

A STUDY OF THE STRUCTURE AND PROCESS OF SOCIAL WELFARE
ORGANIZATION IN DENTON COUNTY

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PREFACE

Social welfare organization represents a new development in social work. Until very recently it was largely confined within the corporate limits of the city. However, within the last few years the social vision has broadened and there is a recognition of the needs and opportunities for social welfare organization in the smaller community. This study sought to discover something of the nature of this process in the Denton County community.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION TO THE CONCEPT OF SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION

Today the rendering of social welfare work is accepted as an integral part of the American ideal of well-being for all citizens. Each year brings the extension of welfare services, until, at present, almost every individual in our society is entitled to call upon the skills and resources of social workers to assist him in solving his problems. Social welfare organization is a process which seeks to insure efficient distribution of welfare services and resources to all who need and desire them.

It is known that social work activities cannot rise above the understanding and consent of the average citizen in each community, and that the interpretation and response of the people in the community in which the social worker carries out her activities is of vital importance.

In Texas this subject was stressed by Dr. Robert Sutherland of the Hogg Foundation, who, in talking about the mental hygiene program, emphasized the community level of work.¹ He pointed out that consultants and resources would be furnished communities which planned specific programs to meet the real needs of their localities.

¹Texas Trends, January, 1947, p. 6.

To those who are interested in building a community in which human resources are preserved, the need for planning and co-ordinating social welfare resources is evident. A community welfare program based upon the preliminary steps of fact-finding, thoughtful planning, and organized promotion can best administer effective service to its citizens.

Historical Development of the Concept of Social Welfare Organization¹

The idea of social welfare organizations is as old as the efforts of those people who, throughout the course of history, have been interested in securing a better social environment in which they and their fellow men might carry on their lives. If one studied the history of the social work movement, this regard for human welfare would be evident in different social movements throughout the Western Hemisphere. This work was often a collateral activity of other professions, namely, religion, medicine, and education. The assistance that the members of these professions gave was unorganized, and those who performed the duties had no conception of the sociological or psychological processes involved. Through years of work and study, students gradually evolved processes and formulated techniques which would improve their work in assisting

¹Community organization is the more commonly used term for this process. For several years social workers and sociologists have found fault with this term because of the broad interpretation that may be applied to the word "community." Social welfare organization is the best description thus far advanced to describe this process. The author adopted this term because she feels that it gives a more adequate expression of the process and it is one which is being used in the new literature about this subject.

those with whom they had contact. This process of study, research, and experimentation brings the continual formulation of new concepts and techniques. Social welfare organization is one of the more recently developed concepts.

Before studying social welfare organization in Denton County, it is well to know something of the development of this concept, of the manifestation of the concept in a concrete structure, and the definition of the process as understood by social workers. The development of the concept of social welfare organization can be approached from the basis of theoretical sociology or from the basis of the development and division of labor in the social work institution.

The concept of social welfare organization, even though it is recognized today as a social work process, is deeply rooted in social theory with its concepts of group interaction; and the theoretical ideas concerning the social forces that mold and modify group life. One author has said that community organization is a term stolen from sociology.¹ This study will approach social welfare organization from the social work basis, as that is the prevalent viewpoint in the present day philosophy and practice of the process. Although this concept has developed contemporaneously with the entire field of social work, only recently has it been differentiated into a separate area. McMillen advances the idea that vigorous

¹Arthur E. Fink, The Field of Social Work (New York: Henry Holt Co., 1942), p. 444.

development in any profession appears to be dependent upon specialization, which enriches the knowledge of the entire field.¹ The process of social case work has appeared as a separate entity in the last one hundred years, social group work in the last fifty years, and in the last twenty years the process of social welfare organization has developed.

The most direct antecedents of social welfare organization are to be found in certain aspects of the Charity Organization Service movement and in the activities of the early settlement houses. The Charity Organization Service was organized in the eastern part of the United States in 1877 to organize more efficiently available relief resources and to secure the establishment of new resources. The workers organized a system of central registration of all agencies and their services in order to eliminate duplication and competition; they organized a city into districts through which relief programs were administered, and they developed the use of volunteer workers for welfare service. The early social settlements put into practice several methods that are significant in social welfare organization today. These practices consist of first-hand observation and research concerning the needs of the people in a given area, a committee system whose task it is to organize and plan resources to obviate these needs, and action agitation

¹Wayne McMille n, Community Organization for Social Welfare (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1945), p. 19.

for social reform laws.¹

The official use of the term "community organization," denoting a separate area of social work, dates from the 1933 National Conference of Social Work. At this conference, Section III was designated as the one in which community organization was to be discussed at all later meetings. The majority of the references to this subject before 1933 are found in the reports from the early conferences. One of the earliest references to the idea of social welfare organization can be found in the reports from the 1916 conference. A paper entitled "Organization of Community Forces or Socializing Social Work" was read by Allen T. Burns, Director of Cleveland Foundation. In this paper he emphasized the idea of legislation and its part in bringing about social reforms. In reviewing the need for wider interest in securing legislative reforms, he said:

All these facts prove that our present failure in promoting social programs is due to our own social methods. We have not felt it necessary to secure general community support. We believed our views of the community good were sufficient. We have sought no adequate backing for our measure, in the common consent of the governed.²

At this same conference several women attending the division on family life read papers on the co-ordination of welfare service as organized by the Charity Organization Service in various small towns. The concensus of their papers was that one agency should be the co-ordinating force and that the

¹Helen I. Clark, Principles and Practices of Social Work (New York: D. Appleton-Century Co., 1947), pp. 123-130.

²Proceedings of the Conference of Charities and Corrections (Chicago: Hildmann Publishing Co., 1916), p. 62.

family agency would be the logical one; because in treating family problems, it came into contact with all the outstanding social problems in the community. The first phase of social welfare organization consisted of organization for social action by bringing about reform legislation, and the co-ordination of welfare resources with welfare needs through a specified social work agency, the logical unit being the family service agency.

Between the years 1921 to 1928 Edward Lindeman and Walter Pettit developed some of the first philosophies and methods of social welfare organization. Walter Pettit is remembered for his use of case studies on community problems.¹ Dwight Sanderson in a speech before a Southern conference on social work said that in times of crisis people tend to work together, because only through collective action can they achieve their end, which is usually survival.² The development of the present process of social welfare organization has been accelerated by three crises, World War I, the depression of the 1930's, and World War II. World War I brought a general awakening of the need for wider community organization. In war there is an unusually large amount of work to be done and a shortage of labor to do it; therefore, waste, inefficiency,

¹Walter Pettit, Case Studies in Community Organization (New York: The Century Co., 1928).

²"Community Organization for War and Peace," Social Forces, October, 1942, pp. 1-7.

and duplication cannot be afforded. In 1914 the National Council of Defense organized various types of community councils on state and local levels to carry out war activities; but as the war ended before many of these councils reached full organization, they left little permanent effect. A direct result of World War I was the beginning of joint fund-raising for welfare purposes through the community chests, a project which carried over from "war chests" organized to raise funds during the war. The present Community Service, Inc. originated from the War Camp Community Service which provided recreation centers for service men in places where facilities were limited. The newly organized Home Service Unit of the American Red Cross, which aided the families of service men, also saw the need for closer cooperation in welfare work. As the home service unit worker had to call forth community resources to assist a family, she or he could see the need for closer co-ordination and co-operation between welfare agencies.

The first structure putting into practice the process of social welfare organization was organized in 1909 when the cities of Pittsburgh and Milwaukee established councils of social agencies. A few cities had fund-raising campaigns as early as 1895, but Cleveland, Ohio, is accredited with the first modern community chest organization.¹ In 1913 this city

¹Clark, op. cit., p. 127.

organized a Federation of Charity and Philanthropy for the interchange of information, ideas and budgeting for community welfare. The establishment of these chests and councils did a great deal toward professionalizing the practice of social welfare organization. Today most cities over 100,000 in the United States have some form of chest or council organization to co-ordinate and plan social welfare activities.

Arlie Johnson lists four developments in social welfare organization which resulted from the welfare activities carried on during the depression.¹ The widespread relief work supported by the state and federal government appropriations extended social welfare work to all corners of the United States, bringing social work services to many rural and semi-rural areas for the first time. The public agencies which were developed to handle this work became a new force in social welfare organization. Before the decade of the thirties, welfare work had been dominated by private social work agencies under the influence and direction of private philanthropy. The fact-finding governmental agencies in their issuance of statistical reports created a new interest in research as a basis for planning welfare agencies programs. The last development was the rise of new pressure groups which, through a common interest in welfare, made themselves articulate. Some

¹"The Obstacles of Limited Participation in Local Social Planning," Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work (New York: Columbia University Press, 1940), pp. 424-435.

of these groups were the aged (Townsend Clubs), the youth (American Conference for Youth), and the unemployed. The depression programs of mass relief made it necessary to organize and co-ordinate welfare resources, both in public and private agencies, in order to meet the increased needs of the people in this economic crisis. Under the stimulus of federal and state appropriations that were initiated at this time the field of social work is still expanding.

In 1938 the program committee of the National Conference of Social Work deemed the subject of social welfare organization of such importance that it delegated a committee of fifteen to devote time to the special study of this field. Under the chairmanship of Robert P. Lane, committees in Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, New York City, and Pittsburgh studied and discussed the existing concepts and practices of social welfare organization, and a written synthesis of their findings was presented to the National Conference of Social Work in the 1939 and 1940 meetings.

In 1941 America entered the second world war, and the methods of community organization were used to organize for total war. Citizens in every town and community in the United States became members of various organizations dealing with united war activities. These organizations existed on national, state, and local levels. Helen I. Clark says, "Perhaps, the outstanding development in social work in World War II was

community organization."¹ The work carried on during the war resulted in a better understanding of laymen about social work activities. In many areas social agencies co-operated with governmental and quasi-governmental agencies, often taking the initiative in organizing direct war activities in their respective communities. For the first time in their lives, many people of different classes and professions met and discussed their common problems and, thus, laid a wider base for group cooperation in other areas of social life.

The increased governmental activity in some communities opened new areas where social welfare work had never before been in existence. In areas adjacent to new army camps, social welfare resources had to be organized and expanded to meet the problems of an increased population.

Today the process of social welfare organization stands on the brink of full development. It is accepted as a social work process by social workers, it has developed a concrete structure in most cities over 100,000, and there is an awakening to its importance in small communities. Today, lay people as well as professional social workers are taking an active interest in building a better community.

A Definition of the Social Welfare Organization Concept

By 1938 sociologists and social workers began to see that the ideas about the social welfare process were expanding so rapidly that there was a growing confusion as to its meaning.

¹ Clark, op. cit., p. 123.

The study made by the Lane committee was the first serious attempt to define and evaluate the purpose, methods, objectives, and skills involved in carrying out the process of social welfare organization. In the 1940 conference report, Mr. Lane said:

We suggest that today the study of community organization stands approximately where the study of case work stood in 1923, and the study of group work in 1935. We have analogous, though not wholly similar, processes of exploration underway.¹

Since 1940 other students have discussed, enlarged, and criticized the ideas set forth in the Lane Committee reports. In the 1946 National Conference of Social Work, a summary of the present concept of social welfare organization was given by Leonard Mayo.²

Social welfare organization is one of the basic processes in social work, the other two being social case work and social group work. The social welfare of each individual is secured through the various organized institutions of society. Social work is one of these institutions concerned with the social welfare of individuals. Furthermore, social work activities attempt to improve these institutions, and to aid individuals in using the services of these institutions to fulfill their needs. Thus, the basic factor in the social work process is the human being and his individual and group

¹"Report of Groups Studying the Community Organization Process," Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work (New York: Columbia University Press, 1939), p. 459.

²"Community Organization in 1946," Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work (New York: Columbia University Press, 1946), pp. 129-133.

relationships in an institutionally organized society.¹

Wayne McMillen enumerates the factors he believes inherent in human personality which make social welfare organization feasible. They are: pride in the group to which the individual belongs, a sense of responsibility for the well being of the groups to which he belongs, a desire to improve the environment in which he lives, and the feeling of satisfaction that comes from group or cooperative undertakings. He says that to be productive, these drives must be organized and directed toward socially desirable objectives, which can best be accomplished by establishing channels through which groups may communicate with each other.²

The primary objective of social welfare organization as a process in the framework of social work structure is to bring about and maintain an adjustment between available social welfare resources and social welfare needs. This aim may be divided into three principal activities: namely, organization, planning, and co-ordination. Organization is concerned with supplying welfare service to those who need it and with maintaining the facilities used in rendering social work activities, an activity which implies a method by which agency functions may be changed and modified in conformity with new needs and

¹Helen I. Witmer, Social Work (New York: Rinehart & Co., 1942), Chapters I and II.

²McMillen, op. cit., p. 22.

services as they arise. Planning is concerned with the use of the existing resources and with a way in which to secure new services, which process calls for a method by which needs may be discovered, articulated, and demonstrated. Co-ordination is concerned with the cooperation among existing agencies in order to eliminate duplication and competition of services. This process calls for a method to bring about cooperation among agencies in the establishment, extension, and improvement of all welfare services.

The scope of this process is thought of in two ways: as operating inside the social work structure within each agency and as operating outside the individual agency in a specialized agency where it has a direct bearing on the work inside each individual agency. The aims of this process should pervade and animate all programs of social welfare; it may be practiced by lay citizens and professional social workers. It may be carried on through a formal council structure or through informal councils and conferences. Social welfare organization work may be carried on at both horizontal and vertical levels, between national, state, and local levels, in both public and private agencies. Its relationships are agency to agency, agency to community, and community to agency. Mr. Mayo says that social welfare organization projects are primarily focused upon the modification, extension, or improvement of the program of an agency, or on a community problem

of a social or health nature.¹ Organization for the general improvement of a total neighborhood or other population area is a recent development. Today the process is usually organized along the traditional political units, with national and state organizations supplementing local areas.

The structure within which the activities of the social welfare organization process is carried out may take several forms, but the recognized formal structure is one that specializes in organization, planning, and co-ordination for social welfare services on a community basis. Of this process, Mr. Mayo says:

It requires a skillful and artistic correlation and weaving together of all that we have learned about dealing with individuals, and groups, brought to focus on another objective, the community.²

In this study social welfare organization should be construed to mean the process by which the organizations and institutions concerned with social welfare maintain and effect resources and social welfare needs in the three aspects of organization, planning, and co-ordination. In subsequent chapters an effort will be made to describe this process in Denton County welfare work and to show the structure, methods, and techniques involved in carrying out social welfare organization in a small community.

¹"Community Organization in 1946," p. 130.

²Ibid., p. 132.

The term "social welfare organization" refers both to the process by which the organization of certain forces in a community is achieved and to the welfare structure of the community itself.

This study of social welfare organization in Denton County is outlined as follows: Chapter I is a brief review of the general theory of the social welfare organization process; Chapter II covers the historical and physical setting of the county; Chapter III describes the social welfare structure in Denton County; Chapter IV attempts to show how the social welfare organization process operates in this welfare structure to bring about a better adjustment between welfare needs and resources; and Chapter V evaluates the welfare structure plus giving recommendations for the improvement of this structure in the future.

The means of obtaining data for this study included personal interviews with social workers, youth leaders, church leaders, and other citizens who serve on welfare committees in the city of Denton; printed reports from the individual clubs and welfare agencies in the city and county; newspaper articles; questionnaires; minutes of the Denton County Chapter of the Texas Welfare Association; the card index directory of social welfare agencies, churches, and clubs compiled by the Denton County Chapter of the Texas Welfare Association; pamphlets received from the Community Chest, Inc. and the Community Service, Inc.; books and periodicals in sociology and social work.

Specific information concerning the work of the agencies, club groups, churches was obtained from the card index file mentioned above. This index was compiled by a class in social work at the Texas State College for Women in December, 1947, for use by the Denton County Chapter of the Texas Welfare Association.¹ Further information concerning the work of the agency or club, the manner in which they organized their services, and the community resources that were available to them was secured through personal interviews with social workers and lay leaders in the agencies or clubs. Twenty-five personal interviews were made for this study.

A questionnaire was sent to ministers of ten churches outside the city of Denton.² Information about the welfare and youth work of the churches in the rural areas was obtained from this questionnaire. Seven of the ten questionnaires were returned and personal comments were made on the welfare work of the rural church by six of the ministers.

Fifty questionnaires were sent to civic and social leaders in the city and county of Denton.³ This questionnaire was designed to obtain some of the attitudes and opinions of the lay citizen about the various methods involved in the

¹The form used to secure the information for this file may be found in the Appendix.

²Questionnaire in the Appendix.

³Questionnaire in the Appendix.

improvement of social welfare work in the community. The questionnaire was sent to those leaders who have participated in welfare work of some sort within the last five years.

In this study an extensive use was made of the local daily newspaper. Back files of the newspaper were read in order to obtain a historical perspective of the development of welfare work in Denton County. News items, editorials, and special features concerning the welfare work of the civic and social clubs, welfare agencies, and other groups were clipped and filed from November, 1947, through May, 1948. As yet students of social research have not used data from newspapers as sources of information. Emory S. Bogardus in his book, Introduction to Social Research, describes the use of a "clipping bureau," as a source of information about social problems. In speaking of a study of juvenile delinquency, he said:

It was found that the newspaper clippings show what a boy does that is news; they afford a special chance to study news values and public opinion regarding a specific problem. Changes in the trend of a problem or of a social movement, and in public opinion regarding a given issue, are revealed in newspaper clippings over a period of time.¹

In an article by Carl Reuss of the State College of Washington the importance of the rural newspaper as a source of sociological material was discussed.² In his book on community organization

¹(Los Angeles: Sutton House, Ltd., 1936), p. 20.

²"The Country Weekly: A Source of Sociological Data," Social Forces, Vol. 28 (1941), pp. 238-241.

Wayne McMillen said that the local newspaper could be a valuable aid in acquainting a social worker with a new community.¹

In this study the clippings aided in locating sources of information by supplying names of local clubs and associations interested in welfare work. These items also had value in supplying data that could be measured to a small degree. It is difficult to obtain standardized information about institutional or group behavior from a constant source. The use of items from a daily newspaper over a period of eight months built up a fund of information of a relatively standard nature. Further research concerning the use of newspaper items as a source of information about community institutional structures and social problems may result in a valuable contribution to the techniques of social research. Newspaper items also have value as a means of obtaining some of the prevailing attitudes toward and opinions, as well as evaluations, of the welfare work in the community, because a newspaper usually reflects the opinion of the majority of subscribers. As yet no test for the validity of newspaper information has been formulated, therefore in this study the content of the news items was not used to any great extent in evaluating the welfare work of any group.

There were several obstacles in this study which should be mentioned. In a community in which there are various club and church groups whose primary objective is not welfare assistance

¹McMillen, op. cit., p. 385.

and who give assistance to many different groups if the need arises, it is difficult to set forth a complete and clearly defined outline of the welfare structure. Social welfare work at the present time is of a very dynamic nature, and each day brings changes into the structure and pattern of welfare structure. George Lundberg has set forth four errors which he believes might enter into the measurement of institutional behavior. These errors are: sampling error, seasonal error, informant error, and interviewer error.¹ An effort was made to keep these errors at a minimum, but in order for the reader to evaluate the material, it is necessary for him to understand the possible errors which enter into a study of this nature.

Whenever a new idea or topic was introduced, a brief summary of the theory from various social workers and sociologists was presented. The primary purpose of this presentation of theory was to build a frame of reference for the reader. A theory is usually based on a large number of proved facts; therefore the opinions and beliefs of the theorist will hold true in almost every situation. The information about different situations presented in the theoretical material would probably be true in Denton welfare work, if an intense study of the situation were made. In view of this, theories presented in this study are valuable in setting forth a wider picture of the local situation,

¹Social Research (New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1942), p. 272.

and leave the author more time for a study of the factors peculiar to the local situation.

The study of the social welfare process is a recent development and there is still a great deal to be discovered about this new area of social work.

CHAPTER II

DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Historical Background

Denton County is located in the North Central part of Texas, and has been in existence for one hundred and two years. In the settlement of the southwestern part of the United States, many variables were at work in the organizing of communities. The northern part of Texas in 1830 was part of the Mexican Territory and was known as the Red River country. By 1836 Texas became independent from Mexico and established a republic. The Red River country was organized into one large county, known as Fannin County. It was a prairie land inhabited by Indian tribes and patrolled by the Texas Rangers to protect the frontier from raids. The new Texas Republic wanted settlers, and the Congress of the Republic offered land grants to all those who would come to this area and make settlements; six hundred and forty acres was given to a married man and three hundred and twenty acres were given to a single man.

Mr. W. S. Peters of Kentucky, a land agent, was instrumental in the settlement of the Denton County area. He established a land office in the southeastern corner of the county, where the town of Hebron is now located. The Congress of the Republic gave him ten sections of land for every one hundred families that settled in this area, and ten and

one-half sections for every single man that settled. Mr. Peters sent agents to Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Missouri to advertise this land and to guide settlers down the Red River to this area. Miss Cowling says that a study of the river pattern of the above states shows that movement west via the Ohio, Cumberland, Red, and Missouri rivers led early settlers to the very doors of northern Texas. In the 1840's the eighth Congress of the Republic established a Central National Road through the northern part of the state. This road began near the present site of the Dallas County Court House and ran along the bank of the Trinity River overlooking the fertile Elm Valley of North Texas. In this valley there was timber, a good water supply, an abundance of grazing grass, edible nuts, fruits, fish, game, and most valuable of all rich black soil for growing crops. Between the years 1843 and 1859 eighteen separate settlements were made in the area which now comprises Denton County.¹ These early settlers were Baptists and Methodists from Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and other nearby states. The people who made these settlements braved all the hardships of the American frontier. They came in groups of eight or ten families, most of whom were related by blood or marriage. In writing about these early settlements Mr. Bates said, "They brought with them their families, their dogs, guns, and religion--Baptist."² The pioneer preacher organized the

¹Mary Jo Cowling, Geography of Denton County (Dallas: B. Upshaw and Co., 1936), Chapter I.

²E. T. Bates, History and Reminiscences of Denton County (Denton: McNitzky Printing Co., 1918), p. 29.

church and the school, which became the center of the social life of the early settlers. They held annual camp meetings, which were social affairs as well as religious meetings. It was from these gatherings that community spirit first evolved.

In 1846 the First Texas Legislature created thirty-one new counties out of the Fannin County area and one of these new units was named Denton County. The county was named for Captain John B. Denton, a native of Tennessee, who was a great revivalist in the Methodist Church, a lawyer, and a soldier. Captain Denton was killed by Indians in 1841 near Fort Worth.

In 1856 the present city of Denton was designated as the official county seat. The county offices were moved from Alton, and many of the commercial enterprises were also moved to the new location. One hundred acres of land were given to the town by several pioneer men, and the town was laid off in lots which were sold at a public sale. The revenue from this sale was used in building a log court house, located on the north side of the town square. This court house burned in 1875, and the present quarry limestone structure was erected in 1896.

One of the main occupations of early Denton County was cattle-raising, with all the glamor of the old West, including the cowboy, the rustler, the rancher, and the gambler. Each year several million head of cattle moved over trails in the western part of the county to markets in the North. One of these trails was the "Chisum Trail," now famous in story and song. It was named for John S. Chisum of Denton County, who

built for himself the title "America's Greatest Cattle King."¹

Carle C. Zimmerman says that these early American communities were integrated largely by geographic proximity, because the original settlers had little sameness of background and were very mobile.² Integration is usually social instead of mechanical or geographic, but these early communities were a mixture of both in different degrees. He also says that where like people settle in a new place they have a better opportunity for the building of a community spirit.

The early Denton County community was composed of approximately twenty closely knit settlements located several miles from each other, a factor which made social intercourse difficult. The principles of individual freedom, individual initiative, and individual rights was the philosophy in these Western communities. Because of the belief in these principles, the American community has never attained any great degree of stability and compactness in regard to community planning for the welfare of all.

Population Analysis of Denton County

Through the years Denton County has maintained a record of continual growth in population and wealth. On the whole, the population of the county is predominately rural; most of the citizens are native born and descend from Nordic ancestry. The land area in Denton County is 942 square miles, and the

¹Cowling, op. cit., Chapter I.

²Carle C. Zimmerman, "The Evolution of the American Community," American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 46 (1941), pp. 809-917.

1940 population was 33,658, thus making 35.7 persons per square mile. Of the total population 22,466 or 66 per cent of the people live in rural areas and 11,192 or 33 per cent live in urban areas, the only urban area being the city of Denton.¹ Table I on page 25 shows that 92.8 per cent of the white population is native born, 0.7 per cent foreign born, with 112 of the 238 foreign born originating from England and Germany, 50 from Mexico and the remaining 76 from 17 other countries. The white population numbers 31,463 persons and the negro 2,194 persons. The ratio between the sexes is almost equal; of the 33,421 native born persons of all races, 50.2 per cent are male and 49.8 per cent female; of the foreign born population, 50.3 per cent are male, and 49.7 per cent are female; and of the negro population, 51.2 per cent are male and 48.8 per cent are female.

TABLE I

COMPOSITION OF THE POPULATION OF DENTON COUNTY ACCORDING TO SEX AND COLOR, 1940*

Population	Male	Female	Total	Per Cent
All	16,914	16,744	33,658	100%
Native, all races	16,787	16,633	33,420	
Native, white	15,662	15,563	31,225	92.8
Foreign born, white	127	111	238	0.7
Negro	1,124	1,070	2,194	6.5
Other races	1	0	1	

¹Rural areas are defined according to the census as all places that have less than 2,500 population and farm population.

*United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Commerce, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, Characteristics of the Population, Texas, p. 795.

The distribution of the population of Denton County according to age shows no extreme peaks for any one age group. The two largest age groups in the county are those persons between five and twenty years, and those between fifty and seventy years of age. The age distribution is almost equal for both sexes. When the age distribution is compared with one for the entire state, there is no discernible difference between the county and state group. The percentage of people in the forty-five to sixty-five year age group is higher for Denton County than it is for the state, and there is a lower percentage of persons in the twenty to forty year age group in the county than in the state. A population pyramid showing the population distribution of Denton County as it compares with the state of Texas is shown on page 27.

There has been a steady growth in the population in this county since 1940 showing a gradual increase with no sharp peaks of increase or decrease. The Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide for the year 1947-1948 in speaking of the population trends in the state said:

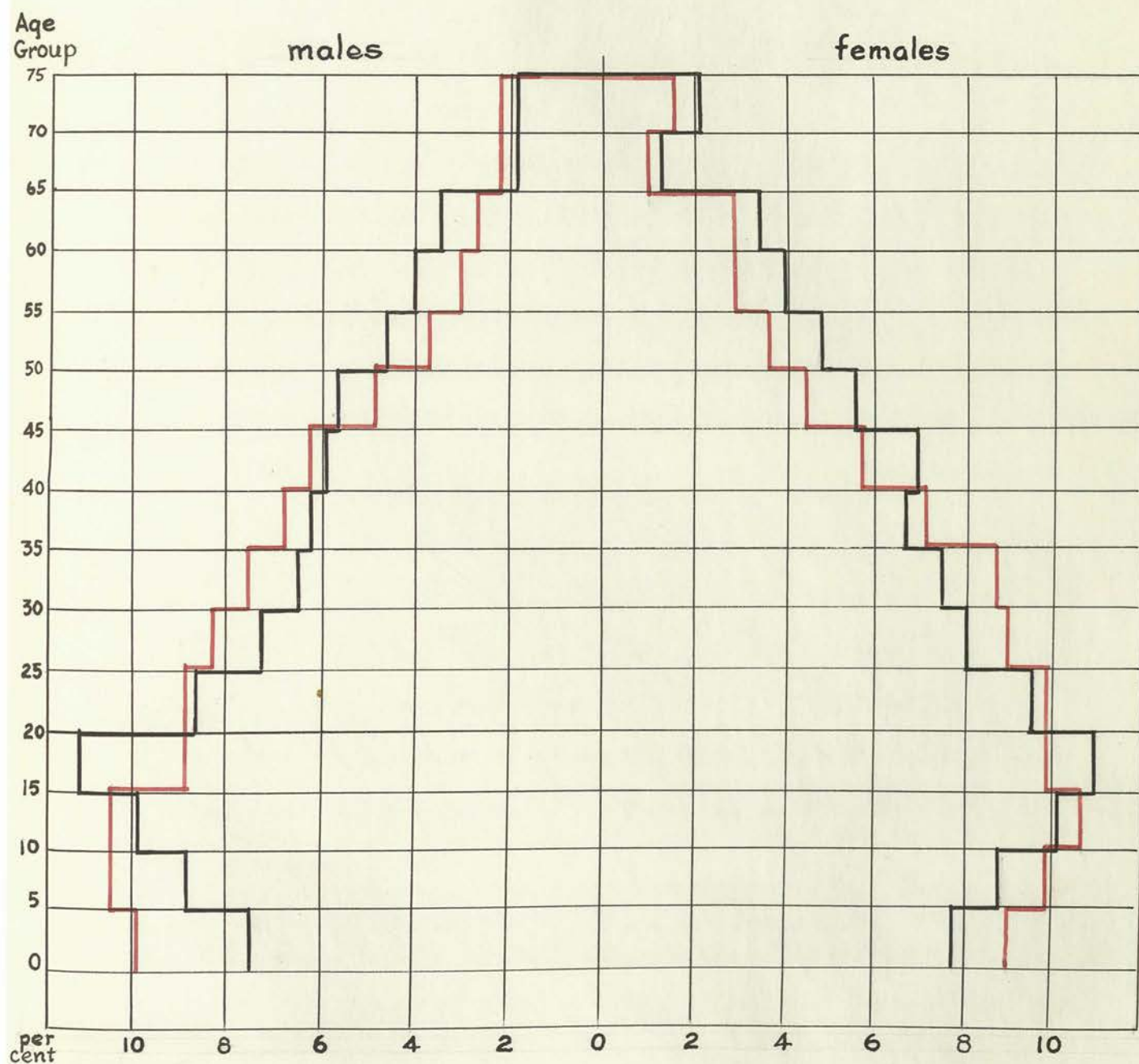
The building of the great war plants caused the inter-county migration of approximately 500,000 people. With the end of the war and the closing down of many of the big war plants a redistribution of Texas population set in with the drift from the urban center to the rural areas.¹

Henry S. Shryock Jr. and Jacob S. Siegel of the Bureau of the

¹(Dallas: Dallas Morning News, 1947), p. 121.

POPULATION PYRAMID OF DENTON COUNTY BY AGE AND SEX, 1940
 COMPARED WITH A POPULATION PYRAMID OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

■ Denton County Population
 ■ Texas Population



Census reported in their study of possible population trends in Texas that migration into any community is largely a matter of economic attraction. These men rated the urban centers of Texas on a basis of possible growth, and the Dallas area received an A-1 rating. In this report they stated:

The areas rated A-1 were those which had grown most rapidly since 1940 and in the preceding period (1920-1930) and which were, therefore, on the basis of past growth alone adjudged to have superior prospects of retaining war-time growth.¹

This fact has significance for Denton County in so far as the county borders on the Dallas area and may receive the overflow of people and industrial plants from this area. On this basis, one might predict for Denton County a growing population of an urban and semi-urban type which may break down the close-knit social organization of this rural community.

The Economic Base of Denton County

Agriculture is the main source of income in Denton County. The character of the crops in an area has a great deal to do with the kind of road, schools, homes, and other social factors manifested in any area. Miss Cowling says, "If a farmer has good soil on his land, he will likely have a big barn, a neat home, fat stock, an auto, and many other fine things."²

¹"The Outlook for Population Increase in Texas," Southwestern Social Science Quarterly, September, 1947, p. 142.

²Geography of Denton County (Dallas: Upshaw and Co., 1936), p. 35.

The rich soil of Denton County is one of its main attributes; it has between 35-75 different soil types, and this is said to be the record for any county in Texas.¹ Almost all of the land is conducive to agriculture, with only about five per cent being too stony for anything but pasture. The county is underlaid with Cretaceous rock, which is important for several reasons. The presence of this rock formation generally implies a firm substratum, an abundant water supply, adequate drainage of the soil, and material for home and road construction.²

Denton County is divided into three physiographic divisions. The Grand Prairie, which covers the western part of the county, is a level prairie land with a clay soil. Wheat, small grain, cattle, sheep, and general farming are the agricultural resources of this section. The eastern section of the county is known as the Black Prairie. With a soil of rich, waxy, black loam, it is one of the richest soil areas in the state of Texas. Cotton is the leading product of this section, with general farming as a secondary occupation. The Eastern Cross Timbers includes the area between the other two divisions. This was originally a

¹Ibid., p. 37.

²Geologists tell us that the map of the world showing greatest human development coincides almost identically with the world's outcrop of Cretaceous rock. Ibid., p. 35.

forested area and today groves of post oak and black jack are still in existence. It is the most densely populated area. The red sandy soil of this area is conducive to the production of garden and horticultural products, poultry raising, and dairy products are sources of income in this section. The majority of the commercial and industrial occupations are located in this central area, in and around the city of Denton.¹ The map on page 31 shows the location of the three divisions in Denton County.

Table II shows that the total land area in this county is 602,880 acres, with 555,515 acres in cropland or pasture. In 1944, 54,684 acres of the cropland yielded harvest, 10,296 acres were left fallow or the crop failed to yield any return, and 25,592 acres were used for pasture in 1945. In the woodland area 3,146 acres were not pastured, 10,930 acres were pastured, and 213,561 acres of other land were pastured in 1945.

¹Cowling, op. cit., Chapter II.

MAP OF DENTON COUNTY
SHOWING THE THREE PHYSIOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

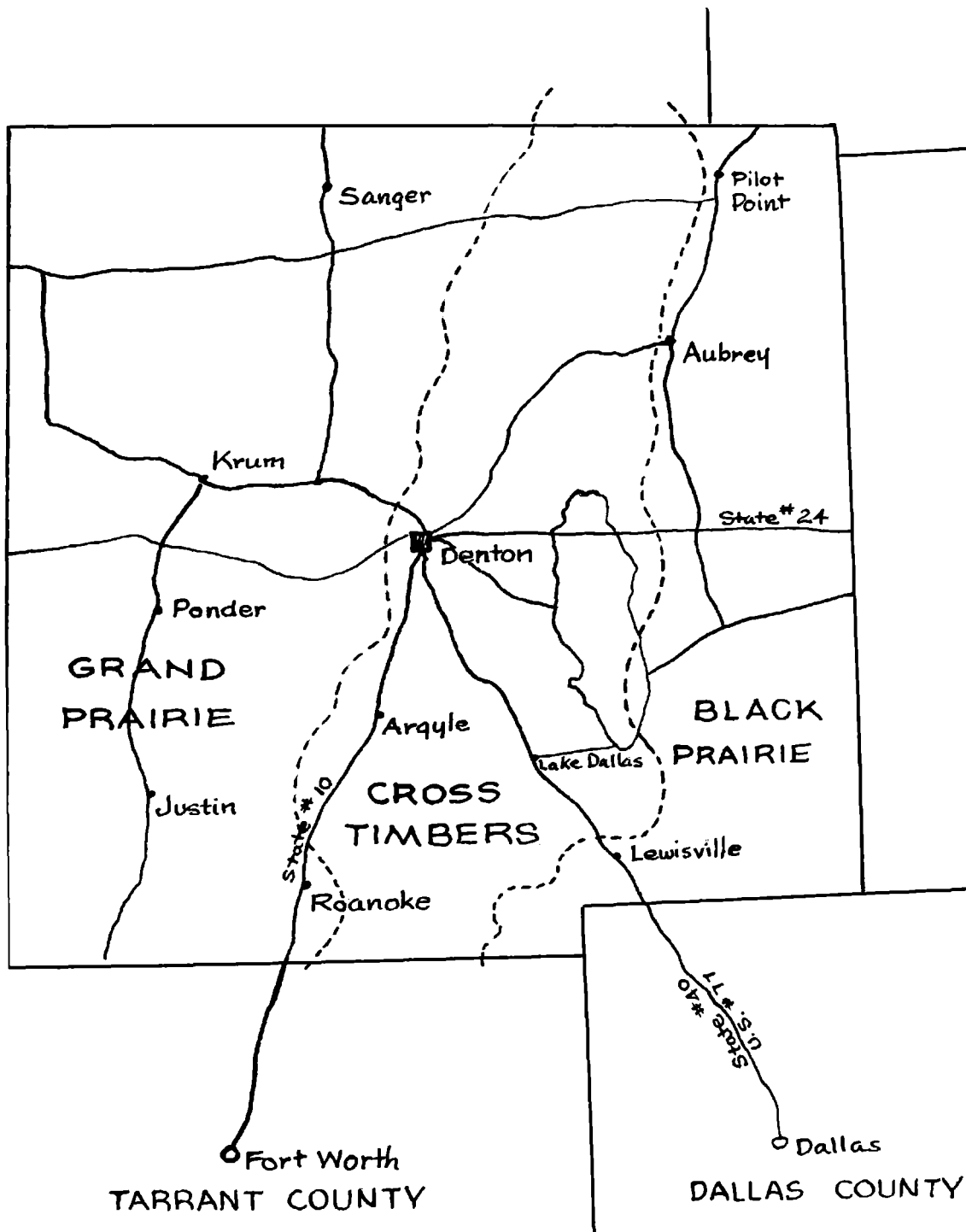


TABLE II
LAND USE IN DENTON COUNTY, 1944, 1945*

Land Use	Number of Acres
Approximate land area	602,880
All land in farms (1945)	555,515
Cropland	
Harvested (1944)	254,684
Fallow or failure (1944)	10,296
Used only for pasture (1945)	25,592
Woodland	
Not pastured (1945)	3,146
Pastured (1945)	40,930
Other land pastured (1945)	213,661

In 1945 there were 3,119 farms in Denton County. Of these farms, 1,492 (47%) were farmed by full owners, 315 (10%) were farmed by part owners, 14 (.01%) were operated by managers, and 1,272 (40%) were farmed by tenants. Mary Virginia Lyon in her thesis on social welfare in Denton County written in 1936 observed two trends concerning the farm ownership and farm acreage in the county: an increase in ownership of farms by full owners, and an increase in the number of acres per farm.¹ The farm reports since that time reveal that these trends are still operating in Denton County. The average acreage in each farm increased from 125.8 acres in 1920 to

*Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide, 1947-1948 (Dallas: Dallas Morning News, 1947), p. 218.

¹Mary V. Lyon, "Survey of Social Welfare in Denton County," Unpublished Master's Thesis, Graduate Division, Department of Sociology, Texas State College for Women, 1936, p. 16.

140.6 acres in 1935, and to 178.7 acres per farm in 1945. The number of tenant farmers increased eight per cent from 1920 to 1925, but since 1925 the number of tenant farmers has steadily declined. Considering farm ownership, the number of farms operated by full owners decreased from 1920 to 1930. No increase was recorded until 1935; however, since that time the increase has been steady.¹ Table III shows the number of farms operated by tenants and full owners from 1920 to 1945.

TABLE III

NUMBER OF FARMS OPERATED BY TENANTS AND FULL OWNERS
IN DENTON, 1920-1945

Year	Farm Operated By	
	Full Owners	Tenants
1920 ²	1,592	2,354
1925 ²	1,157	2,810
1930 ²	1,075	2,518
1935 ³	1,221	2,281
1940 ⁴	1,316	1,732
1945 ⁵	1,492	1,272

The total farm land and farm buildings were valued at \$30,244,752 in 1945 with an average of \$9,697 per farm

¹Ibid., p. 17.

²United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Agriculture, Texas, p. 10.

³Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide, 1939
(Dallas: Dallas Morning News, 1938), p. 175.

⁴Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide, 1943-1944
(Dallas: Dallas Morning News, 1943), p. 153.

⁵Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide, 1947-1948
(Dallas: Dallas Morning News, 1947), p. 221.

unit; the value of implements and machinery was estimated at \$2,924,961, making a total farm investment of \$33,169,713.¹ There are only twelve counties in the state that rank above Denton in value of farm land and buildings, and six of these counties are considerably larger. In 1947 there were 1,944 tractors on Denton County farms, with only thirteen other counties in Texas topping this record.²

The industry in Denton County consists of light manufacturing and commercial businesses supplying local needs. A majority of the industry is found in or around the city of Denton. This industry consists of flour mills, cotton gins, a peanut-shelling service, bottling plants, planing mills, a brick factory, a clothing factory, and a business forms concern. In a survey made by the Denton Record-Chronicle, it was reported that the gross value of products of all Denton industries for 1947 was \$16,400,000, and that there was \$20,000,000 worth of produce from agriculture, based on current prices. The payroll for the forty industries surveyed was \$2,500,000, and the value of the plants and equipment was estimated at more than \$3,000,000.³ This survey also revealed the interlocking of industry and agriculture in the

¹Ibid., p. 221.

²Denton Record-Chronicle, February 1, 1948.

³Ibid.

county. In 1947 Denton's two milling companies purchased a total of \$2,399,000 in grain, and a substantial part of it was purchased from Denton County farmers. The Denton Peanut Company purchased two thousand tons of peanuts from local farmers. One writer in the Denton Record-Chronicle reported that there is a close co-operation between industry and agriculture in the county and that the key men in these industries have an adequate knowledge of the agricultural situation which in the past has enabled them to aid in the solving of agricultural emergencies--and which very likely will help to solve other emergencies, should they arise in the future.¹

North Texas State College and Texas State College for Women, two of the largest colleges in the state, are located in Denton. These two schools bring about five thousand students into the city each year.

The total net income for Denton County in 1945 was \$26,033,000. This was four per cent of the total income for the state of Texas which had an income of \$5,741,330,000. A frequency distribution of the incomes of the two hundred and fifty-four counties in the state on the basis of their effective buying incomes, revealed that thirty-seven counties have the same income as, or more income than, Denton County, or six per cent of the counties of Texas have an income of \$26,000,000 or more per year.² There are 9,600 families

¹Ibid.

²The distribution chart may be found in the Appendix.

in the county, and the average income per family is \$2,712.¹

In 1940, 10,162 of the 12,846 white males over fourteen years of age were in the labor force, and 2,516 of the 12,806 white females were in the labor force. In the non-white population 655 of the 781 males over fourteen years of age and 324 of the 1,298 females were in the labor force. Table IV shows that most of the male population over fourteen years of age had employment in 1940 and that about fifty per cent of those employed were their own employers and the other fifty per cent received a salary. It also revealed that the majority of the female population is engaged in homemaking as its chief occupation. Table V on page 38 shows some of the categories of employment in which the people of this county engage. From this table it is seen that, of the 8,635 white males who reported, 4,236 of them earned their living from agricultural pursuits, and the remaining 4,399 earned their living in nine other fields of employment; in the non-white population, 219 of the males earned their living from agriculture, and 311 earned their living in the nine other fields. In the United States Census report there are forty-five categories of industrial jobs. In Denton County there was one or more males employed in all forty-five categories and one or

¹The net effective buying income is based upon a formula worked out by this magazine based upon studies of retail sales, income tax returns, bank debits, dividend payments, and estimates of non-money income received by farmers. It is the amount of actual spending income left after income taxes have been paid. Sales Management Magazine, May 10, 1947, p. 1023.

TABLE IV

CLASSIFICATION OF PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER BY
EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND CLASS OF WORKER
ACCORDING TO SEX AND COLOR
DENTON COUNTY, 1940*

Employment Status	White		Non-White	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Persons 14 years and over	12,846	12,806	781	1,298
Total persons in the labor force	10,162	2,516	655	324
Per cent of population 14 years and over in the labor force	79.1%	19.6%		
Employed (except in public works)	8,657	2,100	520	300
Wage and salary workers	4,192	1,555	407	275
Employed and own account workers	4,103	372	104	20
Unpaid family workers	349	166	9	5
Class of workers not reported	13	7	0	0
Persons on emergency work	634	201	57	9
Persons seeking work	871	215	78	15
Experienced workers	807	175	73	15
New workers	64	40	5	0
Persons not in labor force	2,684	10,290	152	457
Engaged in own homework (housework)	95	7,931	13	307
In school	1,364	1,442	78	75
Unable to work	876	616	0	0
In institutions	20	6	0	0
Others, not reported	327	295	61	75

*United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, Characteristics of the Population, Texas, Page 865.

TABLE V

EMPLOYED WORKERS IN DENTON COUNTY OVER 14 YEARS OLD
CLASSIFIED BY MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL
GROUPS, ACCORDING TO SEX AND COLOR, 1940*

Occupational Group	White		Non-White	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Professional Workers	398	466	9	8
Semi-Professional Workers	62	14	2	0
Farmers and Farm Managers	2,933	73	79	4
Proprietors, Managers, Officials, (except farms)	832	101	4	2
Clerical, Sales, Kindred Workers	706	475	4	3
Craftsmen, Foremen, Kindred Workers	704	14	8	0
Operatives, Kindred Workers	745	106	26	3
Domestic Service	73	391	55	233
Service Workers (except domestics)	385	324	131	34
Farm Laborers, Wage Workers, Farm Foremen	981	21	131	6
Farm Laborers, Unpaid (family workers)	322	43	9	5
Laborers, (except farm)	494	10	59	0
Occupations, (not reported)	222	8	3	2

*United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the
Census, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, Characteristics
of the Population, Texas, p. 865.

more females were employed in thirty-three of the categories listed.¹ Diversity is the key note of the economic activities of this county. This diversity is especially valuable in agricultural activities, because a one-crop system can often ruin a farmer and the entire county if that crop fails. It is believed by agricultural experts that Denton County has the best agricultural balance of any county in the United States.²

Denton County is composed of rural family groups clustered around small trading centers, with a county seat that is somewhat industrialized. Its agricultural base is one of abundance and diversity. These small groups provide personal security, offer recreation through family picnics and other gatherings, and are the social unit in the life of the community. This rural culture in Denton County is old enough to be well integrated and stable, and it is imbued with a spirit of community feeling that escapes generalization or definition. A community made up of farm groups is one of group solidarity based upon consciousness of kind, where primary controls exist to bring about a feeling of group cohesion and mutual aid to those in need. Today some manufacturing corporations are building branch plants in Denton County, and workers from the nearby urban areas are moving into the county to make

¹United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940, Characteristics of the Population, Texas, p. 867.

²Denton Record-Chronicle, February 1, 1948.

their homes. This growth brings more money, paved roads, and other advantages of urbanization into this area, but it also brings problems which the community must solve in order to maintain its stability.

CHAPTER III

THE SOCIAL WELFARE STRUCTURE OF DENTON COUNTY

A SUMMARY OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE RESOURCES IN DENTON COUNTY

In Chapter I it was shown that the social welfare organization process is the method through which the organization of community resources for social welfare is achieved and the maintenance and development of a structure through which these resources are expended to those in need of assistance. The primary object of the process within the social welfare structure is to bring about and maintain a more effective adjustment between social welfare resources and social welfare needs. The term "social welfare resources" implies several things. In a social work dictionary we find the following definition of social resources: "The organized community forces which make goods and services available for persons who need them."¹ This definition suggests that social resources have a community aspect. In the same dictionary we find the following definition of community resources:

The social forces in the community which may be utilized for the solution of social problems, including leaders, and other personalities, the folkways, mores, public opinion, social agencies, and institutions.²

¹Erle Fiske Young, (ed), Social Worker's Dictionary (Los Angeles: Social Work Technique, 1941), p. 138.

²Ibid., p. 38.

The idea of social forces has been added to our conception of social welfare resources; and to the social worker, social forces are those forces which arise from any agency, institution, or organized activity which affects social behavior. These definitions present a picture of the consistency of social welfare resources. They are those organized forces working through the institutional framework of the community that may be used to mold and modify social behavior to desirable ends. Arthur Fink says that social welfare resources can usually be distinguished from other resources and are potentially present in society; therefore, we must not think of them as factors that arise in anticipation of a need. He says:

There must be in addition to a preceived need a growing body of knowledge and experience to deal with the need, then the material means must be discovered and made available, and finally a leadership that brings resources and needs together.¹

From this statement, we see that community resources for social welfare must be located, developed, and made available through agencies and social workers to those who need assistance. From this discussion one can clearly see the importance of the social welfare organization process in relationship to social case work and social group work activities.

As the term "social need" has been mentioned several times, it is interesting to note the use of this word in the

¹Fink, op. cit., p. 443.

present day philosophy of social work. Helen I. Clarke in her analysis of the social work process emphasizes the satisfaction of human needs. She says, "Instead of emphasizing people-in-trouble . . . we prefer to talk about people with needs."¹ She describes at length the different types of needs that human beings have to satisfy within the social milieu and the part social welfare activities have in helping people satisfy these needs.

It was also stated in Chapter I that the social welfare organization process may take place inside or outside the social welfare structure. As yet sociologists and social workers have not determined the point at which they are able to ascertain when the social welfare organization process starts or when it ceases. Wayne McMillen says:

Whenever individuals and groups seek to pool their resources and efforts to achieve and improve group life the community organization process is at work. Community organization in social work therefore seeks to assist people to find effective ways of acting in cooperation with others to improve social welfare provisions.²

From the above statements, one can see that it is hard to determine what constitutes social welfare resources or to describe the way in which the resources are organized and expended by welfare workers. In the following chapter, an effort will be made to enumerate some of the social welfare

¹Clarke, op. cit., p. 443.

²McMillen, op. cit., p. 24.

resources available in Denton County and to show how they are organized and made available to the people in the community. The development of social welfare resources is a dynamic process and, as such, may vary from week to week. Some of the resources that will be listed will have definite and lasting social significance and others listed may have only slight value and fulfill a temporary need.

The objective of this chapter is not to see how many resources may be discovered, but to attempt to show that there are welfare resources available which provide a foundation for the social welfare structure in Denton County. The potentialities of these resources in bringing about a better welfare structure under organization and co-ordination is the important aspect of the enumeration of the social welfare resources in Denton County. There are many forces in a community having great bearing on social life that are hard to isolate and describe. Some of these factors are folkways, mores, public opinion, and common gossip. With these objectives in mind, an attempt shall be made to show how certain groups in the community seek to contribute to the betterment of human society.

Development of Social Welfare in Denton County

The idea and practice of organized welfare was unknown in the pioneer communities. The scattered settlements were usually composed of related family groups who aided each other in times of distress. It was a matter of family

pride and responsibility to see that no member of the family was in need. In times of dire distress created by such unusually circumstances as fire or Indian raids, the neighbors would collect food and clothing for the distressed family. Neighborly assistance was the basis for helping people out of trouble in the pioneer community. The churches were the center of the social and educational life of the community, and the minister usually knew who needed aid of either a material or spiritual nature.

Organized charity was begun in the city of Denton in 1912. At this time the United Charities Association was organized by a group of citizens to aid in providing for the city's indigents. Miss Mary Virginia Lyon gives a description of the work of this organization in the following paragraph:

In Denton on Thanksgiving morning a union service would be held at one of the churches. At this meeting a report and financial statements of the past year's work would be given, a new board would be chosen or quite often the old one reelected, and subscriptions were to be paid twenty per cent in cash, and twenty per cent paid at each of four intervals as called for by the board. The amount spent varied from \$1500 to \$2000. The board was composed of the pastor and two laymen from each church of the city. Any two members of the board could investigate a case and recommend action, or one member could do this in time of emergency.¹

The Denton Record-Chronicle carried the following item about the Association:

Local families needing aid will be issued meat stew at the headquarters and when needed other food will also be

¹Lyon, op. cit., pp. 23-24.

provided there. Those seeking for aid are asked to bring containers in which to carry the food. All individuals and organizations assisting the poor are asked to telephone the headquarters so that the work will not be duplicated. Persons making applications to Denton people are asked to be referred to the headquarters.¹

The Association was reorganized in 1936, and a board composed of eleven men and women was chosen from various clubs to administer the funds. Today the United Charities Association is no longer in existence, but there is still a fund in a local bank of about \$3000 belonging to the organization. A committee composed of the mayor and two business men control this fund, and the Executive Secretary of the American Red Cross does the case work and recommends to the committee the expenditure of small amounts in cases of dire necessity. When the present fund is depleted, the Association will be defunct.

The depression years brought organized public welfare into Denton County. In 1932 the State Board of Control appointed a county supervisor and one case worker to distribute public funds to those who were eligible. This method proved inadequate, and until 1936 various schemes were organized along this same plan. In January, 1936, direct federal and state aid to the needy was abolished, and the local unit of government became responsible for relief. The same year the Denton County unit of the State Department of Public Welfare was established to administer the funds provided by Texas constitutional amendments.

¹January 23, 1930.

Throughout the years various civic clubs and associations have been organized in Denton County. Many of these organizations have projects of social welfare service as part of their club program. It is difficult to classify and describe the welfare work in Denton County because many of the groups that are active in providing welfare service have no definite program and provide aid to several groups when need arises. Throughout this discussion the reader should keep in mind that, with the exception of the State Department of Public Welfare and the American Red Cross, none of the organizations mentioned is organized for the primary purpose of rendering social welfare service. The topical headings have been set arbitrarily by the writer to facilitate classification. The discussion shall endeavor to set forth a picture of the services which are available for the welfare of those groups essential to the basic structure of community life. The purpose is to disclose available resources and matters of organization; the policies and the specific programs of these organizations do not come within the scope of this discussion.

Welfare Services to Children and Youth in Denton County

In the last forty years there has been an ever deepening sense of public responsibility toward the welfare of children. The four White House Conferences on children and their needs and the work of the Children's Bureau have been instrumental in directing public attention to welfare

programs for children. Today we recognize that children and adolescents are the blocks that will be used in building the community, the state, and the nation of the future.

Lawrence K. Frank advances an idea that emphasizes this point when he states that the present adolescent age group will have to assume leadership in the immediate future to fill the gap left by the young men killed in the second world war. He further states:

Community planning for conservation of children and youth emerges as the most urgent and most important task that demands all we can muster, but for which we can generously give the best we have because it is the way to preserve our human values and advance our democratic ideals.¹

Child welfare services in the broadest sense include anything done by an individual or group for the welfare of children; or in a limited sense it means organized activity performed by certain specialists for children who need special care. Both definitions will be considered in enumerating welfare services for children and youth in Denton County. The services to be discussed may be said to emerge from three sources in Denton County: namely, civic, social, and fraternal organizations, the State Department of Public Welfare, and the welfare aspects of the public school system.

The Kiwanis Club in the city of Denton has a county-wide program of medical aid for underprivileged children.

¹Lawrence K. Frank, "Community Planning for Children and Youth," Social Forces, Vol. 24, p. 388.

Through the Kiwanis Children's Clinic funds are provided for medical treatment to children under eighteen years of age, regardless of race or creed, whose parents are unable to provide such treatment. This aid provides for hospitalization, major or minor surgery, ear, eye, nose, and throat treatment, dental care, orthopedic work, and psychiatric counsel. Any child who needs medical care and is eligible for aid from the Clinic may be recommended to the Kiwanis Club by a physician or dentist. The secretary of the Kiwanis Club does the intake work, directs the investigation of eligibility, and makes arrangements for treatment if the child has been accepted for assistance.

The Clinic has been in operation for twenty-three years and has a firmly established reputation in the county. The secretary also refers children to local and state agencies for further aid. The secretary often refers families to the Denton American Legion Auxiliary and other clubs which have funds from which they provide food and clothing for needy families. The members of the Kiwanis Club take a personal interest in the children they help and often advise them concerning their problems and encourage them in their work, even after their medical care has been completed.¹

The American Legion Auxiliary maintains a welfare fund for aiding children and families in need. It accepts

¹Personal Interview, April 13, 1948.

referrals from the State Department of Public Welfare workers, the Kiwanis Club secretary, the American Red Cross workers, and any other individual or group that draws its attention to a family in need of assistance. The Shakespeare Club, one of the women's clubs, maintains a fund from which it buys shoes for needy children. The Parent-Teacher Association is active in helping children stay in school by providing them with proper clothing, money for school lunches, and school supplies. The Parent-Teacher Council in each school in the city attends to the welfare activities for its respective school. The referrals usually come to the Council members from the teachers.

The Cumberland Presbyterian Orphanage, located in the city of Denton is organized under the auspices of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. It is supervised by a board elected from the General Assembly of the church and is managed by a minister and his wife who live at the orphanage. Children of any denomination from any place in the United States are accepted between the ages of one and sixteen. These children are not placed for adoption; if a case of adoption arises, it is referred to the State Welfare Board. The children are referred to the Orphanage by church members, courts, and other interested persons. At the present time thirty children are living at the orphanage.

The Denton County office of the State Department of Public Welfare administers grants under the Aid to Dependent

Children assistance program. This program was set up by the Federal Government in 1935 under the Social Security Act, Title V. Under this program, cash assistance is given to destitute children under fourteen years of age who have been deprived of parental support in order that the child may continue to live in his own home. To be eligible the child must be deprived of parental support or care by reason of death of the parent, continued absence from the home, physical or mental incapacity of the parent; he must be living with a relative, he must have resided in the state at least one year preceeding date of application, and he must not have sufficient income or other resources to provide a reasonable subsistence. Children born out of wedlock, if they are in need and meet the other requirements, are eligible for Aid to Dependent Children assistance.¹ In March, 1948, forty families with a total of one hundred children were receiving assistance through the Denton County office; the total expenditure was \$1,427.36, with an average payment of \$35.68 to each family or \$14.27 to each child.² This act also provides funds for child welfare referral services. While this program gives no cash assistance, it provides service for the protection and care of homeless dependent, or neglected children and children in danger of becoming delinquent. Denton County

¹State Department of Public Welfare, Questions and Answers Concerning Assistance (Austin: State Printing Office, 1947), pp. 20-27.

²These statistics were obtained in a personal interview with a field worker in the local office of the State Department of Public Welfare, April 21, 1948.

does not have a child welfare unit, but the field workers in the welfare department may execute some of these activities when called upon to do so by the local courts or other officials. The State Department of Public Welfare office may refer children to other agencies in Denton, such as the Kiwanis Children's Clinic, American Red Cross, or a church; or the Public Welfare office may refer a child to a group work agency if the worker thinks he needs to be a member of an organized group.

The Denton Public School system is the third organized group which furthers the welfare of children. There is an extensive health program being carried out through the school system at the present time. This program is supervised by a full-time health co-ordinator who is responsible for organizing and executing various health programs. Each of the elementary schools in the city of Denton has a school health committee composed of a teacher co-ordinator, three other teachers, the chairman of the school's Parent-Teacher Association's health committee, three parents, with the principal of the school and the president of the school's Parent-Teacher Association as ex-officio members. In the Junior and Senior High Schools there is a student-faculty health council headed by the school health co-ordinator. To co-ordinate the work of these committees there is a city-school health council. The members of this council include the superintendent of the Denton Public Schools, who acts as chairman of the council, the principals of the

schools, the teacher-health co-ordinators of each school, the Parent-Teacher Association representatives from each school, and the parent representatives from each school. Other council members are: the directors, principals, teacher-health co-ordinators, and Parent-Teacher Association representatives from each of the college demonstration schools; the health co-ordinators from the two colleges; representatives from the student health councils of the Junior and Senior High Schools; other representatives from the City Federation of the Parent-Teacher Association, civic clubs in Denton, Denton County Welfare Association, Denton County Tuberculosis Association, Denton County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the City Health Officer.¹ This city council seeks to plan and coordinate the work of the health council in each school and to disseminate information about the program to various civic groups. The health co-ordinator made the following comment about the council:

This organization may seem a little top heavy, but the interest in the program has developed with organization and delegation of duties. Parents, teachers, and members of the community are taking part in finding and working on our health problems.²

During the school year 1947-1948 screening tests for ear, eye, and dental defects were given to all children enrolled

¹"Progress Report and Achievement in Health, Physical Education, and Safety Program of the Denton Public Schools, April, 1947," p. 3 (unpublished), Office of the Health Co-ordinator, Denton Senior High School.

²Ibid.

in the schools of Denton. Results of these tests were recorded on individual health cards which were filed in the health co-ordinator's office after the family physician had completed indicated treatment. Local physicians and dentists participated in this screening program.

As yet there is no provision for treatment for children whose parents cannot afford medical care. The school health co-ordinator cannot send the child to the doctor or to an agency supplying funds for medical aid; she can only recommend that the child go to a physician. If the child goes to a physician and needs treatment for which the parent cannot pay, the physician may send the child to the Kiwanis Clinic or other agencies for aid. The Denton health co-ordinator when interviewed said that several times she has taken a child and his mother to the Kiwanis Club office after a physician has recommended him to the Kiwanis Clinic.

Health education is taught in all four years of high school. This course includes a study of personal health habits, personality development, home nursing, and community health. This year co-educational classes in health education were taught in the high school for the first time. The progress report contained the following statements concerning the aims of this health education program:

We realized that we were dealing with the adolescent girl and boy and their problems both physically and emotionally. The manner and the method in which these units developed

depended upon the suggestions, desires, needs, and solutions of and by the students. We attempted a more dynamic form of presentation in which the boys and girls themselves had some part in the planning to take some initiative in solving their own problems and see at first hand the forces influencing their health and the health of the community.¹

The health co-ordinator also said that attempts were made to disseminate health information to the home through the child. She said that if mothers knew the symptoms of diseases and illness, they would know when to keep the child at home and protect his health at the first signs of illness. The health co-ordinator takes home from school children who are ill, and at any time she may contact the child's parents about the health of any child.²

In-service training for teachers is conducted three hours a month during the school term with experts on health problems as consultants in these health curriculum workshops. A workshop is held in the summer to train teachers in health education work.

The Denton schools have no counseling or visiting teacher program. In the Junior and Senior High Schools the health co-ordinator counsels with any girl sent to her office by the principal or other teachers. If a girl wishes to go home because of illness, she must obtain an excuse from the

¹Ibid., pp. 8-12.

²Personal Interview, April 29, 1948.

health co-ordinator who keeps a record of these excuses. Many health problems and social problems are interrelated, and the health co-ordinator can approach the girl through her health problem. The health co-ordinator particularly stressed the need for public understanding of health problems and health care, emphasizing that health is vital to good human relationships in any community.¹

There are school lunch room facilities in all the public schools in Denton with the exception of the Negro school. The lunch room program is part of a federal government program for nutrition improvement and is subsidized by the government with surplus commodities and monetary aid. A child may eat in the school lunch room, bring his lunch from home, or return home for lunch. A teacher, principal, or the health co-ordinator may recommend for free lunches a child whom they believe to be undernourished and whose family cannot provide proper food. The principal usually investigates the eligibility of the child. In making the investigation he may call the State Department of Public Welfare, the American Red Cross, or any organization that might know about the family finances. The school officials try to keep the child from knowing that he is receiving a free lunch ticket. The funds for the free lunch ticket come out of the government subsidy.²

¹Personal Interview, April 29, 1948.

²Personal Interview, May 16, 1948.

The school, through its academic program and school activities, has great influence in helping children and young people of the community to develop useful and integrated personalities which will make them an asset to any community in which they may live. In the Denton Public School system there are three elementary schools, a junior high school, a senior high school, and a Negro elementary and high school. On the campus of North Texas State College there is a demonstration high school, elementary school, kindergarten, and nursery school; and on the campus of Texas State College for Women there is a demonstration elementary school, a kindergarten, and nursery school. These demonstration schools are organized along progressive lines and are used as laboratories for the college students. The kindergartens and nursery schools on the college campuses are the only facilities for pre-school children in Denton. Since these facilities are organized for laboratory purposes, they provide for only about ninety children.

The Denton public schools have no facilities for special education for crippled, blind, deaf, or exceptional children. There are no facilities for psychological testing, child guidance, or other testing programs. The demonstration schools have testing programs, but these are organized on a laboratory basis, and the children are selected to meet the purposes of the college classes in education and psychology.

In connection with the Speech Department at Texas State College for Women there is a speech clinic. This clinic provides

diagnosis and treatment of any real or suspected speech defect in pre-school children, school children, or adults in Denton County.

Child Protection in Denton County

The city of Denton has a juvenile officer on its police force. This officer's duties cover several phases of child protection. He acts as an attendance officer for the public school system. When a principal of a school believes that a child is truant, he reports him to the juvenile officer. The officer checks with the parents, and if the child has no legitimate reason for being away from school, he finds the child and takes him back to school. If the child fails to attend school through the negligence of the parents, the officer may file a complaint against them. As juvenile officer he has charge of all cases involving juvenile offenders that come to the police department. When interviewed the officer stated that most cases are kept out of court if possible in order to prevent the child from having a court record. If a juvenile is held for a hearing, he is usually released to the parents; otherwise, he may be detained in the juvenile ward of the county jail. Under the Texas Juvenile Court Act of 1943 the County or District Court acts as the Juvenile Court; the judge of the court becomes the juvenile judge and hears all cases involving boys between the ages of ten and seventeen years and girls between the ages of ten and eighteen

years. The juvenile case hearings are held in the judge's office unless the parents hire a lawyer to represent the child; in this case the hearing must be held in the court room. At these hearings the judge, the parents or guardians of the child, and the juvenile officer are usually the only ones present.

In the city of Denton in the past year there were about fifty new juvenile cases filed. Of these only four boys were sent to the state reformatory. The officer said that petty larceny was the most common offense among the juvenile offenders. The officer also handles cases involving girls. He said that, in almost every case involving a girl, he could go into her home or neighborhood and find the cause for her delinquency. He often finds jobs for these girls in private homes where they can earn spending money and attend school and get away from their old environments. With an order from the County Court, the juvenile officer has the authority to take neglected and dependent children out of their homes and place them in an institution or foster home. He stated that in his experience in Denton he has never completely executed an order of this type. On one occasion he began to work on such a case involving a Mexican family. The mother was dead, the father had no work, and the six children lived on a starvation level. The officer found an institution that would accept the children and then began

court procedure; however, a Mexican social worker from Dallas asked to take the case, and the court order was never obtained. He said that in a town and county the size of Denton, neighbors and church groups usually know about families in distress and take them food and clothing. He also said that he believed public opinion is strong enough to keep down flagrant neglect of or cruelty to children. Although he is not a probation officer, he nevertheless takes parole cases because there is no one else to handle them. For the same reason he handles some juvenile cases in other towns in the county area. Last year he worked on cases in Pilot Point, Aubrey, Sanger, and Argyle. At the present time, he is working for the establishment of a city-county probation and juvenile officer position, and he said that he believed that the city and county commissioners would authorize such an office by 1949.

The local juvenile officer seems to take a sincere interest in his work and looks upon it as more than a job requiring so many work hours a day. He is a scout master, a member of the Kiwanis Club, and a group worker at Friendship House. He often refers boys and girls who are in danger of becoming delinquent to these organizations and tries to see that they take an active part. He is a firm believer in preventive work of a recreational nature and looks upon a Juvenile

Officer as someone who keeps young people out of trouble rather than one who prosecutes them after they become delinquent.¹

Group Work and Character Building Organizations

Today it is realized that it is through human contacts that individuals learn how to do things, how to adjust to those about them, and how to live in a democratic society. All of these things are learned with positive or negative effects as a result of everyday contacts with family, neighborhood, church, and school groups. Social group workers realize the need for the direction of these person-to-person relations and activities to insure a positive effect.

Group work organizations usually have the following characteristics in common:

1. The focus is on the pre-adolescent and adolescent age group.
2. The organizations have programs that provide leisure time activities of an educational, recreational, and service character, which provides opportunities for the social growth of the members.
3. The local units are affiliated throughout the country with national offices.
4. The local units are in the main supported by joint financing in the local community by sponsoring clubs.
5. The activities and purposes of the organization are non-political.

¹Personal Interview, April 31, 1948.

6. There is an understanding by the leaders of the significance of group inter-relationships and individual personality organization, including an understanding of the social milieu in which the group lives.¹

The programs of these organizations begin with recreational interests and build on them toward educational and service aims. In 1945 the Committee on the Post-War Needs of Children in conjunction with the National Education-Recreation Council stated that these organizations are important in stabilizing the lives of youth in the post-war period and in training them for participation in world affairs.²

The opportunities for the youth of Denton County to participate in group activities will be discussed in the following sections.

Organizations for Girls

Girl Scouts.--There is a complete scouting program for girls between the ages of seven and eighteen in the city of Denton. The program is organized under a Girl Scout Council, and the activities are co-ordinated by a full-time Executive Director. At the present time there are thirteen troops of Girl Scouts in the city. There are twenty adult leaders who work directly with the girls in their activities and between twelve and

¹Social Work Year Book, 1947 (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1947), p. 61.

²Ibid., p. 61.

fifteen college girls who act as program consultants and specialists in craft and recreational activities.

Campfire Girls.--The Campfire Girls were reorganized in Denton during the spring of 1948 under the direction of two senior social work majors from Texas State College for Women. They organized three groups of girls.

The Order of Rainbow for Girls.--The Order of Rainbow for Girls is a social organization for teen-age girls sponsored by the Order of Eastern Star. Through a ritualistic program girls are trained to be community leaders and to uphold high moral standards.

Organizations for Boys

Boy Scouts.--There is a complete scouting program for boys between the ages of nine and eighteen in Denton County. The Scout program is organized under a district committee with a Scout Executive as co-ordinator. There are twenty-eight troops in the county, with troops in Denton, Justin, Aubrey, Lewisville, Krum, and Sanger. There are over one hundred and twenty-one adult leaders in the county.

Order of DeMolay.--The Order of DeMolay for boys was reorganized in the city of Denton in 1947. It is sponsored by the Master Masons and is open to all boys between the ages of fourteen and twenty years. The program of the organization is designed to train boys to assume the responsibilities of adulthood and

to uphold high moral standards. In April the members of the organization acted as city officials and ran the city government for one day.

Boy's Work Program of the Optimist Club.--The Optimist Club has an active boy's work program. Its aim is to help boys by providing facilities for good recreation and offering them wise guidance. The program is designed to help boys who for some reason cannot find guidance in their own homes. At their meetings the club often has speakers talk to them on the cardinal points of boy's work programs. In a recent talk a local minister made the following statement: "The boy needs the man, the boy needs an example, and the boy needs an opportunity."¹ This statement expresses the aim of the club's program. Throughout the past year the club has sponsored the Golden Gloves preliminary bouts, a performance by a magician, and a circus. The money raised from these programs is being used to build a boy's recreation center in the City Park.

Junior Chamber of Commerce.--The Junior Chamber of Commerce provides equipment and sponsors a safety patrol of elementary school boys. These patrols watch at the most dangerous corners and intersections about the public school grounds, on the school grounds, and inside the school buildings. The boys are trained and supervised by the city juvenile officer.

In 1946 the Junior Chamber of Commerce became the sponsor of a Civic Boys Choir. The project grew out of the

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, January 22, 1948.

interest of a local citizen who became director of the choir. Later a committee composed of several local citizens assumed the management of the choir. At the present time there are thirty-five boys in the group. The boys are selected by the director on their ability to sing and their academic record. A choir member must maintain a good academic record at all times in order to be away from school when the choir makes tours of other towns. The choir sings at local civic and social gatherings, presents benefit concerts, and makes an annual spring and fall tour to other towns in Texas.

Organizations for Boys and Girl

El Centro.--The Denton youth center, El Centro, is sponsored and supported by the Kiwanis Club. Teen-age youths from all parts of the city may go to the center to read, study, dance, or play table tennis and other games. The center is open Tuesday through Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and until 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The average attendance is about one hundred young people each night. Monday night the center is reserved by school organizations for parties. School groups from anywhere in Denton County may use the center for parties. In December, 1947, the 4-H Club groups held a Christmas party and every community and town in the county was represented at the center. It is directed by a principal of one of the city's elementary

schools and a student from North Texas State College. In a newspaper article the following statement was made about the success of the center:

Directors feel that the success of the center has a direct relation to the fact that juvenile delinquency, a definite problem in Denton a few years ago, has been reduced to almost zero.¹

Friendship House.--Friendship House is a social center supported and sponsored by the First Methodist Church of Denton. It is located in the southeastern part of the city near one of the elementary schools. It grew out of the interest of a church member, who during the depression years invited girls from the nearby elementary school into her home and helped them to care for their clothes and personal appearance. The boys also began going to her house to play and soon she had the nucleus of a social center. Soon after this the Sunday School raised money and rented a two-story house near the school for use as a social center and chose this woman as director. Today the church owns the house and has expanded its facilities. The staff is composed of the director, three college students who are resident assistants, and volunteer workers. The House is open to all children of elementary school age, but the majority of the children who participate in the activities are from the nearby school. They come to the House after school to participate in such activities as

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, January 22, 1948.

story-telling, puppet shows, and games, or to work in the newly constructed workshop. In the evening the center is used as a meeting place for adult groups from the First Methodist Church for committee meetings, conferences, and social gatherings. Visiting church leaders, speakers, or other guests are often entertained at Friendship House.¹ The activities and organization of Friendship House might well be used as a pattern for social centers in other parts of the city of Denton.

Junior Red Cross.--The Junior Red Cross is sponsored by the local chapter of the American Red Cross. The aims of this program are of a service nature with an emphasis on health and safety, the practice of good citizenship, and the acquisition of a sense of responsibility for the health and welfare of others. It is organized in the elementary school, the home room being the unit of enrollment. The teachers in the school direct the program under the supervision of the American Red Cross workers.

There is an extensive Junior Red Cross program in the public schools of Denton County. Each summer a Junior Red Cross workshop is held at North Texas State College. This workshop is directed by an instructor from the National Red Cross Headquarters. Teachers may receive credit for this work on their teaching certificates.

¹Personal Interview, April 26, 1948.

American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.--The local American Legion Post sponsors an annual oratorical contest which is open to all Denton County high school students.

The purpose of the contest is to provide a better understanding of the American system of government and to create the desire to be a good citizen. Each year the Post sends a boy of high school age to Boys' State and the American Legion Auxiliary sends a girl of junior or senior high school age to both the state and national Girls' State. During the summer the American Legion sponsors a junior baseball team in the city of Denton.

The church programs for young people are discussed in the section on the welfare work of the churches.

Table VI gives an estimate of the number of young people participating in group activities in Denton County at the present time. These figures were obtained from Executive Directors and sponsors of youth groups in the city and county.

No attempt was made to find out how many young people were actually reached by these groups, but if one compares the number of young people living in the county with the number estimated to be participating in these organizations, it is found that only about thirty per cent of the young people belong to a group organization.

TABLE VI

NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN GROUP
ORGANIZATIONS IN DENTON COUNTY, 1947-1948

Name of Organization	Number of Members
Boy Scouts--Cub Scouts	588
Girl Scouts	250
Campfire Girls	45
Optimist Club (Boys' group)	50
4-H Clubs	
Boys	295
Girls	412
DeMolay	60
Rainbow Girls	<u>100</u>
Total	1800
Total Number of Boys and Girls in Denton County (ages 10-19), 1940 census	6075

Welfare Services for the Families of Denton County

The family group carries out functions that are necessary to the perpetuation of our society. Today the functions of the family are supplemented by the school, the church, the recreation center, and other specialized institutions. Psychiatrists believe that the personality development of any stable adult is dependent upon the fulfillment of the affectionate needs he receives in childhood within the family group. A family which is insecure because of inadequate food, clothing,

shelter, or any other necessities cannot give a feeling of security to its members. The family life of any community is important to the stability of the entire community, and there are factors in the community that strengthen, support, and enrich the life of each family group.

At the First Annual Institute on Small Community Life held at the University of Nebraska in May, 1946, those present concluded that the small community holds certain advantages for family living that are often overlooked in the too ready acceptance of the disadvantages that exist in the small community. They listed ten actual and potential advantages that foster good family life in the small community. Because many of the factors that contribute to good family living in a are hard to isolate as separate entities, we shall list the ten conclusions of the Nebraska conference keeping in mind that these advantages exist in the Denton County community. The conclusions of the conference were:

1. There is greater opportunity for strong and lasting friendships.
2. More opportunities exist for exercising leadership.
3. Non-commercial recreation is more easily provided; there is more space for play.
4. Children are less of an economic liability.
5. There are more opportunities for families to be together and less stratification of age groups.
6. Husband and wife share more daily experiences.

7. Fathers have more time to aid in guidance and discipline of their children.
8. Institutions such as local government, schools, and churches are close to all; governmental representatives are personally known.
9. There is more normal personal growth because everyone is closer to the basic elements in life processes.
10. Results of community service are easily discernable and readily evaluated.¹

A family that does not have the basic necessities of life cannot function adequately. In Denton County the American Red Cross, American Legion Auxiliary, County Commissioners Court, City of Denton--United Charities Association, Veterans Administration, and A. F. of L. Carpenters Union render aid to families in need of the basic necessities.

The American Red Cross supplies funds for basic needs and special needs to veterans or members of the armed forces and their families and emergency relief to all others if there is no other agency to supply relief. The Red Cross workers counsel with people about their family problems and refer them to other local or state agencies. The County Commissioners Court expends county funds to provide for the burial, medical attention, or food and clothing for indigents. The Court has done only a small amount of welfare work in the last few years, and usually refers its cases to other

¹W. C. Meierhenry and Knute O. Broady, "Discussion Guide," First Annual Institute on Small Community Life, May 27-29, 1946, University of Nebraska: Extension Division, 1946, p. 19.

agencies. A committee composed of the mayor of Denton and two business men expend city funds to pay the burial expenses of people who have no family and provide medical aid or other necessities to people who cannot secure aid from other welfare agencies.

The United Charities Association is no longer in existence, but there is still a small fund belonging to the organization in a local bank. This fund is controlled by a committee and on recommendation of the Executive Secretary of the American Red Cross, the committee supplies funds to families in need.

The American Legion Auxiliary maintains a general welfare fund for helping veterans and their families to buy clothing, food, and other necessities. The Carpenter's Union has funds available for needy members of the union. The Veteran's Administration makes government funds available to veterans and their families who are eligible for government benefits.

The churches of Denton County have programs of family welfare and help needy families who are members of the church or families known to members of the church.

The local office of the State Department of Public Welfare administers the money grants of assistance to aged persons and to blind persons who are in need and meet eligibility requirements. To be eligible for Old Age Assistance

a person must be sixty-five years of age or over, a citizen of the United States, have lived in Texas five out of nine years and one year immediately preceeding date of application, not be an inmate of a public institution, and not receiving other public assistance. To be eligible for Aid to the Needy Blind, a person must be twenty-one years of age, a citizen of the United States, have lived in Texas five out of nine years and one immediately preceeding date of application, not be an inmate of a public institution or receiving other public assistance, and have insufficient sight to follow a gainful occupation in which sight is necessary.¹ In March, 1948, 1340 persons received Old Age Assistance in Denton County, with a total expenditure of \$1,053.00, which made an average payment of \$33.95 per recipient.² The field workers in the State Department counsel with persons in need about their eligibility and often refer them to other agencies if they cannot grant them government assistance. They also counsel with those receiving assistance and assist them in making out budgets or in securing assistance for special needs.

A great deal of the welfare service to families in Denton County is administered on the basis of neighborly assistance in time of distress. During the spring of 1948

¹State Department of Public Welfare, op. cit., pp. 7-20.

²These figures were obtained in a personal interview with a field worker in the Denton County office of the State Department of Public Welfare, April 21, 1948.

two families lost their homes because of fire, and the people of Denton collected food, clothing, and money for them. The following items from the local newspaper describe this type of assistance:

Denton is opening its heart, its pocket book, and searching through its clothes closets today as relief items begin to accumulate for the _____ family which lost everything when their home burned.

Several local citizens called the Record-Chronicle with relief items this morning, and the newspaper will accept both money and clothes for the destitute family.

Other collection centers are the Baptist Church, the Red Cross office in the city hall annex, and the city police department.¹

There is referral of family cases among the welfare agencies, church, and club groups in Denton County. The work with underprivileged children in the Kiwanis Children's Clinic often brings families in need of assistance to the attention of welfare workers.

There are many factors in the community which contribute to the well being of each family unit, and it is well to keep the family in mind as health, recreation, and other welfare resources are discussed in subsequent sections of this chapter.

Welfare Services of the Churches of Denton County

Throughout its historic existence the church has contributed many things to the welfare of humanity. It has

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, February 20, 1948.

provided for worship, encouragement in times of distress, discipline of the members of society, education of youth, and the promotion of community welfare. John Gillette states, "The churches almost originated social work ages ago, not as we know it now to be sure, but in the sense of systematic care of the poor and needy."¹ In Denton County the church has been a dominant force in organizing the group life of the community. Each of the early settlements in Denton County soon constructed a church, and in some instances, the towns were established around the church. The church was an integral part of the life of the people, and the ideals of Christianity were practiced in the community. E. F. Bates describes one of these early churches in the county as follows:

The first church house of note was called Holford Prairie Hall. It was about midway of the prairie from east to west and on the north side at a grove that extended out into the prairie. The building was a two-story structure. The Masons occupied the upper story. The lower was used for school and church purposes. All denominations worshipped in it.

To the south on Long Prairie the Presbyterians established a church and camp ground; they called it Flower Mound. Everybody was welcome and an annual camp meeting was held for thirty years.²

Today there are some seventy-seven churches in the county,

¹Rural Sociology (New York: Macmillian Co., 1936), pp. 405-407.

²Bates, op. cit., p. 31.

seventy-four Protestant and three Roman Catholic. There are twenty-two active churches in the city of Denton and fifty-five in other places in the county. Many of the churches outside the city are on a circuit and do not have a resident pastor or regular services.

The welfare programs of the churches may be grouped under the following six headings:

1. Funds collected for foreign missions and aid to the needy of Europe.
2. Funds collected for homes, missions, church hospitals, orphanages, and homes for the aged.
3. Funds and collections for aid to needy families in the town or community, families who are members of the church or families known to members of the church that need assistance.
4. Special collections of food for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and gifts to the needy.
5. Contributions by the church Sunday school classes, and other church groups to clubs or organizations in the community that have welfare programs, such as the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis Club, American Red Cross, and others.
6. Programs and activities for the young people of the church of an educational and recreational character.

A survey of the welfare activities of fourteen churches in Denton shows that ten of the churches mentioned funds for foreign missions and aid, eight mentioned funds for home missions, five mentioned funds for needy families of the local community, eleven mentioned collections for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, and twelve mentioned

activities for young people.¹ Although it was not mentioned in this survey, in interviews with three church workers in Denton, the fact was brought out that transients in need of food, shelter, clothing, or money usually come to the church to seek assistance. The secretary of the First Baptist Church cited an incident of aiding a transient just the week before. A man who was trying to get back to his home in Oklahoma came to the church asking for money to buy food. A church in Dallas had given him a suit of clothing, and the Denton County Chapter of the American Red Cross had provided him with a bus ticket. The First Baptist Church does a great deal of welfare work, and, as it has a large membership, it has many resources to call upon. The Sunday school classes are especially active in the work of collecting food and money to assist people in need. During the spring of 1948 the church collected money, clothing, and household equipment for two families whose homes were destroyed by fire. The Denton Record-Chronicle reported that in aiding the _____ family who lost their home and possessions by fire, the First Baptist Church led in gathering food, clothing, and money to help the family.

The Baptist church secretary told of several instances of work done by the church. One Sunday school class has been bringing a Mexican family near Denton to church, and it has

¹This survey was made by members of a social work class at T.S.C.W. The information was used in compiling a card index directory of social welfare sources in Denton County.

provided them with proper clothing to wear. Women of the church take food and clothing to any family they hear about which is in need. In one case, the mother was ill, and several women of the church took the children and kept them for about a month. One Sunday school class of men has become interested in helping young boys who need extra spending money or proper clothing in order to attend school activities. The church secretary told me of one little boy whose home haircut was so ragged that he was very self-conscious about his appearance. One member of the class paid for a professional haircut for the boy. The Executive Secretary of the Denton County Tuberculosis Association is a member of one of the Sunday school classes, and in her work, she comes into contact with people who need assistance and refers them to members of her class.¹ The church also has a practice of sending flowers and fruit to the aged on holidays, especially to those who live on old age pensions. These stories of assistance and neighborliness could be duplicated in every church in the city of Denton and in many of the churches in the county area.

There is no system of referrals between the churches and other agencies in the town, and the churches reach only those of whom they happen to hear or those who come to the church for aid. In some cases, a family will go to several churches and ask for assistance.

¹Personal Interview, April 13, 1948.

The majority of the churches in Denton have well organized educational and recreational programs for the young people of the church. In considering church activities for young people in Denton, it is well to remember that since many of the church programs are geared to serve the young people in the two colleges, often the activities for the high school and grade school groups are not so extensive as they might otherwise be. The larger churches hold vacation Bible schools for the younger children several weeks each summer.

The statistics show that there are numerous churches outside the city of Denton. Some of these churches are as old as the county and have played a dominant role in the history of the community. Rural sociologists in the last fifteen years have been aware that the life and power of the rural church is declining. They cite as reasons for the decline such factors as rapid transportation, decline of farm ownership, and the migration of the young people to the city. They list the following statements about the conditions of the present-day rural church:

1. There is a maldistribution of churches--some areas have too many to support and other areas have no church facilities. There is often competition between the small churches for members.
2. The church plants are poorly equipped and are ineffective.
3. The pastors are underpaid and often poorly trained.
4. There is a membership shift from the village church to the nearby town or city church.¹

¹Gillette, op. cit., pp. 405-407.

These same conditions may be found in most of the rural churches in Denton County. Ten questionnaires were sent to ministers of churches in the rural areas, asking them to check any of the six welfare activities listed on page 76 in which the congregation, Sunday school classes, or other church groups participate regularly. Seven of these questionnaires were returned, and, when they were tabulated, it was found that six of the churches collected funds for foreign missions, six collected funds for home missions, five had special collections for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, three had collections for needy families of the community, four had contributed to other welfare groups, and all seven had some sort of youth program.

The rector of a Roman Catholic Church wrote the following description of welfare work done by members of his church:

When any of our parishoners are ill and unable to do their farm work, members get together and do it for them. If they need some one to sit up with them, members give their names if they volunteer and the time is appointed for them. If the illness is of long duration, we take up a collection and hire some one to stay with the sick person. After a fire, furniture, clothing, etc. are collected and the home refurnished; after a tornado, the debris was cleared and a temporary home was built.¹

A Methodist minister made the following comment on welfare work in his churches:

The two churches of which I am pastor, _____ and _____ Methodist churches, touch all the fields

¹Personal letter to the author, April, 1948.

of service indicated above in some measure. We are not doing enough of any one of the tasks.¹

The churches of Denton County and the city of Denton are an active force in welfare work, especially in the area of family service, aid to transients, and activities for the young people. Church welfare in Denton County and the city follows the old pattern of Christian charity and neighborly assistance.

Welfare Resources for the Veterans of Denton County

In our society from time to time there may arise groups that have special problems and needs brought about by unusual conditions. The problems may be temporary or they may continue over a period of years. The veteran is an example of one of these groups. The veteran's life has been disrupted by his entrance into the armed services, and the period in which he returns to his home and community is one of adjustment. We should not think of the veteran as a special person or group. He is still a member of a family and community group and needs education, recreation, and health protection as any other citizen. The period of military service may have affected the veteran's life in ways which may make it necessary for him to secure additional counsel and aid before he can again become a functioning member of society. Ever since the citizens of the United States have participated in wars, there have been

¹Personal letter to the author, April, 1948.

organizations to aid them when they return home. When wars became world-wide, the government assumed the responsibility of administering aid to the veterans and their families.

In Denton County the first organization to take a special interest in veterans was organized in 1865. It was the Sul Ross Camp of Confederate Veterans and was organized to perpetuate the comradeship of the veteran and to provide for those in distress. In 1905 the Katie Daffan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was organized in Denton.¹ This group was interested in the welfare of the Civil War veterans in hospitals. The organization is still active and at the present time collects money to send gifts to veterans' hospitals in Texas. After World War I veterans again forced organizations to perpetuate their comradeship, to help those in distress, and to work for legislation to aid the veteran. The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars were the organizations that grew out of World War II. The city of Denton has an American Legion Post, American Legion Auxiliary, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. These groups aid veterans and their families with money, medical aid, and clothing; they send gifts to veterans' hospitals, conduct sales to raise funds for disabled veterans, and carry on Americanization programs. Veterans of both

¹Bates, op. cit., pp. 113-115.

world wars may become members of these groups. The American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS) is an organization similar to the American Legion. It is a social organization for veterans and their families and has taken an active part in discussing and lobbying for legislation in favor of the veterans. The young veterans of Denton have organized an AMVETS post, and the organization was granted a charter in 1948.

At the end of September, 1947, of the total population of the United States, 18,450,000 were veterans, 14,500,000 of them being veterans of World War II.¹ The Veteran's Administration was created by the Congress of the United States to administer the laws enacted by the Congress for the benefits available to former members of the armed services. It is a decentralized agency with regional offices in urban centers and contact offices in the local units. The county contact office of the Veteran's Administration is located in the city of Denton. The staff of this office is available to counsel with the veteran and to aid him in applying for the benefits and services for which he is eligible. Under the laws enacted by Congress, the veteran may receive vocational rehabilitation, education, on-the-job training, loans, life insurance, pensions, hospitalization, medical and dental care, benefits to widows and dependents, and other benefits. The Denton office has a great deal of work with veterans who

¹Jack H. Stipe, "Social Service in the Veteran's Administration," Journal of Social Case Work, February, 1948, p. 43.

are in the local colleges. The staff counsels with the students on matters pertaining to school problems and vocational plans. This office also has charge of the vocational agricultural programs for veterans in the county.

The Denton County Chapter of the American Red Cross is the main agency in the county which supplies the needs of veterans who are ineligible to secure government aid or who need supplementary funds. The Executive Secretary of the local chapter stated that during the past two years the greatest single service rendered by the local chapter was to veterans. During 1947, \$10,272.40 was loaned to ex-servicemen and their families.¹ The Home Service Division of the American Red Cross provides special aid during times of such unusual distress as illness, and it provides for basic maintenance during the period before the family starts receiving government benefits. These funds for special and basic needs may be secured by members of the armed forces, disabled veterans and their dependents, and the dependents of deceased members of the armed forces or veterans. The Home Service Division also assists in communication between the members of armed forces and their families in times of trouble concerning the welfare of the family or member in the armed forces. The Red Cross case worker also may be asked by a commanding officer

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, January 4, 1948.

or hospital executive to secure family or individual case histories concerning veterans or members of the armed forces.¹

These are the outstanding resources in Denton County upon which the veteran may call for aid in solving his problems.

Welfare Resources for the Negro in Denton County

Thus far in the development of social welfare services there has been almost no attention given to the welfare problems of members of minority racial groups. Although the people of these races should be considered as individual personalities and are entitled to all the privileges of any citizen residing in the United States, there still exist social customs, mores, and enacted restrictions which complicate their lives. It is because of these restrictions that it is necessary to consider the welfare resources for the Negro as a separate topic.

The Negro population in Denton County is not very large, with six and five-tenths per cent of the total population of the county being Negro, of which fifty-two per cent live in the city of Denton. The Negroes in Denton live in the southeastern section of the city. They have many small business establishments, six churches, and a grade school

¹Personal Interview, April 31, 1948.

and a high school. The school seems to be the center of activity for the young people. The school is represented on the city-school health council with a health co-ordinator in the school. During the past year the students were given ear and eye examinations and tuberculosis X-rays. The girls in the eighth through the eleventh grades are enrolled in home economics classes. In the four years the girls are given courses in family health, home care of the sick, first aid, clothing instruction, food preparation, and nutrition. The teacher in charge of this program is well educated and has a genuine interest in helping the girls learn how to meet their problems. She attempts to teach the girls to use their knowledge in bettering their home conditions. In a newspaper interview, she stated:

The home life of the girls is improved through their home projects and home life experience classes. Further experience is gained by working after school and on weekends, sewing for others, and using additional skills which they have learned.¹

The school also has an active chapter of New Homemakers of America. The girls in the group attend meetings at other high schools and colleges and enter their work in competitive contests.

There are three troops of Girl Scouts and one troupe of Boy Scouts for Negro boys and girls. The local juvenile

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, February 12, 1948.

officer is in charge of the Boy Scout Troop until he can secure a permanent Negro scout master. Five of the six churches have youth organizations, but the programs are very limited because of a lack of funds and equipment. At the present time facilities for recreation for the young people seem to be the outstanding concern of the Negro leaders. A Negro teacher said they were "hysterical" for a place to hold parties and other social events for the young people. At the present time the only place they have is a theater which is very small. The Business and Professional Women's Club is collecting funds in order to build a recreational center for the young people. Several Negro women have given public teas in order to raise money for the project, and girls from the high school have served at teas and parties in Denton to earn money for the center. One Negro leader expressed the opinion that if they contributed to the fund, they would feel that they had a part in building the center and would feel free to use it.¹

Negro children are eligible for medical aid from the Kiwanis Clinic, and the American Legion Auxiliary aids Negro children to stay in school by providing clothing and other necessities when a case is brought to its attention.

Those families who are eligible may secure assistance from the State Department of Public Welfare, the American

¹Personal Interview, April 26, 1948.

Red Cross, and the Veteran's Administration. The six churches take up collections of food and clothing to aid families in times of emergency. There is a bridge club of young women who send flowers and gifts to aged persons and sick persons. Other family aid may come from white people who know of a family in need of food or clothing.

In April, 1948, the Fred Moore Negro Park was dedicated. This is a city park and covers a twelve-acre tract of land. It provides a place for picnics and ball games.

The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., of Denton is interested in inter-racial church work and each year the women of the church hold a joint meeting with the women of the Negro church. Young people of this church interested in this work direct recreation in the Negro school.

In rural areas the Negroes are widely scattered and have no access to welfare resources. There are eight Negro churches in the rural areas and five elementary schools.

In April, 1948, the city commissioners of Denton authorized advertisements for bids for a new Negro school building. This school building will also include provisions for a public library for Negroes. When plans were being made for the new city-county library, the city commissioners discussed the possibilities of including a reading room in the building for use of the Negro population. At one of the

¹Personal Interview, April 26, 1948.

commission meetings the following statement was made:

_____, a new commissioner, said he thought Negroes would appreciate a public library of their own, "even if it does cost us money." _____ said he was interested in seeing Negroes, as taxpayers, "receive everything they are entitled to."¹

In the weeks following this meeting, several meetings were held with the Negro school officials, other Denton school officials, and city and county commissioners to determine the best plans for the library. It was decided that the library should be included in the new school building. There seems to be an excellent working relationship between the Negro leaders and white civic leaders in the city of Denton in making plans to improve the environmental and social conditions of the Negro in the city.

On the whole welfare resources are inadequate for Negro welfare in Denton County, especially in the areas of family service, short-term financial aid, health and recreation. The situation is not a great deal worse than that of the white population, but whereas the white population can ask for better service, the Negro has very little opportunity to improve his condition. Because of years of social restriction and unequal economical and educational opportunities, there is a lack of trained Negro leaders; therefore, the Negro does not ask for improved laws or larger welfare funds,

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, April 25, 1948.

but takes what is offered. The entire Negro population has no opportunity to articulate its needs, and because the Negroes have a feeling of lower status, they often do not seek available funds or opportunities open to them. At the present time there is an emphasis on the improvement of facilities for the young Negro in Denton. The teachers in the Negro school are interested in the recreational and home life of the young people and are working for improvements in both areas. There are several educated Negro women and men in Denton that seem to understand the problems of the Negro in his present situation. Any welfare programs for the Negro in the smaller community are grossly complicated by the socio-politico-economical factors in our society. As one social worker has said:

The Negro comes to the social agency with a disproportionately large share of the social problems that go hand in hand with poverty. The case worker is frequently handicapped in her efforts to give constructive case work service to the negro by lack of resources, the attitudes of the community, and frequently by her own attitudes.¹

Provisions for Community Health

A community in which the citizens enjoy good health is a happy and productive community. Fifty years ago it was believed that the small towns and open country areas had

¹Faith J. Jones, "The Effects on Case Work Service of Social Factors in the Negro's Life," Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work (New York: Columbia University Press, 1942), p. 480.

no health problems compared to the health problems in the congested and filth-ridden cities. Yet, today, in spite of new scientific discoveries, the death rate from pneumonia, malaria, pellegra, and typhoid fever are higher in the rural areas than in the urban areas. While the rural areas were ignoring health conditions, the urban areas were organizing programs of public health and putting into practice the modern discoveries of medical science. Today the small towns and open country areas are recognizing that their natural abundance of sunshine, fresh air, garden fresh food, and freedom from congested living do not insure health and they are establishing public health programs. In general there is a need for more doctors, dentists, and hospital facilities in the rural areas.

There are several groups in Denton County that are concerned with the health of the community. The Denton County Tuberculosis Association maintains a year around tuberculosis control program. This Association is directed by a board composed of fifty local citizens including local physicians, an Executive Secretary, and a staff nurse. The staff nurse makes home visits to persons suspected of having tuberculosis or persons having active tuberculosis. She may help them to enter a sanatorium, refer the family to other welfare agencies for welfare assistance, or assist in the home rehabilitation of arrested cases of tuberculosis.

In 1947 and 1948 the Association sponsored two mobile X-ray units sent out from the Texas State Health Department. In 1947, 6,357 Denton County citizens received free chest X-rays. The location of the units were arranged so that each unit was within ten or twelve miles of every person in the county. School buses were available to transport persons to the nearest unit. In 1947 the Association also made arrangements for a local physician to attend a one-week refresher course at the Texas Tuberculosis Hospital.

There is a Denton County Chapter of the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis. Each year this organization makes a drive for funds. One half of the proceeds from this drive remains within the county chapter and the other half goes to the headquarters of the National Foundation. The money retained in the local chapter may be used to secure treatment for polio cases in the county. In 1947 seven cases received treatment through the Denton County Chapter at a total expenditure of \$531.18.¹

The Denton County Medical Association is the professional organization of physicians in Denton County. Although they have no welfare program, they are active in working for the improvement of health facilities in the county.

There is a city-county health officer who has certain designated duties designed to protect public health. He is

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, February 8, 1948.

empowered to arrest any person who prevents him from carrying out his official duties. He has the power to detain persons with communicable diseases from going about in public. All physicians are to report deaths and births to him, and he turns over a monthly report to the city and the county. He quarantines all persons with communicable diseases and sees that the vaccination laws are obeyed. Each child who enters public schools must have a certificate from a qualified physician to the city-county health officer certifying that such child has been vaccinated for small pox. He enforces all Texas state sanitation laws in local food establishments. There is a Meat and Dairy Inspector in the City of Denton. Under the supervision of the City Health Officer, he enforces city meat, milk, and dairy ordinances.

The Denton Chamber of Commerce is active in working for improvements of health facilities and in 1947 initiated a county health movement. The Junior Chamber of Commerce has voted funds to buy an oxygen resuscitator unit for the fire department for use in drowning cases, shock cases, and for newborn infants.

At the present time there are two programs under way for the improvement of health facilities in Denton County. There are funds totaling \$675,000 available for the construction of a city-county hospital in the city of Denton.¹

¹This hospital will be named the Flow Memorial Hospital.

One hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the fund came as a grant from the estate of a deceased citizen; \$150,000 came from a bond issue from the county; \$150,000 came from a bond issue from the city, and \$225,000 came from a federal grant. The hospital will be a two-story structure of face brick and hollow tile and will contain sixty or more beds, depending upon the final amount of available funds. At present members of the governing board of the hospital are planning a campaign in Denton County whereby the hospital will be equipped through free-will donations, thus saving more of the federal funds for construction purposes. The present hospital facilities in Denton County provide one bed for every eight hundred persons.¹

Different groups in the city and county interested in the health welfare of the community have been active in the past two or three years in establishing a county health unit. This unit would include a public health director to supervise the general health programs in the city and county, a sanitary engineer, and possibly two county health nurses. In April, 1948, the County Commissioner's Court passed a resolution amending the budget to set up a \$13,500 fund to be used for the unit. The same amount has been requested from the city of Denton, but as yet it has made no definite commitments due to lack of funds. Whenever the funds from

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, February 1, 1948.

the city and county are forthcoming, an application will be made to the Texas State Health Department for an appropriation of \$1.50 per capita for 30,000 population as additional aid for the health unit.

Although Denton County lacks many facilities to insure good health among its citizens, there is a definite recognition of the problem and a movement to improve this situation.

Community Recreation in Denton County

Community recreation is coming to be recognized as a legitimate function of local, state, and national governments. In 1940 the Federal Government was interested in the recreational programs through thirty-two different channels, and in the same year \$65,000,000 was spent by two thousand city governments on public recreation programs.¹ The modern program of community recreation consists of facilities for all age groups in the community in such activities as crafts, music, art, hobbies, dramatics, and sports. Many recreational leaders have written on the value of a well-balanced recreation program as a means of forwarding self-expression and social growth of the individual and the development of a sense of unity with other members of the community. Harold Meyer of the University of North Carolina says:

¹Harold Meyer, "A Preview of Community Recreation," Social Forces, Vol. 20, p. 360.

Community recreation is closely allied with the fundamental social institutions--the family, the school, the church, and the state. Recreational illiteracy is as dangerous, if not more dangerous, than educational illiteracy.¹

Today a well-balanced program of community recreation is essential to any city or community.

The city of Denton has a City Park Board composed of nine members. The members are appointed by the city commission for a three-year term, and no member can serve more than one term. The board is responsible for the administration of the city parks and for the planning and clearing of new park sites. The City Park Board consults with the City Planning Commission about plans for new parks. At the present time there are two city parks in Denton, and tentative plans are being made to add two more in other parts of the city. There is playground equipment, picnic facilities, a bandshell, and softball field in the City Park. The Fred Moore Park for Negroes was dedicated in April, 1948, and at the present time has only picnic facilities. In the City Park there is the Boy Scout Hut, American Legion club house, and the Boys Recreation Center erected by the Optimist Club, and recently, a request has been submitted to the City Park Board for a building for the Civic Boys Choir. The new city-county library will be erected on the edge of the City Park. Members of the Chamber of Commerce work with

¹ Ibid., p. 361.

the City Park Board in planning the summer softball program.¹

In March, 1948, the Chamber of Commerce organized an athletics and sports committee to cooperate and work with all organizations sponsoring any type of athletics. Ten sub-chairmen, representing ten different sports, were appointed to work with the central committee on this program. The Central committee and the sub-committees are composed of two hundred Denton businessmen. In April the committees held a meeting for everyone interested in expanding the city baseball park. Shares in the new baseball park will be sold to as many people as possible, and each shareholder will be paid back the amount of his investment at the end of the season, and any profits will be used for further improvement of the baseball park.

There is a Denton County Fair Association which promotes the annual county fair every fall. At the present time the executive and grounds committee is considering a new and larger site for the fair ground.

There are numerous clubs for women in the city of Denton and in other towns in Denton County. There are study clubs, garden clubs, professional clubs, church auxiliaries and social clubs. There is a City Federation of Women's Clubs, and in March, 1948, a Denton County Federation

¹Personal Interview, May 11, 1948.

of Women's Clubs was organized with club women from Pilot Point, Lewisville, Sanger, and Denton participating in the federation. The City Federation has a meeting house known as the Woman's Club. It is located on the edge of the City Park. The Business and Professional Women's Club has been active this year in collecting funds for a recreational center for Negro youth in Denton.

There are many gaps in the community recreational program in Denton County, but there are several groups in the city of Denton that understand the value of community recreation and are interested in developing wider recreational facilities.

Welfare Resources in the Rural Community

The importance of the contribution of the people in the rural area to the well being of the community cannot be over-emphasized. The rural communities in America are the stronghold of individualistic self-dependence, and the rural family and neighborhood group still exercise considerable social control over their members. Today social change is at work in the rural community breaking down the old isolated life and bringing about an integration between the farm and village. This process of change is altering the structure of the rural society and is bringing forth new problems which must be solved in order to insure a stable community in the future.

Mutual aid among friends, neighbors, and relatives has been the traditional pattern of social welfare in the rural community. The economic crisis of the decade of the thirties brought severe suffering to many farm families, and the resources of local governmental units were not able to maintain adequate educational, health, or social service without aid from the state or federal governments. Government aid brought social welfare services into many rural areas for the first time. Kolb and Brunner estimate that about three or three and a half million rural families received aid from one or more relief agencies during the early part of the 1930's.¹ They also advanced the idea that a social crisis in farm life had been developing for many years and was brought to a climax by the economic crisis. Although many rural families sought and accepted relief during this period, they often did so with reluctance. They believed that the acceptance of relief was a repudiation of their ideas of individual self-dependence.

Welfare work in the rural community is unorganized and diffused among family and neighborhood groups; therefore, it is difficult to present a complete description of welfare work in the rural area of Denton County. Many of the agencies that will be mentioned do not give direct relief but are

¹J. H. Kolb and Edmund de S. Brunner, A Study of Rural Society (New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1946), p. 610.

organized to aid the farmers and ranchers to improve the productivity of their farms. These farm programs often have several interrelated purposes, namely, economic aid, recreation, health, and education. The federal government has taken the lead and established agencies to carry out programs of economic and social betterment. Many of the agencies established during the depression decade are still functioning, although their activities have been modified to some extent.

In 1910 an agricultural sub-station was established five miles west of the city of Denton. In 1936 the state agronomist was assigned to the station.¹ Experiments with various grains and soils are made by the agronomist in order to develop varieties of grains that are adaptable to the local soil and climate.

In 1935 a Civil Conservation Corps unit was established near the city of Denton to carry out soil conservation projects. In the same year the Denton County Soil Conservation Association was organized. Today there is a Denton-Wise Conservation District directed by a District Conservationist.² This organization is a bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture. The district is divided into work units with a supervisor in each unit. Five supervisors, one from each of the commissioner's

¹Cowling, op. cit., Chapter III.

²The District Conservationist is a trained technician.

precincts in Denton County and one from Wise County, are elected by the landowners to handle the conservation affairs of the districts. These supervisors and the governmental agricultural assistants in the county draw up a District Program and Work Plan. The board of supervisors, keeping this District Program in mind, approve or reject all requests for assistance.¹ Work unit conservationists are stationed in several areas in the county to work with the farmers on specific conservation projects. These trained leaders speak to the farmers at mass meetings and disseminate scientific information from state and federal bureaus and experimental stations. State or federal technicians often visit the local projects and offer their counsel and advice. These projects are based on group action. The following statement from the Denton Record-Chronicle shows the importance of group action:

These hazards can most easily be stopped by the concentrated action of small groups of farmers who band themselves together and work with one another. These groups of farmers work together to put on their farms the practices which they themselves with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service technicians assisting the district have planned as a coordinated soil conservation program

Other reasons for group action include the exchange of ideas in getting the job done, trading of labor and equipment in establishing conservation practices, and the natural pride in improving all the farms within the group.²

According to a report in February, 1948, the technicians had

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, March 7, 1948.

²Ibid.

completed farm and ranch plans for 195,632 acres on 733 farms since its establishment.¹

Another government agency interested in the improvement of farm production is the Agricultural Conservation Association of the Production and Marketing Association of the United States Department of Agriculture. This agency was originally known as the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and came into existence when Congress passed the Agricultural Adjustment Act in 1933 to deal with farm surpluses. Until 1938 the work of the agency was administered by the county agricultural agent. In that year the Administration was set up as a separate agency headed in each county by a farmer elected by the county Agricultural Conservation Committee. This committee composed of farmers and ranchers is responsible for the administration of this program within the county unit. The local office is operated by a county administrator and directed by the Agricultural Conservation Committee.² The original program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration was concerned with acreage allotments and marketing quotas for surplus farm commodities, but since that time the program has developed into a farm improvement program with emphasis on soil and water conservation. The local office assists farmers

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, February 1, 1948.

²The Denton County committee is composed of sixty-six farmers, three each from twenty-two blocks, in addition to a three-man county committee. Denton Record-Chronicle, February 1, 1948.

and ranchers in executing conservation plans and handles government commodity loans through which farmers are guaranteed 90 to 90½ per cent of parity price for certain agricultural products.¹ In 1947 farmers were furnished \$115,000 of assistance through the local office for conservation work on 64,971 acres of cropland and 43,190 acres of pasture land. For the 1948 program the local office has \$66,200 available for carrying out thirteen conservation projects.²

The Farmers Home Administration is another federal agency organized to aid farmers. Originally known as the Farm Security Administration, this agency was created in 1937 to provide emergency funds to low-income farm families. These loans provided funds for seed, fertilizer, and other equipment. Today loans are granted for conservation supplies and other improvement equipment. The Denton County office of the Farmers Home Administration is located in the city of Denton.

The State Extension Service is a program organized to bring about improvements in rural living conditions. This work emerged out of the land-grant college program established under the Morrill Act of 1862 and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. The agricultural extension program has been called the largest and best financed program of adult education in existence.³

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, April 23, 1948.

²Ibid.

³Kolb and Brunner, op. cit., p. 484.

The program is organized and subsidized by the United States Department of Agriculture, the State Agricultural College, and the county government. Kolb and Brunner makes the following statement concerning the aim of this service:

The aim of the Extension Service is to educate the farmers and their wives in all the facets of their occupations; it is practical to the core, such education being both technological and commercial. The Extension Service fulfills its aim by assimilating and disseminating the technical data and research discoveries of the colleges of agriculture and their experiment stations, through the state specialists who relay it by way of county agents to the ultimate consumers, the farmer and his wife.¹

There is a county agricultural agent, an assistant county agricultural agent, a home demonstration agent and an assistant home demonstration agent in Denton County. These agents help farmers and their wives carry out farm and home improvement projects, disseminate information from state and federal agencies, and act as consultants on farm problems. The Home Demonstration Clubs for farm women provide recreational as well as educational activities. There are sixteen Home Demonstration Clubs in Denton County with a total membership of four hundred and two women. The work of these clubs is coordinated by a Home Demonstration Council with representatives from each club on the Council. The County Agents also sponsor and organize 4-H Clubs for the young people. Through various projects the 4-H Club program provides young people opportunities for individual personality development, recreation,

¹Ibid., p. 485.

and education. There are fifteen 4-H Clubs for boys and nineteen 4-H Clubs for girls in Denton County with a total membership of seven hundred and seven boys and girls.¹

The District Four Headquarters of the Extension Service is located in the city of Denton. The two district agents in this office supervise and correlate the work of seventeen county agents and eight assistant agents.

The work of the various agricultural agencies in Denton County is coordinated through the United States Department of Agriculture Council. This council is made up of representatives of all the agencies in the county working under the supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture, related agencies, and the vocational agricultural instructors from the high schools. At the monthly council meeting a representative from each agency gives a short report of the work of this agency.

In Denton County there are several other associations whose purpose is to promote the study of new agricultural methods of improving the quantity and quality of farm production. The membership of these associations is composed of farmers, livestock growers, business and professional men interested in agriculture, and the government agricultural agents and administrators in the county. Some of these associations are the Denton County Artificial Insemination Association,

¹These statistics on membership were obtained from the District Four Office of the Extension Service in Denton.

Denton County Cow Testing Association, Denton County Live Stock Association, Denton County Pedigreed Seed Association, the Farm Bureau, and the Agriculture and Live Stock Committee of the Denton Chamber of Commerce.

There are seven independent school districts, two rural high schools, and eleven common school districts in Denton County. There is a school lunch room project in six of the independent schools, and in thirteen of the common schools. During the past year an extensive health program, similar to the one carried on in the Denton Public School system, was carried out in the common schools.¹

Five of the high schools in Denton County have vocational home economics and agricultural trainings programs. These groups are organized into two organizations, the Future Homemakers of America and the Future Farmers of America. The Future Homemakers study homemaking and carry out projects of personal and home improvement. The Future Farmers are sponsored by the Federal Office of Education under the Vocational Agriculture Service. The local chapters are organized through the high school vocational agriculture departments. The students enrolled in the agriculture classes use their own home farms as laboratories, applying skills they learn in their school work. They raise fat calves, chickens, and pigs

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, February 1, 1948.

for showing at county and state agricultural and livestock shows. The following statement taken from the local newspaper presents a picture of these two organizations at work:

And once a year it is father-son night for the largest Future Farmers of America Chapter in Texas. At the community building in Pilot Point nearly one hundred automobiles nose the curb. While high school teen-agers, the future homemakers, flit about inside doing last minute tasks around the food-laden tables, out front fathers are speaking to one another with pride of the newly terraced pasture land, of registered calves raised on a planned feeding schedule. Their pride is not in themselves and their own accomplishments, but in their sons.¹

There are Parent-Teacher Associations in several of the towns and communities in the rural area. The members of these groups raise money to buy equipment for the schools. In the last ten years the Parent-Teacher Association in Lewisville has brought equipment for the home economics department in the high school, a radio for the high school and books for the school library.²

The Denton County library has a Bookmobile unit. Each week, during the school year, the unit supplies books and visual aid films to eighteen schools in the county. The Denton Kiwanis Club recently gave the unit a new sixteen millimeter projector.³

There are civic and social clubs in Lewisville, Pilot point, Sanger, and the other small towns that have an interest

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, March 28, 1948.

²Denton Record Chronicle, April 25, 1948.

³Personal Interview, April 26, 1948.

in civic and community improvement. In Sanger the women who belong to the Wednesday Study Club have contributed funds to buy high school equipment, collected food for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, and brought books for the elementary school library. The members of the Lions Club in Sanger and Lewisville sponsor and support the Boy Scouts, Future Farmers of America, as well as, buy equipment for the schools. The business and professional men in Pilot Point belong to a Booster's Club which carries out community improvement projects.

A youth center has been established in Lewisville in the past eight months. This center was organized under the leadership of the pastors and members of the churches in Lewisville. It is open two nights each week with different church people as sponsors.¹

Today we are beginning to understand that higher prices for farm commodities is not the only answer to a better rural society. The people who live in the rural areas must learn to plan and use their available resources to the best advantage. The government agencies are attempting to help the farmer learn how to improve his farm and his home. James J. Maddox has said that the government programs have refuted the idea that farmers, especially tenant farmers, would not help themselves. He said that in the past the social isolation

¹Denton Record-Chronicle, March 28, 1948.

of farm life has brought a sense of discouragement, despair, and resentment to the farmer and his family.¹

The farm improvement program in Denton County seems to be well organized and well accepted by the farmers and ranchers. In many areas of social welfare there is a lack of facilities for farm families, but there is an active group of farm leaders who are working to improve the facilities.

Aid to Transients

Transients in need of food, shelter, or money usually stop at a church in Denton. When interviewed, a church worker of the First Methodist Church said the pastor of the church usually talked to the transients and helped them to obtain assistance. The American Red Cross also aids transients. In order to receive aid from the Red Cross the person must have a definite destination.

Employment

There is an office of the Texas Employment Compensation Commission located in the city of Denton. The manager of the office registers all workers for jobs and secures job orders from employers and tries to match the two. Claims for state unemployment compensation are filed in this office, and the manager investigates the claims and reports the information

¹"The Farm Security Administration in the Southern Community," Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work (New York: Columbia University Press, 1942), p. 114.

to the state office. Information about farm jobs may be secured from the County Agricultural Agent.

Safety

The local American Red Cross sponsors one of the biggest water safety programs in the state of Texas. Each spring and summer they sponsor courses in beginning, intermediate, and advanced swimming, senior life saving, and the instructor's course in water safety. First aid courses are taught throughout the year. Twenty-one bus drivers for Denton County schools took first aid courses during 1947. Home accident prevention courses have been taught for the past three years in the Denton High School.

Other Agencies

Besides the local organization and agencies, services of twenty-nine public and thirty private, and six federal agencies are available to the citizens of Denton County. Assistance from these groups is usually obtained through a local club or agency.¹

Summary

Welfare services in Denton County seem to emerge from the following sources: civic, fraternal, and social clubs, professional organizations, churches, governmental agencies (city, county, state, and federal), and organized welfare agencies.

¹A list of these agencies may be found in the Appendix.

No attempt was made to evaluate the service of any group in the county. The chart on page 112 summarizes the sources of welfare services in Denton County.

TABLE VII
WELFARE SERVICE IN DENTON COUNTY

	Service to Children and Youth	Family Service and Family Relief	Community Health	Community Recreation	Service for Veterans	Welfare Service in the Rural Community
Social Clubs with Civic Purposes	Booster's Club Kiwanis Club Optimist Club Rotary Club Lions Club					Lions Club Rotary Club Kiwanis Club Booster Club
Professional Associations	Business and Professional Women		Denton County Medical Association	Business and Professional Women		
Public Organizations (city, county, state, federal)	Parent-Teacher Association Public School System County Library	County Commissioners Court City of Denton United Charities Veterans Administration	City Health Department Veterans Administration	City Park Board	Texas Employment Commission Veterans Administration	A.A.A. County Agriculture Agent County Home Demonstration Agent Soil Conservation Service Farmer's Home Security Experimental Station
Organized Welfare Agencies (public and private)	State Department of Public Welfare Boy Scouts of America Girl Scout Council Campfire Girls	American Red Cross State Department of Public Welfare	American Red Cross Denton County Tuberculosis Association		American Red Cross	American Red Cross State Department of Public Welfare
Cultural and Social Clubs	Shakespeare Club Wednesday Study Club 20th Century Club	Wednesday Study Club				
Veterans' and Patriotic Societies	American Legion American Legion Auxiliary	American Legion American Legion Auxiliary			American Legion American Legion Auxiliary AMVETS Veterans of Foreign Wars Daughters of the Confederacy	
Religious Groups Churches	Friendship House Cumberland Orphanage Youth programs in the churches	Churches of Denton County				
Business Associations	Denton Chamber of Commerce Junior Chamber of Commerce	Denton Chamber of Commerce A. F. of L. Carpenters Union	Denton Chamber of Commerce Junior Chamber of Commerce	Denton Chamber of Commerce		Denton Chamber of Commerce Denton County Pedigreed Seed Association
Fraternal Organizations	DeMolay Rainbow Girls					

CHAPTER IV

SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION IN DENTON COUNTY

Introduction

In Chapter I the scope and purpose of the social welfare organization process was discussed and defined. In Chapter III the welfare structure of Denton County was described in order to show what social welfare resources are available in the community to assist individuals in satisfying their needs. The purpose of this chapter is to show the objectives and methods of the social welfare organization process as they operate in the Denton County welfare structure.

The primary objective of this process is to bring about and maintain a more effective adjustment between social welfare resources and social welfare needs. The Lane Committee in 1939 listed six secondary objectives of this process.

These secondary objectives are:

1. To secure and maintain an adequate factual basis for sound planning and action.
2. To initiate, develop, and modify welfare programs and services, in the interest of attaining a better adjustment between resources and needs.
3. To improve standards of social work and to increase the effectiveness of individual agencies.
4. To improve and facilitate inter-relationships and to promote coordination between organization, groups and individuals concerned with social welfare programs and services.

5. To develop a better public understanding of welfare problems and needs, and social work objective programs and methods.
6. To develop public support of and public participation in social welfare activities. Financial support includes income from tax funds, voluntary contributions and other sources.¹

These objectives are attained through specific activities carried on by agencies which specialize in social welfare organization or which are a part of the welfare program of the individual agency or organization. In the past twenty years, two agencies have developed in which the social welfare organization process is the primary function. These agencies are the community chest and the council of social agencies. These are agencies concerned with fulfilling the six objectives listed above. Other organizations that perform some of the social welfare organization functions are: social service exchanges, joint intake bureaus, case conferences, information and referral bureaus, community councils, and neighborhood councils. In other communities the coordination of welfare resources is accomplished through informal discussions and informal referrals between social workers and other welfare workers.

McMillen states that agencies engaged in this work operate either at the treatment level or at the program level. At the program level, social welfare organization is concerned with fact-finding and interpretation of those

¹McMillen, op. cit., p. 41.

methods that seek to improve the entire welfare program. At the treatment level, social welfare organization is concerned with such devices as the social service exchange which is used to facilitate co-ordination of social work services.¹ Fact-finding programs, public relations programs, fund-raising methods, and social action committees are illustrative of social welfare organization activities.

Denton County Chapter of the Texas Welfare Association

This is the only organized group in the county that carries out social welfare organization at the program level. The Texas State Welfare Association was organized in 1910 and has been in continuous existence since that time. The purpose of this organization is to provide an opportunity for the planned and integrated discussion of the problems of social welfare, to further state and local interest and participation in social welfare work, and to stimulate social action concerning welfare problems. The State Association directs studies to determine the effectiveness of the state health and welfare departments and makes recommendations for the improvement and extension of these departments by legislative acts. It also sponsors conferences on health and welfare problems, sponsors training institutes for social workers in the state, and offers the services of its administrative staff to any group or agency that would like to improve the cooperation

¹Ibid., pp. 321-323.

and coordination between resources and needs in their community. The Texas State Welfare Association, as a state planning and coordinating body, is instrumental in the betterment of social welfare service throughout the entire state. Membership in the Association is open to any social welfare agency, professional social workers, or lay persons interested in social welfare who pay the stipulated amount of dues.

The work of the State Association is directed by an Executive Council, an Executive Board, and an Administrative Staff. In order to enlarge public and professional interest in and knowledge of social welfare, the State Association encourages the organization of local autonomous units. The state of Texas is divided into nineteen regions, with a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary-treasurer, and administrative committees in each region. The regional organization aids the county chairmen in the execution of the local program. It also passes information from the State Association to the county unit, which, in turn, disseminates the information to the people in the county. The regions are further subdivided into county and chapter associations. The local associations may be organized in either of two ways. The county may have officers and local representatives in the community without having an organized group that holds regular meetings; or the county may be organized into a county chapter. The chapter is an organized group with purposes and programs in conformity

with those of the state organization. The chapter form of organization is the better of the two plans, and the State Association hopes that all counties will have chapter organizations in time. There are two hundred and forty-two local organizations, twelve of which are chapter organizations.¹

The Denton County Chapter of the Texas Social Welfare Association was organized in January, 1945, in the city of Denton. Basically, the Chapter is an association of all persons interested in any or all fields of health and welfare. It should serve as a basic educational force in the community, educating the people to recognize needs. It provides a medium for selecting certain problems and concentrating all energy, interest, and attention on these rather than letting resources become diffused over too many problems. Students in the field of social welfare organization stress the importance of the education of the lay citizen as the first step toward the improvement of social welfare.²

The local Association was organized according to the pattern set up by the State Association. The officers are: chairman, co-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and four administrative committees. The officers and chairmen of the committees and the immediate past president make up the Executive Board.

¹Handbook of the Texas Social Welfare Association
(Austin: Texas Social Welfare Association, 1946), pp. 58-65.

²McMillen, op. cit., Chapter IX.

At the present time, the Denton County Association is in a state of re-organization. According to the new plan, the same executive officers will be retained, but special committees will assume the main responsibility for carrying on the activities of the Association. The chairman and co-chairman will appoint committees, as needed, to co-ordinate and plan improvements in the welfare work of the county. These committees will cooperate with existing committees from other organizations in carrying out various welfare improvement projects. No definite decision has been made as to how many times the Association will hold meetings. It has been recommended that quarterly meetings of the entire membership be held, at which the chairman of each committee will report on the work of his committee. At the present time, two special committees have been organized according to this plan. Under this plan of organization, the local Association would become more of an action group and thus extend its influence into community affairs.

The local Association has endeavored to build up a membership of representatives from the civic clubs and church groups in Denton County. The following report on membership was made at a Chapter meeting:

Miss _____, chairman of the membership committee, reported that the committee has talked with each minister and service club in Denton, and invited each church and club to send a representative to meet with the chapter.¹

¹Minutes of the Denton County Social Welfare Association, November, 1945.

At least twenty-five per cent of the members of a local chapter must be members in good standing in the state Association. During the past three years, the program of the Denton County Social Welfare Association has centered on bringing about co-ordination and planning of welfare services in the county by educating community leaders as to the aims, purposes, and needs of welfare work. When the Association was first organized, the plan was to have a representative from each club, association, or agency in the county give a report of the welfare work of his group at the monthly meeting. In this manner, information would be disseminated to all county groups interested in welfare programs. The Denton County Social Welfare Association seeks to develop a nucleus of citizens who understand welfare work and who are prepared to advocate needed improvements in the community's social services.

Students in the field of social welfare organization believe that the collection of factual data is the basis for all social planning and social action. Many of the improvement programs discussed by the local Association have been based upon fact-finding surveys. In 1946, a special committee was appointed to encourage the study of the possibilities of establishing a community chest and a city-county welfare council in Denton County, and in 1947, the possibilities of establishing a social service exchange were studied.

In connection with this project, a card index directory of the welfare resources in the county was compiled. The names and addresses of officers, meeting places, welfare chairman, and the welfare activities of the organizations and agencies were listed in the file. In December, a committee composed of the area supervisor of the State Department of Public Welfare, executive secretary of the American Red Cross, and secretary of the Kiwanis Club formulated tentative plans for establishing a social service exchange in Denton.¹

The local Association also has been active in discovering welfare needs in the county and in discussing ways of developing resources to meet these needs. Welfare needs have been the topic of discussion in Association meetings for the past four months. The needs in eight different areas of social welfare were discussed by local citizens who had some contact with the work in these areas. The aim of this fact-finding program is to discover and present the facts, thus preparing the way for other groups in the community to take steps to improve the situation. Under the new committee plan, the local Association seems to be taking an active part in securing better welfare services in the community. During a recent movement to obtain city and county appropriations for a health unit, members of the Denton County Social Welfare Association took an active role in securing the support of

¹The report of this committee may be found in the Appendix.

the club groups, professional associations, and the city and county health units.

The Denton County Social Welfare Association is a positive educational force in the community for bringing about a better understanding of social welfare service. Ultimate success of this group will be in proportion to the extent to which persons interested in one type of need or one type of agency are able to see this problem and this agency in proper relation to the welfare program of the whole community.

Social Welfare Organization Activities in Denton County Welfare Agencies and Organizations

The activities that compose the social welfare organization process may also be secondary functions in welfare agencies or in organizations carrying on social welfare programs. The functions are usually necessary to the maintenance and continuance of their program. In Denton County, each welfare agency or group participating in welfare work carries out its own public relations programs, fact-finding surveys, fund-raising campaigns, and referrals. A few examples of these activities in the programs of the larger welfare organizations in Denton County will be discussed. These activities are important because they make a foundation for social welfare organization agencies.

These activities are interrelated. A publicity campaign often is part of the fund-raising drive, and the discovery of facts about social needs in the community may be the reason for the fund drive.

Fact-Finding.--The collection of data should be one of the first steps in programs of social planning.

In December, 1947, the Organization Committee of the Girl Scout Council, with the assistance of the executive director, made a survey of all girls between the ages of seven and nineteen years in the Denton Public School system. The purpose of this survey was to discover how many girls were members of a Girl Scout troop or a Campfire group, how many would like to be members, and reasons why some members had become inactive. The data from this survey were used in planning an expansion of the Girl Scout program in Denton. The form used in making this survey is shown on page 123.¹

Publicity.--An important step in the process of the improvement or expansion of social welfare, either on the agency level or on the community level, is the public relations program. An agency may collect facts and formulate programs of actions, but unless it is able to obtain the interest and support of the citizens of the community, the program's chances of survival are limited.

The purposes of a public relations program are: to interpret and disseminate facts about social welfare problems,

¹Personal Interview, June 16, 1948.

FORM USED IN A GIRL SCOUT SURVEY IN DENTON

Name of the School

Grade	Number of Scout Members	Number who would like to be members	Number of Campfire Girls	Name of the teacher	Comments (Number who were Scout members but who are not now)

needs, and objectives to the lay citizen; to modify attitudes in favor of social betterment programs or to create attitudes where none exist; to arouse an interest in social welfare programs; and to motivate action and participation in the improvement and extension of welfare services.

The welfare groups in Denton usually carry out publicity campaigns in connection with their fund-raising drives. For this purpose, they use newspaper publicity, radio announcements, special letters and bulletins to their members, and speakers. For illustration, the publicity activities will be discussed of two groups in Denton, the Methodist Friendship House and the Denton Girl Scouts.

There is no special group or person in charge of publicity for Friendship House. Stories about the activities of the House often appear in The Methodist Messenger, a weekly bulletin published by the First Methodist Church. The bulletin is sent to the members of the church. From time to time, special letters are sent out to church members who are especially interested in the work of Friendship House. These letters help to keep alive the interest of church members in the House.¹ Further publicity is gained through civic clubs, which often invite the director of Friendship House to speak at their meetings.

¹One of these letters may be found in the Appendix.

On the other hand, the public relations work for the Girl Scouts of Denton is handled by the public relations committee and the Executive Director. This committee is composed of seven members, each member being in charge of a certain phase of publicity, such as, newspaper publicity, radio publicity, speakers, and special letters. At the present time, the Executive Director is planning a year-round public relations program.¹

Other groups in the county such as, the Kiwanis Club, American Red Cross, 4-H Clubs, and other groups use various types of publicity.² The public relations programs in Denton County welfare groups are sporadic in nature and as such do not exert much influence in bringing about a better understanding of welfare work.

Fund-Raising for Welfare in Denton County.--The financial campaign of any organization is very important, because people are interested in how they spend their money. Citizens of a community may use their power of withholding funds as a method of shutting out inferior agencies, building up promising agencies, or bringing about the establishment of new services: Kathryn Close makes the following comments about fund-raising:

Faced with the request for funds from innumerable agencies and conscious that this is a time of crisis, the average giver digs deeper into his pocket than ever before. Somewhere along the line he finds it necessary

¹Personal Interview, June 12, 1948.

²Examples of publicity used by these groups may be found in the Appendix.

to say 'no.' To see that his 'no' comes as a part of a thoughtful process and not just at the point where his money runs out is an educational job which perhaps can best be accomplished at the community level.¹

This statement illustrates the need for factual data and the interpretation of facts to the public through a well-planned publicity program.

There is no central fund-raising agency in Denton County. Each agency or organization raises its own funds through drives, membership fees, and special collections, of which the fund-raising drive of the American Red Cross will be used as an example.

For the last few years, the Denton County Chapter of the American Red Cross has held its annual fund-raising drive in March. In 1948 the quota to be raised was \$14,000, \$10,000 of which was to be raised in the city of Denton and \$4,000 in the rural areas. The drive was directed by a county chairman. The city of Denton was divided into fifteen zones with from one to fifteen volunteer workers in each zone, directed by a zone chairman. In the sections outside the city, one or two chairmen directed the drive in their town or community.

This year a pledge payment plan was used. Under this plan, contributions could be spread over a four-month period. The contributor signed a pledge card which showed both the amount of his contribution in cash and the amount

¹"Direction for Giving," Survey Midmonthly, October, 1945, p. 70.

of his pledge. If he signed the pledge card, he automatically authorized the Red Cross office to draw the stipulated amount from his bank account on the first of April, May, June, and July or to send him monthly statements. Each person who contributed was asked to sign a fund card which was filed in the local Red Cross office.

In the city of Denton the campaign was launched by "kick-off breakfasts," which were given by the zone chairmen. At these breakfasts, the chairman distributed work kits to the volunteer workers and sent them out on their first contacts. Reports from the zones were made to the Red Cross office on Wednesday and Friday mornings throughout the month of March.¹

Fund-raising methods may be used by an agency to further its community relationships and by the citizen to mold social welfare service according to his philosophy of welfare work. The fund-raising drives of the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Kiwanis Club, and the other larger groups follow this pattern.

Referral and Information Services in Denton County.--The establishment of central referral and information bureaus dealing with social welfare cases is one of the newest services of organized welfare. The war years brought an increased

¹Personal Interview, May 23, 1948.

number of problems to many people, and communities established these bureaus to provide an easier access to social welfare and health agencies.

In the city of Denton, the American Red Cross maintains an information and referral service. This work is executed by the Executive Secretary who often refers those who come to her office to other local agencies and organizations and state agencies. When interviewed, she told the story of a woman who had been in her office this morning. The woman had come to her office seeking information about the possible placement of her crippled uncle. To aid her the Executive Secretary called a state department official about a state home placement, a local citizen who was on the board of a private home, and the local office of the State Department of Public Welfare about the possibility of a pension.

The Executive Secretary also gives information concerning requirements for government benefits and services to veterans and their families.¹

The workers in the local office of the State Department of Public Welfare give those who apply for assistance a great deal of information about the eligibility requirements and provisions of the state assistance program. One of the

¹Personal Interview, April 27, 1948.

workers in the local office stated that an effort is made to keep the civic clubs and other local groups informed about the state assistance program.¹

Many people do not realize that employees of public agencies cannot promote legislation for the improvement of welfare services, and it is up to unofficial groups to carry on social action in this field.

Community Leadership.--Students and workers in the field of social welfare organization believe that the interest and participation of the citizens of a community are essential to any plan for the improvement of the welfare program. At the First Conference on Social Welfare Needs and the Workshop of Citizen's Groups held in Washington, D. C. in January, 1948, Leonard L. Mayo made the following statements:

Citizen participation is essential to the proper direction, development, and extension of health and welfare services in every community in the land.

The record clearly shows that without it adequate progress in the development of social services has never been made in a single community. Our faith in the democratic process increases as our effective participation increases.²

Although they do not realize it, citizens participate in the development of social welfare programs when they vote, pay taxes, or contribute to welfare funds in their clubs or churches. Other citizens participate by serving on

¹Personal Interview, April 21, 1948.

²"Hometown Goes to Washington," Survey, March, 1948, p. 72.

the executive boards of welfare agencies or on welfare service committees of clubs. These board or committee members usually carry out one or more of the following functions:

1. They choose, supervise, and remove agency executives.
2. They make provisions for the financial and physical setting needed to carry out the work of the agency.
3. They give prestige to the agency program.
4. As community leaders they become interpreters of the welfare program of the agency to the community and interpret community attitudes back to agency workers.
5. They formulate the policies which govern the programs of the agency.¹

The welfare programs in Denton County are planned and executed by boards and committees composed of local citizens. From general observation of the membership of these welfare boards and committees, they do not seem to be dominated by a few key leaders. In a brief survey of the membership of the welfare committees in the Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club, the executive committee of Friendship House, the executive boards of the American Red Cross, and the Girl Scout Council, it was revealed that of the one hundred and twenty-nine persons serving on these boards and committees, only three of them were members of more than one group. This diversity brings more people in contact with welfare work, but it also makes co-ordination more difficult.

¹Ralph A. Vihlein, "The Board Member in a Private Agency," Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work (New York: University of Columbia Press, 1941), p. 618.

Trained social workers can interpret welfare aims, needs, and standards to the community through board members. The lack of trained social workers in the county limits the influence that members of local boards and committees might have on the development of welfare. Only one executive in Denton mentioned that she was trying to carry out a program of education for board members.

There are many social clubs, civic clubs, and special interest organizations in Denton County. McMillen says that the natural cohesion within groups makes them potentially useful instruments for the dissemination of information and for the promotion of welfare programs.¹

Opinions of Denton County Leaders Concerning Social Welfare Organization Activities

Throughout this study, it has been evident that the welfare work in Denton County is directed, supported, and, in many instances, expended by persons who have had no professional training in social work. Changes in the welfare structure of Denton County will come about through the influence of these lay leaders.

A questionnaire was sent to fifty people in Denton County who have participated in local welfare work in the past five years. The questionnaire was designed to sample the opinions of some of the community leaders about specific

¹McMillen, op. cit., p. 254.

social welfare organization activities and about methods that might be used in bringing about a coordination of welfare resources in Denton County. Thirty of the questionnaires were returned and were used in the tabulation.

Of those who answered, 70 per cent indicated that they thought of social welfare work as a means of strengthening the community by keeping each family group a secure unit and not as a way to provide relief to those in poverty, while 30 per cent thought social welfare work included both of these functions.

TABLE VIII

OPINIONS OF THIRTY DENTON COUNTY CITIZENS
CONCERNING WELFARE PUBLICITY

	Yes	No
Do you believe there is a need for more publicity about actual welfare work accomplished in the city and county?	86.6%	13.3%

Table VII shows that 86.6 per cent believed there was a need for more publicity about the welfare work of local organizations.

In considering community leaders, 73.3 per cent thought that very few of the social and civic leaders in Denton County had an adequate knowledge of the aims and

purposes of social welfare work, 20 per cent believed that an average number of the leaders had adequate knowledge, and 6 per cent believed that a majority of the leaders had adequate knowledge of welfare work.

TABLE IX

OPINIONS OF THIRTY DENTON COUNTY CITIZENS
CONCERNING COMMUNITY LEADERS

	Leaders		Average No. of
	Majority of	Very few of	
Do you think there is an understanding and adequate knowledge concerning the aims, purposes, and needs of welfare work by the leaders?	6%	73.3%	20.0%

The answers to the questions on fund-raising methods revealed that 53.3 per cent thought organizations such as the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts should raise their own funds, 40 per cent thought the funds should be raised through a community chest, 6 per cent did not answer, and none thought that the funds should come from the government. On another question, 66.6 per cent indicated that they believed that the community chest was a democratic way of fund-raising and fund dispersing, while 30 per cent were doubtful, and 3 per cent indicated that they did not believe the chest was a democratic method.

The questions concerning methods of bringing about better coordination and planning in Denton County welfare work were divided into three topics, namely: the work of the Denton County Social Welfare Association, the establishment of a social service exchange in Denton, and other methods of coordination that might be applicable in Denton County.

Of those who answered, 83.8 per cent indicated that they believed that there is a lack of interest in the local Welfare Association. Table VIII shows that 66.6 per cent indicated that this interest lag was due to a lack of publicity about the organization, 53.5 per cent believed there are too many other clubs and associations in Denton County to insure the support of the newer organizations, and 26.6 per cent indicated that they believed people do not have time to attend the meetings. Some of the comments on the Denton County Welfare Association were: "It has not had a program." "It has not been representative enough." "Lack of vital efforts." "Publicity of the right sort would arouse interest, and interested folks will find time to do what they want to do." "I think we need more action and less talk and theory in our welfare work. I attended a number of meetings to discuss the needs of Denton. Everyone agreed on the needs and how they could be met, but not one thing was done about it. I want action, not talk." And, "I think the welfare association should not be put in a class with clubs and organization."

TABLE X

OPINIONS OF THIRTY DENTON COUNTY CITIZENS CONCERNING REASONS FOR A LACK OF INTEREST IN THE DENTON COUNTY SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Reason	Per Cent
Not enough publicity about the organization	66.6
Too many other clubs in Denton	53.3
People do not have time to attend the meetings	26.6
Others	16.6
No answer	3.0

Of those who answered, 63.6 per cent objected to the establishment of a social service exchange. Forty-three and three-tenths per cent of this group objected on the grounds that there would be no way to finance an exchange at the present time, 16.6 per cent believed that people would object to having their names recorded, and 10 per cent objected because they believed there was not enough welfare work done in Denton to warrant an exchange.

Five possible plans for bringing about coordination between welfare resources and welfare needs in Denton County were presented in the questionnaire. Those answering the questionnaire were asked to indicate their first and second choices from among these plans. The five plans were as follows:

- A. A well organized, active Denton County Chapter of the Social Welfare Association, with a membership large enough to carry out a program of fact-finding, social action, and public education.
- B. An organized Community Chest agency with a paid executive.
- C. An active Denton County Chapter of the Texas Social Welfare Association as described in A, plus an organized Social Service Exchange with a paid executive to record all cases of welfare work done by the different organizations.
- D. Keep the present system of informal referral between the agencies and organizations in Denton County, with each group looking after its own publicity, fact-finding, and fund-raising.
- E. Organize a County Welfare Council with representatives from the clubs, churches, youth organizations, and associations to discuss and plan welfare services in the city and county.

Table X shows that plans C and E were the first choice of sixteen and the second choice of twelve of those who answered the questionnaire.

TABLE XI

FIRST AND SECOND CHOICE OF COORDINATION PLANS FOR
DENTON COUNTY WELFARE MADE BY THIRTY DENTON
COUNTY CITIZENS

Plan	Number of First Choices	Number of Second Choices	Total of Choices
A	8	5	13
B	2	2	4
C	9	5	14
D	1	1	2
E	7	7	14
No Answer	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>
Total	30	30	60

Under Plan C an active Denton County Social Welfare Association would carry out the social welfare organization process at the program level on a community-wide basis. A social service exchange would carry out the social welfare organization at the treatment level and would bring professional leadership into the community. This combination could be very effective in bringing organization, coordination, and planning into Denton County welfare work. The lack of financial support for an exchange and the lack of an active membership in the Denton County Welfare Association would be two obstacles to the execution of the plan at the present time.

The choice of a County Welfare Council might indicate that some of the leaders feel that an entirely new group should be organized. County councils have been organized in other sections of the country and have worked very well. The membership of a council must be willing to plan and work together for common aims. The success of such a group depends upon what happens in the minds of the people who participate in its activities. In the questionnaire, several of those who answered criticized the Denton County Social Welfare Association because it has not been an action group; therefore, a non-action council might not be successful. The large number of clubs and associations already in existence in Denton County might make it difficult to secure support for a new organization.

The Denton County Social Welfare Association is the only organization in the county that seeks to develop between groups and individuals relationships which will enable them to act together in creating and maintaining welfare facilities and agencies. The activities in the individual clubs and agencies do not exert much influence upon the welfare program of the community as a whole. Further analysis of the methods of fund-raising, fact-finding, and public relations of the clubs and agencies might reveal more about the potential value of these activities to the social welfare organization process in the small community. A collection and analysis of the methods used by these clubs could be used as a basis for a handbook for community leaders or professional social workers interested in social welfare organization activities.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Social Welfare Organization has been a subject deemed worthy of special investigation for only a comparatively short period of time.

The purpose of this study was to discover something of the nature of the social welfare organization process as it operates in the small community. The social welfare structure of Denton County was used as the setting for the study.

The pattern of welfare work in Denton County emerged from an enumeration of the welfare resources in the county and a description of the manner in which these resources are organized and expended to those in need of assistance.

In Denton County, welfare services originate from the area of clubs and associations and from the area of welfare agencies. The majority of welfare assistance is expended through two welfare agencies and a leading civic club, the work of these organizations being supplemented with monetary aid and material supplies from the welfare service programs of civic clubs, social clubs, professional organizations, and church groups. The club and church group not only expend their welfare funds through the larger club and agency work, but they give direct assistance to individuals, families, or other groups that come to their attention.

The work of these different groups is coordinated to some extent through a network of personal, informal referral of cases between workers in the agencies, welfare chairmen of the clubs, and church members. Non-professional workers administer the greatest part of the welfare assistance in Denton County. The service rendered by the groups discussed above consists of supplying basic necessities to individuals or families in need.

Another area of the welfare structure is composed of those groups which seek to modify the environment so that people will have fewer personal and social problems. The work of any group or institution that seeks to modify social behavior may be included in this area. In Denton County, the area includes the group work organizations, the City Park Board, the City Health Department, the public school system, the churches, and the agricultural agencies. These groups are sponsored and supported by the civic and social clubs, professional organizations, the city and county government, and welfare agencies. There is very little contact between any of these groups and each operates in its own sphere without knowledge of the achievement of the other groups.

The basic philosophy of welfare work in Denton follows the interpretation of the man-in-the-street who thinks welfare work consists of doing good by helping those

who live in the community, regardless of motive, agency, personnel, or result and that relief, welfare work, and social work are synonymous terms.

A greater understanding of the welfare structure of the **small** community could be achieved by an analysis of the referrals between the agencies and clubs supplying basic necessities.

The second part of this study was concerned with some of the methods and activities common to the social welfare organization process.

It was found that the Denton County Social Welfare Association is the only group in the county interested in a community program of planning, organization, and coordination of social welfare resources. The Association seeks to effect these aims by educating the citizens of the community in the value of social welfare work, although, because of insufficient membership and community support, this group has not been able to bring much order into Denton County welfare service.

Other activities such as fact-finding and fund-raising are carried on in each club and agency. As these activities pertain to the maintenance of the individual club or agency, they exert very little influence on the welfare program of the county. Because of the paucity of social welfare organization work in Denton County, the welfare resources are probably not used to the best advantage.

The opinions of thirty community leaders who are familiar with welfare work in the county were obtained through a questionnaire. The answers on this questionnaire revealed that some of the leaders realize the need for better coordination and planning of welfare work in Denton County.

From this study several obstacles can be listed that probably are deterring the development of coordination and planning in Denton County welfare work. Some of these obstacles are:

1. The lack of professional social workers in the community is one of the greatest obstacles to the growth of better welfare.

2. Clubs and organizations in any community usually resist changes because change necessitates transferring their loyalties to a larger group. This attitude was reflected in the answers concerning central fund-raising on the questionnaire. While 66.6 per cent of those who answered indicated that they believed the community chest was a democratic way of raising funds, and, in another question, 40 per cent indicated that they believed that funds for the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts should be raised this way, only 12 per cent, in selecting possible plans for the betterment of social welfare organization in Denton County, indicated a community chest with a paid executive as a first or second choice. McMillen says there is

always a resistance to the kind of self-discipline that coordination activities imply.

3. Many leaders still believe that the control of social welfare should be in the hands of the local citizens. In the two plans C and E selected by the majority of the group answering the questionnaire, both were controlled by a large group of citizens representing local clubs and associations.

There are several potentialities in Denton County that could be developed and used in bringing about a better welfare program in Denton County. Some of these potentialities are:

1. There is a large group of citizens who have some knowledge of welfare from having participated in the welfare work of the club and association groups.

2. The community is still small enough that personal contacts are effective, and leaders can exert influence through personal contacts and mutual interests. This fact might facilitate the promotion of new plans and programs.

3. By educating lay people concerning the aims, purposes, and needs of welfare programs, the Denton County Social Welfare Association is a positive force in working for better coordination and planning of local welfare resources.

4. There are many welfare resources in Denton County, and, as yet, there is no crystallized pattern of professional

social welfare work. If adequate planning, organization, and coordination could be introduced before this pattern crystallized, it would guide the development of new social welfare programs in the right direction.

5. The plans for a new city-county hospital, city-county library, and new public school buildings show that there is an active program in Denton County for the improvement of the physical facilities.

There are both needs and potentialities in Denton County welfare. Through a program of planning and coordination, the needs could be discovered and fulfilled by developing the potentialities.

It should be remembered that education and promotion of new ideas and philosophies is a long slow process. A better community does not develop over night. It develops slowly and its development requires thoughtful planning by community leaders.

The sociological interactions of community life were not included in this study. The specific facts about the welfare programs, such as were included in this study, plus a sociological study of community interaction patterns would set forth the entire picture of community life in Denton County.

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO MINISTERS OF TEN RURAL CHURCHES

It has been found that the church carries on many activities related to the betterment of human life. For this study the welfare aspects of the church have been classified under six headings. Please check any of the six activities that the congregation of your church, Sunday school classes, or other groups participate in or provide means for. Thank you.

- _____ 1. Funds for foreign missions, missionaries, aid to the needy of Europe, etc.
- _____ 2. Funds for home missions, church hospitals, homes for the aged, children's homes, etc.
- _____ 3. Special collections of food and money for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets or gifts to the needy.
- _____ 4. Funds or collections for aid to needy families in the town or community, who are members of the church or families known to members of the church who need assistance.
- _____ 5. Contributions by the church and church organizations to other groups in the community that have welfare programs, such as Boy Scouts, Kiwanis work, American Red Cross, etc.
- _____ 6. Programs for the young people of the church of an educational and recreational nature.

A description of any other welfare work done by the church that does not happen to fall under these headings will be appreciated.

What do you believe would make the rural or small town church of Denton County more effective in the lives of the people who live there?

FORM USED IN GATHERING INFORMATION FOR THE CARD
INDEX FILE DIRECTORY OF THE DENTON COUNTY
SOCIAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Name of Association

Meeting Place: _____

Meeting Dates: _____

Date of Election of Officers: _____

Present Officers

Address

Telephone

Pres.: _____

V. P.: _____

Sec.: _____

Welfare Chairman: _____

Delegate to SWA: _____

Welfare Activities:

Remarks:

Denton, Texas
June 5, 1948

Dear

Each year brings the extension of social welfare services to new areas, until at the present time almost every individual in our society is entitled to call upon the skills and resources of social welfare organizations to assist him in solving his problems. Organizations and agencies expending welfare services have been growing at a rapid pace in the last ten years, and today we find a need for closer co-ordination and co-operation between these groups in order to insure efficient and effective service. In the last few years sociologists and social workers have become interested in the process of community organization as a means of bringing about a better adjustment between social welfare resources and social welfare needs.

As a graduate student in sociology at Texas State College for Women I am working on a thesis as partial fulfillment for the Master of Arts degree. This thesis is a study of the organizations and agencies rendering welfare service in Denton County; and the ways in which these organizations work together in supplying the needs of the people and groups they serve. I am seeking the opinions of a number of Denton County citizens about some of the methods that are used in bringing about a closer co-ordination of welfare work and the use of these methods in Denton County welfare. I would appreciate your co-operation in filling out the enclosed questionnaire and returning it to me. This material will be used in an objective and unidentifying way and will not be available to any other individual or group. Thank you for your help.

Yours very truly,

(Miss) Eileen Larkins

SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION IN DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Social Welfare in General

1. When you think of welfare work in Denton County or the city of Denton, what is the first agency that comes to mind. _____.

Please Encircle **O** your answer in the following questions:

2. Do you think of social welfare work as providing relief to people in poverty. 1. Yes 2. No.
3. Do you think of social welfare work as a means of strengthening the life of the entire community by keeping each family group a happy, secure unit. 1. Yes 2. No.

Publicity

1. Do you believe there is a need for more publicity about the actual welfare work accomplished by the various organizations in the city and county of Denton. 1. Yes 2. No
2. Do you think there is an understanding and adequate knowledge concerning the aims, purposes, programs, and needs of social welfare work by a MAJORITY, VERY FEW, or AVERAGE NUMBER, of the civic and social leaders in the city and county.

Fund Raising for Welfare Work

1. Do you think organizations such as Red Cross, Boy Scouts, or Campfire Girls, etc. should obtain their funds from 1. GOVERNMENT FUNDS, 2. COMMUNITY CHEST, 3. RAISE THEIR OWN BY SPECIAL DRIVES.
2. Do you think that unemployment aid, and government relief and benefits has made people give 1. LESS, 2. MORE, or 3. THE SAME AMOUNT to private welfare organizations.
3. Do you believe the Community Chest is a democratic way of fund-raising and fund-dispersing. 1. YES, 2. NO, 3. DOUBTFUL

4. Do you believe that Denton needs a welfare fund such as the United Charities Association for short-term relief to those who are not eligible for government or other relief. 1. YES, 2. NO, 3. DOUBTFUL

Co-ordination and Planning for Social Welfare in Denton County

1. Which of the following five plans do you think would be best suited to bring about a closer co-ordination in social welfare in Denton County or the city of Denton at the present time?

Encircle the letter of the plan you consider best. Check (✓) the letter of the plan you consider second best.

- A. A well-organized, active Denton County Chapter of the Texas State Welfare Association, with a membership large enough to carry out a program of fact-finding, action, and public education.
 - B. An organized Community Chest agency with a paid executive.
 - C. An active Denton County Chapter of the Texas Welfare Association as described in item A, plus an organized Social Service Exchange with a paid executive, to record all cases of welfare work done by the different organizations in order to prevent duplication.
 - D. Keep the present system of informal referrals between the agencies and organizations in Denton County, with each group looking after its own publicity, fact-finding, and fund-raising.
 - E. Organize a County Welfare Council with representatives from the clubs, churches, youth organizations to discuss and plan welfare services in the county and city.
2. If you have an objection to the establishment of a Social Service Exchange, with a paid executive, what would be your objection.

Please indicate by a check (✓) to the left of the following statements:

- _____ 1. There would be no way to support such an organization at the present time.

- ☐ 2. There is not a large enough amount of welfare work done in Denton County to warrant such an organization.
- ☐ 3. People would object to having their names recorded on the exchange and would not seek welfare aid as readily.
- ☐ 4. Others.

3. Do you think there is a lack of interest in the Denton County Chapter of the Texas Welfare Association? 1. YES, 2. NO.

4. If you think there is a lack of interest, what do you believe to be the cause of this situation.

Check one or more answers:

- ☐ 1. There is not enough publicity about the organization and people do not know about it.
- ☐ 2. People do not have time to attend the meetings.
- ☐ 3. There are too many clubs and organizations in Denton already, to insure the support and participation in another.
- ☐ 4. Others

5. What do you think are the three most pressing welfare needs in Denton County at the present time. Check to the left in the space.

- ☐ 1. More nursery school and kindergarten facilities.
- ☐ 2. A city-county health unit.
- ☐ 3. Family counseling and child guidance services.
- ☐ 4. More trained social workers in the community.
- ☐ 5. More recreational facilities for rural youth and adults.
- ☐ 6. More recreational facilities for youths from low-income families

_____ 7. A Social Service Exchange

_____ 8. Others.

Any personal opinions or suggestion you would like to add about any of the above subjects will be appreciated.

Thank You For Your Help.

DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTIES IN TEXAS ACCORDING TO
THEIR NET EFFECTIVE BUYING INCOMES FOR 1946

Net Effective Buying Income		Number of Counties
\$		
150,000 -	499,999	2
500,000 -	999,999	5
1,000,000 -	4,999,999	66
5,000,000 -	9,999,999	66
10,000,000 -	14,999,999	46
15,000,000 -	19,999,999	20
20,000,000 -	24,999,999	12
25,000,000 -	29,999,999	10
30,000,000 -	34,999,999	5
35,000,000 -	39,999,999	2
40,000,000 -	44,999,999	0
45,000,000 -	49,999,999	1
50,000,000 -	54,999,999	2
55,000,000 -	74,999,999	5
75,000,000 -	99,999,999	3
100,000,000 -	499,999,999	7
500,000,000 -	999,999,999	2
		<u>254</u>

STATE WELFARE FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN DENTON COUNTY

State Public Facilities

Board of Pardons and Paroles
 Bureau of Classification, Texas Prison System
 Bureau of Labor Statistics

Crippled Children's Division, State Board for Vocational Rehabilitation

Inks Lake Technical School, Vocational Rehabilitation Division, State Board for Vocational Rehabilitation

State Department of Education

State Homes:

Texas Confederate Home for Women
 State Orphans Home, Corsicana, Texas
 Waco State Home, Waco, Texas

State Hospitals:

Abilene State Hospital (for mentally ill)
 Austin State Hospital (for mentally ill)
 Big Spring State Hospital (for mentally ill)
 Confederate Men's Home (for mentally ill)
 Hospital for Crippled and Deformed Children
 Kerrville State Sanatorium (for tuberculosis)
 Rusk State Hospital (for mentally ill)
 San Antonio State Hospital (for mentally ill)
 State Tuberculosis Sanatorium
 Terrell State Hospital (for mentally ill)
 Wichita Falls State Hospital (for mentally ill)

State Schools for Handicapped:

Austin State School (for feebleminded)
 Deaf and Blind Institute for Colored Youths
 Gainesville State School for Girls
 Gatesville State School for Boys
 Texas School for the Blind, Austin
 Texas School for the Deaf, Austin

University of Texas School of Medicine, Galveston

Vocational Rehabilitation Division, State Board for Vocational Rehabilitation

State Private Facilities

Big Buddy Boys Home, San Antonio
 Boles Orphan Home, Quinlan

Boys Ranch, Tascosa
 Buckner Orphans Home, Dallas
 Brown's Training School, San Marcos

Convent of the Good Shepherd, Houston
 Cumberland Presbyterian Orphans Home, Denton

Good Shepherd Home, San Antonio

I.O.O.F. Home, Corsicana

Juliette Fowler Home, Dallas

Masonic Home and School, Fort Worth
 Methodist Orphanage, Waco

National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis
 Negro Child Center, Houston

Pauline Sterne Wolff Memorial, Houston
 Pythian Home, Weatherford

Rest Cottage Association, Pilot Point
 Reynolds Presbyterian Home, Dallas

Saint Michael's Home, Dallas
 Santa Rosa Orphanage, Harlingen (colored)
 Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, Houston
 Southwestern Presbyterian Home and School, Itasca
 Sunny Glen Home, San Juan

Texas Baptist Orphanage, Waxahachie
 Texas Children's Home and Aid Society, Fort Worth
 Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children, Dallas
 Texas Society for Crippled Children, Dallas
 Trinity Lutheran Home, Round Rock

U. S. Federal Correctional Institution, La Tuna
 U. S. Federal Security Agency
 U. S. Social Security Board
 United States Department of Agriculture: Farm Security
 Administration
 United States Public Health Service
 United States Public Health Service Hospital, Fort Worth

West Texas Maternit Hospital, Fort Worth
 Woodman Circle Home, Sherman

REPORT OF COMMUNITY IN PLANNING FOR A SOCIAL SERVICE
EXCHANGE DECEMBER 8, 1947

In formulating tentative plans for setting up a Social Service Exchange for Denton, it was agreed that the following proposals be offered for consideration by the local unit of the Texas Social Welfare Association.

1. The file of local agencies and organizations, consisting of identifying information as to type of service which each provides, which was begun during the past year, will be used as a nucleus around which a more complete file of all available resources may be built. It is anticipated that this file will be comprehensive to the extent that any participating agency or organization will be able through this file to learn of any other agency or group that may be available for rendering a particular type of service.
2. In conjunction with the above file or service agencies there will be a file set up to show the name of individuals or families known to the Social Service Exchange who are being assisted by any participating agency or organization. It is anticipated that through this file any participating agency may be able to learn of any other agency which may be assisting a particular individual or family.
3. It is tentatively proposed that both of the above files be centrally located--possibly in the care of the present Texas Social Welfare Association chairman, if agreeable. Since this committee is at a loss at the present time to see any means of financing this exchange it is anticipated that it will of necessity have to function on a voluntary basis.
4. It is further proposed that a form letter be sent to all acceptable organizations or groups for whom information is not already in our master file--inviting these organizations to supply information relative to the type of assistance or services which they are set up to render, and the requirements or qualifications for such assistance.

5. Participating groups will be requested by letter to notify the Social Service Exchange of the names of individuals or families which they are assisting either on an emergency or sustaining basis.

It is the committee's recommendation that in order to facilitate putting into effect any of the above proposals, or whatever proposals the local chapter may agree on, a committee be appointed to execute those proposals at the earliest date feasible. It is hoped that we may have in operation some type of Social Service Exchange by the early part of 1948.

A D E M O C R A C Y I N M I N I A T U R E

March 15, 1947

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FRIENDSHIP

..... To the Children

"I like to come to Friendship House because we meet lots of people. We have lots of fun playing and working with each other. We learn to make lots of pretty things for our homes. We learn how to act. We like to go to Friendship House because we get to do the things we want to." Janice

"I like to come to Friendship House because we learn to appreciate what we have. We learn to associate with other people, and we enjoy the college students. We learn to make things that will help us in our future life." Mary Bell

"I like to come to Friendship House because I love Ma. We learn how to make our homes more beautiful. We like the cocoa that is served. We learn to get along with each other. We learn to be kinder to each other." Christino

"I like to come to Friendship House because we learn table manners. We enjoy being with the college girls who come to Friendship House and work with us, and I love the flowers and pretty things at Friendship House." Bernice

"I like to come to Friendship House because I like to make pretty things, and I like to make friends, and I like to come because Ma is so nice." Mary Ruth

"I like to come to Friendship House because I like to make things, and I like to come because I have a good time and there is always so much to do." Louise Brown

"Gee, I sure do like to come here! I ask my mother every day if I can come." James Salomon

"I like to go to Friendship House because I like to play football and basketball, and I like to learn table manners." Weldon Knight

"I like to come to Friendship House because I like the baseball games and the refreshments." Dalton Smith

Bobbie J. Smith, Cary W. Show, Coy Harold, and Sherman Pruitt liked to come to Friendship House because they like baseball, basketball, football, and they like to sing and play the records.

.....To the College Students

To list all that Friendship House means to me would be impossible because of lack of both space and vocabulary, but a brief summary follows.

First, it means friends, of the children and my own age. At Friendship House we meet new and old students for work and recreation.

Second, it means recreation. After church on Sunday nights there is a familiar question, "Goin' down to Ma's?" Whether the group is four or forty, there is always fun and laughter around the game tables. If no one is playing the piano, the phonograph and records provide beautiful music, ranging from your favorite classics to hymns. Also there are the Sunday funnies, poetry, and good books for those who like to read. No matter what your interest, there's something at Friendship House for you!

Work, work, work, there's always work to be done at Friendship House--and what a variety! It might include working with the children, preparing a Friendship dinner, running errands, or if you have a secret yearning to dust, you might find a bookcase or untidy playroom shelf.

Another, and the most important, is the spiritual atmosphere present at Friendship House. On Sunday nights we say goodnight by having a friendship circle, with God in the center of the circle. At Friendship House we see Christianity in action.

Then Friendship House is a place to do things--a place that's open to everyone. Whether you want to cook a meal, practice your piano lesson, read, study, or just relax in a comfortable chair, Friendship House is the place. Of course, Ma is always there to talk or just listen to your problems, and her understanding and bits of advice are always helpful. Friendship House is not just a "house"--it is a "HOME"!

Helen Lane

..... To the Community

There are various institutions which better community life and community activities. The needs met by, and the services rendered by all those organizations would make a long list if enumerated. Let us specifically consider one in Denton--Friendship House. In all social work, the test of value of purpose and function is its quality of service rather than its quantity; however, the latter may be important in that it represents the scope of the program. The test of the value may also be found in the answer to these questions. How did or how will that expenditure of finance help the community? Will there be any returning interest to the community in personal or group happiness and in better organized activities making for better community life? Or does it help the community meet the social ills and needs directed toward it in seeking an answer to these problems? Let us see how Friendship House measures to this criteria.

Disease Knows No Boundary

Regardless of race, creed or color disease strikes. Regardless of race, creed or color the Clinic treats. Its only boundaries are those of age and those of money. Only those children whose parents cannot afford the services of a private physician are eligible.

Your Clinic Is Thrift Conscious

Of the cases which come before it, the Clinic not only serves those which are handled by local doctors and hospitals, but it also acts as a clearing house for those eligible cases requiring the attention of those agencies outside this county which co-operate with us in certain cases of physical rehabilitation. In this way the Clinic is able to do thousands of dollars worth of work with a minimum of expense.

"Keep 'Em Healthy"

**... more than
Sympathy
is needed**



Look At These Figures!

During the year 1941 your Clinic has taken care of a total of 245 cases (one case has been treated for every school day of the whole year) involving the following:

Eyes (63 pairs of glasses)	85
Tonsil Operations.....	48
Non-Operative Hospitalizations	24
Miscellaneous Treatments	14
Dental Cases.....	15
Fractures	3
Braces, Shoes, etc., for Crippled Children	5
Drugs and Serums Furnished.....	48
Major Surgery (appendicitis, etc.).....	15

Remember that behind each of these cases stands a little child who otherwise might not be healthy today were it not for your generous help. The Clinic Office is always open to all of you. Our secretary will always be glad to show you the cases we are handling. This Clinic is your Clinic.

Your President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt said recently in an interview: "Unquestionably the work of all agencies seeking to preserve and improve the health of the Nation must be carried on as an essential part of the total war effort. The health of the people as a whole is fully as important as the health of the fighting forces and neither must be neglected. Instead of relaxing our civilian health efforts, they must be doubled and redoubled to maintain our second line of defense—Just as we cannot put a price tag on liberty, we cannot quibble or compromise about the cost of health."

Don't Miss This Opportunity

You the fathers, mothers and friends of children—do not want to overlook the chance of saving for our boys and girls their normal birthright to health and happiness. The Clinic gives you this opportunity—it provides the way—a practical, common sense, efficient way of doing the biggest job in America. Your support given in former years has been gratifying; it has been generous it has been the spontaneous expression of your belief in the future of the Nation. We appreciate that support. This year the demands will be greater. We must meet these demands—not with kind words—but with money. One precious life saved is

worth all the money and work necessary to carry on this work.

What You Can Do!

A CHECK HAS BEEN ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. Please send your check or currency to the KIWANIS CHILDREN'S CLINIC NOW. A pink addressed envelope has been enclosed for that purpose. Wear the PATRONS button to show that you believe in keeping the health of the Home Front up to America's par.

"Keep 'Em Healthy"

February 12, 1948

Boy Scouts Don Uniforms For Church Today

In the first of a week-long round of activities observing Boy Scout week, Scouts donned uniforms and went to the church of their choice today all over the nation.

Locally, some troops attended morning services in a body and others went singly. Scouts will continue to wear their uniforms the remainder of the week, honoring the chartering of the movement by Congress 38 years ago.

Mayor J. L. Yarbrough has noted the national observance by proclaiming it Boy Scout Week in Denton.

There are over 500 Boy Scouts in Denton county, with troops in Denton, Pilot Point, Ponder, Justin, Aubrey, Lewisville, Krum, and Sanger. Each of the troops will figure in some activity this week, and almost every boy will receive some kind of award he has won.

Four Denton Scouts will receive scouting's highest honor—the Eagle award. It will be presented to Billy Barnett, Troy Sullivan, George Kregel and Parkie Olman Thursday night at the annual Boy Scout dinner at the Methodist Church.

Many other awards will be made by the court of honor, with Curtis Ramsey as master of ceremonies. About 250 Scouts are expected to attend the banquet, which will begin at 7 o'clock.

Tuesday night Cub Scouts will hold their banquet at the Methodist Church. Practically every Cub Scout will receive an award from the court of honor. Some 200 Cubs and their parents are expected for the dinner. Entertainment will consist of a puppet show.

February 1, 1948

Krum Girl Is 4-H Gold Star Award Winner

Theopal Bilyeu, attractive Krum 4-H girl, has been named Gold Star Girl of Denton County for 1947. Mrs. Mary Lou Armour, assistant county home demonstration agent, has announced.

Theopal has been active in 4-H work four years, and served as president of the Krum group the past year. For her project she made all of her clothes. Having a part-time job as telephone operator, Theopal bought materials with her income and completed seven dresses for herself.

With the "New Look" coming in vogue, it was necessary for Theopal to remodel most of her clothing last fall. Her latest accomplishment is an attractive two-piece wool suit.

Theopal's outstanding 4-H work, her leadership and personality traits were instrumental in Mrs. Armour pointed out.

May 13, 1948

Junior Group Camping Trip

Arrangements for an over-night camping and fishing trip for Denton Junior Optimist Club boys were completed during a meeting of the senior club Wednesday at Marquis Hall.

Harold Brayley and C. H. Bailey, chairmen of the project, said plans had been completed. The trip will be held May 29 and 30 at Lake Dallas.

March 12, 1948

Girl Scouts Anniversary Program Opens

Today is Girl Scouting's 36th Birthday.

Official Girl Scout Birthday Week in Denton begins today and extends through Mar. 20. It will be climaxed with a birthday banquet next Friday night at the Texas State College for Women special dining room at 6:30 p.m.

Meetings of the 13 scout troops today will observe the birthday anniversary of scouting with playlets and programs depicting the history and founding of the organization.

The full week's calendar of events follows:

FRIDAY

Troop meetings. Programs to be chosen by troops.

SATURDAY

Free movie, North Texas State College, 7:45 p. m.

SUNDAY

Group attendance First Methodist Church, 10:30 a. m.

MONDAY

Play night, El Centro, 7:30 to 9 p. m.

TUESDAY

Free movie, Texas Theatre, 4:15 p. m.

WEDNESDAY

Community Day. Tours of civic centers.

THURSDAY

Help at Home Day.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

Birthday banquet, TSCW special dining room, 6:30 p. m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

Free movie, TSCW, 7:15 p. m.

News Stories about Youth Organizations
from the Denton Record-Chronicle

February 10, 1943

February 9, 1943

Kiwanis Begins Ticket Sales For Minstrel

Thirty-two hundred tickets to the 22nd annual Kiwanis minstrel to be presented the nights of Feb. 19 and 20 were issued to Denton Kiwanians Tuesday at their weekly luncheon meeting. Each member purchased ten tickets for each night's performance.

Fred Minor, veteran performer in Kiwanis Minstrels, gave an inspirational talk on the work of the club made possible by proceeds from the shows.

The Children's Clinic and El Centro Youth Center are both youth projects of the club. Funds for their support are also secured each year by a Patrons' Fund Drive which precedes the annual minstrel.

A special tribute was paid to the late Walter S. Miller, Sr., life-long member of the Denton Kiwanis Club. Brent Jackson read a resolution adopted by the club in which the deeds of Miller were enumerated. He was a strong supporter of the Children's Clinic and served for many years on its board of directors.

March 13, 1943

Kiwanis Fund Now at \$3,500

Contributions to the 1948 Kiwanis Patrons Fund drive had shot to the \$3,500 mark Saturday and 150 Denton Kiwanians were making an all-out effort to complete the campaign for funds to support the Children's Clinic and El Centro Youth Center by Monday afternoon.

Tickets for the annual Kiwanis Minstrel set for Feb. 19 and 20 will go on sale at the club's weekly luncheon meeting Tuesday. Clifford Balthrop heads the ticket

AIM AT \$14,000 GOAL

Red Cross Drive Swings Open

More than 200 workers in the 1948 Red Cross Fund campaign were spreading over the city today driving toward a \$10,000 goal they hope to reach by next Monday.

No collection reports have been received from districts outside of Denton which have a quota of \$4,000, bringing the entire quota for Denton county to \$14,000. The goal is about \$1,000 less than the official 1947 goal.

Last year Texans contributed \$2,958,793 to the March 1947 Red Cross drive and in one disaster, the Texas City explosions, \$1,361,000 was poured into the coastal town for repair and rebuilding of homes as well as to meet immediate needs of stricken families. In all, \$1,598,401 was spent in the state by the Red Cross for disaster relief during 1947.

In Denton last year \$9,090 was

loaned to veterans in chapter's ex-servicemen program. A total of 5,677 handled of which \$1,000 during February.

In addition to its program servicemen and veterans and families, the local Red Cross maintains a referral service in which civilian cases are sent to the correct welfare agencies. In situations where no local welfare agencies exist to offer assistance, the Red Cross gives aid. During February more than \$60 was spent by the Denton Chapter for food for needy persons, Mrs. Ben McCullar, executive secretary, said.

For the first time in Denton, a pledge payment plan is being offered contributors to the Red Cross. In this plan contributions may be spread over a four-month period following the initial cash contribution. A card signed by the contributor will show the amount of his contribution in cash and the amount of his pledge. A patron who pledges will authorize the Red Cross office either to draw upon his bank on the first of April, May, June and July for stipulated amounts or to send monthly statements to him.

Stickers, proclaiming 100 per cent participation, will be issued to firms in which the company and each individual worker have contributed at least \$1 toward the 1948 Red Cross Fund, Ben Ivey, chairman of the local chapter, said.

Signed campaign cards will become a part of the permanent files at the local Red Cross.

In addition to its well-known disaster service, the American Red Cross has planned a national blood program. When it is in full operation whole blood and blood derivatives will be available without cost to the nation's entire population. It is estimated that 3,700,000 pints of blood are needed annually for such a program.

News Stories in Connection with Fund Raising

Drives in the Denton Record-Chronicle