

the summer as a relief work project on a county-wide basis - the first application of the idea to be made anywhere in the United States. To carry out this idea required entire cooperation and united efforts of Federal and State governments and several County departments.

The first steps toward a realization of this plan for a united attack on the problem were taken at a conference held in June, 1933, in the office of John R. Quinn, chairman of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Among those present besides Mr. Quinn were: Ray C. Branion, State Emergency Relief Administrator; James K. Reid; Kenyon Scudder; Judge Samuel R. Blake of the County Juvenile Court; A. C. Price of the County Welfare Department and Kenneth S. Beam of the Coordinating Councils.

At this conference a plan was agreed upon for the employment of workers in recreation and delinquency prevention work, to be paid a relief budget wage from County-matched funds of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. As a result, the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Recreation Project No. 821, was inaugurated on July 6, 1933.

The theory was that educated men and women could well be transferred from manual labor to which they had been assigned to earn R. F. C. relief, to tasks which they were better qualified to perform. It was reasoned that it was senseless to waste the talent of trained men and women in manual labor when they could be enlisted in socially important work for the same R. F. C. wage. So it was decided to send them into areas of the county where juvenile delinquency was prevalent, in an effort to eliminate, by sociological methods, gangs of youthful law-breakers.

The Los Angeles County Recreation Department was unanimously selected as the logical county agency to organize, coordinate and operate the plan. Mr. James K. Reid, head of the department, entrusted the active leadership to two men, Virgil Dahl, already a member of his staff, and Major Arthur H. Miller, formerly District Representative on the staff of the National Recreation Association for New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and organizer of county-wide recreation systems in those states.