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CABLEGRAM

Received February 26, 1944

President,

Lawrence Rotary Club,

Lawrence, Kansas.

Bendigo Rotarians convey greetings. Your Rotarian Colonel Baldwin is guest of honor at our luncheon today.

A. E. Davies.

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Speed manie - more alots more;

TEEN-ACE FECREATION CENTER

1. Name of organization or organiza tions sponsoring same.

Atchison Teen Town recrea tional center is the Teen Town Night Club.
Every city organization has shown willingness to give any assistance needed.

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2. Date of opening of center.

September 3, 1943. Period od preparation was from April 3 to Septe 3, 1943.

3. Physica 1 location of center in city

In the basement of the Y.M.C.A. building at 4th & Com'l St., two blocks from the busiest corner in town.

4. Cost of furniture and fixtures.

\$800.00; includes booths, counters, nickelodian, electric cooler, pop corn machine, colored lights, and game equipment.

5. Cost of remodeling necessary.

\$250200 for asphalt title.

6. How was this expense met?

Members of the Teen Town organization committee put on a financial campaign with a prospect list and canvassing committee compara ble to a Community Chest Campaign. Shares in Teen Town were sold to the citizens of the community who were willing to contribute to the proposition. The campaign was very successful.

7. The size of the building used.

70 by 30 feet space, includes cabaret, dance floor, pingpong room, checker and chess room, and concession counter.

8. Is the recreation center operated as a business, or is it chaperoned and no effort made to have it on a self-supporting basis?

The Teen Town night club is chaperoned by adults of the community. No attempt is made to make a profit, but Teen Town is self-supporting. Dues of log per month and nickelodian income of 5g for two records produces sufficient income for operation.

9. What arra ngements are made for chaperons?

Adults of the community who contribute one night a month take care of this responsibility; Y.M.C.A. General Secretary and Women's Program Director assume full responsibility

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10. Is admittance a membership proposition?

Yes; 10¢ per month per membera

11. If admittance is by membership, what are the requirements for membership, and who approves of membership? How is same changed?

Members must be 13 to 20 years of age, must live up to Teen Town standards, fellow chaperon suggestions, pay log per month.

12. During what hours and on what days is the center open?

Tuesday - 7:30 to 10:00 P.M.; Friday - 7:30 to 11:00; Saturday - 7:30 to 11:00 P.M.; Sunday, 8:00 to 10:00 P.M.

13. What constitutes the governing body?

The Teen Eown Council composed of 5 elected members of the Teen age group. The Executive is an adult appointed by the Teen Tewn Council.

14. Attitude of the school authorities.

Cooperative, and very favorable.

15. Attitude of the local Ministerial Alliance toward the Center.

Cooperative and favorable. The churches holding services Sunday night would prefer Teen Town would not be open at the time services are in session.

16. Is the project worth while? If so, why? If not, why not?

Very much worth while for the same reason that wholesome recreation is worth while. Also there is a constructive approach to juveniles who might tend to be delinquent. Attendance at the pleasant amusement center gives the chaperon and the Y.M.C.A. General Secretary and the Women's Director a chance to do creative personality work. Young people might be and meet friends on a totally natural basis. Good social manners on the part of juveniles who did not have them are one of the first evidences of social usefulness of Teen Town program. While it is too early to make any statement as to juvenile delinquency, the fact remains that Stchison has no appreciative increase in juvenile delinquency and that the Probate Judge noted a decrease in calls concerning young girls being on the streets at nights. Concerning the interference with more constructive programs such as scouts, studies, student plays, and so on, persons who have more constructive activities do not come to Teen Town. In so far as it can be observed, Teen Town does not interfere with other creative programs.

- 17. What are the big problems in trying to operate a recreational center?.
 - 1. Chaperons who will chaperon aggressively.
 - 2. Good concession stands operated at low prices under war time conditions.
 - 3. Continuing finance.
 - 4. Making the program constructive enough to continue to be attractive to young persons.

18. Program.

So far the program has been informal or extemporaneous. Dancing, ping pong, checkers, conversation over a scda, or sitting and watching others. Nothing planned for a program except an attractive place, an attractive concession, game equipment, an up to date selection of records, and supervision to secure reasonably acceptable conduct. The rest has been left to the members. We are beginning a half-hour class for beginners in ballroom dancing once a week.