

Playground Library
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First Annual Report
of the
Bureau of Playgrounds & Recreation
Department of Parks
City of Rochester
1916

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First Annual Report
of the
Bureau of Playgrounds & Recreation
Department of Parks
City of Rochester
1916

OFFICERS

| | |
|--|---|
| H. H. Edgerton, Mayor | |
| A. B. Lamberton, Commissioner of Parks | Robert A. Bernhard, Supt. of Playgrounds and Recreation |
| W. S. Riley, Deputy Commissioner | H. J. Norton, Assistant Superintendent |

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PLAYGROUND DIRECTORY

SUPERINTENDENT—ROBERT A. BERNHARD

Assistant Superintendent—Herman J. Norton

Catherine M. Kreckel, Secretary

Chester B. Leake, Supervising Mechanic

SPECIAL INSTRUCTORS

Sewing—Mary E. King, Ruth A. Weider

Basketry—M. E. Webster

Boy Scout—Colba Gucker

Dancing—Gertrude Carroll, Dorothy Renwick

Library—Julia Sauer

Nature Study—Bessie Van Ingen

NO. 7 PLAYGROUND

Dewey Avenue, corner Kislisbury Street

Sidney Adsit, *Principal*, Mark Kirchmaier, Ethel Dean and Jeanette Kies

FRONT STREET PLAYGROUND

No. 139 Front Street

Elizabeth Houston, *Principal*, Merle C. Miller, Graydon Long and John H. Ballard

NO. 9 PLAYGROUND

Joseph Avenue, corner Baden Street

Otto Laegeler, *Principal*, Ernest Milehan, Bernard Short, Dorothy Corris, Alice Young and Eva Hutchinson

SOUTH AVENUE PLAYGROUND

No. 250 South Avenue

Wallace MacKelvey, *Principal*, Camilla Killip

NO. 11 PLAYGROUND

Webster Avenue, near Schafer Place

S. E. Newman, *Principal*, Chas. H. Storer, Ethel French, and Mona R. Quine

GENESEE VALLEY PARK PLAYGROUND

Bertha Servis, *Principal*, Ariel Shaw and Raymond Hall

NO. 15 PLAYGROUND

Monroe Avenue, near Alexander Street

Julius Kuhnert, *Principal*, Harold MacCallum, Eleanor Connor and Ethel Copeland

SENECA PARK PLAYGROUND

Louise Edwards, *Principal*, Vannie L. Johnson, Raymond Slattery

NO. 21 PLAYGROUND

Colvin Street, near Jay

Minnie Sontag, *Principal*, Grace Worthington, Carl H. Braun and Robert Angevine

DURAND-EASTMAN PARK PLAYGROUND

Wm. D'Orville Doty

NO. 36 PLAYGROUND

Carter Street, near Bernard

Chas. Challice, *Principal*, Oscar Kohl, Martha J. Judson and Clara Ann Kaiser

WEST HIGH SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Edward Ford, *Principal*, Henry H. Keefe, Helen E. Maloy and Edna Bergeron

BROWN SQUARE PLAYGROUND

Brown Square

Stewart Morrison, *Principal*, Harold Barbour, Chas. Shaw, Fern B. Wall and Anna T. Willits

EXPOSITION PARK PLAYGROUND

Pamona D. Romig, *Principal*, Dorothy Kinney, Frank J. Carey

HARTFORD STREET PLAYGROUND

Hartford Street, near Scio

Katherine Nagle, *Principal*, Elinor Clune, Harry McCrary and Ralph Henricus

CARETAKERS ON PLAYGROUNDS

Brown Square—Wm. McGlenn

Hartford Street—Peter Gentile

Washington—John Goater

Front Street—John H. Stevenson

General—R. M. Greene, Edward W. Peters, Rosario Pulvino and Michael Morasco

WASHINGTON PLAYGROUND

48½ Thomas Street

Marguerite R. Wilson, *Principal*, Betty Tracy, Brainard Brown and Elmer Smith

Playgrounds open from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. during the Summer Season

Other seasons from 3 to 6 P. M. and from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M. on Saturdays



DIRECTORS FOR SUMMER SEASON

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

*To Alexander B. Lamberton, Commissioner of Parks,
Rochester, N. Y.:*

Your Superintendent of Playgrounds and Recreation submits, herewith, his first annual report, covering those activities of the Department of Parks under his supervision from March 9, 1915, to December 31, 1915.

Your Bureau of Playgrounds and Recreation resulted from the consolidation of activities formerly conducted by several departments and certain private organizations. The former Park Board had control of the Front Street Playground, established by the Playground League, and had provided for nine other playgrounds. It also had control of the swimming pools located at Genesee Valley and Seneca Parks, 11 Baseball Diamonds, 28 Tennis Courts, and the Golf Links.

The Board of Education had control of 6 Playgrounds.

The Engineering Department had charge of the South Avenue Swimming Pool, and the South Avenue and Baden Street Bath Houses, together with Building No. 5 at Exposition Park.

On March 8, 1915, by legislative enactment amending the city charter, The Bureau of Playgrounds and Recreation was created in the Park Department, which was to assume direction of all Playgrounds and other recreational activities.

Upon the assumption of duties your Superintendent found that during the period of transition from the old regime to the new, that some of the instructors had become indifferent as to the performance of their duties, and, therefore, to awaken interest in the work he visited each playground daily, endeavoring to encourage promptness, activity and thoughtfulness. After several weeks of this close supervision he slowly but firmly purged the Bureau of inefficient employees.

Principals Appointed

The system of having several people in charge of the recreational centers without a leader or principal on the grounds resulted in lack of co-operation on the part of the instructors, and some felt as though the others ought to do more work, and not wishing to be imposed upon neglected their full duty. Therefore, your Superintendent designated one person as principal on each Playground to take entire charge, assuming all responsibility for the condition of the grounds, and carrying on the activities as suggested by the Superintendent.

Owing to the unsettled condition and lack of a central head the playground apparatus had deteriorated to a deplorable condition. Upon your request the Honorable Board of Estimate and Apportionment empowered the Bureau to employ a skilled mechanic to take full charge of all the supplies and the upkeep of all apparatus. He was given 4 laborers to aid him. These men acted as a traveling squad of caretakers, who succeeded in properly preparing and equipping the playgrounds for the summer season.

Libraries

The Libraries at Brown Square, Front Street, and Hartford Street Playgrounds were found to be poorly kept, and the books were in need of repair. Mr. Wm. F. Yust and Miss A. B. Zachert of the Rochester Public Library co-operated with your Superintendent, making suggestions as to new books to be purchased and the necessary repairs to old books. They generously allowed us to transfer from their department a trained library worker with story telling experience to our department. Miss Zachert takes a lively interest in the work and keeps in touch with our librarian, encouraging and aiding her in the performance of her duties. We had

171 good books on hand, repaired 168, and purchased 576, making a total of 915 books, which are divided into 10 Libraries. Miss Julia Sauer, the Playground Librarian, takes full charge of all these books and reports at two playgrounds each day. She also acts as story teller. Her time is devoted in the following manner: two stories to each of two groups, 1 hour; issuing books, 1 hour; attending to registration, overdues, fines, repairs and going after books, 1½ hours; preparation of stories, ½ hour; total, 4 hours. On Saturday morning she is present at the meeting of the Managers of the Rochester Public Library, and familiarizes herself with the work that is being done by them. On Tuesday mornings she attends the meetings of the Special Instructors of the Bureau. This completes her six days work. This system is adapted well to the conditions, and has proven very satisfactory. Our library had a circulation of 4,923 volumes.

Athletic Contests Arranged

With increased efficiency on the part of the directors, the grounds in condition, and the principals anxious for work, we were able to devote more time to the wants and needs of the children. They desired Inter and Intra-Playground Contests—life and excitement. To provide these it was necessary to eliminate as far as possible the distance between the competing playgrounds. This was done by forming two groups, one on each side of the river, and limiting Inter-Playground Contests to games between playgrounds in the same group. Baseball leagues were formed, and tennis tournaments, etc., were held in both groups, and the winners played for the city playground championship. The schedules were completed before the beginning of the summer season.

Playgrounds Classified

In your Bureau you have two kinds of playgrounds, some where the attendance is transient, e. g., Seneca Park; others, where the same children come day after day. The latter class is by far the most important, and it is upon these play-

grounds that we have especially succeeded. It is impossible to do concentrated work with children who do not attend the playground regularly. Therefore, at some of the outlying playgrounds the Bureau furnished the equipment, and let the children take their own course in free play. There the instructors were charged with the duty of preventing accidents, watching equipment, maintaining order and directing play.

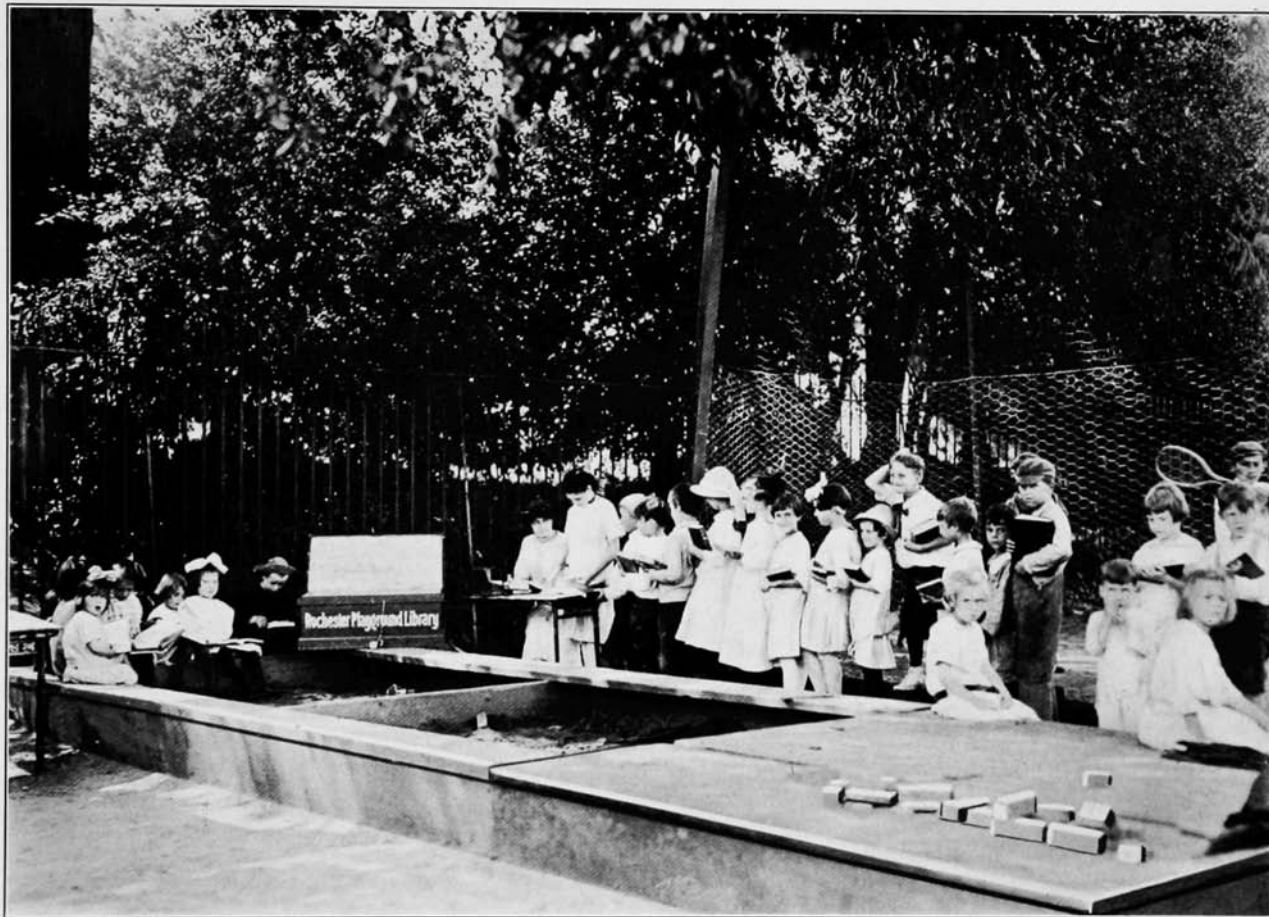
Organization

In organizing for the summer season it was decided to eliminate eight of the regular instructors, and in their place appoint the same number of special teachers, who were well qualified to teach in their special lines. These instructors were directed to report to the playground in accordance with the activity schedule. They taught sewing, basketry, folk dancing, nature study and Boy Scout work. Bulletin boards were kept to inform the children of the various activities, and regular classes were held in these subjects. The special instructors were obliged to meet at the Superintendent's office every Tuesday morning for consultation with the Superintendent and his Assistant. At these meetings plans were made for the ensuing week, and the value of the past work was discussed.

Principals' Meetings

Principals were obliged to report at the office on Monday mornings, when all the schedules were arranged, and the aims of the Superintendent and his Assistant were explained. Typewritten outlines were given out to facilitate the work of the principals, also all problems and plans, including the All-Round Point Contest, were discussed. On these days the principals were obliged to return all worn out supplies and exchange them for new.

Under the arrangement of having the principals meet on Monday, and the special teachers on Tuesday, the field work was carried on at all times without interruption. With this system everyone was kept well informed. It required only



PLAYGROUND LIBRARY

25 out of 75 employees to come to the office and brought about practically the same results as large meetings would have done. It also resulted in quite a saving, as we were obliged to pay the instructors for time spent at the meetings.

It was at these gatherings that the All-Round Point Contest was explained. The children became very enthusiastic over it, and there were over 3000 entries. In all probability it was the largest contest for children that has ever been held in Rochester. Over 600 qualified for the Playground Fob or Merit Pin. The children received points for taking part in the following activities: Weekly Athletic Contests, Intra-Playground Contests, Swimming Trips, Attendance at the story telling hour, Basketry, Folk Dancing, Sewing, Nature Study Trips, Work Done on the Playground, Boy Scout Work, etc.

- Activity Schedule

The detail of the organization was worked out on paper, and at the first Monday morning meeting the principals received full instructions as to the working of the Bureau, together with an activity schedule, and an explanation of the All-Round Point Contest. The following is a copy of the activity schedule for No. 9 Playground. Roman type signifies the activities for girls, italic type for boys, and bold face type for both.

It was necessary for the instructor to carry out this activity schedule at all times, but the children were at liberty to do as they saw fit, providing that they did not interfere with the organized work.

During the evening the older boys and girls who worked during the day were organized into baseball leagues, quilt contests, tennis matches, etc. The girls formed clubs, held entertainments and similar events.

All-Round Point Contest

Boys were awarded points in scout work for the following: marching, first aid, signalling, knot-tying, hikes and reciting the laws and oaths.

| | 9-10 | 10-11 | 11-12 | 12-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-6 | 6-9 |
|-------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--|--|-----|
| Mon. | | Story Telling | Story Telling | Library | Swimming | <i>Scouts</i> Swimming | <i>Playground Association</i> Swimming | |
| Tues. | | <i>Educational Talk</i> | | | | Basketry | <i>Inter-Playground Home Games</i> | |
| Wed. | Weekly Ath. Contest | Weekly Ath. Contest | Weekly Ath. Contest | | <i>Weekly Ath. Contest</i> | <i>Weekly Ath. Contest</i> Dancing | <i>Weekly Ath. Contest</i> Dancing | |
| Thur. | Sewing | Sewing | Sewing | | <i>Swimming</i> | <i>Swimming</i> Nature | <i>Swimming</i> Nature | |
| Fri. | Dancing | Dancing | Dancing | | | Sewing | Sewing | |
| Sat. | | | | | | | | |

For the *Weekly Athletic Contests* the boys were divided into three classes, A, B and C. Class A consisted of boys over 5 feet 2 inches; class B of boys between 4 feet 8 inches and 5 feet 2 inches; class C of boys under 4 feet 8 inches. They competed in three events each week, making a total of 24 different events to complete the contest.

The *Intra-Playground Contests* included all standard athletic events, and each who won his quota of points was eliminated from further participation in the events in which he excelled.

Each playground had one Inter-Playground Contest at home and one abroad each week, and the contests included baseball, tennis, and quilts, in Class A, B and C as above.



BOY SCOUT DEMONSTRATION

The children were given credit for going along to cheer their teams on to victory.

The boys and girls were taken swimming once a week to the various pools on different days, and taught to swim several strokes, diving, the picking up of weights, breaking of holds, etc.

The principals made up a list of the work necessary to be done on the playground, and the children were awarded points according to the difficulty of the task which they performed.

Points were deducted for swearing, unsportsmanlike conduct, smoking and malicious mischief. This aided the instructors in their work and facilitated the keeping of order.

The children were not obliged to enter the contests, but could devote their time to free play if they so desired. However, those children who entered the contests were led into fields which were highly beneficial to them, and because of a determination to succeed received a valuable training. Their interest and enthusiasm influenced the other children to such an extent that the entire attendance entered into a spirit of activity. Some even enjoyed picking up stones and rubbish.

New Playground Opened

A new playground was established at School No. 21 on Colvin Street near Jay, June 15th, and has proved to be a great success, as is shown by the attendance. The grounds were leveled and covered with stone dust. Two tennis courts were built, a baseball diamond laid out, and basketball standards erected. The other apparatus consisted of one 8 razzle giant stride, one pair parallel bars, one sand box, five teeters, one outdoor gymnasium, eight baby swings, sixteen chain swings, one pair jumping standards, two summer slides, and one large winter slide.

New Playground Building Opened

On Saturday, July 24th, the new Washington Playground Building was formally opened. This building was started by

His Honor the Mayor before the Bureau was established and completed under our administration. The attendance at the opening far surpassed the capacity of the building, and showed the real need of a Playground Building in the vicinity of the new Junior High School.

Results of the Summer Season

As a result of the above improvements we have had a total attendance on the Playgrounds of 411,647 children for the summer season. There were 9250 children taught folk dancing, 5300 sewing, 4880 basketry, 4440 scout work, 3637 listened to story telling, 1666 went on nature study trips and 975 boys learned the rudiments of parliamentary procedure. We organized hikes and took 2870 children to the swimming pools and taught many of them to swim. There were over 8500 children competing every day in the various playground games and activities.

FALL SEASON—We refrained from giving too many educational features to the children while in school, and provided only such activities as would exercise the body and bring the child into the air and sunlight. Therefore, basketball, baseball, tennis, German bat ball, and kindred games were indulged in extensively. Six of the Fall Playgrounds were closed on November 15th and remained closed until the grounds were in condition for winter work.

At the remaining six playgrounds, where it is possible to play inside, we provided such activities as are listed on the following schedule:

Washington Playground

Open daily 11:45 to 1—3:30 to 6—7 to 10 P. M.
Saturdays, from 9 A. M. until 11 P. M.

Shower Baths

Boys—Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
Girls—Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
Women—Showers open for women Thursdays, 4 to 6 P. M.



WADING POOL, NO. 36 PLAYGROUND

Schedule for Afternoon Activities

Monday—4 to 6 P. M.

Sewing—Girls under 10 years.

Boys' Basketball League—Boys 12 to 17 years.

Tuesday—4 to 6 P. M.

Girls' Pioneer Club.

Wednesday—4 to 6 P. M.

Girls' Junior Athletic Club—Limited to 30 members.

Athletics—Boys under 17.

Thursday—4 to 6 P. M.

Library and Story Telling.

Sewing—For girls over 10 years.

Friday—4 to 6 P. M.

Jenny Wren Club.

Boys' Basketball League.

Saturday

Morning—Dramatics.

Afternoon—Dancing.

Afternoon—4-5 P. M.—Athletic Contest.

Game Room, 2nd Floor—Quiet Games—chess, checkers, lotto, parchesi and dominoes—hours 4 to 6 P. M.

Evening Activities

Monday—Washington Athletic Club

Troup 18, Boy Scouts, E. K. Smith, Scout Master.

Tuesday—Hartford Athletic Club.

Wednesday—Camp Fire Night

Winona—R. M. Wilson, Guardian

Minawas—B. Tracy, Guardian

Minnetoska—D. Kinney, Guardian

No. 9—D. Corris, Guardian

Grand Council—First Wednesdays in

January, April, July and October.

Thursday—Community Club—Open to adults over 16

Lecture, Concert or Play each week.

Friday—Open House

Boys' and Girls' Play Rooms and Game Room,

open 7-10 P. M.

Saturday—Dancing, 7:30 to 11.

Open to all over 16 years of age.

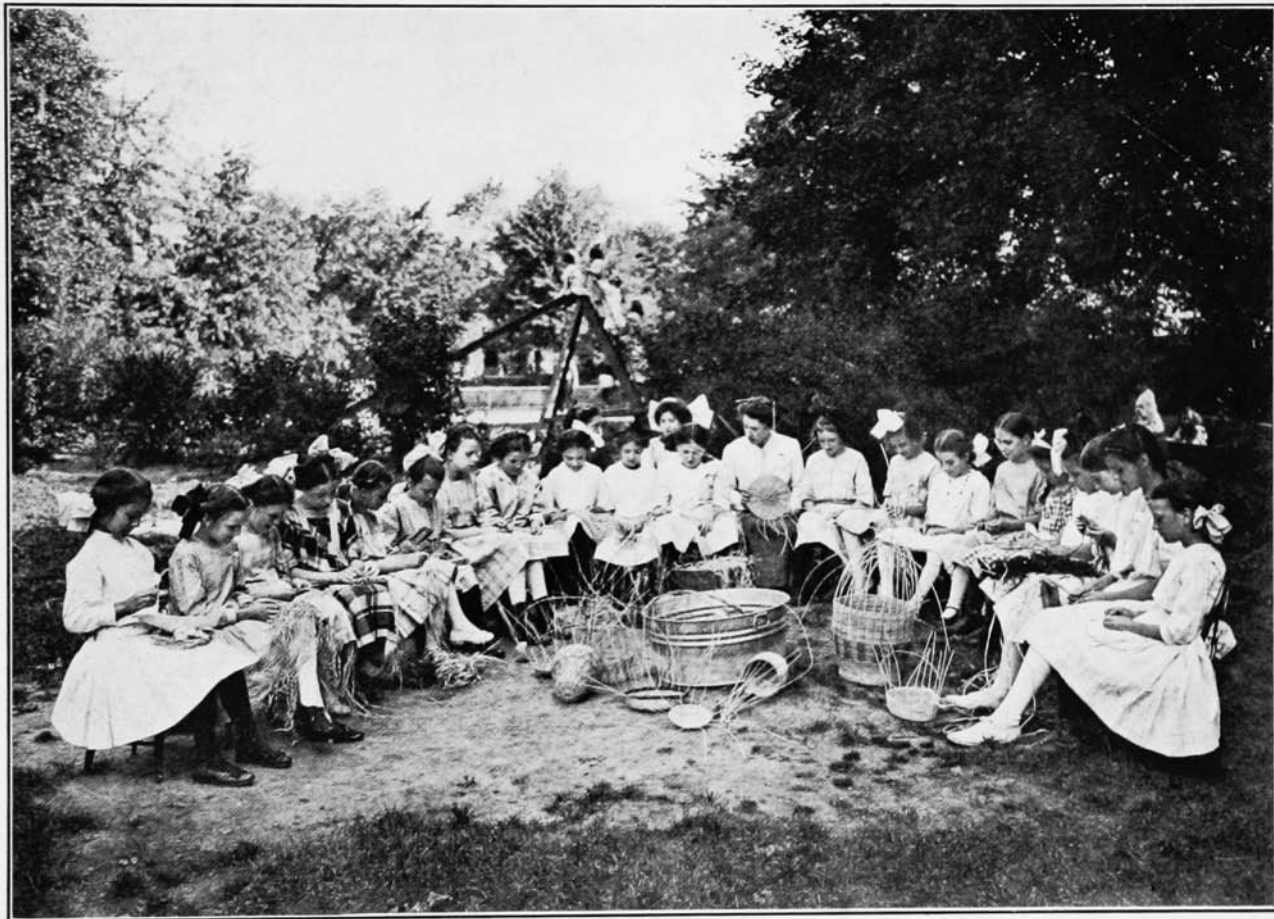
WINTER SEASON—For the winter season large slides have been erected at 12 Playgrounds, and a skating rink was prepared at the No. 9 School Grounds. The Park Department also constructed a rink at No. 11 Playground. Inside activities were carried on as before and portable buildings were placed on the grounds which had no shelter. We provided sleds for the children and encouraged out of door activities when the weather was suitable. These playgrounds were opened December 15th, the hours being with but few exceptions from 3 to 6 and all day Saturday. During the Christmas vacation we kept them open from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M. daily.

Swimming Pools

There were during the summer two outdoor swimming pools, namely, Genesee Valley Park and Seneca Park, and two indoor pools, Exposition Park and South Avenue. These pools were open from 10 A. M. until 8 P. M. with the exception of South Avenue, which is open from 2 P. M. until 10 P. M. It was arranged so that ladies could attend these pools on various days in the week as designated.

South Avenue Pool is by far the largest. Its dimensions are 46 feet x 80 feet and it varies in depth from 3 to 7 feet. The water is changed three times per week, and sterilized with chloride of lime on the other days.

Exposition Park Pool is a smaller pool, and in some respects inadequate, inasmuch as it does not accommodate the crowds successfully, and should be enlarged. The present pool is 45 feet 6 inches long, and 13 feet 6 inches wide, and varies in depth from 4 to 6 feet.



BASKETRY CLASS

Genesee Valley Park Pool is an outside pool, and is 50 feet long and 25 feet wide. Depth, 7 feet at one end and 2½ at other. The water is changed twice a week and chloride of lime is used as a disinfectant. There is a building adjacent, which contains lockers, showers, toilets, etc. The building is adequate and the pool seems to be very well attended.

Seneca Park Pool—Shower baths have been installed and the locker room has been improved. The water could be kept more clean by increasing the diameter of and lowering the drainage pipe. At present the last 10 inches of water has to be bailed out. Emil Rahm, who has thoroughly mastered the German system of physical education, was in charge and taught many to swim.

Bath Houses

There are two, one is located at No. 39 Baden Street, and the other at No. 250 South Avenue.

Baden Street Bath House is the most popular of the two, having provided 109,433 baths the past year. It has been kept in good condition and the floors and general tone of the building are satisfactory, from a general point of view, with but one complaint, and that is the building is too small.

South Avenue Bath House is very close to the South Avenue Swimming Pool, and, therefore, its patronage is somewhat less than one would expect, inasmuch as the bathers can take a shower bath and follow it by a plunge in the pool. The attendance in the South Avenue Bath House as compared with the attendance at Baden Street, which is a smaller institution, does not appear very favorable. The bath houses are open from 8 A. M. until 9:30 P. M.

Baseball

The baseball season for the Park Diamonds started April 1, 1915. The schedule was drawn up by the Bureau and permits were given out. There were 11 diamonds as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Genesee Valley Park..... | 3 |
| Exposition Park..... | 4 |
| Seneca Park..... | 1 |
| Maplewood Park..... | 1 |
| Durand-Eastman Park..... | 1 |
| Cobbs Hill..... | 1 |

On July 17, 1915, there were 2 more diamonds added at Exposition Park, making a total of 13 baseball diamonds at the close of the season. There were 2898 games played on these diamonds, and an approximate attendance of 144,900.

Indoor Baseball, Exposition Park—A schedule was arranged for the Indoor Baseball Teams, and there were 7 leagues formed, as follows:

Lutheran Sunday School League
 North West Church League
 Industrial League
 City League
 Foresters of America
 Sunday School Athletic League
 Senior League

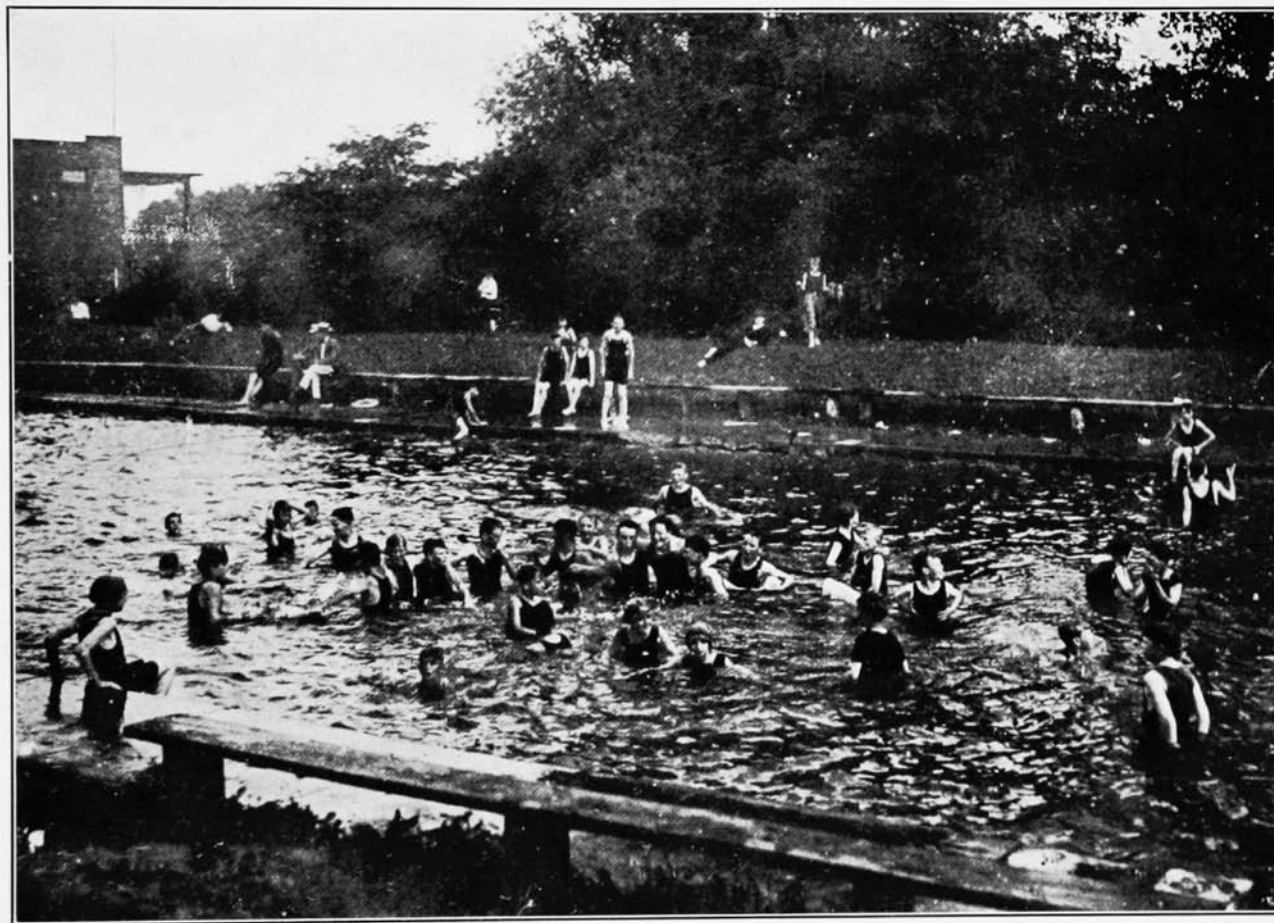
They will play throughout the winter season.

Fox Hunt

The Fox Hunt took place on Tuesday, March 30th, at Cobbs Hill, and was held on dry ground. The fox was led around the hill over a 4 mile course, and about 80 dogs followed the scent. There was some dispute at the end as to the winning dog, as the officials disqualified the first three dogs, owing to the fact that they did not follow the scent, but ran toward the crowd of people gathered at the finish.

Kite Flying Day

Aeroplanes, gliders and flying craft of many other types flew over Genesee Valley Park for the greater part of the afternoon of May 15th. The competition was between 50 boys and a few girls, who reeled off yards and yards of twine



GENESEE VALLEY PARK POOL

in a desperate effort to get their kites higher than those of their companions. A stout breeze blew over the reaches of the Park Polo Grounds, and the kites tugged at their tethers like frisky colts, so that the small boys at the other ends of the lines were hard pressed to keep from following them into the air, and in some cases were obliged to appeal for assistance. It was a picturesque sight when all the kites were in the air, as they were of all sizes and shapes and at all degrees of altitude. Now and again a tragedy befell when the wind became too furious and tore and twisted one of the delicate structures of paper and wood, finally dropping it to earth like a wounded bird.

Inter-Playground Scout Hike

To Durand-Eastman Park July 22, 1915. Two hundred and forty lively youngsters made up the rank and file of the first big gathering of the Playground Scouts for this season. They marched to the Park from the intersection of Norton Street and Portland Avenue. The lads were led by a bugle and drum corps made up of the musicians of the different troops, and the line was strung out for nearly a quarter of a mile. Enroute a competitive drill was held in which the boys demonstrated their knowledge of marching tactics. The Troop from No. 9 was given first place, with the Washington Playground boys second. Third place went to the West High Playground.

Upon their arrival at the Park camps were built along the beach and among the rocks, each troop was required to gather wood for a fire and prepare the fuel for lighting. The children were awarded points in the All-Round Point Contest for their proficiency in this work. In the afternoon the boys cooked their lunch over the fires, played games and sported themselves in the water. There was also a programme of scout sports with a 10 pound box of candy as prize for the winning troop. This was captured by No. 9. The other events were followed by a peanut scramble.

Annual City Championship Swimming Meet

On Saturday afternoon, July 31st, about 150 of the city's best swimmers competed for the Open City Championship. The most important event was the 100 yard swimming race, which was won by Oscar Loeser, first, Harold Clark, second, and Milton Johnson, third. The diving on this occasion was very interesting, especially that of the young ladies. Several experts seemed to think that the diving surpassed that of some professionals.

Inter-Playground Track Meet

The meet was held on Saturday, August 15th, at Genesee Valley Park, with 250 entries. It proved a great success. The events included races of 220 yards, 175 yards, 100 yards, 50 yards and 35 yards, the distances being graduated to suit the age and strength of the contestants. Field events were also competed in. The boys went through the meet in such a manner as to surprise even the most optimistic. It lasted a little over two hours.

Inter-Playground Swimming Meet

The results of our efforts to make swimmers of the youths of Rochester were demonstrated on the afternoon of Monday, August 16th, at the Genesee Valley Park Pool, where 150 boys and girls from the playgrounds of the city participated in the First Annual Playground Swimming Meet. No prizes were offered for the events, and yet so deeply has the spirit of true sportsmanship been ingrained in the young athletes that they came out and swam their very best to help swell the total number of points for their playground.

South Avenue Playground, as was expected, won the meet. The boys and girls who frequent that playground have access to the public pool, and they swim as much as they play ball. The day was perfect for swimming and quite a gallery, consisting of mothers, brothers and sisters, crowded around the pool to watch the young swimmers.



WINNERS—MODEL AEROPLANE CONTEST

Playground Demonstration

On a field south of the paddock at Exposition Park about 1200 children from all the playgrounds in the city gathered on August 24th, to give a demonstration of the work taught during the summer season. The folk dances and games were attractive in themselves, but doubly pleasing when presented by children. No special costumes were called for, as it is our aim to make no expense for the parents in preparing their children for demonstrations. The decorations required for the dances were paper sashes and streamers, which we provided. The effect was the same as if silk ribbon had been used. Girls under 9 years of age skipped through the pretty folk dance called "I See You." The older girls danced the "Ace of Diamonds," wearing red diamonds on their white frocks. The "Butterfly Dance," the "Danish Dance of Greeting," and others were all beautifully presented, as well as the "May Pole Dance," in which the costumes and pole strands were white and orange.

One hundred and fifty Boy Scouts gave an exhibition of marching and drilling, and took the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

Every alternate number was a game, and the children entered into the spirit of the occasion and made it the most beautiful sight of the playground year.

In Building No. 9 of Exposition Park there was a splendid exhibition of the Industrial and Nature Study Work. This exhibition attracted so much attention that we were asked to maintain our display during the Rochester Industrial Exposition.

Regatta

Regatta at Genesee Valley Park on Saturday, August 28th, was conducted with the co-operation of the Genesee Valley Boating Association. It was a threatening day, and owing to many counter attractions it was not well attended, however, those who participated enjoyed the sport. In the even-

ing it rained and prevented a band concert, which was to be held on the float.

Second Boy Scout Hike

The Playground Scouts enjoyed themselves so thoroughly at the first scout hike that they demanded another. Late in August the second trip was made to Durand-Eastman Park, and it was interesting to note the improvement in scout work as compared with the previous trip.

Playground Pet Show

On September 7th a Pet Show was held at the Front Street Playground. Long before the time arrived happy groups of youngsters brought their pets to be exhibited in competition with those of the other children. There was no formality. The children simply brought their pets and displayed them. Almost every conceivable kind of pet was present from trained fleas on through the list to Shetland ponies. There were mud turtles, rabbits, pigeons, chickens, dogs, cats, etc.

The Commissioner of Parks kindly consented to judge the pets and divided the dogs into several groups, pugs, pups, poodles, setters, terriers, beagles and bulls. The classes were not closely drawn and many owners went home the proud possessor of a ribbon. The pride shown by the children was a delight to witness. Two boys sat around the whole afternoon nursing Rhode Island roosters. Others exhibited forlorn cats and cuddled them, stroking their fur to hear them purr with evident satisfaction and affection. "It is a wonderfully wholesome thing for a child to love and care for a pet of some kind. A boy who loves his own dog will hesitate to abuse another boy's dog."

Opening Durand-Eastman Subway

The opening of the Subway on October 16, 1915, was one of the delightful affairs of the late summer. A grand



PLAYGROUND DEMONSTRATION

march was led by the park camels ridden by Miss Marguerite Wilson and Miss Dorothy Corris. One of the prettiest features of the afternoon was the folk dancing. Two car loads of children participated in these ceremonies, which were held at the foot of the pavilion beside the roadway. To the accompaniment of the band the children went through their dances, swaying this way and that as gracefully and unconsciously as though no crowd was pushing close to watch them.

Amateur Athletic Federation Meet

On Labor Day, September 6th, there was a track meet at Genesee Valley Park, in which the various shops and organizations represented in the Amateur Athletic Federation took part. The value of meets of this nature cannot be overestimated, as it stimulates thousands of employees in the shops and factories to keep their bodies physically fit for athletic competition. The event was fairly well attended and seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed.

Washington Community Club

This organization was formed on November 11, 1915, for the purpose of conducting meetings for social activities, and the enlightenment of its members along general lines of interest. Up to date the club has about 150 members, and the average attendance is approximately 90. The club meets in the new Washington Playground Building on Thursday evenings, and a course of lectures is being given by some of Rochester's most prominent men.

Hartford Athletic Club

This club was formed at the Hartford Street Playground and bids fair to become one of the largest athletic clubs in the city. It has among its officers prominent Italian contractors and men of influence. They meet once a week in

the Washington Building, where basketball, indoor games, wrestling and other sports are indulged in. This club meets four other evenings at the Hartford Street Playground Building, and requires so much time from its members that the poolroom and saloon keepers in that vicinity have asked the director to discontinue the club. This request was brought about because of a decrease in their business.

Everybody's Christmas Tree

A large Christmas tree was placed on the lawn north of the band stand at Exposition Park. It was decorated by the Rochester Railway & Light Co. On Christmas night a musical programme was arranged which was held in Building No. 5. At that time an entertainment was provided, which teemed with Christmas spirit for those individuals within our midst who had no other place to go at this festive time. The entertainment was so attractive, however, that many left the warmth and cheer of their own homes to be present. We illuminated the tree every night between Christmas eve and the 2nd of January.

Results

As a result of the centralization of Rochester's Recreational Activities, it gives your Superintendent great pleasure to report that, so far as he has been able to ascertain, it is the consensus of opinion of all those interested in the Playground Movement that we have enjoyed the most successful year since the Playgrounds were established in Rochester.

This phenomenal season was brought about, first, because the Commissioner of Parks, the Deputy Commissioner, and his Honor the Mayor, co-operated with and advised your Superintendent; second, because of the excellent work of the Assistant Superintendent, and thirdly, because the instructors were at all times informed as to the latest and most approved methods of playground work.



BOY SCOUT SWIMMING—DURAND-EASTMAN PARK

Recommendations

The same sense of duty should impel the municipality to provide recreational activities which prompts it to provide schools. The perfection of body and spirit is accomplished largely during periods of recreation. Most of our social evils can be traced directly or indirectly to impropriety in the quest of happiness. To prevent vice, crime, delinquency, imbecility, inebriety, disease, etc., it is necessary to attack the source from which they come. We lead future citizens into happiness, through the development of their bodies, minds and spirits, making so far as we are able with the material at hand the finest type of American. Every child in our city should be provided with a proper place to play. At present our system is inadequate, and your Superintendent recommends the establishment of at least two new field houses on existing playgrounds and four new playgrounds to accommodate the immediate needs.

Respectfully submitted this 3rd day of January, 1916.

ROBERT A. BERNHARD,
Superintendent of Playgrounds and Recreation.

Attendance Report

| <i>Playground</i> | <i>Summer Season</i> | <i>Spring and Fall Season</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| No. 7 Playground..... | 21,604 | 14,708 | 36,312 |
| No. 9 Playground..... | 41,010 | 32,750 | 73,760 |
| No. 11 Playground..... | 12,250 | 22,692 | 34,942 |
| No. 15 Playground..... | 12,050 | 13,978 | 26,028 |
| No. 21 Playground..... | 24,400 | 9,708 | 34,108 |
| No. 36 Playground..... | 18,181 | 21,025 | 39,206 |
| Brown Square..... | 38,351 | 36,861 | 75,212 |
| Front Street..... | 25,075 | 29,195 | 54,270 |
| Hartford Street..... | 38,996 | 25,129 | 64,125 |
| South Avenue..... | 9,091 | 10,835 | 19,926 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Washington | 39,410 | 40,283 | 79,693 |
| Exposition Park..... | 29,503 | 19,712 | 49,215 |
| Genesee Valley..... | 18,584 | | 18,584 |
| Seneca Park..... | 25,603 | | 25,603 |
| Maplewood Park..... | 10,540 | | 10,540 |
| Durand-Eastman Park.... | 11,038 | | 11,038 |
| West High..... | 35,962 | | 35,962 |
| | <u>411,648</u> | <u>276,813</u> | <u>688,481</u> |

Pools

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Genesee Valley Park..... | 12,351 | | 12,351 |
| Seneca Park..... | 19,945 | | 19,945 |
| Exposition Park..... | 13,623 | | 13,623 |
| South Avenue..... | 18,057 | 42,983 | 61,040 |
| | <u>63,976</u> | <u>42,983</u> | <u>106,959</u> |

Bath Houses

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| South Avenue..... | 19,005 | 47,540 | 66,545 |
| Baden Street..... | 22,678 | 66,755 | 89,433 |
| | <u>41,683</u> | <u>114,295</u> | <u>155,978</u> |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Total Attendance at Playgrounds—Summer, Spring and Fall..... | 688,481 |
| Total Attendance at Pools—Summer, Spring and Fall | 106,959 |
| Total Attendance at Bath Houses—Summer, Spring and Fall..... | 155,978 |
| Attendance Exposition Park—Winter Season—Baseball—Building 5..... | 30,000 |
| Approximate Attendance for Winter Season.... | 217,000 |
| Total Attendance for Year..... | <u>1,198,417</u> |

FINANCIAL STATEMENT — PLAYGROUNDS — 1915

| | No. 7 | No. 9 | No. 11 | No. 14 | No. 15 | No. 21 | No. 36 | Brown Square | Front Street | Hartford Street | South Avenue | Washington | Expo. Park P. G. | West High | Genesee Valley Park | Seneca Park | Maplewood Park | Durand-Eastman | Expo. Park Pool | Expo. Park Bldg. No. 5 | General Administration | |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|
| Stated Salaries... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3567.95 |
| Directors' Salaries | 1153.71 | 1700.07 | 1183.80 | 4.00 | 1226.95 | 891.06 | 1266.18 | 2106.47 | 2080.50 | 1918.91 | 1160.44 | 2258.28 | 2126.76 | 581.10 | 471.70 | 477.60 | 451.20 | 156.00 | 171.26 | | | 1724.38 |
| Caretakers' | 5.00 | 14.00 | | | 12.00 | | | 739.36 | 272.55 | 671.10 | 7.00 | 724.88 | 336.50 | 1.88 | | | | | | | | 2513.96 |
| Ptg. & Stationery | | | | | | 3.50 | | | | | | 11.75 | | | | | | | | | | 162.00 |
| Special Events... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 605.51 |
| P. G. Supplies... | 178.19 | 286.93 | 222.52 | | 217.15 | 203.80 | 217.87 | 396.66 | 267.59 | 323.80 | 214.92 | 436.96 | 251.63 | 144.91 | 67.64 | 71.51 | 74.62 | 70.98 | .65 | 64.80 | | |
| P. G. Equipment. | 75.28 | 22.84 | 63.02 | | 38.98 | 833.13 | 54.99 | 314.95 | 97.50 | 63.35 | | 611.92 | 12.00 | 38.15 | 6.31 | | | | | | | 25.38 |
| Crtkrs' Supplies.. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 45.24 |
| Telephones | | 12.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 61.29 |
| Office Equipment. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 18.28 |
| Office Supplies... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 175.45 |
| Carting | | | 13.84 | | | | | | 5.00 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 237.73 |
| Bldg. and Repairs | 41.01 | 60.22 | 39.52 | 5.64 | 80.66 | 47.98 | 41.17 | 113.40 | 128.43 | 126.21 | 39.77 | 340.99 | 12.75 | 9.65 | | | 7.68 | | | | | 46.96 |
| Plumbing | | 125.03 | 31.25 | 13.50 | 34.30 | | 181.20 | 41.35 | 82.83 | 116.55 | | 5.70 | 9.10 | 28.92 | 9.35 | | | | | | | |
| Coal | 3.16 | 17.99 | 3.16 | | | 3.16 | 6.17 | 50.74 | 67.04 | 43.02 | 28.33 | 129.08 | | | | | | | | | 203.89 | |
| Lighting | | 23.10 | | | | | | 13.85 | 78.72 | 28.56 | | 22.39 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Laundry | | 2.13 | | | | | | | 26.98 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Insurance | | | | | | | | | | | | 39.50 | | | | | | | | | | 51.18 |
| P. G. Library | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 550.90 |
| Auto Expense | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 584.55 |
| Miscellaneous ... | | 28.00 | | | 3.00 | | | | | 52.33 | | | | | | | | | | | | 396.54 |
| | 1456.35 | 2292.31 | 1557.11 | 23.14 | 1613.04 | 1982.63 | 1767.58 | 3776.78 | 3107.14 | 3343.83 | 1450.46 | 4581.45 | 2748.74 | 804.61 | 555.00 | 549.11 | 533.50 | 228.98 | 375.80 | 64.80 | | \$10767.30 |

FINANCIAL STATEMENT — BATH HOUSES — 1915

BADEN STREET BATH HOUSE AND SOUTH AVENUE BATH HOUSE AND POOL

| | Baden Street Bath House | South Avenue Bath House and Pool |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Salaries—Attendants | 1292.00 | 4593.83 |
| Salaries—Engineers | 1020.00 | 2040.00 |
| Salaries—Laborers | 133.13 | 135.63 |
| Soap | 292.50 | 293.10 |
| Coal | 628.57 | 2317.58 |
| Lighting | 207.89 | 659.36 |
| Equipment | 9.97 | 170.33 |
| Supplies | 464.34 | 203.90 |
| Laundry | 379.00 | 1042.33 |
| Plumbing | 49.43 | 93.04 |
| Telephones | 30.00 | 30.00 |
| Building and Repairs..... | 37.73 | 463.89 |
| Insurance | 22.40 | 41.25 |
| | \$4566.95 | \$12084.24 |



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