

Social Centers

The most important factor in the success of a youth center is, of course, the participation of young people in planning and management. Here is something the teens can do themselves, with unobtrusive adult guidance. It is something to build and to develop. Both making and using a center can be fun.

The Teen-Age Club of *Raleigh, North Carolina*, is a pioneer center which has been copied widely. Sponsored by the Raleigh Recreation Committee, it originated at the request of teen-age boys and girls. A junior board of directors governs it.

The center is in an old garage. Boys and girls presented their plan to city clubs and raised money to pay 4 months' rent in advance. They built a stairway, office, craft shop, library and orchestra platform, now used by their own band. They sanded floors, installed a soft drink bar and juke box, and went to work on tables and chairs; it was a thorough and handsome job of interior decoration. At the request of the teens, a parents' club provides chaperonage.

The Teen-Age Club does not stop at being a hangout. Hayrides, swimming parties, junk parties, are organized; a newspaper, "*Tween-Teen Times*," is published at the club;

