

AMATEUR BASEBALL

The Dayton Amateur Baseball Commission, which receives substantial financial support from the City of Dayton, had its most successful season in 1963. The Commission, organized in 1925, uses all city baseball diamonds, including lighted Howell Field at Triangle Park, plus numerous softball diamonds for the younger Class E and F games.

In 1963, there was a total of 6,732 players, coaches and managers organized in 333 teams. Twenty-two hundred and four games were played, and the total figure for participation and spectators is 96,400.

CHESS AND CHECKER CLUB

In 1963, the Chess and Checker Club continued to meet weekly at Lohrey Center on alternate Fridays and Saturdays, with most of the attendance concentrated on Saturdays. Membership in the club was between 30 and 35. Several tournaments were conducted during the year, and a special public exhibition was presented on April 17th. This featured the celebrated Grand Master, Newell Banks of Detroit. Mr. Banks conducted a simultaneous blindfold competition with all comers in both chess and checkers. Competing against him were 21 players. The competition ended with not a single defeat for Mr. Banks, and only 4 draws.

DANCE PROGRAM

The adult dance program in 1963 was conducted in the areas of folk, square, and round dancing. Eight such clubs are directly sponsored by the Bureau of Recreation, with an additional 11 clubs affiliated with them in the Miami Valley Dance Council, making a total of 19 clubs. The MVDC is sponsored by the Bureau of Recreation, and it serves to coordinate and promote dancing in the Dayton area. Membership in the affiliated clubs is estimated to number more than 1,000 dancers. The MVDC publishes a quarterly bulletin, sent to all club members, which serves to keep dancers informed about all area activities.

Special programs conducted during the year were:

1. A callers' clinic was conducted at St. Patterson Center for a period of 12 weeks, starting January 7th. Some 20 aspiring callers attended, and by year's end, several of them were trying out their calling wings with dance groups.
2. A new square dance club was organized by the Bureau of Recreation, called the "Wheel 'N' Dealers".
3. The Miami Valley Folk Dancers held a weekend workshop February 23 and 24 at Burkhardt Center. Leaders were Paul and Gretel Duncing of George Williams College, and the workshop was devoted to German folk dancing.

DANCE PROGRAM
(Continued)

4. On July 6 and 7, the Frank Hamiltons of California conducted their 8th annual summer dance workshop, sponsored by the Miami Valley Round Dancers. Attendance numbered 250 from a six-state area.

5. Four district square dances on the playgrounds, with a number of different professional callers, and a square dance combo, attracted a total of 2,500 dancers and spectators.

6. The annual dance festival, sponsored by the Bureau of Recreation and the Miami Valley Dance Council, was held at the Blue Moon in Xenia on November 9th and 10th. There were some 350 dancers registered for the weekend, and total attendance exceeded 800.

DAYTON FAMILY CAMPERS

Dayton Family Campers completed their second year with a membership of 42 families, or about 175 members. The club, which was organized in 1962, held monthly and semi-monthly campouts throughout 1963. These campouts lasted normally three days, Friday through Sunday. Some of the camp sites visited were John Bryan State Park, Fort Loramie, Whitewater State Park (Indiana), Stonelick Park (Clermont County), Bob Evans Farm, and our own Triangle Park. In the fall and winter months the club meets monthly at Stoecklein Center. Programs include road safety talks, information on camp sites, the showing of travel slides and films, and related topics of interest to campers.

DRAMA SECTION

The drama program, consisting of such varied activities as dance (tap and ballet), drill teams for girls, teen and tot drama, talent auditions, show wagon entertainment, a city-wide children's theatre, an adult community theatre, and a magic club---had a total participation and audience of 36,401.

Dayton Community Theatre: Four productions were presented during the year---"Janus", "Johnny Belinda", "Solid Gold Cadillac", and the musical "Damn Yankees".

Dayton Children's Theatre: This was the first year for the Children's Theatre. A total of 227 children attended classes. Two public shows were presented by this group, "The Clown Prince of Wanderlust" and the Junior Achievement Show, "The Very Opposite Sex". In addition, a total of nine shows were mounted as a part of the group's training program.

Magic Club: A group recently affiliated with the Drama Section is the Magic Club, known as "Ring 5 of the International Brotherhood of Magicians". The club presented in the spring of 1963 a "Festival of Magic", at Longfellow Auditorium.