

SPORTS

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ANNUAL PLAYGROUND REPORT ISSUED BY DIRECTOR GALANTI

3258 Children Used Playspots Supervised By More Than 100 Qualified Workers; Numerous Activities Listed

Ralph Galanti, Director of Municipal Recreation, in his annual summary of playground and recreational activities, reports that a total number of 3258 children between the ages of 2 and 21 visited the playspots and engaged in its activities. This number was accurately determined through registration lists compiled by playground workers. Individual playgrounds and their totals follow:

Playground	Boys	Girls	Total
Both Park	88	79	167
Odell	88	73	161
Karsa Pool	126	88	214
Albright	82	70	152
Simon	53	50	103
Gilbride	42	40	82
Ingham	89	96	195
Avery	82	58	140
McKinley	110	67	177
Ridgewood	120	97	217
Franklin	82	70	152
St. Michaels	83	86	169
Cleveland	89	91	180
Victory	104	111	215

The age group making greatest use of the playground was that between the ages of 5 and 12. Beth Park, Avery and Albright catered to the higher age group while Ridgewood, Karsa and St. Michaels showed the greatest num-

ber of young children in attendance.

Playgrounds Closed August 30

The playgrounds which officially closed on August 30, were supervised by more than 100 qualified workers and serviced by a trained mechanics crew. Weekly meetings were held under Mr. Galanti's direction in the City Hall throughout the season to acquaint workers with information concerning first aid, city insurance provisions and various phases of the summer schedule.

Mr. Galanti was assisted by several playground supervisors in carrying out his 1947 program. A horseshoe tournament in which more than 75 playground champions participated, was held on August 1 to select the four city champions who turned in excellent performances in the Erie County finals at Hamburg Fair.

An intra-playground softball league was organized on July 15, composed of 10 playground teams, which engaged in more than 30 contests. Six "teen-age" dances, 11 contests of different kinds, and two handicraft classes were held at the various playgrounds under

the direction of a supervisor of girls' activities. The Recreation Dept. sponsored the Cub Pack 44 Soap Box Derby of August 25 and the Bethlehem Park Playground and Community Outing attended by more than 300 residents of that area.

Playgrounds Managed Well

Playground equipment had been ordered during the season but, because of the tremendous demand and transportation difficulties, the department was only able to obtain sufficient equipment to supplement the deficiency caused by last year's wave of vandalism. There was surprisingly less damage done to equipment and supplies this season than ever before.

The Recreation Dept., which has successfully managed the playgrounds during the summer, has been conducting the Municipal softball and hardball teams—boys and girls, adult and junior. Sixty-one franchised teams throughout the city came under direct supervision of the Department. There were almost 1300 youngsters and grown-ups composing these teams: Boys Senior Softball..... 660 Boys Senior Baseball..... 120 Girls Softball..... 90 Boys Junior Baseball..... 120 Boys Midget Baseball..... 105 Playground Softball..... 180

Total1275

Extended Program for 1948

There were more than 772 scheduled games in which umpires and balls were furnished by the Recreation Dept. This game was

extended to the 3 teams of the Vertical-Memorial League as well as to the sandlot teams in various parts of the city.

One new playground was opened this year: namely, Albright. Two new baseball fields have been constructed—New Village and Rosary. An ice skating rink has been constructed at the latter field.

Mr. Galanti and the Council are planning a comprehensive and extended playground program for 1948. There will be a new playground in Wasson Avenue. Courts are being planned for volleyball, tennis and hand-ball. The Recreation Dept., which supervises the use of the Municipal Stadium, will be faced with the additional task of scheduling various night contests as soon as stadium lights are installed.

The I Am An American softball team is the recipient of the S/Sgt. Joseph Verticalino Memorial Trophy which is donated by the Roland Wildcats each year. It will be presented at a special "Sports Night Banquet" to be held sometime in January. The trophy is now on display at Sport Haven. A plaque will also be awarded to the Lackawanna who has done the most towards the advancement and betterment of sports in Lackawanna during the year of 1947.

Director of Recreation, Ralph J. Galanti, and League Director Jack Dillon, are to be commended on the splendid way in which they handled this year's softball and baseball competition. With 23 softball teams playing a grand total of 27 games, their's was no easy task of assigning fields and umpires to the various teams that had to play.

With the playing of the games, many headaches were in order for Mr. Galanti and Mr. Dillon. However, only three protests were submitted to the Recreation Department all year. This is most commendatory to these two men since it proves that matters were well in hand before each game got under way.

The fans that saw the Senior Softball playoffs will agree that the series was well played and that above all, sportsmanship prevailed throughout the contests. The Galantis-Bills games were so exciting and close that very few, if any, people left before the final out was put into the scorebooks. To the Bills go our congratulations on winning the title for the second straight year and to the Galanti team go our congratulations for putting up a stiff fight before going down fighting to the last out.

The Sport Haven trophy was given to the Bills Softball team last Saturday afternoon by Mr. Harry Flak, manager of the sporting goods store. The trophy is an annual presentation to the champions of the Senior Softball League.

Last week's sports question answer: The player who has the white men.

This week's sports question: "In what famous American race are horses entered before their birth?"

A men team football league is all set to start action on September 28 in the Western New York Semi-Pro Football League. At a meeting last Friday evening in Hamburg the following teams were entered: Lackawanna, South Buffalo, Gowanda, Fredonia, and Niagara Falls in one division and Hamburg, Lancaster, Blasdell, East Aurora, and Springville in the other division.


The two divisions will play each other with a total of nine games and the leader of each will meet in a post-season playoff to decide the overall football champion for 1947. Protests, submitted to the league officers, would have to be accompanied by \$15 and postmarked no later than 48 hours after a game is played.

Lackawanna's entry, the Steelers, will play two games away from home and then will return to play before the local football fans on October 10. The Steelers face a possibility of playing six out of nine league games in the Stadium on South Park Avenue. There is also a possibility that all the home games will be played at night.

John Madeja won the Bill's Tern Trophy over the week-end in the 18-hole medal event, no handicap with a 76-11-65. Tied for second place were John Chmiel, 67-9-67 and Louis Jandura, 73-67.

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What's wrong with him?

Is he ill? Has he just lost his job? Does he owe money? Has he been obliged to turn down a good business opportunity? Is he worried about his children's education? Or... is he just all in and tired of working?

Frankly, we don't know what is troubling him... but we do know that whatever it is, a little ready cash would help it. For instance, if he is ill... that's bad... but not nearly so bad if he has the money to meet it. Suppose he has lost his job. If he has money in the bank, he can just take it easy for awhile and then look for another job. A man with a financial reserve doesn't have to turn down good business opportunities, nor does he have to worry about his children's education. And if he's tired of working, he can retire!

So... the answer to "what's wrong with him" is that he has lived from hand to mouth all his life and has just come face with his mistake. The Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company urges you... save your money. Even if it's only a dollar a week, or a dollar a pay day... SAVE IT! It mounts up and stands as a safeguard between you and life's emergencies. A Thrift Account at this bank is a help to regular saving. Open one as soon as possible and resolve to deposit a definite amount at regular intervals.

LACKAWANNA OFFICE

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