The famous coach's inception of the program came while he was doing graduate work at Columbia University. So six years ago, he set about to develop it. The big handicap was, of course, that there were no funds available. Not to be daunted, Allen proceeded upon the idea first to provide a place for mothers to bring their children for cool and comfort. There were plenty of fine shade trees on Mt. Oread, so "Phog" made a deal with the athletic association to use their benches which placed beneath the shade trees, and formed the nucleus of the whole scheme. There mothers could bring their youngsters for play while the husbands and fathers occupied their time in the Library.

The basic instincts of the human being's natural development—running, jumping, leaping, vaulting, and climbing—formed the skeleton upon which the schedule grew. Sandpiles, swings, and teeter-totters soon joined the benches—all with little or no expense. Then provision had to be made for the climbing instinct—and at the Monkey Maze in Philadelphia, the Kansas cage mentor got the idea for taking care of that. The University had a lot of unused pipe, and with the aid of the University machine shops, monkey maizes, more utilitarian than any on the market—and many times less expensive—made their appearance among the playground equipment.

Prominent in the new program was instruction in community recreation and classes in this subject were used to help construct the equipment for the playground. It was fun for the students besides being just what they required educationally.

Early, Dr. Allen saw that outdoor drinking fountains were needed and these were wangled out of budget committees. They were equipped with raised platforms so youngsters could help themselves without the assistance of their parents.

After the program had been in operation a year or two, summer school authorities began to receive favorable comments from away from the campus and grew enthusiastic about the whole program. Limited funds were made available and the expansion became rapidly visible. Shuffleboard courts were painted all over the sidewalks—cues were made from mop handles and pucks were turned in the University's carpentering shop. They had to be painted and waxed to be of service, and here the classes in community recreation again came to the rescue.