

“Breaking Home Ties”

A Frequent Country Scene



Who Welcomes Him When He Reaches Kansas City?

WHAT THE Y. M. C. A. IS DOING TO SAVE BOYS AND YOUNG MEN.

A very large per cent of the men who come to the Central Y. M. C. A. building have just arrived in Kansas City. They come either for lodging in the dormitory or for advice concerning rooming houses. Many want help in the securing of employment; others are seeking social fellowship. Not less than 25,000 such strangers pass through the Association buildings each year.

The main building with dormitory accommodations for 206 men is reserved for men under 31 years old and the annex (the four floors over the Boys' Club department on Oak street) with beds for 210 men is open only to men under 25 years of age. The Committee of Management believes that its primary duty is to immature men who are generally more endangered by city temptations. These rules are invoked, of course, only when the building becomes crowded and men have to be turned away; also the restrictions were not made retroactive on men who have made the building their home for many years.

Every young man who takes a permanent room in the Y. M. C. A. is given the privilege of an unhurried interview with an Association leader. An interdenominational committee of young men from the downtown churches is cooperating with the dormitory secretaries in further interviews to provide opportunities for the newcomer to make proper social acquaintanceships, to relate himself to a church, and in every way to put himself into a wholesome environment. Each man seeking the aid of the employment office has a similar opportunity for a helpful conversation; scores are satisfactorily placed in responsible positions every month.

All such work (of which the above contains only typical examples), is carried out by the Board of Directors and eight departments, requiring a gross budget this year of almost \$400,000. Only \$45,000 of this amount, however, has to be secured in gifts, as the remainder comes through the regular revenue producing channels of the work. You are invited to have a part in the support of

Hundreds of downtown boys (newsboys, messengers, etc.) are being served by an all-round program in their own Boys' Club Department at 921 Oak street. They have their separate gym, swimming pool, game lobby, educational classes and the like.

The great danger time for boys is their recreational periods. Twenty-seven baseball teams with over 600 boys participating competed in five leagues under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A. last summer. Similar basketball leagues are already being organized. Almost fifteen hundred boys were enrolled in "Learn to Swim" classes by the various departments during the season, of whom 400 were taught to swim. One hundred and fifty boys enjoyed ten days of camping at Y. M. C. A. summer camps.

The high school clubs maintained among students of each of the four high schools under the auspices of the Association are generally considered the dominant constructive moral force among the students. Their purpose is "to function as groups of students in upholding high standards of Christian character and in inspiring their members as individuals to bring a strong moral and religious emphasis to bear upon all activities in which they may be engaged."

Dr. R. H. Miller, pastor of the Independence Boulevard Christian Church, said in the course of a sermon on the moral condition in our high schools: "Principals and teachers tell me that conditions are much better than they formerly were. They attribute this fact chiefly to the influence of the high school clubs carried on by the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A."

The Kansas City, Missouri
Young Men's Christian Association
H. M. BEARDSLEY, President.

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general file

Dealing with the boys who are in school, the Y. M. C. A. is able to back up and make most effective the teachings of every one of our great institutions.

A CALL TO SERVICE

An Open Letter to the Contributors and Well-Wishers of the Paseo Young Men's Christian Association

Dear Friends:

To those of you who have been financial supporters in the past we extend our sincere thanks and issue this call for your continued service in as large a measure as your heart shall dictate.

Our community's greatest undeveloped resource is in its YOUTH. Our future citizens, the boys of today, must have ever-increasing, ever higher ethical and spiritual levels; they must be filled with human sympathy and understanding. It is to this high purpose the Paseo Y. M. C. A. is dedicated.

To those who will this year for the first time enter the fellowship and contribute to the work of the Association we pledge our assurance that your money will be spent frugally and carefully, so that every dollar will do its utmost in carrying this work onward to ever broadening fields in co-operative character building effort in this district which to us is HOME.

Respectfully yours,
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
Paseo Young Men's Christian Association.

By *C. R. Westmoreland*
Chairman.

Dealing with young men who are at the "cross-roads" of life, choosing vocations and meeting many more vital problems, the Y. M. C. A. aids and supplements all other moral forces.