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ROADSIDE SETTLEMENT OF DES MOINES

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The Social Settlement movement began in England in the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century. It was the practical expression of the desire of some Christian students in Oxford University to share the opportunities for culture and for recreation, which they enjoyed, with people living in the poorest quarters of the city of London.

These students wished to live in a working men's district in order to become acquainted at first hand with the residents of such a district. They desired to be a personal relation, not an organization; to give, not money, but themselves; to live, not like the poor, but with the poor.

Their idea of sharing with those less fortunate was neither original nor new. It is older than the Christian era. The form in which it developed is largely due to the industrial development of a period which created great cities in which the rich and the poor, according to occupation and degree, lived in separated districts.

Toynbee Hall, located in the Whitechapel district in East London, was opened in 1885 and was the first University or Social Settlement. The movement soon spread, not only in England, but in the United States as well.

University Settlement in New York, with Stanton Coit as Head Resident, was opened in 1888, and in the same year Jane Addams and Ellen Starr founded Hull House in Chicago. Both Miss Addams and Mr. Coit had visited or worked in Toynbee Hall.

¹Much of the data included in the story of Roadside Settlement from the formation of the first King's Daughters Circle in 1887 to 1906 is taken from an article prepared about 1920 by Mrs. J. C. Hume, but not published.—F. D.

FIRST STEPS

Most of the earlier Settlements in both England and the United States were in crowded districts in the larger cities. In the United States such districts were almost always those in which great numbers of foreign born people, often recent immigrants, lived. Thus it is rather surprising that one of the earlier Social Settlements is in Des Moines, Iowa, a city of approximately thirty-five thousand people in 1888, far from seaports and with no large group of foreign born residents.

Roadside Settlement's beginning goes back, as does the beginning of Toynbee Hall and of so many other Social Settlements, to a religious impulse, though the impulse was non-sectarian and was called philanthropic or humanitarian rather than religious.

As early as 1887 a Circle of King's Daughters was formed in the Presbyterian Church of Des Moines. This Circle took as its definite piece of social work a sewing school for poor children. Other Circles were formed in other churches, each of which undertook a particular project; flower mission, distributing flowers to sick persons in hospitals and poorer homes; relief, the giving of food and clothing to needy persons and families; a day nursery in the basement of a church where the King's Daughters themselves cared for small children while the mothers went out to work.

Presently, all these Circles organized into the King's Daughters Union. The Union, among other activities, arranged for a mass meeting which resulted later in the organization of the Associated Charities of Des Moines. This organization was to become later the Family Welfare Society, and when this is written, December, 1937, is a section of the Polk County Emergency Relief Administration.

In 1894 the King's Daughters Union rented a house on Fourth Street where the New Savery Hotel now stands. In this house all the activities of the different Circles were centered, each Circle continuing to be responsible for its particular project.

Soon after this, Percy Alden, who organized Mansfield House Settlement in London, was lecturing at Grinnell Col-

lege. Charles E. Lynde of Des Moines met and talked with him there about social welfare and social settlements. Graham Taylor, founder of Chicago Commons Settlement, was lecturing at this same period in Des Moines chautauquas. There members of the King's Daughters Union heard Dr. Taylor's lectures on social welfare and the new Settlement movement. These young women talked with Mr. Lynde and with Dr. Taylor about establishing a social settlement in Des Moines.

As a result of these talks and of many conferences and discussions the King's Daughters Union, in September, 1896, rented half of a double brick house at the corner of Eighth and Mulberry Streets, and Mr. Lynde and his mother became the first residents.

In the first settlements the person in charge was called Head Worker; later Head Resident was the title used; and now Director or Resident Director is the usual title.

Except for the kitchen range, the new settlement house was mostly furnished with the cast off belongings of the King's Daughters' families and friends. Funds for its maintenance were raised by various methods; members' dues, gifts, sales, and by suppers, which were then, and often still are, one of the chief methods used by women's organizations for raising funds. Mrs. Sara Wharton Moore, a member of one of the Circles, was a famous cook, and the suppers which she supervised for the Settlement were always well attended and well worth the twenty-five cents which was the usual rate for suppers.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Lynde received a salary. They remained in charge through a part of the second year and were followed by Miss Hanson, the first paid resident who received what would seem now a beggarly salary.

Dr. A. L. Frisbie, pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, read at one of his Sunday services a poem by Sam Walter Foss called "The House by the Side of the Road". This poem, based on a line in one of the books of Homer's *Iliad* in which a hero "lived by the side of the road and was a friend to man", suggested the name Roadside Settlement and the name was adopted.

In the fall of 1897, Miss Clara Adams became Head Resi-

dent. Miss Adams was a woman with a rare endowment for friendship and sympathy. The activities of the Settlement prospered and Miss Adams made many friends. But the financing of the undertaking grew steadily more difficult.

After a particularly discouraging report as to the state of the treasury, the continuance or the discontinuance of the Settlement was debated. Once there was a majority vote to close the house and give up the whole project. After the vote was taken the discussion went on. Presently, someone suggested that a new Board of Directors be formed, made up of both men and women. This would increase the number of persons directly responsible, for then, as now, men were often able to raise more money for charitable or philanthropic purposes with seemingly less work than women.

A group of brave and sympathetic men were enlisted, and in February, 1899, the Roadside Settlement House Association was incorporated. Those who signed the Articles of Incorporation were: Sarah W. Moore, Martha C. Frisbie, Juliet E. Read, Ida R. Faylor, Emma W. Whisenand, Angie H. Hume, Alice Bailey, Virginia H. Reichard, Ida Cummins, Florence Ginn, Clara Adams, Gertrude Getchell, Ruth Gatch, Fanny Bailey, James B. Weaver, Jr., Samuel A. Merrill, Walter A. Coffin, Lewis Slye, C. P. Huntington, Robert Maccartney, and Henry J. Hollingsworth.

Miss Clara Adams remained as Head Resident until 1901. She was succeeded by Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Weeks who had lived and worked with Dr. Taylor in Chicago Commons. Later Mr. Weeks became a member of the Des Moines Public School staff where he continues to do valuable work. Mrs. Weeks continued as Head Resident until the spring of 1904. Mrs. Lucy Bitting took charge of the work during the summer months, and in October of that year, I, Flora Dunlap, became Head Resident, a position I was to retain, except for a two years absence during the War, until 1924. When I resigned as Head Resident I was elected to the Board of Directors so that my interest in and connection with the Settlement activities has remained unbroken.

After being graduated from a private school for girls I had visited, almost by chance, Kingsley House Settlement in

Pittsburgh. I returned shortly after to serve an apprenticeship there as a volunteer worker, and following that lived for a winter in Goodrich House, Cleveland, and in Hull House, Chicago.

The fame of Hull House was already widespread, and famous men and women from other countries as well as from all over the United States were constantly coming and going there. Graham Taylor at Chicago Commons and Mary McDowell at the University of Chicago Settlement were sharing Miss Addams' fame; Harriet Vittum became Head Resident of Northwestern University Settlement a little later. Each of them was active in civic and reform fields, speaking and lecturing frequently in other parts of the country, and each dealing constantly and vigorously with the problems and the activities of their respective Houses and neighborhoods. Florence Kelly, Julia Lathrop, and Dr. Alice Hamilton, all of whom were to become nationally known later, were living and working at Hull House. It was a stimulating, an absorbing, and a bewildering place in which to live and work.

Although I was invited to remain at Hull House I preferred to live and work in a smaller city. There were no schools of social work and no placement bureaus for social workers then. Miss Addams often received letters asking for possible workers for smaller settlements. Such a letter from Mrs. J. C. Hume, President of the Board of Directors of Roadside Settlement in Des Moines, Miss Addams passed on to me. Correspondence followed and it was arranged that I should come to Roadside Settlement in 1904 as has already been said.

After living in a crowded tenement district where there was a confusion of tongues in every street crowd, the corner of Eighth and Mulberry Streets in Des Moines seemed almost a country village. Des Moines had more than doubled its population in the previous twenty years and that locality was changing rapidly from a residence district to a commercial and industrial one. Many families were moving to other parts of the city. The enrollment in the Lincoln School, a block distant, was smaller each year. The attendance in the Settlement clubs and classes was diminishing. The lease of



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When Serving as
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Des Moines

the building would expire in June, 1905. By that date Roadside Settlement must find new quarters.

NEW LOCATION

In the spring of 1903 a disastrous flood had called the attention of the city and the whole state to the southeast bottoms of Des Moines. Heavy and continuous rains in the month of May had caused the Des Moines River to rise to a hitherto unrecorded height. Flood waters had swept through this whole district leaving destruction and greatly increased poverty in their wake.

The southeast bottoms are part of an old river bed of deep infertile sand. The district had then and has now no city water supply, no public sewage disposal, no paved streets. It had been settled early by northern European immigrants, mostly Scandinavian and German with a few English, Scotch, and Irish. Many of the men were skilled artisans who worked steadily at good wages and had built comfortable homes.

One after another the railroads coming into Des Moines crossed the city at the base of the Capitol hill; switching tracks made a maze of iron rails; the southeast bottoms became a district separated from the city by a tangle of tracks on the north and by the river on the south and east. Meat packing plants located in the district had not added to its value or desirability as residence property. The more prosperous families began a movement to other parts of the city, many of them "up the hill" as the upper East Side is called. The 1903 flood accelerated this exodus. Numbers of the better homes immediately had "For Sale" signs. Even though some of the earlier settlers have remained and their homes are well kept and in good repair, the district soon became, and is now, one of cheap rents, shabby houses, and poor people.

There were no liquor saloons in the district, for a clause in an early deed prohibited the use of any land for saloons. Just north of the railroad tracks there were many saloons; one intersection had a saloon on each of the four corners; the next intersection had a saloon on each of three corners. Most of the men living in the district passed these corners

on the way to and from work. Too many of them stopped in on the way home and tarried too long.

Scott Avenue, always called Scott Street except on city street signs, was then and still is the main thoroughfare east and west. One trolley line served the district, and two cars on the line, Numbers 108 and 109, leaving the downtown terminus at half hour intervals, were famous for the frequency for which they went off schedule and off the track. Saloons closed at ten o'clock in the evening, and the tenthirty Scott street car, most particularly on Saturday night, was avoided by women and by men with sensitive stomachs and nerves.

It seemed a district where the Settlement House and Settlement House residents might be needed and helpful, and after discussion and investigation of other possible locations, land was bought at the corner of Southeast Seventh and Scott Streets and plans were drawn for a building.

Members of the Board of Directors in 1906 were: Mesdames B. F. Elbert, J. C. Hume, H. R. Howell, W. C. McArthur, F. O. Green, M. Rosenfield, N. H. Weeks, A. E. Shipley; Misses Belle M. Gilcrest, Florence Walker, Emma Harvison, Helen Witmer; Messrs. I. Friedlich, Harvey Ingham, S. A. Merrill, R. R. Rollins, H. S. Nollen, H. H. Coggeshall, C. A. Rawson, B. S. Walker, and A. M. Parker.

These members knew that it would not be easy to raise the approximate \$20,000 required for the building. This new project could be called neither religious, nor educational, nor relief giving. It was motivated by all three of these ideals, but it was not always easy to explain this to prospective contributors. However, Des Moines had then as it has now many public minded citizens who respond generously to appeals for welfare undertakings.

Mrs. Hume was the indefatigable and enthusiastic President of the Board. Four well known business men, who were also leaders in civic affairs, formed the building committee and undertook to raise the necessary funds. They were Messrs. Richard R. Rollins, Charles A. Rawson, I. Friedlich, and Buffon S. Walker.

In 1903 contributions from all over the State had been

received for the help of the residents of the flooded district of the bottoms. A balance remained in the hands of the Flood Distribution Committee and the Committee voted unanimously to give this sum for the Roadside building. It would thus be used for the benefit of the people for whom the money had been given.

There were two gifts of five hundred dollars each and one of four hundred. These amounts were much more considerable gifts in 1905 than the same sum would seem today. There were a dozen two hundred and fifty dollar gifts, and fifty or sixty gifts ranging from one hundred and fifty dollars down to one hundred dollars. Many others, equally welcome and appreciated, were from fifty dollars on down.

The committeemen were interested and persuasive, other members of the Board of Directors helped with the solicitations, and the amount was pledged. Ground was broken in the fall of 1905, and the building was ready for occupancy in June, 1906.

The house was crowded with people from the neighborhood and from all over the city on the opening evening. Very few Settlements of this period had the good fortune to be housed in new buildings. Many of them were in blighted districts, housed in what were once fine residences. Roadside Settlement had the great advantage of a building constructed for specific use as a social settlement, and for the use and benefit of the people of the district in which it was located.

EQUIPMENT AND ACTIVITIES

The building contains an auditorium seating about three hundred and fifty people, then used also as a gymnasium; rooms equipped for a Day Nursery; a room for a general office, one for a library, and two other rooms used for clubs or classes. In the basement there were public baths for men and women; a public wash house to which women might bring their laundry and for a small fee have the use of tubs, hot and cold water, and steam driers. Although city water was not generally available, a supply was secured for Roadside, also a septic tank for sewage disposal was constructed. The basement contained also the heating plant. One end of

the building was fitted as an apartment with living quarters for Settlement residents.

The public baths were popular immediately. A twelve year old boy appeared early the first evening after the opening, inquired about a shower bath, proffered the correct fee, took a long shower, and departed. He reappeared in twenty minutes with a companion. The two boys took long showers and departed. Both returned twenty minutes later with a third boy. All three offered the correct fee of five cents and the showers ran even longer. We were so alarmed at this orgy of bathing on the part of the first boy and so uncertain how often he might return that evening that when the three emerged with smiling and shining faces we said that the house was about to close for the night. The baths were soon being used by several hundred persons each month.

There was a good deal of discussion among Board members as to the usefulness of a public wash house. Would American women, unlike European ones, be willing to do the family washing in public? Members of the City Federation of Womens Clubs discussed the question. When the difficulties and the hazards to health of washing and drying clothing in small houses occupied by large families, often including small children, were considered, the Federation voted five hundred dollars to be used for laundry equipment.

Four sets of two tubs each with facilities for boiling the clothing with steam in one of the tubs of each set, and steam driers, were installed. Although not many women came the first year, the number gradually increased. One woman has washed in the same tubs each Monday morning, with but few absences, for nearly thirty years. Other women have records of twenty and fifteen years, on down to casual and transient patrons who come occasionally or for only a few times. On a recent Monday twenty-eight women completed and took home twenty-eight family washings. This is the top record for any one day. There is no question but that the public wash house has been one of Roadside's most useful assets.

The Day Nursery was closed when the lease expired on the Mulberry Street house, to be opened when the new house

opened. Three children were admitted to the new Day Nursery before the remainder of the building was ready for use because the mothers could not go to work unless the children could be cared for, and others followed quickly.

When gymnasium classes and teams were formed in the fall of 1906 they were immediately crowded in the late afternoons and evenings with boys and young men. Periods were reserved for smaller groups of girls and women. Our basketball teams won every match game the first season, either by the umpire's decision or by a fight outside before the visiting team departed. When no new teams applied for games and experienced teams refused return games, we won fewer games, but better play as well as a better spirit was established, except on occasions of extreme provocation.

The Utility Club, a group of women organized in the Settlement when it was located on Mulberry Street, resumed meetings when the new house was opened, and many women living in the new locality became members. At this time the Utility Club has about sixty members and meets weekly in the Settlement House from October to June. Its programs have covered many subjects and a wide range of activities. For a number of years a play or a pageant was given by the members each year, and the front rows were always filled with husbands and children, thrilled and delighted at the sight of mother on the stage. The Club has made many gifts to Roadside, has much influence in the neighborhood, and has been for a long time a member of the Des Moines City Federation of Women's Clubs.

Classes in sewing, cooking, and manual training were carried on for some years in cooperation with the Des Moines School Board, and our auditorium was used as a kindergarten for one year. The East and West Side of Des Moines had been separate school districts until 1906, when they were united. The East Side school buildings were not as fully equipped as the West Side ones, and the Settlement housed one or another of these public school classes for a few years. When the East Side buildings were enlarged and equipped, these classes were transferred to the school buildings.

A station of the Public Library was installed in the Settlement House very soon. Fewer than two hundred books were

circulated the first year, and a discouraging number were mislaid or lost. In 1936, however, the circulation was 12,060 volumes, and the percentage of loss no greater than in the average library station.

Clubs and classes for both boys and girls and for young men and women were organized as the need arose or the desire was expressed, such as; story hours for children, classes in handcraft, in dramatics, chorus singing, dancing, etc.

From the beginning the House has been open to negroes, either in separate groups, or with the younger children, sometimes in mixed groups. It has not always been easy to maintain fair play and to avoid clashes, but the house is still open to both races.

MORE ROOM NEEDED

The House had been used but a few years until it was evident that the building was much too small. A cottage on the Settlement ground next door was remodeled by a group of young women who formed the Roadside Day Nursery Board and undertook the maintenance and management of the Day Nursery. In 1913 this Board purchased a larger house at Ninth and Scott Streets, two blocks distant, remodeled it, and fitted it in a modern way for a Day Nursery. Five years later the Day Nursery again became a department of the Settlement.

The cottage vacated by the Day Nursery was turned into what we called the Model Cottage. Older girls and young women belonging to Settlement clubs planned, purchased, and placed the simple and inexpensive furnishings. After this practical experience in furnishing a home, courses were given there in housekeeping, sweeping, dusting, making beds, sewing, cooking, etc. Groups of employed girls used the house in the evenings for supper clubs and often entertained friends there.

In 1912, encouraged by two bequests, one from Mr. R. S. Wellslager, whose daughter, Mrs. J. D. Whisenand, was one of the signers of the Articles of Incorporation and who remains a loyal friend of Roadside, and the second from Mr. Edward A. Temple, a Committee again undertook the raising

of funds for a separate gymnasium building and for an addition to the main building. Mr. C. A. Rawson, whose interest in the boys and young men of the neighborhood never flagged, again headed the Committee and again all the Board members helped.

The new gymnasium was erected near the main building and was completed and used in the fall of 1913. An addition to the auditorium, almost doubling its size, three new club rooms, and additional space for baths and laundry were added to the main building.

Two power washers, an extractor for partly drying clothing, and four new sets of tubs were added to the laundry equipment. It was these mechanical improvements which evoked from a foreign born neighbor accustomed to physical exertion the remark, "Vimmen nowadays is so veak they can no longer vash on a vash board".

There was great rejoicing among the laundry patrons over the additional space and equipment, and even more rejoicing among the boys and men using the gymnasium as well as in the groups using the auditorium who had found the former one too small for the plays, entertainments, and dances which were constantly being given there.

WOMEN "BY THE DAY"

There were comparatively few women working in factories or other industries when Roadside Settlement moved to the southeast bottoms. The majority of the children in the Day Nursery were more or less irregular attendants because most of the mothers were employed "by the day" in homes. It was before the era of mechanical and electrical household appliances, and the demand for laundresses and cleaning women was constant. Roadside soon had an active employment bureau for women day workers. At one time there were one hundred and fifty women on the employment list, a few of them living outside the neighborhood. We tried very diligently to impress on all the women who registered with us that good work was expected, that appointments must be kept, etc. We tried having a class with practical demonstrations of how to do good laundry work. It developed that practically every woman

on our list thought herself a good laundress who needed no further instruction.

Presently a group of these women formed a Union of Women Day Workers and applied to the Iowa Federation of Labor for a charter, which was granted. The usual wage had been one dollar per day of indefinite hours, plus lunch and carfare. The Union raised the wage to one dollar and fifty cents per day of eight hours, plus lunch and carfare. There was a protest from many employers. They said in person and over the telephone, "A good woman is worth a dollar and fifty cents a day, but hardly any of them are that good." Few employers asked to see the Union card and women from all over the city who knew nothing of the Union but the name and the wage scale claimed to be members.

The Union could do but little to standardize the work of its members, because, they argued, their employers were not standardized. Some ladies wanted clothes rinsed twice; some ladies wanted more bluing and less starch, others more starch and less bluing; some ladies insisted on floors being wiped up on hands and knees while others were satisfied with a long handled mop. A very irate man telephoned that in his wife's absence a Union member had charged him three dollars for a day's work. The offending member was called in and reproached for overcharging. "Law, Miss!" she said, "that man, he's just so easy. I just mentioned three dollars and he handed it to me. I was that surprised it never entered my head to hand part of it back."

After a few years the Union disintegrated. Gradually the use of mechanical equipment, the increasing number of families living in apartments, and the increasing efficiency and decreasing cost of commercial laundries crowded many women out of day work. Roadside still has a short list of "by the day" workers, but there are comparatively few calls for their services.

FAMILY DESERTION

In 1904, when Roadside was still on Mulberry Street, a woman came in to complain that her husband had deserted her and their several small children and that although living

in the next street, he refused to contribute in any way to the support of his family.

The lawyer member of the Board of Directors, when appealed to for advice, found to his surprise that the Iowa code provided no legal way of compelling support. At the instance of members of the Roadside Board, a bill was introduced into the 1905 session of the Iowa Legislature making support mandatory, but it failed of passage. Two years later such a bill was enacted and the number of family desertions in our neighborhood and all over the State greatly decreased. We had found on investigation that out of thirty-six families represented at that time in the Day Nursery, twenty-six had been deserted by the husband and father. There was need for the new law.

JEWISH BRANCH

There were in 1906, and are now, but few Jewish people living in the Roadside neighborhood. A considerable number of Jewish immigrants were coming into Des Moines in the first decade of 1900, many of them locating on the East Side where there was already a group of earlier arrivals. They lived too far from Roadside Settlement to be regular visitors there.

Mr. I. Friedlich, a member of the Jewish community, had been an active member of the committee which collected the funds for the Roadside building to which many Jewish people contributed generously. Mr. Friedlich was a very well known and highly regarded citizen, a member of Roadside Board of Directors, and a member of many other civic and philanthropic committees.

In 1907 Mr. Friedlich suggested that Roadside Settlement undertake some welfare activities in the neighborhood in which these recently arrived people lived. Mr. Friedlich, Rabbi Eugene Mannheimer, and I were constituted a committee to consider and advise with others as to whether such work should be undertaken.

An account of the opening of the Jewish Community Center and its present work will be found on another page of this number of *THE ANNALS*. (See page 182).

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In 1906 Roadside Settlement had one of the few telephones in the southeast bottoms. Inevitably and properly it became a very public telephone, in use both day and night. The police officer on the beat, at our request, had a key to the building and reported hourly through the night over our telephone. Our neighbors seemed to have no hesitation in using the phone either, waking us at any hour of the night to report cases of sudden illness or any other emergency in their families. We were constantly asked to help in sickness and while we were willing to visit sick persons, even in the middle of the night, none of us were trained or experienced in bedside nursing.

In 1909 a group of Des Moines women organized the Visiting Nurses Association. The first visiting nurse as well as her two successors lived in the Settlement House, and for four years I acted as Supervisor of the work of the Association.

In 1911 Mr. Buffon S. Walker and Mr. Harvey Ingham, members of the Roadside Board, secured an appropriation from the Polk County Board of Supervisors for the salary of a second nurse. The work and the staff increased, and in 1913 Miss Ada Hershey, the present able and successful executive head, became Superintendent of the Visiting Nurses Association, now called the Public Health Nursing Association and employing a staff of twenty-eight nurses.

In 1913 Mr. Walker and Mr. C. A. Rawson secured the establishment of the first city playground at Southeast Sixth and Allen Streets, a block east of the Settlement. An organization of women had opened a playground earlier than this at the junction of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers on the West Side, but the Allen Playground was the first one established by the city. It was a small plot of ground, but it was the first of the many larger and better equipped playgrounds now open in Des Moines, which, under the skilled and efficient direction of Miss Kathryn Krieg, are used by great numbers of children and older people as well.

In 1914 members of the Roadside Settlement Board of Directors invited the presidents and executive officers of the welfare agencies of the city to a dinner meeting at the Settlement House. About forty persons were present and Mr.

George Kennerdell of Cleveland talked of the Welfare Bureau, or Community Chest organizations, of which Cleveland had one of the earliest. A plan for a Welfare Bureau for Des Moines was discussed but no action toward forming one was taken at that time.

WORLD WAR ACTIVITIES

Settlements everywhere found their activities greatly changed and increased in the war years. In foreign speaking neighborhoods the Settlement residents and the public school teachers were often the only persons able to interpret the war regulations to the foreign born groups, and in turn interpret the foreign born groups to those in charge of war activities.

A service flag with one hundred and six stars hung in the Settlement House, representing that number of boys who had gone from Roadside clubs and athletic teams into the Army and the Navy. Members of the staff wrote letters, looked up addresses, and made inquiries for many anxious fathers and mothers.

The Settlement building was used regularly and frequently for the activities of War Camp Community Service groups.

In the epidemic of flu which followed the close of the War in 1918 some of the residents gave almost full time to volunteer nursing in the neighborhood as well as preparing soup and other food in large quantities for sick people.

POST WAR YEARS

Three years after the initial discussion held at Roadside in 1914, the Des Moines Public Welfare Board, now the Community Chest, was established by the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, and for a number of years was a Department of the Chamber. It is no longer a Department, but the Chamber of Commerce still elects one-third of the members of the Community Chest Board of Directors. Since 1917 Roadside Board members and staff have worked for the collection of funds for all the welfare agencies included in the Community Chest instead of for Roadside Settlement alone.

The Central Presbyterian and the Central Christian churches of Des Moines have each maintained branch churches in southeast Des Moines for many years. There is now a new

Negro Baptist Church in the district. There have been many missions or religious organizations of various sects for both negro and white people located in the southeast bottoms, most of them of temporary existence.

Bethany Church, the branch of the Central Presbyterian Church, recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its opening and the long period of continuous attendance and support of many members of the Central Church. Charles R. Chase, a most generous citizen, was particularly interested in the Bethany Sunday School. Through his continuing interest in the boys who year after year were brought into his class at Bethany, many of them now fill positions of honor and usefulness in Des Moines.

Roadside has had always friendly and cooperative relations with these neighborhood churches, and for many years either I or some member of the resident Roadside staff taught a class in the Bethany Sunday School.

Since 1918 a lunch room has been maintained for children of the two nearby public schools. Children who would otherwise have a scant and cold mid-day meal may obtain a hot dish of food for five cents and may supplement the main dish for one or two additional pennies. Needless to say the lunch room is not entirely self supporting.

The needs of the people of the Roadside neighborhood have greatly increased in the recent depression years. Many men and women usually employed were unable to find work, and those who were in better times not always fully employed became entirely dependent on relief.

A sewing room was established at Roadside in 1932 where women of the neighborhood might remake and repair garments contributed by more fortunate families and receive credit for their work. This credit was not in money but could be used for the purchase of garments which a woman herself had put in repair, or of garments put in condition by other workers. This work room has been so successful that it is now a permanent feature of the House.

A cobbler was employed also in 1932 to teach men and boys to cobble shoes, and the same method of exchange of work

was used as in the sewing room. Within a few years several hundreds of pairs of shoes have been resoled and reconditioned.

Small fees are collected from those using the Settlement House for some of the services such as; lunch room, laundry, baths, motion picture programs, etc. The fees received have averaged over the years about thirteen percent of the whole budget. The remainder of the required budget is received from the Des Moines Community Chest and from gifts of friends for special undertakings.

Bequests received in addition to those from Mr. R. S. Wellslager and Mr. E. A. Temple, mentioned earlier in this article, have included a second from Mr. Wellslager, one from Mr. S. A. Merrill, one of the signers of the Article of Incorporation, and recently one from Mrs. J. L. Sheurman who was for many years a useful and valued member of the Board of Directors.

The number of social settlements in the United States has not increased greatly in recent years, but the aims and purposes and the programs of the early Settlements have been largely taken over and carried on by Community Centers. One of the essentials of the settlements was residence in the neighborhood by some members of the staff. Easier and faster methods of transportation, the very great increase in the number and variety of social welfare organizations and services, the opinion of many teachers of social service technique that workers should not live in the building where their work is carried on, all have made the Community Center rather than the Social Settlement the modern name for a center for neighborhood activities. Directors of the Des Moines Community Centers, however, have generally maintained their residences in their respective center houses.

When Roadside Settlement was incorporated in 1899, only four of the agencies now included in the Des Moines Community Chest were in existence. Two of these were relief giving, the third a childrens home finding society, the fourth character and religious. The twenty-six welfare agencies now in the Chest are classified as Relief, Health, Child Welfare, and Character Building. Through its varied activities Road-

side qualifies in part for each of these classifications. The average citizen in Des Moines contributes to the Community Chest, and the average citizen believes that material relief, health, child welfare, and character building agencies give services which the community as a whole owes to the members of the community who need and use such services. The average citizen knows also that such services are essential ones not only for humanitarian and social welfare reasons, but are essential in order that all the members of the community may be protected from the danger and the hazards which neglect of any one of these community responsibilities entails.

The young women who in 1899 reluctantly relinquished their identity as the King's Daughters Union in order to establish more firmly the permanence of the organization which they had initiated, set a high standard for the future management and support of Roadside Settlement. The men and women who signed the Articles of Incorporation and became members of the first Board of Directors accepted the responsibility knowing the labor which such responsibility entailed.

Successive Boards of Directors, which have included representatives of the three great divisions of religious faith, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish, have maintained a high standard of responsibility for, and of interest in, the work of the Settlement and in the welfare of those who are participants in Roadside's many activities.

The present members of the Board of Directors are: Messrs. Wm. F. Riley, C. A. Crosser, Alex Fitzhugh, Luther L. Hill, Harvey Ingham, E. Hulbert Mulock, Gerard Nollen, Albert J. Robertson, Rudolph Weitz; Mesdames Earl Linn, John Cowles, Charles A. Dewey, Sam Elbert, Harry Ginsberg, Gerard Nollen, Meyer Rosenfield; Dr. Frank R. Holbrook, Dr. Walter Kirch, and Miss Flora Dunlap.

The Resident Directors of Roadside Settlement and their terms of service are: Mr. Charles E. Lynde 1896-1897; Miss Clara Adams 1897-1901; Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Weeks 1901-1904; Mrs. Lucy Bitting 1904; Miss Flora Dunlap 1904-1916; Miss Mary Burd 1916-1918; Miss Flora Dunlap 1918-1924; Miss Kathryn Glerum 1924-1927; Miss Edith Gill 1927-1932; Miss Dorothy E. Johnson 1932-1937; Miss Harriet Rietveld 1937—.

Two others who have been members of the Roadside staff for a longer period than any but one of the Resident Directors are Mrs. Minnie Allan who was for nearly twenty years Matron of the Roadside Day Nursery and gave to all the children who came and went through the Nursery doors impartial care and affectionate attention. The other is Jean Taylor, whose service began as an occasional helper about 1920, and who has carried many responsibilities and acted as Director-in-charge during summer vacations and other absences of Directors since 1924. Mrs. Taylor is still a member of the staff.

I wish there were space to give the names of staff members who have lived and worked in Roadside Settlement for longer and shorter periods; the names of representatives of the Public Library, the Public School Board, the Public Health Nursing Association, the Playground Commission, the Juvenile Court, the Junior League, the Works Progress Administration who have recently given such valuable service and who have been a part of the Settlement staff; the names of volunteer workers whose services have been so many and so valued, and of the men and women not only in Des Moines, but elsewhere in Iowa, who have given so generously of money and of friendly help and counsel. All these have been a part of Roadside's usefulness and of its services to its neighborhood and to the city. Its growth has continued for fifty years if the years are counted since the first Circle of King's Daughters was formed, or thirty-eight years since the Articles of Incorporation were signed. A whole number of *THE ANNALS* would be needed to contain the names of all the Board members and of all the friends and helpers of these years, each of whom has a rightful place in the Settlement history.

For all of them the reward, if reward is needed other than in the "joy of doing", is the number of children now grown to manhood and womanhood, with children of their own, who are fine and useful citizens and who recognize or who say, "Roadside taught me this, or that", or "Roadside started me right."

Or again if reward is needed, and it is not needed, for "the joy was in the giving", it is in the memory of the burdened

and depressed men and women who came to Roadside for information, for advice, for help, for the mere comfort of talking to a friendly neighbor, and thus lightening their burdens by putting them into words.

All the plans made through the years have not been carried out. There have been mistakes and discouragements. Much that was hoped for is as yet not accomplished. Vision outruns achievement. Nevertheless, a house stands "by the side of the road" in southeast Des Moines in which those who built it endeavored, and those who live in it endeavor, to be "a friend to man."

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

In 1907 a committee consisting of Rabbi Eugene Mannheim, Mr. I. Friedlich, and Miss Flora Dunlap, Head Resident of Roadside Settlement, made a study of the number and the place of residence of the more recent foreign born Jewish arrivals in Des Moines.

It was found that Bremer School, located at East Second and Des Moines Streets, had a large number of Jewish children enrolled, and, after much consultation with other interested persons, it was agreed that some activities for Jewish people should be inaugurated in the Bremer School neighborhood. Miss Dunlap undertook the general supervision of the new project which was called the Jewish Branch of Roadside Settlement. Miss Anette Mann, a Jewish social worker, was employed and took up residence in Roadside Settlement.

The first need of these Jewish people who, with other races and nationalities, were coming to the United States in such large numbers during these years, seemed to be instruction in the English language. For like most of our foreign immigrants, these people found that their major difficulty was an almost total ignorance of the tongue of their adopted country. This ignorance was an obstacle to, and made even more difficult, the acquaintance with, the adjustment to, and the assimilation of American customs and traditions so necessary if our Melting Pot was and is to produce citizens of the heart and not merely of residence.

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