

Recreational Program Started on a "Shoestring"

By Agnes Hornblow

Like the success story of many multimillionaires is the story of the University's summer playground. Although the recreational facilities of the quadrangle may not have to pay multimillionaire taxes today, they too were started on the proverbial "shoe string."

Three years ago this spring, Phog Allen was laughed at for his playground idea. "Summer School students come here to study," he was told by the powers-that-be. But Dr. Allen was persistent. He'd seen the plan work in the East. He didn't see why it wouldn't work here.

Unaided financially, he began. Without lights, the playing hours that year had to be set during twilight from 6 to 8 o'clock each evening. Dr. Allen started with the idea of a cool spot for mothers, children, and wives of school teachers. But benches, a monkey maze, and a sandpile set far back from the street soon proved not enough.

His community recreation class added one thing after another. Shuffleboard made its debut with cedar

mop handles and wooden discs. The group got ropes out of the attic—bought many things second hand. Badminton was made possible when the class bought rubber balls at ten cent stores and added feathers picked up at local poultry houses. "Some just like to sit and watch," said Dr. Allen, "so we got more benches—basketball and football benches."

Last year the budget committee gave the "little Olympics" lights—four of them. Dr. Allen was satisfied—temporarily. But this year he had to have more lights. With the aid of some of his "boys" he brought the stadium lights used at Commencement time up from down the hill.

This year archery is taught by one of the community recreation class members. Archerer Davis, an Indian lad, not only teaches how to handle a bow and arrow, but how to make them as well. Material for a bow costs the student about a dollar. When he's through, he has a product worth three to five times that much. Fourteen cents will make a bow string selling for two dollars on the retail market.

Play Program Proves Success

According to Dr. Forrest C. Allen, director of the community recreation program, this year's enthusiasm has exceeded that of any previous seasons. It was said several years ago that a program of this type would not succeed. Dr. Allen, however, assuming that summer school students would appreciate this type of activity has proved its success.

Equipment suitable for a typical playground has been supplied by the physical education department and a great deal of it has been turned out in the Kansas University shops.

The idea of the playground is to offer summer school students and their families a chance to relax and participate in non-strenuous games in the cooler part of the day. The period is long enough to offer the proper amount of exercise and yet short enough not to interfere with the evenings study.

Everyone is invited to attend these recreation periods in the evening. They will find almost any type of game which they care to play. In addition, there are frequent dances, picnics, band concerts and community sings for those who do not care to play.

The dance which was to be held last night has been postponed because it was felt by Dr. Allen that students would rather study after the Fourth of July vacation. This feature will be held in about two weeks.