

Carver Center Given

## 'Once Over' By Student

Thirty-five students of eight area high schools recently toured the United Fund agencies of Community Chest and Red Cross. They wrote reports on what they saw and learned from directors. The following is one report, the work of Sue Pittman, senior at Limestone High school who is also feature editor of the school paper "Limelight." She is the daughter of Mrs. Doris Pittman, 5707 Washington st., Bartonville.

By SUE PITTMAN

There are approximately 11,000 Negroes in Peoria. Seventy-eight per cent of these Negroes live in the Carver Community Center area, more commonly called "under-the-bluff" area.

Crowded living conditions, poor facilities for a good moral background, and few opportunities for self-improvement, call for an outlet for youth and adults. How are these needs met? What is being done to solve these problems?

Located at 219 N. Sheridan rd is part of the answer to these questions. It is a red brick building, called the Washington Carver Community Center. Entering the door and turning right, brings you to the office of the executive director, Mr. Henry Harper. Mr. Harper is a graduate of the Western Michigan university, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and is aware of the needs of the youth and adults of the area and country.

THERE IS NO AGE limit at the center. Those people, colored or white, who have interests in music, dramatics, sewing, cooking, dancing, or crafts will be satisfied by joining a class group that studies one of these special interests. All the classes have capable directors and are always under supervision. Students from Bradley university often substitute for a director.

Closed group organizations are often formed at the Center. These consist of a small number of close friends who want to organize to work for a needy cause. They sponsor and organize style shows, dances and other money raising projects. Interest in their projects runs high and is intense.



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TEEN-AGE BOYS can use up energy playing pool, table tennis, hess, dominocs or shuffle-board. Often the room in the top floor of the building is filled with noisy teens enjoying an after-game dance. Social dancing rates high in popularity with the youth of the Center.

Although there is a radio, portable television set, and record-layer, there is a growing demand for a larger gymnasium, a workshop for the boys, a health center and nursery school.

Yes—Peoria and the rest of the nation's cities do have a big problem—juvenile delinquency—and this is one way of battling at stumbling block.

Mr. Harper said, "No one is really all bad. It is just the background that he has grown up in that determines his outlook and attitudes. Here at the Center, we are trying to give them that good moral and social back-