

Call Inter-Racial Visits Big Success

Inter-racial Home Visitation Day in Peoria yesterday met with big success in the opinion of leaders of the movement and those who participated.

Ninety couples, representing more than 200 persons participated in the project during which Negroes visited homes of white people and Negroes entertained white families.

JOHN Timmes, a Negro city policeman, and his wife, Kathryn, entertained five white couples who visited their home at 2118 N. Bourland Ave., at various times between 1 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

"I believe this visitation program has brought a broader understanding between white persons and the Negro," Timmes said. "We discussed Negro problems and at the same time had a very pleasant social visit."

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Schertz, who live on a farm near Metamora, had a Peoria Negro couple and their three children at their home.

"We had a very enjoyable visit and I think this visitation program is a very good start in reaching a better understanding between both parties," Mrs. Schertz said.

Mr. and Mrs. John Robinson entertained 15 white adults in their home at 719 Monson St.

"We had such a wonderful time that everybody forgot about racial problems," Mrs. Robinson said. "I know they had a good time because they stayed a long while and we had plenty of food on hand."

Robinson operates John's Bar-B-Q Pit on Monson street.

There were 13 people, Negroes and white persons, at the home of City Manager August De-

Bard and his wife, at 1223 W. Moss Ave.

"THIS WAS NO new experience for me because being a college professor we have entertained people of various nationalities before and have had Negroes in our home here before this project," DeBard said. "I think this visitation project is a worthwhile endeavor but does not need all this pomp and ceremony."

Larry Matthews, executive director of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Men, said the visitation was mostly white people going to Negro homes. He added, however, that about 10 white families were hosts to Negroes. "I was surprised at the number of white families who wanted to be hosts, but we didn't

have enough Negro families participating to visit them," Matthews said.

HE SAID NO further large project like this is planned until next spring when it is hoped that Peoria can participate in National Home Visitation Exchange.

"Until then we will just try to work out individual exchanges."

"From what I saw of the exchanges today I would say it was a success."

He said it is planned to have all the people who participated in Sunday's visitation attend a potluck supper, sponsored by the Catholic Interracial Council, sometime in November.

"Through these people we hope to make some more contacts and maybe this thing will really blossom," Matthews said.

A committee of 25 whites and Negroes set up the Sunday visitation. Leading the committee was Mrs. Jewel Hinton, representing Bethel Methodist church.

CATHOLIC AND Protestant churches backed the project, although it was a laymen's program, Matthews said.

"This project is to bring about a better understanding between the Negro and the white person. It was an attempt to break down the barrier between relations of Negroes and white people," Mrs. James Peeres of the Catholic Inter-racial Council said.



AMONG SEVENTEEN PEOPLE visiting the John Robinson home at 719 Monson St. yesterday were the Rev. Eugene Kane, chaplain of the Catholic Inter-Racial Council, and Otto Mackert. John Robinson, owner of John's Bar-Q-Pit, serves them refreshments.



MRS. JOHN TIMMES serves coffee to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hranka during an Inter-Racial visit yesterday to the Timmes home on 2118 N. Bour-

land Ave. Playing on the floor are Jan Timmes, 6, and John Hranka, 6. The Hrankas live at 203 Grant St., Marquette Heights.