

Center Fund

Drive Opens

J T 12 2 4 5

Community Building Is Objective

Looking beyond the campaign for funds to purchase and equip a Negro community center for Peoria, Ernest T. Attwell of New York last night told a dinner meeting of campaign workers that the center must have trained leadership, a definite program, adequate facilities and the moral support of the community if it is to achieve its purpose.

The purpose of the center as defined by Dr. Clarence W. Schroeder, dean of men at Bradley college, is to provide "equal opportunity for a minority group," and thus to lay a foundation for real democracy.

"It is a job at which we dare not fall," added Dr. Schroeder.

Mr. Attwell, who is field representative for the Negro division of the National Recreation association, suggested that what we term juvenile delinquency is frequently community delinquency, driving home the point that the community is remiss in its duty if adequate recreational centers are not provided for youth.

Stanley Mitchell, city detective assigned to juvenile work, added force to this premise by citing a case involving three teen-age youths whom the police are continually having to take out of taverns and who insist there is no place else where they can spend their time.

Mrs. Donna Williams, Peoria policewoman, presided at last night's "kickoff" dinner, held in the Y. W. C. A. dining room. Also on the program were J. M. Pletz, chairman of the advance gifts committee which already has raised \$5,000 for a binding payment on the building at Third ave. and Spencer st.; James A. Madison, assistant to Mr. Attwell; Sanford McFolling, chairman of the general drive, and Harry W. Sephus, who introduced Mr. Attwell.

Two soloists were heard. Alice Jones sang, "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life," and Andrew Warner, "The Lord Is My Shepherd." Benediction was by the Rev. Ernest Scott, pastor of Bethel Methodist church.

The immediate goal, according to Mr. MacFolling is \$15,000, and the drive is to end December 9, with report meeting on December 3 and 6.