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**A SURVEY OF TEENAGE RECREATION PROGRAMS IN  
SELECTED CITIES OF SOUTHCENTRAL KANSAS**

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**A Thesis**

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**the Division of Health, Physical Education,  
Recreation and Athletics**

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**by**

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## CHAPTER I

### THE PROBLEM AND DEFINITIONS

Recreation is now on the threshold of attaining its full stature in our democracy. The unmistakable trend is toward a shorter working day, with the five-day week a rule rather than the exception. The fact that we are becoming more and more a population of adults plus the lower retirement age and Social Security augur well for an increased leisure which should challenge and bring forth the Golden Era of Recreation.<sup>1</sup>

#### I. THE PROBLEM

Statement of the problem. Today, teenagers are finding themselves with more and more leisure time on their hands. How teenagers can use this leisure time in constructive living and thinking, rather than act in destructive ways, is of great concern to the community. Parents are asking what they can do to help their teenagers keep out of trouble. Part of the answer lies in providing more organized recreational activities after school, evenings, and on weekends. Although it must be remembered that

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<sup>1</sup>H. Dan Corbin, Recreation Leadership (New York: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1953), p. 8.

recreation is no sure solution to teenage problems, it can provide the atmosphere for developing better and healthier individuals for society.

Importance of the study. Teenage problems have arisen in all communities and they will continue to rise, due to the rapid population explosion of post-war babies who are now teenagers and to the increased amount of leisure time available to them. By 1970, it is estimated that teenagers will represent 40 per cent of the nation's total population.<sup>2</sup> This would mean that only 60 per cent of the nation's population would be over nineteen years of age and clearly indicates the importance of and the need for more teenage recreation activities. A recent article published in a Kansas newspaper further exemplifies the need for more teenage recreation activities. The article dwells on a particular phase of teenage problems, the outdoor drive-ins, and the problems they encounter from the teenage group. Teenagers frequenting drive-in restaurants have created serious problems in Wichita. Their misconduct and rowdiness have forced popular drive-ins to close their doors for good. "The kids get together and act like a mob. They show no respect at all for the police or the public in general," explained an officer who was hired

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<sup>2</sup>Howard G. Earl, "Helping Your Teen-agers to Better Nutrition," Today's Health Magazine, 43:49-51, February, 1965.

to patrol a drive-in. The community asks, "What can we do?" Thomas P. Allen, Superintendent of Recreation for the city of Wichita, has said:

No matter what we do or what we provide for these kids, there will always be kids on the streets. However, if we can provide adequate recreation that they will participate in, we can minimize our troubles by a large percentage.<sup>3</sup>

Purpose of the study. It was the purpose of this study to determine if more teenage recreational activities are needed in the selected cities of Southcentral Kansas, and if so, to what extent the activities are needed. Certain questions which will need to be answered while seeking this information are as follows:

1. What type of an activity program appears to be the most successful for teenagers?
2. What are the methods of financing teenage recreation activities in the cities included in the study?
3. Are the teenage recreation programs equally serving girls as well as boys in the cities studied?
4. Is there any race discrimination in the recreation programs of the cities studied?

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<sup>3</sup>Tim Brazill, "The Idle Teens," The Wichita Beacon, April 1, 1965, p. 5 D.

Scope of the study. This study is limited to the recreation programs in the selected cities of Southcentral Kansas employing full-time recreation directors. The cities of Wellington, McPherson, Winfield, Arkansas City, and Newton, which range in population from 9,161 to 16,052, were also selected by the author because of their south-central location in Kansas. These five cities are well known for their flour mills and their oil industries. The author felt that because of the similarities in industry, size, and location the cities previously mentioned above would give a good indication of teenage recreation programs which are carried on in cities of this size.

Probable values of the study. It is hoped that the findings from this study can contribute to the addition or introduction of activities for the development of teenage recreation in other cities with the same characteristics as the cities included in this study. The author feels that this study may be of some value in assisting recreation directors in the evaluation of their overall recreation programs, and will also provide information concerning the type of teenage recreation activities which have proven successful.

Limitations of the study. There will be certain limitations in the process of conducting this study and

in the drawing of conclusions. Some limitations of this study are as follows:

Lack of personal knowledge of the cities studied by the investigator may cause some discrepancies in the study.

Individual activities included in the study may be incomplete in information and data received.

Information received may be of biased opinion or outlook by individuals interviewed.

## II. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED

To prevent misunderstanding, the following terms are defined as they will be used in this study.

City-school program. The city-school program refers to programs operated and supervised by the city recreation program using school facilities in cooperation with the public school system.

Equipment. Equipment will be defined as that which is movable such as mats, trampoline, balls and bats.

Facilities. Facilities in this study will refer to immovable objects such as buildings, parks, playgrounds, and fixed equipment.

Recreation program. Recreation program in this study refers to activities provided by the tax-supported

recreation departments in the cities included in this study.

Teenager. A teenager in this study will refer to boys and girls from the ages of 13 - 18 years of age, which is the junior high school age level through the senior high school age level.

### III. SOURCES AND METHODS OF OBTAINING AND ANALYZING DATA

Sources of data. The data for this study were obtained from the following sources:

A review of the literature related to the field of teenage recreation was made to secure information concerning the growth and importance of teenage recreation programs in the United States today.

A letter of introduction and an interview sheet consisting of ten questions were prepared and mailed in advance to each of the directors of recreation in the cities selected for the study. Copies of the introduction letter and the interview sheets are included in the Appendix.

Personal interviews were then held with each of the directors of recreation in the cities selected for this study and the data and information were obtained.

Methods of analyzing data. The methods used to analyze the data and information were achieved by the

evaluation of related literature concerned with the teenage youth. This was accomplished through (1) personal experience and reading of related literature, (2) analysis of the information and data received from the readings, (3) questionnaires which were sent to the directors prior to appointments, (4) direct observation and personal interviews, and (5) the compiling of all data obtained from the personal interviews into tables for the study.

The results of all the presented data will be summarized. Conclusions will then be based upon the findings as they relate to the questions which were asked in the purpose of the study. Based upon the obtained conclusions, necessary recommendations will be given.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Recreation in the past has been more concerned with the younger children of the community. In recent years, however, changes in the attitudes toward more recreation and leisure time have resulted in a need for more teenage recreation. This change in emphasis on teenage leisure activities has resulted in more tax-supported teenage programs and has prompted this study to determine the extent of tax-supported teenage recreation programs in selected cities of southcentral Kansas.

The manner in which this leisure time is used by youth becomes one of primary concern to every community. It is up to the community to teach these youngsters to use their free time properly.

The amount of leisure time available today is very clearly illustrated in the following table presented by Brightbill and Meyer.

There are 365 days in a year . . . . .	8760
Deduct 8 hours a day for sleep . . . . .	2920
Deduct 5 days' work a week at 8 hours a day for 49 weeks (allowing 2 weeks' vacation and seven other holidays) . . . . .	1960
Deduct 2 hours a working day for travel . . . . .	490
Deduct 3 hours a day for meals . . . . .	1095
Deduct 1 hour a day for dressing and undressing . . . . .	<u>365</u>
	<u>6830</u>
Hours left to do with as we please . . . . .	1930

This is equal to 80 days of 24 hours each--nearly 22 per cent of the year.<sup>1</sup>

The 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth gave particular notice to recreation and the growing amounts of leisure for the teenage youth. The conference pointed out the teenage crime rate across the country and made some important recommendations pertaining to youth. Some of these recommendations are as follows: It was strongly recommended that as many youth organizations be organized as may be needed to accommodate all young people eligible to participate and to provide activity appealing to varying ages and interests. The federal and state governments should consider the leisure needs of youth in developing programs for conservation of natural resources, for improvement and expansion of our natural park system, and for protecting and acquiring wilderness areas. Youth should be given the opportunity for leadership responsibilities at national, state, and local levels as members of boards and committees of recreation and cultural agencies concerned with youth, with full membership privileges within legal restrictions. Finally, rural areas should provide more opportunities for

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<sup>1</sup>Charles K. Brightbill and Harold D. Meyer, Recreation Text and Readings (New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1953), p. 75.

young people to participate in art, drama, literature, music, sports, and social activities.<sup>2</sup>

"All communities need to be more concerned about adequate facilities and services for this age group. It should not be left to the tavern, movies, public dance hall and other commercial enterprises to provide healthy and inexpensive recreation for youth of this age," states Harriet P. Clinton.<sup>3</sup>

The success of a recreation program depends upon how well it provides enjoyment for the participants, enriches the community living, and meets the individual needs of the people not met through work.

The role of community recreation, of which teenage recreation is a part, is defined by John H. Jenny as follows:

Community recreation is too big for one agency to organize and conduct. It is, however, the responsibility of governments on all levels to initiate and assist through leadership and facilities that program of recreation already being conducted by other agencies. It is a recognized fact that public tax monies cannot be used to support private or semi-private functions. Therefore a public recreation agency should be established in every community and state as the basic

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<sup>2</sup>United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Children's Bureau, Youth Groups in Conflict (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1960).

<sup>3</sup>Harriet P. Clinton, "Post High School Youth," National Recreation Association, 1:473, January, 1950.

recreation administrative agency. In this way the governmental agency could play a role of coordination and supplementation. To usurp the complete responsibility for the program would be to take the right from those individuals and agencies now directing recreation programs, and not to assist where one exists or not to initiate such a program where none exists would be to fail to fulfill a charge and responsibility. The recreative role of community government is clear. It must provide for the recreation of its members and assist other agencies in this responsibility. This can be accomplished within the existing framework of each community. No one type of administrative organization will solve the many problems in the numerous local communities.<sup>4</sup>

Characteristics and interests of teenagers. To conduct a successful teenage recreation program, the characteristics of the teenager must be considered. At this age boys and girls differ in their athletic interests but interest in each other grows. The following chart shows the interests and characteristics of the teenage youngster (13-18).

Characteristics

Greatest growth period.  
Awkward. Ill at ease.  
Interest in opposite sex developed from former preference for friends of own sex.  
Rebels against adult approval. Idealistic.  
Period of self discovery.

Play Interests

Team game interest replaced by co-educational game interest. Group activities such as singing, dramatics appeal. Desires more intricate craft work with more expensive materials. Likes to play guessing and other games where he can show

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<sup>4</sup>John H. Jenny, Introduction to Recreation Education (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, 1955), p. 29.

CharacteristicsPlay Interests

superiority. Social dance preferred to other rhythmic activities. Craves exciting activity.<sup>5</sup>

The era of automation has brought about many changes in our society. The trend is now reverting back to outdoor living and outdoor recreation. Man is looking for an outlet from the ever constant noise of city living. The time has arrived for the setting aside of outdoor lands for learning and enjoyment. Joseph J. Shomon, in an article in the National Recreation Association magazine, writes:

There needs to be new interests in nature to return families, school children and youth groups, adults and senior citizens once more to the outdoor activities. Never before in the history of America has outdoor recreation held so much appeal for so many growing millions of our citizens.<sup>6</sup>

Teenage youth centers. The most successful youth programs are those planned and conducted by youth and adults working cooperatively in an atmosphere of common interests and understanding. Youth needs to become a real part of the adult community. Emphasis should not be so much upon their adolescence as upon their striving for adult maturity

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<sup>5</sup> Maryhelen Vannier, Methods and Materials in Recreation Leadership (Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders Company, 1956), p. 29.

<sup>6</sup> Joseph J. Shomon, "Why Outdoor Conservation Education?" National Recreation Association, 1:101, March, 1965.

and barriers to this development should be broken down, writes Harriet P. Clinton.<sup>7</sup> Too often young people look upon the home as merely a place to eat and sleep. There is need to relate recreation programs to the home and family. Youth centers are valuable innovations in most communities, provided they give every youth a sense of belonging and a real responsibility. There should be increased emphasis placed upon family and home-centered recreation at all levels.<sup>8</sup>

The importance of youth centers can never be stressed too much. The recreation centers provide for the individual child in the community an outlet from his everyday way of life. The following is a weekly program of a recreation center for youth in the Midwest section of the United States.

Junior High School and Senior High School  
Recreation Program

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
Saturday afternoons, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Conditioning (Weightlifting)	Junior high dances	Girls club room
Boys clubs	Senior high dances	Senior high club
Billiards	Co-recreation clubs	Tuesday
Table tennis	Girls volleyball	Volleyball club
Girls clubs	Hi fi room	Thursday
Boys basketball	Game room	Junior high club
Service club	Co-recreation room	Thursday <sup>9</sup>
Newspaper staff	Table games	
	Juke box	

<sup>7</sup>Clinton, op. cit., p. 247.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Howard G. Danford, Creative Leadership in Recreation (Boston: Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1964), p. 142.

replaced by the Unified School Districts. The bill is important to this study because it will eventually involve all five of the cities selected for this study. When voted on in districts, and passed, this bill will aid the recreation programs already in existence in the area, to a large extent. It will enable areas not yet included, to be included in the recreation programs which until this time were primarily for the city youth. This bill may be found in the appendix section of this thesis.

## CHAPTER III

### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

In obtaining information and data for this study it was necessary to review the related literature concerned with teenagers. Information important to the study was then organized from readings and from personal experiences. Data were obtained through correspondence with the recreation directors and the superintendents of schools in the selected cities. A letter of introduction and an interview sheet containing ten questions were sent to each director, along with a self-addressed postcard for the respondent's convenience in setting up an appointment for a personal interview. The personal interviews were then held with each director, and at this time the respondent discussed his answers to the questions which were posed to him in the letter.

This chapter contains a brief summary describing the cities selected for this study and their city recreation programs. The cities range in population from 9,161 to 16,052 people. This chapter also contains the results and findings obtained from the directors of recreation during the personal interviews. These results are compiled into tables. Discussion of the tables then follows.

A. NEWTON, KANSAS. The city with the largest population of the five selected cities is Newton. The estimated population of Newton at the present time is 16,052. Newton is approximately twenty-one miles north of Wichita, Kansas. Located on the famed Santa Fe Railroad, Newton is the middle division of the Santa Fe rail system. It is the midwestern capital of the Mobile Homes Manufacturing Industry. Also located here are flour mill industries and oil refineries. Bethel College, a four year accredited liberal arts college founded by the Mennonite Church, is also here.

Recreation program. Of the five cities included in this study, the first to organize a tax supported recreation program was Newton. A city recreation program was organized in 1947 under the Newton Recreation Commission. Prior to this time the Young Men's Christian Association was the sole means of providing recreation for the people of Newton. Mr. W. M. Okerberg is employed by the city as Executive Secretary for the Y.M.C.A. program, as well as serving the city as Superintendent of Recreation. Plans are now under way to construct a new recreation center for the citizens of Newton. It is the only city in the study which also has an extensive outdoor recreation program.

B. ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS. A city of 14,661 people, Arkansas City is situated on the banks of the Arkansas River near the Oklahoma border. It is well known for its railroads, meat packing plants and oil industries. Four main railroads run through Arkansas City. Arkansas City Junior College is located here.

Recreation program. The city in this study with the most recent organization of a recreation program is Arkansas City. A tax supported recreation program was started in 1959 and Mr. Richard Castle, who is still the director, was the first Superintendent of Recreation. Members of the Recreation Commission are appointed for four year terms. Two members for the commission are selected by the Board of Education and two members are chosen by the City Commission. One member is selected by the Recreation Commission.

C. WINFIELD, KANSAS. Winfield is located approximately thirty-four miles southeast of Wichita, Kansas. Main industries are flour mills and dairy farms. The population of Winfield at the present time is 11,428 people. Southwestern College, a four year college founded by the Methodist Church, and St. Johns College, a junior college founded by the Lutheran Church, are located in this city. Winfield is also the location of the Winfield State Hospital, an institution for the mentally retarded.

Recreation program. The Winfield Recreation Commission was organized in 1954 under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. The board then authorized the commission to hire a director of recreation. Mr. Joe Thornton became the present director in 1964. Mr. Thornton is considered by many people in Winfield as a jack-of-all-trades. He not only is city recreation director, but also is the athletic coordinator for the Winfield High School as well as a part-time science instructor. Winfield is presently attempting to expand its recreation program for its citizens. It is the only city of the five which does not have a recreation center for its youth.

D. MCPHERSON, KANSAS. McPherson, a city of 10,390 people, is located in a farming area with some small industry. It is approximately twenty-five miles northwest of Newton, Kansas. In 1964 McPherson was selected as the site for a new airplane industry in Kansas. McPherson College, a four year college founded by the Church of the Brethren, and Central College of McPherson, a junior college, are located in this city.

Recreation program. McPherson was one of the first of the cities in this study to organize a recreation program under a tax supported plan. The McPherson Recreation Commission, under the city of McPherson, was organized in 1948.

Prior to this time recreation was supplied by the Young Men's Christian Association. The present director, Mr. Andy Meloan, serves the community as a director of recreation and as Executive Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. At the present time both programs operate from the "Old Y Building" in McPherson while construction of a new recreation center is about to be completed. Although McPherson is one of the smaller cities in the study, its 1965 recreation budget jumped surprisingly three thousand dollars from its 1964 budget.

E. WELLINGTON, KANSAS. The smallest of the five cities selected for this study was Wellington. It is located on U.S. Highway 81, nineteen miles south of Wichita, Kansas. Wellington is well known as a farming community and is appropriately nicknamed "The Wheat Capital of the World." It is also the intersecting point of two great railroads, the Santa Fe and the Rock Island railway systems. Wellington's total population at the present time is estimated to be 9,161 people. It is the only city in the study that does not have either a junior college or a four year college.

Recreation program. The Wellington Recreation Program is one of two in the study which is operated under the city Board of Education. The Wellington Recreation Commission first organized and started its recreation

program in 1957. The commission is a branch of the Board of Education; its members are directly responsible to the Board of Education and are selected by the board to serve four years. The commission hires a superintendent to direct the recreation program. Mr. Kenneth Everhart is Superintendent of Recreation in Wellington. The program was organized primarily for the youngsters of the community. Future plans are to expand the recreation program to include more activities for the adults as well as the youngsters.

Table I illustrates the number of junior high and senior high school students enrolled in the selected cities as of September, 1964. It also shows the total number of junior and senior high school students in the selected cities.

TABLE I

1964 POPULATION DATA OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THE CITIES SELECTED FOR THE STUDY

City	Number of Students		
	Junior High	Senior High	Both Groups (13-18 yrs.old)
Newton	936	906	1836
Arkansas City	941	880	1821
Winfield	503	588	1091
McPherson	617	592	1209
Wellington	533	558	1091
Total all cities	3530	3524	7048

Newton, the largest in population of the five selected cities, also has the largest enrollment of students from thirteen to eighteen years of age. Newton has 1,836 junior and senior high school students in its public schools. Arkansas City follows closely with a total of 1,821 students in junior and senior high schools. Arkansas City has the largest enrollment of junior high students in the selected cities with 941 students, and Newton leads the senior high school enrollment with 906 students. McPherson with 617 junior high school students and 592 senior high school students is the third largest in junior and senior high school enrollments in the selected cities. Wellington and Winfield compare identically in their enrollments of junior and senior high school students. Both cities have total enrollments of 1,091 students.

Table II shows the total population of each of the five selected cities and the percentage of junior and senior high school students in these cities. It also shows the total percentage that both senior and junior high school students make up in the total city populations.

Newton is the largest in total enrollments of junior and senior high school students of the five cities, as was illustrated in Table I. It is also the largest in total city population with 16,052 citizens. Junior high students in Newton make up 5.8 per cent of the total city population

TABLE II

PERCENTAGE OF JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
OF THE TOTAL POPULATIONS IN THE SELECTED CITIES

City	Total City Population	Junior High Students		Senior High Students		Total Percentage of Both Groups of City's Total Population
		No. of Students in City	Percentage of Total Population	No. of Students in City	Percentage of Total Population	
Newton	16,052	936	5.8	906	5.6	11.5
Arkansas City	14,661	941	6.4	880	6.0	12.4
Winfield	11,428	503	4.4	588	5.1	9.5
McPherson	10,390	617	5.9	592	5.7	11.6
Wellington	9,161	533	5.8	558	6.1	11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,692</b>	<b>3,530</b>	<b>(Avg.) 5.7</b>	<b>3,524</b>	<b>(Avg.) 5.7</b>	<b>(Avg.) 11.4</b>

and the senior high students 5.6 per cent. The city with the smallest percentage of junior high students according to the city population is Winfield. Arkansas City has the largest percentage of junior high school students according to population. The city with the smallest percentage of senior high students according to population is Winfield. Wellington has the largest percentage of senior high students in its total population, of the five selected cities, with 6.1 per cent. In comparing the total percentage of teenagers, Arkansas City has the largest amount with 12.4 per cent.

Operating budget. The operating budgets for the cities included in the study are illustrated in Table III. The right hand columns show the tax levy and the taxable valuation for recreation for 1964.

TABLE III

DESCRIPTIVE FINANCIAL CHART OF ACCESSIBLE FUNDS IN FIVE  
SELECTED CITIES OF SOUTHCENTRAL KANSAS  
1964

City	Operating Budget	Tax Levy for Recreation	Taxable Valuation for Recreation
Newton	\$20,000.00	.96 mills	\$20,000,000.00
Arkansas City	37,998.75	1.5 mills	22,000,000.00
Winfield	12,256.36	.77 mills	12,256,000.00
McPherson	15,800.00	.97 mills	15,800,000.00
Wellington	12,875.00	1.25 mills	12,875,000.00

Arkansas City has the largest operating budget with \$37,998.75 in its recreation budget in 1964. Its budget exceeds Newton, the next largest, by about eighteen thousand dollars, and Wellington, the smallest recreation budget, by over twenty-five thousand dollars. The lowest tax levy is Winfield which is .77 mills. The highest tax levy is in Arkansas City where the tax levy is 1.5 mills. Winfield, Newton, and McPherson do not exceed the one mill tax levy for recreation.

Table IV shows the operating budgets for the years 1964 and 1965. It also indicates whether there is an increase or decrease from the previous year of 1964.

**TABLE IV**  
**OPERATING BUDGETS FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR OF 1964 AND THE**  
**CURRENT YEAR OF 1965**

City	Operating Budget 1964	Operating Budget 1965	Amount of Increase/ Decrease	Percen- tage of Increase/ Decrease
Newton	\$20,000.00	\$21,000.00	+\$1,000.00	+ 5.0
Arkansas City	37,998.75	40,055.00	+ 2,056.25	+16.1
Winfield	12,256.36	14,500.00	+ 2,243.64	+18.3
McPherson	15,800.00	18,800.00	+ 3,000.00	+19.6
Wellington	12,875.00	13,300.00	+ 425.00	+ 3.6

All of the five selected cities were given increases over 1964 in their 1965 operating budgets for recreation. The city with the largest increase was McPherson, with

three thousand dollars, a 19.6 per cent increase. The city next highest was Winfield. Its operating budget for 1965 is an increase of \$2,443.64, or 18.3 per cent. The city of Newton increased its budget for recreation by one thousand dollars. This gave Newton a 5 per cent increase over the 1964 budget. Arkansas City increased its recreation budget 16.1 per cent over 1964. Wellington had an increase of 3.6 per cent or \$425. The largest operating budget for 1965, of the selected cities, is in Arkansas City. The other cities are as follows: Newton, \$21,00; McPherson, \$18,800; Winfield, \$14,500; and Wellington, \$13,300, for recreation in 1965.

In Table V is shown the percentage and amount of the recreation budget for 1964 that was spent on teenage recreation programs by each of the five selected cities.

TABLE V

PERCENTAGE OF THE 1964 RECREATION BUDGET SPENT ON TEENAGE RECREATION PROGRAMS IN THE FIVE SELECTED CITIES

City	1964 Operating Budget	Percentage Spent on Teenage Recreation	Total Amount Spent on Teenage Recreation Programs
Newton	\$20,000.00	.35	\$ 7,000.00
Arkansas City	37,993.75	.25	9,799.69
Winfield	12,256.36	.30	3,676.91
McPherson	15,800.00	.60	9,480.00
Wellington	12,875.00	.80	10,300.00
Total			\$40,256.60

The city with the largest percentage of the recreation budget spent on teenage recreation in 1964 is Wellington. Wellington spent 80 per cent, \$10,300, on its 1964 teenage recreation programs. McPherson spent 60 per cent of its recreation budget on teenage programs. Newton spent 35 per cent of its total recreation budget on its teenagers. Arkansas City allotted almost \$9,800 on teenage programs. Winfield spent 30 per cent of its recreation budget for the teenage youngsters in its community. A total of \$40,256.60 was spent on teenage recreation programs in all selected cities of the study.

Leadership personnel. Leadership personnel plays an important part in any successful recreation program. Teenage activities require competent leaders in the organization and supervising of programs. Three types of personnel are listed in Table VI. The full-time personnel includes the recreation directors, and the secretaries for Arkansas City and Newton. The part-time personnel includes any help that is hired on a part-time or seasonal basis, such as secretaries, instructors, umpires, supervisors, and others. The voluntary personnel is anyone who helps with the recreation program without receiving any pay. Table VI illustrates the number of full-time, part-time, and volunteer workers in the selected cities. It shows the total number of workers

in each city studied, and the total number of workers in all cities.

TABLE VI

LEADERSHIP PERSONNEL DISTRIBUTION CHART OF THE RECREATION PROGRAMS IN THE SELECTED CITIES

City	Full Time Staff	Part Time Seasonal (Paid)	Voluntary Workers	Total No. of Workers in City
Newton	2	30	120	152
Arkansas City	2	80	100	182
Winfield	1	30	50	81
McPherson	1	29	100	130
Wellington	1	50	10	61
Total in Five Cities	7	219	380	606

Newton and Arkansas City employ two full-time personnel in their recreation departments. These are the directors of recreation and their secretaries. Winfield, McPherson, and Wellington employ only the director of recreation as full-time personnel.

Arkansas City employed the greatest number of part-time or seasonal help with 80 workers. McPherson, with 29 part-time workers, employed the smallest number of seasonal workers of the five selected cities. Newton and Winfield each employed 30 part-time workers. Wellington employed 50 part-time workers in its recreation department.

Directly related to the number of part-time employees used in the different programs is the voluntary help used for the city-wide recreation program. Newton used 120 volunteer workers for its recreation program. Arkansas City and McPherson each used 100 volunteer workers. Wellington used 10 volunteers, the smallest number in any of the five selected cities. Arkansas City had the largest total number of workers of any city with 182 workers. Newton was next with 150 working for their recreation department. McPherson had a total of 130 workers. Wellington and Winfield had the smallest total number of workers for their recreation departments, with 61 and 81 respectively.

The size of each city had some effect on the number of part-time and volunteer workers. The recreation budget of each city was also an important factor in the number of recreation department personnel.

Teenage activities. Questions which were covered in the interviews with the directors of recreation were about the program content of recreation activities for the teenager. These questions included the activities, the number of participants, and the methods used to finance these activities. Teenage activities in each of the separate five cities will be covered in Charts III through VII. These charts consist of information showing the use

of teenage activities by the different cities and indicating which are most successful from the participation standpoint.

Chart I shows the distribution of activities available for boys, for girls, and for both boys and girls. It also shows the total number of times each activity was reported, and the number of activities in each city.

Of the total of twenty-nine activities provided by the five cities, there were four for girls and four for boys. The remaining twenty-one were considered to be co-recreational. Tennis and swimming, both co-recreational activities, were included in all five city programs. Archery, crafts, baseball, basketball, baton lessons, and dancing were included in four out of the five city recreation programs. Archery, crafts, and dancing were co-recreational; baseball and basketball were boys' activities. Softball appeared to be a popular sport for both girls and women. This activity was included in the programs of three cities, Newton, Arkansas City, and McPherson.

The city providing the largest number of teenage activities for boys was Winfield, with baseball, basketball, manual training, and boys' physical development. Winfield also provided the largest number of teenage girls' activities, acrobatics, baton lessons, and clothing classes. Newton had the largest number of co-recreational activities for this age group. The Newton recreation program provided

CHART I

A DISTRIBUTION OF TEENAGE BOYS' AND GIRLS' ACTIVITIES  
IN THE SELECTED CITIES OF THIS STUDY

Key

B - Boys' Activity  
G - Girls' Activity  
C - Combination of  
both

Activity	Wellington			McPherson			Winfield			Arkansas City			Newton			Number of Times Activity Reported
	<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>C</u>	
Acrobatics								G								1
Aquatics												C				1
Archery						C			C			C			C	4
Arts & Crafts						C			C			C			C	4
Band						C										1
Baseball					B			B		B			B			4
Basketball					B			B				C	B			4
Baton Lessons		G			G			G		G						4
Bowling						C						C			C	3
Camp In															C	1
Clothing								G								1
Dancing			C						C			C			C	4
Day Camp															C	1
Drama															C	1
Dog Obedience			C													1
Golf			C									C			C	3
Manual Training								B								1
Modern Dance			C													1
Orchestra									C			C				2

CHART I (continued)

Activity	Wellington			McPherson			Winfield			Arkansas City			Newton			Number of Times Activity Reported
	<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>C</u>	
Ornithology												C				1
Photography															C	1
Physical Development							B						B			2
Sewing														G		1
Softball						G				G				G		3
Swimming			C						C			C			C	4
Teen Town			C			C										2
Tennis			C			C			C			C			C	5
Theatre			C												C	2
Track Meet												C				1
<b>Total</b>	0	1	8	2	2	6	4	3	6	1	2	12	3	2	12	64

archery, arts and crafts, bowling, "camp in," dancing, day camp, drama classes, golf, photography, summer theatre, swimming, and tennis, all on a co-recreational basis.

Chart II shows the distribution and the percentage of participation in the teenage activities of the five selected cities. It also shows which activity was the most popular in each city and which was the most successful in all five cities. The percentage of participation was found by dividing the number of participants in each activity by the city's total enrollment of junior and senior high school students (see Table I).

The city with the largest number of participants, according to Chart II, was Arkansas City with 2,610 participants in teenage activities. Next in the total number of participants was Winfield with 2,525. McPherson with 1,705 had the smallest number of teenagers participating.

The activities with the largest numbers of participants were swimming, baseball, basketball, the Newton day camp program, and the Teen Town programs in McPherson and Wellington. The activity with the highest percentage according to city population was swimming in Winfield, where 94.9 per cent of the total population of junior and senior high school students participated during 1964. The activity with the smallest number of participants was an ornithology class in Arkansas City. This class is provided primarily

CHART II

FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATION BY TEENAGERS IN TWENTY-NINE ACTIVITIES REPORTED FOR 1964 BY THE FIVE CITIES INCLUDED IN THE STUDY

Activities	WELLINGTON		MCPHERSON		WINFIELD		ARKANSAS CITY		NEWTON		Total Number of Participants
	Number of Participants	Per Cent of Jr & Sr High Enrollment	Number of Participants	Per Cent of Jr & Sr High Enrollment	Number of Participants	Per Cent of Jr & Sr High Enrollment	Number of Participants	Per Cent of Jr & Sr High Enrollment	Number of Participants	Per Cent of Jr & Sr High Enrollment	
Acrobatics					30	2.7					30
Aquatics							775	42.5			775
Archery			50	4.1	46	4.2	35	1.9	25	1.4	156
Arts & Crafts			200	16.5	232	11.1	200	11.0	100	5.9	632
Band			80	6.6							80
Baseball			300	24.8	225	20.6	500	27.5	300	16.2	1,325
Basketball			250	20.7	300	27.4	365	11.0	200	10.8	1,115
Baton Lessons	47	4.0	125	10.3	10	.14	75	4.1			257
Bowling			300	24.8			35	1.9	35	1.8	370
Camp In									200	10.8	200
Clothing					68	6.2					68
Dancing	95	9.0			56	5.1	90	5.0	150	8.1	391
Day Camp									750	40.8	750
Drama									50	2.6	50
Dog Obedience	14	1.3									14
Golf	25	2.3					25	1.4	75	4.8	125

CHART II (continued)

Activities	WELLINGTON		MCPHERSON		WINFIELD		ARKANSAS CITY		NEWTON		Total Number of Participants
	Number of Participants	Per Cent of Jr & Sr High Enrollment	Number of Participants	Per Cent of Jr & Sr High Enrollment	Number of Participants	Per Cent of Jr & Sr High Enrollment	Number of Participants	Per Cent of Jr & Sr High Enrollment	Number of Participants	Per Cent of Jr & Sr High Enrollment	
Manual Training					67	6.1					67
Modern Dance	36	3.3									36
Orchestra	76	7.0			130	12.0	160	8.8			366
Ornithology							5	.27			5
Photography									14	.77	14
Physical Development					90	8.2			30	1.4	120
Sewing									10	.54	10
Softball			100	8.3			85	5.0	70	3.8	255
Swimming	1,047	93.0			1,035	94.9	75	4.1	96	5.2	2,221
Teen Town	480	44.6	250	20.6							730
Tennis	64	5.8	50	4.1	136	12.5	135	7.4	85	4.6	470
Theatre	19	1.7							15	.82	34
Track Meet							50	2.7			50
Total Program Participation	1,903		1,705		2,525		2,610		2,205		10,948

for adults, but teenagers may enroll if they wish. The total number of participants in all activities of the five cities was 10,948.

**CHART III**  
**PARTICIPATION LIST OF TEENAGE ACTIVITIES**  
**IN NEWTON FOR 1964**

Activity	Number of Participants	Method of Financing the Activity
Archery	25	Budget
Arts and Crafts	100	Budget and Fees
Baseball	300	Budget
Basketball	200	Budget
Bowling	35	Fees
Day Camp (Camp Hawk)	750	Budget
Camp In (YMCA)	200	Fees
Golf	75	Fees
Photography	14	Fees
Sewing Classes	10	Fees
Swimming	96	Fees
Softball	70	Budget
Tennis	85	Fees
Dancing	150	Fees
Drama Classes	50	Budget
Physical Development	30	Budget
Summer Theatre	15	Budget
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>2,205</b>	

The following activities appeared to be the most popular for the teenagers of Newton in 1964: Camp Hawk Day Camp, baseball, basketball, arts and crafts, and the dancing programs.

The activity with the highest number of participants

in Newton for 1964 was the day camp program. A total of 750 boys and girls participated in this program, sponsored by the recreation commission. Baseball had the highest number of participants for a teenage team sport activity in Newton. Approximately 300 boys participated in the summer baseball leagues. Expenses for the baseball program were covered by the recreation budget with the exception of the baseball hat and baseball shoes. These were furnished by the individuals participating in the program. Basketball followed closely behind baseball as a popular team sport. A total of 200 boys participated in the Newton recreation-sponsored basketball league. The expenses for the operation of the basketball program were financed by the recreation budget. The highest number of participants for an individual activity was tennis. The recreation program provided tennis instructions for boys' and girls' tennis classes. Sixty boys and 25 girls participated in the tennis program in Newton. Arts and crafts was also a popular activity with the teenagers in 1964. A total of 100 boys and girls were enrolled for this program.

The Newton recreation program provides two very interesting activities for teenage youngsters. These are a day camp program and a "Camp In" program. These programs were not found in the recreation programs of the other four selected cities. Newton was the only city of the five to

provide any type of an outdoor camping program for its youth. The day camp program is held at Camp Hawk, southwest of Newton. Transportation to the camp is provided by a bus purchased by the Newton Recreation Commission. The one-day outing is available three days a week to the youngsters, who are returned home at the end of each day. Activities provided at the camping area are nature studies, hiking, study and story time, fishing, outdoor fun and rest time. These provide a healthful, well balanced day for the youngsters.

A unique feature of the Newton recreation program is a "Camp In" program. This is a program in which any groups may rent the Y.M.C.A. building for a night of recreational activities. Basketball, swimming, billiards, healthroom, etc., are provided for the participants in an all-night program. When they are fatigued from their activities, they "camp in" on their self-provided bedding in the gymnasium. This program is particularly popular with the father-son groups.

Chart IV lists the teenage activities in Arkansas City for 1964.

The aquatic classes appeared to be the most popular of any teenage activities in Arkansas City. A total of 775 boys and girls participated in the aquatics program. The most popular team sport in Arkansas City was baseball.

There were 500 boys participating in the summer baseball program. The next highest team sport was basketball with 365 participants. Softball for girls and women was also

#### CHART IV

#### PARTICIPATION LIST OF TEENAGE ACTIVITIES IN ARKANSAS CITY FOR 1964

Activity	Number of Participants	Method of Financing the Activity
Aquatic Classes	775	Fees
Archery Classes	35	Fees
Baseball	500	Budget and Fees
Baton Lessons	75	Fees
Basketball	365	Budget
Bowling	35	Fees
Community Orchestra	160	Budget
Crafts	200	Fees
Dancing Classes	90	Fees
Golf	25	Fees
Ornithology	5	Budget
Softball	85	Budget
Swimming Meet	75	Fees
Tennis	135	Fees
Track Meet	50	Budget
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>2,610</b>	

a very popular team sport. Approximately 85 participated in the Arkansas City softball program for girls and women. The highest number of participants for an individual activity was crafts. A total of 200 boys and girls participated in the summer crafts program. Baton twirling appeared to be popular among the young teenagers. Approximately 75 girls participated in the baton twirling classes in Arkansas City.

An interesting highlight of the Arkansas City recreation program was the Junior Olympics Track and Field Meet. Approximately 50 youths participated in the meet. This was the first year for the event and Arkansas City was the only one of the five cities to participate. Another interesting activity in the recreation program was an ornithology class. This included special programs concerning various aspects of bird study and occasional field trips.

The total number of participants in all teenage activities in Arkansas City was 2,610. These programs were financed through reasonable fees to cover the cost of material, if needed, and through the recreation budget.

Chart V shows the number of participants in activities for teenagers in Winfield, and the method of financing these activities. It also shows the total number of participants in all activities provided for the teenage youngster.

The highest number of participants for a team sport in Winfield was in the basketball program, a total of 300. The next highest number for a team sport was 225 in the boys' summer baseball program. The highest number of participants for an individual activity was in tennis, with a total of 136 boys and girls. The next highest individual activity was the summer instrumental music program with 130 participants. All of the Winfield programs sponsored by

the recreation commission are financed by the recreation budget. Some small fees are charged, however, to help offset the cost in some activities.

CHART V  
PARTICIPATION LIST OF TEENAGE ACTIVITIES  
IN WINFIELD FOR 1964

Activity	Number of Participants	Method of Financing the Activity
Acrobatics	30	Budget
Archery	46	Budget
Art	105	Budget and Fees
Baseball	225	Budget
Basketball	300	Budget
Baton Lessons	10	Budget
Clothing	68	Budget
Crafts	127	Budget and fees
Dancing	56	Budget
Instrumental Music	130	Budget
Manual Training	67	Budget
Physical Development	90	Budget
Tennis	136	Budget
Swimming	1,035	Budget and Fees
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>2,525</b>	

Unique features of the Winfield recreation program are manual training classes for boys and clothing classes for girls. Approximately 68 girls in the clothing program were taught the basic fundamentals of pattern designing and how to sew these patterns into dresses and other clothing. The manual training program consisted of teaching boys proper use of their hands in constructing projects, the better to

prepare them for a future trade. Sixty-seven boys participated under a qualified instructor in this program sponsored by the Winfield Recreation Commission.

Chart VI shows the teenage activities in McPherson for 1964, with the number of participants and the method of financing for each activity.

**CHART VI**  
**PARTICIPATION LIST OF TEENAGE ACTIVITIES**  
**IN MCPHERSON FOR 1964**

Activity	Number of Participants	Method of Financing the Activity
Archery	50	Budget (arrows furnished by individual)
Arts and Crafts	200	Budget
Band	80	Budget
Baseball	300	Budget
Basketball	250	Budget
Baton Twirling	125	Budget and Fees
Bowling	300	Fees (sponsored by local bowl- ing alley)
Softball	100	Budget
Tennis	50	Budget
Teen Town	250	Budget and fees
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>1,705</b>	

The city of McPherson provided the teenagers in its community with nine activities during 1964. The team sport activity with the largest number of participants was baseball. A total of 300 boys played in the 1964 summer

baseball leagues of the McPherson Recreation Commission. Bowling, with 300 participants, was also a popular activity for the teenagers in McPherson. This program was sponsored by a McPherson bowling alley. The team sport with the second highest number of participants was a winter sport, basketball. A total of 250 boys participated in 1964. The highest number of participants for an individual activity was in the arts and crafts program, with a total enrollment of 200 boys and girls. The baton twirling class was popular among the girls in the community and had an enrollment of 125. Teen Town, a popular program which operates the year around and provides the youth of McPherson with social activities, had a total enrollment of 250 boys and girls. The softball program for girls is becoming a popular team sport in all the selected cities. The McPherson softball program had 100 girls participating in it.

An interesting feature of the McPherson Recreation Program was the annual Fishing Rodeo, held during the summer months. Any boy or girl under fifteen years of age was eligible to compete for the numerous prizes that were offered. This program was sponsored jointly by the Recreation Commission and the Kiwanis Club of McPherson. This has been a popular event over the years for the young people of the community. Although this event included some

teenage youngsters from the community, there was no exact count taken on the number from this age group.

Chart VII illustrates the number of participants in each activity and the total participation in all activities provided in 1964 for teenagers in Wellington.

**CHART VII**  
**PARTICIPATION LIST OF TEENAGE ACTIVITIES**  
**IN WELLINGTON FOR 1964**

Activity	Number of Participants	Method of Financing the Activity
Baton Lessons	47	Fees
Dance Lessons	95	Fees
Dog Obedience Classes	14	Fees
Golf Lessons	25	Budget and Fees
Modern Dance	36	Fees
Orchestra	76	Fees
Summer Theatre	19	Fees
Swimming	1,015	Fees
(Junior Lifesaving)	26	Fees
(Senior Lifesaving)	6	Fees
Tennis	64	Fees
Youth Center activities membership	480	Budget and Fees
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>1,903</b>	

The most popular recreation program activity among teenagers in Wellington was swimming, with 1,015 youngsters participating. Special classes under the swimming program were the junior and senior lifesaving classes. Approximately 26 students were enrolled in the junior life saving

course and 6 in the senior life saving course. The youth center program appeared to have the next highest number of participants. A total of 480 boys and girls from the seventh grade through the twelfth grade had memberships in the youth center program. The highest number of participants in an individual activity was in the dancing program. This program was conducted during the second semester of school when students were less apt to be involved in other activities. There were 95 boys and girls from the city and county that participated. An extra fee of fifty cents per night per person was charged to the county students who wished to enroll in the dance program. Tennis, which is always a popular sport among the teenagers, was the second highest individual activity with 64 participants.

An interesting feature of the Wellington recreation program was a dog obedience class. This class offered individuals the opportunity to train their dogs for obedience calls. A total of 14 youngsters took part. Fees of fifty cents for the city youngsters and one dollar for the county youth were charged to help offset the cost of the program.

The recreation program in Wellington is primarily for the city youth, but county youngsters may enroll in the activities if they pay an extra charge, which is usually fifty cents more than the city youngsters pay.

Table VII shows the methods used to finance the activities for teenagers in the five selected cities. The first column shows the number of activities which are financed by the use of fees and charges. The second column shows the number of activities financed through the recreation budget. These activities are provided free for the youth in the community. The third column shows the number of activities in each city which are financed both by fees and through the budget. These are usually activities which have a small fee charged to cover certain expenses.

TABLE VII

METHODS USED FOR FINANCING TEENAGE ACTIVITIES IN THE  
FIVE SELECTED CITIES OF SOUTHCENTRAL KANSAS

Cities	Fees (1)	Budget (2)	Fees and Budget (3)
Newton	7	9	1
Arkansas City	9	5	1
Winfield	1	9	3
McPherson	2	7	2
Wellington	9	0	2
Totals	28	30	9

The first method used in financing teenage recreation programs in the selected cities is by fees. Fees can be for instruction, cost of equipment, awards, materials, and other expenses which are attached to the activity. Each participant in the program pays the amount necessary to cover his

cost in the program. Arkansas City and Wellington relied more on fees than the other cities for financing their activities. Arkansas City and Wellington financed nine activities from fees only. Newton sponsored seven activities from fees. McPherson used the fee method for financing two of its activities, and Wellington used it for one.

The second method used was the budget. The budget activities are carried solely by tax money from the budget or tax money itself. Newton and Winfield financed nine activities from their recreation budgets. McPherson financed seven activities from the budget, and Arkansas City five activities. Wellington does not sponsor any teenage activity entirely by the budget.

A combination of fees and tax money from the budget was used by all five of the selected cities. Winfield used the combination for three activities for the teenage youth. McPherson and Wellington used the combination of fees and budget for two activities each. Arkansas City and Newton used this method for one activity each.

According to total reports, the budget method was used to support thirty activities. Close behind was the fee method with twenty-eight activities. A combination of fees and budget sponsored nine activities.

### SUMMARY

A brief description of the selected cities and their recreation programs was included in this chapter. Charts and tables were used showing the total of teenagers in each of the selected cities, the percentage of teenagers in each city, the operating budgets for recreation in 1964 and 1965 for the selected cities, and the amounts of the budgets which were spent on teenage recreation in 1964.

This chapter also included the leadership personnel in each of the cities. There were three types of recreation personnel, the full-time person, the part-time person, and the volunteer worker. Charts III through VII showed the total teenage activities which were provided for the teenage youth in the selected cities, and the number of participants in each activity.

The methods used to finance these activities were through fees, budgets, and a combination of both budget and fees.

## CHAPTER IV

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### SUMMARY

The study was conducted to determine if there was a need for more teenage recreational activities in the selected cities of Southcentral Kansas, and if so, to what extent more activities were needed. The cities selected for the study were Newton, Arkansas City, Winfield, McPherson, and Wellington. They were chosen because of their southcentral location, and their similarities in size and industries.

A study of related literature pertaining to teenagers was made. The information obtained from this study was then organized and arranged in the order of its importance.

The total teenage population in all five of the selected cities was 7,048; of this total, 3,530 were junior high school age students and 3,524 were of senior high school age. Junior high school students comprised an average of 5.7 per cent of the total populations of the selected cities. The senior high school student made up 5.7 per cent of the total populations of the five cities selected for this study. The average percentage of junior and senior high school age students in the total population of each city selected for this study is 11.4 per cent. The

teenage population is slightly higher in Arkansas City and Wellington according to city populations.

The total operating budgets for recreation in the five selected cities for 1964 was \$96,711.36. The 1964 tax levy for recreation in these cities ranged from .77 mills in Winfield to 1.5 mills in Arkansas City. The amount of the operating budgets for 1965 increased over the previous year in all five of the selected cities. The increases ranged from a \$425 increase in Wellington to a \$3,000 increase in the McPherson recreation budget.

There were a total of 29 different activities for teenagers reported by the five cities selected for this study. The activities that appeared to be the most popular with both boys and girls were swimming, baseball, basketball, baton twirling, and softball. The total teenage participation in all activities reported was 10,948. Twenty-one activities were provided on a co-recreational basis by the selected cities, and four each were especially provided for boys and for girls.

The average number of activities provided especially for teenagers in each city was twelve activities. The total amount of money from the recreation budgets spent on teenage recreation in all five cities was \$40,256.60.

Volunteer workers were used extensively in all but one of the selected cities. A total of 380 workers

volunteered their services with the recreation departments of the five selected cities. Approximately 219 persons were employed by the recreation departments in all the selected cities. Full-time personnel in the recreation departments totaled seven persons. The total number of personnel employed with the recreation departments either in a full-time, part-time, or voluntary capacity totaled 606 workers in all five cities.

The methods used to finance the teenage activities were through the budget method, through fees, and through a combination of fees and budgets. The most popular method of financing in the five cities was by the use of the recreation budget to cover the expenses.

### CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to survey certain aspects of recreation programs in the selected cities. As a result of this study certain conclusions may be presented concerning teenage recreation activities in the five cities. These conclusions will be based upon the information and data obtained for this study.

One of the important facts obtained from this study was that recreation programs for teenage youth do play an important part in the total development of any recreation program.

The most successful activity program for teenagers is the outdoor type activity. As shown in Chart II, the highest numbers of participants in each city were in the outdoor type activities. The most successful type of activity, according to the largest number of participants in each city, was swimming, which is an individual sport and in which both boys and girls participate.

Baseball was the next most popular outdoor activity, which was a team sport. It must be remembered that only boys participated in the baseball programs.

Activities were equally divided between boys and girls in the selected cities. It would be safe to say that the girls' recreation programs in these cities would compare with the activities provided primarily for boys. Chart I shows an equal number of activities which were specifically for boys and for girls. The combination activities (those in which both boys and girls participated) consistently showed a high percentage by both sexes, as shown in several of the charts.

The primary methods used to support the teenage recreation activities were of three types. The first was the support of the activities through the budget method. The second was to collect fees and charges from the participants to cover the expenses of some of the programs. The third method was a combination of using both fees and

the budget method when operating certain activities. The financial method which contributed most to the support of the programs was the budget method; however, the use of collecting fees ranked a high second. Statistics showing the financing of the recreation programs are shown in Table VII.

The author was unable to make a fair conclusion on the question of race discrimination in the recreation programs of the selected cities. There were not enough participants from the minority race groups to determine if there was any race discrimination in the selected cities. The small number of Negroes and Mexicans that did live in these cities were treated as well as the Caucasian group.

The recreation programs in the five selected cities provided a well-rounded variety of activities. The total participation of teenagers in recreation activities (Chart II) far exceeds the number of teenagers living in each city (Table I). In each of the cities studied, it was proven that each young person participated in one or more of the activities. Out of a total population in the five cities of 7,048 teenagers, 10,948 of the teenagers participated in the activities provided by the cities. With the comparison of these figures it is impossible to say that each teenager participated in the recreation programs, but

it is safe to assume that a large percentage of the teenagers participated in one or more of the activities provided for them.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made on the basis of the information and data obtained through the study of related literature and personal interviews with the directors of recreation in the selected cities.

1. More emphasis needs to be put on the outdoor recreation program. The recent upswing in popularity of the outdoor camping program clearly lays the path for more planning in this phase of recreation.

2. The directors of recreation should evaluate their overall recreation programs on a year to year basis, making necessary changes in activities when needed.

3. The author recommends a standard procedure be established by recreation departments in determining program participation. An individual should be counted only once each time when he participates in an activity during that day.

4. The author recommends more constructive activities which would directly benefit the participant. These would include classes in manual training, homemaking,

babysitting, and jalopy car clubs. They would be offered as summer recreation classes.

5. The author recommends a special study be given to the fifteen to nineteen year old age group. This age group finds much idle time on their hands as many do not have summer employment. Qualified instructors teaching this age group in specially provided areas would help the youngster make constructive use of his leisure time.

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**APPENDIX**

1624 Nevada Court  
Wichita, Kansas  
May 23, 1965

Mr. Andy Meloan  
Superintendent of Recreation  
201 S. Main  
McPherson, Kansas

Dear Mr. Meloan:

I am an elementary physical education instructor in the Wichita Public School System and I am currently completing work toward my Master of Science Degree at Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, Kansas. I have chosen to write my thesis in the field of Recreation and the topic is "A Survey of Teenage Recreation Programs in Selected Cities of Southcentral Kansas." I am also an associate member of the Kansas Recreation Society.

The purpose of this study is to survey the teenage recreation programs of the selected cities and to provide knowledge and information derived from this study for any interested groups, organizations, or individuals who would benefit.

I would like to include McPherson as one of my five selected cities, if this would meet with your approval. I am interested in having an interview with you, at your convenience, concerning the recreation program available for the teenagers in McPherson. May I suggest Thursday, May 27, 1965, at 3:00 p.m. as a possible date. If this date will not work in with your schedule please suggest the best time.

If you have an annual report, budget, or publication concerning your program, I would appreciate obtaining a copy. The following pages concern questions which I would like to obtain the answers to during the interview.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Enclosed is a self-addressed post card for your convenience.

Sincerely,

Roy M. Decker

**A SURVEY OF TEENAGE RECREATION PROGRAMS IN SELECTED  
CITIES OF SOUTHCENTRAL KANSAS**

1. What types of recreation programs are available for teenagers in McPherson?
2. What amount of the budget was allotted to teenage recreation purposes in McPherson for 1964?
3. Is the teenage recreation program in McPherson adequately serving the greatest number of participants?
4. What is the size of the recreation staff in McPherson?  
Full-time \_\_\_\_\_ Part-time \_\_\_\_\_ Voluntary \_\_\_\_\_
5. How does the attendance in the various activities compare for the past year to previous years?
6. What methods do you use to start a new activity in your program? Example: questionnaire, personal contact or leaflets.
7. How do you count and keep track of attendance at the different activities?
8. When was the recreation department organized in McPherson?
9. What was the 1964 taxable valuation of McPherson for recreation?
10. What was the 1964 tax levy for recreation in McPherson?
11. What is the amount of the budget for recreation in 1965?

Please check the following activities available for teenagers (junior high school through senior high school age) in McPherson. If the activity is sponsored by the recreation program, give the method of financing such as dues, fees, tax money and other methods, the number of participants if possible for the past year, and the success of each activity.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Number of Participants</u>	<u>Success of the Activity</u>	<u>Method of Financing</u>
___ Archery	_____	_____	_____
___ Arts and Crafts	_____	_____	_____
___ Baseball	_____	_____	_____
___ Basketball	_____	_____	_____
___ Boating	_____	_____	_____
___ Bowling	_____	_____	_____
___ Choral Groups	_____	_____	_____
___ Dancing	_____	_____	_____
___ Drama Groups	_____	_____	_____
___ Golf	_____	_____	_____
___ Instrumental Groups	_____	_____	_____
___ Nature Activities	_____	_____	_____
___ Photography	_____	_____	_____
___ Softball	_____	_____	_____
___ Table Tennis	_____	_____	_____
___ Tennis	_____	_____	_____
___ Volleyball	_____	_____	_____
___ Others	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

THANK YOU

## SENATE BILL NO. 115

## Unified School District Plan

An act relating to recreation systems established by elections of school districts or by school districts jointly with cities under article 19 of chapter 12 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated; providing for the continuation of such recreation systems which will otherwise be destroyed upon the unification of school districts under article 67 of chapter 72 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated; amending existing K.S.A. and repealing said existing section.

Section 2- Where any common school district or city school district which has had an election alone or jointly with a city and established a recreation system under the provisions of article 19 of chapter 12 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, which district will be superseded by a unified school district under the provisions of article 67 of chapter 72 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, such superseding unified district shall assume all the powers and duties of the original school district for recreation purposes under the article 19 of chapter 12 of the Kansas Statutes: Provided, that where the unified district has an area of more than one and one-half times the area of the school district which is superseded or, where the unified district has two

cities located therein, there shall be submitted to the electors of the unified district at the first regular election for school board members after unification takes effect the question of, "Shall unified school districts continue with the recreation system?" If a majority of the votes cast on the question are "yes," the unified school district shall continue with the recreation system either alone or jointly with a city according to its original establishment. If the vote is against continuation and there is a city in the unified district which had jointly voted for the recreation system, the recreation commission shall be reorganized with all members appointed by the governing body of the city and assets of all kinds shall be turned over to the new city recreation commission. Where the unified district has in it two cities which had voted jointly with the superseded districts to establish recreation systems, the two recreation commissions shall function, sharing according to the assessed tangible valuation for the cities in the recreation tax levied by the unified district until the election to continue the recreation system: Provided, that if the unified district elects to continue the system, the recreation commissions shall be dissolved and the board of education of the unified district shall appoint a new recreation commission, and the governing bodies of the cities shall thereafter have no

connection with the recreation system: Provided further, that if the vote is against continuation, each city shall thereafter operate a recreation system the same as if each city alone had voted for a system, the members of the recreation commission appointed by the school district shall be replaced by members appointed by the governing body of the city, and the assets apportioned to the city recreation commissions in proportion to the assessed tangible valuation of the cities.

Amendment added before it was passed and signed.

Section 3. Any city having a population of more than twenty-six thousand (26,000) and less than thirty-five thousand (35,000) may enter into an agreement with the school district in which it is located to terminate the recreation commission thereof, and any such city shall thereupon be authorized to make a tax levy of not to exceed one and one-half (1-1/2) mills upon the assessed tangible property of the city for recreation purposes. Such agreement may include provisions for use of school property for recreation purposes and may establish a recreation department of the city government. Any tax levy made pursuant to this section shall be outside of any aggregate tax levy limitations provided by law.