

Wilmette Playground and Recreation Activities

Play Is Necessity, Not Luxury, Says Milwaukee Leader

The playground has been added to the great trilogy of child life and child development, the home, the school and the church, by Miss Dorothy Enderis, of the Extension department of the Milwaukee public schools, in a recent radio address given over station WTMJ.

"In the early days of the playground movement," Miss Enderis said "the playground was considered sort of an 'extra'—a luxury provided children through the kindness of some beneficent elders. In fact, play was for many many years considered a luxury of childhood—a certain something fabricated by mothers, nursemaids and kindergarten teachers to keep the children content. Children played because they were children; the quicker we led them out of this play life, the quicker we made men and women of them.

"We know now that play is not a luxury of childhood but a necessity, that it is not a fabrication of humans but a nature-instilled instinct—an instinct that can never be crushed out but can be sadly perverted or starved. The instinct may fade but the habit formed through the manner it was satisfied will remain. Children inherit the desire, the impulse to play, but they do not inherit games. Games and play activities are acquired from without, through observation or instruction.

Play Cases Are Numerous

"Many of our juvenile court cases when justly and scientifically analyzed must be pronounced play cases. We speak glibly about the boy problem or the girl problem when in truth the boy problem and the girl problem are not a boy or a girl problem but a man problem and a woman problem. The boy and the girl have been all right but we men and women have been at fault because we have not made the proper provision for the boy and girl to respond to their nature-instilled play instincts and urges.

"While crime prevention is one of the outstanding values of playgrounds and social centers, it is not the only compensation or return on the investments they represent. We could speak at length about the mental values, the moral or spiritual values, the social, the civic value of organized play. Each one of these in itself would provide material for a profitable period of discussion. These values, however, do not come hit or miss.

"Children inherit the play instinct but they must be taught what to play—and, of still more importance, they must be taught how to play. We do not think of opening a school and inviting the children to take possession of the same without an adult leader. We put a teacher into the room so that the boys and girls may obtain the greatest possible benefits from the hours spent there. A playground without leadership is as ridiculous as a schoolroom without a teacher—in fact, a playground without a play leader is worse than no playground at all.

Habit Based on Action

"What is character but habit—and how do we form a habit? By doing a thing over and over again, but we teach honesty, unselfishness, courtesy, regards for rights of others in the schoolroom. Do we not tell stories about Washington, Lincoln and numerous other heroes? Telling hero stories is not teaching honesty and courage—that is teaching about honesty and courage. The way to teach honesty is to bring our boys and girls face to face with situations in which they must choose to be honest or dishonest and then be at their side to show them the wisdom or fallacy of the path of action. Life is playing the game.

"I know of no situation which so lends itself to learning the rules of the game than does organized group play. It is not sufficient that we provide playground for our youth. Often civic organizations take the attitude that when they have secured playgrounds their work and responsibility has just begun. Far more vital than the building of a playground is the conduct of

FIVES VIE TONIGHT

Public School Cagers Stage 3 Tilts at Howard Gym to Raise Funds for Field Day Awards

Encouraged with the reception the two basketball teams received at the demonstration by the physical education department of the Wilmette public schools, March 30, the department has announced three benefit basketball games to be played this evening, beginning at 7 o'clock at the Howard school gymnasium.

The three games will be staged between Howard and Stolp school teams. The players may be drawn from any grade in the schools but must conform to the weight classifications of the three groups. The pee-wee players may not weigh more than 90 pounds, the lightweights may weigh from 90 to 110 pounds and the heavyweights must weigh more than 110 pounds.

The games are being held, according to Daniel M. Davis, director of the physical education department and also of community recreation, to secure funds for medals for the annual track and field meet held between the pupils of the two schools in June. Because of the present need for economy, funds for the medals cannot be secured from the regular school funds, it is explained, but must be raised by outside means. The pupils of the two schools have promoted this evening's games for that purpose.

Cagers Will Clash Tomorrow for Title

Winberg Drugs eliminated Hoffmann Florists from all claim to the "B" basketball league championship Monday evening by winning, 22 to 20, in the first game of the play-off of a three-way tie at the Howard gymnasium. The winners must meet Van Deusens tomorrow evening at the Howard gymnasium before an undisputed championship can be claimed.

At the close of the regular 1932-33 basketball season, April 5, the Playground and Recreation board's "B" league had ended in a three-way tie, with Hoffmann Florists, Winberg Drugs and Van Deusens in the lead with sixteen victories and five defeats each. To determine the championship, a series of play-off games was arranged, the first to be staged between Hoffmanns and Winberg Drugs last Monday evening. Winberg Drugs by virtue of their Monday night victory will meet Van Deusens tomorrow evening at 9 o'clock to determine the champion.

This final game will be watched by C. P. Dubbs, Village president, members of the Wilmette Playground and Recreation board, and scores of other spectators who will have gathered at the Howard gymnasium to participate in the annual ceremony of awarding medals and trophies to victors in the Playground and Recreation board's activities during the past season.

the same. The real concern of parents should be that their playgrounds at all times stand under the highest type of leadership.

"Play is a tremendously forceful ally of teacher and parent. Bringing into play this play instinct in connection with work, is not a case of sugar coating—it is sound psychology. The school teacher has learned its value. We have our manuals of plays and games in arithmetic—our books of language games. Arousing interest through play instinct results in an eager learner. The play instinct fades but the power obtained, the lessons learned, remain."

Jig-Saw Winners Are Now Resting

The Recreation board's jig-saw puzzle contest, the first public event of its kind to be held in Wilmette, and possibly in the nation, has ended. It was held Wednesday afternoon and evening, April 12, at the Howard school, and the winners not only claim to have finished the puzzles in record time for Wilmette but also lay claim to establishing world's records.

Recreation authorities admit that their claims are justified to some extent but find it difficult to have them upheld and get them the deserved recognition because the first National Jig-Saw Puzzle association has not yet been founded, and until it begins to function, the local records cannot be recognized.

Winner of the contest for school children was Bob Matthews, 1312 Maple avenue, who finished a 100-piece puzzle in exactly twenty-four minutes, two minutes ahead of Van McQuide, 731 Elmwood, who took twenty-six minutes to complete his. Jack Randall finished in time to claim third place, completing his puzzle in thirty minutes, just one-half minute ahead of Erick Samuelson who finished in fourth place.

The senior tournament contestants were given 200-piece puzzles to solve, and the winner, June Hayes, 1009 Ashland avenue, completed hers in one hour, twelve and one-half minutes. Bob Matthews, the junior champion, sought permission to compete with his elders, and scored in the senior tournament also. He finished in second place after solving the 200-piece puzzle in one hour, sixteen and one-half minutes. Mary Lauer, 1114 Forest avenue, was third, finishing her puzzle in two hours and eight minutes.

Dudley C. Stone was the recreation assistant in charge of the contest.

Summer Athletic Plans to Be Given Tomorrow

Announcements of the summer athletic and recreational program which the Wilmette Playground and Recreation board will sponsor this coming summer will be made tomorrow evening (Friday) at the annual awarding ceremony to be held in the Howard gymnasium from 7 to 10 o'clock.

In reply to the many queries received at the Recreation office regarding the summer program, Daniel M. Davis, director of recreation, announces that the members of the Recreation board much first pass on the proposed program before it will be ready for disclosure to be public this Friday evening.

The summer program will begin at least one week later than usual this year, Mr. Davis states, because inclement weather has prevented the first week's games for the last two years, and hence it has proved more practical to open the season later in the month.

Davis Will Be Speaker at National Play Meet

Daniel M. Davis, Wilmette director of recreation, has been announced as one of the speakers at the Mid-West District convention of the National Recreation association which meets April 28, 29 and 30 at Milwaukee. The subject of Mr. Davis' talk will be "Minimum Requirements of Play Leaders."

Award Ceremony for Teams, Stars Is Friday's Event

A grand finale to the fiscal year's extensive program of activities of the Wilmette Playground and Recreation board has been planned for tomorrow evening at the Howard gymnasium from 7 to 10 o'clock when the annual ceremony of awarding trophies and medals to winners during the past year will take place.

C. P. Dubbs, Village president, will make the awards to the seventy-five members of the various winning teams. Robert M. Johnston, chairman of the Playground and Recreation board, will be one of the speakers. Another speaker will be Harry C. Kinne, representative to the Recreation board from the Wilmette Village board. Other members of the Recreation board, Mrs. Herbert J. Leach, Henry Fowler and George E. Leal, will be honor guests of the evening. Director Daniel M. Davis announces.

Plan Exhibition Games

In addition to the awarding ceremony, a program of entertainment has been planned which will consist of an exhibition volley ball game between the Methodist and Baptist men's volley ball teams, an exhibition girls' basketball game between the Kudas, winners of the 1933 basketball tournament, and the Porters, winners of the 1933 girls' basketball league, and the final game in the men's "B" basketball league to determine the championship of the league. This game will be played between Winberg Drug Store team and Van Deusens. The final event of the evening will be the awarding of trophies.

Teams whose members will receive the awards for winning championships during the 1932-33 season will be: Baptist volley ball team winners for the fifth consecutive year; Hoffmann Florist basketball teams, winners of the men's "A" league; Huff Boilers, winners of the North Shore men's basketball league; Porters' girls' basketball team, winners of the winter league; Kudas, girls' basketball team, winners of the basketball tournament for women; Gophers, winners of the "C" basketball league for boys, and the "Skyrockets", winners of the Junior basketball league for girls.

List Individual Awards

Individual awards will be made to: Bill Condry, winner of the second annual ping pong tournament conducted by the board; Gordon Wells, runner-up in the singles tournament; Harry Lempke, winner of the consolation singles' tournament; Louis Condry, runner-up in the consolation tournament; Albert Heerens and Harry Stone, winners of the doubles ping pong tournament; R. I. Nicholes and Bud Klinge, runners-up in the doubles' tournament; Russell Johnson, winner of the basketball goal shooting contest, and George Green, winner of second place in the goal shooting contest.

Winners of the year-round trophies for men and women will not be announced by the members of the Recreation staff until the night of the award. The year-round trophies are the most coveted of the yearly awards, according to Mr. Davis, and are presented to the men's and women's teams or organizations winning the highest number of points for victories, reliability, and sportsmanship.