight-tenths per cent of total arrests made in Omaha in 1945. The table above also shows arrests made of Indians, Mexicans, Europeans and Asians. They were very high among both Indians and Mexicans. Table X shows that the largest numbers of adult arrests in 1945 and 1946 are listed as complaining witnesses for drunkenness, vagrancy, and reckless driving. Most of these who were arrested during these years were chauffeurs, common laborers, loafers and servicemen. The majority of the servicemen were held for safekeeping.

- Juvenile Delinquency -

We chose to discuss adult delinquency first because that is its logical order. The problem of juvenile delinquency is inseparable from family life, recreation, employment, housing conditions and all questionable activities. The family, however, and its economic circumstances tie in closely with the problem. The proceeding chapters point out conditions among Negroes in South Omaha which are conducive to juvenile delinquency.

Table XI gives a picture of the total number of arrests of juveniles and charges against them in 1945 and 1946. We may note that in 1945 there were 2,063 males and 169 females
### TABLE X

**Offense and Occupations of Adults Arrests for 1945 - 1946**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Central Station</th>
<th>South Side Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1945</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaining witnesses</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunks</td>
<td>2,611</td>
<td>484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagrancy</td>
<td>1,035</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wreckless driving</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speeders</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1946</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaining witnesses</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunks</td>
<td>3,195</td>
<td>591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wreckless driving</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speeders</td>
<td>1,468</td>
<td>432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagrancy</td>
<td>1,016</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Occupations from which the largest arrests come**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Central Station</th>
<th>South Side Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1945</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chauffeurs</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers</td>
<td>3,508</td>
<td>917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldiers, sailors, marines</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1946</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chauffeurs</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laborers</td>
<td>4,548</td>
<td>1,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>870</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soldiers, sailors, marines</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total number of Adults Arrested According to Nationalities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central Station</th>
<th>1945</th>
<th>South Side Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8730</td>
<td></td>
<td>1393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2295</td>
<td>Negro</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>Indians</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>164</td>
<td>Mexicans</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>European</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Asiatic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White</td>
<td>1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9855</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2398</td>
<td>Negro</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>409</td>
<td>Indians</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.141</td>
<td>Mexicans</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Europeans</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Asiatic</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* * Omaha Police Department Report, 1945 - 1946*
### Table XI

Juvenile Arrests Reported by Omaha Police Department for Central and South Side Stations (1945-46)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHARGES</th>
<th>1945 M</th>
<th>1945 F</th>
<th>1946 M</th>
<th>1946 F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary (Breaking or entering)</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larcency - theft (except car theft)</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto theft</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assaults</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgery and Counterfeiting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embezzlement and Fraud</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stolen property, buying, receiving, and possessing</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons, carrying, possessing</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prostitution and Commercialized Vice</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex offenses (except rape and prostitution)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offenses against family and Children</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquor Laws</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drunkeness</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disorderly Conduct</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vagrancy</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambling</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving while intoxicated</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspicions</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All others (except traffic)</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disturbing the peace</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malicious Destruction of Property</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorrigibility</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runaways</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trespassing</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation Curfew Ordnance</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All traffic (except driving while intoxicated)</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health warrants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violation of Fireworks Ordnance</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>2063</th>
<th>209</th>
<th>1202</th>
<th>176</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C.S. - Central Police Station</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.S. - South Side Police Station</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
arrested from the central station; and that there were 209 males and seven females arrested from the south side station in that year.

In 1945 there were 1,202 males and 83 females arrested from the central station. From the south side station there were 176 males and 19 females. The total arrests for 1945 from both stations were 2,448, and of this total, 2,232 or 91.2% were from central station; and 216 or 8.8% were from the south side station.

In 1946 the total arrests from both stations were 1,480; and of this total, 1,285 or 87% were from the central station, and 195 or 13% were from the south side station. There was a decrease of arrests in 1946 in the city of Omaha, but arrests from the southside station constituted a higher percentage of the total arrests than in 1945. Yet, in both 1945 and 1946, the arrests from the south side station constituted a smaller percentage of the total arrests in Omaha than the south side population percentage of the total number of Omaha's residents, according to 1940 U. S. Census report.

It was not possible to get the percentage of Negro arrests in South Omaha for 1945 and 1946; but according to juvenile division of the police department from May 1, 1946, to May 1, 1947, there were 654 arrests in Omaha, and 173, or 26.4% of this total were Negroes. One hundred six, or 16% of the total arrests for the city emanated from South Omaha. Out of 106 arrests in South Omaha only
eight or seven and five-tenths per cent were Negroes. This is higher than the Negro population proportion according to the U. S. Census for 1940. Mexicans also had a high degree of arrests in comparison with the other groups.

Most Negro youth arrested lived between Twenty-seventh and Twenty-ninth Streets, between Q and R, which has been described as a blighted area. Where these juveniles lived is shown on Map 4. They were arrested for such things as destruction of property and car theft. They came generally from broken homes and low income families.

The juvenile court reports 43 cases from South Omaha in 1946. Seven of the 43 were "NOR" cases, nor on record as court cases; and 34 were "SOC" cases, settled out of court. Two were filed cases and the persons were committed to institutions. Again we have most of them coming from the blighted Negro areas in Ward Seven. Very few came out of the Terrace Homes.

In conclusion we point out assertiveness due to the great number of races and nationalities living in South Omaha is a factor contributing to adult and juvenile delinquency. The congested and unsanitary places of business are conducive to adult and juvenile delinquency.

In 1945 and 1946 the arrests in South Omaha constituted a smaller percentage of total arrests for the city of Omaha than the percentage of South Omaha population of the total city population, on the basis of the U. S. Census report, 1940. The number of South Omaha Negroes
arrested between May 1, 1946, and May 1, 1947, constituted a higher percentage of the total arrests in South Omaha than the percentage of Negro population in that area.
SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

An ecological study of the South Omaha Negro, as he is affected by the Social Service Agencies operating in his area is a necessary part of our inquiry. In spite of the negative points mentioned in preceding chapters, such as poor housing, low economic standards and social deviations from the accepted norm, the social agencies aid in keeping the community alive and growing. They are constantly administering to its social and welfare needs. The work of the agencies in this chapter will indicate some of the things they do which maintains a hopeful outlook for the community's future and progress. We refer primarily to the Woodson Center, Social Settlement, Family Welfare, and Douglas County Assistance Bureau, Fraternal Organizations, and the Neighborhood Council.

- Woodson Center -

Woodson Center was organized in 1926 for the purpose of serving the needs of the community. Its original name was Cultural Center, but in later years was named for Carter G. Woodson, a nationally known author on Negro History. Woodson Center is a social organization functioning with community organization and group work fields. It existed as a branch of the Social Settlement Association of South Omaha from 1926 to 1940. Serious difficul-
ties arose between the executives of the two organizations over certain issues in the community to such an extent that it became necessary for the separation of these two agencies. A temporary committee from Woodson Center sponsored by the Council of Social Agencies recommended that a survey be made of the Woodson Center area in an effort to ascertain the needs of the neighborhood, and make recommendations as to the best type of program to meet these needs. Specifically, there were requests made first, for advice on the kind of group work services needed for the colored people in the area; second, how these services should fit in with the resources in the area; third, what needs to be done concerning race relations problems in the area; and fourth, where Woodson Center should be relocated. This study was started October 28th and completed November 9th, 1940. Woodson Center was located on the corner of Thirtieth and R Streets at the time the building was razed to make way for the low rent housing project. Woodson Center owns the property at 3009, 3013 and 3015 R Streets. All of these units are dwellings renovated for this work. At 3009 R Street there is a library, an equipped kitchen, an office and two club rooms. At 3013 there is shop

equipment, hand craft room, music room and storeroom. The ground at the rear of these dwellings is a small neighborhood playground. Because of these limited facilities, neighborhood buildings are also used. Bethel Baptist Church located at 5318 S. Thirty-eighth Street, around the corner, is often used for public meetings and for the assembly period.

Woodson Center's purpose was very well given in its annual 1945 report. The report stated that the purpose is to foster and develop the good instincts and tendencies common to all people, to advance ethical values, to deepen the sense of appreciation of social relationships and responsibilities, to enlarge practical knowledge of hygiene and sanitation, and to meet all other needs in the direction of practical progress in personal integrity, personal habits and good citizenship. To promote a better understanding of the common problems and aims of the Negro race, and to provide for Negro citizens a chance to exercise their independence and initiative in securing further opportunity for racial progress.

The Center has a Board of Trustees elected from the membership of the Center—men and women of various community interests—ministers, teachers, businessmen, laborers and interested citizens.

The program of the Woodson Center: Its program and activities are the general pattern of the settlement agencies
which are expressed in informal recreation, education, the
arts, and individual services. An attempt is made to
reach the entire family.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Younger children</th>
<th>Grade School</th>
<th>Teen-Agers</th>
<th>Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Cub Scouts</td>
<td>Mademoiselle</td>
<td>Arts &amp; crafts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Brownie Scouts</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>Book club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Game Room</td>
<td>Intermediate Scouts</td>
<td>Cooking</td>
<td>Sewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>Cooking (3)</td>
<td>Esquires Club</td>
<td>Neighborhood Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story Hour</td>
<td>Handcrafts (2)</td>
<td>Teen-agers</td>
<td>Co-op</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Game Room</td>
<td>Gym</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Game Room</td>
<td>Folk Dancing</td>
<td>Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Dramatics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>Vocational School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following is the numerical extent of the influence
of the program for 1946:

1. Regularly scheduled groups, definite enrollment
clubs, classes, teams, neighborhood council, 
girl scouts, and cub scouts 10,533
2. Special interest and events 363
3. Teen-age Co-op 811
4. Regularly scheduled groups without definite
enrollment, informal play and playground 3,055
5. Outside groups using house 717
6. Library books loaned 542
7. Visits received 414
8. Conferences with individuals 64

Total aggregate attendance 21,499

See large Map 6* showing extent of participation in Wood-
son Center.

On the South Side Terrace Homes, the recreation room
in building #10 houses the teen-age canteen, small children's

* Large map accompanying text
Map: 6

Participants in Woodson Center

- ● = Negro
- ○ = White
playroom and game room. This is a few blocks from the Center. For gym activities, the gym at the Highland School is used. Grade school boys, high school boys and employed young men use it.

We can justifiably conclude that the lack of a sufficient number of staff members to execute a program to meet the needs of the community is a handicap. Severe handicaps are entailed by insufficient buildings, room, space and equipment. It has been forced to expand its activities throughout the communities wherever there are some available facilities and room space in order to carry on its activity. South Side Terrace Homes is one of those places. The gym at Highland School a mile away is another.

Excellent leadership is given the Center and the churches, schools and other agencies actively share in its planning. The Board of Directors is composed of ministers, public school teachers, businessmen, housewives and other interested citizens of the community. Woodson Center has become the focusing point of Negro life in South Omaha with its functional community program and interest.

- Social Settlement -

The educational and recreational life of Ward Seven is also maintained by the Social Settlement House of which Woodson Center was a branch up to 1940. This was pointed out in the previous discussion. The two agencies still
work hand in hand for the advancement of the community. The Settlement House is located at Thirty-first and Q Streets, partly in the Negro neighborhood and about a block from Woodson Center. Its doors were first opened to the community on January 10, 1924, in a building which was formerly a saloon. The total attendance for the first year was 25,048. Because of the effective service the Settlement was rendering under its head worker, by 1930 an adjoining building to the old Settlement House had to be opened to accommodate the numbers served. According to the annual report, the total attendance in 1930 was 66,279 and by 1940 it was much greater. The 1946 attendance was several times what it was in 1930. It also offered many more opportunities for development. The major support of this agency comes from the Community Chest.

The Settlement provides various kinds of gymnastic activities which maintain a wide interest among youth of the neighborhood. The public schools of this area occasionally use the House. Physical examinations are made possible by South Omaha physicians and university medical students.

The Settlement House promotes plays and various other forms of entertainment such as dances, parties and the like.

Classes in trade training are also offered. Instruction in wood carving, wrought iron work, cabinet and toy
making for boys, and classes in cooking, sewing, household management and other household arts for girls, are provided.

Music classes are also provided. These classes include piano, violin and chorus work.

Efforts are made by the Settlement House to serve the needs of all age groups in the neighborhood. A large number of different nationalities participate in its activities. Negroes are welcomed, but are expected to be a part of Woodson Center's program and activities.

The Douglas County Assistance Bureau and Family Welfare Association contribute much to the social and economic security of Negroes in Ward Seven. These agencies have reflected the interest of the State of Nebraska in the well being of everyone of its citizens. The Bureau is doing its part in aiding dependents. At the present time it is handling thirty-six cases of dependent Negro children in Ward Seven and eighty-four white cases. A case may involve more than one person. There is an out of proportion number of Negro cases with white. And further, we found that most of the cases come out of the questionable area constantly mentioned. There are also thirteen direct relief cases among Negroes in this area while there are twenty-seven whites.

The Family Welfare has eleven Negro cases in Ward Seven of which the association takes care of impartially.
- Fraternal Organizations -

There is in Ward Seven a Masonic organization with a membership of fifty-eight men. It has been organized about eighteen months and its membership includes many of the progressive men of the area. It has engaged in recreational activities which have been very helpful to the men and the community. The group meets in one of the churches of the neighborhood.

Along with this organization is the Eastern Star which has a similar function as the Masons. The group is composed of women whose meetings are held in the same place as the men's group. It includes in its membership a cross section of the women in the community. The American Legion Post in South Omaha provides and promotes social recreation especially for ex-servicemen and aids in their social welfare.

Negroes in Ward Seven are members of a number of other organizations also in the near northside city area, such as the NAACP, and church organizations. In fact, much of the leadership for city-wide Negro organizations comes from the northside.

- Neighborhood Council -

This organization which is about two years old is composed of a representative number of community leaders, both white and Negro, and citizens, for the purpose of social investigation and analyses of the needs of the com-
munity, and coordinating the social, religious and educational forces to meet them. The idea of organizing was not thought up, it was born out of the community developments, and interests of its leaders. Such issues as recreation, delinquency, public education, family life, and church life of all groups have characterized the considerations of the Council. Problems that can be handled best by various individuals or agencies are turned over to them with suggestions for action.

The objective of the Council is similar in nature but not in scope to that of the Los Angeles County plan, and Professor Thrasher's five point community program of crime prevention in some areas in New York City. There are three major points which characterize the objective of a coordinating council according to the Los Angeles Plan:

1. Solve the problem of its children and youth before they become sufficiently serious to require the services of the juvenile court.

2. Strengthen the home and community influences that build character in youth, and adjust or eliminate those influences that may lead to delinquency and crime.

3. Coordinate state and local facilities and bring them to bear upon the unadjusted child, so that he may be returned to the normal stream of life.

Professor Thrasher sets forth the following points which were valuable to our organization:

1. The general purpose of a community program: To develop a comprehensive, systematic, and integrated social program for the incorpora-
tion of all children in the delinquency area, especially all the maladjusted and those likely to become delinquents, into activity groups and organizations providing for their leisure time interests as well as other normal needs.

Means to the achievement of this purpose:

1. Concentration of responsibility for crime prevention for the local delinquency area in question (a problem of community organization).

2. Research to procure essential facts and keep them up-to-date as a basis for an initial and a progressively developing crime prevention program (involves child accounting).

3. Utilization of services of and cooperation among all preventive agencies existing in a given community (a problem of community organization).

4. Application of the preventive program systematically to all children in the delinquency area of the local community in groups as well as individuals.

5. Changing of community conditions discovered to be demoralizing to individuals or groups of children and adolescents by means of concerted community action.

6. Creation of new agencies, if necessary, to supplement existing social organizations when and at what points definite needs are discovered when cannot be met by existing facilities.12

With the knowledge the plans described above the Neighborhood Council in Ward Seven, though small in its numerical strength constantly contributes to the solution of the social problems in the community.

12 Dr. T. Earl Sullenger, Determinants in Juvenile Delinquency, 1936, pp. 318-321
We conclude that the social and welfare agencies in Ward Seven have proved very effective in the program of community development. Now that there is a wider coordination of the existing social agencies greater results is anticipated. There are numerous other social organizations in Ward Seven not discussed in this chapter, but they, too, are sharing in the community development program.
RECREATION

Statistics show that wholesome recreation supervised and carried on with proper facilities aid greatly in reducing the problem of juvenile delinquency and adult delinquency as well. Neighborhoods and communities like Ward Seven where the Negro concentrated area borders the packing industry, stock yards and railroads, and where there is, as has been pointed out, poor housing conditions, congestion and vice, there is a great need for proper recreational facilities. Equipment alone is not enough. There must be supervised recreation for youth.

According to the report of the City Planning Commission, the total park acreage in Omaha compares favorably with the generally accepted standards, but too large a proportion of the existing park areas is unused or unusable for active play and recreation, and the park areas and recreation areas are not located so as to practically serve a large majority of the children who need play facilities most. Only private agencies are serving in congested areas.13

Because of inadequate recreational facilities for this area, there is reflected a high percentage of juvenile delinquency. Recreation for Negroes in South Omaha is supplied by the public recreational facilities, private agencies, quasi-commercial, commercial, and schools.

- Public Recreational Facilities -

As shown in Map 7 there are six city-owned pieces of ground of varying stages of development in this area. These are parks and playfields with very little equipment and practically no recreational supervision for them. In addition, recreation centers are maintained at Thirty-third and K Streets and the South Side Terrace Homes. As neighborhood lines are finely drawn and funds are too short to provide continuous supervision for program direction, there are no Negro participants in activities except the playfield at South Side Terrace Homes. At times the city has maintained two separate recreation centers in the Terrace Homes, but when funds are short, leadership in the center frequented by Negro children is withdrawn. Why two centers anyway in the Terrace Homes? Don't children go to school together? Adults fellowship through social organizations together, drink and play pool together on Q Street. This is one of the crippling factors in our whole program of serving the public. We are afraid of something many times that does not exist.

- Private Agencies -

Woodson Center, a Community Chest agency which we here discussed in an earlier chapter, supplies a group work and recreational program largely for the children and teen-age groups with a minimum of service to adults. Due to extremely limited facilities, the Center organizes
and supervises activities outside of its own building. One of these activities is a game room in the recreational room in the Terrace Homes. This is done also because of the great need of such an activity in the project to engage the children of sixty-six Negro families who live there. The services of Woodson Center are curtailed somewhat by its limited staff personnel. In spite of this limitation much good is being accomplished. A small backyard playground for children is maintained, and a lending library also is open to the neighborhood at the Center.

Two of the national youth serving agencies are sponsored by Woodson Center. The YMCA, through its recently organized "Out Post" has forged ahead in the true democratic spirit. The citizens in the area it serves planned and developed a neighborhood recreation program stemming from the desires members expressed by a cross section of persons living in the neighborhood.

- Quasi-Commercial -

Two membership organizations maintaining club rooms serve their members and the public. Card playing, drinking and dancing mainly characterize these recreations. One has a beer license and the other a liquor license.

- Commercial-,

There are at present two theatres in South Omaha where large numbers of Negroes go for recreation and enjoyment.
One of them was recently built and is one of the finest in the city. It is prepared to better serve the community and Negroes are welcome to attend freely. On Q Street between Twenty-fourth and Thirty-third there are twenty-five taverns all of which are operated by whites, but are patronized by Negroes and whites. Map S** shows the distribution of liquor business in Ward Seven. On this same street are three pool rooms, one of which is operated by Negroes, but here again both races freely mix. The amount of informal mixing of races in pool rooms and taverns exceeds those in churches and other social agencies. If we had the same amount of racial association on a higher level, it would prove very fruitful in race relations.

Cafes and restaurants frequented by Negroes in South Omaha are also questionable places which the most respectable people do not choose to patronize. If a family desired to have dinner out some evening, there is no place anywhere among Negroes in all South Omaha to go where accommodations are adequate. This is a serious problem, and something definite should be done about it if we hope to curb the frequency with which youth go to unwholesome places. Better places must be provided. There are no swimming pools, tennis courts, skating rinks, bowling alleys, or

* See large Map 7, accompanying text, showing general distribution of all commercial activities in Ward Seven.

** Large Map 8 accompanying text.
Map 7

General Distribution of Commercial Recreational Activities in Ward Seven

- Pool and Billiard Halls
- Auditoriums and Halls
- Theaters
- Dance Halls
Map 8

Distribution of Liquor Licenses in Ward Seven

- Black dot = Class "C"
- Black circle = Off Sale Beer
- Dot = On and Off Sale Beer
- Black square = Package Liquor
decent dance halls available to Negroes in South Omaha. This is evident of the lack of adequate recreational facilities in this area.

- Schools-

There are six elementary schools in Ward Seven. They are: Corrigan at Thirty-eighth and X Streets with a total enrollment of 359; Highland at Twenty-seventh and Madison Streets with a total enrollment of 349; Madison at Twenty-seventh and Adams Streets with a total enrollment of 178; Robbins at Fortieth and I Streets with a total enrollment of 174; South Lincoln at Twenty-seventh and F Streets with a total enrollment of 337; and West Side at Thirty-second and V Streets with a total enrollment of 366. This makes a total enrollment of 1,763 attending the grade schools in Ward Seven in 1946. In 1933 there were 2,281, a decrease of 518 in attendance to the grade schools. South High is located on the eastern border of Ward Seven at J Street on Twenty-fourth. It has a total enrollment of 2,734.

Negroes attend only three of the six grade schools and the enrollment is as follows: Highland 78 or 22.36% of the total; Madison 13 or 13.69% of the total; and West Side 143 or 38% of the total. South High had in 1946 an enrollment of 63 or 2.3% of its total enrollment.

* See large Map 9 accompanying text, showing distribution of schools in Ward Seven.
Distribution of Neighborhood Parks and Schools in Ward Seven

- ● = Neighborhood Parks
- ○ = Schools
The problem of recreation is always a challenge to the public schools. There are evidences that Negro pupils are a part of the entire recreation program of the schools of which they attend. We realize, however, the limitations of the facilities for recreation in the schools. The City Planning Commission gives the following description of the schools which Negroes attend in Ward Seven:

Highland: The school site should be enlarged by the acquisition of the block to the south between Adams and Madison, and the north half of the block between Madison and Monroe (including the abandoned fire station). Lack of room space and inadequate building facilities, plus a non-attractive surrounding, is the case in this school.

Madison: This school has also a very inadequate site which has been supplemented by a city-owned playground immediately north of the school but the combined playground and school site is insufficient.

West Side: The building is in critical condition and the present site, though well located, is not large enough to provide adequate recreation. The schools recreation program has to be supplemented by neighborhood and community parks.

South High: This school has meager space for buildings only which makes its recreation program severely handicapped.14

14. Cf. - Omaha City Planning Commission for Parks, Recreation and Schools, 1945, pp. 18, 19, 27
Last summer the city recreational department set up recreation centers at the grade schools and in the Terrace Homes. Through this method the city did a fair job, but if proper cooperative considerations of the needs to be met in the community had been given the results would have been quite different. West Side had relatively large participation of Negroes. There is fine cooperation between the schools and the social agencies in solving racial problems which grow out of recreational functions.

- Conclusion -

Due to the City Planning proposal, there is an optimistic outlook for public recreation in this area. There seems to be an awareness of the importance of good leadership in effectively using the facilities at hand. Further, there are all indications that the neighborhood parks and playfields will be developed to serve the community. At present they are undeveloped and definitely have inadequate equipment. Lack of trained leadership is appalling in the recreational activities for both races and especially for Negroes. Racial and cultural lines have practically limited Negro participation in city recreational activities to the playfield at South Side Terrace Homes, except, of course, at the schools. And the recreation at the South Side Terrace Homes is unsupervised. The Woodson Center, with a limited personnel has attempted to maintain a game room in
the recreation room in the Terrace Homes. Due to lack of facilities and an insufficient number of staff workers, the work does not bring desired results. The YMCA branch in the Albright Addition is rendering a valuable service the short time it has been established. It is very democratic in its services. We found that whereas there are on Q Street between Twenty-fourth and Thirty-third approximately twenty-five taverns, three pool rooms, some of which are operated by Negroes, and questionable cafes, South Omaha has no swimming pools, no tennis courts, no skating rinks, no bowling alleys, and no decent dance halls available for Negroes. We found that there is a great amount of informal mixing of races in pool rooms and taverns than in churches and other social agencies. It was indicated that the schools make available to Negro youth what they have but their facilities are appallingly limited. There is the need that the problem of recreation be approached more cooperatively by city schools, churches and social agencies, and see to it that our facilities are improved and are made available to all the people. This problem of recreation was found to be serious because of the physically deteriorated areas in which a large number of Negroes live.

The lack of proper recreational facilities is a contributing factor to use of strong drinks by many in the community where daily work is the monotony of common labor jobs such as in some of the industries. Grave moral problems arise in such situations.
HEALTH

During the last quarter of a century it has come to be recognized in this country that health may be improved and life saved by community action to prevent disease, and to educate for more healthful living. The city, state, and nation spend large sums annually for this most humane and useful purpose. As never before, social agencies and organizations are working to better health conditions and to destroy the evils of the loss of health.

Health among Negroes is a vital issue to all those who understand that one diseased person in a community means that no one in the community is safe. We are glad to note that people everywhere are learning this fact to some degree. The matter of health, however, grows out of such a multiplicity of causes that to really embrace measures to prevent diseases demands a high type of understanding by people of various racial and religious groups. Experience has taught us that poverty, substandard housing and social ignorance are the contributing factors to poor health; and that any group can be healthy if the living conditions are not substandard.

Recent statistics show the following about deaths and births in Omaha;
We are not able to get the number of births for certain areas of the city. Therefore, we shall estimate the number of Negro births in Ward Seven on the basis of the population ratio. On the basis of the 1940 Census report, by wards, we found that eleven per cent of the total Negro population of Omaha live in Ward Seven. Therefore, eleven per cent of the total births of Negroes in 1946 represents the approximate number of Negro births in Ward Seven. There were thirty-one Negro births in Ward Seven in 1945 and forty-one in 1946. According to the report of the two Negro funeral homes in Omaha which handle all the Negro deaths, there were nineteen deaths in Ward Seven in 1945 and sixteen in 1946.

See large Map 10 for distribution of Negro deaths. The leading causes of these deaths were cancer, tuberculosis and heart disease.

Table XIII following shows the relation of syphilis and gonorrhea patients of white and Negro groups in the city.

---

TABLE XII
Deaths and Births in Omaha, 1945-46

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1946</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>5933</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2918</td>
<td>2723</td>
<td>6849</td>
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6643 Born in hospital 5156
64 Sets of twins 45
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<th>NEW CASES ADMITTED DURING YEAR (Never previously admitted to this clinic)</th>
<th>SYPHILIS</th>
<th>CONORREA</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>congenital</td>
<td>inguinal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chronic</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Not previously treated by any clinic or private physician.</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colored</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Previously treated by a clinic or private physician</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II PATIENT LOAD

A Total patients actually under treatment this month. |          |          |                    |
| White                      | 21       | 57255    | 36                  |
| F                          | 25       | 61163    | 52                  |
| Colored                    | 54       | 193827   | 50                  |
| M                          | 41       | 299327   | 72                  |
| F                          | 41       | 299327   | 72                  |
| Total                      | 141      | 685372   | 210                 |

TABLE III

Omaha Public Health Report for Syphilis and Gonorrhea in 1946
of Omaha, in 1946. In it we see that the diseased Negroes are out of proportion with diseased white persons as to the total number of patients. It can be conceded that Ward Seven is about the same as other areas in the city in this respect.

It is encouraging to note the work of the Visiting Nurses' Association. The organization contributes a great deal to preventing bad health. The nurses cannot be accused of showing racial discrimination in their work. Table XIV shows the handling of Negro cases by the South Omaha Branch of the Visiting Nurses' Association, in Ward Seven, from April, 1946 to April, 1947. Most of the patients served were from what we refer to as a blighted area, the section from Twenty-seventh to Thirtieth Streets, between Q and R. Yet we know that the Visiting Nurses serve people in all economic and social levels. According to the table there were 469 cases handled among Negroes in Ward Seven during the above mentioned period. In the meantime, in the same area for the same period, there was a total of 3,425 cases. Therefore fourteen percent of the cases were Negroes.

A clinic is maintained in the South Side City Hall for public service. Many of the people in Ward Seven are served at this clinic. Every Saturday the City Health Department engaged the clinic in the vaccination against small pox and immunizations against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus (lock jaw). On the evenings of two other days in the week the blood tests and treatments for venereal diseases are carried on.
### TABLE XIV

The Visiting Nurses' Association, South Omaha Branch
Case Load, Ward Seven

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<td>25</td>
<td>Undiagnosed</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Non communicable</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Syphilis</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>55</td>
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<td>96</td>
<td>Pre school</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Health Supv. Pre school</td>
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<td>Health Supv. Adult</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Orthopedic Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL - Negro Patients Visited</td>
<td>469</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Pneumonia
** Influenza
*** Whooping Cough

Mals Measles
The Visiting Nurses' Association holds a Well Baby Clinic in the City Hall also twice each month. This clinic is for babies from birth to school age. It is used by mothers of children who are not able to use a doctor for constant medical attention. There is a Well Baby Clinic also in the South Side Terrace Homes. This service is available to all.

We know that among Negroes, generally, the mortality rates are high, and that some diseases are more prevalent among them than among some groups. This is due mainly to insufficient health education, poor sanitation and congested housing conditions.

Beside the public health service, the Negro churches and social agencies are using various means to bring about better health in this community. The annual observance of National Negro Health Week since 1928 has added to the monthly emphasis which these agencies put upon good health and the means of maintaining it. Through the health committee of the Woodson Center, various community health projects and activities are sponsored. Some of the churches show health movies regularly. These have also proved helpful in the program of health.
CHURCHES IN WARD SEVEN*

The contributions of the churches in Ward Seven to the social and religious life of the people are far reaching. About sixty per cent of the population is reached directly through some of the organized expressions of the churches.

Investigation showed that there are six Catholic churches in Ward Seven and the last report indicates that they serve more than 4,000 people. Their organization includes eighteen for men, fifteen for women, and eight for young people. In addition all the churches except one has a parochial school. Benevolence and religious services constitute the functions of these churches. They also provide some degree of recreation.

There is one Jewish synagogue in Ward Seven with the characteristic functions of a Jewish church. The children attend the public schools.

There are fourteen Protestant churches in Ward Seven five of which are Negro. Among these churches are represented four Baptists, two Methodists, one Congregational, one Episcopal, one Reorganized Latter Day Saints, one

* See large Map, accompanying text, showing distribution of churches in Ward Seven.
Map 10

Distribution of Churches in Ward Seven.

- ● = Jewish
- ● = Catholic
- ● = White Protestant
- ● = Negro Protestant
Church of God, one Holiness and a Mission. The influence of these churches is unmistakably great in Ward Seven.

Negro Churches: The church is still the hub around which Negro life revolves. The Negro looks to the church for inspiration, leadership and even an outlet for much of his social expressions. In many cases this group considers the church an authority on all matters, regardless of their nature. This imposes a great responsibility upon the church if it hopes to give correct guidance and counseling to its people. From our studies in this field we conclude with many others, that the Negro church is a major symbol of Negro progress in general. Unfortunately, however, there are those who are not aware of the progressive changes which have been going on in the Negro church since the turn of the century.

Through the years, therefore, the churches in Ward Seven played a great part in stabilizing Negro life in the area. Perhaps the churches in South Omaha do not compare with the churches in some other sections of the country however. This may be due to the type of people who have been attracted here. As has been pointed out, the economic motive brought most of the Negroes to this area. Economics has been to a great degree their paramount interest.

One of the fourteen Protestant churches in Ward Seven five of them are Negro congregations—two Baptist, two Methodist, and one Church of God. The first church for Negroes in South Omaha was organized in 1890, at Thirteenth
and Harrison Streets, and was called the Christian Church. This church was conditionally donated to the Negro group which consisted of about five families at that time. Before this church was organized the Negro people worshipped with the white Presbyterian Church congregation of which Dr. Wheeler was the minister. From that we gather that they were welcomed.

In 1893 for some reason, the original little congregation at Thirteenth and Harrison Streets was dissolved, and a Methodist church was organized. This group attempted to build on grounds donated to it by the stock yards. This ground was on Twenty-sixth Street, between O and P. After the foundation for the building was laid, however, protests came from the white residents of that neighborhood, and the stock yards company changed the original land donation 5233 South Twenty-fifth Street, where Allen Chapel now stands. This church took the name Allen Chapel in later years. Other churches followed in the early part of the Twentieth Century. Now we have Bethel Baptist, 5318 South Thirtieth Street, Mt. Olive Baptist, 3010 R Street, Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, 5233 South Twenty-fifth Street, Union Memorial, 3223 V Street and the Church of God, 2712 R Street.

None of the Negro churches in Ward Seven have adequate church buildings and physical equipment. Three of them occupy small frame church buildings. One temporarily worships in one of the Woodson Center's buildings. Another church temporarily worships in a large dwelling renovated
for church purposes. The two latter churches' building programs were retarded by the war. One of them has begun building; and the other, with more than $10,000 in its funds, is waiting for a more practical time.

None of these churches have adequate library or recreational facilities. Two of them do have sound projectors for visual education. Only one of the churches has an adequate number of class rooms for departmental work.

The total membership of the Negro churches in South Omaha is approximately eight hundred. About fifty per cent of this total holds membership in one of the Baptist churches. There is a constant increase of memberships in the churches. They have only Negro members and yet the membership is open to all.

All of the churches have Sunday schools, youth groups, prayer meeting groups, and women's and men's organizations. One of the small churches sponsors a Boy Scout troop.

The programs of all the churches in South Omaha are more advanced than they were in past years. Forty per cent of them are very progressive in church functions, planning and community interest. As an example of program planning, let us look at an annual calendar for 1946 of one of the churches, copies of which calendar were distributed among the members and the public at large.
"CHURCH CALENDAR FOR 1946"

January
Church Crusade Month

February 8-11
Race Relations and Brotherhood Week

February 11
Interracial Pulpit Exchange. Appreciation
Services for Packing House Employers
and Employees

March 11
Women's Day

March 25
Men's Day

April 1
Easter Sunday. Special Early Morning Sing.
Song Service by Senior and David's Angelic
Choirs. Children's Easter Cantata from
Handel's Messiah in the Evening

April 2-13
Spring Revival. Fifth Week - Community
Emphasis. Missionary Society

May 1-4
Annual Ministers' Institute, Bishop College,
Marshall, Texas

May 9-13
Home and Family Emphasis Week

May 13
Mother's Day

June 6-10
Youth's Week

June 11-17
New Era Association and Congress

June 17
Father's Day

June 19-24
National Congress, St. Louis, Mo.

July 4
Annual Church Social

July 8-15
School of Music

July 15
Special Music Day. Fifth Week - World
Emphasis. Missionary Society

August 27-31
Annual Stewardship Week. Dr. Bernard Byrd,
Pastor, Munger Ave. Baptist Church, Dallas,
Texas.

September 5-8
National Baptist Convention, Detroit, Mich.
Fifth Week - Missionary Society.

October 8-12
Fall Revival. Rev. C. H. Hayden,
Los Angeles, Calif.

November 7-8
Midwest Institute, St. Paul, Minn.
(Preparation Month)

November 29
Thanksgiving Day (Union Service)

December 23
Christmas Contata

December 24
Annual Christmas Tree

December 25
Christmas Day

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Note in the above program the provision for better race
relations, economic relations and social relations. Institu-
tes of various kinds fellowship with other churches, and whole-
some recreation are parts of the program.
We would like to point out that some of the churches have altogether discarded ticket and dinner selling, rallying and begging for funds to support themselves; and have established a systematic way of financing by tithes and offerings.

Three-fifths of the ministers of the churches in Ward Seven are graduates of colleges, and all of them have had some training. Through this type of leadership, the churches of this area have a fine fellowship with other church groups.

In concluding, we make the following points: The Negro churches of Ward Seven have about seventy per cent of the total Negro population in them, which is far beyond the general average. The church buildings and equipment are seriously inadequate. The libraries and recreational facilities are very limited. The outlook for physical improvements is good, in that one of the Baptist churches is now engaged in a building program, and the other has more than $10,000 on hand for that purpose.

The functional groups of the churches are men's and women's organizations, choirs, Sunday schools, prayer meetings and Bible classes. One of the small churches has a Boy Scout troop.

Two of the churches' programs reveal exceptional planning and community interest. The annual calendar of one of the churches shows the scope of its planning. It includes emphasis on better race relations, economic relations, social relations and church fellowship. Institutes on family life,
community interest and music which characterize some of the churches' Christian educational programs.

Some of the churches have discarded ticket and dinner selling, rallying and begging; and have established a systematic method of church finance. The fellowship between white and Negro churches is good. The churches have no white members, yet they are welcome to join. The churches are active in community service.

The existing character-building organizations outside the immediate church organizations are very few in number in Ward Seven but are encouraged by the churches.
GENERAL SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The first Negro family came into Ward Seven in 1889 closely followed by a few other families. The great influx of Negroes came during and after World War I. It was not until this time that the Negro population was of any substantial increase. The Negro population grew from family in 1889 to a population of 1,305 in 1930. The total population of Ward Seven in 1930 was 18,937 of which 6.9% were Negroes. In 1940, the total population for Ward Seven was 19,314 of which 105, or 5.5% were Negroes. There was an increase of 377, or 1.9% of the total population between 1930 and 1940. There was a decrease of 236 or 1.2% of the total Negro population for the Ward between 1930 and 1940. Its Negro population was 11.2% of Omaha's total Negro population in 1940. The Negro population was estimated to be 1,469 in Ward Seven in 1945. Mobility has been increasingly high in the ward, especially among the majority group.

2. The housing condition among Negroes in Ward Seven is much lower than that of the whites. It was greatly improved, however, when the South Side Terrace Homes supplemented 169 substandard houses in the area from Twenty-seventh to Thirtieth Streets, between R and W Streets. This area was occupied chiefly by Negroes. Sixty-six Negro families are housed in the Terrace Homes which consist of
552 units. Immediately bordering the packing industry on the south, is a densely populated Negro area. Here ninety-five per cent of the houses in which Negroes live are substandard. The largest amount of adult and juvenile delinquency emanates from this area. Eighty-five per cent of the houses in Ward Seven occupied by Negroes are substandard. This is not the choice of most of them, but primarily because of racial bigotry and discrimination reflected in the application of restricted covenants. Between 1942 and 1945, 391 new homes were built in Ward Seven. None of these houses can be bought or rented by Negroes. We estimate that eighty-percent of the Negro families outside of the Terrace Homes own their homes.

3. A very small percentage of the Negro population is gainfully employed in professions and semi-professions in Ward Seven. Seventy-two per cent of the working Negro population is employed in the packing industry. They work in all departments except the offices. The next largest percentage is found, in the service category as porters, janitors, waiters, maids and the like. There are sixteen small Negro businesses in Ward Seven employing about fifty persons full time. There are indications of economic progress among Negroes in this area.

4. Poor housing, low economic status and racial discrimination have created blighted Negro areas in Ward Seven, from which comes most of the social disorganization. Between May 1, 1946 and May 1, 1947, there were 654 juvenile arrests.
made in Omaha, of which 173 or 26.4 per cent were Negroes. One hundred and six, or 16.2 per cent of the total arrests for the city were made from the South Side Station. of the 106, 7.5 per cent were Negroes. The percentage of Negro arrests from the South Side Station was higher than the Negro percentage of population, on the basis of 1940 Census. In 1946, the Juvenile Court handled forty-three cases of Negro juveniles from Ward Seven. Two of these cases were filed, thirty were disposed of as "SOC" and seven as "NOR". On the basis of arrests reported and personal observation, both adult and juvenile delinquency in Ward Seven is decreasing. The program of the churches, schools, social agencies, coupled with that of the South Side Neighborhood Council are effectively working for the social betterment of this zone.

5. The Social Settlement (white) and Woodson Center (Negro) serve the community in Ward Seven. Woodson Center is inadequately housed, handicapped by an insufficient number of staff personnel, and has inadequate physical equipment and facilities to serve best the people of the neighborhood and its needs. It is, however, through its executives and workers, rendering a fruitful service in alleviating social ills, family and domestic difficulties, and checking the delinquency trends among Negroes in Ward Seven. The Center had an attendance of 21,499 in 1946.

The Douglas County Assistance Bureau is handling at present 120 cases of dependent children in Ward Seven. Thirty-
six of these are Negro cases, and eighty are white. The Bureau is also handling forty cases of direct relief in the ward, thirteen of which are Negro cases and twenty-seven are white. In addition, the family Welfare Service is handling eleven Negro cases in the ward. Most of these Negro cases are found in the blighted areas.

6. There is practically no supervised public recreation for Negroes in Ward Seven. All the parks and playgrounds in the area are undeveloped. Negroes participate only in the recreational activities of the play field at the South Side Terrace Homes. It is expected that recreational handicaps will be somewhat removed by the City Planning Commission's program of park and playground improvement. Schools in Ward Seven are not equipped for an adequate program of recreation. There are five grade and one high school serving in Ward Seven. Three of the grade schools and the high school have Negro pupils. Thirty-seven per cent of the students of the West Side school are Negroes. The other schools have a very small percentage of Negro pupils. There is only one Negro teacher in the schools in Ward Seven.

7. The social agencies and churches in Ward Seven are consistently contributing to health education for Negroes. The percentage of Negro cases handled by the Public Health Services in Ward Seven is greater than the percentage of cases handled out of the majority group. The Visiting Nurses' Association reports fourteen per cent of its case load in Ward Seven to be Negroes. The Negro percentage of venereal patients in Ward Seven is higher than the Negro per-
centage of the total population of Ward Seven. There was
a slight decrease in the number of deaths among Negroes in
Ward Seven from 1945 to 1946. There was an increase in
the number of births among Negroes during this period.

8. Of the fourteen Protestant churches in Ward Seven,
five are Negro congregations. The first church for Negroes
was organized in 1893. All of the church buildings in which
Negroes worship in Ward Seven are inadequate and the equip­
ment and facilities are limited. Building programs were re­
tarded by the war. More than sixty per cent of the Negro
population are members of these churches. Most of these
churches are well organized. Only Negroes are members, but
any person is welcome to join. The annual calendar programs
of one of the churches in Ward Seven reflects the scope of
the Negro church's interest in civic and community interest
as well as spiritual concern. Unusual fellowship exists be­
tween Negro and white churches in the ward. The Negro pastors
share a great deal of the leadership.

In concluding this ecological study of the Negro in Ward
Seven, we have seen that all the many factors that make up
the life of an area of this kind are closely interwoven and
interdependent. No individual condition can exist alone.
All the factors taken together produced the total personality
of the area studied. The disorganized aspects are the results
of multiple causation. They thrive in close proximity, thus
producing an interrelatedness and a cause and effect relation­
ship.
The Negroes as a whole, in Ward Seven are industrious, patient, progressive, reasonably civic-minded and law-abiding. They have a positive hope for general improvement and advancement in all phases of their personal, family and community life. Negative circumstances in their environment in Ward Seven have not victimized their spirit.
APPENDIX
TABLE I

Distribution of the Negro Population, 1860-1940
(Expressed in Per Cents)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>92.2</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>80.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>90.3</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>77.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>89.7</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>72.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>89.0</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>66.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>85.2</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>56.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>52.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>76.9</td>
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</table>

The U. S. Census shows that in 1890, 90.3% of the total population (12,865,518) lived in southern states: 19.8% was urban and 80.2% was rural. While in 1940 the population had shifted greatly—76.9% of the total population in the southern states was 47.9% urban and 52.1% rural. This is a vast shift, and may be due to the reasons given above. The Table shows the shifts were greatest during war years.1

It may be reasoned that these shifts have taken the Negro into practically all the economic streams of progress. It might be well to point out that the Negro had accumulated $20,000,000 by 1886, and by 1936 his accumulated wealth reached a height of $2,500,000,000 which was a gain of $2,480,000,000 in seventy years. For important points in the Negroes' progress between 1866 and 1936, see the following table. Evidence shows that a greater rate of progress has been made by the Negro since 1936.

1. Gillin, Dettmer, Colbert, Kastler, Social Problems, 1943 p. 87
### TABLE II
Economic Progress of the Negro, 1866 to 1936

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1866</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>Gain in 70 Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homes owned, including Farms</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>$750,000</td>
<td>$738,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farms operated</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>880,000</td>
<td>860,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Establishments</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>67,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Banks owned and Operated</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Capitalization</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Resources</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15,000,000</td>
<td>15,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wealth Accumulated</td>
<td>20,000,000</td>
<td>2,500,000,000</td>
<td>2,480,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Map I

Negro Deaths in Ward Seven in 1945 and 1946

• = 1945
• = 1946
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