

**NORTH SIDE**

# New Center Director, Staff Plan Challenging Program

By MARGARET SMITH

James K. Baugh newly appointed branch director of Lower North Center, got the staff off to an excellent start at the first full complement meeting. He spoke of the challenge presented by the approximately 12,000 children and 6,000 adults of the housing units and the thousands of residents who comprise the outlying community.

The program in its entire scope was presented by Calvin Gaither, program director, and it was enlarged upon by Mrs. Peggy Scaggs Miguda, supervising social worker and James Johnson, coordinator of the teen program. Mrs. Margaret Smith gave brief highlights of the community organization program and told of the need for more citizen participation, and resident leadership.

There will be a youth enhancement program designed to challenge the teen who has aspirations for higher learning and also aimed to whet the interest of other teens. After a "hard look" at the adult program of the community Baugh has visions of consumer buyer sessions, credit buying, the role of the adult volunteer in a settlement program, child rearing discussions, adult education in general and a social program as some of the components of this proposed program.

Mrs. Elnorah Williamson, dance instructor, has included, along with the regular class groups of modern, ballet and social dancing a "slenderizing" and health class for adults (male and female). If you have ever attended one of Mrs. Williamson's classes, you will remember her unusual techniques and invite others to join in the fun.

Of special interest will be the teen programs, which this year will feature the concentration on cultural points such as Negro history, excursions to unusual sites, the Baha'i Temple, the legitimate stage, newspaper activities and listening to records with a discussion period. Ronald Beavers, physical education major and Miss Bertha Paul, George Williams student, will conduct the highly popular physical education classes and tournaments that comprise this program.

Jose Aguila, the arts and crafts instructor who holds a degree from the Art Institute, will be on hand to instruct both children and adults in this field. There are plans to include a ceramic class. Agency policies were enlarged upon and the staff was urged to give ideas to assist in making the agency a progressive one both in program content and personnel practices.

The nursery school education department, under the direction of Mrs. Alice Reffels, includes a full day school from 7:30 A.M. to 6 P.M. and two half day sessions to accommodate the children whose parents are not employed. For this program, it is necessary to contact the director to conform with the necessary regulations. Included in the meeting were Miss Andrea Greenberg, graduate student of the University of Chicago, Rubin Kenon, student at Roosevelt, Jose Aguila, Ronald Beavers, Norman Galloway of Central

State College, Mrs. Quincella Hudson, registrar.

Leonard Jackson, games room attendant and club leader; Melvin Hill, registrar; Jimmy Johnson, Miss Nancy Williams, Wilson Junior College student; Miss Bertha Paul, Mrs. Peggy Migusad, Mrs. Elnorah Williamson, Miss Willa Thomas, bookkeeper and secretary of Lower North and Mrs. Jessie Hampton, clerk typist.

Nursery staff includes Mrs. Emma Cody, Mrs. Dorothy Peniston, Miss Marie Carr, Mrs. Hardena Armstrong, Mrs. Ella Giles, Mrs. Minnie Wilder, Mrs. Saraswate Raheja, Misses Cora Smith, Bertha Guy, Bertha Whetstone, Marian Stamps, Mary Smith and Albert Napier.

Mrs. John Hancock, superintendent of the church school at St. Matthew Methodist Church, was coordinator for a work study project for the staff of the two schools, 1000 N. Orleans and the church extension at 1289 N. Clyborne. Two nights were devoted to the program held at St. Matthew Church.

The resource instructors were Mrs. Felton Mays, wife of the minister of Maple Park Methodist Church and Mrs. Curtis Williams of the St. James Methodist Church. New and upgraded techniques were presented and the staff was given the opportunity to question the instructors so that they could benefit from the session.

Included in the study course were Mrs. Otis Leake, Mrs. R. J. Smith, Mrs. Ruby Douglas, Miss Ophelia Walton of the junior division; Mrs. John Hancock, Mrs. Louis Adams, primary; Mrs. Luther Andrews, Mrs. Eurah White, the extension school; Mrs. William Cole Senior and Mrs. Theodore Cotton Senior, adult superintendent. Mrs. Margaret Smith, resource teacher; Mrs. Clara Higgins, treasurer and Rev. John C. Jackson Jr., pastor of the church.

Damian House, located at 1002 N. Franklin is one of the newest in social centers in the community and the program offered is exciting and different. The director, Mrs. Thomas Keating, brings to the residents a wealth of rich background experience. She was affiliated for eight years in an administrative capacity with Catholic social agencies.

The House is privately sponsored and a variety of activities are provided in this storefront setting. Families and individuals are served and they reciprocate in some instances by doing work projects (the premises were decorated and remodeled by the volunteer staff.

This helps in making them feel a part of the program. This summer there was a day camp program which involved most of the children of the Franklin and Wells St. blocks; parents as well as volunteers from Quigley assisted in the daily

program of arts and crafts throughout the city. Despite the fact that there are social agencies within a block or two of Damian House, there is a need for a neighborhood or block institution to assist the residents in solving the many problems which confront them.

The request vary from a need for public aid supplements, to "where can I get a reading class for Johnny or for me?" This need is supplied in some instances and referrals are made in other cases. The program this fall will include a tutoring class for children in the 4th, 5th and 6th grades, to be held Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 5 P.M. Richard Terra and six students from St. Alphonsus School, Jim Keck from Roosevelt University and students from Quigley will serve as the staff.

Two instructors from the University of Ill. will conduct a class in sewing and housekeeping for mothers each Tuesday from 10 A.M. to 12 noon. The teen activities are handled by Jim Keck and a representative from the Ill. Youth Commission; one of the most successful events was the teen dance sponsored by them last week in St. Phillip social rooms.

The membership is open to anyone residing in the near north area.

The director and staff invite the participation of any persons interested in general community improvement. Some of the residents are concerned about the housing, the lack of law enforcement, and other social ills. The staff hopes to confer with other organizations in the area to assist in meeting these problems.

They were there at Starved Rock to spend the last few days of the summer enjoying the beauties of the hills and the scenic surroundings of Ottawa, Ill. The Catholic Youth Organization of St. Joseph Church sponsored the trip. The young people enjoying the country included Rondey Pruitt, Anthony Gant, Mattie Powers, Sharon Day, Debra Harris, Jacky Mallone, Larry Davis, Donald Palmer, Harvey Bell, Walter Gregory and Eric Lowery and the sponsor Rev. Sebastian Lewis.

The minister of the church is Rev. Norbert Tebasari. Any young person who is a member of the church is eligible to be a part of this young people's group which meets every Friday from 7 P.M. to 10 P.M.