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A RECOMMENDED PROGRAM OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE INDUCTION AND RECEPTION CENTERS OPERATED BY THE W.C.C.A.

**Introduction:**

In analyzing the many factors involved in the creation of a plan of this nature, it is necessary to think of recreation in its broadest terms, as in this particular case it will include practically the entire social relationships of the people living in these communities. This fact will be true to even a greater extent in the induction centers as there will be less opportunity for work in these centers than at the reception centers.

The objectives of a recreation program for these camps will have several different angles to consider. The real object should be an attempt at keeping people active and busy, thereby eliminating discontent and social friction within the camp itself which is the natural result of boredom and inactivity. In addition a well directed program will contribute directly to the efficient operation of the entire camp.

In planning for a recreation program of this kind several general factors should be given careful consideration. The people themselves are of all classes and ages. There are the men and women over forty-five years of age, many of whom are aliens who speak no English and who have been susceptible to little or no community social life. Then there are the American born between the ages of twenty and forty-five, many of whom are married and have families in camp. This group is more familiar with community life and to a great extent more likely to mix and participate in the social activities created within the camp. In addition to this, most of the leadership for the program will be found among this group.

The other divisions to consider include the pre-school children from three to six years of age, the school age children from seven to fourteen years, and the young men and women of high school and college age fifteen to twenty-one years.

It is also well to keep in mind that there probably will be three types of Japanese in every camp. The Alien group which includes most of the older people; the "Nisei" group which includes those born and educated in America (many of whom are of the Christian faith), and the group known as the "Kibei" which includes those born in America and educated in Japan. The distinction between these two latter groups is very noticeable especially among the younger men and boys. The Kibei apparently feel that they are under suspicion and to a great extent they are viewed in that light by the majority of the Nisei. It is well to give careful consideration to these factors, as in many cases these people will not mingle but will associate in cliques and distinctive groups. Another significant fact is that there are few girls who might be called Kibei. Apparently in many cases, especially at dances, these girls refuse to mingle with the Kibei boys.

Planning:

In developing ideas for a recreation program it would be well to think in terms of three phases of planning:

First--Those activities which can be organized immediately with no facilities or equipment and with a minimum of leadership.

Second--Those activities which might be carried on when it is possible to construct facilities, purchase equipment and train people for leadership.

Third--The development of an organization to carry on a complete program based on the principles of recognized community recreation.

Organization:

The object of the first phase of this planning is to get some type of activity going immediately regardless of what it is. If there has been no director of recreation appointed to the staff, then the staff member in charge of community services might use the following suggestions.

Locate within the camp four or five of the younger men and women who have had some experience either in leading or in participating in recreation activities. These people will be easy to locate once the first prospective leader is found. As a practical suggestion, look for one of the young men wearing a high school or college sports award sweater. He will either know or can locate

the other people. When these people are found it would be well to call them together to discuss the proposed recreation program and to get their ideas on how it might be organized.

## Pre-School Play Center

The first activity that might be opened is a play center for small children from three to six years of age. This activity will get the small children out from under the feet of mothers and give them a chance to work on their living quarters.

If there has been no community hall or recreation center designated in the camp this should be done. The operation of several play centers can be carried on in one or more of these recreation halls.

The pre-school play center program might be started on a limited basis with leadership provided by some of the young women who have had previous experience handling small children. When the leaders have been selected and given some idea of what is expected of them and a room has been found, notices should be posted on bulletin boards announcing the location of the play centers and the hours they are to be open. The mothers should be instructed to bring their children to the center to be interviewed by the leaders as to the children's age, health and other characteristics, et cetera. At this time it should be made very plain to the mothers that if the child is accepted as a member of the play center, he is to be brought to the center in the morning by the mother and called for at noon.

At first the program for these centers should probably consist of children's low organization games, story telling, cut outs, et cetera. As equipment is made or purchased the activities can be expanded into a complete program as carried on in the average pre-school play center. (Information on types of play equipment which might be made from scrap lumber, and also suggested program activities, are attached to this report.)

## School Age and Older Boys and Girls

For the school age and older boys and girls several types of recreation facilities might be made from scrap lumber and located in any small area, preferably adjacent to the community halls or recreation centers. Such facilities can be made at little cost and entirely from scrap material. They include tether ball, paddle

tennis courts, box hockey, ping pong tables, volley ball standards, shuffleboard, basket ball standards and possibly a temporary soft-ball back stop. (Plans for the construction of these are also attached.)

These facilities, with the exception of the softball diamond should be located in concentrated areas, preferably adjacent to the recreation hall, and can be under the supervision of a recreation leader or several leaders selected from people living in the camp.

The softball diamond might be laid out on any level piece of ground. The only equipment necessary is a soft ball and bat, and possibly a catcher's mask and glove.

Several portable ping pong tables, as well as checkers, chess and other table games might also be set up in the recreation hall, especially in the afternoons and evenings.

Dances in the recreation hall might be arranged for the younger men and women, preferably on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. The only equipment necessary for this is a phonograph and a public address system.

In practically every camp there will be people who are either professional entertainers or amateurs who are talented enough to provide entertainment. One of these people can be appointed to organize an entertainment troupe which might include both music and variety acts. The big problem connected with this type of activity will be to obtain the musical instruments. There will be a great many musicians but they will be minus their instruments. A show of this nature might be given in the community or recreation hall once a week.

If there is a piano available, or even if there is not, a choir can be organized once a leader has been located. Many of the people in the camps have been members of church choirs.

A portable stage with improvised stage curtains can be built very simply and placed at one end of the recreation hall. If it is possible to obtain a 16 milimeter moving picture projector, moving pictures might also be shown in the recreation hall.

A reading room or a small library might also be located in the recreation hall which would include newspapers, magazines and any of the books which might be included in the average community library. The younger people will be interested in the same reading material that young Americans are interested in.

To provide any type of activity for the older people will be quite a difficult task as they will undoubtedly resent any attempt to organize activities for them. About the only thing that can be done for them would be to arrange a small area in one of the buildings where they might congregate to talk and also to play "sho-gi" or "goh", two of the Japanese table games comparable to chess. Inasmuch as most of these people read very little English, any reading material would have to be in Japanese.

## Personnel

The second phase of this program should include the selection of personnel from among the people to handle the development of an expanded recreation program. These people will have to be sought out as it is not a characteristic of the Japanese to volunteer. When these people have been selected, a training program should be organized to better prepare them for directing the recreational activities.

As leaders are found and trained, and as facilities and equipment are obtained, the play schools for the small children can be expanded in numbers and in the hours they are to be kept open.

The program of sports and athletics for the older boys and girls can be expanded to include team competition, either on the basis of recreation centers, sections of camp or organized clubs. Tournaments in paddle tennis, horse shoes and ping pong are also possible.

Handcraft activities and hobby clubs might be organized for both young people and adults. A boy scout and girl scout troop might also provide an interesting development; but if this is attempted, it should be done under the counsel and guidance of the regional office of these organizations.

All of these activities should be organized around the program of the recreation centers.

Opportunities to participate in many of the so-called cultural arts, such as painting, sketching, music and dramatics should also be organized as part of this program. Many of the people in camp will have outstanding talents which will provide leadership for these activities.

As the entire program of activities is expanded, it should be tied into an over-all organization which is part of both the second and third phase of the plan.

## Community Organization

The third phase of the program should include definite community organization. An advisory recreation committee made up of some of the older and better known people of the camp might be appointed by the camp manager or the recreation director. This group of people would be of great service to the recreation director in not only carrying on the over-all program, but also in giving him ideas as to the reaction of the people in camp to the program being provided for them.

As the program in each of the recreation halls is developed, a recreation director should be appointed to be responsible for all activities conducted either in the building or adjacent to the building in the proposed play ground areas. Under this director there should probably be a pre-school play center director and sufficient staff for this activity based on one leader to every ten children.

It will probably be advisable to also have a woman recreation leader to handle the play ground activities for small children, girls and women, and a man recreation leader to handle the activities for the boys and men outside the center.

A janitor should be assigned to take care of these buildings as they should be kept clean and attractive at all times.

It would also be advisable to set up advisory recreation committees for each of the recreation centers. These people might be selected from among those living in the vicinity of the center. These groups would act in an advisory capacity to the recreation center leaders and the other members of the staff carrying on the program at each of the recreation centers. The camp recreation director might also include on his immediate staff several people who might organize activities on an over-all basis. These might include a music and drama supervisor, a director of professional entertainment, a librarian and a director of sports and athletics.

Wherever there is a large enough area within the camp available, a well planned recreation field might include several softball diamonds, a play field for soccer, touch tackle and other field games and several outdoor basketball courts. Some type of rough bleachers might also be constructed where the people could watch the softball games. The Japanese, as a rule--even the older people--are very interested spectators of all types of athletic contests. This recreation field should be planned for the purpose of providing facilities for the types of games that are not included in the smaller areas located adjacent to the recreation halls.

It might be advisable to think in terms of the recreation building as the community center, the areas adjacent to the recreation building as the typical play ground and the larger recreation field as the area for sports and athletic contests.

In using this suggested plan for recreation in the camps, it would be well to keep in mind the fact that it can be adjusted to meet almost any situation regardless of the location, size or facilities available. Leadership will provide the main feature in the success of a program regardless of where it is carried on.

E. Rodney Overton
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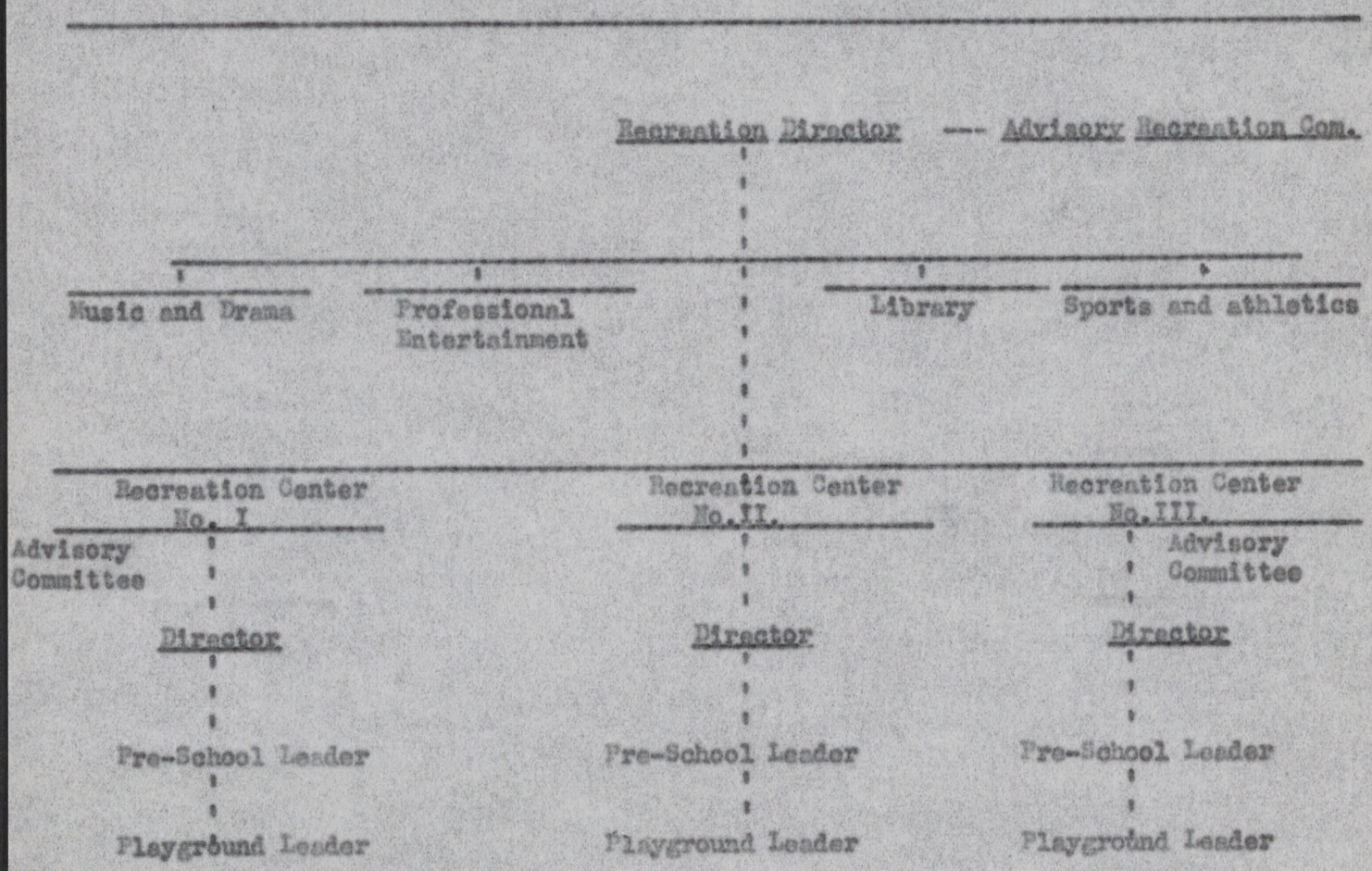
PROPOSED ORGANIZATION CHART

Recreation Program

W.C.C.A. - Induction and Reception Centers.



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Publications on recreation and Consultation on Community Recreation Problems may be obtained by writing to the National Recreation Association, 315-4th Avenue, New York City.