

Colored Playground Proving Big Asset

Continued from Page 1, Section 1... the close of the day, Shields reported a registration of some 200 or more eager youthful boys and girls who hailed the project as a most fitting one.

That the playground has proved its worth in reducing delinquency is amply attested to by the enthusiasm shown by the young people during the past two years of organized direction under Mr. Hunter, former coach of Edenton High School, who is now coach of the P. W. Moore High School Lions of Elizabeth City.

It was during the construction of the present Post Office in 1931 when a Mr. Miller was contractor that the Oakum Street playground was born, for it was he, who gave the Rev. S. N. Griffith wooden scaffolding used on the post office, to start the playground in "Goose Hollow" - a most notorious place years back. Six wooden swings and a slide were attached to the sycamore tree on the present site and the playground became a reality under voluntary supervision of Mr. Griffith and with the approval of the Town Council under former Mayor Leroy Haskett who directed Playground Commissioner Graham Byrum to meet with Mr. Griffith to lay off the present playground site for colored children. Immediately upon the installation of this playground "Goose Hollow" became completely transformed into a safe and liveable place.

In 1945 the Woman's Club became interested in this project and took it over and equipped it with the present expensive equipment which has withstood the wear and tear of the children for many years. The Junior Woman's Club, under the direction of S. N. Fayton, also contributed the merry-go-round and water fountain to this worthwhile project. Much credit should be given the Junior Woman's Club for its untiring interest and development of this project. Not to say anything of the generous help given it by the Town Council and the present Playground Commissioner, which has greatly established it at this time. During Coach Hunter's supervision the playground came into its own and dealt a decided death blow to juvenile delinquency. Today the interest in recreational activities, shown by the youngsters, has reached its peak and now under Coach Shields its impact is fully felt and enthusiasm runs high.

The Woman's Club is proud of its record and shows unabated interest in this project and its unwillingness to relinquish its hold to any other. They give their unanimous support one hundred per cent.

He conquers twice, who upon victory overcomes himself.

John Sanderlin Says...

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