

## SOME (VERY)RANDOM THOUGHTS on CHIP PROGRAMS

Listed in no particular order and for L.L. chiefly

### I. Dramatics

#### Repertory

Robin Hart's Chester ~~Repertory~~ Group is one place to look for help in putting on some skits or sketches of CHIP's own. Also; they might appreciate some more hands backstage. Lighting, sound, stage design are often fascinating to teenage boys (and girls). Physics seems to make sense at last when applied to electronic reproduction, or faking the noise of a rattling shutter in a play. What color does one get with a red gelatin over a yellow spot focussed on tri-colored, splash-dotted flats? Where should the olivets go? And what pockets do we have in this light-board? How can we fake fireplace bricks? Etc.

There is also an integrated repertory group (or was last yr. & I think it still operates) at the Media Fellowship House.

I cannot promise anything from Sw. Players Club, despite my position there. It is not an integrated club. I could possibly take a few kids to work nights to show them a big light board, \$7,000 worth of stereophonic sound equipment & how it works, how we mix paints for flats, but only a few at a time because we really work & there are never enuf hours for everything. I could sometimes take an integrated group to a Tues. nite dress rehearsal (free) when there is a play they'd like. I think Skipper (M. L. Webster, Jr. to you) would let an integrated group of moderate size come to dress rehearsal of KISS ME, KATE on the last Sat. of Nov., or the last Fri., esp. if the group contained several Sw. kids whose parents belong to the Club, as many do. Sorry about the stuffy race relations policy of the Club; it isn't in the by-laws of course, but, like the Swim Club, the members can't take large doses of other skins. I don't want to put my husband on the spot, either.

Backstage work is fun, good training, an outlet for energy, a place for many skills, some that people don't know they have. And of course, sometime we might put on plays ourselves. Some possibilities in traveling stages. Can turn a school cafeteria into a theater-in-the-round.

For a very occasional Sat. evening's entertainment Nosebag Dramatics is fun. Will explain term, if unfamiliar to you.

### II. Music

Man who teaches music at Swarth High is member of Chester Musician's Union, which has program to interest young people in live music. Investigate possibilities.

Could we get school or other instruments for jazz combo? Can get various local high school combos or guitar buffs to perform at Wade House on Sat. nite. Turn room into Coffee House or Discotheque once in a while? Some college kids would help with this, I'm sure. Also Bruce Lee & friends of Swarthmore High.

If we offer scholastic tutoring, how about free music lessons at Wade? Get some instruments donated, or loaned. The kind of boy in high school who plays a hot guitar needs CHIP, believe me, and probably would never come to work. Two-way advantages.

A really swinging hootenanny once a month or so would attract, I'm sure. Lots of talent from many places/ should be fairly easy to find.

III. Wouldn't Dr. Van de Kamp show his Chaplin movies with comments some nite? Also many other good movies, entertaining, educational, controversial, etc. are obtainable. Not on race subjects, at first at least. How about some real PEACE movies? Non-violence has a place in CHIP's social goals surely. These are good when followed by discussion under an experienced leader. Also role-playing here.

Sometimes movies for fun, too. Wonderful old ones like RED SHOES can be obtained almost free by schools. Why not CHIP? Or a school might get it for us.

I think these ~~gunk~~ kids might not find travel movies or slides corny. After all, most of them haven't been anywhere. Edward James, of our Meeting, has been all over the world as a consulting engineer, has good movies, and a brisk presentation. Many other people too. If the subject were Thailand, say, or India or Tanzania perhaps some of the girls (or the boys!) would like to prepare a meal or a dessert of the country to serve after the show.

#### IV. Art

This Howard Johnson, artist friend of Julius, got free lessons at Settlement House downtown, and at Art Alliance too, I think. Howabout asking him to advise on ways of incorporating artistic experience in these kids' lives? Also free tutoring here perhaps? Materials to be donated. Not arts-y, crafts-y stuff, but real clay, canvas, murals? Might get artists from Wallingford Arts Center (I have friends there) to give free classes. Not Sat. morning, they are at Art Center, but other times. Might mean some trips to paint in the field - good. Howard Johnson painted Mayor Corbey's portrait. Source of pride, I should think. He needs a show; perhaps others do too. If he got into CHIP & helped other budding artists would be good taking point for some of us to talk gallery owners or Art Center or Pearson or College Theater or other places to display his stuff. Could promote a fewscholarships for CHIP artists here & there, I'm sure.

I realize that some of the above makes CHIP more a settlement house than a work camp. Wade should have been doing this for yrs. If we can, who cares which group is the agent?

#### V. Outdoor activities

There are numerous places to camp. Or to have an evening campfires barbecue (by the boys), sing, skits. If they've never sat under the real stars with the wind in the trees above them, they've been denied every person's birthright. I know where to get tents. I can also procure a limited no. of canoes & some men to teach paddling. The Brandywine has some easy stretches, good for a day's paddling or an overnite trip. The Sw. Sea Scouts & other groups have large motor boats. They could take a gang up the Delaware (or down). They've taken my Mariner troop & other people. Ever seen the Del. River from itself, or the land from the river? Gives perspective. And if they canoed thru the Wharton Tract in N. Jersey they'd never be the same again - unbelievable how wild & quiet it is, tho so near towns. Prelim work in canoes nec. before a real trip. Can borrow life preservers (the belt type) from Sw. Sea Scouts. I have a real in with them 'cause we worked (and I mean dirty work) on their boats.

Sailing clubs may be stuffy about colored fellows. Will enquire of my friends at Cooper R. Yacht Club (only 45 mins. drive, over near Camden. A few boys at a time, 'cause they sail Moths, Penguins, & Lightnings there. But a real thrill even on those inland waters, 'cause wind is gusty. Oliver Rodgers of Sw. Mtg useful here. (Yo understand that I'm suggesting nothing I don't know places & people to go to for assistance. And I'll ask anyone for anything if it concerns or benefits young people.)

Old Dr. Leuhring would take these kids for real hikes, on Appalachian Trail parts of which are convenient to us. Hostels nearby should be willing to house integrated group. One near Chester Springs in Chester Co., a big one. Girl Scouts have hostel pass anywhere in U.S., maybe others do too.

Ice-skating on the Crum & other places when frozen. Lots of ~~skt~~ skates (outgrown) in people's houses, make appeal for same. Get someone to teach them a few steps, so they feel accomplished. Big bonfire & hot dogs on shore. Ditto sledding in Chester Park.

Can sometimes get from Navy (Boy Scouts do) old PT or other boats which have worn-out or broken motors. Boys seem willing to spend hours fixing. This some-

times takes money for parts. Junk yards donate? Navy donate? Westinghouse or whoever makes the motors donate? Boys raise money for same by some project, if they really want a boat? Much help from Sea Scouts here would be mutually beneficial. Also Coast Guard Power Squadron, very active in this area. Most people do not realize how much a seaport Phila. is. Largest in Am. in amt of freight handled, not passengers. Much career possibility here. Lots of old salts in Naval Home, Navy Reserve, Naval District (active) etc. I have friend who is freight-loading manager for M & M lines, might have ideas. Take boys on Phila. police boat, watch diving for bodies. On fire boat for practices. To marinas, large & small. (Prelude to Chester waterfront project a la Lange, perhaps, altho good in itself also.)

Know of Negro who has riding stable, or did have last yr. To ride a horse! That's an experience, too. Esp. to boys brought up on TV westerns! Have an in with 2 stables in County where I've taken Scouts for lessons, no idea whether could promote a Negro or inter-racial ride on off days. Glad to try. Lots of horse shows in County in fall & spring. Promote free tickets for some? Watching jumpers from the rail will give anyone a thrill. Jobs here too, maybe.

Man in Swarth. is son-in-law of Branch Rickey, used to take First Day School class to pro baseball games. We surely could find someone to give you free tickets to Phillies Sun. afternoon game, if Lindsay no longer has any drag. Don't boys still like live games? Career too. Ditto football. Not just a high school game, but the real big time: meet players maybe?

Bowling we talked ~~xxxxxx~~ about...Have to be an off-time, of which there are very few....If we could find any golf clubs, could perhaps get greens ~~xxxx~~ fees waived at public links on Conchester Highway. Can hit co. commissioners (Bill Welsh) or Walter Weaver, park supt. who lives in Sw. & is stuffy old dope, but I wouldn't mind asking him for this. Again, have to be an off time. But real status symbol, playing gold. Also horseback riding, sailing, motorboating. Why shouldn't these kinds have a taste at least of some of the good things of life?

If you want to arrange outdoor trips, the list is endless: Hawk Mt. (can stay in rough lean-tos), Daniel Boone's birthplace & museum (can stay in log hostel), Boy Scout camps in Poconos & Montgomery Co., French Creek state park, and many more. With the VW bus could take select few boys inexpensively.

#### VI. Miscellaneous suggestions

1. A chef's club - fun and may lead to jobs
2. Industrial trips - guided tours of Scott, Sun Ship, Acme bakery, add dozens more. Interesting, educational, range of jobs open
3. Museums: Natural History has live animal shows on Sat. & Sun. afternoons and habitat exhibits worth anyone's time. Fels Planetarium of course. Franklin Institute of course. Phila. Maritime Museum. Atwater Kent Museum of early Phila. Military museum (ugh!), small & not well-known but some interesting Civil War things. U. of Penna. museum, and its free movies on Sun. afternoons.
4. Visit to Naval Yard; often visiting ships in harbor permit people on board at stated times; airport & weather station; maybe could promote brief flight in Tom McCabe's plane (I know his pilot). We can hope, can't we?

#### VII. TRAINING

It might be worth offering these fellows a course, a real learn-to-do-it course in say First Aid. My Scouts always loved the goriness of it, the bandaging, the carries, the pressure points. Can get Red Cross to do free. Or judo course. I've put two on for my Scouts, brown belt instructor & all. Get free help from Phila. Judo Club maybe? Need mats (schools?), can wear pajamas. I know Julius knows karate. Judo is art of self-defense, not attack. Would play down karate.

VII. Training (cont)

Girls respond eagerly to service opportunities. Let these boys volunteer in hospital wards or to "pattern" cripples & they might see that they are better off than some people. Let them know the pleasures & rewards of giving of themselves. Read to shut-ins, or pick up books at library for them at stated times. (This is not training, but hospital work could be.) Need male orderlies & attendants in all hospitals. Don't know qualifications. Learn Braille to get a glimpse of the world of the blind. If any have enuf education, ~~xxxx~~ work with home-bound kids. Social work careers, on grade below college graduates. Get Helen Hall or someone to give course in speed reading. Get old type-writers & have nice man in Media Typewriter Store (or someone from Chester ditto) teach boys to tear down & repair. Would this interfere with a union or anything?

Other and better ideas will no~~x~~ doubt occur to you & others. Indoor trips that is, trips to indoor places, are also endless. Would any of them have enuf stuff for a hobby show? Paul Gemmill of Swarth. is a magician. He might come to give one of his infrequent shows (he is "professional" but doesn't do it for a living.) Let the boys try a few simple tricks to use among their friends. Bring in an F.B.I. man to discuss counterfeiting! If there was insufficient school training in mechanical drawing we could give a short advanced course in that. Courses could be upstairs in Wade or somewhere else. Let them learn how to play bridge from an expert; might be a change from poker! Or chess.... Get a dart board & have a contest....What about the Swarth. Rifle Club & its range near Pittinger? Heaven knows I hate guns, but the boys wouldn't. They might enjoy handling a good gun, with adequate training...Skeet shooting? Archery?....I know a man in Swarth. who is a balloonist. If he wanted to, he could take them up. Or at least to a balloon rally or whatever they call their meets.

If you throw out a lot of ideas the boys will indicate what interests them, & we can go on from there. Also we ought to try some things they don't know whether they'd like or not. Many of these ideas could be co-ed, if that adds to attraction. The smaller the group the more privileges one can ask for. Could do different things with different groups on same night, but not too many groups or cannot supply transp. & supervision for same.

What about model trains? Some really professional set-ups in private homes. I don't know whose, but someone must know...Why not take them fishing?

Hope this is some help.

HRW

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