



FLORIDA

Recreation News

FLORIDA RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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SOMETHING FOR ALL - ST. PETE'S MOTTO



YOUNGER SET'S DELIGHT is St. Petersburg's Bartlett Park Youth Center. This popular recreation center was opened in December 1951 and besides being the focal point of the City Recreation Department's youth work, it is also the site of many high school basketball games, holiday programs, dances and variety shows.

Young, Old Like Expanded Program

Something for everyone might well be the motto of the St. Petersburg Recreation Department. The phenomenal growth of the city in the last few years has called for a rapid expansion of the Department which has endeavored to stretch its budget to cover as much territory as possible.

Service to the youth of the community is one of the major objectives of the Department. Activities include volleyball, newcomb, basketball, softball and touch football during the fall and winter for youngsters 9 to 11 years while arts and crafts are popular for the younger children at the 16 playgrounds.

In addition to the sports program special events, skating and picnics find a definite place in the program. The city-wide Hallowe'en Celebration is conducted annually with the aid of local civic groups and The St. Petersburg Times.

A field day in the spring attracts 3,000 boys and a similar number of girls.

During the summer 16 centers are operated for nine weeks along with the day camp, "La-ma-da-ca," which started in 1949.

One of the most popular programs the past season was Little League baseball co-sponsored by the Booster Club and the Department. Seven leagues of four teams each were organized and culminated in the city-wide championships. In addition the Boys League for youngsters 13-15 years of age was divided into two circuits of six teams each.

Also during the summer free "Learn-to-Swim" programs were held in cooperation with the Red Cross at the Spa Pool. A similar program was held at the Jennie Hall Pool for negro children. This pool was completed in June and \$25,000 of the total \$90,000 cost was donated by Miss Jennie Hall.

Still another extremely popular facility
(continued on page 3)

MIAMI UNIVERSITY SERIOUSLY CONSIDERS OFFERING MAJOR COURSE IN RECREATION

At the request of the recreation executives in Southeast Florida, the University of Miami is undertaking the study of the possibility of offering a recreation major and is making definite progress towards this goal with tentative deadline set for the scholastic year of 1955-56, according to the latest word received.

In April 1954, recreation executives of Southeast Florida, who meet at regular intervals during the year, went on record to request that the University of Miami study the possibility of offering this major and that a small committee of recreation executives meet with University officials to explore the matter further.

Mrs. Marion Wood Huey was appointed to write the official letter for the group to the president of the University, Dr. Jay F. Pearson, and to the Dean of the School of Education, Dr. John Beery. Dr. Pearson replied promptly that the University was definitely interested and the only limitation to what they could do would be due to lack of funds. He said he was referring the matter for further study to Dr. Beery. Dr. Beery turned the matter over to

Dr. Willis Smith, chairman of the Physical Education Department.

Dr. Smith called a meeting in early June. Attending were Dr. Smith, Dr. Gertrude Mooney, Mrs. Catharine Sample, Samuel P. Messer, representing the physical education department and Zollie Maynard of the State Department of Education. Recreation executives who attended included Knox Eldredge, Frank "Pete" Roberts, Miami, Arthur Peavy, Miami Springs, Denson Hambleton, Hialeah, Mrs. Marguerite Moore, Coral Gables Youth Center, Marion Huey, Miami Beach, Temple Jarrell, Fort Lauderdale and Charles "Chuck" McCarthy, new department head of Coral Gables gave the matter their enthusiastic support.

The University group has met several times since the joint meeting and have accomplished a great deal to date. Not only subject matter but internship, job recruitment for graduates and many other phases need detailed study to insure the success of this very important addition to the degrees offered by the University of Miami. To Dr. Smith and Mrs. Sample go the heartfelt thanks of Florida recreation executives.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hello to all recreation people:

I want to thank all of you for your fine letters asking what service you can be to our State Association. This makes me feel that all of you are wanting to see to it personally that we all get going toward a big year for our group.

It is becoming very apparent that our State Association is on the move. I feel so pleased after the National Recreation Congress and the response at the fine breakfast meeting we had of the Florida delegation.

We all are beginning to realize that the strength of our Association rests in the hands of each and every one of us, and not in just a selected group of its members. Together we will not only strengthen our Association but our recreation profession as well. We all must continue to get all the workers in recreation registered and have them become active members of our State group.

The Board of Directors decided our State meeting will be held in the middle part of May in Jacksonville. Let's all plan to attend this meeting and keep up the fine cooperation we all are having among our members.

Please feel free to write me for any help about any problems confronting you as far as your State Association is concerned. I hope to see you all very soon. Good luck in your work.

JACK PURYEAR.

Editorial

Another Milestone Passed in Recreation Field

With this, the first printed issue of the new Florida Recreation News, we cannot help but feel that the FLORIDA RECREATION ASSOCIATION has passed a milestone towards its major objective of advancing recreation, both public and private, as a field of service and standing shoulder to shoulder with other community services including education, health and welfare.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors in Orlando definite plans were formulated to increase the FRA membership and to bring the recreation leaders and administrators in closer contact through the medium of District meetings. Subsequently the membership committee sent letters to all Superintendents advising that each Department take immediate strides toward securing 100% membership.

Professional benefits are in direct ratio to the responsibilities we assume as participating members. Within the year we are certain that all workers in the State, leaders, supervisors, Superintendents, will recognize the benefits that they will derive from active and direct participation and membership in the Association. Increased membership will result in an aggressive desire to promote the status of both public and private recreation as a field of service and as one of the community's and State's most important services.

On November 10, the Fourth District held their first meeting of the new year at Miami Beach and over 60 leaders turned out. Our President, Jack Puryear, gave a "fighting" talk on the responsibilities of each of us in furthering the objectives of our profession and the need to take an active interest in the affairs of the FRA. Immediately over 25 new members were obtained.

We wish to point out that the membership dues approved by the members attending the annual conference in Fort Pierce last May follows:

Active — \$5.00: any person professionally employed as an executive, administrator or supervisor in the field of

public recreation in Florida or in similar capacity by a private agency.

Associate — \$2.00: a leader in recreation activities.

Allied — \$10.00: any public recreation department, university or college or any organization having recreation leadership and program as a functional part of its program.

Honorary—\$1.00: any person interested in the development of the recreation profession; volunteers.

Will Feature City

In each issue of THE NEWS we plan to feature a particular City and will review its entire program in so far as possible. Also we will devote space in particular to Personnel in the News; State Wide News with emphasis on expanded facilities; list of bulletins published by the various Departments; a Calendar of Events, and new special event ideas.

We appreciate the items sent us for this issue. Due to lack of space all items of extreme interest were not used in this, but unless outdated will be used in the January issue.

We again wish to request that all Departments, small and large alike, cooperate with us in making THE NEWS interesting to everyone by sending us items pertaining to their community, department and recreation is general. The deadline for the January issue will be December 15th.

FLORIDA RECREATION NEWS

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Editor: Temple R. Jarrell

Recreation Department
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

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New Miami Beach Playground May Set New Standards

Miami Beach recreation department opened its eighth city playground in September, an acre and a half tract located at the northmost end of the city boundary, called Tatem Waterway Park. An improved type of playground field house which may prove to be the standard for future playground buildings is the feature of the park as far as the department is concerned.

The small building has two sheltered porches so that more than one activity may be carried on simultaneously under the shelter. "Working" supply closets open immediately on each porch. In addition there is the usual large closet in the office. Off one porch is also the gardener's closet where brooms, hose, yard tools, etc. are kept for daily use. Also in the main office is a small dressing and shower room for the playground directors' use.

Interesting colors were used in painting the ceilings and walls of the porches. A wall to the east serves as a windbreak and its bareness is broken by huge letters "Tatem Waterway Park."

Mrs. Ruby Burr, popular playground director, is the new director in full charge. Mrs. Burr seems to be the staff person who opens each new Miami Beach playground. She started Stillwater Park's neighborhood program; opened large and beautiful South Shore Park and is now doing the same for Tatem Waterway Park.

City officials are starting work immediately on the second municipal swimming pool (the first at the south end was opened May 1954) at the north end; another new playground of 5 acres at the north end to be called Fairway Drive Park (Mrs. Burr will open this one also); a small neighborhood athletic field to be known as Crespi Athletic Field; and a new tennis pro shop at the North Shore Tennis Center.

Visitors are cordially invited to inspect these new facilities and, if warned in advance, department personnel will be happy to take recreation leaders on a tour.

FUTURE EVENTS

Nov. 29-Dec. 3—Recreation Administrators Workshop, Florida State University, Tallahassee.
Dec. 3—Leesburg Conference, Florida Physical Education, Health and Recreation Association.

Dec. 6-8—Florida AAU Junior Boxing Championships. Jacksonville.

Dec. 19—Gator Bowl Regatta, Jacksonville.

Dec. 26—Florida State Public Courts Tennis Championships, Jacksonville.

Dec. 31—Gator Bowl Football Game, Jacksonville.



IMPORTANT DISCOURSE—The board of Directors of the Florida State Recreation Association got together in Orlando to make plans for the annual recreation conference in Jacksonville next May. From left to right: Dr. William Tait, FSU University; Jack Puryear, president from St. Petersburg; Mary Sawyer, secretary from St. Petersburg; Temple Jarrell, treasurer from Fort Lauderdale; Jervey Ganitt, president-elect from Ocala and Woody Dukes, past president from Fort Pierce.

More About

St. Pete's Recreation Program

(continued from page 1)

is the Bartlett Park Youth Center originally open in 1951. Afternoons and Saturday mornings are given over to youngsters 6 to 13 years of age with teen-agers taking over after that.

The afternoon program includes tap dancing, acrobatics, trampoline, tumbling, volleyball, badminton, basketball, music, art, boxing, crafts, baton twirling among others.

A membership fee of one dollar a year for Junior and Senior High School and 50c for elementary school boys and girls is charged.

Concrete tennis courts, eight in number, are located at three areas and are equipped with meters for evening play—25c an hour. A nominal fee is charged to play on the 10 clay courts at Bartlett Park under the auspices of the St. Petersburg Tennis Club.

Among adults, some 900 men played on 51 softball teams in eight leagues the past summer. Due to the extreme popularity of this sport, a Winter League was organized with 16 teams in three loops with 6 women's nines also being formed for organized play.

Also during the winter volleyball takes over for both men and women along with basketball.

A unique feature for the older citizens is the club system known throughout the nation. These clubs, operated on a self supporting basis include shuffleboard, lawn bowling, roque, chess and checkers. Each group collects its own fees and

disburses its funds and elects officers with the Recreation Department as titular head to whom financial reports must be made annually.

In 1953 a new club, the Senior Citizens Club, was organized. The Club purchased a building located on city property and is given all revenue from rental and from parking lot adjacent to the center. Dues revert to the City to help defray cost of supplies and maintenance and for the salary of the director. A membership fee of three dollars is charged with a total of 700 members for the first year of operation.

Williams Park, in the heart of the City, has band concerts four times a week during the winter in a band shell which has gained universal recognition for its bold and original design. Here also the Open Air Forum meets each day for lectures, travel talks and song and poetry days.

On the South Waterfront Park, is the adult arts and crafts center where those over 18 years of age can learn practically any project at 25c a lesson plus cost of materials.

The Recreation Story of St. Petersburg, under the able direction of Jack Puryear, Superintendent of Recreation, is not complete without mentioning the famous Half-Century and Three-Quarter Century softball teams which play their games from December to May. Their collections go to various charities and to the upkeep of the diamond and providing bleachers for the diamonds.

As all of us can readily visualize, there is something for everyone in St. Pete's diversified program.

Annual Meeting Slated May 11-13

The Board of Directors along with Mally Mallison, Superintendent of Recreation in Jacksonville met on October 26 at Orlando to initiate plans for the annual conference of the Florida Recreation Association in Jacksonville.

It was decided that the conference would be held at the Hotel Mayflower May 11 through 13th. While plans are still in the embryo stage, several features were discussed including special entertainment programs, guest speakers and panel members. Departments will be requested to bring exhibits. Plenty of space will be allocated by the conference committee.

OPPORTUNITIES PERSONNEL VACANCIES

Pompano Beach—Director of Recreation with maximum starting salary of \$400 a month. A fast growing community of 10,000 year round residents located just north of Fort Lauderdale directly on the beach. Director will initiate the city's first year-round program. Apply to Mr. Carl Burbridge, City Manager.

Fort Lauderdale—Director of Playgrounds and Community Centers with present maximum salary of \$330 a month; starting salary dependent upon applicant's qualifications, which include college graduation in recreation or allied field and two years experience in community recreation.

Personnel In the News

Zollie Maynard, Consultant in Health, Physical Education and Recreation for the State Department of Education, points out that there are numerous items of interest concerning the relationship between schools and the recreation departments throughout the state in connection with the summer playground program.

George Cary of St. Petersburg, Chairman of the Men and Boys Sports Committee of the FRA, is sending a questionnaire to all recreation departments affiliated with the Association relative to the nationally organized baseball organizations including Little League, Pony League, Babe Ruth League, VFW, and American Legion groups. All Superintendents are urged

to complete this form and return to George immediately.

Bob Essex of Orlando and formerly employed as a life-guard with the 16-man Beach Patrol at Fort Lauderdale, recently became the first full time life guard for the beach at Fort Pierce under the direction of Woody Dukes, Superintendent of Recreation for St. Lucie County.

Cliff King, University of Florida graduate majoring in Recreation, is the latest addition to the Pensacola Recreation Department staff according to Superintendent of Recreation Julian Olsen. Cliff is director of the Sanders Beach Community Center and has developed an excellent Senior High Teen-Age program.

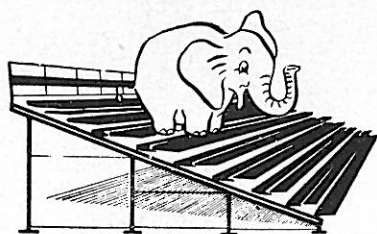
Julian also reports that **Dick Slade**, a recreation major from Florida State University, is interning this fall with the Pensacola Recreation Department. Dick

hails from Griffin, Georgia where he worked on the playgrounds during the past summer.

Bill Matthews, Director of Playgrounds and Community Centers for the Fort Lauderdale Recreation Department resigned on October 15th to enter private business. Bill formerly entered the recreation field as a member of the playground staff in Oak Ridge, Tennessee in 1948. Upon the establishment of the Department in Fort Lauderdale in 1952 Bill was employed and assumed the responsibility of developing the playground and athletic program.

Robert Wiltsie, former Dade County Physical Education teacher, was appointed Assistant Recreation Director of Hialeah a few months ago.

Tom Starling, Recreation Administrator for Orlando, has been "under the weather" for some time but is expected to be back at his desk shortly.



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