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A STUDY OF THE MIGRANT NEGRO POPULATION IN LANSING, MICHIGAN, DURING AND SINCE WORLD WAR II

by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

The increase in the Negro population from 1,638 in 1940 to 3,290 in 1950[1] has created a highly congested area on the West side of the City of Lansing. This increase has brought about a need to examine the adequacy of recreation and social service facilities for these people. This problem was selected in an effort to determine whether or not the recreational and social welfare needs of this segment of the city's population were being met and, if not, what steps could be taken to improve existing conditions.

The writer, for a period of thirteen years, has watched the area on the West side of Lansing grow from an all white community to an almost half Negro community. This is the area which the writer has chosen for this study.

The data for this study was obtained by the survey method, using personal interviews with the aid of a revised

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[1]U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1950 United States Census of Population: Michigan Detailed Characteristics, Report P-C22, (Washington D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1952), p. 22-172.

and prepared questionnaire by the Sociology Department, Michigan State College.[2] The interviewees were selected from City Tract Eighteen of the City of Lansing, Michigan, where the migrant Negroes have settled. Information as to the origin of the family and when and why they migrated to Lansing was determined. Information was also gathered as to their employment, whether any discrimination has been evident, their sources of recreation, any contacts they have had with Lansing's social welfare agencies and their reactions to these agencies.

The names and home addresses were taken from the 1953 Lansing City Directory,[3] for each block in the Tract, and every tenth house in this Tract was selected. The fact that they were migrants was determined by the use of the questionnaire.

When the houses, names of families and addresses were chosen a telephone call was made explaining to the head of the family[4] the purpose of the interview, [the purpose was stated in simple terms], and that their homes were chosen

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[2] Revised questionnaire of Dr. Allen J. Beegle, Sociology and Anthropology Department, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

[3] Polk's Lansing (Ingham County, Michigan) City Directory, R. L. Polk and Company, Detroit, Michigan, Vol. 1952-53 XLVI, pp. 1-218.

[4] Family for writer's purpose is considered husband or wife.

for an interview. An appointment was made at their convenience. Where there was no telephone listed, in most cases two home calls had to be made in order to interview husband and wife together.

When writer entered each home, the purpose of the interview was further stated in simple terms and a cover sheet of the schedule was offered to the interviewee to read. Each interviewee was told that the interviewer would try to answer any questions that he would like to ask before beginning the interview and at any time during the interview. Also if there were any questions on the schedule that he wished not to answer, we would omit them.

The interviewees were given time to think through the questions, but interviewer was careful not to let the interview travel on a tangent to the subject of the interviewee's interest. In many cases the interviewer had to encourage the interviewee to retrace a line of thought. An hour and three-quarters to two hours were spent with each interviewee, and no family refused to be interviewed.

Setting in Which the Study Was Made

Immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the beginning of World War II, there were large scale shifts of population. Over 10,000,000 young men left their homes for military service. Men and women, even whole families moved to industrial cities and new war production centers to undertake the thousands of new jobs that had to be done. Some

20,000,000 persons, including children of all ages, moved to war centers.[5] The increase in Negro population in Lansing during the years 1940 to 1950 numbered 1,652. (See Tables I, II, and III.)

TABLE I

INCREASES IN THE NEGRO POPULATION OF THE CITY OF LANSING DURING THE CENSUS YEARS 1920 - 1950[6]

1 Year	2 Negro Population	3* Increases over Previous Decade	4** % of Increases in Population
1920	698	--	--
1930	1409	711	101.9
1940	1638	239	16.9
1950	3290	1652	100.9

* Column 3 represents the difference between the total for a given year and that of the preceding census year for the preceding year.

** Column 4 represents the per cent increase for that period.

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[5] Sidney Dillick, Community Organization for Neighborhood Development Past and Present, (New York: William Morrow and Company, 1953), p. 123.

[6] U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1950 Population Census, Reprint. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1952), p.32.

TABLE II

MALE NEGRO POPULATION GROWTH IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN
(With comparison to 1920 as the basal year)

Census Year	Number	% of 1920	% of Male of Total For Given Year
1920	377	100	54
1930	776	206	55
1940	899	238	55
1950	1750	464	53

TABLE III

FEMALE NEGRO POPULATION GROWTH IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN
(With comparison to 1920 as the basal year)

Census Year	Number	% of 1920	% of Female of Total For Given Year
1920	321	100	46
1930	633	197	45
1940	739	230	45
1950	1540	480	47

The study was made in the Negro district on the West side of Lansing (Tract 18) which area is covered by a Census Map which supplied the following information:

1. Total population for Tract Number 18 is 4,616.
2. Total population of Negroes for Tract Number 18 is 2,125.

3. Population for Tract Number 18 contains 64.5 per cent of the Negro population of Lansing.
4. Average size of family is 3.47.
5.. Per cent of residences in Tract Number 18 is 73.4.
6. There are 742 Negro families in this area.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Most advanced peoples and cultures take for granted permanent residence and a settled mode of living. It should not be forgotten, however, that there are other modes of living and that they have played important roles in world history.[1]

Distinction between prehistoric and medieval migrations and modern migrations is the number of people involved and the purposes motivating them. Early history migrations involved entire tribes, peoples and nations who carried their culture with them. This caused slight disorganization. Modern migrations are an individual enterprise, there is however, one common purpose: to better their individual condition. Disorganization has resulted from this type of migration. This disorganization may be experienced by the person who moves from the country to the city as well as the one who moves from one land to another. These disorganizations are designated as: cultural shock, culture conflict, and cultural demoralization.[2]

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[1]T. Lynn Smith, The Sociology of Rural Life, Revised Ed., (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1947), p. 172.

[2]Mabel A. Elliott and Francis E. Merrill, Social Disorganization, 3rd Ed., (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1950), p. 577.

For rural sociology four phases of migration seem to be especially significant: (1) the interchange of population between rural and urban areas, including both the movement from farms to cities and the back-to- the land migrations; (2) interstate migrations and especially the migratory currents which carry populations to the rural portions; (3) farm-to-farm movements; and (4) the constant stream of migratory agricultural laborers flowing in many well-defined currents from one section of the country to another.

During the period from 1922 to 1929 inclusive, more than two million persons annually left the farms of the United States for the cities of the nation. Although the cities which attracted the migrants are located mostly in the East and North, most of the migrants came from the farms of the rural South.[3]

It is well established by numerous studies that the movement from rural areas to urban centers is mostly a phenomenon of youth, that the majority of the migrants are between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five.

One special phase of the rural-urban migration in the United States is the flight of the Negroes from the rural areas of the South to the cities of the North and East. Although this is largely a movement from the farms to the

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[3] Smith, op. cit., pp. 173-205.

cities of the nation, it has many of the aspects of an immigration. In forty years more than a million Negroes abandoned the South, the overwhelming majority of them moving to northern cities. During World War II a tremendous migration of Negroes from the South to the Pacific coast took place.[4]

The movement of the Negro to urban centers was greatly accelerated during World War II. In 1940 more than half of all Negroes lived in rural areas. By 1950 the Negro population was predominantly urban, with 60 per cent living in urban areas. By the end of 1947, 14 per cent (1.8 million) of all Negroes born on or before April 1940 were living in a different State from the one in which they lived in 1940. This shift resulted in a decline in the number and proportion of Negroes in the population of West Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. The Middle Atlantic, East North Central, and Pacific States had the most appreciable increases in their Negro population and the percentage increases for Negroes far exceeded those of the white population. Michigan's Negro population more than doubled, whereas its white population increased only 17 per cent.[5]

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[4] Loc. cit.

[5] Negroes in the United States: Their Employment and and Economic Status, Bulletin No. 1119, United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, (Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, December 10, 1952), p. 5.

The House Committee Investigating National Defense Migration found that after Pearl Harbor poorly planned production in the war effort was the primary cause of unplanned and unnecessary migration. Lack of adequate planning ahead of production created far more undirected migration than was necessary.[6]

There is a tendency for people to move from areas in which the support of public education is below the national average to areas in which it is above average. This tendency is one of the most cogent arguments for Federal aid to education. The loss through migration of the better educated is proportionately largest in the South, especially in the South Atlantic and East South Central States.[7]

The highest percentage of illiteracy in Michigan exists in the migrant population. This is true for both youth and adults and includes the white and non-white and Spanish-speaking migrant population. In addition to literacy education, adult education programs should provide both health education and instruction in home-making.[8]

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[6]John J. Sparkman, "Two Years of Work by the Tolan Committee," Proceedings of the National Conference of Social Work, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1942), pp.176-185.

[7]Edmund deS. Brunner, "Migration and Education," Columbia Teacher's College Record, Vol. 49, No. 2, November, 1947, pp. 98-107.

[8]Migrants in Michigan, compiled by the Governor's Study Commission on Migratory Labor with the assistance of the Inter-Agency Committee on Migratory Labor, September, 1954, pp.26-28.

There have been several attempts in the Lansing area to better integrate the migrant Negroes into the City as a whole, also there have been several incidents of discrimination which show how they were received by the general population, both white and Negro, of the city.

In 1945, at the Council of Churches Institute at Camp Kiwanis, Michigan, was held a discussion on Negroes Migrating into Michigan. Since the meetings were held near Lansing, examples were given using Lansing incidents. When housing was mentioned in this discussion it hinged on the fear of Negroes moving next door or of Negroes buying property and moving in large numbers into the community. It was brought out that in 1943 a committee representing the majority of the members of the Real Estate Board of Lansing, Michigan, held a meeting to discuss the portion of the City of Lansing in which Negroes should be able to buy homes. This meeting ended in a heated discussion with disapproval of any particular location being set aside for Negroes in the City. (The writer was present at this meeting.)

One real estate broker knocked on doors in one section of Tract 18 asking the white residents to make up their minds to sell their homes to Negroes because they would be buying in the area. Another attempt to secure housing for Negroes was made through a white real estate agent and a Negro saleswoman, Mrs. Mable French. They tried to locate space and build homes for Negroes. Postcards were sent out

and a meeting held at Lincoln Center, and a few lots were purchased by Negro people. When this was known to the whites in the section they also called a meeting to stop the selling of newly built homes to Negroes. There has not been a house sold to Negroes in this area.

A well known Negro who had lived in Lansing since he was a small boy bought a home on a corner of Washtenaw and Sycamore Streets.[9] During the time he was moving into the house rubbish was put on lawns at night and warnings yelled from the street. This Negro told of the incident at an interracial understanding meeting at the Y. M. C. A.[10]

Yet the actual conflicts between the races were not numerous. However, before the migrants came to Lansing the above incident was unknown to the Lansing Negroes, for the City had long possessed a relatively small population of Negroes of culture and some financial means. They had always enjoyed the same social and educational facilities as the whites and courteous treatment from them. With the increase in population by a group of generally uneducated and untrained persons, these privileges were withdrawn. The old Negro citizens of Lansing resented this and placed the blame on the migrants and stood aloof from them.

Negro ministers, such as Rev. Busby; Rev. C. W. Crier, AME Mission, corner of Logan and St. Joseph; Rev. M. J. Wilson, Baptist Church, William and Logan Street; Rev. Bircht, Church of God in Christ on West Street; and Rev. and Mrs.

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[9] September 27, 1950

[10] January 15, 1951

W. M. Parks, who formed the Church of God in Christ at Olds and Middle, invited new arrivals into their churches.

One Negro minister, during the writer's visit to his church, in his sermon urged parents to take advantage of the night schools, give good service on their jobs and become an active part of Lansing. He told them that the entire City would be watching to see what advantage they would take of their opportunities. Most of the migrants interviewed mentioned that they attended this Minister's church because he was from the South and understood their problems.

It is difficult to measure just what each committee or organization which the writer has mentioned did accomplish. For the writer's purpose the above incident points out that as an indication of the manner in which the Lansing public, white and colored, received the migrant it would seem that he was highly unwelcome.

The Negro migrants are not absolutely blameless in the attitude assumed toward them by the whites and the established Negro public. While crime and immorality among them never developed beyond control,[11] the actions of a few of their number condemmed all.

This situation brings clearly before us the principle inquiries which the Negro migrant as a whole has raised in the minds of all who have studied the problem. Even from the writer's brief discussion of the Negro migrant to Lansing, the same

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[11] Charles Stragier of the Lansing Police Department, interviewed by the writer February 12, 1955.

question occurs: Was the Negro migrant to Lansing able to adjust himself to the environment of an industrial economy?

Believing that an understanding of how the migrant functions outside of his home in organizational and recreational activities is an index of the extent to which he has adapted himself to a different environment, the writer has attempted to analyze the organizational and recreational activities of these migrants.

CHAPTER III

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

In determining the study area for this work assistance was obtained from the Sociology Department of Michigan State College. The area in Lansing from which this sample was made may be defined as that area in which the majority of the migrant Negroes have settled. By migrant, this writer refers to those persons who have changed residence, either by leaving corporate limits of incorporated places, farming areas, or otherwise making moves which involve both change of residence and location, and who have moved to Lansing, Michigan, in the period from 1940 to 1950.

This area was taken from a Census Tract which was developed by the Sociology and Anthropology Department, Michigan State College, and is known as Tract Eighteen of the City of Lansing. This tract is bounded on the west by West Street, from Grand River South to St. Joseph Street north, on the South by Grand River and on the east by Walnut Street between Olds and Hillsdale Street, on the north by Hillsdale Street. The total Negro population for this area was also found from the Census Date of Tract Eighteen to be 2,125.[1]

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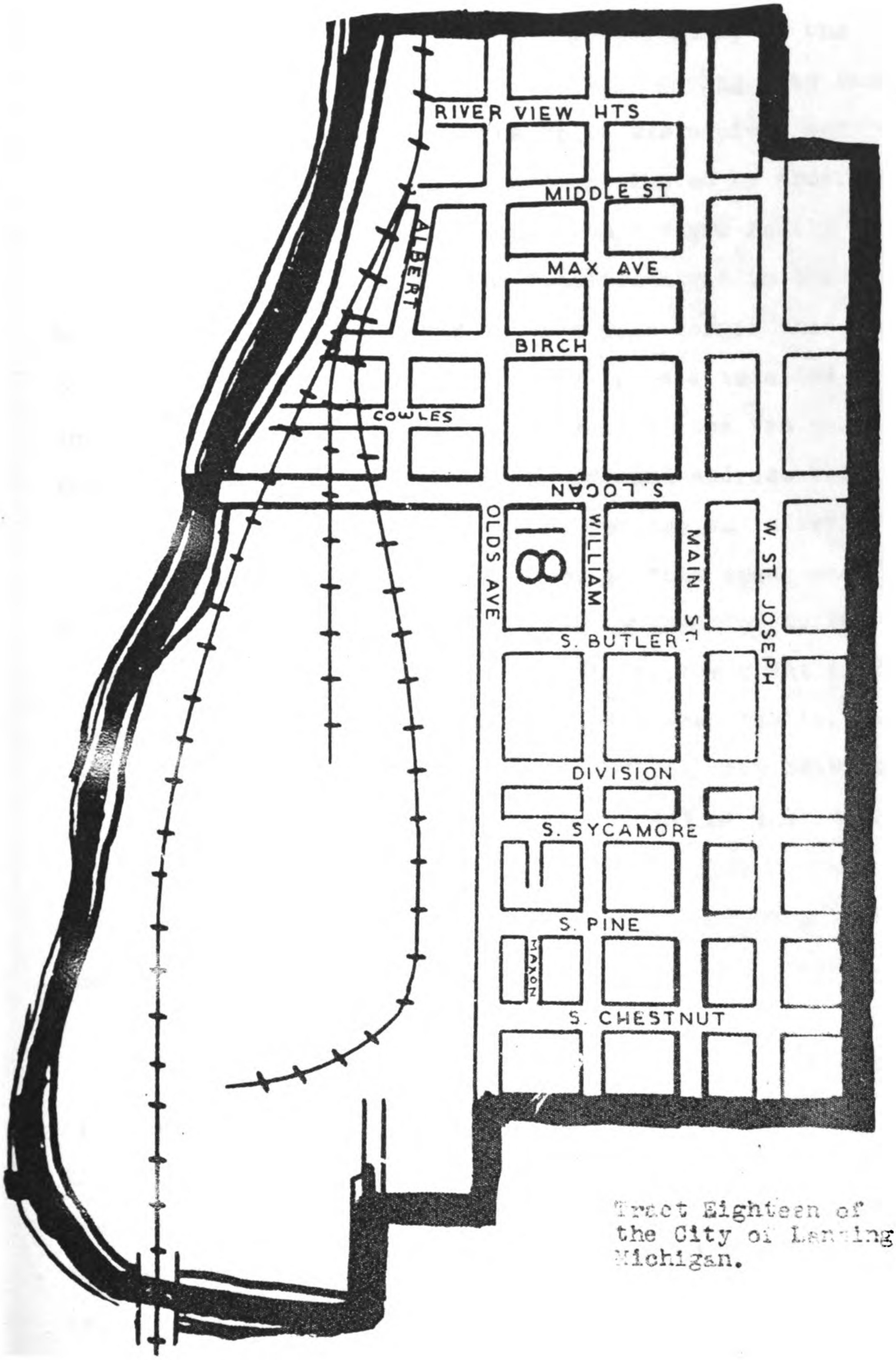
[1] Study (unpublished) made by the Sociology and Anthropology Department, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan. [This study is to be published in pamphlet form in June, 1955.]



Tract Eighteen of the City of Lansing, Michigan.

Figure 1.

For the purpose of making a survey study of the migrant Negroes in this Tract, the 1953 Lansing City Directory was chosen. Each address in the Tract was copied, and businesses and white families were eliminated by observing the business places and inquiring from a Negro family in each block as to how many white families lived in the block. Negro families who had lived in this area longer than the period of the study (1940-1950) were to be eliminated but none of these families happened to fall in the ten per cent sample. Then each Negro's family name and address was listed and every tenth house was chosen for an interview.

There were 742 Negro families in this area, and a sample consisting of every tenth family amounted to 74 households (or migrant families). The writer spent from one and three-quarters to two hours with each family. Approximately three interviews were completed each day between December, 1954, and January 15, 1955. Most of the interviews were made in the afternoons and evenings. Often it was necessary to return to the homes in order to interview husband and wife together. The majority of the husbands worked on swing shifts in the factories.

Of the 74 families interviewed there were none that objected to being interviewed. After a brief explanation of the purpose of the interview, which is clearly described on the cover sheet of the questionnaire, each interviewee was offered a cover sheet and was told if he wished he could keep it. (See Appendix for copy of questionnaire.)

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

The Negro migrants included in this study came from sixteen different states. The majority of these people came from the southern states and Louisiana was the only state represented in which one person was born but from which no one migrated. (Tables IV and V.)

TABLE IV

STATES OF MIGRATION AND STATES OF BIRTH OF MIGRANT MALES

State of Migration	Number	State of Birth	Number
Alabama	8	Alabama	11
Arkansas	10	Arkansas	13
Florida	1	Florida	1
Georgia	10	Georgia	11
Illinois	3	Illinois	2
Kentucky	2	Kentucky	1
Mississippi	12	Mississippi	12
Missouri	2	Missouri	2
North Carolina	7	North Carolina	6
Ohio	1	Ohio	1
Oklahoma	2	Oklahoma	1
Pennsylvania	2	Pennsylvania	1
South Carolina	3	South Carolina	5
Tennessee	5	Tennessee	2
Texas	5	Texas	3
Virginia	1	Virginia	1
		Louisiana	1
Total	74	Total	74

TABLE V

STATES OF MIGRATION AND STATES OF BIRTH OF MIGRANT FEMALES

State of Migration	Number	State of Birth	Number
Alabama	9	Alabama	10
Arkansas	12	Arkansas	9
Florida	3	Florida	2
Georgia	9	Georgia	12
Illinois	1	Illinois	2
Kentucky	5	Kentucky	1
Mississippi	2	Mississippi	14
Missouri	3	Missouri	1
North Carolina	10	North Carolina	3
Ohio	1	Ohio	1
Oklahoma	2	Oklahoma	3
Pennsylvania	1	Pennsylvania	3
South Carolina	7	South Carolina	2
Tennessee	3	Tennessee	1
Texas	3	Texas	8
Virginia	1		
TOTAL	74	TOTAL	74

The majority of these migrant Negroes came during the years of 1941 - 1942 thus have lived in Lansing from ten to twelve years. See Table VI.

TABLE VI

LENGTH OF TIME MIGRANT MALES HAVE LIVED IN LANSING

Length of Time	Number
Under 4 years	1
4 - 6 years	3
7 - 9 years	9
10 - 12 years	42
13 years and over	19
TOTAL	74

It was difficult to determine whether or not these people came from strictly urban or rural areas as some tended to be reluctant to admit that they had come from the country. Out of the 74 families interviewed, 11 were from small towns while four gave a definite indication of having lived in large cities.

TABLE VII

TYPE OF COMMUNITY FROM WHICH MIGRANT CAME

Area	Number
Rural	59
Small City	11
Large City	4
TOTAL	74

Table VII reveals that the majority of the migrants came from the rural areas. The most important of the circumstances which impelled the Negroes to migrate to Lansing, Michigan, are classified in Table VIII. Of the 74 migrant families interviewed, 52 indicated that they intended to remain in Lansing and make it their permanent home.

One of the migrants mentioned that he came to Lansing after seeing an ad in his hometown paper. The ad stated that the Foster Company of Lansing, Michigan wanted brick layers and helpers and listed a telephone number to call collect. He telephoned the company, a manager answered and advised him

TABLE VIII

STATED REASON FOR MIGRATION

Reason	Number
Economic	
Sharecropping system	24
Low wages in the south	15
Unemployment due to modern farm machinery	10
Renting farms	7
Could not make a living on small owned farms	6
Social	
Segregation	6
Mistreatment under law	3
Poor schools	3

that the company would give him $3.00 for each man he would bring as bricklayers and/or helpers, hourly wages would be $3.75 for bricklayers, and about $2.15 for helpers. The company would also pay for the first three weeks room and board, no transportation offered. The migrant said that he brought six men along and sent back for twenty. The manager did as he promised about paying $3.00 per man, the wages, and the room and board. The migrant said that nine of them slept in a basement on army cots the landlady rented, and the landlady cooked for them. This situation lasted for about six months, then as their wives came up from the South they rented rooms, but they were hard to find. When the Foster Construction Company jobs were finished in Lansing some of the

men moved on to nearby cities to work for the company, but all of them finally came back to Lansing to work for Christman Construction Company, and in the industrial plants.

Family Characteristics and Housing

Of the Negro migrants interviewed it was determined that most of them were married before migrating to Lansing. At the time of this study all were married except two (one separated, one widowed). In 46 cases out of the 74 the family was together at the time of the study. In 41 cases out of the 74 interviewed there had been no change in marital status since coming to Lansing, 17 had been married here, three divorced, three separated and none widowed. Table IX shows the number of children which these Negro migrant families have.

TABLE IX

NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER MIGRANT FAMILY

Children Per Family	Number of Families	Total Number of Children
1	2	2
2	7	14
3	11	33
4	15	60
5	15	75
6	24	144
TOTAL		328

When asked if their children had been in any trouble since being in Lansing, 18 answered "yes" and 56 "no" which detectedthat for the most part the children have not been in serious difficulty. In an interview with Inspector Charles Stagier, of the Lansing Police Department, it was found that the Negro children have a very low delinquency rate. The records showed that of 243 children contacted in 1953 in the Southwest section of the City, which includes Tract 18, only 44 Negro children were contacted.[1]

One of the assumptions was that Tract 18 was a congested area. For the purposes of this study, if more than one person per room lived in the house it was congested. The number of rooms should be adequate for the number in the family. It is especially necessary that there be enough bedrooms. It is the custom for the mother and father to share one bedroom. If there are two boys they may share a room, the same is true if there are two girls. If possible each person of a family should have his own bedroom but most times this may be impossible. However, there should not be more than two persons for one bedroom.[2] In addition to the health hazard, overcrowding further tends to create nervous tension and adds greatly to fatigue and unhappiness. If the number of rooms are inadequate one can never obtain the privacy necessary for the rebuilding

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[1]Personal interview with Inspector Charles Stagier of the Lansing Police Department, February 12, 1955.

[2]Justine Rust, Home and Family Living (Chicago: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1948), pp. 442-443.

of one's morale and courage, the shelter provided is not adequate.[3]

TABLE X

NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER ROOM IN THE FAMILIES INTERVIEWED

Interview	No. of Rooms	No. of People	Congested	Interview	No. of Rooms	No. of People	Congested
1	5	8	yes	38	6	8	yes
2	4	7	yes	39	5	8	yes
3	5	8	yes	40	8	12	yes
4	5	8	yes	41	5	6	yes
5	6	6	no	42	4	6	yes
6	6	8	yes	43	6	9	yes
7	4	8	yes	44	7	10	yes
8	3	8	yes	45	5	8	yes
9	5	8	yes	46	5	7	yes
10	7	9	yes	47	4	8	yes
11	5	8	yes	48	7	9	yes
12	4	7	yes	49	8	13	yes
13	8	10	yes	50	6	9	yes
14	4	8	yes	51	6	8	yes
15	5	8	yes	52	4	8	yes
16	6	9	yes	53	6	5	no
17	4	7	yes	54	6	9	yes
18	5	7	yes	55	6	9	yes
19	7	10	yes	56	5	8	yes
20	6	8	yes	57	4	8	yes
21	5	9	yes	58	7	9	yes
22	7	9	yes	59	3	6	yes
23	6	8	yes	60	4	8	yes
24	5	8	yes	61	8	14	yes
25	6	8	yes	62	6	5	no
26	3	6	yes	63	6	7	yes
27	5	9	yes	64	4	5	yes
28	6	7	yes	65	5	7	yes
29	4	8	yes	66	7	15	yes
30	6	8	yes	67	5	8	yes
31	8	11	yes	68	6	9	yes
32	3	8	yes	69	4	6	yes
33	4	7	yes	70	6	8	yes
34	4	5	yes	71	7	8	yes
35	7	12	yes	72	5	8	yes
36	5	8	yes	73	6	7	yes
37	4	7	yes	74	5	6	yes

[3] *Ibid.*, p. 443.

It can be seen by referring to Table X that of the 74 families interviewed only three families were not living in congested quarters, most of them were considerably overcrowded.

The general condition of the interior and exterior of the houses was arrived at through observation of the writer. The things observed were; (1) whether or not the house was warm, (2) clean, (3) whether interior needed painting. (4) if there was adequate lighting, (5) if the interior needed repair, (6) was the exterior in need of repair or paint, (7) was the lawn well kept and the shrubbery cared for, and (8) general overall appearance.

TABLE XI

GENERAL RATING OF INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR OF HOUSING

Rating	Number of Cases	
	Interior	Exterior
Excellent	10	12
Good	20	20
Fair	34	30
Poor	10	12
TOTAL	74	74

The families included in the excellent listing were homes which were not in need of any repair or painting. All three of the non-congested homes were included in this category. The homes rated good were, in the majority, the families who had the least number of people in the house, and needed minor repair work. Most of the fair ratings included homes which

had children and roomers, and the exterior or interior needed repair work. The poor homes were the ones that needed both exterior and interior repair and where the more overcrowded conditions existed.

One of the major reasons for the congested housing problem is a result of the determination on the part of the real estate board[4] that the Negro should live only in the part of Lansing in which the majority of the Negroes had previously lived. Vacant houses in other sections were not for rent or sale to Negroes.

Employment

In 1941 and since that time there have been definite influences at work to induce Negroes to come to Lansing and other industrial cities. The chief influence drawing them to Lansing were the industries; manufacturing plants and construction companies. The following table compares the type of employment of these people before and after coming to Lansing.

TABLE XII

COMPARISON OF TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT

Type of Employment Before	Number	Type of Employment in Lansing	Number
Professional	2	Professional	4
Self-employed	3	Self-employed	3
Skilled	4	Skilled	7
Semi-skilled	14	Semi-skilled	12
Farm	51	Unskilled	48
TOTAL	74	TOTAL	74

[4]Unwritten Discussion of Lansing Realty Board.

Of the families interviewed some obtained their employment through acquaintances or relatives, others by answering advertisements which were run in the southern papers urging them to come here to work, the majority, however, obtained their jobs by directly applying to the company for which they work. Table XIII gives a breakdown of the source of employment of these people.

TABLE XIII

SOURCE OF EMPLOYMENT

Source	Number
Acquaintance	12
Relative	8
Direct Application	37
Employment Service	3
Advertising	12
Other (union agent, etc.)	2
TOTAL	74

In an interview with Mr. James P. Dendy, Director of the Lansing Division of the Michigan Employment Security Commission the writer was informed that he had worked with the migration of labor in the Muskegan, Saginaw, Grand Rapids, and Bay City region during World War II. He told how the regional office in Michigan recruited the migrant labor. The Agricultural States or states with highest rate of unemployment were picked to get migrants.

First, an agreement with the state was made by the regional office to seek the unemployed, at which time recruitment

was started. Usually bus fare, or train fare, was paid for each migrant laborer to his destination by the employer and housing was arranged for him. Mr. Dendy stated that the majority of these people were Negroes, and the majority were unskilled. He agreed that Lansing has the same type of migrant workers -- Negroes in the majority from the South, and unskilled. He stated that to his knowledge there was no discrimination practiced in employing Negroes. He said that the most recent lay-off at the factories in Lansing began in the last part of October, 1954, which reached its highest point in the first part of November, and tapered off the last part of November. During the first part of December employment was normal again. (The number layed off during the period were 11,000.) All employees were told before the lay-off to file their claims for benefits at the Michigan Employment Security Commission. Also, they were told about what time they would be called back to work. All employees were treated exactly the same.[5] Where the writer made the survey, all 74 family heads were working and 22 of their wives were working.

Mr. Henry Wade, Secretary of the Painter's Division of the A.F.ofL. Union, stated that there were no Negroes in his division, however, there was no restriction against Negroes

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[5] Personal interview with Mr. James P. Dendy, Director of the Lansing Division of the Michigan Employment Security Commission, January 7, 1955.

being employed or getting a permit. He stated that there were more Negroes in the common labor division than in the bricklayers, and plasterers. There were no Negroes in the painters, electricity, or plumbers divisions. He said that the Negroes in the A.F. of L. were employed in the more unskilled labor jobs.[6]

Mr. Frank Corser, Secretary of U.A.W., C.I.O., felt that the problems that the Negroes have are no different from any other race. The problem is the same with the Mexicans and whites that come from the Southern States.

Some of the problems that the union has are fights and resistance against management. This sometimes happens when misunderstanding arises over promotion to better jobs. He stated that they practiced no discrimination in the union and that there were no code numbers used on identification cards to distinguish Negroes from white workers. He realized that discrimination may be practiced in plants and that Negroes had many good jobs, but mostly unskilled jobs.[7]

Of the migrants interviewed, 54 per cent felt that the Negroes in general had the poorer jobs and about the same percentage felt that they were discriminated against on their jobs, however, only about 25 per cent had tried to get different

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[6]Personal interview with Mr. Henry Wade, Secretary of the Painter's Division of the A.F. of L. Union, February 5, 1955.

[7]Personal interview with Mr. Frank Corser, Secretary of U.A.W., C.I.O., February 12, 1955.

employment. Table XIV shows a comparison between the weekly income in Lansing and the weekly income before moving here. Table XV gives a detailed outline of the employment of the 74 migrants interviewed.

TABLE XIV

COMPARISON OF WEEKLY INCOME BEFORE AND AFTER COMING TO LANSING

Weekly Wage	Number Before	Number After
$10-14.99	8	
15-19.99	9	
20-24.99	6	
25-29.99	4	
30-34.99	9	
35-39.99	2	
40-44.99	7	
45-49.99	4	
50-54.99	19	
55-59.99	2	
60-64.99	3	
65-69.99	1	
70-74.99		26
75-79.99		18
80-84.99		9
85-89.99		9
90-99.99		3
100 and over		9
TOTAL	74	74

TABLE XV

MALE MIGRANT EMPLOYMENT BY JOBS AT TIME OF SURVEY

Company	Job	Number
Construction		
Christman Construction Co.	Carpenter helper	5
	Painter	1
Foster Construction Co.	Brick mason tender	3
Governmental		
Lansing City School System	Teacher	2
Lansing City Garbage Service	Garbage truck driver	3
	Street cleaner	2
Michigan Dept. of Civil Service	File clerk	1
Michigan Dept. of Property Management	Janitor	1
Michigan Dept. of Corrections	Councilor	1
Automotive		
General Motors		
Oldsmobile Division	Janitor	4
	Belt machine	2
	Craner	2
Oldsmobile Forge	Hammer Operator	2
	Press Operator	2
Oldsmobile Jet	Tool Grinder	3
Fisher Body	Buffer	3
	Truck driver	1
	Spot welder	6
	Janitor	4
	Wet sander	2
	Production line	1
	Presser	3
	Sander	2
Reo Motors	Chip hauler	1
Others		
Atlas Drop Forge	Hammer	2
	Heater	8
England-Cook Garage	Buff cars	2
Lansing Coca-Cola Bottling Company	makes coca-cola	1
Lansing Dry Cleaners	Presser	1
Olds Hotel	Bus Boy	2
	Water	1
TOTAL		74

TABLE XVI

FEMALE MIGRANT EMPLOYMENT BY JOBS AT TIME OF SURVEY

Company	Job	Number
Automotive		
General Motors		
Oldsmobile Division	Machine operators	3
	Janitor	2
	Assembly line	2
Oldsmobile Jet	Machine operators	5
	Janitors	4
Fisher Body	Machine operators	3
	Janitors	3
TOTAL		22

Recreational and Organizational Activity

Recreation is an important part of every person's life and authorities assume that recreation is necessary to everyone because of the many diverse physical, mental, and emotional satisfactions which come from it. The reason why people find enjoyment in recreational activities is that they sense fun, relaxation, freedom and enjoyment secured through participation in the activity.[8]

The literature of recreational leaders demonstrates that from experience they know what people like to do in their leisure time. Public and private agencies have offered many

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[8]Gertrude Wilson and Gladys Ryland, Social Group Work Practice, (Chicago: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1949), pp. 212-213.

recreational programs from which people may choose to arrive at maximum satisfaction. Bradley Buell and Associates[9] have classified these recreational activities into a fivefold classification as follows:

[1] Sports and games -- a generic term for a multitude of physical activities;

[2] Social occasions -- the friendly association of people which recreation offers, such as visiting, parties;

[3] Art -- is an outlet for a creative capacity, which is found in the opportunities of participation and in the appreciation of the arts;

[4] Informal education -- intellectual interests constitute the common purpose of informal education;

[5] Friendship groups -- meet a special need ofadult groups and teen-age growth.

Using the ideal five point recreation program set up by Bradley Buell as mentioned above in this study, and details of which are shown in Tables XVIII and XIX, a comparison was made between the recreation available as revealed by the interviews and the recreation deemed necessary by the program.[10] A summary of the activities mentioned by the migrants interviewed appears in Table XVII.

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[9] Bradley Buell and Associates, Community Planning for Human Services (New York: Columbia University Press, 1952), p. 358.

[10] Bradley Buell, op. cit., pp. 376.

TABLE XVII

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES MENTIONED

Activity	Times Mentioned by Interviewees
Skating	7
Hunting	21
Movies	14
T. V.	23
Fishing	9
Picnics	19
Reading	6
Sewing	4
Swimming	6
Visiting	19
Parties	12
Car Riding	22
Golf	2
Tennis	1
Church	1
Clubs	24
No mention made	6

Tables XVIII and XIX compare the ideal characteristics for recreation with those available to the migrants interviewed.

One of the most important centers for youthful recreation in City Tract 18 is the Lincoln Center. In an interview with Mr. Morrison Ryder, Director of Lincoln Center, he stated that Lincoln Center is mostly a Youth Center. The planning of a program at the center is always controlled by the limitation of space in the center, which is located in a school.

Mr. Ryder feels that although with limited space this staff has provided some of the recreational satisfaction for the youth. He felt that the majority of the children

TABLE XVIII
[Part 1]

COMPARATIVE RECREATIONAL TABLE ONE

Ideal Characteristics for Recreation[11]

Age Level	Organization Required	Major Facilities Required	
		Indoor	Outdoor
Preschool Child Age 2-5	Supervised games and play	Playrooms	Neighborhood playgrounds Parks
School Age Child Age 6-13 Younger 6-9	Supervised games	Game Room Gymnasium	Neighborhood playgrounds Parks
Older 10-13	Organized sports and games Arts and crafts supervised friendship groups	Game room Swimming pool Gymnasium Craft rooms Club rooms	Neighborhood playgrounds Parks Special areas
The Adolescent 14-18	Social occasions Organized sports and games Informal education Arts and crafts	Lounge Swimming pool Gymnasium Craft rooms Club rooms or snak bar	Playfields Parks Special areas
The Young Adult 19-24	Social occasions Sports and games Arts Informal Education	Swimming pool Gymnasium Lounge Craft rooms Club rooms Assembly rooms	Parks Playfields Special Areas
The Adult 25-59	Social occasions Informal education Arts and Crafts Organized sports and games	Lounge Assembly room Craft rooms Swimming pool Gymnasium	Parks Playfields Special areas
The Elderly 60-plus	Social occasions Arts and Crafts Passive sports and games Informal Education	Lounge Craft rooms Game rooms	Parks

[11] Ibid.

TABLE XVIII
[Part 2]

COMPARATIVE RECREATIONAL TABLE ONE

Characteristics of Recreation Offered to Migrants

Age Level	Organization Available	Major Facilities Available	
		Indoor	Outdoor
Preschool Child Age 2-5	Lincoln Community Center-Seriously inadequate	Community Nursery Seriously inadequate	Neighborhood Playgrounds Parks
School Age Child Age 6-13 Younger 6-9	Lincoln Community Center-inadequate	Community Nursery Inadequate	Neighborhood playgrounds Parks
Older 10 - 13	Organized sports and games Arts and crafts supervised friendship groups	none Gymnasium, craft room and club all inadequate	Neighborhood playgrounds Parks Special area
The Adolescent 14-18	none	none none Gymnasium Crafts - inadequate none	Playfields Parks Special area
The Young Adult 19-24	none	none Gymnasium none	Playfields Parks Special areas
The Adult 25-59	none	none	Parks Playfields Special areas
The Elderly 60 - plus	none	none	Parks

TABLE XIX
[Part 1]

COMPARATIVE RECREATIONAL TABLE TWO

Ideal Five-Point Recreational Program [12]				
1 Sports and Games [inside & out]	2 Social Occasions	3 Arts	4 Informal Education	5 Friendship Groups
Swimming Boating Fishing Skiing Skating Hiking Bicycling Horseback Riding Hunting Camping Tennis Golf Bowling Squash Handball Paddleball Table Tennis Archery Quoits Shuffleboard Croquet	Social dancing Square dancing Parties of all kinds Club meetings Church suppers Picnics	Music [vocal and instrumental] Theater Graphic and Plastic Arts Drawing Painting Sculpture Etching Photography Handcraft	Classes Forums Lecturers Dicussion groups	All group associations under supervision

[12] Ibid.

TABLE XIX
[Part 2]

COMPARATIVE RECREATIONAL TABLE TWO

Activities Now Available Under Recreation Program as Mentions in Study

1 Sports and Games [inside & out]	2 Social Occasions	3 Arts	4 Informal Education	5 Friendship Groups
Skating Hunting Fishing Swimming Golf Tennis	Parties [specific House and Elks] Church suppers Visiting Picnics	Movies T. V. Sewing	Reading	none super-vised

who use the center are children of migratory parents. The problems that they come in contact with are no different from any other children. The majority of the problems seem to be emotional. These children are living in a different environment, and it is much harder for their parents to adapt to the new environment. For this reason Mr. Ryder is interested in adequate space for adult activities.[13] Table XX is a schedule of the activities at Lincoln Center, and the following is from a descriptive paper put out by the Center.

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[13]Personal interview with Mr. Morrison Ryder, Director of Lincoln Center, February 21, 1955.

Lincoln Center is a group work agency whose purpose is to give services of various types to children and adults living in the City of Lansing; these services touch the fields of recreation, social adjustment, civic improvement and human relations. There are four full time staff members and two part-time workers. It also serves as a referral agency to persons who need services not covered in the program of the center.

The staff and volunteer personnel of the center recognizing the importance of interdependent living also cooperate with other organizations such as social agencies, child treatment institutions, and the police department to promote and coordinate services to all citizens of Lansing, wanting or needing assistance in solving mutual day life.

The center operates its programs in three different buildings. They are Main Street School, High Street School, and Lincoln School.

The center promotes -- this is limited because of lack of space -- a program of intramural and competitive sports for all age level groups. Mass participation is stressed, in most cases, rather than individual proficiency. The center is represented by basketball teams in the city Class A basketball league and a state-wide community center conference.

On the educational side there is a Community Lecture series in which outstanding authorities on informative current thought are presented monthly. These series are open to the public, free of charge.

Also included in the educational program of the center, is an annual area-wide Youth Conference; the purpose of this conference is to assist youth in solving the complicated problems with which confront them. All youth agencies, including many faculty members of Michigan State College, Hillsdale, Wayne University and local youth workers assist in this two day event.

Clubs: The center personnel also sponsors many club and organizational activities, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownie Scouts, cooking, folk dancing, dramatic clubs and adult recreation groups.

There are many affiliated groups which meet regularly in the center, such as: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Ministerial Alliance and various lodge groups.

TABLE XX

LINCOLN CENTER PROGRAM

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3:30	Music Class Inter.Girl Scouts 3rd & 4th Boys	Bible Study Class Boxing,Wrestling [Junior]	Brownie Scouts(B) Cooking Class [5th & 6th Grade]	Music Class Brownie Scouts(M) Girls' Crafts [5th & 6th Grade] Youth Army	Craft Class [3rd & 4th Grade The Craftsmen
4:30	5th & 6th Grade Boys				
5:00	5th & 6th Grade Girls	Basketball [Jr.& Sr.Girls	Boys' Club G.M.Club & UAW-CIO	Boys' Activities Sr.Basketball Practice	
6:00 6:30	Percussion Class		Boy Scouts		
7:00	Girls' Recreation	Lincoln Council Intramunal Play Book Review (K)	Social Dancing Sewing Class	Girls' Recreation Class	Special Activities as scheduled,e.i. Basketball,Movies, or Social Dancing
8:00	Cheerleaders Tumbling Intramural Play(Boys)	Dramatics Boys' Basketball	Social Dancing Sewing Class *	Record Club Boys' Basketball	Special Activities as scheduled,e.i. Basketball, movies or Social Dancing
9:00		Senior Basketball			Special Activities as scheduled,e.i. Basketball,movies or Social Dancing
Office	1-3:30	10-12:00 A.M. 1:00-3:30P.M.	10:00 - 12:00A.M. 1:00 - 3:30 P.M.	1:30-3:00 P.M. 3:00-3:30 Staff Meeting	10:00-12:00 A.M. 1:00-2:30 P.M.

*This has been discontinued due to lack of space.

Student Employment Bureau: The purpose of this organization is to prepare and assist worthy boys and girls into responsible positions.

Music: Free training in piano, band and orchestral instruments is offered in beginners and advanced pupils who wish to take advantage of this service.

Lincoln Center is jointly sponsored by the United Community Chest of Ingham County, the Board of Education and the Lansing Department of Parks and Recreation. It has an interracial advisory board and is open Monday through Friday, from 3:30 until 9:00 p.m. It is open Friday evenings for Teen-Age Dances and Sundays for special groups and special events.

Its average weekly attendance is approximately 2,500 and club membership is currently fixed at 497.

Church and Religious Activities

The most frequently mentioned organizational activity by the migrants was the church. In the City Tract 18 there are a Methodist Church, three Baptist Churches, and four Churches of God in Christ. One Church of God in Christ is a mixed church with a Negro pastor, the rest are all Negro churches. There were three migrant Catholics, and there were several migrants leaving the larger Negro Baptist Churches and attending the smaller Churches of God in Christ. Within the period of this study, three Churches of God in Christ organized and began services in a small store front, a house, and one has a basement church started. The mixed church is composed of Negro and white, with white in the majority.

The writer visited all of these churches, and found that the majority of the members are Southern migrant Negroes. Several migrants told the writer that it was more like "back

home" in the Church of God here, but they were Baptist or Methodist members back home. In one of the oldest Negro Baptist Churches there were not enough seats for the people. The writer was informed that the pastor was a native of Georgia, and it was announced later that the majority of the people in services that Sunday were visiting the church and that they were natives of South Carolina, Georgia, Arkansas and Mississippi. This pastor stated that the church had doubled its membership in the two years since he had been pastor, with the majority of the new membership being the migratory Negroes. The Negro Methodist Church's membership is in the majority natives of Lansing, this church has not increased its membership as extensively as the Baptist Church.

Other organizations mentioned were three social clubs made up of migratory Negro women. There were no Negro social clubs for the men. One Lansing club whose members are composed of husbands and wives, has as its members people who have been in Lansing over fourteen years, except one couple who is in the organization and seems to be in most groups.

The Unions provide some recreation for their members, however, the writer found very few who mentioned participation in these activities.

Lansing's Association of Women's Clubs is an organization designed to meet some of the inadequate recreational needs, but its housing facilities are inadequate. Migrants

who room and live in small apartments have to use this club home for many social affairs and parties at a small rental price, but the space is inadequate for large groups.

The Masonic Lodge once used its hall for a club for the public which seemed to give an outlet to some recreational need, but the overcrowded situation, fights, and profane language seemed to have been the reason for closing the doors except to members and selected friends. It is said that, in general, the migrants are excluded.

The Elks Home is open to the public and seemed to be a week end meeting place for the migrants. The writer observed one week end at the Elks Club to get a picture of this club. It was very dirty, noisy, and in general seemed to have questionable recreational value.

The mixed groups which the migrants participated in were the Unions, Parent-Teacher Association, Veteran's Clubs, and one Church of God in Christ. The only mention of segregation was in the unions. Five veteran migrants met often with the Veteran's Club, which is affiliated with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This is a mixed group, the organization has social functions to which the families are sometimes invited.

The social clubs before mentionedare a neighborhood club and a bridge club, which were formed by the migrants themselves to stimulate the social activities, which are very definitely limited.

There are no organized nor supervised recreational activities for adults in Census Tract 18. Table XXI gives a summary of the activities mentioned by the migrants during the interviews.

TABLE XXI

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES MENTIONED

Organization	Times Mentioned
Churches	28
Social Clubs	16
Lodges	5
Unions	16
Veterans	5
P. T. A.	11
Nothing mentioned	12

Social Welfare Agencies

The public assistance provisions of the Social Security Act passed by Congress delegated to the States the responsibility for setting up the administrative structure to carry them out, as well as the responsibility for determining who is "needy." The social security legislation stipulates that the state must help to finance the programs; that its methods of administration must be such as are necessary for proper and efficient operation, specifically the selection of personnel on the merit basis, and that a single state agency must have administrative responsibility for the plan. The public welfare agencies are tax supported services. In this community there

are numerous social welfare agencies which could be grouped into the following categories: Family Services; Child Care Services; Health and Medical Services; Mental Hygiene Services; Public Welfare and Assistance; Courts, Probation, and Parole; Leisure-Time Services; and Other Social Welfare Services.

For this study the writer included on the questionnaire the following from the category of public assistance:[14]

Aid to Dependent Children, Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind, Aid to the Disabled, and Direct Relief, however, none of the families interviewed had had contact with these agencies.

In addition to the agencies which are partially supported by federal funds there are social service agencies supported by other funds including the Community Chest. The following social service agencies were selected by the writer in this study as being available to the migrants and those from which the migrants had received service:

> Lansing Child Guidance Clinic: -- Purpose and Service: To help families where children are having difficulty in adjusting adequately to their environment in the home, school, or community. The clinic provides psychiatric and psychological services as needed by any child from birth through age 16 with residence in any of the following counties: Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, Livingston, Hillsdale.[15]

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[14] Michigan Social Welfare Commission Seventh Biennial Report, July 1950-June 1952, (Lansing, Michigan: State of Michigan, Department of Social Welfare, 1952), pp. 33-74.

[15] Ingham County Council of Social Welfare, Social Service Resources of Ingham County, Michigan, (Lansing, Michigan: A Red Feather Service of the United Community Chest, May 1953,) p. 11.

Six families out of the 74 interviewed for this study had received assistance from the Lansing Child Guidance Clinic. Very few of the people interviewed had a proper conception of the services available through the clinic. Some of the typical comments received concerning this agency were: "Give children medicine; " "Take care of bad children;" "Keep children for poor people;" "Take children from the parents;" "Will help you rear your children right;" "Find fault with parents;" "Take care of fatherless children;" and "Help the mother to understand her children."

> Ingham County Tuberculosis and Health Society. -- Purpose and Service: Rehabilitation. To provide personal counsel and assistance in vocational guidance for Ingham Sanatorium patients before discharge and during the period after discharge when patients must make an adjustment to the demands of everyday living.
> Health Education. To encourage wider teaching of health practices to the youth of Ingham County; to inform the public concerning tuberculosis, by means of motion pictures, radio, exhibits, newspaper publicity, pamphlets, and talks before community groups, to stimulate interest in chest X-ray as a means of early diagnosis of tuberculosis.[16]

Three families out of the 74 interviewed for this study received assistance from this agency. There were no direct comments about this agency.

> Family Service Agency. -- Purpose and Service: To assist individual members of any family in developing the opportunity and the capacity for satisfying useful lives. Service is carried out through two major functions: (1) social casework

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[16] Ibid., p. 10.

> treatment available for persons needing help in utilizing strength, dealing with handicaps within themselves, in their family relations and in their environment; (2)community leadership in the advancement of education for family living and in the improvement of social conditions directly affecting family life.[17]

Out of the 74 families interviewed four had received services from this agency. Some of the comments regarding this agency were: "Help you from getting a divorce;" "Take care of children;" "Help you make up your mind;" "Gives food orders;" "Help you get to a hospital;" and "I heard that they will talk to you about your troubles."

> Ingham County Circuit Court. -- Purpose and Service: The Circuit Court has general trial and jurisdiction of civil cases where the amount involved exceeds $500 and concurrent jurisdiction with justice courts where the amount involved is less than $500 and exceeds $100; jurisdiction in criminal cases where the penalty that may be imposed exceeds 90 days in jail or $100 fine or both; supervisory control over lower courts from which matters may be appealed to the Circuit Court; jurisdiction given by the constitution to issue writs of habeas corpus, and such other writs of general equity jurisdiction having authority in divorce action, injunction suits, and mortgage foreclosures. Four terms of court held a year beginning the second Monday of January at Mason; second Monday in March at Lansing; and second Monday in May at Mason; and second Monday in September at Lansing.
> The Friend of the Court collects all alimony and support money for children, makes investigations relative to custody and care of children, and inforces orders of the court in all divorce cases.
> The Probation Officer prepares pre-sentence investigations on all persons convicted in the Circuit Court; supervises all persons placed on probation by the Circuit Court Judges and in that connection collects fees, costs, restitution and carries out such other orders pertaining to the probation as the Circuit Court Judges may direct.[18]

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[17] Ibid., p. 4.

[18] Ibid., p. 6.

Four families out of the 74 interviewed have required the services of the court. Some of the typical comments were: "Try you when you do things;" "Get a divorce;" "Get problems settled;" "Get your rights taken away from you."

> Ingham County Probate Court.-- Probate Division: Purpose and Service: Probation of estate of deceased and missing persons, mentally incompetent persons, and minors; appointment of guardians for minors and mentally incompetent persons; commitment of insane, epileptic and feeble-minded persons to state institutions; hospitalization of children under the Crippled and Afflicted Children's Act; handling of adoptions; authorizing change in name of adults; waiving of five days' wait on marriage license applications; restoration of insane persons to sanity; handling of delayed registrations of birth, performing secret marriages, jurisdiction in cases of dependent, neglected,and delinquent children; authorization of sterilization of mentally defective persons.
> Juvenile Division: The Probation Officer and County Welfare Agent have charge of investigation of all complains and petitions for dependent and neglected and/or delinquent children, represent such children at hearings, places and supervises them in boarding homes, makes investigations for board homes and adoptions, investigates homes for boarding care and placement, makes investigations and recommendations for adoptions, supervises boys on parole from the Boys' Vocational School, and girls from the Girls Training School.[19]

Nine families out of the 74 interviewed have required the services of this court. Some of the comments in reference to this court were: "Find out what people are doing;" "Take children from parents;" "Always dipping into folks business;" "No good for me;" "Put things that happen on my children;" "Put children in a home;" and "Put people in jail."

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[19] Ibid., p. 9.

> Home Service, American Red Cross. -- Purpose and Service: Home Service provides family service for the veteran and his dependents.[20]

There were four families out of the 74 which had received assistance from the Home Service of the Red Cross. The comments concerning this agency were: "Help you find your people in the war service;" "Take care of you until you hear from your husband;" "Get your relative home if some person of the family dies;" "Lends money to veterans;" "Help the boys get back to the Army or Navy;" "Gives blood;" "Help get the soldier's body home if they die;" and "Helped me get home."

> Community Nursery School. -- Purpose and Service: To provide day care for pre-school children of working mothers by furnishing environment and activities which will stimulate maximum physical, intellectual, social and emotional development. Family Service Agency provides a caseworker for intake interviews.[21]

There were seven families out of the 74 interviewed receiving assistance from the Community Nursery School. The comments on this agency were: "Keep children for working mother;" "Plays with children;" "Nurse children."

Other agencies which increase the opportunity for youth to have well directed and character building recreation are:

> Boy Scouts. -- Purpose and Service: To promote the program of Cubbing, Scouting and Exploring for boys in the counties of Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton and the townships of Portland and Danby

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[20] Ibid., p. 9.

[21] Ibid., p. 3.

> in Ionia County. The organization provides character building and citizenship training for boys through the medium of activity programs. Leadership is by volunteers under supervision of committees appointed by the sponsoring agency which is usually a church, school or club. Supervision is given further through a Commissioner's Staff and Training and Camping Committees. The Council directs summer camping activities at KiRoLiEx on Clear Lake in Jackson County and winter camping activities at Kiwanis, 4 miles east of Mason.[22]

Four families out of the 74 interviewed participated in the activities of the Boy Scouts. The comments made concerning this organization were: "Make good boys out of bad boys;" "Teach them to go camping;" "Keep boys out of trouble."

> Greater Lansing Girl Scout Council. -- Purpose and Service: A group work agency serving approximately 3,000 girls with the purpose of developing the girl to be a better citizen in her home, community and country. Under the guidance of trained volunteer leadership, small groups of girls hold weekly meetings where they plan their own activities. Eleven fields of interests are covered by the Girl Scout program: agriculture, arts and crafts, community life, homemaking, nature, out-of-doors, sports and games, health and safety, music and dance, literature and dramatics, and international friendship. Three age groups are served: Brownie Scouts, from 7 to 9 years old; Intermediate Scouts 10 to 14; and Senior Scouts, over 14. Camp Deer Trails located on Long Lake near Harrison is operated every summer for eight weeks. Day camping and troop camping are provided at the Wacousta camp site.[23]

Eight families out of the 74 interviewed partidpated in the activities of the Girl Scouts. The comments about the organization were all of a complimentary nature such as: "Teach girls good manners," "Learn my girls to cook and sew," and "Have good clubs."

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[22] Ibid., p. 1.

[23] Ibid., p. 5.

> Y.M.C.A. -- Purpose and Service: A character-building organization with a religious education, physical, social, recreational program for boys, co-eds, young men, men and family groups.
> The Association moved into a new building in January, 1951, completely equipped with two gymnasiums, Benny F. Davis swimming pool, three handball courts, one squash court, special exercise rooms, Health Service Department with masseur in charge. Food Service, grill and banquet meals, club rooms, craft shop, meeting rooms for community groups, 173 residence beds, five rooms with complete bath facilities, 20 rooms with washbowls, serving permanent and transient guests.
> Organizations includes: Father and Son Indian Guide, Gra-Y, Junior Hi-Y, Senior Hi-Y, CoEd group, Mother's Club, Toastmaster's, Two Y's Men's Clubs, three Young Married Couples Groups, Chess Club, Contract Bridge Club, Clubs for boys out of school, basketball leagues for churches and Sunday schools, Family Night programs, Industrial Clubs for young men and supervisors.
> The Y.M.C.A. operats Mystic Lake Y.M.C.A. Camp in Clare County, capacity 90 boys, a day-camp eight miles from city, and a summer building recreational program.[24]

Of the 74 families interviewed three had participated in Y.M.C.A. activities. The comments about this group included: "Men can go and live;" "Men can join clubs," and "They send boys to camps."

> Y.W.C.A. -- Purpose and Service: An organization with a Christian purpose which is basic to all of its programs and determines its convictions and actions. Its services and activities are open to girls and women of all racial, nationality, economic and religious backgrounds. Educational and recreational programs for girls in school include "Y" Teen Clubs and Town and Country Day Camp; for young adults, the Career Girls Club, Overseas Wives Club, and Ladies Day Out; for New Americans, classes, social life and personal counselling. The Health Education Department offers classes in keeping fit, swimming and the dance. Food service is available in the Pantry Monday through Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Club rooms are available for social or business

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[24] Ibid., p. 28.

> meetings for a small rental fee. There is a two weeks time limit on transient rooms. Permanent rooms are available at the residence at 320 W. Washtenaw.[25]

Of the 74 families interview four had participated in activities of the Y.W.C.A. Some of the comments made by the interviewees follow: "A place for young women to live," "A place to have meetings," "You can go to meetings and luncheons," "It is for women to make a home for themselves," "It is a hotel for women," and "Women have clubs there."

> Lincoln Center. -- Purpose and Service: Provides facilities for social, civic, educational and recreational activities for children and adults. The Center also attempts to improve good will and reciprocal respect among all ethnic groups through its fostering of bands, choral and orchestral training groupsl student employment bureau; club activities, such as Boy Scouty, HiY, Teen-Age, and adults clubs; guidance service to parents, veterans, and children who may have adjustment problems. A new bulletin is published.[26]

This agency was known to more of the interviewees than any other, 18 of the families had had contact with the Lincoln Center. The comments were as follows: "Keep my children out of mischief;" "Keep my children busy;" "Teaches music;" "My children learn how to do art work;" "No place for me to go;" "Too many children;" "Could do a lot for me if there was room enough;" "Not enough things for grownups;" "The school is no good for a center, it can't do much of anything in that school;" "That's no place for grown ups to have fun;" "My girls learn to do many things at the center;" "Why can't grown ups have things to do;" and "Help out with the trouble children give to the schools."

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[25] Ibid., p. 29.

[26] Ibid., p. 15.

Table XXII gives a summary of the listed agencies which were mentioned as having assisted the migrants.

TABLE XXII

SERVICES MIGRANTS RECEIVED FROM AGENCIES

Agency	Times Mentioned
Lansing Child Guidance Clinic	6
Ingham County Tuberculosis and Health Society	3
Lansing Family Service	4
Ingham County Circuit Court	4
Ingham County Probate Court	9
Girl Scouts	8
Boy Scouts	4
Lincoln Center	18
Y.W.C.A.	4
Y.M.C.A.	3
Community Nursery School	7
American Red Cross, Home Service	4
TOTAL	74

In a study made in Jackson, Michigan in 1952 by Myrtle R. Reul on the lay opinion of social agencies she discovered much the same situation existing there.[27] Myrtle Reul felt that the agencies should develop a system of public relations to keep the public informed of the services available. She felt that especially the professional groups, such as, ministers, priests, doctors, lawyers, and school people should be familiarized with the agencies, as these are the people to whom people are inclined to take their problems.

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[27]Myrtle R. Reul, " A Study of the Lay Opinion on the Family and Other Social Work Agencies in the Jackson Area" (Unpublished Master's degree thesis, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan, 1952), p. 133-136.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Seventy-four Negro families, representing one in every ten Negro families in Census Tract 18, City of Lansing, were interviewed to determine (1) the cause, nature and conditions of the post-war Negro migration to the City of Lansing, Michigan, and (2) to secure information relative to the use and adequacy of (a) recreational and (b) social welfare services.

Sixteen southern states were represented in this migrant group; the majority of whom had come to Lansing during the years 1941 to 1942 and had thus lived in Lansing from 10 to 12 years. The group was predominantly from rural southern areas and small communities.

Reasons stated by the migrants for moving from the South to Lansing can be classified as chiefly (1) economic improvement, and (2) social improvement. Migrants[1] stated their reasons chiefly in terms of dissatisfaction with wages and working conditions and social prejudice.

This group of migrants was found to fall chiefly between the ages of 26 and 52 years, indicating that at the time of migration they constituted young employees sought by northern industry. This group has been supplemented by children who have matured since the period of migration. The majority of

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[1] Migrant defined in Chapter III, pg. 15, paragraph 1.

migrant laborers were unskilled and have acquired what skills they now possess on the job in Lansing. This group includes fewer older men because of the selectivity of industrial recruiting in the south. It constitutes, at present, a higher than expected degree of successful adaptation to the industrial north. This appears to be due to a matter of selection. Unsuccessful migrants, who cannot sustain themselves in the north, tend to return to the familiar south. Except for those who can manage to rent a room or an apartment from a more successful migrant Negro family, Negroes who remain in Lansing are forced to buy homes or pay large rent. This factor is a strong element contributing to the homogeneous nature of this sample.

Despite the fact that this group of migrants can be described as successful congested housing conditions are found in all but three instances. Congestion is defined as present when the relationship between people inhabiting a house and the number of rooms contained in the house is greater than 1:1. Congestion is explained by the fact that these migrants are obliged to rent rooms and apartments in their homes wherever possible to supplement their incomes.

Heads of the family in all cases were the fathers. Two mothers were absent from the home -- one dead and one separated.

All fathers were employed. Interviewing occurred at the high peak of employment for the season. A slack employment period which preceded the period of interviewing shows approximately

11,000 unemployed in Lansing. Many of these men were unemployed during the peak of the slack employment period. However, their economic stability was sufficient that none of these people lost their homes.

Among the 72 families with mothers, 22 mothers were employed at the time of the study.

Negro men are paid like wages for like work, compared with white workers. However, numerous instances, substantiated by interview with the employment agency, were found to indicate that a skilled worker was not always employed as a skilled worker, but was hired at a lower classification.

Wages stated by the subject ranged from $70.00 to more than $100.00 per week in Lansing and compared with a range of from $10.00 to $65.00 in the South. In no instance was a southern wage as high as the lowest northern wage.

About one-half of all the subjects felt that Negroes held poorer jobs and were discriminated against. However, only 25 per cent had tried to get different employment.

Recreation:-- Recreation was defined as including a five-fold classification proposed by Bradley Buell: sports and games, social occasions, arts, informal education, and friendship groups. Combining these five classifications into an ideal program by age groups, described by Buell, it was found that there is no adequate organized or planned recreation for any age group in this study. The age groups whose needs were most closely met were those groups served by the Lincoln

Community Center. However, this agency is grossly inadequate in all respects. The second best service is that of public parks and playgrounds. In the absence of supplementary services, however, these outdoor public facilities cannot meet the needs of children or adults.

Social Services: -- The most outstanding fact uncovered by this study is the lack of understanding of the social services offered by the community. Of the 74 families interviewed only 17 families had a knowledge of what agencies should offer them; 52 had no understanding of what social agencies should offer; and five gave no answer at all. Because they do not understand the functions of these social services, they do not seek them. It is not possible, therefore, to say that the services are inadequate at their present level of understanding. Judged on a population basis, social services are probably not less available and adequate than for other neighborhoods of the Lansing community.

The programwith which they were the most familiar, although none had received benefits from it, was the Old Age and Survivors Insurance. Some of them didnot approve of it and some of them did but they all knew about it. This is probably because this is a Federal service and every one who works has money deducted from his pay for it. Also it has been given widespread publicity and much has been done to explain it to the working public.

From the data collected it is evident that the social welfare needs of these families are not being met. Of the 74 families interviewed 22 families had received no services from these agencies and only four families had been in contact with more than two services.

The most clear conclusion of this part of the study is the need for interpretation of services to these families so that existing services can be brought into use for the benefit of these migrants.

Recommendations:--

1. The community should take aggressive steps to remove hazards which cause or contribute to family problems and breakdown. The most serious of these is over-crowded housing and every effort should be made to improve the housing conditions under which many people live.

2. There must be developed greater public understanding, acceptance, use and recognition of the need for social services.

3. Every social agency should take steps to develop active, representative, functioning boards, keenly aware of the problems and work of each agency and who are willing to participate in community planning for newly settled Negroes.

4. There should be developed a system of coordinated social services which would guarantee that wherever a person turns for aid, his problems will be identified, he will be directed to the proper resources, and he will receive the help he needs with the least possible difficulty on his part.

5. The Council of Social Agencies should initiate a program of continuous publicity in order to acquaint the public with the facilities offered by the agencies and how to profit from them.

6. Lincoln Center should be expanded by establishing it in new quarters for its exclusive use thus making it possible for it to serve all age groups for 12 months in each year.

7. These migrant people should be encouraged to take advantage of existing facilities such as night schools which are offered in the city schools.

APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE

INTRODUCTION:

Good Morning:

I'm_____, I am a graduate student from Michigan State College. I'm doing a study of welfare services to migrant negroes in Lansing, during and since World War II.

First of all, to do this study I will need to know some things about the living in this area; about the sort of jobs people do; where they work, a little about their families; what they do with their leisure time, and so forth.

You are one of about ____ people in this area whom I've chosen to talk with.

I'm not connected with government, any business organization or any union. The information you give me will be kept strictly confidential.

In case you might wonder who will be interested in this information, I am trying to find out how people can spend their leisure time more efficiently. It is expected that this information will help people spend their leisure time more wisely. The information will also give welfare agencies a better understanding of the people's wants, their needs, and make it possible for them to better supply the necessary needs.

I also need to know something about you and your household which will allow me to identify it, it will never be associated with your name, but will be associated with the welfare of the people.

1. First of all I'd like to know why did you move to Lansing?

_____

_____

2. How long have you been here? _____

3. Are you single or married?
   1. Married___; 2. Single ___; 3. Divorced ___; 4. Widowed ___; 5. Separated____.

4. How many children do you have? Number: Boys____ Girls____.
   Ages: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

5. Is the whole family together here? _____
   If no -- when do you expect to bring them here? _____

   Where are they? _____How many? _____ With whom? _____

6. Has there been any change in your marital status since moving to Lansing? ____1. Married ___; 2. Divorced; 3. Separated ___; 4. Widowed ____; 5. When _____.

7. Where did you come from? 1. State _____ Birthplace_____ Year____. 2. Rural _____; 3. Urban area _____; 4. Size _____; 5. What kind of work did you do?_____

8. Do you plan to stay in Lansing? If not where would you like to move?

   _____

9. How do you like living in this neighborhood?

   1. Very much _____.
   2. Pretty good _____.
   3. O. K. _____.
   4. Not so good _____.
   5. Not at all _____.

   9a. Have you considered moving to another neighborhood in Lansing? _____

   If yes -- Where? _____
   If yes -- Can you tell why you would like to live there?

   _____

   If no -- What do you like about this neighborhood?

   _____

10. What do you like about living in Lansing? _____

_____

11. Have your children been in any trouble since living here?

_____

12. What do you dislike about living in Lansing? _____

_____

13. Are you (or husband) regularly employed?_____

13a. Where do you (or husband) work? _____

13b. Can you tell me some more about (or husband's) job? (What do they make or do there?) _____

13c. Does everybody doing this job get the same pay? Yes _____; No. _____.

13 d. If no how do you account for the differences? _____

_____

13e. How long have you been working for this concern?

_____

13f. What is your hourly pay? _____

13g. What would you say your weekly income is?_____

13h. How did you get this job? _____

13i. Did you contact the State Employment Service? _____

14. Are there any other negroes working where you do?
1. Yes ____; 2. No ____; 3. Don't know ____; 4. Comments

_____

14a. If so, do the people working there like them, ____? How do these people feel about them? _____

14b. Would you say that the negroes had:
1. Better jobs than most other races _____
2. As good jobs as anybody else _____
3. Generally poorer jobs _____
4. The poorest jobs _____

15. What nationality would you say your immediate superior is?_____

16. How about promotions in the plant? Do you think partiality is shown for other races?_____

17. Is there any better work that you are qualified to do other than your present job? 1. Yes _____; 2. No_____.

17a. If yes, what would it be? _____
_____

17b. If yes, have you tried to get work in this line in Lansing? 1. Yes ____; 2. No ____. If yes why didn't you get it?_____
If no, why didn't you try?_____

17c. Do you feel you are doing a job for which you are qualified? Comments _____

17d. Do you feel that you have been discriminated against on your job? _____

18. What kind of work did you do before coming to Lansing?

_____

19. How much did you make a week then? _____

20. How much schooling have you completed? Highest grade____

20a. Any vocational or occupational training? _____

21. Is your present house adequate? _____

1. Number of persons and number of rooms? _____
2. General condition? _____
3. Interior?_____
4. Exterior? _____
5. Rating? _____

22. Do you own your home? _____.

22a. Buying? _____ How is it financed? _____
What is the rate of interest? _____. How much did you pay for it? _____.

22b. Do you plan any additions or changes to your home?____

22c. Renting? ____. How much is the rent? Week___; Month _____.

23. We would like to know something about the organizations and the activities you are interested in outside work. Clubs, lodges, union, churches, veterans organizations, P.T.A., etc.

1 Organizations	2 How often does it meet?	3 Where does it meet?	4 What % of meetings do you go to?	5 Large or small group?

Organizations	6 Are you or have you been an officer?	7 Are you or have you been a committee member?	8 Has there been discrimination against you?	9 Mixed Group?

24. Outside these organizations how do you spend your free time?
Winter: _____ Summer: _____
Spring: _____ Fall: _____

25. Do you get together with other people to visit, have parties and things like that? _____
Visit how many times per month? _____
Parties how many times per month? _____

25a. Are these people relatives or friends or both? _____
How many relatives? _____
How many friends? _____

26. How did you get to know these friends? _____

27. Where do your friends live? _____

1	2 Most	3 Some	4 None	5 How Many?	6 Where do they work?
1. Neighborhood					
2. In other places in Lansing?					
3. Outside of Lansing?					

28. Do you participate in many recreational activities as a family unit? _____ Type: _____

29. Have you or your family had services from any of the Agencies?

29a. Health:

a. Child guidance clinic. _____
b. Adult mental health. _____
c. Physical curative workshop. _____
d. T. B. _____
e. Others _____

29b. Family and Child Welfare:

a. Family Service. _____
b. American Red Cross, Home Service _____
c. Catholic _____
d. Community Nursery School. _____
e. Courts. _____

29c. Recreation and Group Work:

a. Girl Scouts. _____
b. Boy Scouts. _____
c. Lincoln Center. _____
d. Y.W.C.A. _____
e. Y.M.C.A. _____
f. Others. _____

29d. Public Welfare:

a. A.D.C. _____
b. O.A.A. _____
c. A.B. _____
d. General Assistance _____
e. O.A.S.I. _____

30. Have you had any other contacts with the Social Agencies while in Lansing? _____

31. What do you feel the Social Agencies should offer to you?

31a. Health Services _____

31b. Family and Child Welfare Services _____

_____

31c. Recreation and Group Work Services _____

_____

31d. Public Welfare Services _____

_____

Interviewer: _____
Date of Interview: _____
Time of Interview: _____
Remarks about Interview: _____

_____

Address of Person interviewed: _____

_____

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Mr. Charles Stragier, Lansing Police Department, interviewed February 12, 1955.

Mr. Thomas Handcot, a migrant from Arkansas, interviewed January 14, 1955.

Mr. James P. Dendy, Director of Lansing Division of the Michigan Employment Security Commission, interviewed January 7, 1955.

Mr. Henry Wade, Secretary of the Painters Division of the A. F. of L. Union, interviewed February 5, 1955.

Mr. Frank Corser of U.A.W., C.I.O., Secretary, interviewed February 12, 1955.

Miss Ruth Koehler, Chief Psychiatric Social Worker of Lansing Child Guidance Clinic, interviewed January 29, 1955.

Mr. Morrison Ryder, Director of Lincoln Center, Lansing, Michigan, interviewed January 21, 1955.

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