Benefits and Opportunities for Colored Citizens of Memphis

Civic Progress 1940-44
A Message
from the Mayor

The present City Commission of Memphis on December 31, 1945, completed its first four-year term of service to the people, and it is not believed inappropriate for a summary to be made of accomplishments, as well as a review of the benefits and opportunities available to the citizens of our City.

Abraham Lincoln's definition of the functions of government is still an excellent test to apply locally: "The legitimate object of government is doing for a community of people whatever they need to have done but cannot do for themselves in their separate and individual capacities."

In applying such a test in Memphis, we must be sure that the service is performed for the benefit of the community as a whole, that the facilities and services do not cost more than the community can afford, and that the costs are justly apportioned.

In defining the individual citizen's responsibilities to his or her community, Mr. Lincoln expressed the belief "that a man should be proud of the city in which he lives, and that he should as live that his city will be proud that he lives in it."

An apportionment of the facilities and services furnished by the City of Memphis to the colored citizens could not and should not be made on the basis of their contributions to the cost of those facilities and services, because the income received by the City from real estate, personalty and privilege taxes paid by the colored people does not exceed five per cent of the total income of the City, while the colored population of Memphis is approximately forty per cent of the whole number.

The basis of distribution is solely the need involved, and the proof of this statement is evident when the facts are known and understood. Nor is this appraisal being made to emphasize the inequality of the contributions made by white and colored citizens toward paying the cost of their Government. It is presented to challenge and arouse the colored people of Memphis to the exceptional opportunities offered to them for the promotion of their health, education, and general welfare, and to impress upon them their duty to take the fullest advantage of those opportunities, benefits and privileges. The City can provide these exceptional opportunities and benefits, but the colored people themselves must make use of them, if they are to enjoy the best of health, if their children are to be educated, and if progress is to be made by the colored people of Memphis.

Walter Chandler
Mayor of Memphis

MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HEALTH SERVICES

MEMPHIS very early in its history laid the foundation for its fame as medical center of the Mid-South by organizing the first Board of Health in 1838, just 12 years after the City was incorporated. The progress made in public health through the years is shown by the fact that Memphis, for the past four years, has been on the National Health Honor Roll, highest health award any city can achieve. City and County health services merged in 1942, moving into new quarters at 879 Madison.

The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department is directed by Dr. L. M. Graves, Superintendent of Health, and Dr. W. D. Burkhalter, his assistant. They are responsible to the Commissioners of Health, Hon. Walter Chandler, Mayor of Memphis, representing the City, and Hon. Francis W. Andrews, Shelby County Commissioner, representing the County. Health services comprise: Vital Statistics, Health Education, Medical, Dental, and Nursing Services, Sanitary Engineering, Food and Milk Control, and Laboratory.
Health Center

The Wellington Health Center, a magnificent home restored and equipped as a medical center in 1911, is operated entirely for and by negroes, and is one of the most up-to-date of such centers in America. Two other health centers for colored adults and children, Douglas and Manassas, are operated by the Health Department, as well as numerous clinics.

49 Negro Health Workers

Each member of the Health Department staff is trained for his special work. While the entire staff renders service to both white and colored citizens, there are 49 negro doctors, nurses, dentists, inspectors, stenographers, clerks, and other health workers.

All medical services are under direct supervision of staff physicians. Five negro doctors are assigned to clinics and a negro hygienist to the colored schools.

To many homes, the blue-uniformed public health nurse is the family's best friend. These nursing services are extended to homes, health centers, and schools. There are 20 trained negro nurses on daily duty, making thousands of calls each year.

On the sanitation staff are three negro sanitarians, trained in the principles of sanitation, which they in turn relay to the colored citizens of Memphis. They make house-to-house inspections to maintain good sanitary conditions in and around homes.

HEALTHIER MOTHERS and CHILDREN

Mothers who cannot afford private medical service turn to the clinics. The health of mothers has reached an all-time high record in Memphis and Shelby County, with the maternal death rate the lowest in history. Colored maternal clinics are operated throughout City and County. In 1943, there were 15,140 visits to these clinics, which was 86 per cent of the visits to all maternal clinics.

Home delivery service was provided in 1943 for 1,025 negro women. This was 89 per cent of all home deliveries.

In providing prenatal care, the importance of continuing visits to the clinics after the baby's arrival is stressed so that the baby's first visit is to the well-child clinic. Instruction and service are given by the doctor and nurse on the proper care of the baby. Infant mortality has been reduced nearly 50 per cent in Memphis in the last 10 years. Negro babies and children made 15,290 visits to these clinics in 1943.

MOTHER AND BABY AT CLINIC
School Children Benefit

The Health Department and the Board of Education work together to offer every service to the boys and girls who are our citizens of tomorrow. A two-fold program is carried on daily in the 55 schools: visual education through slides, movies, and photographs; and the discovery and correction of physical defects. Health is stressed among students in the eleventh and twelfth grades as a safeguard to boys entering the armed forces. A complete physical examination is given.

Decayed teeth, blurred vision, and partial deafness are defects most often found. All having health defects are referred to private physicians or, when unable to pay for that service, are aided by the Health Department with the cooperation of such agencies as the Junior League.

X-ray examinations for tuberculosis are given by the new mobile clinic of the Health Department. Blood tests are taken for syphilis and all cases found are placed under treatment.

A Crippled Children's Service was organized in 1942 to give medical and nursing care to all crippled children.

Fighting Tuberculosis

The Tuberculosis Control Division of the Health Department was created in 1941. The next year a mobile, or traveling, clinic was built, with X-ray apparatus to make films of the chest, and other valuable equipment.

X-ray examinations are made for diagnosis, and treatment is administered to patients who are well enough to remain at home or at work. In 1943, the Health Department made 3,678 X-rays for negro citizens.

When patients require hospitalization, the Health Department obtains the cooperation of Oakville Sanatorium.

Venereal Disease Control

In wartime, the health of our citizens is a vital factor toward victory, and this division of the Health Department has had an unusual opportunity to contribute toward that goal. Under its treatment are about 6,000 patients, 95 per cent of whom are negroes.

Public Health Pays!

Some of the results of the City's efforts to improve health conditions among the negro population may be seen from a comparison of certain death rates. The following table shows the great progress to better health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEGRO DEATH RATES</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1943</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General death rate per 1,000 population</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>13.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 population</td>
<td>264.1</td>
<td>121.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant death rate under 1 year per 1,000 live births</td>
<td>123.5</td>
<td>67.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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HOSPITAL SERVICES

The John Gaston Hospital replaced the City Hospital erected in 1897 at 860 Madison Avenue. The cost was $800,000, and the new institution, modern in every particular, was made possible through a bequest of $400,000 by the widow of the late John Gaston, by an additional contribution by the City of Memphis, and by a grant from the Public Works Administration, and was dedicated June 27, 1936.

The hospital is tax-supported, and is free. It serves as the training center for the medical students and nurses attending the University of Tennessee, offering them opportunities for proficiency in every field of medicine.

The patient comes to the hospital ill and also sick at heart because he cannot afford to pay for medical service, but leaves gratified, knowing that his City has given him the best medical and surgical care. Our colored patients greatly outnumber the white because of the lower economic status. Of the patients, 99 per cent are people who cannot afford to pay for such services.
Three of Four Wards for Negroes

There are six floors, with four devoted to wards. Three of these four wards are occupied by negroes, and all are attended by qualified nurses, internes, and physicians. In connection with the main building, there are the Children's, Maternity, Isolation, Psychiatric, and Out-Patient Buildings, which make this hospital one of the best equipped and most modern in our Country.

The direction of the hospital is under the Commissioner of Finances and Institutions and a Board of Trustees. The Superintendent is responsible for personnel and the management of the hospital. In his immediate staff are a purchasing agent, four secretaries, 32 clerks, and 123 negro employees. A librarian and three assistants maintain a library for the use of doctors and students, and a complete record system giving the history of each case.

Prescriptions are carefully filled by a registered pharmacist assisted by three students. Eleven technicians are assigned to the X-Ray and Laboratory Departments, which rank among the most modern in the Nation.

Doctors and Nurses Skilled

The University of Tennessee recommends to the Board of Trustees the staff of doctors who are responsible for the care of the patients. The hospital serves as the training ground for the medical students of the University.

The Nurses' division is operated jointly by the hospital and the University of Tennessee. Students come from the Tri-States to receive excellent training under a Director of Nurses appointed by the University, and the actual experience through ward duty under the Superintendent of Nurses. A staff of 23 nurses, assisted by 11 nurses' aides, is assigned to the wards.

The School of Nursing has been approved by the United States Government for training students wishing to enter the Cadet Nursing Corps.

Out-Patient Department

The Out-Patient Department acts as a clearing house for the hospital, with a director, one investigator, and 10 nurses. It handles all patients not needing hospitalization, but each case is thoroughly checked, and when medical examination shows that hospital care is necessary, an admittance slip is issued.

In the Out-Patient Department, 17,494 patients were treated in 1943. Of the 108,087 visits made to the clinic, 82,793 were by negro patients.

The Social Service Division acts as intermediary for the doctor, patient, family, and other social agencies. The social worker handles problem cases with social complications where the patient will not respond to the best medical care, and makes follow-up visits for the doctor on special cases.

Negro Patients 70%

The John Gaston Hospital treated 15,918 patients who were admitted in 1943, besides treating 21,188 in the receiving ward and 17,494 in the out-patient clinics as already described. Of the 15,918 admitted to the hospital, 11,228, or 70 per cent of the total, were colored patients. Memphis is aware of the needs of her citizens, and the number of colored patients is greater than the white, because of the inability of the colored people to pay for adequate medical care.

Operating cost for the hospital in 1943 was $633,943 and of this, approximately $443,760 was spent for the care of colored patients. The Out-Patient Department was operated in 1943 for $56,883, with $39,818 of this amount expended on colored patients.
Gailor Psychiatric Hospital

GAILOR Psychiatric Hospital, the newest institution in Memphis, occupies the upper four floors of Gailor Memorial Hospital at 42 N. Dunlap. Opened in 1942, it offers to the Western State Hospital District of Tennessee, of which Shelby County and the City of Memphis are an essential part, a service of value in the diagnosis, study and treatment of neurological and psychiatric disorders.

The hospital is operated under the Department of Institutions of the State of Tennessee, and serves the 21 counties of West Tennessee. Dr. Theron S. Hill, eminent psychiatrist, is Director of Gailor Psychiatric Hospital.

Patients receive study, care, and treatment of the mental illness from which they suffer by a trained staff of psychiatrists and nursing and attendant personnel. All factors, physical and environmental, which contribute to the patient's illness, are carefully evaluated and treated in accordance with modern psychiatric practice.

The personnel of the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Tennessee form the medical staff of the new Psychiatric Hospital, and also serve as attendant physicians to the John Gaston Hospital in charge of the neuro-psychiatric in-patients and out-patients of that institution.

Care for Negroes

The Psychiatric Hospital has four wards, which await completion of their construction. When this is accomplished, 50 per cent of the 80 beds available will be devoted to the care of colored patients. At present, these have been admitted to the special ward devoted to fever treatment of certain forms of mental illness.

Admission to the wards of the Gailor Psychiatric Hospital, as vacancies occur, is obtained either by commitment through the Probate Court of the County of which the patient is a resident, or by signed voluntary application accompanied by a certificate of residency from the Probate Court or the social service department of his County.

In the neuro-psychiatric service of the John Gaston Hospital, physicians of the Department of Psychiatry of the University of Tennessee supervise the study and treatment of borderline mental cases, and neurological diseases where there exists some physical involvement of the brain, spinal cord or peripheral nerves. During 1943, 450 patients were treated, of whom 221 were colored.

Patients treated in the neuro-psychiatric clinic of the John Gaston Hospital Out-Patient Department, which is located in Gailor Memorial Hospital, numbered 949 in 1943, and of these 487 were colored.

More colored people have sought aid for physical disease of the nervous system, not accompanied by frank mental disorder, than for psychiatric conditions or mental illness. This appears to be due to the fact that the colored people are not aware of the aid which can be derived from the early diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders, but appreciate the need for treatment of physical disease of the nervous system.
Oakville Memorial Sanatorium

Oakville Memorial Sanatorium was opened for treatment of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis July 5, 1921. At that time, approximately 18 beds were available for negroes. Treatment then consisted of bed rest, fresh air, sunshine, and wholesome food.

In 1935, a new bed structure was completed for negro patients suffering from adult pulmonary tuberculosis, and the small building previously occupied by adults was converted to the treatment of children suffering from primary phase tuberculosis. At this time, it was felt that the colored race did not respond well to collapse therapy and surgical measures, and no provision was made for this type of treatment.

In 1941, a surgical unit was added to Oakville Sanatorium, and the negro patients were given the benefit of operative procedure used in the treatment of this disease. In 1943, a separate treatment room, X-ray and fluoroscopic units were placed in the colored building for the treatment of these patients.

The hospital is operated jointly by Shelby County and the City of Memphis under the direction of Dr. F. H. Alley, Superintendent and Chief of Surgeons, with a trained staff of physicians and nurses. Office management is under Frank Magoffin, business manager; assisted by office personnel. Seven registered negro nurses are assigned to the colored wards.

Patients Are Healed

Very satisfactory results are achieved with the treatment of tuberculosis in the negro race, who enjoy the same facilities offered the white. There are now 267 patients, of whom 108 are colored, or about 40 per cent. In 1943, expenditures were $195,484, of which $78,000 was for colored patients.

In addition to the opportunities described above, the colored race has full service for diagnosis by the mobile unit operated by the Health Department, and the continuation of treatment after discharge from this institution by the pneumothorax clinics established by the Health Department and discussed in detail in that article.

Under the leadership of the Hon. E. H. Crump, who began the first tuberculosis treatment program in Memphis many years ago, a State-wide tuberculosis eradication program is soon to be under way, with Oakville Memorial Sanatorium as the central point in the crusade in West Tennessee. Facilities will be expanded and greater opportunities for the prevention, care, and cure of tuberculosis will be open for the colored people.
SHELBY COUNTY HOSPITAL

THE Shelby County Hospital is operated solely by the County, but, for the most part, the patients are residents of the City proper. The hospital is maintained for the care of patients with chronic diseases, and is located on the Shelby Farms.

The administration of the hospital is under Sam E. Blanchard, Superintendent, and Dr. J. M. Biggs, Staff Physician, who are directly responsible to the County Commissioner of Health, the Hon. Francis W. Andrews.

The colored ward of the hospital has a colored staff, who serve the patients, including two registered nurses, three female attendants and two male attendants.

At present, there are 481 patients, of whom 274 are colored, or 57 per cent of the total. Total operating cost from September, 1942, to September, 1943, was $185,227, of which approximately $105,579 was expended on colored patients.

Approximately 50 per cent of the patients are confined to their beds. The other patients are given an opportunity to perform a service for someone else, as well as to remain active, by ward work, including bed making and cleaning of the quarters; and kitchen duty, consisting of food and table service.

T. O. FULLER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for the rehabilitation and expansion of the Lenow home, a historic residence constructed about 1840 and now situated in the LeMoyne Gardens, fronting on Porter Street.

This work will begin as soon as priorities can be obtained from the War Production Board, when the property will be converted into a museum of negro history and a branch library, in memory of the late Dr. T. O. Fuller, a distinguished negro minister, teacher, lawyer, and humanitarian.

A committee of colored citizens has charge of the project. The museum will contain relics, pictures, records, works of art, magazines, books, original writings and documents, and other material illustrative of the progress of the negro in America.

This institution will be unique in its purpose and of great educational and historic value to both white and colored.
EDUCATION

Memphis City Schools

THE Memphis City Schools are operated through the Board of Education. The development and progress of negro schools has been in line with the advancement in educational standards throughout the Nation.

There are 17 elementary schools, two junior high schools in transition to senior high schools (Melrose and Hamilton), and two four-year senior high schools (Manassas and Booker T. Washington).

Splendid Negro Schools

Every negro school child in Memphis is housed in a modern, sanitary, fireproof building, except the small one-story units at Caldwell, Magnolia, and a part of La Rose Schools. Value of colored school property has increased from $1,308,175.65 in 1933 to $2,757,431.46 in 1943. The value of buildings, equipment, and improvements thus has been more than doubled in the last 10 years.

New Buildings

Frame buildings have been replaced by up-to-date fireproof buildings at the following schools:

Greenwood, valued at $13,766.48 in 1933, replaced by Hamilton, valued at $204,136.44 in 1943;

Hyde Park, valued at $4,268.67 in 1933, replaced by a building valued at $171,875.24 in 1943;

Klondike, valued at $10,389.46 in 1933, replaced by a building valued at $109,347.47 in 1943;

Melrose, valued at $9,146.49 in 1933, replaced by a building valued at $139,712.35 in 1943.

During the decade, additions have been built at the following schools:

Manassas, increased in value from $41,200.00 to $231,148.71;

Leath, increased in value from $78,442.24 to $110,738.72;

Carnes, increased in value from $70,441.55 to $147,894.43;

La Rose, increased in value from $89,507.83 to $140,856.31;

Lester, increased in value from $31,432.46 to $102,151.46;

Porter, increased in value from $91,049.05 to $144,661.18.

Playgrounds Doubled

The Board of Education, in recognition of the importance of adequate playgrounds for the physical development of the colored students, has more than doubled the playground acreage since 1933. In that year, the playground acreage of all schools was 37.78; in 1943, it is 80.61, or an increase of 42.83 acres during the decade.

To supplement further the program for the physical development of students, the Booker T. Washington stadium was built in 1936 at a cost of $82,991.51. The stadium is equipped with lights for night games and seating facilities for about 3,000 people. It is used for colored community activities as well as athletic contests.
Teachers Are Qualified

In 1933, 12 per cent of the negro elementary teachers were college graduates. In 1943, 58.7 per cent were graduates of standard colleges. All high school teachers except one are graduates of standard colleges, and all the principals, teachers, and other employees in the colored schools are colored, the pupils being taught by those of their own race.

The net enrollment in the colored elementary schools in 1933 was 14,403; in 1943, 15,630. The high school enrollment in 1933 was 2,608; in 1943, 5,211. Average daily attendance in elementary schools in 1933 was 12,086; in 1943, 12,844. Average daily attendance in the high schools was 1,890 in 1933; 2,664 in 1943.

Varied Subjects Are Taught

The elementary curriculum includes all subjects required by State law for all pupils. Textbooks are furnished free to all children from the first to the eighth grades, inclusive. An ample supply of elementary supplementary books is provided for enrichment and recreational reading.

The program of studies in the high schools includes English, four years; science, four years; mathematics, three and a half years; Latin, two years; Spanish, two years; French, two years; social studies, four years; home economics, three years; music, instrumental and vocal, four years; physical education, four years; commercial education, four years; art, two years; shop, four years, including drafting, woodworking, trowel trades, machine shop, welding, sheet metal, and auto mechanics.

The high schools are accredited by the State of Tennessee, and graduates are admitted to standard colleges without examination.

The libraries of the two senior high schools contain 5,495 volumes and 40 current magazines.

Health and Nutrition

In cooperation with the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, an intensive health education program and clinical examinations have been conducted during the past four years. Emphasis has been given to insect-bearing disease control, tuberculosis, and venereal diseases. The Health Department's report reveals the success of this program.

In December, 1943, the hot lunch program was expanded. Balanced meals are served children at very low cost, with free aid to pupils whose parents cannot afford to buy their lunches.

LIBRARY SERVICE

Library service by Cossitt Library for negroes began about 30 years ago at LeMoyne College. For many years, the College library was administered by Cossitt Library, and because of that fact its use as a public library was extended to the negroes of Memphis.

Most of the colored people hesitated to use the LeMoyne library, because its location in a college gave the impression that it was intended for school groups only. This, with a growing need to confine the use of the College library to students, resulted in the school's taking over complete administration of its library in 1932. Cossitt Library then established the first colored high school library in Memphis at Booker T. Washington High School in December, 1932. For about three years, this library and special privileges granted at LeMoyne College Library were the only public library facilities for negroes.

Recognizing the need for book service to colored readers, Cossitt

(Continued on page 38)
A FEW OF THE MODERN NEGRO SCHOOLS OF MEMPHIS

HYDE PARK SCHOOL

KLONDIKE SCHOOL

MELROSE SCHOOL

MANASSAS HIGH SCHOOL
Housing

Of the population of Memphis in 1940, 171,957 or 58.7 per cent were white and 120,985 or 41.3 per cent were colored. But 77 per cent of the negro population was living in substandard housing. Recognizing this need, and the benefit of better housing to the entire community the City of Memphis has taken full advantage of the Federal Housing Program.

Five model low-cost housing areas have been built thus far: Lauderdale Courts, $3,100,000, and Dixie Homes, $3,300,000, both in 1938; Lamar Terrace, $2,500,000, completed in 1940; William H. Foote Homes, $4,500,000, completed 1940-41; LeMoyne Gardens, $2,050,000, 1941, and a recent LeMoyne Gardens addition costing $1,500,000 and housing immigrant and resident negro war workers.

There are two white areas (Lauderdale Courts and Lamar Terrace) with 927 apartments together, and three negro areas (Dixie Homes, William H. Foote Homes, LeMoyne Gardens) with a total of 2,378 apartments. Two-thirds of the program is for negroes, because surveys have shown that their need is greater.

At Dixie Homes is a three-acre playground operated by the Memphis Park Commission, a spray pool, a community building, and several play areas for pre-school age children. The big project recently has been a Victory Garden, with 480 out of 636 families having plots—one of the largest community gardens in the City.

At William H. Foote Homes are a three-acre playground, spray pool, auditorium, and social room. This unit has operated a Nursery School for the children of working mothers, with the joint sponsorship of the Memphis Board of Education.

At LeMoyne Gardens, tenants enjoy two and a half acres of playground, two basement play areas, and a spray pool.

Negro Housing Managers

The Memphis Housing Authority has five members appointed by the Mayor and serving without compensation: Edward E. Barry, Chairman; Dr. H. P. Hurt, Vice-Chairman; Ike Gronauer, Edward M. Knoff, and Dr. L. M. Graves. Rev. J. L. Campbell and M. S. Stewart serve as the Colored Advisory Committee.

The central office is under Joseph A. Fowler, Executive Director and Secretary, with Walter M. Simmons as Finance Director.

Each unit has a Housing Manager and staff; all colored, and numbering a total of 37. The Housing Manager collects rents, assists the planning of a community program, and aids tenants in the adjustment of health, economic, and home problems. This has resulted in the self-advancement of the individual and has had a beneficial influence in the entire life of the negro in this community.

All tenants are selected on the basis of need, hence the appointment of two Home Service Visitors who give special attention to better housekeeping. Schools are conducted for prospective tenants, and annual calls are made to each unit. In a recent report, 900 visits were recorded; 833 units were reported good, 54 fair, 25 poor, and only eight unsatisfactory.

Among the 2,378 families who occupy the three negro housing areas, $65 is the average monthly income. Good fellowship and a good neighbor policy are encouraged by tenant associations which meet every month and also publish a monthly newspaper. Various social and welfare activities are sponsored by the groups, including nursery schools, kindergartens, Bible schools, Boy Scout troops, Girl Reserve groups, and Red Cross units. These activities are not limited to housing area tenants, but offer a meeting place of culture for all the City's negro population.

Decent shelter has brought advancement in health and education. Juvenile delinquency and truancy are not problems in these areas. Educational standards have been lifted. A recent study in William H. Foote Homes revealed that 696 children attend public schools, 10 private or parochial schools, and six are in college.

The Memphis Housing Authority is proud of the advancements made in the past four years, and looks forward to the end of the war and to the program of tomorrow.
MODEL LOW COST NEGRO HOUSING

LEMOYNE GARDENS

AIR VIEW DIXIE HOMES

WILLIAM H. FOOTE HOMES
A BEAUTIFUL PARK

RECREATION

Parks, Playgrounds, Swimming Pools

MEMPHIS is noted for its parks and playgrounds, which provide happy leisure hours and make better citizens. The first Park Commission was organized in 1900. Parks then appealed chiefly to people who visited their drives and walks to admire the beauty of nature, but today the parks are the recreation centers of the entire community. Memphis leads the State in having the first City supervised program offering free playtime activities, not only to its citizens, but to the Tri-States.

A Summer program is emphasized in 11 negro parks, with an attendance of 240,300 in 1943. Beale Avenue Park and Community Center has a year-round program of social and sports activities. These parks have modern playground equipment, wading pools, soft and hard ball diamonds, and tennis courts. Three parks offer free swimming pools day and night. The parks and playgrounds are conveniently located for all who take advantage of the opportunity for free leisure time activities.

Negro playgrounds are B. W. Boothe, at Florida and S. Parkway, covering 3.5 acres; Beale Avenue, Fourth and Turley on Beale, 2.61 acres; Douglas, Holmes and Para, 53.2 acres; Dixie Homes, with Tom Lee Swimming Pool, Ayres and Peach; Handy, Beale and S.
Third, 4.02 acres; Klondike (School), Voilesville and Claybrook, 6.5 acres; Lincoln, Blakemore and Menager, 30 acres; Orange Mound, with Swimming Pool, Carnes and Belt Line, 4.51 acres; Washington, with Swimming Pool, N. Second and Marble, 8.04 acres; Hyde Park (School), Lyons Avenue; Lester (School), Lester near Summer.

There are 15 trained playground directors and six lifeguards, assisted by maintenance men employed for the Summer program. The staff at Beale Avenue Center is retained for year 'round activities.

The Recreation Department of the Memphis Park Commission arranges each Spring for the National Recreation Association of America to provide a leader who conducts a training school for one week to keep the staff abreast of modern recreation trends and to train new members. This training is supplemented by weekly staff meetings and routine visits by the directors of each type of program activity.

Varied Recreation Activities

Playgrounds are open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Each day begins with flag raising and singing of "The Star Spangled Banner," and closes with the lowering of the flag.

Each year, the Superintendent of Recreation compiles a program plan to be followed, with a designated theme. In 1943, the theme was "A Salute to Our Armed Forces," carried out in creative play crafts, dances, games, songs, and other activities of each playground. The program culminates with a Festival to which the Park Commission furnishes free transportation for all the playground children, giving them a wonderful day, long to be remembered.

The fifteenth annual Play Festival was held in 1943 at Dixie Homes Playground and attended by 7,000 people. All the children participated in competitive athletic games and track events. Tents representing each playground were placed around the arena for the display and judging of handicraft made by the children during the Summer. Much interest is shown in win-the-war activities, such as purchase of War Stamps and collection of tin cans. A highlight in
1948 was crowning by the Mayor of Memphis of a Tin Can King and Queen. The Festival was climaxed by a pageant, "The Sleeping Beauty."

Trips to the free Zoo at Overton Park every Tuesday are another great attraction. The average attendance is 2,500 children every Tuesday, sometimes 5,000 on special days.

The Booker T. Washington Stadium has been lighted for night play and is the scene of many enjoyable sports and civic events. At Crump Stadium, seats are reserved for negro football fans to witness the big games each season.

THE Memphis Juvenile Court was established by Mayor E. H. Crump in 1910, the Nineteenth Century Club cooperating. The first Court was located on Front Street, then moved to Fourth and Jefferson. Later the Neely home on Adams Avenue, an old Southern residence, was rented and subsequently purchased by the City. The interest of officials of Memphis in child welfare is shown by the $125,000 fireproof building they have erected as the present home of the Juvenile Court. This was made possible in part by P. W. A. funds, President Roosevelt himself signing the allocation.

In the Court, behind the Judge's seat, is still the beautiful stained glass window which for many years has symbolized the spirit of kindness prevailing in this institution. Its cherub in a tree-top, playing a flute, has delighted and reassured many children, in the old building and the new.

Judge Camille Kelley has been Judge of the Juvenile Court since 1920, and enjoys the friendship and confidence of the people of all groups. She has charge of the Probation Staff of the Court, and
D. C. Miller, Commissioner of Finances and Institutions, directs the staff of the detention homes, advises with the Judge, and supervises the expenditure of funds.

The object of the Juvenile Court is to reform and protect the wayward or dependent child by adjusting him to social and useful living. The Judge believes that it is easier to work with children in beautiful surroundings. There are clinics, libraries, reading rooms, work and recreation rooms, playgrounds, and a nursery for the younger children who are brought into Court when their parents have deserted them or have proven unworthy. Adequate facilities are provided for segregating the diseased or seriously delinquent from the other children. Receiving rooms provide for medical examinations on entrance.

In harmony with modern ideals of handling delinquent children, only a few locked doors and small bedrooms supplement the large dormitory care. The two detention homes are connected by a kitchen which provides meals for both. As far as is known, Mem-

phis has the only detention home in the country built exclusively for the care of colored children.

The Juvenile Court of Memphis is not only a legal tribunal functioning for the protection of colored children, but is a heart center, where the parents, guardians, and teachers of these children can get fundamental help in working out their problems.

Exactly the same facilities are furnished for both white and colored children: tiled bathrooms, dormitories, beds with clean sheets (not bunks), and a big playroom and library, where programs are
carried on by the Recreational Director of the Court. Colored probation officers, matrons, and prefects handle colored children.

The colored churches, civic and social clubs and organizations, cooperate fully with the Court. Sunday School is held weekly, and the same colored teachers have taught this school for more than 10 years. The colored Federated Clubs and Parent-Teacher Associations help in individual cases of boys and girls. The colored ministers of Memphis give constant aid. They bought an examination table for the clinic, and presented it at a ceremony where white and colored friends rejoiced in the progress being made for the protection of the young colored children of this City.

The City is now decorating the libraries in the colored detention home and furnishing the rugs. Colored civic clubs will aid this project, as the white clubs have done in the white detention home.

A regular visiting negro doctor examines the colored children, who, when sick, are sent immediately to the City Hospital. A staff psychologist makes mental tests. Court histories, home investigations, and follow-up work are done for colored and white alike.

Parents may visit their children at any hour except during meals. This helps working parents.

In the Non-Support Division of the Court, families are helped to adjust their homes and financial support is obtained for wives and children.

Probation work, directed by F. E. Bradley, Chief Probation Officer, functioning under the Judge, aids the child in achieving better home, church, school, and recreational life.

As a result of its program, the Memphis Juvenile Court has been rated by the National Probation Association of New York City as one of the five standard juvenile courts of America, and "second to none in spirit." Though juvenile delinquency has risen all over the Country, in Memphis it is still decreasing. This again proves the spirit of Memphis, where white and colored alike strive with mutual cooperation to rear their children with the blessings of the American home, under the protection of the law, and aided by churches, free schools, playgrounds, and other community facilities.

Aid for Negro Citizens
Memphis Welfare Commission

The Memphis Welfare Commission was an outgrowth of the depression, when many people were in desperate financial straits and needed help until they could be certified for W. P. A. employment or obtain some form of Social Security. Its first members were appointed by the City of Memphis and Shelby County, January 1, 1936. The present Chairman is Dr. T. A. Robinson and the Secretary is Albert Johns.

Aubrey Clapp directs the staff of the Welfare Commission, which includes social workers, office personnel, and project foremen. The social workers handle interviews, make routine visits in the homes of clients, and refer cases to other agencies. All cases first clear through the Social Service Exchange to this department.

Any unemployable resident of Memphis or Shelby County, not eligible for any form of Social Security, may apply and qualify for assistance in grocery orders, fuel, and clothing on an emergency basis. Indigent persons who are eligible for Social Security aid, such as the blind, aged, or dependent children, are given a helping hand until their first check arrives.

All service is based on need, with the same consideration shown white and colored. Of 162 families aided in 1943, 40 per cent were colored, and in terms of individuals helped, out of the total of 550, 60 per cent were colored.

Often a recommendation from the Welfare Commission is a step to a permanent job. Contacts are maintained with new industries and established firms, so that last year 3,882 men and 1,341 women were placed on jobs—and 85 per cent of these workers were colored.

War has made heavy demands on certain products, and the salvaging of used materials has offered this agency an opportunity to contribute to the war effort as well as to rehabilitate 506 physically handicapped workers in the past nine months by giving them suitable employment. Of these, 91 per cent were colored.
In tin can salvage, cans are sent the Welfare Commission by bottling companies. The cans are assorted, washed, and flattened in machines, then sent to detinning companies where bottle tops or caps are made. This project has made 150 colored crippled men and women, not only self-supporting, but a vital part of the Memphis war effort.

Old wooden boxes also are needed by war industry. A salvage project of the Welfare Commission repairs these, giving jobs to 31 men, 40 per cent colored.

In the woodyard, wood gathered from all parts of the City is cut and distributed to needy families to provide warmth and cheer in their homes. This gives employment to five white and 120 colored men.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ON MARCH 1, 1944, there were 2,520 employees in the City of Memphis, including the Park Commission, the Welfare Commission, and the Memphis Housing Authority. Of that number, 1,121 were colored adults. The number of colored City employees thus is greater than the percentage of colored citizens in the general population of Memphis.

The use of the Fair Grounds, owned by the City, is granted free of charge each year for the holding of a colored Fair. Colored citizens and their friends also have a special day set apart each week in which they have the exclusive privilege of the Memphis Zoo.

The municipally owned Auditorium is open to negroes, and is used frequently for conventions, ceremonies, entertainments, performances, and other large public gatherings conducted by colored groups.

In addition to all of the services described in this report, our colored citizens receive the benefit of general services performed for all citizens alike, such as fire protection, paving, sewers, drainage, garbage collection, street cleaning, street lights, various inspection services, City Beautiful activities, in which three colored women inspectors are employed, employment placement, and other similar public services.
The growth of the service and the need of the Park Commission for the space in the Auditorium resulted in Cossett Library's purchasing a property on Butler at Fourth Streets and opening a library there in March, 1937. When the Memphis Housing Authority built Foote Homes in this area, the library had to move out of these quarters, and the present fine building at 531 Vance was acquired.

A graduate of the Booker T. Washington High School and LeMoyne College, with special preparation for library work in the library school at Atlanta University, was appointed the first professional trained negro librarian at the Butler Street Branch. A full-time librarian is now in charge of the Vance Avenue Branch, with a staff of two part-time assistants.

Many Books Available

The collection of books at the Vance Avenue Library compares favorably with any branch in the City, with the best of books for reference, research, study, and general reading, for both children and adults. There are 5,812 volumes.

Besides the general collection, another very large collection of books is provided for teachers in the colored schools. Gradually, teachers are learning to use these facilities, borrowing at the beginning of the school term collections of books for their classrooms, where pupils can have access to them daily. When a collection has served its purpose, it can be returned to the library and new books borrowed. There are 5,886 of these books.

Circulation of books among the colored people in Memphis in 1943 was 53,738, with children borrowing books 44,906 times and adults, 8,832.

The library is open daily 2 to 8 p. m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; 2 to 6 p. m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Public officials of Memphis and Shelby County have striven and will continue to strive to meet the needs, improve the living conditions, and advance the opportunities of the colored people who live in this community.

One further fact should be emphasized. Great responsibility rests on those whose privilege or duty it is to use the facilities that are made available for them.

The most efficient schools in America are as empty rooms if not used by the pupils for whom they are built and equipped. There are vacant desks in many of the colored schools of Memphis, and a surplus of well-qualified colored teachers, yet hundreds of children are not sent to be taught. Thousands of colored children in Memphis never have seen the parks and playgrounds constructed and supervised for them. Large numbers of sick and wounded colored people have never sought relief at the health centers and clinics; and vacant pews in colored churches on Sunday attest to the need for that higher moral and spiritual development required to wipe out a record that almost 70 per cent of the crimes committed in Shelby County are by colored people.

These are challenges to the colored citizens of Memphis! The City Government will welcome acceptance; and will continue all the while to discharge fully its own duty to this large segment of our population.
Map showing approximate location of schools, parks and other facilities of interest and importance to colored citizens.