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A Study of the Activities and Opportunities of Boys in Omaha

William Glenn Sullenger
The Municipal University of Omaha

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A STUDY OF ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF BOYS IN OMAHA

by

William Glenn Sullenger, B. A.

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

1937
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INTRODUCTION
As truly as the caterpillar takes on wings and the tadpole lungs and limbs, of which neither had any trace before, the boy takes on not only habits and instincts and ways of getting on in the world, but actual new structure as well. Boyhood begins with the second set of teeth; it ends with the advent of the beard and a new set of enzymes in the blood. Neither boy nor grub nor pollywog passes on to the next stage of his existence by any mere enlargement.

The term "Activities" includes the many and various relations of the boy as he emerges from the child stage and begins to adjust himself to the social trends and patterns of his home, neighborhood, and playgroup. It has been said that man was created out of mud, but the boy was created out of mud plus electricity, and that it is this "electricity" that presents the boy problem. The most active stage of man's life is the years of boyhood. Thus this period of development merits the new challenge of educators and sociologists to center careful studies and researches along the types and kinds of activities as carried on among our boys of today.

It is evident that nearly all the activities of boys in their group life are not injurious but wholesome, or can readily be made so, if the underlying sociological principles are thoroughly understood and appreciated.

The second part of the study, under the subject of opportunities as herein used, will be treated as pertaining to the facilities and contacts made possible by the citizens of Omaha, whereby boys may develop social patterns that will aid them in the process of adjustment to the complexities of modern society.

The writer has spent many years in the intensive study of boys and boy problems. He has served as leader, promoter and organizer of various types of boys' activities in several states of the Union. By means of various methods of modern social research, backed by the rich experience in the field, this study presents many valuable facts as to conditions now existing that bear upon the life of boys in Omaha.

The ultimate problem in this study is to determine the present status of the activities and opportunities of Omaha boys and to ascertain the efficiency of this work, and to point out the outstanding factors as they exist in the present set-up. Finally the problem will be met with recommendations as to certain definite programs of procedures that may be used as a step in the great task of making the city of Omaha a better place in which to develop our boys. It is a recent trend that brings the social minded citizen face to face with the realization that the best way to help boys is
to understand them and to know their activities and opportunities. Education today is not "preparing for life" but rather it is life more abundant. We must lead the boy in the direction that he should follow, and challenge the community to assume its responsibilities.

In the methods that are used in any study rests the validity of the results of that study. The study of the activities and opportunities of boys in Omaha represents a combination of four major methods.

1. The statistical procedure was employed in obtaining data concerning the number of boys in the city, the number of school age, their location by districts, the number in boys' organizations, the numbers recorded in court and the types of offenses and the number contacted by the various social organizations. These have been illustrated when possible by charts.

2. The ecological method was used in studying the differences in the environmental conditions among boys in various parts of the city. The problem of competition with underlying community forces justifies the study of the geographical and racial aspects. The breaking down of the data into the political units, the City Wards, and the analysis of these data in relation to boy activities and opportunities as presented in these geographical areas are a part of the use of this material.

3. The historical method has been utilized in studying the background of the agencies and institutions that offer
activities and opportunities to the boys of Omaha. This brief history is presented in order to give a better understanding of the various activities.

4. The personal interview method was used in obtaining data on the activities and programs of the agencies.

At the outset of the study a clipping bureau was established. A leading daily newspaper was followed for six months with all items concerning boys of Omaha listed and classified. These have shown many interesting things that are happening to or about boys, ranging from offenses and accidents to items concerning awards earned and granted.

The calendar year of 1936 was selected for this study as all the agency data were complete. Annual reports served as valuable source material for this study.

This study has been limited to boys chiefly between five and twenty years of age. These years vary but extend roughly from six to eighteen. The public school compulsory attendance law included the age range of six to sixteen, while the juvenile court law uses eighteen as the maximum age. At the earlier limits the boy begins "to run with other boys" and at the upper limits he begins "to go" with the girls and hence to shift his interests. This "boy" period is one of physiological change, restlessness, and self-consciousness. It is not only the "ganging" age and the period of greatest physiological change, but one in which dissatisfactions at school and desires "to work" may arise, in which marked reactions toward or against religion may occur, in which "bad" habits are acquired through gang
associations, and in which conflicts with parents over money and matters, the automobile, social affairs, may wax furious. At this time the urge for adventure surges high, the automobile is at hand, the gangs are setting the pace, and self-control is not developed.

It seems to be well proven that there comes a time in the adolescent period of every boy when the various physical and moral influences of life reach a point of depression, and then rise suddenly in an ascending curve, carrying with them a new life. There is first a lull, then a storm, then peace; what results is not boy, but man. It is this time of "lull" that represents the danger point of the boy's life, which determines the effects of the "storm" period that follows.

We have today a new kind of home. The pioneer home was the abiding-place of the whole family and microcosm of the world. Father and mother were always present and always in active discharge of their varied functions. They were priests, teachers, industrial instructors, judges and executives of justice. Today the father in the city is absent all day from the home. Women have been emancipated, and one of the things the mother is emancipated from is the home. The teaching, the industrial training, the discipline of faults and the moral and religious education of children have been turned over to the school, the state and the church. Clubs, lodges, flat-life, moving, the lack of neighbors and

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dooryards, divorce,—these are some of the disintegrating influences that are at work upon the home. The child has little loyalty to a place or to people, no opportunity to do any useful work, few social ties to his parents and little real attention from them. Now these activities are largely assumed by the social agencies of the community in which he lives.

The greatest means of helping the boy is the home. But this divinely appointed institution, which has the most of the boy's time, interest and loyalty and every needed inspiration and appliance for his nurture, appears to be untrue to its duty, and nothing else can possibly take its place, although we have many efforts at substitution. The home of today is breaking down under the social strain of the problems that are rapidly arising from the turmoil of social adjustments. This means that careful scientific studies of the activities and opportunities of boys should be made at an increasing rate. This study is presented that it may arouse interest for further analysis of the assets and liabilities that influence boys of Omaha. Let us think with Edgar A. Guest as he recited a part of a product of his pen while acting as chairman of a meeting of the Boys Clubs of America, at Detroit during its tenth anniversary dinner:
"Some day the world will need a man
    Of courage in a time of doubt,
And somewhere as a little boy
    That future hero plays about.
Within some humble home tonight
    That Instrument of greater things,
Now sits upon his father's knee
    Or to his mother's garment clings,
And when shall come that call for him
    To render service that is fine,
He that shall do God's mission here
    May be your little boy or mine.

"Perhaps your boy or mine may not
    Ascend the lofty heights of fame,
The order of their births are hid,
    We know not why to earth they came.
Yet in some little bed tonight,
    The great man of tomorrow sleeps
And only He who sent him here
    The secret of his coming keeps.
As parents then our care is this,
    To keep in mind the great design,
That man that is to serve the world
    May be your little boy or mine."
Population Analysis

The population data used as a basis of this study were taken from the city census collected and compiled by the Omaha Board of Education. It shows the number of boys between the ages of seven and twenty years residing in Omaha. We have used the boy-population of the city from the year 1932 to 1936 in order to show the trends of the totals.

It may be noted, from chart No. I, (page 9) that the boy-population of Omaha for this five-year period has remained practically steady. This indicates that the native population of Omaha does not vary much from year to year. The boy-population made a steady increase each year from 1932 to 1935, then dropped over two hundred for 1936. This was, perhaps, due to the effects of the depression; the point must be kept in mind that children are six years of age before the census records include them, and thus the 1936 census is effected by the births of 1931-32.

In chart No. I (page 9) we show the trend of boy-population on a rather large scale in order to picture, to the reader, a clear conception of these trends. This brings out the slight variations, from year to year, more vividly and presents the relationships of each year to the other years.

Since this boy study is based on the schools, and the schools are the only institutions operated primarily for the training of young life of the city, we have not discussed their programs as individual agencies or organizations. There are 55 Elementary Public Schools, 31
Parochial Schools, and 5 High Schools in Omaha. These schools have a regular daily average attendance of approximately 18,000 boys, within our age range. This is nearly 2,000 more than the census of boys within the compulsory school attendance law age of seven to sixteen years.

Chart No. I Showing Boy-Population of Omaha for a Five-Year Period - 1932 to 1936.

Omaha has a large number of foreign-born population which makes it a very valuable city for the study of social problems. In 1920 one in every six persons in Omaha was born in some foreign country. By 1930 this had changed to one in every seven, while the total population increased ten per cent during the decade. The foreign population decreased from 18.4 per cent to 13.4 per cent. This decrease applies to all groups except the Italians and Poles, each
of which gained a few hundred.

Chart No. II Showing Percentage of Boys in Total Population of the United States and Des Moines, Sioux City, Denver, Omaha, St. Louis, Los Angeles, and St. Joseph - Ages 5 to 20.

Omaha is divided into twelve Wards which are the political units of the governmental set-up. The foreign-born are distributed as follows in these various Wards: In Ward I, we find the majority are of British descent. The Czecho-Slovakian groups are located in Ward VI, the southern part

of Ward VII, and the southern part of Ward V. The Italians are found mostly in Ward V. The Austrians are grouped in Ward III. The Poles are in the northeastern corner of Ward VII and the southeastern part of Ward VIII. The German group is found in Ward IV. The Jews are largely grouped in Ward II, with many of them in Wards VI, III, and I. The Scandinavians are scattered throughout Wards III, VIII, X, and XI. In the southern part of Ward VII are found the majority of the Mexican population.

In Chart No. II, we note relatively fewer boys in Omaha than in the United States as a whole or in Des Moines, Sioux City, or Denver. St. Louis, Los Angeles and St. Joseph have fewer than Omaha has, which indicates that Omaha ranks an exact average in regard to percentage of boy population of the cities studied.

PART I

ACTIVITIES OF BOYS
Activities of Boys as Presented by the Various Organizations and Social Agencies of Omaha

This section of our study is devoted to a brief discussion of the main organizations and agencies working with and for the boys of Omaha. We realize that there are many boys who do not affiliate themselves with organized activities. There are also many who are counted in activities of many different organizations. Duplications are numerous, no doubt, but these materials and data are presented so that the reader interested in boys may secure a picture of the activities of most of the boys in Omaha and thus be better able to appreciate the value and service of these activities.

In order to better understand and appreciate the extent and scope of the organizations working with boys in Omaha, it seems fitting to present a brief preliminary history of the origin and development of these agencies before actually discussing their programs. These organizations are grouped according to central themes as far as possible. The many-sidedness of the boy's life makes it impossible to catalog his activities in compartment categories. No doubt many important activities have been overlooked. Such is generally the case in any feeble effort to cover such a wide field. No special discussion is given the public and parochial schools as such but references are made to their activities throughout this study. The entire research project is based on the activities and opportunities of our school system. Outside of the home no agency reaches and influences
more boys than do the public and private schools.

CORRECTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Juvenile Court

To Illinois belongs the credit for having inaugurated the first Juvenile Court, an event of great significance in the modernizing of the treatment of the juvenile offender. Public spirited women of Chicago, thoroughly convinced that the conventional treatment of delinquent children by the methods then in vogue were both a miscarriage of justice and a social wrong, agitated for the creation of a separate court, exclusively for the child offender, and their efforts were rewarded in 1899 by the establishment of the first juvenile court in the world.

In the juvenile court, the domestic relations court, and probation, law and social work are combined. Criminal law has tended to become a body of strict and formal rules, prescribing uniformly for all offenders a period of confinement which is fixed usually without regard to social considerations or individual potentialities. The revolt against applying this inflexible treatment to delinquent children, which resulted in the establishment of the juvenile court, was largely due to a quickened social conscience, influenced by the social sciences and led by social workers. Beginning with the turn into the present

5The correctional activities are those that have to do with the juvenile court, the detention home, and runaways.

century such courts spread rapidly and widely. They exist now in every state except Maine and Wyoming.

The juvenile court departs radically from such methods. When a child is brought into court and it appears that his conduct or condition brings him within the jurisdiction, the purpose is to ascertain not only what the facts are in relation to the act or incident which has brought him to court, but also to learn what are the causes responsible for his conduct. It is recognized that these may be physical, mental, or emotional handicaps, deficiencies, or difficulties, or they may be environmental influences related to the child's parents, home, school, companions, or neighborhood conditions. In order to appraise these factors physical and mental examinations may be made of the child, or a more extended psychiatric study may be undertaken, in addition to a social investigation—usually made by probation officers—covering his environment.

Frequently the delinquency or unlawful conduct of a child is due to the influence of one or more adults, these persons, particularly parents, being more in need of probation or other treatment than the child himself. In such cases the court cannot deal effectively with the situation unless its jurisdiction extends to adults. This fact was recognized early in the history of the juvenile court and in most states adults who contribute to the delinquency, dependency, or neglect of a child are guilty of a specific

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offense. Though juvenile courts have not always been vested with jurisdiction in such cases many of them have this broad jurisdiction—in which non-support and desertion cases are included—and actually deal with more adult than juvenile cases. This legislation has come from extending the idea embedded in the juvenile court. By the creation of this court the delinquent child was freed from the procedures provided in the criminal law for the adult offender and treated as a ward of the court. This necessarily led toward an enlargement of the function of the court in dealing with the delinquent child, who was so often the victim of an inefficient home or badly adjusted family.

Because of the close connection between children's cases and those involving the domestic relations of adults—including cases of desertion and non-support—there has been a marked tendency in recent years to have both types of cases heard in the same court—either by extending the jurisdiction of juvenile courts to cover domestic relations cases—the course taken in many states—or by creating special courts with jurisdiction over both domestic relations and children's cases. In a few places these special courts have been known as "family courts," but that term is very little used at present. Some such combined handling of cases is almost a necessity in order to deal satisfactorily and completely with the child and his home life as a whole. The arrangement, moreover, makes for the elimination
of duplication or conflict of jurisdiction in various tribunals.

The Omaha Court is an outgrowth of the regular juvenile court idea plus the family court plan. It deals with and has general jurisdiction over delinquent boys and girls, neglected cases and dependent children; as well as such family problems as divorce, desertion, non-support and the administration of the mothers' pension aid. In this study we are primarily interested in the boys handled by this court. These cases indicate a pathological form of activity that represents an important aspect of society. The data herewith presented point out the trends along the three or four main lines of activity. This court serves as a barometer of the pathological activities of boys and the influence of the broken family on their lives. The numbers are not unusually large but significant.

In the study of the Omaha juvenile court records we note the following procedure as to the types of cases: first, there are three main classifications of offenders, consisting of the delinquent children, the dependent children, and the neglected children. Second, there are three types of methods of handling and disposing of the cases; the filed cases, which are the ones that are of most significance that come to the Judge for a hearing and are entered on the records against the offender; the unfiled cases that are less serious and are referred to the chief probation officer for further study; and the unofficial cases that are those offenses that have been reported to
the court but not carried into court as regular cases. The latter ones are minor cases and they are checked up by the court officials and given advice or instruction as to their individual problems. In this unclassified or unofficial file we note a large number of cases labeled as "unclassified". These are the cases reported but nothing done at all in regard to them either due to the lack of detailed information or to the non seriousness of the complaint.

In the year 1936 we note the following report of boys according to the above named classifications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Court Cases (filed)</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent Children</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent Children</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglected Children</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Court Cases (not filed)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent Children</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent Children</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglected Children</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unofficial Cases</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent Children</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent Children</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglected Children</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassified</td>
<td>1540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRAND TOTAL 2585

We note from this report that only 5.9% of all cases handled in this court are actually filed as a misdemeanor against the boy, while 2398 of the entire 2585 cases are taken care of by guidance and case study according to the individual concerned. Of the 5.9% of cases taken through the channels of the court fifty percent are "repeaters,"
that is, they do not refrain from crime, and are brought back to the court with more charges against them.

It seems, from the facts conveyed here, that the Omaha court for juveniles, is carrying on a very high type of guidance program in dealing with its maladjusted boys. From the "unclassified" number of 1540 boys, it would appear that the need for more assistants who are qualified to make careful case studies, is urgent if the program of child guidance is to function as it should. These boys who are beginning to make appearance on the rolls of the juvenile court are the cases who are "ripe" for proper guidance and should be turned over to competent social workers as they are reported.

In a comparative study of the same records over a period of five years--from 1932 to 1936--we find the following trends:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglected</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unclassified</td>
<td>1275</td>
<td>1675</td>
<td>1564</td>
<td>1640</td>
<td>1540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRAND TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>1794</strong></td>
<td><strong>2251</strong></td>
<td><strong>2007</strong></td>
<td><strong>2204</strong></td>
<td><strong>2585</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

First, delinquency was on an upward trend until 1934. It dropped in 1934, but the following year found the number advancing rapidly and the next year, 1936, recorded a tremendous increase in this class of maladjusted boys. It seems that the organizing of C.C.C. camps and other forms
of recreation tended to lessen delinquency in the year 1934, but since the depression really did not hit the middle west until 1936, we are inclined to think that it is largely the determining factor that accounts for such an increase in delinquency during the latter years. By referring to the chart on the following page we note that the number of dependent children, as handled by the Omaha Juvenile Court, during the same five-year period, has remained almost the same. The work being done by the various agencies and the government in taking care of the dependent homes evidently has had its bearing on the dependent child, since the more secure the home, the less dependency will result on the part of the children of that home. The trend of the neglected child during this same five-year span reveals an unusual drop in the year 1933, but shows a gradual increase until 1936, when we note a rapid increase. It would seem from a study of the economic situation of the country at that time, that the first tendency after the dawn of economic unrest was to attempt to hold the family intact, but as poverty and crime developed under the nourishment of the depression, the home broke down and thus the neglected child was thrown upon society. When the home cannot stand the strain of a social burden, we can always expect the young life of our society to be thrown into chaos and we must have some form of social institution to take up this problem if our society and government is to overcome the storms of prewar and postwar posterity.
GRAPH SHOWING TRENDS OF DELINQUENT, NEGLECTED, AND DEPENDENT BOYS OF OMAHA, 1932-1936.
Juvenile Detention Home

For many years public opinion has sustained the demand that children should not be confined in jails, lock-ups, and police stations. In many states this practice is forbidden by statute. Consequently, along with the development of juvenile courts has gone the establishment of special institutions known usually as "detention homes" for the custodial care of children until their cases can be heard. Juvenile detention homes almost everywhere present serious problems of administration and but few of them can be regarded as successful institutions. It seems difficult to prevent many of them from being essentially juvenile jails, where both delinquent and dependent children are confined without proper separation or segregation. In some communities, for the purpose of short-time discipline and punishment, children are kept in the detention homes after action by the court—a practice which is said to be on the decline, and which is quite generally decried.

The consensus of opinion at present is that in some communities for a short time detention homes may still be necessary for a very few juveniles who present unquestionably difficult behavior problems, but that they are not necessary, even for these few, in communities which have reasonably well-developed social agencies through which such children can be placed in carefully selected private boarding homes, when it is necessary to remove them from their own homes. Some experienced workers in this field
content that a detention home is inadvisable and unnec-
sary even for the purpose of observation, medical exam-
ination, and mental and psychiatric study.

The city of Omaha has one detention home, "The River-
view Detention Home," which is used most often as a temporary
place of abode for the child until the court can dispose of
the case. A careful program of supervision is carried on,
and while Omaha uses the plan of boarding homes, and works
in connection with child-placing agencies, the detention
home still has its place in the program of dealing with the
juvenile delinquent.

At present there are 35 boys in Riverview home. Four-
teen of these boys are under the nine years of age, and
twenty-one are from nine years of age to eighteen years of
age. Fifty per cent of these boys were picked up by the
police and placed here to wait the action of the court.
The other fifty per cent are there for temporary abode until
some domestic problem can be adjusted in the home or some
program of family relief can be put into operation for their
care.

The Runaway Boy

When the home and school fail to hold the interest of
the child, any of many serious social maladjustments may
result, but the one that is to receive attention here is
the problem presented by the large number of boys who run
away from home and school. These boys frequently become
court charges, and later become delinquents. This problem
need not exist if these two basic institutions—the home and the school—faithfully and efficiently discharge their duties to the child and to society. The truancy and runaway child problems can frequently be regarded as one. About 85 per cent of all runaways are also truants. Irrespective of motives, legally, deserting the home or school is a delinquent act. The Committee on Runaway Children of the National Probation Association defines runaway children as follows: "Those boys and girls who live outside of the jurisdiction of the juvenile court where they are apprehended, and who have apparently left home without the knowledge or consent of their parents or guardians." Since these children are not members of the community in which they are apprehended, the local courts are reluctant to accept permanent responsibility for them. The result is they are frequently released with instructions to return home. In some instances they are held until communicative contacts are made with their homes. Courts, probation officers, and police vary in the procedure followed in dealing with the runaway.

The Juvenile Court of Omaha contacted 72 boys who ran away from other cities in the year 1936. Boys who had homes were returned to them, and if they had none, they were placed either in foster homes or in institutions for care and training. The record of runaway boys from other cities contacted

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in this court for the past five years are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The trend seems to be toward fewer boys on the road during the last three years over the number of the two previous years. Since the year 1934 was the year the C.C.C. camps were organized by the Federal Government to offer training and care for boys of the adolescent age, it is apparent that this organization has had a decided effect on preventing runaways. Also, due to the fact that juvenile courts are becoming more active in our large cities in taking care of the roaming boys, we might conclude that their influence has been felt on the solution of the problem. While this problem has not yet been solved it is encouraging to note that the trend is toward fewer runaways.

The programs of the N. Y. A., our modern schools, and the various social institutions have, no doubt, had this effect on the present trend of runaways.

In the year 1932, the largest number of runaway boys were apprehended by the juvenile court of Omaha, which is a typical sample of the conditions at that time throughout our country. An article appeared in the *Literary Digest* in September of that year, entitled, "Our Vagabond Army of Wandering Boys," in which it is stated that approximately one-half million boys and girls, mostly boys of the American rank belong to the Vagabond Army. They graduate into hunger. They cannot find jobs, because there are no jobs. The out-
look at home is black. They are young, ambitious, adventurous and not immune from the wanderlust. From September 1, 1931 to April 30, 1932 the Southern Pacific Railroad, with its 9,130 miles of track, ejected 416,915 trespassers, many of them boys under 21 years of age. Nor are they "bad" boys; they had just fallen into this "army" because of the lack of some one helping them to find themselves.

It is a challenge to the public-spirited citizen of today, as never before, to get behind our juvenile courts, our government programs, our social improvement programs, and our educational guidance programs. We can not make good citizens of our boys who leave their home influences; our boys who have no homes—our wandering young life of America, unless we help them to find themselves in the social world of today.

One of the most important character building organizations doing work with boys is the Boy Scouts of America, Inc., which represents the Boy Scout movement in the United States—a movement whose spirit and purpose can be best described in words of the Scout oath, renewed each week by over 600,000 boys. "On my honor, I will do my best: (1) to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the Scout law; (2) to help other people at all times; (3) to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

The aim of the movement is the development of character and training for citizenship. Boys are stimulated to do things for themselves and others, to learn the meaning of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance, and are given opportunities for service through Scout projects. The fundamental basis of organization is the gang and group plan. Each troupe averages approximately thirty-two boys with a volunteer adult leader; these boys are divided into four groups or patrols of eight each with their boy leader from among their own ranks. These boy leaders share the responsibility with the adult leader and thus leadership is taught by actual practice.

The program includes exploration in over 100 vocations, hobbies, and so forth; camping and other outdoor activities;

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10 Character building activities are primarily for the purpose of creating higher standards of moral, social, and religious personalities.

trail building; tree planting and reforestation in cooperation with state bureaus of forestry; and many such forms of activities. An important part of the program of citizenship training is the opportunity it offers to boys to participate in community undertakings.

Scout troops are organized through churches, schools, or community groups. Each troop is sponsored by a committee of at least three persons, members of the sponsor institution.

The Scout begins as a "tenderfoot", and by meeting certain requirements—including satisfactory service over a period of time and evidence in his own daily life of the influence of the ideals of Scouting—and by demonstrating leadership he progresses to Eagle rank. Scouting does not promote a spirit of competition; practically any boy with application and effort may achieve any Scout distinction.

The Boy Scouts of America is a volunteer movement. Professional leaders constitute less than one per cent of the total leadership in the organization. In order to carry on their responsibilities effectively, volunteer leaders are expected to take training through courses in local councils and by other means. During the year of 1936 there were 3,045 such training courses conducted in the United States with an enrollment of 77,453.

Cubbing is a program for boys from nine to eleven years of age promoted by the Boy Scouts of America. Scouting covers the group from twelve years of age and upwards.
For boys fifteen years of age and over there is Sea Scouting based on water activities. A senior program is now being developed for older boys. This will include a variety of activities to meet the needs of different temperaments and satisfy the desire for adventure, exploration, vocational training, leadership experience, companionship, and social interests.

The organization has developed a ten-year program through which its leaders hope, by the year 1942, to expand its influence so that as a result one of every four new male citizens will have been a four-year Scout trained man.

In Omaha there are 100 troops of Boy Scouts containing a membership of 2000 boys with an age range of from twelve to fifteen years. There are seventeen "packs" of Cubs containing 596 boys with an age range of from nine years to eleven years. There are seven ships of Sea Scouts containing 120 boys with an age range of from fifteen to twenty-one years. Map No. II (wall map) shows the distribution of scout troops in Omaha and gives the reader an idea as to the type of boys and neighborhoods served.

The Young Men's Christian Association

The Young Men's Christian Association was organized in the year 1851 for the purpose of ministering to the needs of boys and young men, helping them meet the problems and conditions of present-day life and giving them oppor-
tunities for greater self-development of body, mind, and spirit. A positive program is offered for the teaching of character-making ideals, by the promotion of health education and physical activity, by providing opportunities for intellectual self-improvement and culture, by acquainting boys and young men with the teachings and ideals of Jesus, and by providing wholesome, social fellowship and economic and vocational guidance.

The original purpose—"to improve the spiritual conditions of young men in the drapery and other trades"—was gradually expanded to include the improvement of the mental, social, and physical conditions of young men of good moral character.

Formal educational work in the larger city Associations includes day and night courses on vocational and cultural subjects in the Junior college, secondary and technological fields. Employment agencies are widely maintained as well as individualized vocational counsel and guidance services. Informal education on a wide range of adult interests is provided in lectures, clubs, forums, and discussion groups. Health and physical education and recreational activities are a major part of the program, including classes and groups in all forms of informal and organized indoor and outdoor sports. Dormitories for members are provided, and also restaurant and cafeteria service. Socials, entertainments, dances (sometimes in cooperation with the Young Women's Christian Association and

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neighborhood groups), dramatic clubs, orchestras, and movies are arranged...

The work for boys has grown steadily in relative importance. The Association fosters a wide range of groups -- Bible study, hobby and interest, teams, classes, councils, and clubs. The last include Hi-Y Clubs, other high school and grade school clubs, church clubs, neighborhood, gang, and home clubs, employed boys' clubs, and building clubs. Among the distinctive features of the work with boys are summer camps, boys' conferences, the world-outlook program, father and son activities, recreation, and athletic and aquatic sports. Contacts are established with boys in their own environments and neighborhoods.

This organization in Omaha is supported by the revenue from its members, from its residents residing in their living quarters, and from separate drives. The membership list includes the Business Men's Club--a group of 100 men who pay a membership fee of $31.00 a year. These men have access to all the facilities of the building. All the other members of this organization pay a fee in accordance with the group to which they belong which is determined by age and financial means. Their membership averages about 1000 for seniors and 400 for junior boys.

The membership fee for boys is $5.00 and $7.00 per year with a slight difference in privilege according to groups which is made up according to ages.

For boys ten to twelve years of age, swimming in-
struction is offered once a week with an additional recrea-
tional swim each week. Each week they have the gymnasium
for their own use and are directed in supervised play. A
regular club program is adopted by this group; and hikes,
meetings, and movies are regularly sponsored by a paid
leader with volunteer assistants.

The boys in the group which includes the ages of
twelve to sixteen years have two gymnasium two swimming
periods each week which are supervised, and they have a
definite club program to meet their needs with regular
meetings each week. They also have a recreational swim
and gym period each week.

The group of boys sixteen to eighteen years of age
have access to the gymnasium and pool from two until five
in the afternoon daily and also have supervised classes in
both gymnasium work and swimming each week. This group
also comprises those active in Hi-Y work, an organization
sponsored by this institution for high school boys. They
draw a membership of three hundred to four hundred boys
from the Omaha High Schools. For the boys of this group
who are interested in obtaining leadership training, there
is a leaders club from which group is drawn the sponsors
and volunteer assistants for the younger boy's activities.
The Y.M.C.A. serves annually in all its boy activities an
average of six hundred boys.

In addition to this boy's program outlined above, the
Y.M.C.A. is sponsoring a Saturday Evening Club for under-
privileged boys through which those who cannot afford mem-
bership have available the gymnasium and swimming pool
every Saturday night for their use without cost. Another
group for boys sponsors the program which makes available
the gym and pool for 5¢. The Western Union Telegraph Com-
pany of this city provide a blanket membership for their
employees at the Y.M.C.A. which gives the employees access
to the facilities.

The Jewish Community Center

The Jewish Community Center has a much wider scope
than any of the other recreational institutions in Omaha.
Its chief purpose is to develop the communal life among
the Jewish people by providing recreation, charity, edu-
cation, and social welfare. It is somewhat difficult to
draw any distinction between the educational and recrea-
tional activities carried on by this institution because
no definite distinction is made by the agency since the
two work together. This is not a neighborhood center be-
cause it is located in a downtown area.

The institution receives its income from an allot-
ment given by the Community Chest, from operation--member-
ship and rental incomes--and from miscellaneous sources
such as the recreation room or special contributions.

As a part of their physical education program, reg-
ular class work is offered in gymnastics, supervised vol-
ley ball, and basket ball. The hand ball courts are open
to members at all times and the gymnasium is used for
tournaments and leagues which are both intra-mural and
inter-agency.
Among the clubs for boys are national chapters of such organizations as the Boy Scouts and Aleph Zadik Aleph. All junior groups are organized into a central body known as the Round Table. This group is made up of two representatives from each Jewish Youth organization in the city of Omaha. These organizations vary—fraternities and sororities, athletic groups, cultural and social clubs, etc. The ages of the members range between seventeen and twenty-three years. Of these groups there are thirteen boy organizations, consisting of approximately 400 boys. The Round Table of Jewish Youth carries on many activities. This past year, a forum was held each month on vocational guidance. At each forum, an outstanding man in a leading profession came and spoke on the advantages and disadvantages of the field, the opportunities in the field, etc. Open forums were held after these talks in which the youth debated the pro and cons of the profession.

Each year the Round Table sponsors a stunt night. In this activity each organization puts on a playlet or a skit of some kind and prizes are awarded for the best skit. They also hold a carnival at the Center each year, at which time each youth group has a booth or performs some duty.

There are about 150 junior boys who are members of the J.C.C. and, as such, are entitled to the use of the facilities of the gymnasium.
During the annual Philanthropies Drive, the youth take an active part. There is a youth division which cooperates actively and which has the task of collecting pledges from all the young men and women of the city. They have always gone over their quota. About twenty-five boys are active participants in this each year.

The summer home camp is held at the J.C.C. every summer. Children from the ages of five to fourteen participate in it. They stay at the J.C.C. from nine in the morning until five in the afternoon. Lunches are served to them. Various activities are carried on at this "camp." The physical department is used, handicraft classes, dramatics, etc., are conducted at this time.

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army was organized in 1865. It is guided by 4,566 officers in the United States, is composed of 1,631 constituent organizations, and owns 252 institutions.

The purpose of the Salvation Army is to promote the Kingdom of God in the hearts and lives of mankind, by varying methods adapted to prevailing conditions.

The activities include open-air and indoor religious services, men's social service centers, women's homes and hospitals, hotels, women's residences, children's homes, settlements, nurseries, camps, missing friend's bureau, Americanization, eventide homes, family welfare, employ-
The Salvation Army located in the city of Omaha is carrying out the program in a wonderful way. Their contribution to the problem of boy life is an organization based on the same fundamental principles as the Boy Scouts of America. This boy organization is known as, "Crusaders". They take boys between the ages of eleven and eighteen years. The present membership is eighty-five boys, who meet each week and follow the same type of program offered in the regular Scout organizations with the exception of the religious training that is given the boys in connection with the purposes and objectives of the Salvation Army.

Father Flanagan's Home for Boys

This home grew out of efforts first directed to the aid and assistance of tramps and vagabonds of the streets of Omaha. After a study of the lives and underlying principles that lead to their twisted lives, it was decided, by Father Flanagan that the best way to solve the problem of straightening twisted lives was to do it before maturity. In the year of 1917 he borrowed $90.00 to pay a month's rent on a house in mid-town Omaha to shelter and take care of homeless boys. Two lads who sold newspapers on the streets and had been sleeping in the home for men were the first to take advantage of the home. Soon three other boys were

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placed in the home by the juvenile court, and these five boys represent the meager beginning of the wonderful home now taking care of 200 boys and, in the last twenty years has cared for and guided 3,928 homeless boys into useful lives for themselves and for society. A large portion of the boys that pass thru this home annually are from Omaha.

This home, or Boys' Town, as it is now known throughout the United States, offers a varied program of education and recreation to boys from practically every state in the Union. It is maintained wholely by private donations, and possesses a large group of fine buildings on a 160 acre farm ten miles west of Omaha. Such activities as fishing in the lake on the farm, raising poultry, swimming in the lake, athletics, band, agriculture, community singing, shop work, and modern types of vocational training are offered the boys of this home. The writer visited the home and no one can realize the spirit of the boys as they happily go about at their tasks until you have witnessed it in the home. They have their own municipal organization and they are the guides of their own conduct, which in itself is a fine type of training for citizenship.

The home is non-sectarian, and has no creed or color restrictions. This home is visited by the great men of modern times who all have a good word to give the boys, and the contacts thus afforded the boys is of estimable value to them. This movement, which it has taken a lifetime to realize, represents what can be done for our boys when a
man like Father Flanagan puts his life into the cause and Americans put their means back of it. In the words of the founder, "I am more certain than ever before that no boy is a really bad boy, and all the Homeless Boy needs and asks is an opportunity to build a decent life for himself."

The Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus was founded by the organization of the same name to serve as a social center for the Catholic people but due to the lack of finances the building is now in the hands of receivership. At present its gymnasium is open to the public all day for the fee of $1.00 per month without classes or supervision. It is to be regretted that this is the case as this organization has a wonderful program of recreational and educational value to the community.

A short course in "Boyology" was offered by the Knights of Columbus and Creighton University in cooperation with Notre Dame University last year. It was composed of lectures dealing with various aspects of the boy leadership problem, delivered by national and local leaders. It was open to the public but was offered primarily for the purpose of training leaders for boys of the various Catholic groups.

The American Legion

The American Legion, composed of World War Veterans, is an organization that grew out of relationships and contacts of the last war, and whose purpose is to make America safe for Democracy. The Legion has been working in connection with the Omaha Municipal Board of Recreation to promote and
maintain better programs of social recreation. The work of the four Legion Posts of Omaha stand out as pioneers in the field of social welfare, character building, and recreational leadership. They have now sixty base ball teams in operation throughout the city, consisting of 1000 boys; age range from twelve to seventeen years. The Legion also has ten Boy Scout Troops under its sponsorship. These Scouts are made up of 450 boys who are sons of the legioneers, and the four posts are combined in sponsoring them. In addition to the above program, the Legion, in cooperation with the World-Herald operate a movement known as Young Citizens Contest which reaches several hundreds of boys annually.

The Omaha Churches:

The Omaha churches contact approximately 4000 boys each week. Forty-three of the 186 churches reported by the Council of Churches had gymnasiums. Seventy-eight reported having basket ball teams and sixty-four had base ball teams for boys. Thirty-seven of the churches sponsored Boy Scout troops, and four had Cub Packs. The churches have the sponsorship of more than a third of all the scout troops in Omaha.
THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER ACTIVITIES

Neighborhood centers, or community centers, are places where neighbors are accustomed to gather for civic, social, recreational, cultural, and other common purposes. The one-room rural school, with its singing classes, spelling contests, and district meetings, was in early times—and in many places still is—a natural, unpromoted center of neighborhood life. The community center, however, is a deliberate social work enterprise which has had its beginnings in the larger cities. It was first called "education center" in Boston, "evening recreation center" in New York, and "social center" in Rochester. The name "community center" is sometimes assumed by private organizations—social settlements, church houses, private industrial schools, and southern mountain projects of a missionary or educational character—but the tendency is to limit its application to activities under the auspices here described. On the other hand certain institutions locally known as "community houses," "field houses," or "recreation centers," are essentially community centers.

Community center programs are composed of several elements. Named approximately in the order of their frequency these are as follows: (a) recreational activities—athletic games, sports, dances, and other indoor pastimes affording mental and bodily invigoration; (b) meetings of

Scouts and other youth service groups; (c) entertainments, concerts, amateur plays, and other cultural activities; and (d) meetings of associations of various types. The last are composed of adults and are devoted to mutual improvement, civic reform, or general social betterment.

As a meeting place the community center serves well the deep human instinct for organization. When people wish to push a reform, study astronomy, play cards, or worship, it is their habit to form an association, a club, or a sect. Most proposals for changes in laws or institutions attain public attention through the efforts of organized groups. Community centers, being conveniently located and open to all classes, are highly useful for oral propaganda since many people absorb ideas not through reading or formal discourse, but through homely talks and small-group discussions in which they are able to re-phrase the speaker's message. But whether the group is for the purpose of reform or for pleasure, if its activities are open to public scrutiny it is seldom devoted to evil purposes. Accordingly the provision of these open meeting places promotes a wholesome use of leisure, aids individual culture, and facilitates the process by which laws and institutions keep pace with a changing society.

In any community that is in the urban class, it is necessary to have neighborhood centers. Centers of recreation that are primarily existing in a certain geographical area to meet the needs of that particular neighborhood in which they are located. In Omaha, there are
seven such center—located near the dwelling places of those in need of such social centers.

These neighborhood centers and locations are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Settlement</td>
<td>3069 Q Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodson Center</td>
<td>5301 South 30th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Christ Child Center</td>
<td>1248 South 10th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Branch - 1814 North 18th Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Branch - 2123 Pierce Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban League</td>
<td>2215 Lake Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendship House</td>
<td>1919 Ohio Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Mission</td>
<td>2201 Cass Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sokol Hall</td>
<td>2234 South 13th Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The program offered, together with the number of boys contacted by each center will be discussed in the following pages.

**Omaha City Mission**

The Omaha City Mission proposes to study the social, recreational, religious and cultural needs of the neighborhood in which the Mission is located, and to build a community center and settlement program on the basis of unmet needs. This center is located in a cheap rooming house residential district. The program is centered in the neighborhood house. It is a part of the Mission Organization.
Map showing juvenile delinquency areas and neighborhood centers.
The program consists of club work for boys and girls, games, library, nursery groups, hikes, parties, and social programs.

They have 175 boys, ages nine to sixteen, who take part in four clubs. They have an airplane club, a gym club, a work shop or manual training club, an electricity club, and extensive training in dramatics. In addition to the above named opportunities, they offer art classes, instruction in instrumental music, and story hours for both boys and girls. Their plant is well equipped for their program and the work is being carried in an excellent way.

Friendship House

The Friendship House is not supported by the Community Chest, and is restricted to the white race. Their purpose is to provide boys and girls with supervised recreation, music, Boy Scout activities, and general clinical work. The neighborhood in which it is located contains a mixture of nationality and racial groups.

Their program consists of classes and clubs in music and general social training. They sponsor a troop in Boy Scouts, ages over twelve years, containing twenty boys; a pack of Cubs, ages nine to eleven years, containing twelve boys; and a group of Buddy Scouts, ages six to eight years, containing ten boys. These boys are guided by competent leaders and their scout work is outstanding.
Christ Child Centers

The Christ Child Center was organized in 1907 in accordance with the Constitution of the National Christ Child Society in Washington for the purpose of improving the conditions of the poor children in Omaha by means of instruction, play, and charitable relief. The Christ Child Society now conducts three centers, each located in a needy neighborhood, according to a regular settlement program in each. There is also a relief program, immigration follow-up, and court work, with a definite program in Catholic Religious Training.

Since the three centers are all under one administration, the program of the three will be presented as one.

The Christ Child Center maintains its program by support of the Community Chest and individual contributions. Each center is equipped with a gymnasium suitable for basket, ball, volley ball, gymnastics and small playgrounds. Each has a library for both recreational and study purposes.

In such education classes as English, Italian, Short-hand, Typewriting, Nutrition, Budget Making, Sewing, Music, and Dancing, there are enrolled 963 boys ages between six to eighteen years of age. In such clubs as handicraft, art, and social groups of various types there are 149 boys receiving instruction and guidance. These boys are mostly of the Catholic faith, but others are not excluded. These centers furnish recreation for hundreds of boys who would not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy the advantages
of wholesome leisure time activities.

The Sokol Hall

The Sokol Hall is owned by the Omaha Sokol Gymnastic Association which is affiliated with the American Sokol Union. The organization as such existed since 1877 as a Bohemian element. The present building was erected in 1926.

The Hall is under the direction of a Board elected from the members and is supported by the income from membership fees, contributions and rental fees.

There are two sections of this center: one takes care of the Protestants and the other branch works with the Catholics. Daily programs are conducted in the form of classes in Bohemian School, clubs, choruses, band and athletics.

There are four separate centers, two in North Omaha, and two in South Omaha. Their programs and the number of boys in each group are as follows:

North Omaha Protestant group contacted thirty-six boys, ages from seven to fourteen years, and nineteen boys, ages from fifteen to eighteen years, in their regular gymnasium classes. Those in other groups not attending the gymnasium classes are; twenty-eight boys in clubs and lodges, five boys in the Bohemian School, and two in chorus training.

North Omaha Catholic group contacted forty boys, ages from seven to fourteen years, and twenty-five boys, ages
from fifteen to eighteen years in their regular gymnasium classes. In other groups were: thirty in musical training, and ten in a ball team.

The South Omaha Protestant group had forty boys, ages from seven to eighteen years, in regular gymnasium classes, and twenty in other groups.

The South Omaha Catholic group had regular gymnasium classes taking care of forty boys with an age range of from seven to eighteen years, and a softball team with fifteen boys participating. In addition to the above activities, they had five boys of the age range twelve to eighteen years in their band.

In all, the Sokol program contacts 315 boys, and extends to them a varied program of recreational and educational value.

Urban League

The Urban League is an organization which serves the social and communal life of the Negroes not only in the Negro section of Omaha but also the Negroes of the whole city. It is a branch of the National Urban League.

The National Urban League was organized in 1910 for the purpose of making investigations among Negroes in cities, of promoting social work among Negroes until other agencies extended their programs to include them, the conducting of activities through the League machinery until a demonstration is made and the work is assumed by some other agency, of providing for the training of Negro social work-
ers, and for furthering the industrial advancement of the Negro.

The Omaha Urban League carries on the major seasonal sports for boys, such as: softball, baseball, track, football, basketball, ping pong, volleyball, boxing, and handball. The most of their activities apply to boys between the ages of fourteen and eighteen years. They serve about 600 boys annually by these activities, and serve about 1500 boys annually by their general free recreational program, which is open to all boys in the community, and includes games, socials, checkers, etc. The demands have outgrown the present facilities and funds.

The Social Settlement

This organization is one of the most important neighborhood centers in Omaha. It is located in the packing house district where there are a considerable mixture of various nationalities who are employees in the packing houses. The Settlement maintains two settlement houses, one for the whites and one for the Negroes. The organization for the Negroes is known as the Woodson Center. Both of these organizations are located in sections where they are badly needed, and are offering a complete program of health, education, social and cultural activities to meet the needs of the people in the district. Organized activities include classes in music, dramatics, gymnasium work, playground and library activities. They
study neighborhood problems and cooperate with interested organizations and individuals in an effort to improve civic conditions. There are no limitations as to who is permitted to receive their services.

The Social Settlement Center is maintained by the Community Chest and small fees are charged to the members who partake of their services.

Their program consists of clubs for boys, ages from fifteen to twenty-two years, which contact 100 boys; and six clubs for boys under fourteen years of age, with a present enrollment of sixty boys. They also have twelve classes in basketball which reach 120 boys.

The work of socializing the foreign-born parents and their American-born children is one of the outstanding achievements of this Center.

The Woodson Center

The Woodson Center is located in the packing industry section of the city of Omaha, and is in a neighborhood that is greatly in need of this type of assistance. The Center offers the Negro an opportunity for self-improvement through its leisure time club and class program. The House also serves as a Neighborhood Center for civic and church groups and renders personal service to its members and neighbors.

The Woodson Center was admitted in 1927 to the Community Chest as a branch of the Social Settlement. Formerly it was organized by the Settlement in cooperation with the Negro Community of this same Packing District under the
leadership of the Negro Parent Teacher Association. It was financed by interested persons until it became part of the Community Chest program. It receives additional income from a small membership fee, as does the Social Settlement.

This center is equipped with necessary facilities for recreational and educational programs and it maintains a trained boys' director who is in charge of the program for the boys of that district. They carry out the same type of program as the Social Settlement, but on a smaller scale as their numbers are not so great.

The program for boys, the number of activities, and the enrollment in each is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys' Clubs</td>
<td>- - 7</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodwork Class</td>
<td>- 3</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>- - 1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
<td>- 2</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxing</td>
<td>- - 1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leather Work</td>
<td>- - 1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pupperty</td>
<td>- - 1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Recreation

Under this heading is included all groups of recreation supported by public funds for public use.

Public recreation has taken on a new aspect in the past few years since it has become part of President Roosevelt's Recovery Program. Since the winter of 1933-34 most of the public recreation in Omaha has centered around the W.P.A. Program brought to Omaha by the Omaha Board of Recreation.

This Board of Recreation was created by a city ordinance in 1933 to be comprised of the Superintendent of Schools, a member of the City Council and three citizens. However, the City Council failed to appropriate funds for the playgrounds but a program was carried out by the American Legion, the Recreation Board and the Junior League. By giving volunteer services to P.T.A. groups, church groups and social workers, this type of work has been able to take a forward step.

The City Board of Recreation and the Recreation Committee of the Council of Social Agencies took advantage of the Federal Government aid and succeeded in getting Federal appropriations for a Recreation Program. On December 20, 1933, ten centers, with a supervisor and assistants in charge of each, were opened to the public. This work is still carried on with fifteen centers, operating in the most congested sections of the city. The nature of the Federal Government projects have varied from time to time but the program of
activities has remained practically the same.

The fifteen community centers now operating are doing a fine piece of work in supplying wholesome leisure time activities for the boys of Omaha. Their program for the boys in the age range of six to eighteen years is as follows:

Drama, consisting of skits, plays, etc. contacted 6622; Handicraft: making toys, dolls, and trinkets, enrolled, during the year 1936, 39941; Physical Education: volleyball, baseball, croquet track, contacted 142,895; Music: tap dancing, group singing, reached 12,373; and Social Recreation: group games, etc., contacted 37,078. These figures represent the number of contacts made during the year 1936, which was a total of 238,909 boys, but is not the number of individual boys, as some boys were contacted a number of times each day in various programs, or activities.

Five Park Pavillions and the Central Office were the facilities furnished by the Park Department for centers. The Benson and Florence Community Center Halls are furnished by the Finance Department. The Mid-City Community Center, Friendship House, Woodson Center, and Social Settlement are furnished by private agencies. A large part of the work is carried on by out-center work, which is done by means of direct contact from the main office. Trained workers conduct recreational activities in public schools for parties, etc.
Each community center of the city cooperates with the general set-up in carrying on this program. It can readily be seen that the type of work being done by this organization is far-reaching and very important in coping with the boy problem of the city. The program is carried on throughout the year, and thus reaches the boys in school and out.

During the summer playgrounds were conducted in twelve parks and other large play spaces. The juvenile court records show that juvenile delinquency was reduced in these play centers during the period the playgrounds were operated. The playground contacts are included under the topic of Social Recreation noted above.

The Omaha Public Schools carry on an effective program of recreation during the school year in connection with the regular curriculum. The physical education teachers conduct these activities.

Newsboy Activities

No study of city boys can be complete without an analysis of the newsboy and his activities. In this study the writer interviewed the circulation managers of both the Omaha World-Herald and the Omaha Bee-News. It is a credit to a city to have the type of interests that is being taken in the employment of its boys who serve on the street corners and in the residential sections of its limits.

The World-Herald and the Omaha Bee-News have similar
programs and procedures in the selection and guidance of its newsboys, however, I shall present the two programs as they actually operate.

The World-Herald has two sections of employees; one for mornings and one for evenings. The income for each boy averages around six dollars per week with one hour of work per day. The boys come from good families and their physical and mental conditions are looked after carefully. They must be making good grades at school and must not neglect their school work. A careful check is made with their teachers and principals to ascertain this information before employment and during their connection with the newspaper. The papers are hauled to the stations of distribution for the boys in the residential sections; and in the downtown sections, the boys are taken to their corners with their papers. This eliminates congregation around the distributing stations under adverse conditions. These boys are then taken to their schools during school terms to prevent tardiness after delivery or sale of their papers.

Before employing a boy, the World-Herald manager visits the home of the candidate and interviews the parents, and the boy to get a better understanding of the conditions of his home and to explain the program of the organization to the parents as well as the boy.

The World-Herald offers various forms of entertainment and recreation for its boys. Picnics, trips, outings, theatre parties, and prizes of various kinds, are among the
items of their program. Last year they sent 58 boys who were in their employ to the Texas Exposition, paying all the expenses.

There are 605 carriers in Omaha, with an average age of 16 years, who take care of the delivery of the regular circulation, and 175 street sale boys with an average age of twelve and up who take care of the sale of papers on the downtown sections and corners.

The Omaha Bee-News expresses its attitude toward the problem of looking after the social welfare of its news-boys by the foreward in its application, which states that they recognize the fact that scholastic education must be the first consideration for the youth of Omaha and other activities must be secondary. They state further that they cooperate with the school and the parents to be sure that the work will not interfere with the scholastic progress of the boys. They send this application to the boy's teacher and principal to secure the scholastic standing of the boy before assigning him to a job in their sales department. The circulation department sends a visitor into the home of the candidate to talk the matter over with the parents and to discover the conditions of the home before employing the boy. The boys must come from good homes or homes of good citizens and must have the following requirements: they must be good collectors, good salesmen, good bookkeepers, and they must be punctual, etc.
All the virtues which good business men must have are required. Several of the leading officials in office of the Bee-News started as newsboys.

Trucks deliver the papers to the boys at the stations in the residential sections and at the corners downtown. The boys are not permitted to assemble at distribution rooms in the downtown sections.

The newsboy's income is 6¢ per week on each paper delivered in residential districts; 1 ½¢ per copy for individual copies sold on street corners; 3 ½¢ per copy for extra editions. The total income is similar to that received by the World-Herald newsboys. Of course the total income is determined by the efforts of the boy himself and as to how well he works his district.

There are 150 street corner boys who sell direct to the people, and 500 residential carriers. The average age of the carriers is fourteen and one-half years, and the street corner boys is from twelve up.

The entertainments offered the boys in the employ are as follows: Trips to athletic feats, fairs, camps, with all expenses paid for from 20 to 100 boys each year, based on efficiency records. A mother and son banquet is given once each year for the boys of high rating - about 250 boys attend this banquet annually.

In view of the fact that studies in various other cities of the size or smaller than Omaha reveal the picture of much delinquency among newboys, it is commendable indeed
to note the careful programs offered by the two Omaha daily papers.

**Newspaper Clipping Study**

In making this study one of the leading dailies of Omaha was checked for a period of six months, beginning on September 1, 1936 and continuing through to February 1937. In the study all news items pertaining to boys of Omaha who were in the age range of five main types of news or activities, namely: first, runaways, those boys who ran away from home or school; second, delinquency, which consisted mostly of theft, robbery, and a number of murders; third, accidents, largely involving collisions with automobiles and bicycles or sleighs; fourth, recognition of the superior boy, who won rewards such as scholarships, agricultural projects, and athletic feats; and fifth, those items involving rare or serious diseases. These composed the remaining bulk of the news, which dealt with such features as unusual maladies and narrow escapes from unusual types of operations.
These items are arranged in the above chart by months, beginning with September. Each bar shows the comparative number of each of these five leading items as they vary from month to month. It will be noted that the month of September stands out as the most active month of the time studied in respect to crime,
superior acts and disease, and ties with October in regard to runaways. It seems that the fact that September is the month of the beginning of schools, must have a bearing on the reaction of the boy in adjusting to a more rigid type of discipline and less freedom. For some types of boys we note that this adjustment is easy and they fall in line and begin at once to show their mental powers in winning of rewards and high honors. To another type of boy, this is a difficult task, and, where he receives no guidance, he rebels and the result is the attempt to escape the unpleasant situations.

We further note that the accidents are most prevalent during the month of January. These accidents result mostly from automobiles and either bicycles or sleds colliding. It would seem that at this time the boys are the recipients of such gifts as bicycles and sleds for Christmas and that they are thus on the streets and are more apt to be involved in accidents. We see an increase in crime for January over all the other months except September, which parallels the argument for the necessity of more supervision during the months of winter sports and activities.

An outstanding fact that is revealed in this study is that the papers tend to publish principally the news concerning the pathological factors of boy life and that of the abnormal or superior type, with little or no publicity for the average boy who is living a life of a normal youngster struggling hard to become a good citizen;
the type that Lincoln spoke of when he said, "God must have loved the common folk, for he made so many of them."

**Omaha Boy's Safety Patrol**

The Schoolboy Safety Patrol is sponsored by the American Automobile Association and affiliated motor clubs. The patrols are organized through cooperation of school officials, police, city officials, the press, and boys who anticipate being members of the patrol. White Sam Brown belts, badges, or bright colored felt arm bands, etc., denote rank, and poncho type capes and rain hats for wet weather are furnished to patrol members, who are selected for service on the basis of good marks in studies and qualities of leadership. A patrol consists of from four to twelve boys, depending upon the size of the school and the number of hazardous intersections which must be guarded. There are now 10,000 such safety patrol units in the United States, who protect approximately five million school children.

Omaha has 1770 boys in this type of work who guard ninety-one schools of the city. In the thirteen years since organizing this activity, they have developed from a membership of seven boys to the present number.

These boys volunteer for this work and receive no compensation save the honor of being selected. It is a reward for high marks in school and qualities of leadership. They guard all the dangerous intersections near their schools, and direct traffic as the children go to and from school. They are backed by the police force and
when a driver fails to cooperate with their requests, they report to the police and the police take up the problem. These boys have displayed many acts of service that point out the value of this type of training to the boys themselves, as well as the great service of saving lives of many children.
The theory and practice of social work among Negroes are affected by two general attitudes. First, white people generally believe that their group is superior and the Negro group is inferior, and some Negroes agree with the Whites in this attitude. This attitude is based upon views ranging from notions concerning inferior inborn physical and mental traits connected more or less with group differences such as skin color, head forms, or other bodily measurements, to ideas about removable handicaps due to bad environment. Second, there is the attitude of separation or segregation of racial groups. This is the result partly of past practices in racial relations and partly of current beliefs that there should be separation between white and Negro people as a measure of safety and integrity for both groups. Segregation takes the form of separate schools, residential neighborhoods, churches, and, in the South, separate accommodation on railroads, buses, and even cemeteries. The social forces and conflicts tied up with these facts give rise to friendly or unfriendly attitudes.

Superiority-inferiority beliefs and segregation thus grounded are the main factors underlying many of the so-called race problems such as lynching, disfranchisement, industrial exclusion, residential segregation, etc. These racial factors underlie most of the economic and social
handicaps of American Negroes and largely control the character and extent of social work among Negroes. They frequently determine whether agencies and services for Negroes shall be provided along with those for the white community or separately. Nearly, if not all, types of social problems among Negroes take on a changed aspect because of these factors. The resultant public opinion and social patterns from the past so dominate current practice of welfare agencies that equal or even similar standards for whites and Negroes are not applied, in many cases. It is true that some of the leaders among the Negroes, both of the North and of the South believe in segregation of the Negro. It is true that some of the best institutions of learning for the Negro are located in the South. More is being done at this time for the Negro in bringing about better social conditions in the South than in the North.

The Negro race comprises 5.2% of the Omaha population. Since the Negro is the only important minority group in Omaha, we have placed special emphasis on the analysis of the activities and opportunities of Negro boys in Omaha. It will be noted that Omaha has two Neighborhood Centers especially for the Negroes, which are discussed in detail under the study of "Neighborhood Centers." These organizations are known as, "The Woodson Center," and "The Urban League." (See map on page 42 for location.)
MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF NEGRO CHURCHES AND NEIGHBORHOOD CENTERS.

- 1 NEGRO CHURCH
- 1 NEGRO NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
The Omaha Urban League is located in one of the most densely populated areas of the Negro District. Thus it is situated conveniently to take care of the social and recreational needs of the Negro. It serves annually approximately 600 Negro boys in various activities which are of a recreational nature. The demands on this institution have outgrown the facilities and funds available to carry on their programs and as a result they are forced to give only a nominal amount of service.

The Woodson Center is located in the packing house district of South Omaha. It is a part of the Social Settlement program in that section of Omaha, but centers its program on the Negroes and their social problems. They serve approximately 250 Negro boys with a recreational and educational program that is on the same general set-up as that of the Social Settlement conducted in the same area.

The map on page sixty-three shows the location and the extent of the area served by these two outstanding Negro community centers.

The Junior Herd of the Negro Elks Lodge has an extensive program of recreational and educational significance. This organization reaches about 250 Negro boys annually.

The Guidite Club is a new organization, promoted by S. Edward Gilbert, circulation manager of the Omaha Guide, a weekly newspaper for the Negro. This club was organized
in March, 1937 for the purpose of developing in Omaha Negro boys and girls a higher appreciation of moral, physical, literary, scientific and artistic education, and to help develop talent and provide an outlet for expression. This club serves all ages and it now has 400 boys enrolled in the program.

Negro Scouts - There are three troops of Negro Boy Scouts with a membership of 133 boys, fifty-five are attending camps at this time. The camp program is made possible by sponsoring picture shows, by securing donations and by various other methods.

Y.M.C.A. - While the Negro boys are not members of the Y.M.C.A. of Omaha, they are invited to participate in certain classes and activities. In 1936 twenty-four Negro boys participated in these programs. This was 3.9% of the total number of boys participating in these activities of the Y.M.C.A.

Negro Churches - There are twenty-two Negro Churches in the city of Omaha with a total membership of 3000; 2100 of which are found in the five largest church groups composed of Baptists and Methodists. Of this membership and a floating attendance group, it is estimated that about 250 Negro boys are reached by some religious activity each week. (See map page 63 for location.)

Negro boys in School - There are 130 Negro boys in the high schools of Omaha, and 654 in the elementary
schools. There are six leading schools in Negro districts that are composed largely of the Negro children. There are 114 Negro boys in Catholic Parochial schools.

Negro boys in Crime - In 1936 there were ninety-seven Negro boys apprehended as delinquent, three as dependent, eighteen as neglected and 120 were unclassified. There were only four Negro boys picked up on the streets of Omaha as runaways from other cities.

The Negro boy in Omaha is handicapped by not having a sufficient number of activities that are properly guided. His leisure time is mostly spent on street corners, in pool halls and other places that encourage low standards of behavior. The lack of sufficient playground space has played its part in this condition. Of course many of the activities conducted primarily for white boys in neighborhood populated by a large Negro population are patronized by many Negro boys. It is impossible to determine the number accurately, or even closely estimate the number reached in this way, as they are not recorded separately. Social workers have found the Negro boy very responsive to efficient leadership. Difficulty is frequently encountered in securing the cooperation of the Negro parents. There is a great need for the development of a broad social consciousness of the need for more wholesome activities for these boys either in their own social groups or in conjunction with boys of other races. These boys are to be our leading citizens of tomorrow. The type of activities in which they
participate now will determine their interest and behavior in the future.
SUMMARY

1 - There were 27,234 boys in Omaha between the ages of five and twenty in 1936.

2 - The boy population in Omaha since 1932 has remained steady.

3 - Omaha foreign born population was 13.4% in 1930.

4 - The boy population of Omaha ranks fourth in comparison with the boy population of six other cities.

5 - Omaha juvenile court is also a family court. All children who are delinquent, neglected or dependent are handled by it. It dealt with 2585 boys in Omaha in 1936.

6 - In the five year comparison 1932 and 1936 ranked the highest in cases handled by the juvenile court.

7 - Runaway boys showed a decided decrease in 1936. Seventy-two were dealt with by the agencies.

8 - The Riverview Detention Home takes care of delinquent, dependent and neglected children that the court places there while waiting final disposal. Thirty-five boys was the average number cared for in 1936.

9 - The Boy Scout organization is the largest agency in Omaha providing activities for boys outside of the public schools. Their 100 troops have a membership of 2000 while the Cub program furnishes activities for 596 younger boys.
10 - A course in "Boyology" was offered by Creighton, Knights of Columbus and Notre Dame University for the purpose of training leaders for boy organizations.

11 - The Y.M.C.A. serves annually an average of 600 boys with the age range of this study. It has a varied program, largely physical and recreational.

12 - The Father Flanagan Home for Boys provides a home and training for 200 different boys annually, most of whom are from Omaha.

13 - The Crusaders, on organizations for boys of the Salvation Army, has a program similar to the Scouts. Eighty-five boys were members last year.

14 - The 187 churches of Omaha reach through their varied program many hundreds of boys. The exact number could not be determined. They have forty-three gymnasiums, seventy-eight basketball teams, and sixty-four baseball teams. Thirty-seven of the churches sponsor Scout troops which is over one-third of the troops in Omaha.

15 - The Jewish Community Center, through its recreational and educational program of activities reaches an average of 400 Jewish boys annually.

16 - The American Legion furnishes activities for more than 1000 boys in their sixty baseball teams, and sponsor ten Boy Scout troops.

17 - The World-Herald and Bee-News provide activities for 1105 carrier boys, and 325 street sales boys. The average age is fourteen years.
18 - As the result of clipping news items concerning boys from one of the Omaha daily papers for six months it was found that the items grouped according to crime, runaways, accidents, recognition and rare diseases, in order of frequency.

19 - During 1936 Omaha had 1770 Safety Patrol boys who guarded the safety of the children of ninety-one schools in the city.

20 - Activities for Negro boys were furnished by the Urban League, Woodson Center, Guidite Club, Y.M.C.A., Scouts as well as the churches and schools. About 1200 Negro boys participated in these groups.

21 - The seven neighborhood centers in Omaha are located in areas of greatest need of social betterment.

22 - The Omaha City Mission includes 175 boys in its neighborhood activities.

23 - The Friendship House, in the midst of a low economic group, serves, through its clubs, forty-five boys.

24 - The Christ Child Centers are reaching over 1200 boys in classes, recreation, etc.

25 - The Sokol activities of the Czechoslovakian population emphasize physical education in their programs of classes, etc. They contact 315 boys.

26 - The Social Settlement—the great socializing agency in the midst of an immigrant neighborhood—has a varied program which aided some 300 boys in 1936.
27 - The public recreation program conducted by the Recreation Board and Park Department was far reaching in its activities in 1936. It furnished recreational activities to a large number of boys in 39,941 contacts.

28 - The number of work permits issued in 1936 by the attendance department of public schools was 140. These boys serve as caddies, in season, and do all kinds of work to aid the economic condition in the home.

From this study of the activities of boys in Omaha, between the ages of five and twenty, we CONCLUDE:

1. That the organized activities of boys in the city, irrespective of the public and private school program, are reaching about seventy-five per cent of the boys.

2. That the remaining twenty-five per cent, when not in school, pursue activities of private nature connected with the home, neighborhood, and work.

3. That the activities are important contributing factors to the development of the whole boy—mentally, morally, socially, economically, and physically.

4. That the organized activities are not equally distributed to all parts of Omaha. The rich as well as the poor should have the advantages of well organized and well directed activities.

5. That the activities of the newspapers in employing boys, and in publishing news items concerning them are influential forces.
PART II

OPPORTUNITIES OF BOYS
Opportunities of Boys
Based on Present Conditions
In Omaha

In Part I we have presented an analysis of the activities in which most of the boys within the age group of this study had a part during the year 1936. We have noticed that the activities of these many thousands of boys have been divided, roughly, into five general divisions, namely; social, economic, religious, physical, and mental.

In this part of the study we wish to present a picture of these activities in terms of opportunities for the boys of Omaha. All of the organizations and social agencies discussed in Part I afford definite opportunities to the boys who utilize their facilities and participate in their activities. The correctional agencies give the boy an opportunity to learn how to adjust to the rules of social control, and an opportunity to be protected. The character building agencies give the boy an opportunity to have wholesome contacts with other boys, to learn some of the basic principles of moral living, to develop physically, to become good thinkers, and to learn how to get along with others—to give and take. Opportunities are given every normal boy in the play group to learn how to play fair, how to take defeat and how to adjust readily to the changing conditions about him. The activities conducted in the immigrant areas of the city give the boys an opportunity to appreciate the culture of the family backgrounds of
each nationality. They also afford opportunities to play together and to work together.

Opportunities are influential in proportion to their geographical nearness to the boy concerned. Therefore, it was considered better to break down all of the data affecting the opportunities of boys into smaller geographical units, rather than to deal with the city as a whole. Omaha is divided into twelve political units known as wards. These wards coincide fairly well with the cultural divisions of the city. Most of Part II is concerned with a presentation of the assets and liabilities of these political divisions as they affect the life and behavior of the boy population within each. The economic valuation was secured and is presented as a part of the total social picture of each ward, since in most instances it serves as an indicator of possible opportunities for the boys of the area studied.

For the purpose of presenting graphically data of special significance to the understanding of the activities and opportunities of boys in the city as a whole, four large wall maps of Omaha have been prepared.

These accompanying maps give the reader a clearer picture of the relation of these various institutions to the boy problem of the city. They will be discussed in detail as we proceed with the study.

Wall map No. I shows the distribution of boys' work permits granted by the Board of Education of Omaha in 1936.
These permits allow the boys to stop school or be absent more than average and go to work. These boys represent an economic problem in that they need to earn money in order to live and thus cannot get the education to which they are entitled. This map also shows the location of the schools that take care of the educational program for the boy population, as well as for the girls, within the city of Omaha.

Wall map No. II shows the location of Boy Scout Troops and Cub Packs, churches, and Neighborhood Centers, by wards.

Wall map No. III shows the territorial distribution of the boys of the Y.M.C.A. As indicated on the map it has considerable importance in relation to the problem of delinquency and the development of parks and playgrounds. Certain areas of the city are conspicuous for the absence of boys in the "Y" group. These areas are characterized by poor housing and low economic values and status. For the most part the boys who are members come from the better sections of the city, as indicated by the dots.

Wall map No. IV shows the residence of the Boy Scouts who were court cases in Omaha during the five-year period, 1932-36. It also shows the distribution of the cases committed to the State Industrial School at Kearney during this period. The first group is located on the map by red dots, the latter group by black dots. On the same map we have the residential locations of the juvenile delinquency court cases handled last year (1936). This composite map
shows that Boy Scouts sometimes become delinquent. Most of these boys were first Scout members and later became delinquent. The delinquent boys fall in geographical grouping or areas as indicated on the small map (page 42) discussed in Part I of this study. The Scout program seems to fail to provide a program applicable to all boys of all social, moral, and economic levels.

Ward I

Chart No. IV Showing Boy Population of Omaha for a Five-Year Period in Ward No. I. 1932-36

This ward is composed of 789 city blocks. It is the largest geographical area of any other ward in the city. Ward I is located in the northeastern section of the city near the Missouri River and Carter Lake. The assessed
valuation is $12,175,920.00. The total population of this ward is 25,529, with a boy population of 3,122. On chart No. IV we find that the boy population has not varied much in the last five years. Although the years of 1933 and 1934 represent a slight decrease, we see it regained in 1935. With the general mobility rate of this ward, we would expect this amount of fluxation.

It was found from a previous study of mobility of Omaha that 8.2% of the population in this ward changed residence at least once every eighteen months. A high mobility rate is closely associated with lack of original community activities and opportunities.

There is no community center in this ward. The religious program is taken care of by fifteen churches. We notice that there are ten Boy Scout troops and two packs of Cubs. Located in this ward are five elementary schools, but no high school. A branch public library is in this ward.

The general appearance of the houses in this ward presented a fair condition for the most part, but certain sections had a rather untidy and poorly kept appearance. Especially is this noted in the Carter Lake District. We find approximately 1473.9 acres of park and school playground, with some playground equipment furnished for small children.

16 The assessed value statistics were obtained from the Douglas County Assessor's Records.
17 U. S. Census, 1930.
We conclude from this study that the opportunities for the boys of this section of the city are average, in that they measure up to what we find in other sections of similar population in most localities. The type of recreation is not the kind that appeals to a large number of boys the year around and there is a deficiency in community interests.

Ward II

Chart No. V Showing Boy Population of Omaha for a Five-Year Period in Ward II. 1932-36

Ward II is one of the smaller sections composed of 239 blocks, located just south of Ward I, and is composed mostly of Negroes. The population is 28,891, with only 1,257 boys. You will note in the above chart that the years of 1934 and 1935 show some increase in the population of boys. However, 1936 records a return to normal population. Since this ward has a rather high rate of
mobility and overcrowded conditions, we would expect much shifting of the families. The assessed valuation is $5,721,600.00. The mobility of this ward is nine per cent of the population. We see that there are more people in this ward than in ward I, and fewer boys, but a higher percentage who move or change their residence each eighteen months. The rate of boy population is 4.3% the lowest of any ward in the city.

There are three community centers in this section, one of which is especially for the Negroes, known as the Urban League. The religious work is centered in nine churches. Only four troops of Boy Scouts and one pack of Cubs are found in this ward. The educational program so far as public schools are concerned is carried on by means of three elementary schools and no high schools.

The housing in this ward represents an older section of the city, with a fair physical appearance. Certain sections are overcrowded and present the appearance of being unkept and unattractive.

Ward II has no parks and only about two acres of school playground and a four acre tract of land used for ball playing. This is a deplorable condition for any section the size of this ward to maintain.

We conclude from this study that Ward II offers little opportunities for boys. With the exception of the programs carried on by the three social centers of this section, and the churches, there is nothing to take care
of the leisure time of these boys. If the reader will note the map (page 42) in this study concerning the location of delinquency areas, the results of the lack of recreational facilities will be readily understood.

Ward III

Chart No. VI Showing Boy Population of Omaha for a Five-Year Period in Ward No. III. 1932-36

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1932 | 520 City Blocks, with a property valuation, according to assessed value of $13,928,175.00. The total population of this Ward is 17,202, with a boy population of 1,428 which is eight percent of its population. The mobility of this section ranks among the highest of the city, with 10.8% of the families changing residence every eighteen months, on the average.

Chart No. VI pictures the shifting of the boy popu-
lation that one would expect from a section with such a high mobility rate. The year 1933 shows a decrease over the previous year, but the following years reveal a rapid growth yet, on the basis of the total number, the percentage is rather insignificant.

The overcrowded and untidy conditions of this Ward present an unpleasant picture. There are several industrial buildings and small businesses located here. This is one of the smallest wards in the city as to geographical area. We note three elementary public schools, and one social center within its boundary. The religious program is taken care of by seven churches. The Boy Scout organization has five troops in Ward III, and no Cubs. There is one high school located in this section.

Ward III has 6.9 acres of park and playground including the school grounds. The one neighborhood center offers practically all the recreation that is available to this section of the city.

We conclude from the study of this ward that the problem of taking care of the boys of Ward III has not been solved. It is certainly a challenge to the public-spirited citizens of this section to build up sufficient concern in this type of work to create a form of organization that will strive to bring about more and better facilities for the boys of this section.
Ward IV

Chart No. VII Showing Boy Population of Omaha for a Five-Year Period in Ward No. IV, 1932-36

This Ward is the smallest section, geographically, in the city containing only 206 blocks, but ranks very high in assessed valuation, this being $52,731,742.00. This Ward is composed almost entirely of warehouses and the business section of Omaha. There are a few cheap apartments over the smaller business houses. The population is 10,656, of which 544 are boys within the age range of our study.

We note by a study of Chart No. VII that Ward IV reveals the trend of boy population to be rather steady, with the exception of 1934 which records a considerable drop. This decrease is perhaps due to the effects of the depression. This Ward is in the business section of the city. Many of the smaller businesses failed to sur-
vive the strain, with the result that many families moved out of this section. The percent of boy population in 1936 was only 5.1% which was next to the lowest in the city. The mobility in this Ward is 9.1% of the population and is in the upper brackets of the Wards in this phase.

There is one elementary public school in this section, no high school, and no community centers. We found four churches and two Boy Scout troops in this Ward.

There are no parks and only one-half acre of playground in the entire Ward, which is located on the school campus. The Y.M.C.A., Public Library and such institutions are located in this section. These contribute to the recreational facilities. Yet more than five hundred boys in this section greatly need some form of outdoor recreation, and guidance. There are many boys' gangs in this Ward.

We conclude that Ward IV is badly in need of some type of recreational organizations that will furnish the boys with camping, and other forms of outdoor life. In this section of the city this is even more important due to the fact that these boys must be kept off the "bright light" streets of this business section.
Ward V

Chart No. VIII Showing Boy Population of Omaha for a Five-Year Period in Ward No. V. 1932-36

Ward V is composed of 392 city blocks, with an assessed valuation of $6,105,484, and a population of 18,042. There are 5,912 boys who reside in this section of the city. This Ward ranks as one of the three highest in boy population with 20.1%.

Chart No. VIII presents an interesting picture of the five-year period from 1932 to 1936. This Ward is occupied largely by Italians, and they represent the highest mobility of any nationality group in the city. The study of this chart coincides with this shifting population. The boy population varies from year to year.

The housing condition presents a rather dirty, crowded picture. It is occupied largely by Italians of the lowest moral and economic standards. Buildings show a general
need of repair. A portion of the ward is occupied by business houses of South Omaha. The movility of this section is the highest of the city, 11.8% of the population moving each eighteen months. This alone is a barometer of the unsatisfied, restless condition of the occupants and accounts to some extent for the poor opportunities offered. There are six elementary public schools but no high school in this ward.

Three social centers are located in this Ward and they are doing good work. Only five Boy Scout troops are active in this section, while there are no Cubs. Fifteen churches are carrying on the program of religious training and doing some work with the boys of their section.

There are approximately fifty acres of park and playground space, most of which is open to the children for recreational purposes. When one realizes that nearly four thousand boys have only fifty acres of space with which to satisfy their instinct for outdoor play, it seems that we are certainly failing to furnish recreational facilities for the boys of this section of the city. This section, where the problem of socialization is perhaps more intense than any other part of the city, calls for immediate attention if we expect to reduce the growth of delinquency and crime. One of the delinquency areas of the city is located almost entirely in this Ward.

The conclusion has already been inferred by the reader in studying this section, we are sure under the present
conditions, the possibility of reducing delinquency, of creating civic pride, and of developing a better class of citizenship among these boys is very poor, to say the least.

Ward VI

Chart No. IX Showing Boy Population of Omaha for a Five-Year Period in Ward No. VI. 1932-36

Ward VI represents a section of the early settlement on the Missouri River. Most of this section is untidy; however, some parts of it appear to be clean and attractive. There are 624 city blocks in this Ward and the assessed valuation is $4,576,670. The total population is 15,905, including 1,692 boys, ages from five to twenty years which is 10.1% of the entire population.

A study of Chart No. IX indicates the general condition of Ward VI as to a steady population. This Ward has
the lowest rate of mobility in the city and we see a very slight variation of the boy population over this five-year period. While there are not a large number of boys residing in this Ward, the number remains practically constant from year to year.

There are six elementary schools, and one high school in this section; five Boy Scout troops, no Cubs; and only six churches to carry the burden of religious and recreational training and guidance. There is no community center in this Ward.

There are approximately 425 acres of parks and school playgrounds in this section, which on the average, far exceeds the acreage in other sections. Most of this space is available for use by the children, and is an asset to the section. The mobility is 4.5%--which is the lowest in the city.

We conclude that while the playground space is ample, the Ward should offer more opportunities along institutional lines.
Ward VII

Chart No. X Showing Boy Population of Omaha for the Five-Year Period in Ward No. VII. 1932-36

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>3300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>3300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>2800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>2600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ward No. VII has 702 city blocks with an assessed valuation of $12,633,965.00. The total population is 12,942, including 3,300 boys. The above Chart shows that the trend of the boy population in this Ward is declining to a certain extent. The mobility rate in this Ward is 11.6% of the population, and this is revealed in the population trend of the boys as shown in the above Chart. This Ward has the largest per cent of boys of any Ward in the city—25.5%. The large families of these immigrant groups account for this.

This Ward is composed largely of packing plants and stockyards. Most of the residences are occupied by various foreign and Negro groups employed by these industries. The homes are overcrowded and poorly kept, except a
few on the west side, which have a good appearance. The occupants are mostly people of modest means.

There are six elementary schools and six churches in Ward VII. We find four Scout troops, and two community centers in this section. There are no Cubs located in this area.

Ward VII contains 32.5 acres of park and school ground space that offers opportunity for recreation. However, little of this space has been used for this purpose.

We conclude from the study of Ward VII, that the opportunities offered the boys of this section are few in comparison with what could be done with the facilities available. Two community centers, (one of these is for Negroes) are located in the center of these nationality and racial groups, and are doing good work along social lines, but, with the large number of boys and the high rate of mobility and delinquency, it seems that much more should and could be done to bring about the process of socialization.
In Ward VIII, we note a varied condition of population. Part of the Ward is around the railroad section and the other portion is occupied by a rather aristocratic group around the region of Hanscom Park and the Field Club. This Ward has 504 city blocks with an assessed valuation of $6,448,450.00. The population is 16,837, including 1,741 boys which is 10.3%. Chart No. XI shows a rather steady population of boys over the last four years.

We note five elementary schools, no high school, and ten churches. There are no social centers in this section. We find eight Scout troops and one Cub pack doing active work in Ward VIII.

There are approximately seventy acres of park and school grounds that can be used for recreational purposes.
Only a part of this is used.

The conclusion drawn from the study of Ward VIII is that the portions adjacent to the railroad tracks are in dire need of more community work. There is ample space that could be used for the purpose of a constructive program in this type of work, and should be the basis of a valuable program for socialization.

**Ward IX**

Chart No. XII Showing Boy Population of Omaha for the Five-Year Period in Ward No. IX. 1932-36

Ward IX contains 373 city blocks, not including the new addition of the Municipal University site. The property valuation is $19,683,005.00. The population is 24,735, with a boy population of 2,040 which is 8.2%. Chart No. XII shows a considerable decrease in the last two years (1934-35). This is perhaps due to the fact that there are a number of small business concerns located in this Ward, which were affected by the depression. The
mobility rate in this Ward is 7.3%, which is rather low in comparison with the majority of Wards, but home ownership is rather high in this Ward.

There are nine churches, four elementary schools and no high school located in this Ward. We find no community centers in this section. The Boy Scout organization has seven active troops and two Cub packs in Ward IX.

The acreage of parks and school grounds is 230.3. The ample space offers much opportunity for outdoor recreation, but much of it is not adapted to this type of program. Elmwood Park has some equipment for children's recreation, and camping and picnic facilities for the entire family.

The housing in this Ward includes a small portion of high-priced residential district, but most of them are small frame residences and small businesses located on some of the main thoroughfares of the city.

We conclude from this study that Ward IX offers an average program for outdoor recreation, but little for indoor activities. This phase of the work should be advanced in order to create a balanced recreational program for the boys of this section.
Ward No. X

Chart No. XIII Showing Boy Population of Omaha
for the Five-Year Period in Ward No. X.
1932-36

Ward No. X comprises the aristocratic section of
Omaha, known as Dundee. It is a beautiful residential
division and is a credit to any city. This Ward has 386
city blocks and an assessed valuation of $12,288,810.00.

The population of this section is 19,866, including
2,544 boys which is 12.8% of the entire population.
Chart No. XIII gives a vivid picture of the trend of boy
population in this ward. We note a rather steady vari-
ation with the exception of the year 1935. There seems to
have been an unusual intake at this point due to the fact
that a number of new homes were completed and more families
moved into the section. The mobility of this Ward is eight
per cent which would account for most of the other shift-
ing in the boy population.

There are five elementary schools, one high school,
and nine churches in Ward X. We note no regular social center in this section. There are seven Boy Scout troops and five Cub packs in this division.

The park and school ground space in Ward X is approximately 25 acres, most of which is available for recreation. Some of this space is equipped for use by children, but most of it is used by adults for golf and other outdoor activities.

From the study of Ward X we would conclude that the opportunities offered for boys are not as good as one would expect in a section with such high economic standards. It should be remembered that the social program is for the rich just as well as for the poor and more attention should be given to the boys of this section, especially to recreational programs and facilities.

Ward XI

Chart No. XIV Showing Boy Population of Omaha for the Five-Year Period in Ward No. XI.
1932-36
In Ward XI, we have 486 city blocks with an assessed valuation of $8,443,253.00. The population of this Ward is 14,475, of which 3,540 are boys. This Ward ranks next to Ward VII in boy population—23.7%. Chart XIV shows a general growth of this section with the exception of the year 1935. The unusual increase in boy population at this time is perhaps due to the moving of many families from higher rent districts to this Ward due to the effects of the depression.

The houses on the whole, present a clean, attractive appearance, except around the railroad section, where we find the usual dirty, unattractiveness.

The mobility of Ward No. XI is 6.2% which is much lower than the average section of the city. A high rate of home ownership is evident.

There are ten churches, six elementary schools, one high school, and no community centers in this section. We note eleven Boy Scout troops and four Cub packs doing active work among the boys of this Ward.

This section has approximately 135 acres of space including parks and school ground, that can be used for outdoor recreation. A portion of this is being utilized, but not to the extent that it should be used.

We conclude from this study that the social program has been neglected, and that the opportunities for boys in respect to indoor recreation have been sadly neglected.
Ward XII

Chart No. XV Showing Boy Population of Omaha for the Five-Year Period in Ward No. XII. 1932-36

Ward XII contains 872 city blocks, assessed at a valuation of $6,327,405. The population of this Ward is 10,003, including 2,148 boys which is 21.4% of the entire population. In the above Chart, it will be noted that since the beginning of 1933 the trend of boy population has remained steady. Wards XI and XII have strong rural characteristics which perhaps accounts for larger families.

The general appearance of this Ward is clean and attractive, with the exception of that part near the railroads. The residences are of the small one-family type, and present a good picture.

This Ward has seven elementary schools, and one high school, and no community centers. It has a mobility rate
of six per cent, which is a good indication of stability. There are seven churches carrying on the religious program for this Ward.

We find 117 acres of parks and school grounds that offer space for playground facilities. Fontenelle Park is equipped for children's play, has a ball field, and other outdoor facilities for recreational purposes. There are many vacant lots that could be used for small playgrounds.

We conclude from the study of this section, that the opportunities for boys in regard to social improvement are average, in as far as the city is concerned. More emphasis should be put on boys' organizations and directed activities. The spaces in this section should be utilized more fully in a definite, well supervised program of activities. The large open spaces provide opportunities for the boys to provide many activities for themselves.
The Crippled Child

In any study of the opportunities offered by the community to boys, or any child as far as that is concerned, consideration must be given the care and opportunities offered the cripple child. This boy is faced with social and physical obstacles that influence his normal adjustment to society.

In Omaha last year were found 213 crippled boys, of whom seven were colored. About eighty per cent of these were within the age range of our study. This number definitely fell within the list of such deformities as club-foot, harelip, cleft palate, curvatures, and spastic paralysis.

Omaha has many facilities for the care of crippled children. There are private agencies, public hospitals, and medical schools that take a part in this problem.

Once the case is located, the next problem is generally that of transportation. In Omaha the Rotary Club has furnished automobiles to facilitate the work of the Visiting Nurses. The Kiwanis Club has also shared in this part of the program by providing an automobile for the use of the staff and patients at the Hattie B. Munroe Home. With transportation available, the cases may be referred to either the Creighton Dispensary or the University of Nebraska Dispensary; at each of these a remarkable group of capable, socially minded physicians and surgeons give freely of their time and skill in diagnosing and treating the

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handicapped child.

If the case calls for operative work, the next need in the program is hospitalization. In Omaha, patients have access to St. Joseph Hospital, the University of Nebraska Hospital, the State Orthopedic Hospital at Lincoln, the Shriners' Twin Cities Hospital and the Douglas County Hospital. The two local schools of medicine function as such and the preference naturally is for teaching cases; the Shriners' Hospitals always have waiting lists; the State Orthopedic Hospital must serve the entire state; and the Douglas County Hospital during these years of depression has usually been filled to capacity. If there were only a way to pay private hospitals for the care of the poor crippled child as soon as the need is apparent, this weakness in the local program could be remedied.

The problem of furnishing braces or other necessary appliances is not the responsibility of any single agency or organization. It is true that interested persons and organizations equip many needy children with the required supports, but these are special cases brought to their attention. The program, then, should provide a definite resource of this type so that time need not be lost in approaching this or that person, agency, or organization, to learn if it will be possible to advance funds for this purpose.

Significant in any program for the crippled child are
the proper convalescent care and follow-up services. In Omaha the Hattie B. Munroe Home offers to convalescent children care and facilities not available in their own homes. This institution has beds for forty children and there is always a waiting list. Follow-up services are given by the Visiting Nurses over as long a period as seems necessary. Thus, cases have been carried during a period of from eight to nine years, until the child had completed his schooling and had been referred to the Rehabilitation Service for further training. In many instances known to the staff of the Hattie B. Munroe Home, training has been impossible because of the seriousness of the condition in as much as Omaha lacks the special facilities necessary.

All local agencies now recognize the need for educating the handicapped child. Patients at the Hattie B. Munroe Home enjoy the educational advantages of the Benson West School. A visiting teacher instructs the children who are confined to their beds; the child who attends Benson West must, however, cross a busy street and climb stairs to the school. The opportunities furnished the crippled boy in Omaha are very commendable.
Vocational Opportunities

We have not presented any definite study on the Vocational Opportunities in Omaha, as such, due to the fact that at this time an extensive research project is in progress along this line. A committee composed of representatives from the Nebraska Employment Bureau, the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., and the N.Y.A. of the city is collecting data from all the industrial concerns and business organizations of Omaha in regard to the qualifications, personality-traits, vocational trends and social standards required for employment in each commercial enterprise.

This data, when collected, will be compiled and published for the use of all schools and agencies who are interested in vocational guidance. This is certainly a much needed form of information for any community to have in building or setting up a program of vocational training or guidance.

The trade schools, business college, and evening classes afford vocational training for many of the older boys of the city.
Other Child Institutions in Omaha

The following Omaha institutions represent the ones that are furnishing definite opportunities to boys of Omaha in the form of homes:

The Creche provides a temporary home for dependent children from six to twelve years of age, who come from broken homes. It is non-sectarian and the fees are flexible. They care for forty-two children of whom about one half are boys. The number varies every day. They conduct a summer camp west of the city for these children each summer.

The Immanuel Children's Home has one division devoted entirely to the care of boys ranging from infancy to eighteen years of age. Its financial support comes largely from the Community Chest and the Augustoria Synod of the Lutheran Church. This institution took care of an average of twelve boys in the age range of our study in 1936.

The Masonic Home for Children provides institutional care for dependent and neglected white boys from five to fifteen years of age. Its care is not limited to children of Masons. It is supported by contributions of local Masonic bodies and the fees are flexible. The average number taken care of last year was forty-five boys.

St. James Orphanage is a Catholic institution for the care of children ranging from infancy to twelve years of age. Only Catholic children are admitted. It is supported by contributions. About forty boys of the age
range of our study are cared for there annually.

CONCLUSIONS

As the result of the study of the opportunities of boys in Omaha we arrive at the following conclusions:

1. The city is divided into two parts by Thirtieth Street and a portion of South Twenty-fourth Street. Each of these sections offer distinct opportunities to the boys within its territory.

2. Boy Scout troops and Y.M.C.A. members are located mostly in sections of the city of higher economic level.

3. The large Protestant churches assume very little responsibility for furnishing leisure time opportunities for the boys living near them.

4. City Wards in which are located the main juvenile delinquency areas have the fewest organized recreational opportunities for the boys.

5. Sections of the city that have high mobility rates generally offer fewer community supported opportunities.

6. Opportunities provided for the boys of the community are in direct proportion to the assessed valuation of the real estate, except in downtown and small business areas.

7. Sections of the city having the largest number of boys have fewest organized provisions for the use of their
leisure time. This is true in Wards V and VII, but Wards XI and XII are exceptions because of the extensive geographical areas.

8. There has been a steady increase of boy population in all of the Wards in the past five years except Ward VII which shows a small decrease and Ward X a slight increase.

9. The Ward with the lowest boy population in proportion to its entire population is Ward II with 4.3%. The next Ward in this relation is Ward IV, with 5.1%. Wards V, VII, XI, and XII are the highest with 20.1%, 25.5%, 23.7%, and 21.4% respectively. The remaining six Wards range from eight per cent to 12.8%.

10. Omaha is providing excellent opportunities for her crippled boys.

11. The vocational opportunity study being set up by the vocational organizations in Omaha should prove helpful in vocational guidance.

12. The four child institutions in Omaha provide home opportunities for about 150 homeless boys within the age range of this study.
PART III

PROPOSED PLANS FOR DEVELOPING
THE ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES
OF THE BOYS OF OMAHA
**Introduction**

In the preceding parts of this study we have pointed out the leading activities and opportunities of the 27,234 boys between six and twenty years of age in Omaha. With this data and analysis in mind attention is called to a series of suggested plans of activities and programs for the purpose of enlarging the scope of activities and opportunities of the boys of Omaha. These plans are not utopias but have been tried and have been found practical in many cities. They are presented in the form of recommendations growing out of the findings in this research. If properly set up and adequately financed and controlled, the social assets of the boy life of Omaha would be greatly increased, and the liabilities reduced. Each proposal presented is briefly explained and the best method of applying it in Omaha is indicated.

**Proposed Church Program for Boys**

Every church needs to give a large place to the boy in its program. It needs to observe all the laws of Child Psychology and Sociology. "If the church would do enough for boys as boys, its doors would be swarming with boys." The churches need to study the problems of their own neighborhoods. The downtown church has special problems. If no boys' program is offered, the urchins of the streets are neglected--these are the boys mostly in need and likely to become anti-social adults.

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To plan a complete week-day program for the leisure hours of boys gives the church a new and practical function. The young peoples' societies, run by young people, have an appeal not possessed by an adult-run Sunday School. The boys must be given something to do and something to work for. Since the churches of Omaha are not reaching many of the boys of the city some constructive steps seem to be needed. All the downtown churches especially, should be made community centers for the use of all the boys in its immediate vicinity, regardless of creed or color. Interesting and varied activities should be provided every evening of the week. Such a program calls for a corps of trained leaders who can teach practical religion and wholesome living in terms of every day life.

A library, a gymnasium where various types of ball games and social games can be played, rooms where small groups of boys may play, and a playground should be the minimum space plans provided. Efficient leaders can keep a group of boys of various types of background cultures interested. In many churches the work done for boys is mainly "to get them on their church rolls." This overlooks the larger ideal of helping boys solve their problems for themselves. Service in helping boys solve their personal problems is needed, with a religious atmosphere indirectly developed. Each church needs to study the needs of the boys—their social and religious problems—in the
boys' own worlds. This can be done and Omaha churches can do it.

The Co-ordinating Council Plan

The movement of Co-ordinative Community Councils originated in Los Angeles County, California. The juvenile court and probation department of this county became alarmed over the fact that so many youngsters were coming into the court. These children were not vicious, nor did they have many outstanding criminal tendencies. Most of them were just average children who found themselves in trouble. These young people adjusted themselves rapidly after coming before the court, and most of them made good afterward.

This question came to the minds of the officials--Why would it not be easier to adjust these young people before the trouble occurs, and save them from a court appearance? It seemed that there was too large a gap between the court and the various agencies of the community.

Judge Samuel Blake of the juvenile court, and the probation department, called a meeting which was attended by seven hundred officials, police officers, social workers, and representatives of organizations interested in the reduction of delinquency, at which time the co-ordinating council plan was launched. This plan embodies all the forces of a community that tend to prevent all forms of social maladjustments. It is based on the idea that when
a child is before the court for trial it is not a trial of the child, but a trial of the community because of its failure to guide and adjust the child in its society.

The plan of the co-ordinating council offers a means of frequent contact by bringing together in round table groups the leaders in each community with representatives of law enforcing agencies. The natural outcome of these contacts is a better understanding of the local problems.

The objective of the co-ordinating council is to provide a medium by which the community can:

1. Solve the problems of its children and youth.

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

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

Many terms other than co-ordinating council are now used to describe this new type of agency, for example; neighborhood, child, youth, juvenile, or community council. There are now nearly two hundred cities using such councils, and regardless of what name they are operating under they all have the following characteristics in common:

1. They are organized on a community or neighborhood basis.


[22] Ibid
2. They bring together representatives of many organizations interested in the welfare of children, youth, the family, and the community.

3. They do not act as agencies but as counseling or co-ordinating bodies.

4. They are interested in the prevention of delinquency. Some make this their major objective, while others consider it secondary.

There are three essentials for success in organizing councils: first, a strong organization, public or private, to act as sponsor for the council movement; second, an executive board, on which many organizations and agencies are represented, to act as a central policy-forming group; and third, a field worker to act as a liaison officer between the executive board and the local councils.

The outstanding factor in the power of the co-ordinating council is that it works through many different agencies, organizations, and institutions. When the council finds some need, it does not meet the need itself, but finds the agency best equipped for this service and puts it on the job.

The surveys made by the National Probation Association of the work of co-ordinating councils in various parts of the country reveal that they are operating along the following lines:

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1. Carrying on many sociological studies, to locate delinquency areas and constructive resources.

2. Building up recreational facilities for groups. The use of community centers, playgrounds, and membership in organized groups and clubs is stimulated. Frequently new groups are organized in high delinquency areas where few or no clubs or organizations existed before. It also assists in securing leaders.

3. Looking after services for individual children. They discover that many children in certain neighborhoods have need of specialized service which they have not received. If this service is not available the council can take the proper steps to obtain cooperation of the proper agencies.

4. Cooperating with the N.Y.A. and in many ways meet the needs of young people from sixteen to twenty-five years of age.

5. Controlling destructive influences by either removing them or having them censored. This work has to do with removal of gambling machines near schools, obscene motion pictures and shows, salacious literature, sale of liquor and tobacco to minors, and all other forms of undesirable influences.

6. By extending the parent-education program into districts not ordinarily reached, they can improve the home environment in many communities.

The following Chart No. XVI, illustrating the co-ordinating council organization shows how the community ac-
ADJUSTMENT COMMITTEE AT WORK

AND SOME EXAMPLES

THE CASE OF AN UNADJUSTED CHILD AND HIS PROBLEMS AND ENVIRONMENT

Chart XVI

-N. P. A.
cepts its responsibilities and goes into action. At the top is a small circle denoting the child, his problems and his environment. A new case is referred to the council, through the chairman and from him to the case study committee. The council circle illustrates the round table idea, and segments of this circle are assigned to each of the agencies dealing with these children. After the case committee has worked out a program the case may be assigned to one of the members who contacts and advises the child. The parents do not appear before the council or committees. Different agencies may be asked to make definite contributions to the child's welfare—the school principal may be asked to encourage good citizenship, the P.T.A. may supply the school lunch, welfare agency worker may be asked to secure certain foods, clothing, etc. for the child, the service club members supply a Scout uniform, the church representative encourages religious life, and so on. These are a few of the suggested possibilities. The members of the council assist in the various capacities.

Below the large circle we find an opportunity for using the various community facilities—the church group, the club headquarters, the association buildings, playground recreation centers, health clinics, psychiatric clinics, welfare centers, and many others. All of these social facilities in the community become available in the working out of a program for the individual boy or girl.

Omaha has a great need for such a Council. It has all
of the necessary agencies and facilities. The cooperative relationship and proper leadership is all that is needed. The wards or neighborhoods that have concentrated social pathological conditions should have individual co-ordinating councils functioning in all such areas. The activities and opportunities would be strengthened and enlarged. The boys would have an opportunity and receive the benefit of co-ordinated efforts of all the agencies and facilities in the community.

**Community Recreation**

The community recreation movement has been playing an important place in the social life of children in urban centers for the past thirty years since the organization of the National Recreation Association in 1906. A community recreation program should be city wide in scope, support and supervision. Privately supported recreation is valuable but does not reach all. The boy life of any city should be provided with constructive recreational activities and opportunities that are far-reaching. In any well-planned city the open spaces for play use should approximate the number of acres devoted to dwellings except in the case of extensive tenement and apartment house development.

All basic plans for a recreational system must necessarily be worked out upon the basis of the distribution of population. Children's playground, neighborhood recreation parks, school centers, etc. should be within walking distance of the homes of the boys. For the older boys a half mile from the homes of the boys over fourteen years of age.
The standards set up by the United States Children's Bureau are as follows:

1. Playgrounds should be located within a radius of one-fourth mile for children under six, one-half mile for children over six, and baseball fields should be located within a radius of one mile.

2. There should be at least one acre of playground space for every five hundred children.

3. There should be provision for an athletic field of six acres or more.

4. Every child should have two hours of organized play outside of school hours every day and thirty minutes for play and physical education, per day, in the schools.

5. Every playground should have a director and no play leader should have more than seventy-five children under supervision at one time.

6. Adequate leadership is more important than a large equipment.

7. Minimum equipment should include swings, sandbox, slides, giant stride, possibly teeters and outdoor gymnasium equipment.

8. Quiet and vigorous games should alternate.

9. A definite governing body must have general charge of the recreational work.

All recreational needs of children under fifteen years of age, as to play space and physical equipment, should be

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taken care of by the public schools. Such a plan has the advantage of avoiding duplication. The publicly owned buildings are then used by the public and for the public. The development of backyard playgrounds and of home play is chiefly a question of educational direction. There is great need of an educational campaign that will give information as to how to secure simple equipment at a minimum expense.

The program of activities for the proper use of the leisure time of the boys in the community should make provision for the whole year and for all age groups. It must recognize the importance of having highly trained leaders who can draw out the best in all groups.

In city planning for leisure time activities there are two fundamental objectives to be given consideration: first, consideration of outdoor spaces; and second, consideration for the many boys who have to get most of their recreation in the evenings. This is of vital importance in planning any well-developed recreational plan.

Steiner believes that:

The modern recreational movement is so firmly entrenched in American life and its positive social results so decidedly outweigh its negative that it is no longer difficult to justify the increasing financial outlays. The present generation hardly needs a reminder of the fact that wholesome recreation leads to both bodily and mental health...For thousands recreation is now a kind of cult aiming at physical, mental, and moral efficiency. For additional thousands it opens the doors to a new world where, during hours of pleasurable

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25 J. F. Steiner, "Recreation and Leisure Time Activities," in Recent Social Trends in the United States. Report of the President's Research Committee on Social
leisure the onerous drudgeries of life are forgotten...One of society's most important functions, therefore, is the cultivation of mass amusements, activities and diversions appealing to all age groups from the pre-adolescent to the far advanced in life. It is an insurance of social health.

Omaha ranks very low in its community recreational program. There is a great need for more neighborhood playgrounds for the small boys as well as larger play spaces for the older boys. Omaha needs such a program as suggested in the above plan. Thus the boy life of the city would be greatly benefited.

The Child Guidance Clinics

The child guidance clinic which was founded in Chicago by Dr. William A. Healy in 1909 attempts to make a specific contribution to the welfare of children, especially the child who falls into one or more of the three types of problem-behavior: delinquency, dependency, and mentally diseased. The discovery that these tendencies often begin to show themselves in young children is, of course, far from being a modern one.

Child guidance clinics, which represent a third to a half of all psychiatric clinics for children have a minimum personnel of a psychiatrist, who needs to be a physician trained in handling mental disorders, especially those of children; a psychologist, who as a rule holds at least a master's degree and is trained in the application of

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special testing devices and in the treatment of certain defects; a psychiatric social worker, trained in one of the five or six schools providing special preparation for this field. All these specialists function jointly on most cases. Some clinics even provide additional assistance for tutoring, recreation, and pediatric study; others have only part of the staff indicated. As the child guidance clinic is usually organized, it includes a director, generally the psychiatrist and a staff embracing a psychologist, social workers, physician, stenographers, and other clerical assistants.

The professional staff members conduct individual diagnosis of the cases in separate offices and then conduct a round table discussion of each case. From this discussion a plan for each case is constructed, and passed on to the home and school. Cases may be referred to the clinic by the parents, school or juvenile court.

Like other transitional agencies, the child guidance clinic has itself been subject to change. Beginning as an attack on juvenile delinquency, it has shifted its focus of attention to children in school and home who deviate significantly, but not necessarily in the eyes of the law, from reasonable social standards. It has developed an independent status, establishing close connections with schools and social agencies.

To illustrate the value of one phase of the program as carried on by the child guidance clinic, we present a typical case study made by a child guidance clinic of New-
tonville, Mass., conducted by Dr. J. M. Andress:

Fred was a regular boy, fourteen years of age. He lived with his parents in a modern home, and had plenty of spending money, and everything it seemed a boy could desire. Fred ran away from home. The police finally captured him and returned him to his parents. It was a most unpleasant homecoming. He was severely punished but yet he appeared rebellious and bitter toward his home and school.

The clinic made a study of Fred's case and discovered that his father and grandfather had both graduated from Yale. Fred's father had determined that his son, Fred, must keep up the family tradition. Fred was interested in agriculture and did not make sufficient grades in school to take the preparatory course and the entrance examinations for Yale. His I.Q. was a little too low to enable him to carry on this type of training. Thus he was unhappy. His father was making a truant out of him by his demands for high grades.

Fortunately Fred's father and mother were intelligent people and they realized they had been working in the dark, without knowing the inside life of their son. From that day on Fred began working toward a life on the farm and he is a happy boy. He and his father are pals and there is every indication that Fred has found his niche in life.

Every case of delinquency is similar to that of Fred's. Delinquency is a symptom rather than the problem itself; a sign that something is wrong in the child's life.
Aims in Treatment - The principal aim of the child guidance clinic is to adjust the child to his environment. Every effort is extended to bring him back into the fold. This does not mean that conformity's sake is its goal, or that the child should be leveled to the average. The child as a distinct personality must remain. But it is desirable that he find personal happiness in his environment and with people of his own age. Non-conformity has not made him happy and will not. He must fit in. It is necessary that the child be brought into harmony with his activities. To accomplish this, an objective study of him is made. His personality is viewed as a whole, for it is his total personality that the clinic wants to develop. It must be rounded out here and toned down there. The factors that mold this personality are in the environment. They are his parents, school church, and friends. Therefore, all must cooperate and understand. The clinic does not attempt to say to these people, "You must do thus and so or this will result." It simply wants their understanding, so that all may work together and not at cross purposes.

The school, home, and church all see the child from different angles. They see him only through the eyes of their particular interests in life.

All analyses are followed by a carefully constructed plan. Child Guidance Clinics have functioned effectively and efficiently in over two hundred communities in the United States. Omaha is in great need of such an institution. Problem cases arising in the homes and the schools could then be scientifically dealt with. Since the chief function of the clinic is to deal with pre-delinquent cases the number of cases of boys handled by the juvenile court would be greatly reduced. Boys who are now unadjusted in society, misfits and general neighborhood nuisances would
be carefully studied and guided into useful citizens.

**Training for Civic Leadership**

The problem of formulating and operating a program of civic training rests largely with the public schools, since they are the agencies that contact the children more closely and thoroughly than any other organization. Unfortunately, many schools permit pupils to assume positions of leadership on the basis of popularity, social prestige, athletic ability, of some other characteristic which is not or should not be a factor in the selection of civic leaders.

The plan most commonly used to promote civic leadership training, by the schools, has been that of some form of student participation in school government. We have contacted a number of plans of this type in operation, but the most effective organization observed is the program in South High School of Omaha. This plan has required eighteen years of constant guidance and study to develop into a program of activity that is outstanding in its scope and efficiency.

The Principal and a number of teachers have been carefully studying and directing this system of student participation for many years, and it has grown out of actual needs of the section of the city in which it operates. Chart No. XVII will give the reader an idea as to how this program is constructed. It will be noted that the principal of the high school has little to do in the operation of the program,
yet it is his personality and leadership that makes it a success.

The Dean of Boys takes care of the guidance in the problems of government, and, although he remains in the background, his leadership is felt throughout the operation of the regular duties of the Council. The Dean of Girls looks after the social problems and it is her guiding ability that directs the students in all their social relations connected with the school.

This organization is based on a Student Council which is composed of one representative from the freshman, one from the sophomore, two from the junior and two from the senior classes. These students are elected directly by the four high school classes. The remainder of the Council is made up of eight members nominated by the various clubs of the school, and elected by the student-body by means of a secret ballot. This arrangement gives the Council a touch of Democratic Government and at the same time checks the discretion of the youngsters by direct election within the classes of representatives.

The Council appoints the various committees who take care of all activities outside of the class rooms during school hours. These committees are made up of students who show their ability by good records in school and leadership traits. This selection is determined largely by another group appointed by the Council, called the Civil Service Committee. This committee has a representative
SOUTH OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL

Chart Showing Functional Relations.
Chart No. XVII
visiting the various group meetings and checking the records of the entire school.

The students who are not able to fit into the society and standards of the council are reported to the Court by the executive committees. The Court tries all cases by means of a judge, an attorney for the plaintiff, an attorney for the defendant, clerks, etc. Reports are made by the clerk, and kept on file in the Dean's office for reference. If the student does not feel that he has had a fair trial, he can appeal his case to the Council, which acts as a Court of Appeals.

The three branches of our government are found in the set-up of this student participation school program. The judicial department is vested in the Court, whose officers are elected by the Council; the executive department is vested in a Council, through its committees; and its legislative department is taken care of by the student body in their power to amend their constitution.

The attitude of these young people as they sit in on their Court, their serious consideration of responsibilities assumed by them in operating their government, and the general atmosphere of the school reveal the value of such a program in training for social and civic leadership. If all high schools would realize the opportunity afforded in this type of citizenship training and develop such a plan, we would be making a great step toward a better society. We should be interested in training our boys in leadership, and thus assist them while they are available. For, as
Theodore Roosevelt once said, "If we are to help the average man we must help him before he becomes a man."
GENERAL CONCLUSION

In this study we have presented a picture of the activities and opportunities of boys in Omaha and have followed with some practical plans for improving and enlarging them in the future. It is obvious that every boy—regardless of creed, color, economic status or nativity—should have within his reach, activities, and opportunities that will enable him to develop into a strong character and man of usefulness. The suggested plans are presented as recommendations for meeting the deficiencies along these lines in the life of our boys. If these plans were set up and put into operation they would provide every neighborhood of the city with wholesome activities which would be within reach of every boy of Omaha. His opportunities for developing into a well rounded, well developed and well balanced citizen would be greatly enhanced.
Other Researches that are Suggested by the Study of Activities and Opportunities of Boys in Omaha

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1. A more thorough study in the activities and opportunities of boys in the programs offered by the two daily papers of Omaha.

2. An extensive research into the various programs offered by the schools of Omaha for the advancement of activities and opportunities of boys in the city.

3. A wider study of the clipping bureau as set up in this study including copies of various types of news items concerning boys of Omaha.

4. A more detailed study of the data concerning the delinquency of the different divisions of boy activities and agencies.

5. Secure more exclusive proof concerning the underlying principles of various conditions revealed by statistics obtained in this study, but which could not be treated further in this connection.
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BOOKS


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