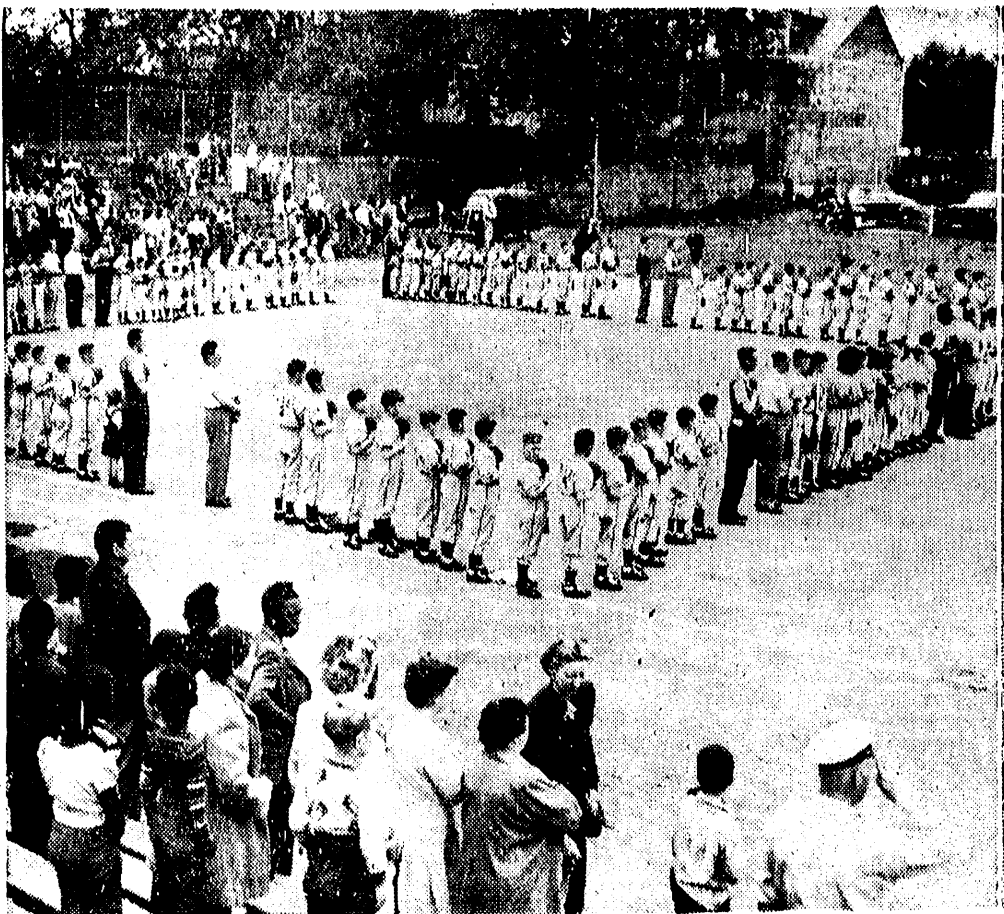


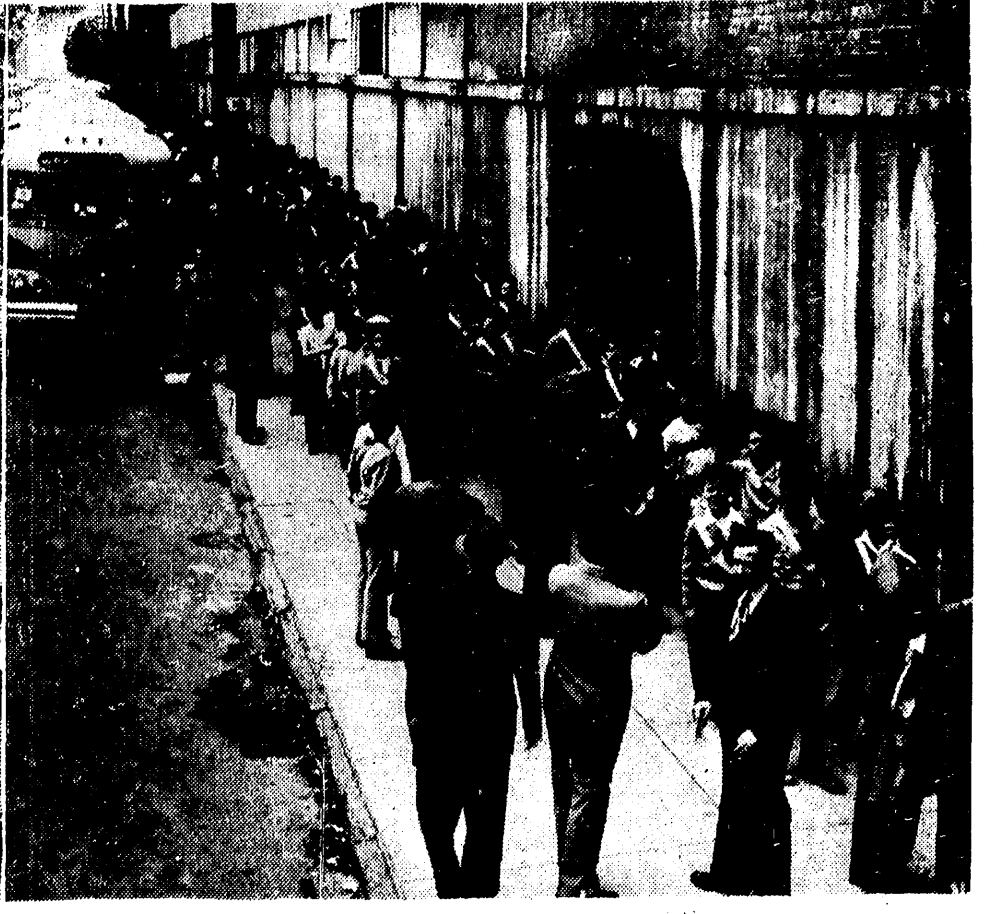
Police Athletic League Program In 10th Year Offers Variety Of Activities For Trenton Area Youth



Little League opens baseball season at Rider Field



School safety patrols picnic in Washington Crossing State Park



Or see major league baseball at Philadelphia's Connie Mack Stadium

Trenton's Police Athletic League Helping To Solve Youth Problems

6,000 Youngsters Now Taking Part In Citywide Programs Under Direction Of Ed Silverglade

Representatives from nearly 40 cities along the Eastern Seaboard will be here tomorrow to talk about youth problems and activities.

There'll be about 150 delegates at the panel discussions and about 250 guests at the dinner meeting in Hotel Hildebrecht.

That's about the number Patrolman Edward Silverglade, executive director of the Police Athletic League here, expected.

Oh yes, he sent out more invitations—500 to parents of boys and girls who take part in PAL activities here.

"Thought they might be interested in some of the problems their youngsters are up against," explained Silverglade.

How many parents accepted? Well, the PAL director didn't really want to say. Actually it was considerably less than 10.

Maybe the price of the dinner discouraged some parents. "Probably," replied Silverglade, who wasn't at all surprised at the response. He gets about the same reaction when PAL asks for help in fixing up a baseball field. It isn't much better when PAL just asks parents to come out and watch a game in which their sons are playing.

"Look, I don't want to criticize anybody. We get a lot of help and support from some parents," said Silverglade, who added after a moment's reflection: "Of course, a lot of them ought to be slapped down."

Lack of Parental Interest
An apparent lack of interest in their children isn't a problem limited to a certain group of parents in Trenton. PTA's, Boy Scout, "Y" groups are only too familiar with the "Gee, I'd like to help but I don't have time this week" or the next, and the next.

The policemen who got PAL started here haven't written any sociology books on why modern-day Americans don't seem to have time to raise their children. All they knew was that more and more boys and girls here were getting into trouble. They were the ones who took them home and realized

why "going out" on the streets was more attractive.

Back in a blue uniform after 3½ years World War II service with the Military Police, Patrolman Edward Silverglade was just another cop who realized he was "taking in" more youngsters than in pre-war days.

Unpleasant Task
It wasn't pleasant duty for Ed Silverglade who plainly likes youngsters. He kept thinking that somehow he'd gotten a bigger kick out of his own youth — playing football on the Trenton Central High team, playing a brand of table tennis that earned him 48 championships — five state championships and the national doubles championship in 1935.

Did the kid who stole a hubcap and thumbed his nose at police really get the thrill that comes with winning a championship? Had anybody shown the kid what he was missing?

While the juvenile delinquency rate went up, Patrolman Silverglade kept talking to his fellow officers about what police in New York were doing through their PAL activities. He kept on talking when he became a member of the city's vice squad.

PBA Concerned
The idea was discussed at meet-

Sunday Thoughts
Don't cross the bridge till you come to it.—Longfellow.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.—Exodus 20:8.

To be 70 years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be 40 years old.—Holmes.

Faith is the substance of things, hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.—Hebrews 11:1.

Push on—keep moving.—Morton.

ings of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. The PBA president, Patrolman Nicholas Lichtfuss, Captain Albert Mostrangeli, Patrolmen Frank Barekowski and Silverglade arranged a visit with New York Police Commissioner Nolan to see the program there at first hand. That was in the Spring of 1948.

The Commissioner convinced the visitors that it was highly necessary for police to enter the recreation and social welfare field because they have the first contacts with juvenile offenders and because the way they handle juvenile problems is important from many angles.

The program he explained actually got started in the Bronx in 1931. A police lieutenant there confronted a group of a dozen boys headed for total delinquency with the question: "Just what do you fellows want?" They said they wanted to be a baseball team.

Citizens Chipped In
Lieutenant Edward Flynn made the rounds of shopkeepers and other citizens the boys had been tormenting. They chipped in to buy baseball equipment and even the cops in the precinct station contributed a dollar each. Flynn issued challenges to other teams and acceptances rolled in. When the boys weren't playing they were scouting other teams. They were too tired at the end of the day, didn't have time to engage in destructive activity. At the end of the baseball season Flynn combed the neighborhood for unused church basements, lodge halls and unoccupied buildings for use of his boys. He switched his charges to basketball and boxing until the next baseball season came. Not one of the boys had lapsed into trouble.

Won Wide Attention
The Bronx experiment caught the attention of Crime Prevention Bureau officers in all five boroughs of Greater New York. Throughout the city youthful groups were rounded up and organized into baseball and softball teams. In nearly every case the results were good.

Top officials moved fast to incorporate the program as the Police Athletic League — a fortunate name whose initials explained the role police were playing to youngsters. PAL became an important arm of the New York City Youth Bureau.

New York realized that it needed

But Indifference Of Parents Is Discouraging

trained professional workers with a background adequate to cope with the problems they faced. It was easy to say that a man must know when to be a policeman and when to be a social worker; it wasn't always so easy to find the man who could make the correct choice. So some policemen who got into the New York program found themselves going to college for degrees in sociology. At least one went all the way to a Ph.D.

Program Started Here
The visiting PBA members returned home to Trenton with enough enthusiasm for the program to convince their organization that it should sponsor a PAL program here. Patrolman Silverglade was named chairman.

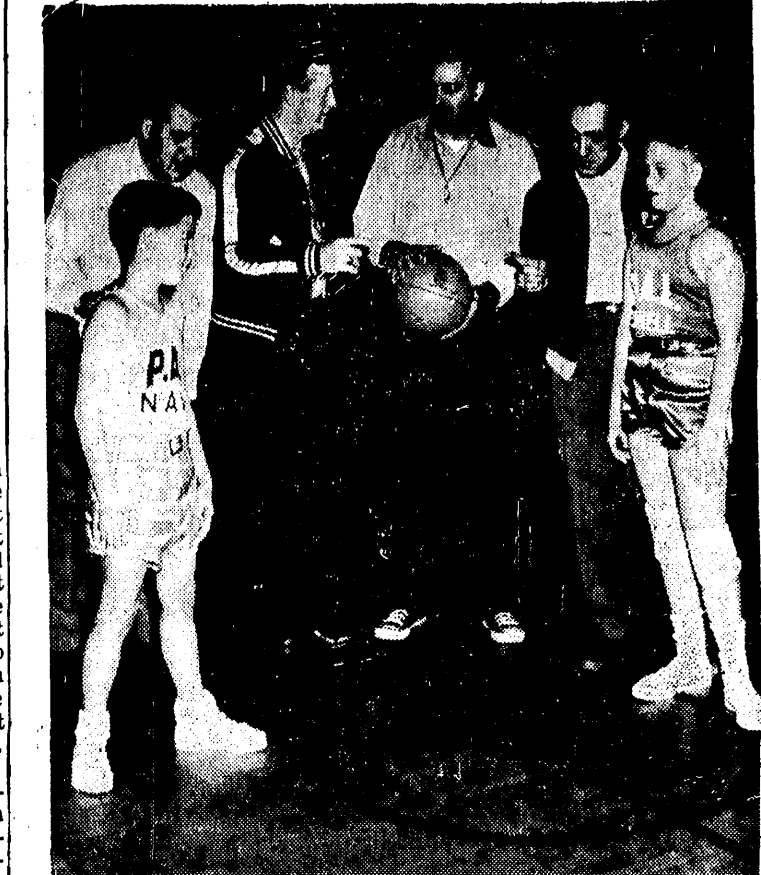
The PBA started off by organizing a softball league for youngsters 10 to 13. Patrolman "Mickey" McGuire, who was later to organize the first Little League in the city, was chairman. Patrolman John McKeever organized a basketball league for youngsters 10 to 13 as that season took over.

By the end of the year Chairman Silverglade estimated total participation in the PBA program at 2,000 (youngsters who played both baseball and basketball counted twice). The police asked the public for help and raised \$11,000 in a fund drive.

Volunteers Pledged In
The police also got help from volunteers outside the department. Men like Homer Butts, who fought successfully as a professional under the name of "Jimmy Flynn" and had an outstanding record handling amateur boxers, volunteered their services.

The only questions asked of the volunteers were: Are you interested in youngsters? Do you know what the program is all about? Do you have the ability to impart knowledge to youngsters?

By the time the second year rolled around the PBA program was considerably expanded. Trenton PAL didn't have a headquarters and still doesn't, but funds



Start of one of 308 basketball games



PAL gives sewing class scholarships



PAL director Ed Silverglade and Miss Joyce Lupo



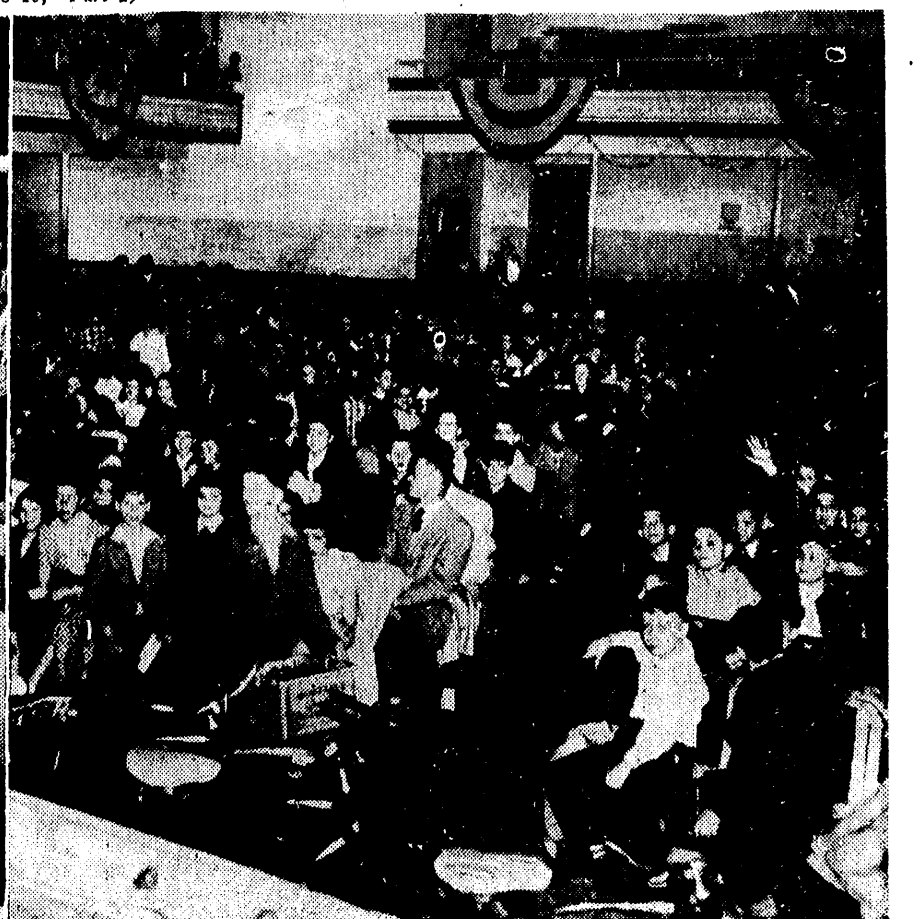
John McMahan, Nicholas Lichtfuss view PAL art



1,300 attend annual pre-Hallowe'en dance at Junior High No. 2



Deep sea fishing party for 200 youngsters starts at Tucker ton



Unclaimed bicycles are door prizes at annual Easter party

(Continued on Page 10, Part 2)