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## The South Side Settlement House, Chicago, Illinois: A Study of the Development of and Needs Met by a Negro Settlement House

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**THE SOUTH SIDE SETTLEMENT HOUSE**

**CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

**A STUDY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AND**

**NEEDS MET BY**

**A NEGRO SETTLEMENT HOUSE**

**By**

**Deborah Stone Mosely**

**A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment**

**of the Requirements for Degree of**

**Master of Arts**

**In**

**LOYOLA UNIVERSITY**

LOYOLA  
UNIVERSITY

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## INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE The purpose of the following thesis is to describe the historical development, present organization and program of the South Side Settlement House; further, to determine the extent to which the Settlement is meeting the needs of the Negro Community which it aims to serve.

METHODOLOGY The procedure has consisted of studying the historical development of the Settlement House, covering the period from 1918 to 1938. This has included the reason for its origin, the people interested in the venture, their motives and purpose, their program of activities, changes that took place and the reason for these changes.

In making the study daily visits were made to the Settlement for a period of two months. The daily activities and routine of the Settlement were observed both at the Settlement and on some of the play lots. An active part was taken in some of the programs of the Settlement. Records kept by the institution were inspected and interviews were held with persons in charge including the Head Resident and several members of the Board of Directors. In addition a study was made of the present day standards of Settlements including the standards suggested by the National Federation of Settlements. A careful inspection was made of one of the oldest and most outstanding settlement houses in Chicago; an interview was held with its head resident and one other resident worker who has worked one time at Toynbee Hall. The neighborhood was carefully observed during two personal tours, one made during the day and one at night.

"The Settlement itself should be in miniature demonstration of the life it desires to see manifest in the wider world. It should be a place of refinement, and have the atmosphere of a home rather than that of an institution. Its group life should be sufficiently magnetic and inspiring to draw out in the individual members unthought-of qualities of mind and character."

Horace Fleming

THE SOUTH SIDE SETTLEMENT HOUSE

TAKEN DURING

SOUTH SIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE

## CHAPTER I

### THE SETTLEMENT MOVEMENT

The Settlement House as "a center where people find one another, perceive and tackle a common spiritual task and enter into the joy of life,"<sup>1</sup> dates back more than forty years before the coming of Chicago's South Side Settlement in 1926, for the first of such centers was London's Toynbee Hall founded in 1884. Despite the span of intervening years, there were similar conditions ante-dating the formation of both. To note the similarities as well as the accidental differences, further to understand the background and purpose of any settlement, it is of value to review some of the basic factors that have given rise to a movement that still holds its place among the programs for social welfare.

CERTAIN CONDITIONS      Nineteenth century saw within its working class sections deplorable social conditions resulting to a great extent from the Industrial Revolution. The rapid shifting from agriculture to industry resulted in a sudden increase in the population of cities where most of the industries were centered. When the census was taken in England, in 1801, it was found that there had only been an increase of "17 to 18 per cent in the first fifty years of the century from 1700 to 1750 and 52 per cent in

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1. Settlements and Their Outlook, First International Conference of Settlements, July, 1922 (London, P.S. King & Sons, L.T.D. 1922) p 80.

the second half from 1750 to 1800."<sup>2</sup> This sudden increase in the working class from the urban centers to the cities and towns was destined to create new social problems.

The rapid extension of manufacture demanded hands, wages rose, troops of workers migrated from the agricultural districts to the town. Population multiplied enormously and nearly all the increase took place among the proletarians.<sup>3</sup>

These people came from various sources, ... "drawn from the parish work houses, transplanted from the country, carried from the wilds of Ireland, they collected in peculiar places, because their muscles were needed in factory, furnace or mine."<sup>4</sup>

In the beginning of the migration, the lot of the new factory worker was much better than that of his fellowmen in agriculture or in domestic industry. However, as industry continued to develop on a larger scale, the number of laborers increased in the city, and with the state providing no laws to protect them, the conditions of the workers grew worse.

On every plane, moral and economical, the day of labor was lengthened and wages cheapened. There was not a single act on the statutes to protect the worker in this bargain. While the employer was practically beyond the reach of the law, the worker accused of breaking contracts could be sentenced in the magistrate's private house and without being allowed to say a word in his own defense. He had no remedy if he were defrauded of his wretched wage, and paid in food from the master's shop, at his price, or was given at cost some of the goods he had made to sell as best he could for a lively hood."<sup>5</sup>

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2. Frederick Dietz, Political and Social History of England (New York, McMillan Company, 1927) p 403.
  3. Frederick Engels, Conditions of the Working Class in England in 1884 (London Swanson Company, 1892), p 15.
  4. Frederick Dietz, op. cit., p 416.
  5. John Richard Green, A Short History of the English People (Revised edition with prologue by Alice Green; Chicago, New York, Cincinnati, American Book Company, 1916) p 840.



In 1802, a few acts were passed regulating working conditions in the factory but proved very unsatisfactory. Some of those passed were:

The washing of a room twice a year with quick lime, the limit of twelve hours a week for children apprentices, separate dormitories for men and women, and the teaching of apprentices for one hour on Sunday the principles of Christian religion. But the act provided no means to carry out this advice.<sup>6</sup>

There were also acts passed in 1819 which forbade children under nine working in factories and limiting young persons under eighteen to sixty-nine hours a week, but likewise little effort was made to enforce such acts.

The treatment of employees in the factory was less than humane.

Toil went on through day and night. Men were kept in at meal time to clean machinery. They were forbidden to carry watches, least they should check the factory clock that prolonged natural hours. There were frequent floggings, distortion from painful diseases, accidents from unfenced machinery---women toiled in coal mines, chained like beasts of burden to carts which they dragged on all fours through the long galleries traversing from seventeen to thirty miles a day. Children from 5 years old were sent to the darkness of mines. In the Model Mills of David Dale children worked from 6:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., after which they went to school. When the child reached the age of nine, the parish cut off relief, as it could then legally earn its own living by working for twelve hours; often fourteen or sixteen hours, children might be seen lying on the factory floor at night to be ready for work in the morning.<sup>7</sup>

The living conditions were equally as bad as the working ones. Green, author of Short History of the English people, described these as follows:

The newly made towns were crowded under the most forlorn conditions, huddled in houses run up by speculators in tiny courts, in alleys like gutters, in lanes where wheel barrows could not pass, crammed with dung hills and human beings, the air tainted by perpetual exhaustion, the pavement never dry, without water supply or drainage

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6. Ibid., p. 840.

7. Green, op. cit., p. 840

or scavenger carts. Mounds of filth were sold as manure to the farmers and as late as 1844 only two towns were known where refuse was removed at public expense from the quarters of the poor ----There was no public control and no representatives or town councils to protect the incoming multitudes of workers - aliens crowded into the courts of death.<sup>8</sup>

Frederick Engels, who made a study of the conditions of the working classes in England in 1844, described St. Giles, one of the slum areas in London as being:

A disorderly collection of tall, three or four storied houses, with narrowed, crooked, filthy streets, in which there is quite as much life as in the great thoroughfares of the town, except here only people of the working class are to be seen----The houses are occupied from cellar to garret, filthy within and without, and their appearance is such that no human being could possibly wish to live in them. But all this is nothing in comparison to the dwellings in the narrow courts and alleys, between the streets entered by covered passages between the houses in which the filth and tottering ruins surpass all description. Scarcely a whole window pane can be found, the walls are crumbling, door post and window frames loose, and broken, doors of old boards nailed together or altogether in this thieves quarter where no doors are needed, their being nothing to steal. Heaps of garbage and ashes lie in all directions, and the foul liquids emptied before the doors gather in stinking pools. There live the poorest of the poor, the worst paid workers with thieves and victims of prostitution, all indiscriminately huddled together. ....

Nor is St. Giles the only London slum. In the immense tangle of streets there are hundreds and thousands of alleys and courts lined with houses too bad for anyone to live in.<sup>9</sup>

Even some of Charles Dickens' novels well portray the living conditions of an early date. In his novel "Great Expectations," he spoke, among other things concerning the poor, of his impressions of the living conditions of the poor in London that struck him during a visit there. Portraying

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8. Ibid., P. 840-841

9. Engels. Op. Cit., P. 27

one section of London, he said:

I thought it had the most dismal trees in it, the most dismal sparrows, the most dismal cats, and the most dismal houses I had ever seen. I thought the windows of the set of chambers into which those houses were divided in every stage dilapidated, blind and curtain, crippled flower pots, cracked glass, dusty decay, miserable make-shift-----dry rot and wet rot and all the silent rots that rotted in neglected roof and cellar - rot of rat and mouse and bug and coaching stables near at hand besides - addressed themselves faintly to my sense of smell and moaned, "Try Barnards Mixture."<sup>10</sup>

The living conditions of sections of London, where the first settlement house had its beginnings, were compared with those of a later date by Mrs. Barnette, wife of its founder, at the First International Conference of Settlements in 1922, thus:

Where we now stand was then a Reformatory School for bad, very bad boys; where today we are to lunch was a cluster of low hovels where degraded women plied their evil trade with no less degraded men. Where we are today to see an exhibition of town planning there used to be a net work of courts and alleys. The whole place was inhabited by the criminal, the vicious, the degraded.<sup>11</sup>

The state gave but little attention to the education of the people for adjustment to life among the increased population of the towns.

Except for the provision of a barbarous criminal code, which was made more savage each year, the state did nothing to educate them (the country people) in the problems of living in the towns.<sup>12</sup>

The Children's Employment Commission which recorded certain conditions in 1884 of an English Industrial district known as the Potters reported that:

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10. Charles Dickens, Great Expectations: American Literary Society, (New York and London) p. 163

11. Settlements and their Outlook, Op. Cit., p. 80

12. Frederick C. Dietz. Op. Cit., p. 417

In the Potters district the schools are said to be comparatively numerous and to offer the children opportunities for instruction; but as the latter are so early set to work for twelve hours and more per day, they are not in a position to avail themselves for school, so that three-fourths of the children examined by the commission could neither read nor write, while the whole district is plunged in the deepest ignorance. Children who have attended Sunday School for years could not tell one letter from another, and the moral and religious education, as well as the intellectual, is on a very low plane.<sup>13</sup>

INTERESTED PEOPLE. Not all people were blind to the blighted spots nor to the conditions the working classes were subjected. True the public assumed some responsibility in the Poor Law, which dated to the Elizabethan period of 1601 (the 43rd of Elizabeth). This law was passed at this early date for relieving of the destitute. In the beginning, the old Poor Law provided assistance for the destitute and any person who failed to receive such could demand compensation. Provisions in many instances were made in workhouses for setting the idle to work. These early workhouses differed greatly from those of the nineteenth century houses, where instead of serving as a job-finding center, they were designed to be a measure of penalty for those who sought relief from the state. The Poor Law never worked satisfactorily though many inquiries of them were made by government appointed commissions, an especially significant one being from 1832-1834, which "arose out of the then existing state of things; and its revolutionary proposals were the outcome of a whole generation of abstract reasoning upon the misdeeds of local administration."<sup>14</sup>

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13. Engels, op. cit., p. 207

14. Sidney & Beatrice Webb, English Local Government, 1927-29. English Poor Law History (London and New York, Longmans, Green) Part 1, The Poor Law: Part 11, The Last Hundred Years (2 vols) Vol. 11, p. 469

Private charities were also in existence, one of the most important and earliest being the Charity Organization Society in London. Although the Society's main object was that of organizing other charities, its council never lost sight of the wider questions which were concerned with the poor.

If the Charity Organization set out upon its work poor in money, it had a rich store of enthusiasm and ideas to draw upon. It had also that invaluable asset, a definite working plan to serve as a basis from which it could develop its future principles and policy.<sup>15</sup>

To read the history of the Society by Helen Bosanquet, reveals that though it failed in some instances, its work and contribution in relieving the conditions of the poor in London were of much value.

Private and Public charity of this sort was not what reform leaders now and then advocated. As far back as 1819, Robert Owens (1771-1858), a factory owner and idealist, initiated a system of reform. "He preached the doctrine of Cooperative production and communal, which soon came to be known as socialism."<sup>16</sup> He endeavored to establish a model community at New Lanock, Scotland, the site of his factory, and improved the conditions of the working class. In his own words of his experiment he said:

For 29 years we did without the necessity of magistrate or lawyers; without a single legal punishment; without any poor rates; without intemperance or religious animosities. We reduced the hours of labour, well educated all the children from infancy, greatly improved the condition of the adults, diminished their daily labour, paid

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15. Helen Bosanquet, Social Work in London. (London, John Murray Albermarle Street, 1914) p. 28

16. Dietz. op. cit., p. 481

interest on capital and cleared upward of \$300,000 of profit.<sup>17</sup>

Among other great champions of reform were Thomas Carlyle (1792-1881) who taught that society was a moral organism, a living unity and fellowship; he also believed that all social growth would require organization. Charles Dickens (1812-1870) in one of his early essays, The Parish, which was later followed by another, Our Parish, stirred his readers by intimately depicting the deplorable conditions of the poor. Among the outstanding women reformers, Miss Octavia Hill, sought reform in English Poor Law and better housing and is said to have claimed that one way to improve a man was to improve the house in which he lived. Matthew Arnold at Cambridge and John Ruskin at Oxford laid emphasis upon cultural democracy. The reform idea became even more dominant, not on the Marxian revolutionary level, but on the personal regenerative level; other interested people, who, imbued with Christian socialism and favored educationally and financially, were desirous of "supping with the poor."

The first to actually start doing things for the poor was Edwin Denison (1840-1870). Having been greatly influenced by Ruskin while at Oxford, he had his heart set on a career in the House of Commons. He decided to gain some personal experience of the living conditions among the underprivileged in preparation for parliamentary duties. As a result of this desire, he accepted an appointment by the London Society and lived in one of the poor sections - East Branch. There he founded a school in which he

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17. Carlton J. H. Hayes, Political and Social History of Modern Europe. (New York: The Macmillan Company) Vol. 2. p. 86-87

lectured to the working men and gave religious instructions.

Had Denison's health not failed him, he probably would have carried out his intentions to form a colony. Instead of the University Settlement's being founded in 1884, there was a great possibility that it would have been founded in 1868. He was a great personality and exerted unestimable influence on the Settlement movement.

The source of Denison's influence lay in his quality of openmindedness, sincerity and modesty combined with a sterling sense of all the implied obligations of citizenship. He mapped out the ground and forecasted important lines of action developed by his successors, more immediately concerned with relief of the poor than with assisting working people to organize their own lives happily and productively, his influence was yet wholly towards democracy. His insistence on the thorough going treatment of poverty, on the need of civic leadership in working class communities, and on association between the rich and the poor in order that each might mutually and vitally influence the other, was destined to establish the fundamental tenets of a new form of social faith.<sup>18</sup>

After Denison's death, his friend and fellowworker, Edmond Holland (1841-1900) made effort to continue his work.

Holland lived for a time at Stepney, and for several years was influential in developing larger plans for the improvement of East London.<sup>19</sup>

In addition to the social conditions that cried out for change and reformers, another significant factor was becoming important. The new ideas on spiritual values, on the organic concept of humanity, were trickling down from the reformers to the students at Oxford and Cambridge. Samuel (1844-1913) was one of those students who, imbued with the idea of personal

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18. Robert A. Wood and Albert J. Kennedy, The Settlement Horizon, (New York, Russell Sage Foundation, 1922) p. 21

19. Ibid. p. 21

service, sought a poor parish where he could minister to the temporal as well as the spiritual needs of his parishioners. At St. Jude's White Chapel, one of the most wretched districts of East London, he began his work.

Significant was his reorganization of public and private relief, for his experience had convinced him that the industrial and urban sections had suffered much under the systems that had been used. He realized the failure of charity and mission schools for the lack of proper leadership. He sought to bring to the working men the real significance of the university extension movement, in which he was active. In fact, he took up almost where Denison and Holland left off in attempting to improve the condition of the poor.

He organized a colony of young men who would cast their lot with the poor working class in underprivileged neighborhoods. In the words of Robert A. Wood, historian of the Settlement Movement,

Barnett proposed to bring some of the nation's chief sources of power into the vacuum left by the collapse of older forms of community life.<sup>20</sup>

At the invitation of Barnett, many a group of young university students took up their residence among the poor, one of the most representative being Arnold Toynbee (1815-1883), a young Oxford student. Toynbee believed in and cared for the working men and women, and believed that they should inherit all good and beautiful things. He was devoutly religious, seeking a universal fellowship, rather than any dogmatic faith. His contribution might be said to have been his insistence upon the spread of

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20. op. cit., Wood and Kennedy, p. 24.



reciprocal first hand contact between university and working men. He saw this in the light of such a relation existing for the fulfillment of the life of each as well as for the good of the nation at large.

Toynbee was never able to carry out his ambition, for his career, like that of Denison's was cut short by death.

In the meantime Barnett continued to influence the Oxford men in the life of East London. In 1876, because of the inadequacy of his vicarage, he undertook to secure the benefits of a university extension center for White Chapel. As a result of this plan, in October, 1877, the Tower Hamlets branch of the newly organized London University Extension Society was formed. The lectures conducted by this organization at White Chapel were of such a nature that they attracted nationwide attention when circulated by the newspapers. This publicity created more interest in the poor, especially in the universities. In 1883, Barnett received a letter from two men at St. John College, Cambridge, who were ready to do something for the poor, but who did not wish to found a mission. Instead they wished to put their own personalities into their work with the poor. To this letter, Barnett wrote a response in which he outlined the importance of their mission as well as a description of procedure. This letter is known as the charter of Settlements. Its substance may be found in the following quotation:

Many have been the schemes of reform I have known, but, out of eleven years of experience I would say that none touches the roots of evil which does not bring helper and helped into friendly relations. Vain will be higher education, music, art, or even the gospel, unless they come clothed in the life of brother man -

'it took the Life to make God known.' Vain, too, will be sanitary legislation and model dwellings, unless the outcasts are by friendly hands brought in one by one to habits of cleanliness and order, to thoughts of righteousness and peace. 'What will save East London' asked one of our University visitors of his master. 'The destruction of West London' was the answer and, insofar as he meant the abolition of the influence which divide rich and poor, the answer was right. Not until the habits of the rich are changed, and they are content to breath the same air and walk the same streets, will East London be saved.' Meantime a settlement of University men will do a little to remove the inequalities of life, as the settlers share their best with the poor and learn through feeling how they live."<sup>21</sup>

As a result of this letter an organization was formed representing both Cambridge and Oxford to raise money for the proposed settlement. A small group of men having been moved by the spirit of the settlement movement, took up residence at White Chapel in an old residence in the neighborhood. Ground was secured later adjoining St. Jude's on which a building was constructed which was to be the first settlement. On Christmas Eve, 1884, residents began living in the new building. With the memory of Toynbee still fresh in the minds of his fellow workers, the "Mother of Settlements" was named Toynbee Hall.

Toynbee Hall (1884) was the culmination of the effort of those who believed the poor could be helped only by working with them, guiding them, instilling religion as the basis of spiritual regeneration.

A true account of the original settlement idea is described as:

A colony of members of the upper class, formed in a poor neighborhood with the double purpose of getting to know the local conditions of life from personal observations, and of helping where help is needed. The settler gives up the comfort of a West End Home, and becomes a friend of the poor. He sacrifices to them his hours of

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21. Wood and Kennedy, op, cit., p. 26-27.

leisure, and fills his imagination with pictures of misery and crime, instead of with impressions of beauty and happiness. For a short or longer time the slum becomes his home. Only seldom does he show himself at his club, at the theater, in society. This means the loosing of social and personal ties, in many cases the foregoing of the prospect of an early marriage, and neglect of favorite pursuits. It means the love of mankind has thrown an existence of its accustomed lines, that habitual forms of conventional thought have been burnt up in the fire of a great passion, and the image of man usually obscured by prejudices and conventions, emerges beyond all differences of birth and breeding. The settler comes to the poor as man to man, in the conviction that it means a misfortune for all parties and a danger for the nation, if the different classes live in complete isolation of thought and environment. He comes to bridge the gulf between the classes. He has lost confidence in legislative and administrative measures which would solve the social problem academically, and he hates the established forms of charity which humbles instead of elevates, and demolished instead of improved. He mistrusts dead organizations, and would replace them by personal relationships. Not as an official but as a friend does he approach the poor, and he knows that he is there not only as the giver but the receiver. Life instead of machinery, exact knowledge of the conditions to be improved, in the midst of which he must place himself instead of trusting to an unreliable judgment from a bird's-eye-view -- this is his motto.<sup>22</sup>

Dr. Werner Picht maintains that the Settlement Movement was the outcome of Social Idealism, the intellectual movement at the head of which stood Carlyle and Ruskin. "In their train of thought lay the germs of the Settlement idea."<sup>23</sup> To emphasize the point he quoted a portion of an article which appeared in the Contemporary Review, September, 1884, which reads as follows:

Fifteen years or so ago, when Edwin Denison lived in East London, Mr. John R. Green\* and myself (I cannot remember whether Edmund

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22. Dr. Werner Picht, Toynbee Hall and The Settlement Movement, rev. ed. translated from the German by Lillian A. Cowell, London, G. Bell & Sons 1914, pp. 1-2.

23. Dr. Werner Picht, op. cit., p. 9

\* John Richard Green (Short History of the English People) went to England in 1860 for 9 years. He was a minister.

Holland was of the party, if so, he was the only other person present) to discuss with him in his house at Denmark Hill the possibility of doing something for the poor. Denison and Green hit out the idea of the University Settlement of a colony of men who should do what Denison and Holland were doing.<sup>24</sup>

Canon Barnette was much concerned over the difference between the settlement and the missions so much so that in 1897, he wrote an article entitled "Settlement and Missions" in which he endeavored to explain the difference. While religion was significant in the beginning, that interest waned and attention was centered on education and other forms of help - hence, the distinction between missions, which continued their religious programs, and the settlement, which sponsored no religious dogmas.

The example of Toynbee Hall inspired the Americans who had seen the work done in East London. They attempted the same type of work - resident of Education, advantages people in needy neighborhoods. The needs varied according to neighborhoods for in America the groups were more heterogenous than those in England, where the settlement had its origin. In America some of the groups were foreign, some mixed groups and some colored, each presenting problems that needed some attention - hence, no two settlements are exactly alike although there are basic similarities.

In summarizing the conditions which gave rise to the first settlement, we find that laboring problems within working-class England which resulted from rapid shifting in population, and occupation changes required outside aid in the solution of this social dilemma. Though public and private charity assisted to an extent and several reformers believed that they had found

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24. Plicht., op. cit., p. 9

the remedy in the Marxian revolution; there was still another group who saw the remedy not in either approaches. These people were imbued with Christian socialism and sought a solution in actual sharing with the poor and through schools to raise the standards of the poor. These Christian reformers felt that each individual and each small neighborhood would have to be built to change the conditions; this was the basic idea. Personal regeneration for the poor, and experience for the wealthy were the two prime aspects.

The South Side Settlement of Chicago, too, was also begun in an area of need. The War Camp Community Service arose to meet the emergencies of the neighborhood during the World War crisis, but the settlement arose to meet the need on a permanent basis. We, therefore, have similar conditions, interested people, and a type of service developed to meet a need.

In the thesis that follows an effort will be made to explain these, the development to the present and the present circumstances.

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORY OF THE SOUTH SIDE SETTLEMENT HOUSE

We have had them about fifty years now, but no one knows yet what they are: these social settlements. Nor can a community as Chicago do without them.<sup>1</sup>

In minds of many of the people on Chicago's South Side there has been just such a wonder no doubt about the old red brick building on the corner of 3201 South Wabash Avenue. Many hours of the day, all seems calm and quiet about it with the exception of a few people going up and down the worn, concrete steps leading into the front entrance. Were it not for the small sign on the front right corner of the building on which are written the words "South Side Settlement House" it might be easily mistaken for any of the old residences of the neighborhood. Probably many of the newcomers to the neighborhood little realize that for a period of twenty years this old building has been one of the centers for various kinds of community activities, that it is unique, in that it is the only one of the 35 settlements in Chicago fully staffed by colored people and serves the largest area of any.

#### WAR CAMP COM-

The South Side Soldiers and Sailors Club, a unit of the

#### MUNITY SERVICE

War Camp Community Service<sup>2</sup> may be considered the nucleus

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1. Ernest Gifford, "Social Center Needs Felt by Industrial Heads"; The Chicago Daily News, October 16, 1935.
  2. War Camp Community Service was a national service set up during the World War to render needed service to World War Soldiers and to provide recreational programs for them. It was financed and operated by the government.

of the South Side Settlement House. It was out of this organization that the Settlement had its beginning. This development may be divided into three periods. First, the War Camp Community Services; second, the South Side Community Service, and third, that of the South Side Settlement House.

It was during 1918 to 1920, that the present Settlement House accommodated the War Camp Community Service.<sup>3</sup> This service was a unit of the community Service established by the government for the purpose of providing recreation and other needed services for the World War Soldiers. These services later included aiding the ex-service men to procure employment, and assisted them in their war insurance adjustments.<sup>4</sup>

From a report of the Urban League<sup>5</sup> it was found that:

The South Side Soldiers and Sailors Club followed the recommendations of the League which secured the site for the club, selected the personnel and generally assisted in the details of the enterprise. The League also selected an advisory committee representing various colored groups. This committee assisted the superintendent of the clubs and officers of the War Camp Community Service in the conduct of the club.<sup>6</sup>

**TRANSITION**            In 1920, the War Camp Community Service terminated. The need it served had diminished to the point where a different type of service was needed. Mrs. Ada McKinley, who had served as hostess of the house during

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3. The 1938 Campaign Bulletin of the South Side Settlement House, p. 2

4. Many soldiers did not understand the proper procedure to use in adjusting their war insurance. This information and assistance was supplied by the War Camp Community Service.

5. The Urban League is a Negro Organization, the purpose of which is to bring about improved relations between the races and to improve industrial, economic and social conditions among Negroes. It is a unit of a national organization, the headquarters of which is in New York City.

6. Second Annual Report of the Urban League, Conditions Among Negroes for the Fiscal Year ending October 31, 1938, p. 6

the period of War Camp Community Service, related that she, along with a group of civic-minded colored citizens of the neighborhood and community, believed that although the services that had been rendered to the soldiers were no longer needed, there was still the need for a kind of service that would help to rehabilitate the life of the neighborhood. This neighborhood had been distorted by many new conditions brought about by the World War. Other already existing social problems too had become more and more of a sore spot in the neighborhood and the community at large due to the "Negro Migration." Some of these problems brought about because of the migration are described by Franklin Frazier as follows:

The steady wave of migration had been incorporated in the Negro Community with comparatively little friction and disorganization; the deluge of migration that came from the South during the previous decade had come chiefly from the border states, where Negroes represented on a whole, a higher level of economical and cultural development and could more easily adapt themselves to a large urban environment. But when thousands of plantation Negroes from the lower South during the World War caused the Negro population to increase nearly 150% the equilibrium that had been established between the black and white communities was destroyed, and there was great disorganization of life in the Negro Community.<sup>7</sup>

Many Negroes came from the South to take over the jobs of those who had been drafted or had themselves volunteered during the World War. This influx later caused a scarcity of jobs in the community when the war veterans returned to the community. Many of these men wandered through their neighborhood in search for employment. There was need for a program for them.

The women were in great numbers dejected too, as some had become widows

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7. E. Franklin Frazier, The Negro In Chicago, (University of Chicago Press, 1932) p. 90



as a result of the war and others' husbands had returned disabled. Many of these women had a great deal of leisure time, with but few constructive ways of using it. The need for a kind of service to take care of the leisure time of these people was made evident.<sup>8</sup>

PERSONS INTERESTED  
IN THE VENTURE

Several persons in the community realized the great need for a community house. At this time, Mrs. McKinley was the main exponent of the idea. Other persons, too, were sympathetic with the idea and contributed liberally. There were some funds left over from the War Camp Community Service which had been allotted to the Soldiers and Sailors Club; so the beginning was not a difficult one. Among the members of the Board of Directors were Mrs. Harriet Vittum, head resident of Northwestern University Settlement; Mrs. Nona Jackson, Attorney C. F. Stradford, Mr. Leonard Outlaw, the present president, Dr. Fred Cade, Mr. Jesse Binga, a bank president, Mrs. B. Montgomery, Dr. Isaac Holloway, Mrs. Mary McDowell, head resident of the University of Chicago Settlement, Mrs. M. W. Fields, secretary. These persons were only a segment of the people who were first interested in the venture. They represented the business and professional classes. They included lawyers, social workers, physicians, a bank president, two head residents of Settlement Houses, business men and school teachers.

The original idea of the South Side Community House, as explained by Mr. Leonard Outlaw was that:

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8. Interview with Mrs. Ada McKinley, Head Resident of The South Side Settlement House.

It was similar to most community houses. In the words of Mrs. Harriet Vittum, it was a 'House by the Side of the Road', a house where the under-privileged might stop by, where neighborhood clubs might meet, and programs for bettering the moral and cultural conditions of the community might be carried on by teaching the proper use of leisure time.<sup>9</sup>

This service was further described by the Chicago Commission on Race Relations in the following words:

The South Side Community Service is a re-established organization growing out of the Soldiers and Sailors Club. It aims to provide wholesome recreation and leisure time activities for its neighborhood. At the Community House, 3201 South Wabash Avenue, it serves a number of organizations, arranges supervised dances, dramatic programs and other entertainment for the group.<sup>10</sup>

The service continued under the name of South Side Community Service from 1920-1925.

It was the idea of Mrs. Harriet Vittum and a liberal contributor to South Side Community Service, that the name of the South Side Community Service be changed to that of the South Side Settlement House.<sup>11</sup>

All the members of the South Side Community Service were in accord with the idea of Mrs. Vittum and felt that the community could be better served if the programs of the community house were extended to those of a settlement house. Instead of having a community house that would be opened only part of the day, a settlement house<sup>12</sup> was to be established in its

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9. Interview with Mr. Leonard Outlaw, President of the Board of Directors.

10. The Negro in Chicago, a study of the Chicago Race Riot by the Commission on Race Relations. (University of Chicago Press) p 148-149

11. Interview with Mr. Leonard Outlaw, President of the Board of Directors.

12. The community house and the settlement house differ in that the settlement has a head resident or residents who live in the house all the time, while the community house does not. Programs of the settlement house are usually more varied than those of a community house. See Settlement Horizons by Robert A. Woods and Albert J. Kennedy.

stead. Mrs. McKinley, who had served as hostess during War Camp Community Service and as president of the South Side Community Service, was appointed head resident.

On May 1, 1926, the members of the South Side Community Service made the following resolution to change the name of the South Side Community Service:

Resolved that the name of the 'South Side Community Service be changed to the South Side Settlement House.<sup>13</sup>

The Board of Directors later met, and it was decided that Mrs. McKinley and Mr. C. F. Stratford, a member of the Board of Directors, were to be asked to take care of the changing of the name and the nature of the Settlement House. Mrs. McKinley was urged to apply for the charter immediately under the new name.<sup>14</sup> It was not until May 21, 1926, however, that the name was legally changed.

#### CHANGES

Besides changing the name, placing a permanent head resident at the house, writing of a constitution for the settlement (which made for a better and more permanent form of organization), and being admitted as a member to the Chicago Federation of Settlements in 1929, there were no other changes. The programs of the house remained about the same as they were during the Community Service until the programs became subsidized by the government in 1934.<sup>15</sup>

#### PURPOSE OF

The purpose of the Settlement House is clearly expressed

#### SETTLEMENT

in Article II of the constitution which reads as follows:

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13. Taken from original found in files of the South Side Settlement House.

14. Minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting, May 17, 1926.

15. Interview with Mrs. Ada S. McKinley.

**OBJECT** - The object of this organization shall be to promote community happiness and good citizenship among the people of Chicago by encouraging the constructive use of leisure time through wholesome recreation, neighborliness, self-development and service to the community.

**MEANS** - To this end, we shall prepare and carry on a program of activities duly recognizing existing efforts and facilities and creating new ones as needed. It shall cooperate with churches in their promotion of recreational activities, with other social agencies working for this common good and shall keep in touch with the leisure-time movement as a whole. It shall at all times be non-partisan, non-sectarian and non-profitable.

**THE HEAD**

In order to get a clearer picture of the Settlement's

**RESIDENT**

history it is well to speak of the life of Mrs. Ada S.

McKinley, the moving spirit behind the Settlement in all its activities since its first establishment. She has devoted not only her time, but also her own money; has never asked for a salary, and has vowed to serve the settlement and the community as long as she is physically able. Like Jane Addams, she traced her urge to serve back to ideals that she formulated during the years she spend in boarding school, and to the spirit of the time in which she lived.<sup>16</sup>

Trained at Tillotson College, a missionary Congregational School, located at Austin, Texas, she first conceived the idea of service and caught the spirit of the missionary era.<sup>17</sup>

She was an only child of a family of some means and hence able to enter

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16. See Jane Addams, Twenty Years at Hull House.

17. Tillotson College was one of the many missionary colleges founded by Northern Educators for Negroes, in the South, very shortly after the Civil War. It aimed to instill into its students the ideal of service, especially service in helping illiterate and underprivileged Negro groups who had lacked the opportunity for educational advantages.

boarding school at the early age of fourteen. Unlike most of the girls in the school, she had money enough to pay for her tuition. In the beginning she resented the idea of having to share in the work that all the students were compelled to do. This resentment became so great that she made an open outcry against it. This action attracted the attention of one of the instructors of the institution who spoke to her concerning this act. After a lengthy conference with this instructor, she came out of it with a changed outlook on life. She was made to feel that work was honorable. Throughout all the years since that conference, she is still able to recall clearly the following words made by this instructor: "Remember that many hands are needed to do Life's Work." Under the influence of this teacher, she was imbued with the idea of service; and ever since she has felt the urge to serve her fellowmen. She recalls that the slogan of the school was "Count that day lost whole Low Descending Sun views from thy hand no worthy action done."

After spending five years at Tillotson College, she became so filled with the missionary spirit that she pleaded with her father to let her go to the Sandwich Islands to do missionary work there with one of the instructors from the college. At this time, she was only nineteen; her father, feeling that she was too young to go such a distance from home, refused to give his permission. However, this did not dim her desire to serve, for on the rural plains of Texas there was much work to be done among the many illiterate Negroes. Very soon she secured a job teaching in one of the rural schools. Later, she married and moved to Chicago where her husband had relatives who felt that his opportunity would be better in a large city. She

had no idea of ever going into settlement work at this time. She had not, however, lost the desire of wanting to do something to help the less fortunate.

While living near the Douglas School at 32nd Street and Calumet Avenue, she realized the danger of the children's insufficient lunches that consisted, in many instances, only of soup, pickles and candy. She opened a small lunch place and served hot lunches for the school children at low prices.

When the War Camp Community Service was established, she applied for the position as hostess, for in this position she felt that she could better serve a larger group of people in the war crisis.

With the termination of War Camp Community Service, she saw the great need of continuing another kind of community service. With little funds and with only the contributions of loyal friends, she attempted to carry on what was known as the South Side Community Service. When the house was admitted to the Federation of Settlement Houses, she remained as head resident, the position which she now holds. For twenty years, she has attempted to help build the character of the South Side neighborhood. The means and the programs used in the attempt to meet this end have been varied.<sup>18</sup>

**ACTIVITIES** The Settlement throughout its history has developed neighborhood service clubs and community music organization, provided space for community social evenings, provided physical and social recreation for people of all ages; procured and supervised the use of streets, halls, parks, and vacant lots (all free) for recreational programs, conducted free day and evening classes in art, drama, music, story telling, millinery, manual training and many others. It has housed the Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, Infant Welfare Station, Adult Educational Programs, Chicago Leisure

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18. Information gained through an interview with Mrs. Ada McKinley.

Time Service, National Youth Administration activities. It was the birthplace of the Giles Post, American Legion, and Social Service Round Table.<sup>19</sup>

Because of the lack of funds and lack of organization, no official record of the early services has been kept. Beginning December, 1934, a summary of the weekly activities has been recorded. From minutes of the Board meetings, recollections of the head resident, from news clippings, interviews which were recorded, through programs, pictures and other material of the settlement house that have been preserved by the head resident, a fair knowledge of the programs of activities, the changes that have taken place, and the reasons for these changes in the program of activities have been secured. Some of these and many other activities are still in operation.

The present activities will be treated more fully in a later chapter.

From 1926 - 1934, the Infant Welfare Station was housed at the Settlement House. It was of tremendous assistance, for infant mortality was high and many mothers of the neighborhood lacked knowledge in the care of infants. The infants were weighed, diets prescribed and, in many instances, milk was given to the children whose parents could not provide it. This service was discontinued at the Settlement House because larger quarters were needed to take care of increasing numbers of children who needed attention; however, it is still located in the neighborhood, just a short distance from the Settlement House.

An extract taken from the minutes of the Board of Directors related as follows:

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19. 1938 Campaign Bulletin of South Side Settlement House, p. 2

At the meeting held at the South Side Community House, Tuesday evening, June 23, 1928, important phases of the program were discussed. It developed that the Infant Welfare Station housed by the South Side Community Service ranks third among infant welfare stations. The committee pointed out, however, that the station at present is only a C station, which means that only babies from birth to two years may receive treatment. What the committee has in mind is the development of an A Class station which will extend the age limit to six years and also establish a pre-natal clinic in which mothers will be taught the things necessary in order that the expected babies may have a fair chance to be well born.<sup>20</sup>

Although the activities at the Settlement House have been numerous, many have faded into oblivion, but a record of many outstanding ones, accounts of which appeared in newspapers, has been preserved in a scrap book by the head resident. An account of the street parties given in 1934 reads:

The big weekly street parties which are being given every Wednesday evening from six to ten o'clock and sponsored by the South Side Settlement House are attracting wide spread interest. The program consists of community singing, group games, competitive games, individual contests, relays and dancing. Many interesting features are arranged by the Chicago Leisure Time Association classes which meet there daily.

Here have been organized groups of young girls and boys as Camp Fire Girls and Boy Scouts, Troup 545, being one of the first organized on the near South Side. Adult clubs of both men and women, as well as several musical organizations have been organized here. From these varied groups, individuals have grown into worthwhile citizens. Many look back with pleasure from employment in the government, social service fields, teaching and business to the stimulating contacts at the South Side Settlement House, which strives to live up to its motto "Service."

Many small neighborhood organizations have found it to be an excellent clearing house for them in discussions and adjustments of their problems. Being non-political as well as non-sectarian it has thus been possible for groups to meet in a most friendly way. The South Side is studded with organizations which owe their existence to the friendly shelter of the Settlement. Seeking to

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20. Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meetings, June 23, 1928.



develop and maintain the spiritual values of life through charity is good citizenship. The community is benefited and much influence is felt.

From time to time, courses have been given in household arts, salesmanship, and factory work, thus aiding individuals to make a better living - hence a better life. It has housed the Infant Welfare Society for eight years with a total registration of more than a thousand babies and children of pre-school age. This organization because of the depression, was forced to withdraw its service but was instrumental in having the city of Chicago to take over the station.<sup>21</sup>

The general summary, given in the above article, indicates the influence the Settlement had on the community up to 1934.

From another article, written in 1934, a clipping reads as follows:

Two thousand five hundred school children attend streetparty frolic--The South Side Settlement House under the supervision of Mrs. Ada S. McKinley, director, and Mrs. Leonard G. Outlaw, chairman, entertained the children of the district Wednesday evening with a tremendous street party. There were athletic contests, singing and many other interesting features. Many prizes donated by various business houses on the South Side were given in winning contestants. The most amusing events were the eating contest, the scooter race, the fatmen's race (that was a real laugh), and the races.

Another newspaper article in 1935 discussed "The Open House" held by the Settlement:

The South Side Settlement concluded its summer program last week with a field day on Saturday afternoon, an exhibit of the work accomplished in the various classes, a barn dance, and on Sunday, open house. The "forgotten" man is coming back into his own again and the South Side Settlement House, at 32nd and Wabash Avenue, under the auspices of the Children's Leisure Time Service, is taking the lead in bringing the "forgotten" and underprivileged children into their own. The work of the Chicago Leisure Time Society during the summer took the form of an extensive vacation program for children in the district between Wentworth Avenue and the lake,

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21. Taken from a newspaper article which has been preserved in the scrap book of the head resident.

29th and 35th Streets. Children in that area have been neglected from a humanitarian point of view and Mrs. Ada S. McKinley, head resident of the South Side Settlement, has set about to improve the conditions.

The work of the settlement house is planned to keep the children off the streets. The exhibition of handicraft work, sewing, flower making and other work done by the girls, the manual training done by the boys in the summer school classes is an evidence that the children returned to school improved in every way by their summer work. Some 25,000<sup>22</sup> children are served by the settlement house each week.

Mrs. Harriet Vittum of Northwestern Settlement was the speaker on Sunday afternoon. Music was furnished by members of the piano class, the toy band, and the vocal class; members of the folk dancing group gave numbers and the feature number was Tom Thumb Wedding, a very pretty and colorful affair given by the kindergarten class. Other music was furnished by Settlement House Band. Following the program tea was served and the guests made a trip through the building.

The above account indicates that the settlement has not only provided physical recreation for the juveniles of the community but has also provided means for cultural development for both the youths and adults.

Another annual event of the Settlement has been the Christmas holiday events. An article taken from the Chicago Defender anticipated this event as follows:

South Side Settlement House to have gala holiday - a full round of Christmas holiday festivities are scheduled for the South Side Settlement beginning Monday, Dec. 21, at 10:00 A.M., with the Christmas tree party and exhibits by the Millinery Club on December 22 at 5:30 P.M.; Toymakers Dream playlet and party for Christmas for children under 12, Dec. 26 at 3:00 P.M., the Illinois Housewives Association party for the Settlement House at the Owl Theater, Monday, Dec. 28, from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The midget football team banquet at the Settlement House at 7:00 P.M., January 2, will end the celebration.

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22. This number does not indicate the actual number of different children registered in various departments. One child may be in two departments and thus counted twice.

The accounts mentioned above as well as scores of others indicate the type of activities that have been carried on by the Settlement House.<sup>23</sup>

For twenty years this old landmark has been a veritable beacon light of encouragement and hope to the underprivileged of this populous community. Through its efforts hundreds have found lucrative employment and thousands have been given a better outlook on life.<sup>24</sup>

RECENT CHANGES As indicated in the mention of the various governmentally  
IN THE PROGRAM financed agencies, several changes have come about in the Settlement House programs. Beginning in 1934, efforts were made to have the following agencies incorporated into the program: The Chicago Leisure Time Society, Adult Education Program, and the National Youth Administration. At this time the Settlement was suffering financially due to the fact that most of Chicago was affected by the depression. Many banks had failed. Chicago School Teachers were not being paid, and many people who had received good salaries were without work. It was from these groups that the Settlement House had received most of its contributions.

The following portion of a letter written by Mrs. McKinley to the district officials of the Works Progress Administration in Chicago expresses the reason why the National Youth Administration workers were sought by the Settlement.

The extension of the use of the National Youth Administration workers would offer first an opportunity for persons in the community some definite help financially, second, provide a leader-

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23. It has been learned through interviews with the head resident, and several members of the Board of Directors that the account of the activities given have been carried on by the Settlement House during its entire history.

24. 1938 Campaign Bulletin of the South Side Settlement House, p. 3

ship which is now not present in sufficient numbers in the regular agencies working in the community, third, provide a training center for persons who have the "feel" of the community but have not had the techniques required to do effective community service. Inasmuch as the Settlement House has a well organized personnel, though limited, the use of these National Youth Administration workers would be able to work from a central point under a PLANNED PROGRAM which would definitely do invaluable service in a real project of human engineering.

One of the very necessary things now missing in the community is a sufficiently large place for the gathering of young girls where wholesome recreation and study may be had under proper supervision and at no cost. The community cannot afford the type of such as is necessary and those agencies now offering such a place are definitely restricted as is the Settlement House in funds, accommodation and personnel. If the N.Y.A. is able to provide such a place, which is accessible and offering adequate facilities a most vital need of the community in respect to the young women will have been met for the first time to the fullest extent and the results of such a well supervised center or centers would aid definitely in the matter of reducing delinquency and solving a vital leisure time problem of the young city girl who lives in a blighted area.

We feel, that if such a center could be maintained at no cost, as a branch of the Settlement House, we could and would be glad to provide and assume responsibilities for efficient and proper staff supervision of such. It would be unwise to lose sight of the fact however, that there would be the necessity of some repairs for the branch and rehabilitation to some extent of our present location which would make both places more desirable for the work we wish to carry on.

It is sincerely hoped that the whole experience of the N. Y. A. can be put behind such a co-operative enterprise and it is definitely assured that results obtained under such a community program with its impress on the needs of the young girl will far surpass the expectation usually conceded in such projects.<sup>25</sup>

Other appeals were made to the Chicago Leisure Time Society\* and Adult Education Program for funds in carrying on in the constructive use of leisure,

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25. Copy of a letter written by Mrs. Ada S. McKinley, head resident of the South Side Settlement House.

\* Recently this has been changed to the Chicago Recreation Commission.

The need for adult education was felt in the community, but the settlement lacked the proper funds to carry out this program. The introduction of these services has helped to save a settlement house which was on the decline because of the lack of funds. Unfortunately this introduction has taken away some of the original settlement spirit. Many of the former volunteer workers are now being paid,<sup>27</sup> and many workers now at the settlement house, though doing excellent work, have gone to the settlement house because they have been able to secure jobs on these government projects. Some, when first applying for the jobs, had no knowledge that they would eventually be placed in the settlement. Each little department stands as a distinct unit, not necessarily working for the welfare of the settlement house as a whole, but more or less limited in its program by the government restrictions. As one views the historical development of the Settlement House, this stands out as a distinct change that has the possibility of changing the entire spirit, program and activities of the Settlement. Once it had been a neighborhood house, now its service extends to the far ends of the community.

Most of those persons on the government work project do not come of their own accord, but usually because they are referred to the project. Previously the activities and programs were not restricted, but now they must conform to government requirements.

In summarizing the history of the settlement we find that from 1918 to 1920, it was the War Camp Community Service. From 1920 to 1926 the Settle-

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27. Information secured from two workers at Settlement House.

ment served the community as Community Service, and from 1926 to the present time it has functioned under the name of the South Side Settlement.

### CHAPTER III

#### PHYSICAL PLANT AND ADMINISTRATION

The neighborhood house should be inviting and homelike in appearance, whatever its size. The tone of the House is set by the entrance.<sup>1</sup>

In considering the South Side Settlement today, it is therefore important to consider the building which it occupies as well as the administration.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS The South Side Settlement House is an old brick residence which has been rented until 1938 for settlement activities; it is now being purchased. The building was formerly owned by Mr. Henry Hudson, a white member of the community, who lived there until his death, December 6, 1918. No changes have been made in the original plans, but the rooms readily adapt themselves to the present purpose. The house has three floors and a basement. The building is located on the southwest corner of Wabash Avenue at 32nd Street, leaving a large lawn, on one side and in the rear, for a playground. The Settlement has the use also of a vacant lot which is directly opposite it. This is used for baseball, softball and other active games.

One enters the building up a flight of stone steps which were once dull red, but are now darkened by the smoke and dust of the years. On each side of the steps is an elaborately designed iron railing. At the top of the

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1. Mary Kingsbury Sinskhovitch, The Settlement Primer, National Federation of Settlements, Inc. 1936. p. 7

steps is a small porch about nine by twelve feet. An arched entrance with two large oak doors leads into a small lobby, five by seven feet, which in turn opens into a spacious hall. This spaciousness does set an inviting and welcome tone to the entrance.

The floor of the hall is covered with a solid dark gray carpet which is much worn and patched. The furniture in the hall consists of ten folding chairs and two large arm chairs, one of which is so badly torn that the cushion springs are exposed.

The basement has six rooms, but they are so dark, dirty, damp and in need of repair, that only one room is used for settlement activities. This room contains a work bench, several chairs and is used by one of the Works Progress Administration projects in handicrafts.

One other room in the basement has been made into a small printshop. This enterprise has no connection with the activities of the House. The printer is merely allowed this space; in return, he does small printing jobs for the Settlement free of charge.

The first floor contains three large club rooms, the main office, and the resident's dining room and kitchen. A pay-booth telephone is in the front hall, also a small women's lavatory built under the stairway leading to the second floor. In it are a tan marble lavatory and toilet. Its one window has a tan striped curtain.

The main office, which is used by Mrs. McKinley, the director of the Settlement, has three windows in which hang short cream curtains; the walls of the room are light tan and the ceiling light buff with wood work of dark



oak. Hanging on the wall are pictures including sketches done by students in the art department. The furniture of the room consists of one large and two small light oak desks, several chairs and a filing cabinet. This office is used for interviews, as an information department of the Settlement, and for filing important material pertaining to the Settlement.

In the rear of this office is one of the club rooms used by the women who come to the Settlement for instructions in the various handicrafts. This room is about fourteen by twelve feet. The walls are buff in color and show a great need for repair and painting. They are adorned with many paintings by the art students. There are also two millinery exhibit posters on the wall, one showing the various ways of making braids and ribbon bows, another showing designs of hats done in felt. In this room are a piano, sewing machine, one long work table, and several chairs. The floor is rough, unpainted and partly covered with a ragged fiber rug. The three windows in this room are hung with yellow shades and green curtains; all are worn and faded. This room opens into the hall through a large double sliding door.

Directly across the hall is another club room used for games and club meetings. It is practically the same as the room just described with but few exceptions. The windows are hung with faded green shades and short white curtains. The furniture consists of a large desk, a well-built settee which is very old and worn; three large, square, combination work-and-game tables, and several chairs.

Connected with this room is the assembly room used also for the kindergarten groups, classes in music and as the Settlement's living room. Its

walls are identical with the room just described. There are three large windows that have full length brown draperies, short cream curtains and green shades. The furniture in this room consists of a radio, piano, six large, torn, leather-bottom chairs, and a library table.

It is striking to observe the pictures on the walls: a portrait of Frederick Douglass,<sup>2</sup> painted by a student in the art department; a sketch of the home of Shakespeare, and a portrait of a Negro child. A distinctive panel includes pictures of Abraham Lincoln and Booker T. Washington, a photostatic copy of a letter written to Governor Hahn in 1808, in behalf of the colored people of Louisiana. On the wall too, is an enlarged picture of the Colored Division Number 33, being presented colors and addressed by General George Bell just before leaving for training at Camp Logan in Houston, Texas, en route to France. There are no pictures pertaining to Settlement houses or their founders.

At the end of the hall on the first floor a small alcove separates the resident's kitchen from the rooms already described. It is used as storage room for broken furniture and the equipment used in the kindergarten.

The kitchen contains a few chairs, tables and an old stove. Like most of the floors of the house, those of this room are rough and unpainted. Everything shows signs of age and disrepair. It is used for demonstration classes in Domestic Science, as well as for the head resident's kitchen.

Two small offices are located on the second floor, as are two club

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2. Negro reformer, leader, poet.

rooms and two small bed rooms. The writer was unable to see the bed rooms, but it was learned from the Settlement clerk that they are "well-furnished." One of the offices is used by the National Youth Administration Project Supervisor. It contains a desk and several chairs; the walls are painted light green, the ceiling buff. It has one window in which are a light shade in good condition and short light curtains. The office is used by the clerk of the Settlement House, the assistant director and the supervisors of other projects at the Settlement. This room is furnished with two large desks, three small secretarial desks, one steel file and one small file case with three drawers. There is one mimeograph machine and six typewriters. The explanation for the large number of typewriters, as made by the Settlement clerk, was that typewriters used in the commercial classes were usually stored in this room when not in use by the students. It was also explained that one of the secretarial desks was not the property of the Settlement, but belonged to an individual who used this office while conducting a campaign for the South Central Recreation Committee. The floor covering is linoleum. Both windows have short, white, lace curtains, but only one has a shade. The wood work is painted white and the walls dark tan; they are in need of repair as the plaster is cracked and broken off in several places.

Another room on the second floor is used for classes in senior art and commerce, and other activities of the Settlement. The furniture in this room consists of several broken chairs, two large home-made tables, a large blackboard and two sewing machines. The walls are soiled and in need of painting. The two windows in this room lack both shades and curtains. A

number of paintings, done by the art students consisting of pictures of landscapes, portraits, and flowers, hang on the wall.

One other room on this floor, the Junior Art Room, is used exclusively for teaching art. The walls are almost completely covered with work done by the students. The furniture, of make-shift type, consists of two old badly-scarred tables, and several chairs. Two large windows, without shades, are hung with full-length, narrow, white drapes.

The third floor is not in use at the present time. It has one very large room which had formerly been used as an assembly hall. It is well-lighted by twelve windows and would make an excellent indoor-game room. In this assembly room one finds an old, out-of-tune piano.

As there are no fire escapes on the building, the fire authorities have condemned this floor until some provision for protection can be made. There are two stairways from the second floor down to the main floor; for that reason the second floor is still in use.

This building, having been one of the well-to-do residences in the neighborhood during former years, retains evidence of its former elegance, particularly the elaborage marble fireplaces throughout. Yet, with all the remaining elegance, not any of the rooms set an example in good taste as did the rooms of the Settlement established by Jane Addams and Miss Ellen Gates Starr.

The founder of Hull House, perhaps more consciously than any other prime movers of the Settlement in America, set definitely to share with neighbors both their choicest possessions and the ripest results of their intellectual training. Their rooms were made as beautiful as their means allowed, and the considerable stock of

pictures, photographs which Miss Starr had collected in studying the history of art were used to create and hold neighborhood acquaintances.<sup>3</sup>

From the description above, the building shows the lack of funds. Each department lacks facilities with which to work. In fact, in an interview with the head resident of another settlement in the city it was stated that the South Side Settlement is "unique in being able to do so much with so little." Though the Settlement is doing fair work, it is felt by the writer as well as members of the staff that far better work could be done if the facilities were adequate. Some of the rooms are filled with furniture, but it is old and dilapidated. Others are almost bare with the exception of a few broken pieces. There is a great need for more equipment and more space to house activities. A few balls, for example, constitute the only gymnasium equipment. Another evident lack is the deficiency of reading material. However, in spite of all these needs only few complaints have been heard and the work is being done as well as possible under the present handicaps.

The lot on the side of the Settlement would make an excellent playground, tennis court or basket ball court. Yet the space is not utilized.

ADMINISTRATION At the present time, the Settlement has a board of forty-five persons, but according to the assistant director, only fifteen of these are active. (According to the Constitution this is the number suggested.) The remainder have been classified as inactive because of their failure to attend meetings and to contribute financially to the Settlement.

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3. Robert A. Wood and Albert T. Kennedy, op. cit., pp 46 - 47

### MEMBERSHIP

Any individual, firm, corporation, organization in sympathy with the purpose of the organization and paying a membership fee annually for the support of the Settlement, is deemed a member and has the right to vote at the annual meeting.<sup>4</sup>

Members are classified, according to the amount of their annual contribution as follows:

- (a) Active members - those contributing from \$1.00 to \$25.00;
- (b) Supporting members - those contributing \$25.00 to \$100.00;
- (c) Sustaining members - those contributing \$100.00 or more;
- (d) Group members - any organization, lodge or fraternity contributing \$25.00 or more annually.

Each individual member, regardless of classification is entitled to one or more votes in person or by proxy.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The membership of the Board is elected by ballot at the annual meeting. In the beginning, one-third were chosen for one year; one-third for two years, and one-third for three years; thereafter, fifteen members have been elected each year, holding office until their successors have been selected.

### METHOD OF ELECTION

A nominating committee of five is appointed by the chairman of the Board to bring in a list of nominees from the general membership to be made public thirty days before the date of election. All must be supporting or sustaining members.

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4. Constitution of the South Side Settlement House. p. 1

At least five days before the date of the annual meeting, the secretary mails to the last known address of each member a notice stating the place, the date and hour of the meeting and a ballot containing the names of all nominees for membership on the Board.

POWERS AND DUTIES      The Board members transact all the business of the organization and have the usual powers and responsibilities of such officers. Immediately after the election they choose by ballot a president, vice-president, secretary, assistant secretary and treasurer. The officers of the South Side Settlement are: president, Leonard G. Outlaw; vice-president, Mrs. Jack Cooper; treasurer, Mr. C. Francis Stradford; secretary, Mr. Louis Cuglar. The duties of these officers are such as their titles, by common usage, indicate. There, the terms are for one year.

The secretary has the right to act as general organizer and to have the chairman of all committees keep an accurate account of all business and financial transactions and activities. This had not been done in the past, but it has been learned from the Assistant Director that the present secretary is making an effort to keep very accurate records. Other duties of the secretary are to prepare and submit to the Board and executive committee, at their regular meetings, a full monthly report of the activities and the financial conditions of the organization, and to prepare and have published, upon approval of the Board and executive committee, an annual report of the work. This has not been done previously. The president, however, has voiced the hope of having this done in the future in order to keep the records of the Settlement up to date and also to make it possible for the Settlement to

be included in the Community Fund.

From what has been learned from some of the Board members of the Settlement, the Board itself lacks effectiveness due to the fact that many members are negligent about attending meetings.

The Settlement does not have a formulated system of keeping records. The importance of this was brought out in the study of Social Settlements in New York.<sup>5</sup>

Regardless of the size of its budget or the number of persons it employs every settlement has in one sense a large administrative problem. It carries on a great variety of activities; it includes in its membership persons of different ages and in many instances of many nationalities. The plant must lend itself to various uses. Effective administration of plant, program, and personnel, intelligent expenditure of money imply a measure of executive control. One tool in effective control, namely, records, is rarely used by settlements. The analysis of membership lists, of club and of class records, attendance at group meetings, on the playground, at dances and at other social events, study of the use to which all the space in the building is put during the different hours of the day and at each session; examination of time schedules of various staff members; analysis of cost accounts furnishes the head workers with tangible material which is invaluable. Even if the analysis only confirms the headworker's impression, they are worth it. They give complete evidence of what is going on; they indicate what results may be expected and they are particularly useful in showing trends.

STAFF COMMITTEES      The standing committees of the organization are Finance and the Membership Committees. These are appointed by the President for a period of one year. A committee on Publicity has been recently appointed as a standing committee.

The organization has an executive committee composed of Board members

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5. Albert J. Kennedy and Kathryn Ferra & Associates. Social Settlement in New York, (Columbia University Press, 1935) pp 526 - 527



elected by the Board. This committee receives reports and formulates policies for the conduct of the organization. The committee on activities are appointed by the head resident or the heads of departments for such periods as may be desirable.

All committee appointments must be approved by the Board of Directors.

HEAD RESIDENT AND

According to the constitution of the Settlement, the

OTHER WORKERS

head resident and other paid workers are to be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Board. At the present time, however, the Settlement does not have a paid staff. The Settlement has a staff of seven workers who have volunteered to serve the Settlement ten hours a week in any capacity the head resident suggests.

There are ten other persons who have offered their services to the Settlement at times when they find it convenient to serve, but have not stated any specific time or number of hours; these are considered to be volunteer workers, but not members of the Settlement staff. The only paid Settlement workers are those working on various projects for the government.

The workers have the right to attend all meetings of the Board, have the right to discuss and introduce measures but not to vote.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Although the constitution does not call for an assistant director, the Board has asked Mrs. Josephine Patterson, the supervisor of the Chicago Leisure Time Project at the Settlement, to serve in this capacity.

FINANCE

The problems of raising funds is that of the Finance Committee.

SOURCE

The organization is supported partly by contributions from Board

members; friends of the Settlement; benefits, among those being popularity contests and the Settlement Flower Day. The money received from all sources is deposited by the treasurer in a duly organized bank or trust company in the name of the organization and is disbursed only upon checks signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the Head Resident.

CAMPAIGNS      Among the important campaigns of the Settlement was that held during the spring of 1938, in order to raise money with which to purchase and rehabilitate the property. In answer to a letter written the President of the Board concerning this, he said:

As to our own efforts to purchase and rehabilitate the property, we have raised the purchase price and have title, and we will receive the deed today. The purchase price of the building was \$3,000, subject to accrued taxes in the aggregate of approximately \$4,500, which are expected to be exempted, as we have been potential owners during our residence and such institutions as ours are tax exempt. Our plans for raising the further amount needed, which would be for remodeling and renovating independent of our current budget include up to this time an annual Flower Day Activity, conducted by a group of ladies designed as our Flower Committee who raised from their first Annual Flower Day effort \$645.00; an annual popularity contest conducted by individual members of the Board, who cleared some \$300.00 in their first annual Popularity Contest effort. Other plans are in the making but not fully developed up to now.<sup>6</sup>

SALARIES      None of the staff members or volunteers receive salaries as most of the programs now being carried on in the Settlement are projects that are being financed by the government; the only salaries are those paid to these workers, ranging from \$80.00 to \$95.00 a month.

REPORTS      Monthly reports are made to the United States Department of

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6. Source, Letter written by Mr. Leonard Outlaw, November 28, 1938, President of Board of South Side Settlement House.

Labor (Children's Bureau), Washington, D. C.; to the Council of Social Agencies, Chicago, Illinois; to the main office of the Chicago Leisure Time Association; to the National Youth Administration, and to the Adult Education Program.

In answer to schedules sent the president of the Board of Directors concerning the income and expenditures of the Settlement, Mr. Outlaw wrote:

I must return your nicely prepared financial statement and explain that our setup has not been done in such a business-like manner as you request and as it should be. This is due to the lack of stability of our previous Board, along with the handicap of having no monies on hand with which to cover our budget. When items of expense have appeared we have sought the aid of individuals who paid that particular item or made a particular and definite contribution to meet that definite expenditure.

7. Source - Letter written November 28, 1938 by Mr. Leonard Outlaw, President of the Board of Directors.

The following table was planned by the Board of Directors during their 1938 financial campaign, but due to the inadequacy of funds, the Settlement found it impossible to follow it.

T A B L E

EXPENDITURES	MONTHLY		YEARLY
ADMINISTRATION:			
Car fare.....	\$ 3.00		
Printing Supplies and.....			
Stationery.....	10.00		
Postage.....	2.00	\$ 15.00	\$ 180.00
MAINTENANCE OF COMMUNITY HOUSE:			
Telephone.....	5.00		
Equipment.....	16.00		
Heat.....	40.00		
Light.....	40.00		
Laundry.....	1.00		
Repairs.....	15.00		
Rent.....	150.00		
Miscellaneous.....	10.00	277.00	3024.00
SALARIES:			
Director.....	125.00		
Secretary.....	125.00		
Boys' Worker, part time...	25.00		
Director of Music.....			
part-time, 2 eve.....	20.00		
Janitor.....	50.00	345.00	4140.00
Total		\$637.00	\$7344.00
*Income			2344.00
Net amount to be raised			\$5000.00

\*This income is derived from contributions from members and friends of the Settlement. The above budget information was derived from the Head Resident.

## STANDARDS

The National Federation of settlements has set up tentative criteria for admission to agency membership in the National Federation. A summary of these appear in the appendix.

The Chicago Federation of Settlements has been working on a set of standards for settlements in Chicago, but at the time of the writing of this thesis it was learned from an official member of the Federation that these had not been completely formulated.

It has been difficult for the South Side Settlement to follow the recommendations of the National Federation pertaining to personnel and employment practices due to the fact that the majority of workers at the settlement are paid by the government and the remainder receive no salaries at all. The standards of the government projects predominate rather than those of the settlement. However, in accordance with the Federation standards each government project has a periodical employment agreement in writing outlining the general responsibility and conditions of employment for professional, clerical and maintenance staff. These projects also have a weekly evaluation of work, rather than the annual evaluation as the National Federation advises. There is no provision for the further studying of workers as recommended and none of the other provisions granted as set up by the National Standards of the Federation.

The extent to which the settlement has maintained those standards set up as tentative criteria by the National Federation as to function, method and stability can be determined by the comparison that follows:

## TENTATIVE CRITERIA

I. Function - The function shall be:

1. To promote the growth, development and adjustment of particular individuals; and, together with these individuals, and as an integral part of this promotion:-

2. To subject the contemporary social order to continuous critical review for the purpose of discovering and implementing democratic ways and means for bringing about a more equitable and harmonious local, national and international life.

It is felt that the settlement has maintained both of the above standards. Growth has been promoted through its various clubs, lectures, classes and social activity and it has also assisted in the adjustment of some peculiar individuals. In the files of the settlement were found letters thanking the Head Resident for efforts which aided adjustment and development.

One addressed to her stated:

We greatly appreciate the interest you have shown in Miss \_\_\_\_\_ whom we referred to you on Feb. 18, 1935. We understand that she has become more efficient under your supervision.<sup>1</sup>

Another related that:

The opportunity which the South Side Settlement House has offered for social and cultural development of the children in the \_\_\_\_\_ family have been timely and constructive. It has been interesting too to watch the growth of pride and security in the \_\_\_\_\_ family over the past nine months. I hope they will all, including the parents, continue to be an active part of your membership. We value highly your generous and intelligent cooperation.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Letter written by A. Franklin, case worker from Cook County Bureau of Public Welfare, Archer District, March 21, 1935.
  2. Letter written to head resident by Alice C. Ellis, social worker, Illinois Department of Public Welfare, Institute for Juvenile Research, Chicago, August 21, 1934.

II. Method - With regard to scope, permanency and standards:

1. A clearly defined population unit or neighborhood, topographical of psychological consideration is recommended.
2. Continuous study of life in this unit or neighborhood, its resources, lack of resources and potentialities.
3. Carry on activities aimed to meet needs with continuous adaptation to changing needs, and with due regard to other resources for meeting needs in the unit or neighborhood.
4. All the work of the agency, both in the field of studies and service, shall be of recognized standards.
5. Have a board and staff competent\* to carry out activities undertaken, and a budget and means of support adequate for and consistent with the work undertaken.
6. Buildings and equipment utilized should be suitable for program undertaken and maintained in suitable order and dignity.
7. Residence in the locality of some of the staff is considered important. For all the staff, some previous if not current period of residence in a settlement locality is desirable.
8. Adequate provision for recording the agency's experience and making it available for wider than local use.

As to scope the settlement does have a definitely defined population and has all the delimitations indicated in the standards.

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\*Competence of staff is referred to the Committee on Standards of Personnel and Employment Practices for further definition.

It is concluded that the settlement approximately is up to standard in number "2", but has lacked the finance with which to promote research and local study. As to number "3" it has been conducted according to this standard, for the activities provided have met the needs of the neighborhood to a great extent as the study indicates.

Considering standard number "4", it is felt that the settlement has failed to a small extent in this respect, though the settlement has done work in art, music, with individuals, groups and the community that has been of a high standard. Records have not been properly kept nor has the business of the house been planned or run on an annual basis. Standard number "5" which is concerned with the board and staff has been maintained in part. Though the Board as has been indicated as being unstable, the staff has been fairly competent.

As to standard numbers "6", "7", and "8", though the activities have been adapted to the building, they have not been maintained in too suitable an order or dignity. No other member of the staff besides the head resident and her family has lived at the settlement. One Board member has been indicated as having had a previous period of residence in a settlement locality in New York. It is only within the past year that a somewhat adequate provision for recording the agency's experiences and making it available for wider than local use has been made.

III. Stability is also considered a standard by the National Federation; this standard the Settlement has met quite well, for although it has lacked finance and has had an inefficient board, it has managed to continue existing as a social institution since 1918.



## CHAPTER IV

### SERVICES OF THE SOUTH SIDE SETTLEMENT HOUSE

Having considered the settlement in its historical, physical, administrative and functional phases, it is also of importance to consider the personal services the settlement provides now, and the number served. This part of the study occupies a peculiarly important position among the topics considered, constituting one of the major "approaches" in attempting to determine the extent to which the settlement is meeting the needs of the community.

PERSONNEL     The services of the settlement may be classified under four main headings: those under (a) The Chicago Recreation Commission,<sup>1</sup> (b) National Youth Administration,<sup>2</sup> (c) Adult Education Program,<sup>3</sup> and (d) those sponsored entirely by the settlement staff. Since the services and the personnel are closely interwoven, while considering the services let us also examine the personnel, as to their qualifications, for it is generally agreed that the success of an institution in the long run depends more upon the personality and training of the staff than on any other single factor. Unless

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1. Chicago Recreation Commission, an organization financed by the government for the purpose of raising the educational, moral and physical standards of the community by providing the proper use of leisure time.
  2. National Youth Administration, a governmentally financed organization for employing and training of youth.
  3. Adult Education Program, a governmentally financed program providing educational opportunities for those persons beyond public school age.

the staff members be well fitted or of a high order of fitness an institution is a body without a soul.<sup>4</sup>

As has been explained in the fore-going chapter, the Board of Directors of the settlement is composed of people from various occupations. It is evident that they have an interest in the settlement by the fact that they give their time, money and services for which they can expect no financial compensation. Because of their varied experiences, they give to the group a wide range of knowledge and experience which should enable them to plan well and to transact wisely the business of the organization.

The settlement has a staff of seven volunteer persons. This staff is not as active now as it has been, due to the fact that almost the entire former program of activities has been taken over by the workers supplied by governmentally financed agencies. These seven persons are all well-qualified and have had experience in the particular line of work which each does. An example among the group is Mr. Golden B. Darby, who has an executive position with the Victory Mutual Insurance Company, has an M. A. degree in social work from Columbia University, has been a social worker in New York City for a number of years, and also served on staff of a settlement house in New York for several years. He serves as one of the members of the staff working with the men and boys at the settlement, sponsoring programs for them, and working for the advancement of the cultural interest of the settlement. Another is Mr. Waller Mailey who has had special training in recreation work and has had much experience with delinquent boys. Mr. Bailey

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4. John Cooper, Children's Institution (The Dolphen Press, Philadelphia, Pa. 1931) p. 522

works with delinquent boys at the settlement, serving as leader for games and promotes special-event programs. He devoted much of his time to the boys of the west side of Chicago from State to Wentworth and 29th to 30th Streets.

Another volunteer staff worker is Mrs. Irma Garner. She is a well-trained social worker, who works with the youth of the settlement. She is the leader of the youth groups and represents the settlement at Youth Conventions. All the other members of the staff are well-educated persons with experience in the particular line of work they attempt to carry out at the settlement.

The only paid workers at the settlement are the ones working on National Youth Administration, Chicago Recreation Commission and Adult Education Program.

There are two National Youth Administration Supervisors. Both are young women. One has an A. B. degree from the University of Chicago and is working on her M. A. degree in social work at Loyola University. The other has had three and one half years of college work at Northwestern University and has had extensive social work experience. There are fifty-three National Youth Administration workers under these supervisors at the House.

THE CHICAGO RECRE-  
ATION COMMISSION

This division sponsors the music, art, kindergarten and the play-lot activities. In the kindergarten department are 17 workers. The supervisor of this project is Mrs. Josephine Patterson, who also serves as assistant director of the Settlement. She has an A. B. degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and has attended recreation institutes in Chicago. Before going to the Settlement, she was

chairman of the Boys' and Girls' Recreation Committee<sup>5</sup> of the Second Ward Women's Republican Organization.

Music at the settlement is under the direction of Mr. Clifton Harris, assisted by Mrs. Hazel L. Blake. Mr. Harris has had one and one-half years of music at the University of California in the music department and has had twelve years of private instruction. Mrs. Blake has had two years of college work at Lane College in Memphis, Tennessee. At present, she is studying at Lewis Institute. She serves as clerk for the settlement and the Chicago Recreation Commission project at the settlement, and also assists in the kindergarten.

Two other workers are Mrs. Mary Jackson and Miss Ruth Savers. Mrs. Jackson has charge of the art and Miss Savers the recreation of the settlement.

Mrs. Jackson, the instructor in Art, studied at the Chicago Art Institute and has taken short courses in Sociology. Formerly she was a volunteer worker at the Settlement and also a junior case worker for the Chicago Relief Administration.

Prior to the coming of Miss Savers to the settlement, she had a varied career. She was an athlete during her high school and college days; cashier for a well known drug company for a period of seven years; a gift shop proprietor; private tutor and secretary; bookkeeper for a cleaning plant, a professional music copyist; and publicity agent for theatrical enterprises.

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5. This organization was composed of a number of committees of both white and colored women who did volunteer work with children in the neighborhood.

When she found herself among the millions of unemployed, she became interested in the social programs, and began to study sociology. She offered her services to several community centers, and after going through the necessary routine, was finally assigned to her present position at the South Side Settlement House.

The head instructor in the Kindergarten, assisted by Miss Blake, is Miss Mary Ballinger. She has had two years of college work, two years normal college and has attended several institutes on recreation at Hull House, Lincoln Center, George Williams College and Glenwood Park Training Camp at Balavse, Illinois.

The entire Adult Educational Program is carried on by government workers appointed to this project. There are four instructors in this department at the present time, three teaching the basic elemental subjects as arithmetic, English, reading and writing, and one teaching commercial subjects including bookkeeping, shorthand, filing and typewriting. The exact qualifications of the instructors in the adult education department were not available, but it was learned from the assistant director of the settlement that all have had some college work with training in the subjects they are teaching.<sup>6</sup>

THE NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION  
AT THE SETTLEMENT HOUSE

The programs offered by the National Youth Administration consist of four classes; two sewing classes, one handicraft and one art group. All the

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6. Only workers who granted the permission to indicate their names and qualification are presented.

persons in these classes with the exception of the art group produce something; that is, they make quilts and rugs which are turned over then to the Chicago Relief Administration. There are very few girls in the art group; it is usually considered an honor group, for only those girls who indicate an interest in art and evidence talent are permitted to enter; they receive compensation for their hours of study.

The materials used for working in the production classes come from the Surplus Commodity Bureau of the Chicago Relief Administration. This production is not for profit, but the articles made are used to supply the clients of the relief agency. During the month of August twelve quilts were produced.

The girls on the project do not comprise a neighborhood group, but are sent from the personnel bureau of Chicago Relief Administration. Ninety per cent of the girls are classified as work relief, ten per cent are non-relief. The educational standards of the girls are very low. Most of them come from the fifth, sixth and seventh grades. Out of fifty-three, only one has gone to college. The girls work four hours a day for four days a week. The wage scale of the girls ranges from \$19.00 to \$25.00 a month. Ninety-five per cent of these are employed at \$19.00 a month. The amount is determined by the educational background and skill of the person.

Most of the girls present some difficulties. A case of Sallie, twenty-four years old, with the mental age of a girl of eight years, had an active case of gonorrhea. She presented disciplinary problems as well as health problems. She was referred by the supervisor to the clinic where her case was cured. Under careful supervision, her attitude was also changed. This

PART OF THE KINDERGARTEN CLASS AT THE SETTLEMENT

case is by no means typical but rather represents the exception. Most of the girls, as explained, are on relief and come from a low moral group. They come from 26th to 30th Street which is a typical delinquent area.<sup>7</sup>

THE KINDERGARTEN Miss Mary Ballinger, instructor in the pre-school program, said on one of the schedules:

In the pre-school we have constructive, creative and free play, singing and rhythm, storytelling, finger games, clay modeling, drawing, paper cutting, out-door games, in-door games, health habits, and observation trips, music, including singing, harmonics, group piano and singing games.

In the pre-school group I try to teach the children how to get along happily and successfully with other children and help them to accumulate knowledge out of which they will later construct a conscious moral attitude.

We teach constructive and creative play to let the child learn how to use their hands in a sense of imagination and creation. Music and rhythm help develop the coordination of muscles and to foster an appreciation of music; to develop a social spirit that will fit the child for future citizenship, story telling to give the children a knowledge of folk-lore and animal life and to encourage an appreciation for the facts of life.

I am trying to help the child become self-reliant and to get his fundamental attitudes started in the right direction.

In the music group I teach the children how to express themselves in song, sense the mood of the group, then select the songs accordingly. I have the children sing different songs and dramatize them.

We have a harmonica band composed of both boys and girls. They are first acquainted with the different tunes on the harmonica. We started in the key of C and are able to play quite a few tunes. I hope to be able to help the group to express imagination and warmth in their singing and playing.

The story books, song books, toys, furniture and all other equipment

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7. Work at the settlement. Interview with one of the National Youth Administration supervisors.



used in the department are provided by the Recreation Commission.

The kindergarten is composed of boys and girls ranging from 2 - 5 years. The average daily attendance is 25 and they meet daily from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

ATHLETICS ON GAME LOT There are six play lots supervised by the Settlement workers. They are located at 30th and LaSalle Streets, 33rd Street and Wabash Avenue, 32nd Street and Wabash Avenue, 30th Street and Calumet Avenue, 31st Street and Ellis Avenue, 34th Street and Rhodes Avenue. The activities on these lots are seasonal and include: basketball, baseball, soft-ball, volley-ball, football, hand-ball, races and horse-shoe throwing.

An effort has been made to develop group leadership, good sportsmanship and fair, clean play. On some of the lots there are several racial groups. Mr. Charles Baxton, supervisor of the play lot located at 30th Street and LaSalle, said:

A better racial understanding has been noticed in the past few months between the several racial groups. They seemed to have learned tolerance, which is one of my aims, and another is to instill in the boys also good sportsmanship and cooperation.

I think I have done a good job in helping to raise the moral standing in the community where I work. For instance, before activities were started on the play lot at 30th and LaSalle Streets, every week, some of the boys in the neighborhood were picked up by the police for shooting dice in alleys and on vacant lots, but they have become so interested in the activities on the play lot that for the past six months not one boy has been arrested by the police. I think the schools and churches should cooperate with the center sponsoring these activities and help to steer these children along the right path.

Messrs. Warner and Hudson, two other play-lot instructors, disclosed a case which indicated social betterment in a particular neighborhood. This interesting case came from the play lot at 30th Street and Calumet Avenue.

It runs thus: there was a group of boys with characteristics of a gang with criminal tendencies. Several, who had been guilty of stealing and destroying community property, had named themselves the "Black Legion Gang." Recently they were organized into the Black Legion Soft Ball Team and it is reported that not one fellow has been put in jail or picked up within the last two months.

It is evident that these playlot activities are meeting the needs of the community in helping to reduce delinquency by providing wholesome and constructive outlets for the youth of the various neighborhoods.

THE ART DEPARTMENT Art classes have been a definite part of the South Side Settlement House program. Participants in these classes range from six years to sixty, and the matriculations have been so steady and numerous that two teachers have been required to accommodate the students.

For the past five years the adults have been taught by Mr. George Neal, a student of the Chicago Art Institute. The Settlement mourns the loss of this excellent instructor; he died during the month of August. His competent teachings, however, remain throughout the Settlement in the exhibits of his pupils' accomplishments.

The youth and junior groups have been well handled by Miss Mary Jackson, who volunteered three years of service previous to her becoming a member of the Chicago Recreation Commission staff. She has brought forth the hidden talents of many in her classes, offering them opportunity in drawing pastel, water color, pottery, sculpture and other varied arts and crafts. Each year, Miss Jackson presents the work of her students to the public in the form of an exhibit. During the year, when objects are needed to represent the pro-

DRAWING DONE BY STUDENT

ART DEPARTMENT SOUTH SIDE SETTLEMENT HOUSE

ductive element of the Settlement, such may always be obtained from Miss Jackson's Art classes. (This year a number of her exhibit portraits were shown by the project as a part of its permanent exhibit.)

The students in this group, in most instances, come from a low economic class. Many of the girls have had criminal records.

The following program has been used in the teaching of Art and has proven successful in making the students more interested in the field of Art.

A. ART THEORY

1. Art of seeing
2. How children learn to draw

B. General Crafts

1. Arts and crafts in the Middle ages
2. Crafts for children
3. Modern Home crafts

C. Design and Drawing

1. Method of creative design
2. Composition
3. Picture making by children
4. Drawing of animals
5. Use of color

D. Block Prints

1. Block cutting and print making
2. Wood Block Printing
3. Hand Block Printing on Fabrics

E. Metal and Jewelry Work

1. Tin craft as a hobby
2. Art metal work with inexpensive material
3. Jewelry making and design

F. Leather

1. Art and craft of leather

G. Paper Mache

1. Making paper mache

H. Puppet and Marionette making

I. Textiles

1. Weaving on small appliances

K. Pottery and clay modeling

1. Finger built pottery

What was accomplished has been a changed outlook on life; the criminal record has been decreased; many have had their probation slips revoked and put on their honor. Best of all, two young ladies were so changed that one secured employment on the Works Progress Administration as an Enamel Painter, and the other came to the institution and asked permission to stay another quarter, as she enjoyed the class so much that she felt that more instruction was needed in order to prepare herself for a job.<sup>8</sup>

RECREATION Miss Ruth Sarver became an instructor in recreation for the junior group in January, 1938. Prior to that time, the only recreational activities were: ping-pong, checkers, dominoes, and marbles. These, to Miss Sarver, seemed too limited to comprise an interesting program, so she immediately set about creating and constructing new games to be added to those listed above.

She formed a hobby-craft club whose fundamental purpose was to construct anything of value from cardboard boxes, orange crates, and scraps of paper. With the assistance of this club, Miss Sarver now has the following in her game-room for recreation: Marble Polo, Anagrams, Shuffle Board, Hop-Scotch

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8. Source--Mrs. Mary Jackson, Art instructor at the Settlement.

Square, Wari, Marble toss, Ring Toss, Camelot, and a Bowling Outfit (home made); these, with the games already at hand enrich her program.

Miss Sarver has charge of all game-room activities. She has the juniors in the gymnasium work which includes calisthenics, athletic feats, relays and drills. She teaches folk dances with all groups as well as the hobby craft group mentioned above. The total membership enrollment at the time this information was secured was seventy-eight and it was learned from her that this included a 75% increase in membership over that previous to her assignment to this work.

She had had much success in dealing with children presenting behavior problems. Two of these cases are Mary X, 7 years old, and Jane Y, 9 years old. Jane came from a large family. At first she wanted to be "head" of every game, was inclined to be a "cry baby", and developed temper tantrums if she could not have her own way. After a period of several weeks in class, her conduct changed so that she no longer presents behavior problems and is a cheerful worker.

Mary's was a similar situation. She not only wanted to be first in all the games but had a bad temper and a foul tongue. After several months' attendance, she became an honor student.

From the writer's observation, this department, as well as all the others at the settlement, are doing a constructive piece of work and from it the community is receiving many outstanding benefits. But it is believed that much better work could be done if the departments had more equipment and better facilities with which to work.

When instructors were permitted the opportunity to attend camp, Miss

Sarver was one of the first to take advantage of this. Upon her return, she brought into her classes folk dances, twenty or more new organized games, new crafts and drama. With the addition of this, Miss Sarver has formed a complete program for not only the junior group, but the older groups as well.

The following program of activities copied from the activities program of the Settlement indicates the definite but varied activities provided by the Settlement for the neighborhood.

TABLE I

June, 1938

SOUTH SIDE SETTLEMENT HOUSE, 3201 S. Wabash Av.

ACTIVITY	M-F	AV. DAILY ATT.	AGE GROUP	TIME OF MEETING	SPONSOR	LEADERS
Kindergarten	Mix	25	2 - 5	Daily	Chgo. Rec. Comm.	Ballinger, M.
Art:	"	20	all age	"	" " "	Jackson, M.
(a) Portraits	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
(b) Paintings	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
(c) Water Color	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
(d) Still Life	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
(e) Sketching etc.	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
CRAFTS:						
(a) Art	Mix	15	6 - 20	Daily	Chgo. Rec. Comm.	" "
(b) Bone, woodcraft, tintap- ping (Indoor games)	M	25	9 - 15	"	" " "	Williams, E.
(c) Handcraft	F	20	all age	"	" " "	Pellam, E.
1. Table Decoration	"	"	" "	Daily	" " "	" "
2. Knitting	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
3. Crocheting	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
4. Flower Making	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
5. Quilting	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
(d) Needle-craft	"	10	7 - 15	M-W-T-F	" " "	Patterson, J.
(e) Sewing	"	27	Adults	T-W-T	A. E. P.	Reddick, L.
GAME ROOM:	Mix	30	all age	Daily	Chgo. Rec. Comm.	Sarver, R.
(a) Dancing, Folk	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
(b) Ping Pong	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
(c) Checkers	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
(d) Dominoes	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
(e) Organized Games	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
(f) Dramatics	"	"	" "	"	" " "	" "
ATHLETICS:						
(a) Seasonal Highly Organized Games	M	75	all age	Daily	Chgo. Rec. Comm.	(See names of leaders) (at bottom of page.)



(b) Outdoor Activities	M	75					
1. Basket Ball	"						
2. Base Ball	"						
3. Soft Ball	"						
4. Volley Ball	"						
5. Foot Ball	"						
6. Hand Ball	"						
7. Races	"						
8. Horseshoe	"						
GENERAL EDUCATION	Mix	30	Adults	T-W-T	A.	E.	P. Gray, L. B.
(a) Elementary							
(b) Commercial	Mix	28	16 - 75	M-W-F	"	"	" Sears, Lillian
1. Typing							
2. Bookkeeping							
3. Filing							
4. Shorthand							
MUSIC	"	27	15 - 25				Harris, Clifton
N. Y. A. GIRL'S							
WORK PROGRAM	F	58	18 - 25	M-T-W-F	N.	Y.	A. Sanderson, Katherine

There are six Play Lot activities, and leaders are, P. Craft, C. Braxton, E. Belton, S. Hudson, G. Warner, C. Walker, and W. Fitzgerald, Supervisor.

CLUBS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS As indicated in the preceding schedule, there are several organizations that meet regularly at the settlement.

Among these, as indicated, is the Mothers' Club, Pre-School Mothers' Club, Illinois Alliance Club, Workers' Alliance Club, Illinois Workers' Protective Association, Mayflower Organization, Boy Scouts, South Side Music Club.

MOTHERS' CLUB This club is a member of the Federation of Mothers' Clubs. Its purposes are: to beautify the neighborhood by planting flowers, helping to keep the neighborhood clean and doing whatever they can to improve conditions. The Mothers' Club gives benefit parties to raise money to buy milk for needy children and engages in learning various crafts. The group is composed mostly of the more mature women of the neighborhood as compared with those of the Pre-School Mothers' Club, and differs from the Pre-School Mothers' Club in that it is more devoted to community improvement in general than to child welfare.

PRE-SCHOOL MOTHERS' CLUB This club is composed of young mothers who have pre-school children. Their purpose is partially for discussion of problems relating to pre-school children as well as engaging in the learning of various crafts.

MAYFLOWER ORGANIZATION This is a benevolent organization, formed for the purpose of rendering small services to the sick of the neighborhood.

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS The Illinois Workers' Protective Association, Illinois Alliance Club, Workers' Alliance Club, as their names indicate, are labor organizations; they are composed of various racial groups. The purpose of the organizations is to discuss their problems and attempt to work out a satisfactory solution.

SOUTH SIDE This club is composed of the persons who study music at the  
MUSIC CLUB Settlement. Its sponsor is Mr. Clifton Harris, instructor of  
Music. The club meets the first and last Wednesdays of each month. At each  
meeting topics of the day concerning music as well as the life of some com-  
poser are discussed. The club members pay fifteen cents a month. This money  
is used to purchase tickets to recitals for students who wish to attend but  
who do not have the money, also to buy copies of music for those students who  
lack funds. Each Wednesday, those students who wish to attend are taken to a  
music recital by their sponsor.

NATIONAL The Boy Scouts meet occasionally at the settlement. The  
ORGANIZATIONS Girl Scouts are in the process of organization.

On the following page is a table indicating the various organizations  
that meet at the settlement.

TABLE II

1938 June 20th Other organizations using the Settlement			
Organization	Kind	Number	Meets
MOTHERS' CLUB	ADULT WOMEN	20	TWICE MONTHLY
PRE-SCHOOL MOTHERS' CLUB	ADULT WOMEN WITH PRE- SCHOOL CHILDREN	15	EVERY WEEK
ILLINOIS ALLI- ANCE CLUB	ADULT MEN AND WOMEN	25	EVERY WEEK
WORKERS' ALLI- ANCE CLUB	ADULT MEN AND WOMEN	57	WHENEVER NECESSARY
ILLINOIS WORK- ERS' PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION	ADULT MEN AND WOMEN	75	EVERY WEEK
MAYFLOWER OR- GANIZATION	ADULT WOMEN	25	ONCE A MONTH
NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB	ADULT WOMEN	20	EVERY WEEK
BOY SCOUTS	BOYS	35	OCCASIONALLY
SOUTH SIDE MUSIC CLUB	ADULTS, MEN AND WOMEN	27	TWICE MONTHLY

The table just presented shows that there is no all-young girls' club at the Settlement. The adult women's clubs are greater in number; there is only one all-boys' club. The total number of clubs and organizations meeting at the Settlement is nine. The total enrollment of all clubs is 289.

Table III which follows is intended to illustrate the group work at the Settlement during May, 1938; this group illustrated has regular schedules and definite enrollment.

TABLE III  
Group work at the Settlement

Month of May, 1938

A. Regular Scheduled Groups with definite enrollment	Number	Enrollment	Sessions	ATTENDANCE	
				Members	Visitors
1. Group with definite enrollment - Total	57	30	350	5,966	36
a. Clubs					
(1) activities for all members	16	nr*	57	1,147	0
(2) activities for all special groups	0	0	0	0	0
b. Classes	39	0	263	4,037	36
c. Teams	0	0	0	0	0
d. Inter committees and councils	0	0	0	0	0
e. Groups organized under National programs					
(1) Boy Scouts of America	35	0	0	0	0
(2) Girl Scouts	0	0	0	0	0
(3) Camp Fire	0	0	0	0	0
f. Others	2	nr*	30	780	0
(1) play school					

\* nr = no record

As Table III indicates there were 57 regular scheduled groups at the Settlement during the time this study was made. There were 350 sessions held making a total attendance of 5,966 during the month with 36 visitors present.

Table IV which follows also illustrates group work at the Settlement, but these groups do not have definite enrollment.

TABLE IV

Service of Group Work (cont'd.)

Month of May, 1938

B. Groups without definite enrollment	Number	Period	Total	Attendance Participants included in total
2. Regularly scheduled groups under auspices of agency:				
Total	40	309	7,654	0
(a) Athletics (including swimming)	0	0	0	0
(b) Educational activities	0	0	0	0
(c) Recreation (dances, teas, etc.)				
(d) Moving pictures and theatre parties				
(e) Dramatic and musical programs				
(f) Trips (outings, hikes, sight seeing)	0	0	0	0
3. Special events Total	13	17	566	nr
(a) Athletics	0			
(b) Educational	1	1	155	nr
(c) Dramatics	1	1	60	60
(d) Social	4	5	206	206
(e) Other (specify) trips	7	10	145	145
4. Groups under joint or other (United Charities singing)	1	1	60	

The significance of Table IV is that there were 40 groups at the settlement during May, 1938, without definite enrollment. They met 309 periods and had a total attendance of 7,654. There were 13 special events during this month and had a total attendance of 566.

The month of May was selected because this month was considered more of an average one.

OTHER ACTIVITIES The settlement also sponsors Community Nights for the pleasure as well as the education of the residents of the neighborhood. These include motion pictures presented by the Chicago Board of Health, Chicago Safety Council, Food Distributors Association, and Commonwealth Edison Company, (on proper lighting). Lectures from various lecture bureaus are given by outstanding people from the city at large. Community singing is sponsored, band concerts, street concerts, and annual special events, activities including Christmas Holiday programs, Easter programs, Field day, Fourth of July and annual settlement open house and others are promoted by the Settlement.

HIGH LIGHTS Beginning December, 1937, the most important happening and events in the various departments were recorded by the leaders in the various departments. These are summarized by the assistant director of the settlement and recorded for permanent filing under the heading of Highlights.

As an example of the services offered by the Settlement for one month, the following highlights are presented. The month of August was chosen because with school dismissed and with the summer programs well under way, this month indicated one of the busiest and among the most attended periods during the year.

INTER-RACIAL GROUP ON PLAY LOT  
IN A  
DELINQUENCY AREA SUPERVISED  
BY THE SETTLEMENT



HIGHLIGHTS FOR WEEK ENDING ON FOLLOWING DATES:

August 5, 1938

Organization of men's checker clubs on the playlots was a high lite of the week. A checker tournament is to be held in a few weeks for the ones competing in the finale. The playlot instructors carried groups of the boys in their teams from the various lots to the White Sox Park to see the Sox defeat the Phillies twice with the score 8 - 2 and 7 - 3. These trips to the big league games provide a stimulus for increased effort to attain technique in their team work.

August 12, 1938

Trips and outings held the interest of all age groups. The trips to the ball parks, Art Institute and Field Museum proved the most interesting.

The Crafts Department is busy getting articles together for the exhibit at Hamilton Park.

A large number was in attendance at the musicale at Allen Temple, Thursday evening, given by the Mundy Singers of the Federal Music Project which was sponsored by the Settlement House.

Plans for cooperation of the Youth Athletic Program at Washington Park on August 20 are well under way.

August 19, 1938

The human interest stories from observations disclosed by the workers this week at the staff meeting showed definite trend toward social betterment; in some cases the individual and in others, the group.

The playlot instructors report there is marked sportsmanship and sense of fair play among the teams and, no arguments, although there were close plays.

In the art and crafts departments there was evident keen interest among the student working on exhibits for the Hamilton Park Crafts Show. The Junior Club groups signed pledges for the "C" club and all are eagerly awaiting to receive their buttons from Mayor Edward J. Kelly. A large number of people from the Community came in to see the exhibit of beautiful quilt tops made by the sewing class. There were some very interesting artistic designs created by the girls and the spectators commented very favorably. Plans are well under way for the Settlement's

annual picnic which will be held at Burnham Park Thursday, August 25. Athletic events are being planned and there will be music games and folk dancing. Free ice cream and candy for the children. Trips and outings this week included Riverview, White Sox Park and Webster School Playground for the Juniors of Miss Sarver's group and the Pre-School children of Miss Ballenger's play-school.

Playlot activities - At 33rd Street and Cabash Avenue the Junior Intermediate and Senior champions were crowned in the checker tournament Friday, August 26. They will compete with other lot champions for sectional championship.

The Pilgrim's Soft Ball team won the games at McKinley Park tournament and will play in the Park District Finals at Grant Park, Saturday, August 27. C. Walker is the instructor.

At 30th and Calumet Avenue - field day, games, races, etc., for all age groups. The Cobras, formerly the Black Legion Soft Ball Team, defeated the Little Giants team by 3 - 2 in a thrilling game. G. Warner and S. Hudson are the instructors. The outdoor games this week were well attended. Dance routines on the platform in the yard attracted the attention of neighbors; new members joined the group. R. Sarver, instructor.

The Settlement's annual picnic was held Thursday, August 25, at 31st Street Beach. About 300 persons, all age groups, attended. Music was furnished by the Zilner Randolph Dixie Orchestra, a Federal Music Project Unit.

Internes and nurses from the Michael Reese Hospital were among the many spectators.

The Junior recreation group entertained the picnic with dances of all kinds. Sherbet cups, candies and nuts were distributed to all, including the life guards and park attendants. All enjoyed themselves.

NEIGHBORHOOD      The services that the settlement has rendered have been an attempt to meet the needs of the neighborhood. It is significantly located when the findings of both Clifford Shaw<sup>9</sup>, Earnest W. Burgess<sup>10</sup>, and

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9. See Clifford Shaw, Delinquency Areas, University of Chicago Press, 1929, p. 203.

10. See Earnest W. Burgess, The Determination of Gradients in the Growth of the City, American Sociology Society, 1937, p. 173-84.

E. Franklin Frazier<sup>11</sup> are reviewed. In the study of Clifford Shaw, the neighborhood falls within one of Chicago's highest delinquency areas. Doctor Burgess found that it lies in an area of transition. Frazier, in his study of the Negro Family in Chicago, worked out the following map in which he divided the area from 12th to 71st Streets and from Wentworth to Cottage Grove Avenues, into seven zones.

\*

It will be noted that the Settlement falls between the second and third zones which is among those zones nearest the loop. In his study of these various zones, Mr. Frazier found that:

As the Negro community has expanded southward, through the process of selection, different elements in the Negro population have tended to become segregated in different zones within the community although nearly

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11. E. Franklin Frazier, The Negro Family in Chicago, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1932, p. 98.

\* E. Franklin Frazier, Op.Cit. This map is a copy of one appearing on p. 99.

four-fifths of all the Negroes in Chicago were born in the South, the population diminished as one leaves the sections nearest the loop. It is those zones just outside the loop where decaying residences and tottering frame dwellings presage the inroads of industry and business, that the southern emigrant is able to pay the cheap rent, that the landlords are willing to accept until their property is demanded by expanding business areas. In these areas of deterioration the present emigrant families are often forced into association with the vicious elements of the community.<sup>12</sup>

In the study made by the Chicago Commission on Race Relations, it was found that:

Prior to the influx of the Southern Negro, many houses stood vacant West of State Street, from which Negroes moved when better houses became available East of State Street. Into these old and frequently almost uninhabitable houses, the first new comers moved. Because of its proximity to the old vice area, this neighborhood had an added undesirability for old Chicagoans. The new comers, however, were unacquainted with its reputation and had no hesitancy about moving in until better homes could be secured. A scarcity of houses followed creating a problem of acute congestion.<sup>13</sup>

For meeting the needs of such areas the South Side Settlement has developed its services.

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12. E. Franklin Frazier, The Negro Family in Chicago, Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1932, p. 93.

13. Negro in Chicago, Chicago Commission on Race Relations, (Study of Race Relations and Race Riot), University of Chicago Press, 1922, p. 93.

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY

Though the beginning of the South Side Settlement was like that of early Settlements in many respects, it also differed in a few.

Among the social problems which preceded the founding of England's first Settlement were those which resulted from the sudden increase of the rural population in the cities because of the industrial revolution. Just as Toynbee Hall was the outgrowth of efforts made by social reformers in an attempt to meet these problems, so was that of the South Side Settlement to meet the social problems caused by Negroes' enormous migration from the South during the World War. The needs arose especially for those who established themselves along the cheap rent sections of State, Federal, Wabash and other near-by slum areas--those people who buried themselves in the streets nearest the work areas, living in places unfit for human abode, producing low standards, congestion of families in tenements, the breeding of vice near the homes of those who were not able to protect themselves against it.<sup>1</sup>

The beginning of the South Side Settlement and Toynbee Hall were also similar in that neither sprang up spontaneously. They both resounded the thought of universities that inspired their youth with a zeal for doing something for the poor. The founding of Toynbee Hall was the outgrowth of Christian Socialism. This idea found expression first in the missions and later in the university extension movements but the need was not met on a

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1. E. Franklin Frazier, Op. Cit., p. 98.

permanent basis until the founding of Toynbee Hall. It was the culmination of the idea that the poor could be helped only by working with them, guiding them, building each individual and each small neighborhood to change the conditions.

Like the founder of the first settlement, that of the South Side Settlement was also influenced while attending a university which imbued its students with the idea of living a life of service and doing something to improve the social conditions of the underprivileged. Unlike the founder of Toynbee Hall, that of the South Side Settlement, did not put these ideas into execution immediately. Though several years passed this idea was never lost sight of, and when an opportunity presented itself, it began to find development in the leadership of the War Camp Community Service, later culminating in the founding of the South Side Settlement House.

The South Side Settlement was like that of the first settlement and many of the early settlements in that, though it was founded on Christian principles, it was not under the influence of any religious organization.

In most of the early settlements the work was carried on mainly by residents who actually lived in the settlement; but from the beginning of the South Side Settlement to the present time, the only workers who have resided at the Settlement have been the head resident and her family, a husband and son. The majority of the workers live in remote areas from the settlement.

There are several significant things about the history of the settlement. The building which houses the South Side Settlement has been for twenty years a center of various kinds of community activities. It is unique in that it has been the only one of the thirty-five settlements in Chicago fully staffed

by colored people and has served the largest area of any. It had its beginning in 1918, with the establishment of the War Camp Community Service. In 1920 the Settlement evolved out of this service under the name of the South Side Community Service; in 1926 the name was legally changed to that of the South Side Settlement House. Three years later, in 1929, it was admitted as a member of the Chicago Federation of Settlements.

Through the entire history of the settlement it has attempted to adapt its program to the needs of the neighborhood; because of this the settlement might well be commended. For it is generally agreed that what takes place inside the neighborhood house depends upon the neighborhood itself. What the neighborhood is like determines one's activities. In other words, the settlement and neighborhood go hand in hand, one always depending upon the other.

In a neighborhood where culture has been lacking, delinquency high, morals low and poverty prevailing, the settlement has attempted to raise the cultural standards by providing lectures of a cultural nature, art, music, and many other cultural activities to meet its need. It has met the delinquency problem, especially in recent years, by the provision of numerous supervised play lots throughout the neighborhood. It has attempted to raise the morality by reporting to authorities obvious cases of immoral houses. The head resident has related in interviews how she has personally touched the lives of many with low moral standards, shamed some to the extent of having them leave the neighborhood and elevating others to the extent that new lives have been started by them. Activities of a vocational nature have also been provided making it possible for many to secure employment, thus reducing

poverty to a degree. A few social services have been rendered by going into the homes of many destitute persons during emergencies, rendering small services, though this is not a part of the Settlement program.

It is felt that the Settlement does not fall below average in section of personnel. Though the training of the Head Resident is not the highest, her high ideals, years of experience, and untiring devotion have contributed much in keeping the settlement intact. This has not been easy, for she has received no salary, and the finances of the settlement have been meager. It was not until 1934, when government projects at the settlement were started, that it had a constant and definite income with which to pay salaries to workers.

It is evident from observation that the present staff on the whole is competent and has made an excellent showing in each department. However with regard to employment practices and policies for this group, the settlement has been unable to meet the standards of the National Federation of Settlements, for their projects are governmentally controlled.

The physical appearance of the building is important, as it has been previously indicated that the settlement should be inviting and homelike in appearance whatever its size. These qualities are very much lacking at the Settlement for the building is both in need of repair and furnishings. A complete renovation with the idea of lending a more homelike atmosphere to the house would be helpful. The assembly hall on the third floor would be valuable if provided with a fire escape. The dilapidated, unused basement rooms might be converted into useful club rooms or manual training rooms. Since the settlement has a printing plant, etc., in the basement, it is the



opinion of the writer that it would be of value to work out some plan by which persons of the neighborhood who are interested in printing may take instructions. It might also serve as a means by which a settlement publication may be printed. Such a publication would serve as stimulus for writing among the personnel and Board of Directors, probably creating a new interest in the settlement as well as among the people of the neighborhood. It would also be a means of publicity. The exchange of such a publication with other Chicago settlements would be a means of stimulating a friendly relationship between the settlements; it would also be of value in exchanging ideas.

The adjoining lot next to the settlement might be considered for an expansion of the settlement house, as a playground or a swimming pool.

The writer of this thesis is in agreement with Mary Simkhovitch that, "a last chapter should perhaps register certain conclusions or should bring together the scattered aspects of the book. But this is the formal idea not in tune with the flowing life of a neighborhood whose story is out of date as soon as written." And for this reason, the writer has attempted in this last chapter to make but brief comments concerning the settlement as a whole. It will be briefly concluded, however, that the settlement is rendering a great service, has met a definite social need in its neighborhood and should continue to make a constant effort to meet the changing social conditions, keeping always "in tune with the flowing life of the neighborhood."

## Appendix

### The National Federation of Settlements Report of the Committee on Personnel and Employment Practices

Accepted by the Conference and Board of Directors for consideration by the member settlements.

#### Recommendations:

I. An annual employment agreement in writing, outlining the general responsibilities and conditions of employment for professional, clerical and maintenance staff. An annual evaluation of work done is also advisable.

#### II. Free Time Daily

Arrangement for definite free time daily, which is protected from unnecessary interruption.

#### III. Free Time Weekly

It is recommended that arrangements be worked out for thirty-six hours, two nights and a day consecutively free time for each week, or its equivalent, including such time as is normally free time.

#### IV. Study Conference and Committee Time

1. Opportunity should be given for participation in short institutes or courses, one or two mornings a week, or possibly one university course.

2. Leave of absence for occasional longer intensive study should be considered by board of directors.

3. The value of committee work for staff members is recognized, but should be assumed with consideration of primary responsibility to the agency.

4. Time for regional and national conferences should be allowed, and it is recommended that consideration be given to budgetary assistance on expenses.

#### V. Vacation on Pay

##### 1. Professional Workers

a. For full time all year professional workers - one month vacation.

b. For full time part year professional workers - vacation of one month on year's basis, pro-rated to months served.

- pro-rated month.
- e. For part time (half or more) all year service -
- d. In case of resignation, pro-rated month recommended.
- e. In case of dismissal, pro-rated vacation should be allowed.

2. Clerical Workers  
Two weeks minimum.

V. Vacation on Pay (continued)

3. Maintenance and Kitchen Workers
- a. Two weeks.
  - b. One week for first year or for assistant positions.

4. Holidays

New Years, Decoration Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas or equivalent time.

VI. Extra Short Vacation

An allowance of four to seven days at Christmas, in Spring or at mutually convenient times between October and June.

VII. Sick Leave

Minimum of two weeks with recommendation of liberal extension as needed.

VIII. Workman's Compensation

Should be carried by each agency and should include 24-hour day protection on and off premises if on duty.

IX. Retirement Annuities

Should be recognized as desirable practice, with an effort to secure inclusion under Social Security Act and with private or group insurance meantime.

The advantage of some national scheme which would enable a worker to make changes without loss of annuity is strongly emphasized.

## Appendix

### Tentative Criteria of the National Federation of Settlements for Admission to Agency Membership

An agency applying for admission shall furnish satisfactory evidence to the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Settlements that it subscribes in both theory and practice to the following general outline of settlement function and method:

#### I. Function

A. To promote the growth, development and adjustment of particular individuals; and, together with these individuals, and as an integral part of this promotion:-

B. To subject the contemporary social order to continuous critical review for the purpose of discovering and implementing democratic ways and means for bringing about a more equitable and harmonious local, national, and international life.

This general function finds its expression and interpretation in secondary and contemporary aims - the program preferences and activities of:

1. The founders
2. The boards
3. The staff
4. The neighbors

This definition of function implies that the settlement operates within the limitations of no closed intellectual system except those imposed by democratic principles. The settlement provides neutral territory traversing all the lines of racial, religious, economic, partisan and class cleavage.

#### II. Method

Settlement and neighborhood houses eligible for membership should show the following aspects of method in number and quality sufficient to satisfy the Board of Directors of the Federation in regard to scope, permanence and standards. These are not arranged in order of significance:

1. A clearly defined population unit or neighborhood delimited by geographical, topographical or psychological considerations.

2. Continuous study of life in this unit or neighborhood, its resources, lack of resources and potentialities. This means involving the people in the neighborhood, as well as the members of the board and staff, in the task of determining needs and in the co-operative effort of meeting them.

This further implies experiment, and may imply research. The results of local study, consensus, experiment and experience should be used as a basis for agency and neighborhood activities and for active participation in the affairs of city, state and nation through such means as education, and organization for legislation.

3. Carry on activities aimed to meet needs with continuous adaptation to changing needs, and with due regard to other resources for meeting needs in the unit or neighborhood. This may mean initiating some activities on a demonstration basis until other organizations can be induced to carry them on adequately, or it may mean inducing other organizations to initiate them.

4. All the work of the agency, both in the field of studies and service, shall be recognized standard. This involves not only competence in work with individuals, work with groups, work with community (inter-group relationship), research work, and administrative work; but also that this work shall reflect settlement philosophy implicit in the functions stated above in Section 1.

5. Have a board and staff competent\* to carry out activities undertaken, and a budget and means of support adequate for and consistent with the work undertaken.

6. Buildings and equipment utilized should be suitable for program undertaken and maintained in suitable order and dignity.

7. Residence in the locality of some of the staff is considered important. For all staff, some previous if not current period of residence in a settlement locality is desirable.

8. Adequate provision for recording the agency's experience and making it available for wider than local use.

### III. Stability

An agency applying for membership\*\* shall have been in existence at least two years. Admission shall be on a provisional basis for a period of two years, at the end of which period the Board of Directors shall review the application a second time and may elect to full membership. Provisional admission provides full voting privileges.

\*Competence of staff is referred to the Committee on Standards of Personnel and employment Practices for further definition.

\*\*See Article 1, A and B of by-laws, as applying to membership:

Par. 3: "...In a city where there is a city federation of settlements, application for membership shall be approved by a majority of the houses in that city which hold membership in the National Federation of Settlements."

## SCHEDULE

### Study of Workers

NAME Mary Ballinger

HOW IS YOUR WORK CLASSIFIED? Recreation

#### EDUCATION

High school graduate, two years College, two years Normal College and have attended several institutes on recreation at Hull House, Lincoln Center, George William's College and Glenwood Park Training Camp at Batavia, Illinois.

#### DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Pre-school and Music -- In the Pre-school we have construction, creative and free plays, singing and rhythm, story-telling, finger games, clay modeling, drawing and paper cutting, out-door games, in-door games, health habits and observation trips. Music includes, singing, harmonica, group piano and singing games.

#### GIVE COMMENTS WHICH MIGHT AID IN EVALUATING YOUR WORK.

In the Pre-school group I try to teach the children how to get along happily and successfully with other children and help them to accumulate knowledge out of which they will later construct a conscious moral attitude.

Construction and Creative play -- To let the child learn how to use its hands in a sense of imagination and creation. Music and rhythm -- to help develop the co-ordination of muscles and to foster an appreciation of music; to develop a social spirit that will fit the child for future citizenship. Story-telling -- to give the children a knowledge of folk-lore and animal life and to encourage an appreciation for the facts of life.

I'm trying to help the child become self-reliant and to get his fundamental attitudes started in the right direction.

In the music group, I teach the children how to express themselves in song, sense the mood of the group, then select the songs accordingly. I have the children sing different songs and dramatize them.

The harmonica band is composed of both girls and boys. The children are first acquainted with the different tones on the harmonica; when to blow or draw.

We have started in the key of C and are able to play quite a few tunes. I hope to be able to help the group to express a sense of imagination and warmth in their singing and playing.

I think music is an art of harmonious sounds that control thoughts and everyone should be able to appreciate music.

SCHEDULE

Study of Workers

NAME Charles Braxton

HOW IS YOUR WORK CLASSIFIED? Recreation

EDUCATION

High school graduate. I have also attended several institutes on recreation at Hull House, George Williams College and Lincoln Center.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

Athletics, including soft ball, volley ball, baseball, horse shoes, ping pong, basketball and tennis.

GIVE COMMENTS WHICH MIGHT AID IN EVALUATING YOUR WORK.

A better racial understanding has been noticed in the past few months between the several racial groups. They seem to have learned tolerance which is one of my aims, to instil in the boys also good sportsmanship and co-operation.

I think I have done a good job in helping to raise the moral standard in the community where I work. For instance, before activities were started on the play-lot at 30th and LaSalle, every week some of the boys in the neighborhood were picked up by the police for shooting dice in alleys and vacant lots; but they have become so interested in the activities on the lot that for the past six months not one boy has been arrested. I think the schools and churches should co-operate with the centers sponsoring these activities and help steer these children along the right path.



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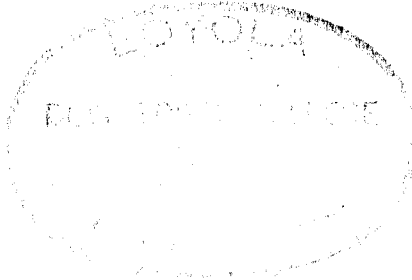
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