

8 pp (REL 6) 1149 RECREATION 30/4

SUMMARY OF RECREATION FACILITIES FOR SERVICE MEN
AND CIVILIANS IN OREGON

Albany

Albany has a new service men's recreation center which is operated by the U.S.O. and N.C.C.S. The project was completed May 1. Prior to the opening of the center, the U.S.O. operated a temporary center, and put on the usual U.S.O. program. The Recreation Committee helped solve overnight housing problem by using facilities in the old Albany College buildings. The Recreation Committee has also planned dances, has helped furnish day rooms at Camp Adair, and is prevailing upon the baseball teams of Camp Adair to make use of their ball park.

Ashland

The Ashland Recreation Committee has helped to equip a service men's center, which is operated by the U.S.O. Committees from the Recreation Committee assist at the center, acting as hostesses and volunteer workers in the recreation program. The Committee is also responsible for supply equipment for day rooms at Camp White, they have helped organize a hostess league to provide dancing partners for service men at dances which are held in Ashland and at Camp Adair. Their efforts have been entirely toward soldier recreation. They plan to open a swimming pool, and have picnic parties in the Ashland parks this summer.

Astoria

Astoria has one of the finest Recreation Centers and Service Men's Building in the country. It is a permanent structure. The Recreation Committee has been extremely active in promoting and sponsoring entertainment events for soldiers and sailors and coast guardsmen located in their city. They have promoted college basket ball games, movies, dances, etc. Recently, they sponsored an entertainment in the form of a midget troupe of professional actors. Civilians were charged for this event, and service men were admitted free. They raised \$300. from this attraction, and with the proceeds they are planning on purchasing playground and athletic equipment for the summer recreation program. The city has a City-wide playground program closely coordinated with the Public School System.

Bend

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Bend has a well organized Recreation Committee and program for service men entertainment for men who are stationed at Camp Abbott. The Federal Recreation Representative made an application for a Federal allotment of funds to establish a service men's Center. The Center will be operated by the U.S.O. with volunteer organizations from the City of Bend assisting. The Recreation Committee has asked the School Board to employ two physical education people on a year round basis so that they can organize and develop a civilian recreation program.

The application for Lanham Act funds has been held up but the U.S.O. is

operating the only suitable Center building available. A temporary Negro Center is also operating, with well equipped rooms and outdoor recreation facilities.

Corvallis

Corvallis Recreation Committee has employed an overall city recreation director who has set up a well developed recreation program. The Federal Government has purchased and equipped a large building, which is being operated by the U.S.O. for a service men's Center. The regular U.S.O. program for activities will be sponsored in this building. Both the City of Corvallis and Oregon State College have sanctioned the use of their facilities for service men usage. The Recreation Committee has plans to build shelter stations on the highway at Camp Adair and at the Corvallis city limits, to be used by service men who are waiting for bus transportation. Corvallis Committee also assisted in equipping the day rooms at Camp Adair. The City has provided funds to assist the program and further Federal funds are being sought to repair and enlarge existing facilities. The City has a Civilian Recreation program in operation also.

Cannon Beach

A local Recreation Committee has provided an entertainment program for the 100 men at the Coast Guard Station on Cannon Beach. A commercial skating rink has been made available with other limited facilities. Day rooms are provided at the Station and the Service Men's Center at Seaside, five miles away, is available.

Eugene

Miss Florence Aldin, Director of Recreation, has developed a well rounded Recreation program for all age groups in Eugene. For the past two years, the City has made a tax levy for special funds to go into the building of a large swimming pool. To date these funds amount to \$25,000, and plans are to continue the tax until sufficient money is raised to build a year round available swimming pool. One of the service clubs in Eugene has formed a "gang buster" organization, and this means that the members are in charge of various boys' leagues and assist in programming a wholesome Recreation program for the younger boys. It is one method they are using to help eliminate child delinquency. The Eugene Active Club is assisting in a program to reduce juvenile delinquency, and the School Board is applying funds to this work too.

Florence

A U.S.O. unit has been established in this City. The Lane County U.S.O. has contributed \$150 and the Eugene Elks lodge \$100 toward furnishings for the unit.

Grants Pass

Grants Pass has a locally operated service men's Center and a hostess league which has organized girl hostesses who participate in dances at Camp White. The Recreation Committee also sponsors a soft ball league

in the summer. The County maintains a Recreational Director with a well developed program as part of the County Defense Council's work.

Hermiston

The Federal Government built, at the urgent request of the State Recreation Committee, a Federal Recreation building at Hermiston, and this building is being operated by the U.S.O. All the activities of the community center are programmed here. An additional operator is being installed to assist in programming recreation events at the new Ordnance Depot which is located about five miles from Hermiston, and which has about 240 housing units. Also to plan and provide a Recreation program at Stanfield, Oregon, where there is a trailer camp of some 70 units.

This development is outstanding among Oregon Recreation facilities because the town "ballooned" from 700 to 11,000 in a few months. A new housing project at the Depot is about completed.

Independence

The Recreation Committee has provided and equipped, and is operating a service men's Center. They put on various parties during the week for soldier entertainment which include games, cards and dances. They also serve free sandwiches and coffee, and have a fruit basket which is always full.

Marshfield

Through the efforts of a local committee, there has been established a service men's Center, operated entirely by volunteer workers from the various women's clubs of the city. A group known as a Park Club has opened its rooms and facilities and made them available to officers. The service men's Center serves coffee and sandwiches, promotes dances and has indoor recreation facilities for the service men.

Medford

The Rogue River Valley Coordinated Council have done a fine job in coordinating the work of the U.S.O. and city facilities in the line of recreation. The largest Federal Recreation building in the Northwest is now completed and operated by the U.S.O. The building has its own theater, dance floor and large game room. Besides this big Federal Recreation building, the Salvation Army has also established a service men's Center which is being operated on U.S.O. principles. The first Center to be operated in Medford, known as The Outpost, will be changed over and made into an officer and wife Center as soon as the large service men's Center gets completed. This will solve a very important problem. Plans are also under way to open the privately owned large swimming pool that is located there.

Monmouth

The Multnomah Recreation Committee has developed and sponsored a service

men's Center and provided a regular program of events. The greatest influx of guests is on weekends when they sponsor dances and provide hostesses. Monmouth has also helped in equipping the day rooms at Camp Adair.

North Bend

Due to Navy Air Port, the Navy Section Base and Army Camp in this Coos Bay Area, a local Recreation Committee is at work to meet the needs of Service Men and Merchant Seamen. The town is only two miles from Marshfield. Council has applied for U.S.O. funds. This area will have from 1500 to 2500 service men to care for jointly with Marshfield.

Oregon City

A local Recreation Committee is at work using local and school facilities for civilian recreation and for transient service men, of whom there are quite a number. A small army camp-- Camp Withycombe --is within eight miles of the city. A small service men's Center is maintain in the downtown area and a Supervisor of Recreation has been named. The program is closely coordinated with the School Playgrounds. The number of service men handled does not call for a large service Center program. Much emphasis is placed on reducing juvenile delinquency due to large industrial population.

Pendleton

The Federal Government built a Federal recreation building that is being operated by the U.S.O. as a service men's Center. The regular U.S.O. program of activities are sponsored in the building. Also, movies are shown at the camp, dances are held in the city weekly, plans for building an outside roller rink are now under way. The Vert Memorial building is being used for officers and wives, and the auditorium is used to sponsor traveling road shows. A Negro service men's Center was opened the latter part of May and is operated by a representative of the U.S.O. Negro division.

Portland

Miss Dorothea Lensch, Director of City Recreation, has been named Chairman, and has developed and organized a City Recreation Committee. The Portland Recreation set-up includes the use of all the park and playground facilities, community centers and swimming pools. Future plans call for the opening of all swimming pools in the city for the summer recreation program. Tom Louttit has been named Recreation Director at the Swan Island Shipyards and is planning an overall program for the shipyard workers. It is hoped other industries will engage recreational leaders to provide leisure time activities and programs. The City of Portland, through the use of Community Chest funds, have sponsored a number of service men's Centers. Churches have opened a service men's Center. Facilities at the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., Salvation Army and Jewish Community Center have also opened their buildings and are providing recreational activities for the service men.

At the present time the Federal Recreation Representative of the Federal Government is assisting with plans to make an overall Recreation program in Portland for all age groups. This includes the development of an overall program of the City of Vanport, the direct recreation supervision of which is under Miss Dorothea Lensch.

The Portland area, through the U.S.O. representatives and the George White Center, are providing overnight housing facilities for service men. A great many volunteer workers from the various women's clubs are giving their services in helping activities in the various centers.

The following service men's Centers are operating:

George A White Service Men's Center, 523 SW 3rd Avenue. Dormitory office open all night. Free beds, showers, shaves and snack bar food; 2000-volume library; music room; reception and game room with table tennis, billiards, pool, etc.; arts and crafts workshop; free mending and package wrapping; free checking; dancing daily; free legal advice; concerts and broadcasts.

Y.M.C.A. U.S.O. Center, 931 SW 6th Avenue. Open daily and Sunday. Chapel sing; coffee and doughnuts; swim and social hours. Alternate Thursdays, WIMS (Wives of Men in Service). Tea dance and regular dance hours; gymnasium and swimming facilities at all times. Beds available. Services include pressing, mending, shopping and wrapping; reading and writing room, ping pong and small games. Housing bureau.

N.C.C.S. club U.S.O. Club 318 SW Washington Street. Open daily to 11:30 p.m. Saturday. Snack bar, library, pressing, gymnasium, showers, dancing every night and Sunday afternoon, small games, recordings, billiards. Everything free.

Jewish Community Center. U.S.O. 1636 SW 13th Avenue. Open daily. Swimming pool, basketball floor, handball, weight lifting, boxing, steam rooms, clubrooms and lounge. Junior hostess group sponsors parties on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. Coffee and cookies served free.

Neighborhood House, 3030 SW 2nd Avenue. Swimming pool, basketball; boxing clubroom and lounge. Sleeping facilities and weight-lifting room. Coffee and cookies served.

Red Cross Depot Canteen, Union Depot. Meals served free at all hours to service men in transit.

Union Station USO. In Red Cross Canteen, same hours. Performs all sorts of services for men who don't have time to leave depot. Place to rest, read and write letters.

Chinese Service Center, 117 NW 3rd Avenue. Service men and civilians share this Center. Free tea and cakes are available. Ping pong, other games, radio, piano, Chinese and English newspapers and magazines.

United Christian Service Center, 425 SW 6th Ave. Open daily. Limited sleeping facilities, snack bar, recordings, games and a variety of services furnished for Service men.

Williams Ave USO (Negro), 6 N Tillamook Street. Open daily, including Sunday. Entertainment and food is provided free, also small games. Showers, reading room and letter writing are among the facilities furnished.

White Ensign Club (British), 721 SW Park Ave. Open daily. Services include entertainments; tea; reading and writing room, sewing and pressing, games, etc.

Salvation Army USO, 20 SW 6th Ave. Open daily. Beds rented. free refreshments; lounge, showers, letter writing, pressing, small games, etc.

USO Lounge for Service Women- in YWCA clubroom; snack pantry, radio, letter writing, pressing, use of swimming pool, showers, ping pong and small games. Open daily.

Officers Service Club. In Mirror room of Hotel Portland. For commissioned men and women of U.S. and Allied forces.

Central Library, 801 SW 10th Avenue. Local soldiers can get library cards. Music room offers free concerts of recorded music.

Merchant Seamen's Recreation Center. Clyde Hotel, SW 10th Ave and Stark Street includes hotel facilities; food center; Recreation facilities and library. Operated under U.S.S. Port Area Committee and local Director, T J Edwards.

Portland - Civilian Recreation

Under the leadership of the Portland Recreation Committee, headed by Miss Dorothea Lensch, Director of Recreation of the City of Portland, a comprehensive Recreation program and training program is underway that includes a Recreation planning program for Multnomah County and the County Defense Council. There are ten Activity Centers; ten School Centers; thirty Park Areas; six outdoor Housing Recreational Areas; eleven swimming pools; three public golf links and eleven Community Centers coordinated into the program operated under the Bureau of Parks and the Public Recreation Department.

The War Chest has granted \$4,000 for an experimental program in areas adjacent to the City limits and for an experiment with the Negro population, which has increased from 1900 in normal times to 4,000 or more.

Directors have been appointed to work with the trailer camps, the residents of Joseph Lane Community, and the colored individuals in the Albina District.

X Associated with the problems of the outline of districts is that of providing recreation for the 68,000 residents of the Housing Projects. The combined problem led to the presentation of a Lanham Act Request for \$211,389.00 to the Federal Works Agency. This request has been endorsed by the O.C.D.; Multnomah County Commissioners and the City Council.

The Lanham Act Request includes funds for personnel, operation, maintenance of a downtown Recreation center, colored Recreation center, the

housing recreation centers within the City Limits, the Vanport Community recreation program and communities of the County affected by the industrial impact.

Outline of the Portland season has been the strengthening of Day Care Programs for the children of working mothers, for the children of volunteers, the operation of 5 day camps and 3 special day camps, the development of a War Industries Golf League and teen-age dances.

Portland has been able to meet the industrial needs during the summer season with outdoor facilities in abundance. Problems will begin when the fall season starts for then indoor facilities are a must and these are the premium.

The Lanham Act is one solution for personnel and facilities so greatly needed in this changing community of Portland.

This program is in addition to that for the Service Men's Centers.

Redmond

This City operates an attractive Service Center and has applied for Federal funds to rent, equip and operate the Center. The Recreation Committee has equipped the local Center. They have a regular schedule of program events for service men's recreation. These include games, dances, shows, etc. The Redmond Committee has been very active and is doing a fine job. The Army Bomber base is located at Redmond which is only 25 miles from the Engineers' Cantonment, South of Bend.

Salem

Salem has a very strong Recreation Committee. Their big effort has been in providing overnight housing for service men on leave from Camp Adair. They received \$6,000 from the Community Chest to install beds and equipment. These beds have been put in the church and in the local Y.M.C.A. and will take care of 200. The City of Salem has also been canvassed, and 190 private homes have made rooms available for service men and their wives. A group of Salem women organized a fine hostess league, the pattern of organization of which has been a model for various hostess leagues in cities in the State of Oregon. The hostess league has provided dance partners for service men at dances sponsored at Camp Adair and in the City of Salem. The Recreation Committee has also worked to provide better transportation facilities for the service men from Camp Adair.

The Federal Government has established a recreation building which is being operated by the U.S.O., and which has the usual U.S.O. program of activities. The Federal Recreation Representative has made an official application for funds to rent and renovate a second recreational building, which will also be operated by the U.S.O. Salem has a terrific service men impact, and the two Centers are a necessity. The big problem, however, at Salem has been to provide overnight housing. Plans are now under way by the women's clubs at Salem to convert Prindle Park into an officers' quarter.

Seaside

The Seaside, Oregon, Recreation Committee has opened and equipped a service men's Center and is receiving some small Federal aid. They provide recreation, give free coffee and food, and have weekly dances. The music for these dances is provided by the orchestra from Fort Stevens. The Recreation Committee has milk bottles around the stores in Seaside, and from these donations provide food and some entertainment for the service men. A paid director is in charge.

Tillamook

The Tillamook, Oregon Recreation Committee has opened and equipped a service men's Center to care for men from the Navy Dirigible base, the Coast Guard and the Army Units stationed near there, and had engaged a local Director. They sponsor games, parties and dances. The various local clubs, both men and women, assist in sponsoring the various activities.

The Center is heavily used and twice a week dances are given, one of them being at the Elks Club across the street from the Center.

An adequate Officers' Club is maintained at the Blimp Base. The Navy Dirigible Base will have hangars and men for twelve Dirigibles as it is the headquarters base for Dirigible operations from Northern California to and including Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.

Toledo

A Civilian Recreation Committee has been organized to raise \$1500 for a Community Recreation program to provide for children of defense and industrial workers. Playgrounds, swimming pools and tennis courts are provided.