

October 13, 1941.

Dean George B. Smith,  
School of Education,  
University of Kansas.

Dear Dean Smith:

I am sending you a copy of the budget allotment that was allowed last summer for recreation for our eight weeks of recreative endeavor. We started four or five years ago, and they said it couldn't be done. The administrators said that the students came here to study and not to play; that for ten years previous to this they had made some effort to get the students to play and it didn't work out that way.

My conception of the beginning of the program was to work on the family unit plan, feeling that the young wives and young mothers of these teachers, many of whom came to get advanced degrees, naturally got the poorest and hottest rooms in Lawrence because the residents kept the best ones for their own comfort. The days being excessively hot and the nights humid made student life almost unbearable. The fact that the library had poor lighting facilities added to the difficulty.

The good Lord blessed us by providing a wonderful breeze after sundown across the top of Mount Oread. My thought was to arrange some sort of an attractive and yet quiet program for students and their wives so that they could come out for an airing and yet have an incentive to do so. We had no appropriation for lights because the administrators put it up to me to make good without money or lights. We got \$100.00 for our first appropriation. We built sand piles, teeter-totters, and painted shuffleboard courts on the sidewalks. We ran our program from 6:30 to 7:30, and then it got dark. Naturally there was no place to go and no attraction without lights, so the people dispersed.

The next year we got an additional \$150.00 and we bought three lights and put them on poles. We provided simple games and borrowed benches from the Athletic Association and a few seats that we used for our basketball games in the auditorium. More people became interested in the games and from that time on the project was an emphatic success.

I might also say that my first thought was to get these little youngsters out of those hot rooms and to provide play facilities for the smallest ones so that the mothers would feel that they were especially benefitting their children by bringing them up to what we called the community center.