Acquire Building At
Third, Spencer

With acquisition of a building and organization of a Negro community center in Peoria.

The new center, which it is expected will be in full operation by 1943, will be located at Third and Spencer, and will be the only brick building which formerly housed the maintenance division of the Illinois Bell Telephone Company.

A Citizens' committee already has been formed and has the backing of the general campaign group, which will contact Peorians other than the approximately 600 already solicited by the citizens' committee, to hold a "kickoff" dinner meeting at 7 o'clock tomorrow night in the Y.W.C.A. Attending will be the general campaign personnel.

Seek $40,000

Ultimate goal of the combined campaigns is $40,000. Cost of the building is $25,000 and from $10-20,000 for a suitable building required for remodeling and properly equipping the center. A part of this work will be done immediately and the job will be completed in phases. The complete amount needed will be raised now and the balance of the funds will be held in trust for the Negro community center by the Commercial Merchants National Bank & Trust Co.

The general campaign committee has set $15,000 as its quota toward the total and officials hope to raise this amount within a week through the public solicitation.

Taking a leading part at tomorrow's dinner will be Mr. Ernest T. Attwell, director of the bureau of colored work of the National Recreation association, New York City. Mr. Attwell, who will also take an active part in the building committee, will be in Peoria Monday to assist in the campaign and to help in setting up the entire program, to come to the National Recreation association in its successful experience in the South as a member of the administrative staff of Tuskegee Institute serving with both Mr. Washington, the founder, and Robert R. Moton, the late principal.

To Select Name

Decision has been reached by the board of the Peoria Negro community center to name the new building after Mr. Carver Center, or Carver Center, honoring the great Negro scientist.

Coincidental with the selection of a name for the new center here Rackham Holt, writer of the sensational best-seller biography, "George Washington Carver," will be in Peoria to participate in the book rally tomorrow night at the Rialto theater.

letters of the present site also were seen to be inadequate.

The citizens committee on the Negro community center points out that in the spring of 1943 consisted of approximately 8,000 Negroes out of 75 per cent of the colored population residing within it. The building has been made over to the purchase price, location, or it not it will adequately meet the needs of the Negro people.

Fund To Co-operate

The Peoria Community Fund is restricted by its by-laws from raising funds for capital expenditures of any sort. It has therefore been decided to form a Negro community center board as trustee for the funds to receive the funds raised in the campaign to hold the title to the property at$40,000. The funds will be paid for, and until the full payment for the property has been made, under certain conditions. The fund will be made and paid for. At that point, the title to the property will be put in the hands of trustees appointed by the Community Fund. This board of trustees will be made up of well known Negroes.

The Negro community center board may be the best person to provide for a smaller board of directors, some of whom will be appointed by the Community Fund.

The general campaign committee has been appointed by the Negro community center to raise the substantial part of the total goal.

Two-story Building

The site of the new center is a partially two-story brick building on the property of the Peoria Community Fund and Council. The building is to be used as a community center, and will be converted to a gymnasium. It is expected that the building will be used for the purpose of a Negro community center. The building is expected to be completed by the end of the year and will be made available for the benefit of the community.

The fund to co-operate consists of a group of individuals who have contributed to the fund and are now working to raise additional funds to complete the building. The fund is dedicated to the idea that every Negro should have access to a community center, and that the building should be used for the benefit of the community as a whole.

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