

Mayor Marshall Visits Housing Developments, Sees 'Better Citizens'

The Record
7/23/45

Mayor Fred D. Marshall today was taken on a tour of inspection of four of the five Columbia housing projects by members of the project committee.

The Mayor was first taken to the Allen Benedict Court, a Negro housing development, which is between Harden and Oak streets and Harden and Laurel streets.

W. S. Hendley, chairman of the committee, pointed out that Harden and Oak streets were now being paved.

The Allen Benedict Court has 244 units, a playground, spray pool, tennis court, and a recreation room.

"Better Citizens" Seen

The project contains two-story and one-story apartments and is planted in flowers and vegetable gardens.

Mayor Marshall, in commenting on the project said, "I don't know of any money that would pay a bigger dividend than the money spent on this project. Among other things, it makes better citizens of the children."

While inspecting the Gonzales Gardens homes, Mr. Hendley pointed out that paving would also be done in that area.

The Gonzales Gardens were built formerly for defense workers but 100 of the units are now being used by soldiers and their families.

The rents at the project, which has 280 units, are based on the

income of the family. The rent averages approximately \$15 a month, rents running from \$8 to \$50 per month.

Services Conducted

At the Gonzales project a dancing class is conducted twice a week, Sunday school and church services held in the recreation room each Sunday, and a nursery school provided for the smaller children.

There is playground equipment, a branch of the Richland county public library, and also a spray pool for the children.

The Andrew Jackson Homes development, which is adjacent to Fort Jackson, contains 350 units and is the largest of the Columbia projects. The homes are for the use of defense workers at Fort Jackson and military personnel from the rank of sergeant through captain.

At the Andrew Jackson homes there is a large school, a community house and a Red Cross sewing center. There is also a 'teen-age canteen and a nursery school for the children.

Recreation Directed

There are two dancing classes a week held at the community house, bingo games once a week, and movies.

University Terrace, which was the first housing project built in Columbia, contains 48 white units and 74 Negro units. There is a community center and playground for the children and the other projects.

Wilbur Wright Homes, which are for airbase personnel, were not visited by the group. The smallest of the projects, it contains 60 units.

In each of the projects is a maintenance shop which contains all materials needed for repair work in the homes. Water, electric facilities, and gas are furnished in each apartment except at University Terrace where heat is also furnished.

Tenants at all apartments are provided with a modern kitchen, complete with stove, sink and electric refrigerator. The apartments are not furnished.

Members of the committee of which Mr. Hendley is chairman are S. L. Latimer, Jr., vice chairman; E. C. Coker, G. H. Crawford and L. Cooper Smith. T. E. Moore is executive director of the projects and W. F. Coleman is assistant director.