

### NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHTS

For an experimental project, I believe we received some gratifying results on the neighborhood nights. Of the six playgrounds two school are continuing with their adult recreation. Cordley in south Lawrence, and Woodlawn in north Lawrence. As Dr. Nash said: "The young people and the adults need recreation as much or more than the children." With this in mind, it was interesting to see what response we would get in our pioneering movement. The following is a general description of the playgrounds' Neighborhood Nights' and the leaders opinion about them.

McAllister:- Had four neighborhood nights. Their crowd was not more than 55 at any time including both parents and children. They had square dancing, community singing, outdoor games, and served punch and coffee. Miss Todd: "Neighborhood nights I believe in heartily. I do not know what it takes to get the crowd out, but it surely should be continued. It is new and it will grow. I did think that perhaps the children's eagerness would be increased if they were not tired from the playground's activity of the afternoon--and their enthusiasm would bring out more parents."

Pinckney:-Had five neighborhood nights. Attendance about 50 including parents and children. Played croquet, bingo, square dancing, community singing, baseball, and brought picnic dinners about three times. Miss Mallory: "I think the neighborhood nights are grand and should be continued until they become more popular. They are worthy of more popularity than they had in Pinckney district this summer. But again, we did not reach the lonely people who need it. Those who came were largely those whose children brought them. I know they seemed to many of our patrons just another place to go when they already had too many activities. We need to learn to enjoy our homes also."

Lincoln:- Had five neighborhood nights. Attendance about 25, both parents and children. Adult attendance low. Played baseball, croquet, and had community singing. Miss Anderson: "Neighborhood nights were not popular with the adults. They felt that work was so essential that they could not sacrifice any of the daylight hours to play. If recreation activities were carried over into the school program, I think that during the winter months the adults would cooperate much better. Neighborhood nights were popular with the teen-age group."

New York:- Had five neighborhood nights. The idea did not catch in that district at all. Only one adult showed up for each "evening picnic". There might have been two reasons for this: a. The PTA president was not interested enough, or too busy to push this recreation; and b. the school principal was out of town all summer. She could have made some valuable contacts for the leader. Miss Jacobson: "To get neighborhood nights started in this district, I suggest that, rather than working thru the PTA, it would help to work with a group of parents who are recreational minded, who would form a committee to be in charge and to get in touch with other parents who might be interested."

Woodlawn:- Had five neighborhood nights. Attendance about 75 including children and parents. Because Woodlawn is in North Lawrence and has such excellent play area, I was happy to see as many adults as there seemed to be interested in continuing with this recreational evening. Played volleyball, baseball, shuffleboard, tetherball, croquet. Sold pop and popcorn. Had two band concerts and a marionette show.