

part of the city and is now almost inaccessible, is bordered by a mosquito infested trash dump and a swamp-fringed creek, is overgrown with weeds, without an enclosure, minus sanitary conveniences, and is equipped with an odd allotment of run-down swings and see-saws.

"there is a small open-air pavilion. A small building is used by a concessionaire who retails cold drinks, candies, and so forth. The late CWA built a quarter mile track. There is a baseball field of sorts. None of the schools has a gymnasium in the colored section for their use. What few indoor athletic contests are staged are played in low-ceilinged, slippery-floored dance halls, the rental of which has proved a prohibitive factor.

"Scattered throughout the city are playgrounds, virtually if not actually equipment-less. Most of these are conducted under WPA auspices and of indefinite longevity. What tennis courts there are privately maintained. Football games must be played in a baseball park to be rented only at a sizeable cost. Time and storms have not been kind to this particular park, the sole football facility. Foreman Field's use has been restricted to the use of the white college and high school teams..."

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COTTON PICKING AND THE NEW DEAL

On the controversial subject of turning WPA workers off projects to work in the cotton fields, the Waco (Texas) Messenger comments:

"All Negroes who love liberty and who join in the fight for equality of opportunity, will oppose the attempt on the part of Southern landlords on Mississippi and Arkansas plantations to force Negroes into cotton fields to labor against their will. It makes no difference whether a wage is paid or not, this sort of terrorism smacks of peonage, and in fact can be called by no other name.

"But while we are fighting against such un-American practices down in Dixie, let us not forget the charge that these Southerners make as the cause of their delinquency. The cotton producing communities charge that the WPA and the CCC camps have robbed them of their usual reservoir of labor.

"The further charge is made that Negroes in the South would rather work on WPA projects because of the prevailing wage and shorter hours on government works. This latter viewpoint should be important to all Negroes.

"Here is the way we see it. The New Deal of President Roosevelt is lifting the wage level of Negroes in the South. This is the important thing that all black men have been fighting for, the raising of our economic status, and if the New Deal program does nothing more than this it has justified itself with the black people of the Southland.