

# COMMUNITY BETTERMENT SURVEY REPORT

(Continued From Yesterday)

There should also be some semi-public agency such as an associated charities or welfare agency to care for all cases that are not eligible for county aid, or who need more help than the county is authorized to give. Since the Red Cross is already organized as a relief agency, it is recommended that they officially extend their work to include civilian families and cooperate with the county in securing a trained full-time worker.

It has been suggested that this committee recommend that to begin organized relief work in this county, the county, Red Cross, and school board cooperate in employing a trained social worker to act as dependency investigator, juvenile probation officer, and truant officer. There three fields of work overlap, and the committee feels that one worker could handle all phases of this work for some time, and the expense of employing such a worker would not fall heavily on any of the organizations concerned.

With all relief concentrated under one head, wasteful and harmful giving would be eliminated, and constructive work could be done among disadvantaged families, work that would tend to bring the unfortunate to a point where he would become self-supporting instead of pauperizing him, making the individual the asset rather than a liability to the community.

It was impossible for the committee to determine just how much money is spent each year, by all agencies and individuals, but several cases were found where a family was receiving aid from the county, Red Cross, churches, and individuals, and spending such funds wastefully without any advice or supervision from the donors.

### Report of Committee on Recreation.

1. Commercialized recreation: public dances, 2; moving picture houses, 3; swimming tanks, 3; pool halls and card rooms, 10; plays, concerts, etc., irregular.

Public and semi-public organizations providing some recreational and amusement features:—Libraries, 3; churches, 6; fraternal organizations, 8; Parent-Teacher Association; Boy Scouts.

Negative Reports. No public parks; no public playgrounds for children; no public athletic field, tennis court, golf course, etc.

The result of the investigation of the recreational committee of both public and private recreational and amusement facilities shows that Klamath Falls is woefully deficient in such facilities, especially neglecting to care for the pleasure of the stranger within our gates and the young people. Moreover many public amusements now in operation are a detriment to the community rather than a benefit. This committee recognizes the truth that recreation is essential to normal living and believes that it is the duty of the community to provide adequate recreational facilities for all ages and classes of its citizenry. Upon the city park board falls the major responsibility for providing places for recreation. The city council and police officers are responsible for the type and character of amusement offered the public. Reading rooms and library facilities of this city are entirely inadequate. (See report attached).

Recommendations. 1. To the City Park Board:—(a) Centrally located park with band stand; free band concerts in sum-

mer; park with water frontage and equipped with municipal dance pavilion; playgrounds located in vicinity of each school, equipped with wading pools, play equipment and field house.

2. To the School Board:—(a) Organized school play under competent directorship; adequate school grounds and equipment for children during school sessions.

3. To the City Council:—(a) Ordinances regulating operation of public commercialized amusements and strict enforcement of the same.

1. Dance halls:—Children under 18 excluded except with responsible chaperone; separate cloak rooms for men and women; no smoking in dance halls; adequate exits in case of fire; main entrance leading directly into dance hall.

4. To Parent-Teacher Association and High School faculty:—Regular and organized recreation and amusements for children of high school age.

City Library Recommendations. Klamath County is at present receiving very inefficient library service due to lack of organization and cooperation.

There are six different library services in the county: Klamath County Library, Klamath Falls Public Library, Merrill Library, Klamath County High School Library, Klamath Falls Public School Library and Klamath County School Libraries.

Klamath County Library grants to each library a quota of books, otherwise the several libraries are entirely independent of one another, resulting in little interest or cooperation and a lack of system throughout the whole service. There are funds which are not being spent advantageously; books that are not within reach of the persons who need them; some books that are not being circulated and some parts of the county with no library service whatever.

However, the County Court has taken the matter in hand and plans to appoint a county library board. To those who are interested in the library work of Klamath County this is very encouraging. It means that in time all the libraries of the county will be working under one efficient management, every person in the county getting the best library service possible for the funds at hand.

A resume of the present library equipment shows that the Klamath County Library has a commodious Carnegie building, \$2000 income and close to 4500 volumes; Klamath Falls Public Library has a fairly good building, \$1000 income and 2000 volumes; Merrill Library has about 1000 volumes and is maintained by the Merrill Woman's Library Club; Klamath Falls Public School Library has about 6500 volumes; the Klamath County High School and Grade School Libraries are for the most part, very inadequate.

It will be the duty of the county library board to build up a comprehensive library work, placing stations over the county wherever they will best serve the communities. The library boards of the various city and school libraries may contract with this board from year to year to run their libraries, or make whatever arrangements seem best to work with this board for the betterment of the library service in their community.

This plan has been carried out in numbers of counties in several states and is found to bring about a very effective service.

Parent-Teacher Association. In September a Parent-Teacher Association was organized in the High School with the hope that among other things something might be done toward providing wholesome entertainment for the high school pupils.

A committee was appointed to secure if possible a hall or building of some sort which could be furnished with games and a musical instrument, etc., and where the students could have a good time.

It was planned to have the hall opened at least several evenings a week and at such times it would be under the supervision of a committee from the Parent-Teacher Association. After much effort and time the only place to be found was an abandoned hall on West Main street.

Before it could be used it must be rewired and otherwise fixed up and just as the improvements were fairly started the "flu" epidemic put a stop to everything of the sort and by the time the ban was lifted it was decided that by the time the improvements of the hall were completed the school year would be too near an end.

nearest the Parent-Teacher

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Association came to accomplishing its purpose of providing wholesome amusement was in chaperoning several dances for the students and alumni of the High School at the White Pelican Hotel.

The students were loud in their praise of these affairs and manifested a strong appreciation of the interest the association tried to take in them.

Had the association succeeded in carrying out its plan for a hall the financing of it was expected to be met in part by a promise of help on the rent from the county board and by personal pledges and small collections from the students and parents.

One of the greatest needs of the city is a place where students especially may spend at least part of their leisure time in wholesome fun in proper surroundings and under supervision and it is hoped that something may be accomplished along this line another year.

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