



**CHEERLEADERS** — His Excellency Bishop Kearney presents prize to girl cheerleaders at diocesan basketball tournament sponsored by the Columbus Youth Association.



**CYA TROPHY** — Captains of winning team in CYA-sponsored basketball tournament receive championship trophy from His Excellency Bishop Kearney.

## Genesee Settlement

### What The Settlement House Means To Me

By MARY CUMINALE  
Through my experience as a day camp counselor last summer, I was quite amazed to discover that so few people knew what a settlement house was, and just what an asset it is to our community.

The settlement house provides a program of various activities, through the supervision of skillfully trained workers, for the children in the neighborhood.

A settlement house is just what its name suggests. It is a house where children of all ages, and teenagers, matrons, and older people, come to settle for a day, night, or hour of fun. This would be in one form or another depending on the age or program that is in session at that time.

The Genesee Settlement House consists of two main offices, a living room, game or sewing room, and kitchen. The upstairs quarters consists of two club and craft rooms, an office, a library, and a play room. Behind the house is the workshop, and off the living room is the gym.

The Genesee Settlement House is directed by Miss Mary Hannick, a most capable director. She radiates love, tolerance, and understanding, and has a magic way of knowing how to solve any problem that is placed in her path.

Because of my husband's volunteer work with the settlement house some years ago, I began to understand the functioning of a settlement house—and to recognize its unquestionable necessity to the neighborhood it served. Without it children of school age would

be spending their after school hours playing in the streets. Teenagers would find their way to pool rooms and other forms of trouble. The settlement house eliminates this by having activities for these groups.

After being offered a part-time job working with some of these groups, my husband detected a need for a special group which would take in boys who did not fit into the normal athletic program. And so a new club was formed, and my husband became director and advisor to these boys who were in dire need of such a program.

Under this program the boys played basketball, baseball, went fishing and talking and learned handicraft. They learned cooperation and sportsmanship through participation in these games. In handicraft the individual acquired a sensitivity to beauty and discovered their hidden creative powers. But most of all they gained confidence in themselves, spiritual values, and a feeling of being wanted and recognized.

Because of family circumstances, my husband had to give up the job he liked so well. But through his close association with the settlement house, he learned about the day camp program, which offered an outlet for children during the summer months. This included children from the ages of four to thirteen. Having three children of my own, I became interested, especially for the fact that I had a handicapped child who needed sunshine, companionship, and activity.

I registered both our boys who were then four and seven years of age. The baby was too young for such activity. Day camp offered a new and happy life for both children. It was through these various activities in day camp that Miss Hannick drew our attention to the fact that our four year old child needed something more than regular day camp.

Through day camp, he learned great independence and responsibility for his own self direction. He learned how to guide his own actions and behavior and his relations with others. With great reluctance I finally realized the situation, and concluded that Miss Hannick was right.

A suggestion was made to me that we get the details about sending him to No. 5 school which would take care of his school needs as well as his recreational needs during the summer months. I was displeased with the idea of sending my child to a special school for handicapped children. I felt that my child should be given an even chance to grow up just as normal as other children. I felt that the only way that could be possible was to let him mingle with the normal children.

But as time went on, I began to see for myself something that Miss Hannick had been trying to make me realize. So I proceeded to enroll him into No. 5 School, where he has had the opportunity of observing the other children in his position. He loves the school, children, and all the teachers. What is most important is that he has found a peace for himself, where he feels secure and is well loved by all. I have found peace of mind and also a sense of security in knowing that he is happy and well adjusted.

Because of my state of mind through all this, I wasn't particularly interested in what went on at the settlement house. One day I was asked to become a member of the Home Bureau. I consented and have never regretted it since. In fact, this was the beginning of my varied interests and activities which have become "law" owing to my family circumstances.

The Genesee Home Bureau Unit is one of the most relaxing and enjoyable programs offered to the harassed housewife. This program takes in a degree of everything—from

a little harmless gossip—to a bit of a snack—a few snatches at the project—on hand, or—as some prefer—glimpses of their favorite programs on television. But what is best about this day, is meeting the girls each week, who Oldsters Club. The settlement house is open day and night, every day except Saturdays,

**GENESEE SETTLEMENT HOUSE**  
10 Duke Street  
Provides educational and recreational services on a family basis for boys, girls and adults living in a crowded area.

**STAFF**  
Mary Hannick, Director, Ann Sieble, Edna Costantabile, Jack Adorant, Edward Brennan, Joseph DiFranco, Philip DiFranco, Phyllis Habel.

have endeared themselves in a little niche in one's heart.

Besides the Home Bureau Unit, there are many other clubs that function at the house. These include the after school activities for all school children, Hobby Clubs, Cooking classes, Sewing and Handicraft classes, the Boy Scout Troop (240), the Pioneer Club, the Teen-age Club, and the

Sundays, and holidays.

My children always talked about the wonderful, exciting times they had when they attended the Genesee Settlement Day Camp. This I had a chance to discover for myself as a mother, and a day camp counselor.

Day camp is a camp that runs all day and ceases in mid-afternoon. The day begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Assembly takes place in the gym of the settlement house, where the children are separated into age groups, mixing boys and girls. Here the counselor is given instructions as to the destination of her group for the day.

Children from the ages of four to thirteen can take part as a day camper. Their activities include swimming, hiking, fishing, playing baseball and various other games. The experience of day camp is priceless because each child realizes that he is part of a group and that his actions, decisions, and emotions, influence his fellow-camper. He learns cooperation, dependability, self-control, fair-play and courtesy.

If you are not acquainted with a settlement house, make it your business to do so. Don't deprive your children of the fun that he is entitled to—don't deprive yourself. Join the cause! Keep the children off the streets. Keep them happy, healthy and safe.

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