

KEARNY BRANCH OF NEWARK Y. M. C. A.

Completes Year of Varied Activities, New Secretary's Summer Program a Hit

The Kearny Branch of the Newark Y. M. C. A. made a good start in spite of the fact that man power shortage and other difficulties prevented securing an executive secretary till June 1, 1945. During the first eleven months of Y. M. C. A. work in Kearny prior to that date, about 800 boys spent a total of approximately 40,000 boy-hours in the following character building activities run for the local Churches:



CLARENCE M. HENGST

- The Fithian Choristers (See pages 8 & 16)
- Junior Rifle Corps (Sec pages 11 & 27)**
- Dramatic Company (Sec page 9)
- Tumbling Team (See pages 10 & 11)
- Model Railroad Club Programs
- Midget Basketball League (See pages 19, 22 & 23)
- Junior Basketball League (See pages 18, 20 & 21)
- Kearny Boys at Kamp Kiamesha Field Meet

The first six activities on this list were run by a sub-committee of the Committee of Management, known as P. B. C. Directors, Inc. who receive a subsidy from the Welfare Federation through the Y. M. C. A. of (1,000.00 per year which is spent exclusively for leadership and equipment for activities open to boys of all denominations. The P. B. C. Directors, Inc. operate the Presbyterian Boys Club whose members have their own treasury, and whose game rooms and other facilities are used heavily by boys from all Churches, the requirement being that each boy be faithful at his own Church. The basketball leagues and field meet were run by

other sub-committees. Also a number of Church baseball teams were organized and entered in a league sponsored by the Kearny Board of Recreation, which furnished grounds, balls, bases, and umpires during April, May, and early June.

A word of appreciation is here given to the following Churches for making possible the above program by furnishing meeting places or boys or both: Beulah. First Baptist. First Lutheran. First Methodist. First Presbyterian. Grace Methodist. Holy Cross. Knox Presbyterian. Sacred Heart, and Saint Stephen's.

The North Arlington Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and several others have also volunteered their cooperation since June 1st when the new executive secretary, Clarence M. Hengst, moved to 37 Hamilton Avenue, Kearny, to begin a greater, more comprehensive community type program than has ever been conducted here by the Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Hengst plans not to supplant but only to supplement the fine work of other agencies in this community, with needed services common in many other places, but not yet provided here, and which tend to provide a Christianizing influence and to encourage more young people to attend Churches and Sunday Schools of all denominations.

With the help of a recent survey of the Board of Recreation, and a number of interviews with local clergymen, and town officials, and business men, Mr. Hengst was quickly informed of the opportunities here, and decided that no elaborate paper survey was necessary. He immediately developed programs for boys in localities where juvenile delinquency had been reported and in sections of town where little else was being done. By the time public schools had closed for the summer he obtained the use of ball grounds of the Nairn Congoleum Co. and of the American Legion Frobisher Post, and organized about 200 more boys in ball leagues to play during the summer, who otherwise might have been idle or in mischief. He saw the manager of the Newark Bears and was permitted to bring Kearny boys free of charge to the Saturday afternoon games at the Bear's Stadium. He was also allowed to bring Kearny boys to swim at the Newark "Y" at 7 p.m. each Tuesday for the summer. About 1,000 of the baseball passes and 500 of the swimming passes good for the entire summer season have been printed and distributed among Church boys of all denominations. He has also put on a learn to swim campaign at the Kearny swimming pool, obtaining the free use of same for one hour daily for three weeks.