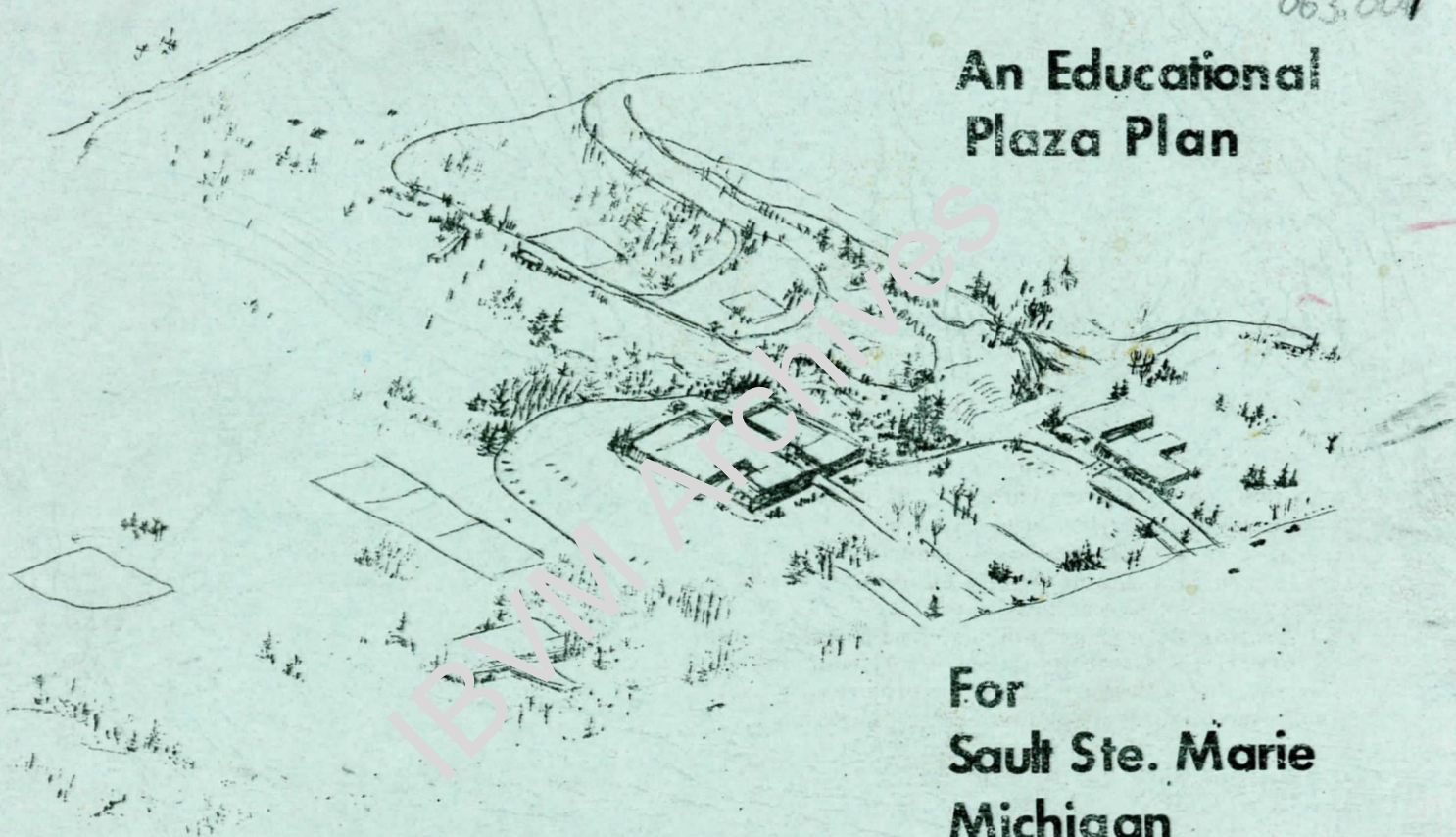


063.007

An Educational Plaza Plan

For
Sault Ste. Marie
Michigan



For once, then, something

Others taunt me with having knelt at well-curbs
Always wrong to the light, so never seeing
Deeper down in the well than where the water
Gives me back in a shining surface picture
Me myself in the summer heaven godlike
Looking out of a wreath of fern and cloud puffs.
Once, when trying with chin against a well curb,
I discerned, as I thought, beyond the picture,
Through the picture, a something white, uncertain,
Something more of the depths- and then I lost it.
Water came to rebuke the too clear water.
One drop fell from a fern, and lo, a ripple
Shook whatever it was lay there at bottom,
Blurred it, blotted it out. What was that whiteness?
Truth? A pebble of quartz? For once, then, something.

Robert Frost

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We dedicate this booklet to those
citizens of Sault Ste. Marie who have
expressed their faith in the future
by working with patience
and devotion on the Sault Ste. Marie
Educational Plaza plan.

The Researchers

Mrs. Sam Dubow
Ernest Kranz
Thomas O. Perrin
Sister Alice Whitehead
Prof. Stephen P. Youngs
Johann F. Ingold. Director

"I define the Educational Park as the clustering on one site of large groups of students with wide age differences and varying socioeconomic, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Student groups are decentralized within the total site which shares use of specialized staffs, programs, support services, and facilities. The cultural educational park provides educational, cultural, recreational, and social ser-

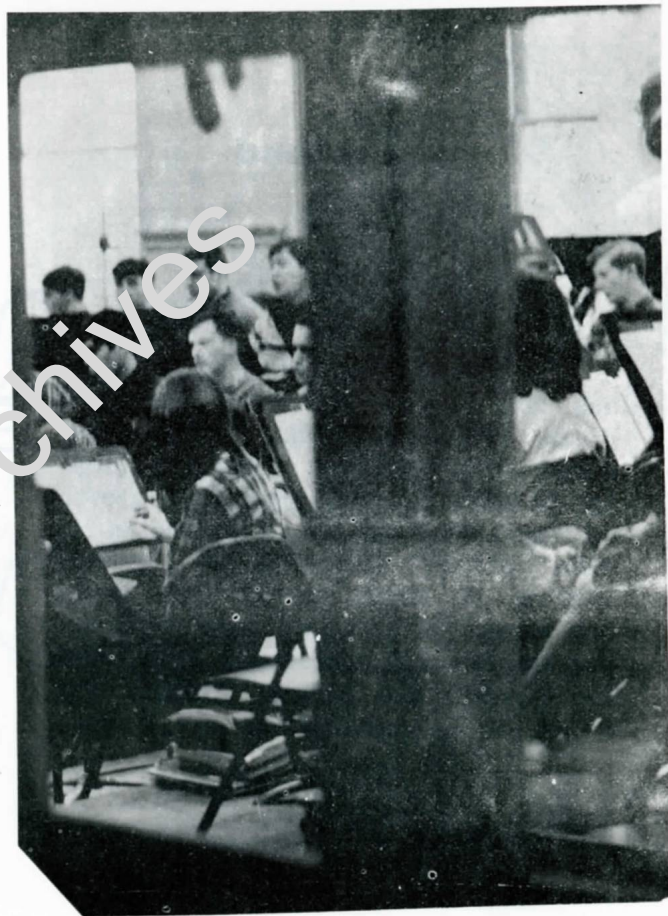


vices to public, private, and parochial students and coordinates with other public service institutions, city planning, public housing, transit systems, parks, libraries, museums, higher education, health, highways, and so forth. "

Donald J. Leu. Professor
College of Education
Michigan State University

The Schools

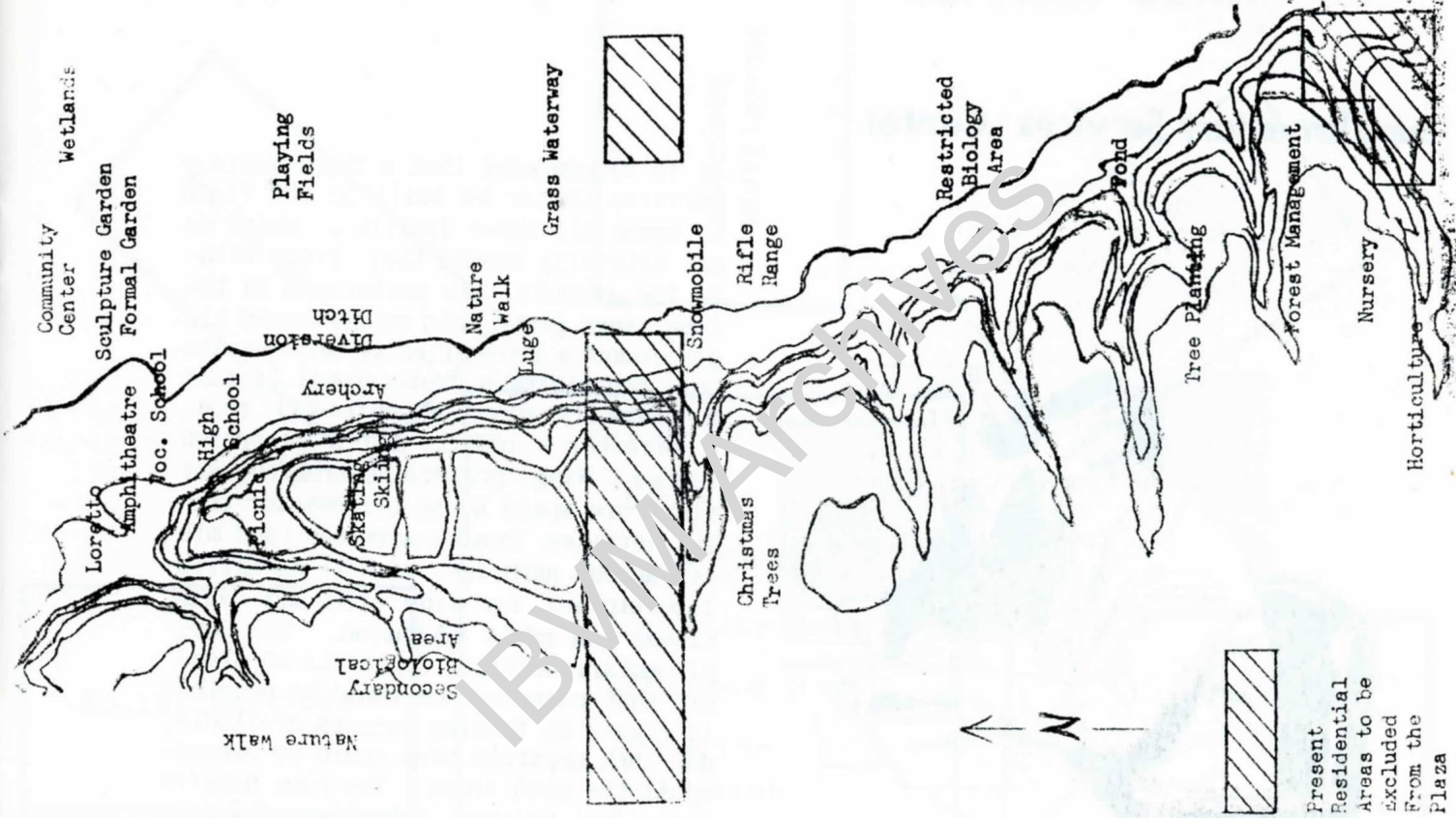
The schools are the heart of the Educational Plaza. Here young people as well as adults, may seek fulfillment of their educational needs and find a place to build for themselves a "creative leisure". The public, and parochial high schools, serving 1,400 students, are located in the Plaza. Their close proximity assures the utmost in sharing of facilities and teaching staffs, and makes possible a more flexible curriculum and a more individualized program for each pupil. Since the plaza will serve several coming generations, it is a recognized possibility that a junior high school and another elementary school will eventually be needed. Space for these has been allocated on the Plaza site. Under modern concepts of education, the schools seem destined to function as community centers. To fulfill this potential is one of the aims of the Plaza.



The Land

The Minneapolis Woods site, which has been chosen for the Educational Plaza, offers a true "green island" for education and recreation. It is also an area where the growth of Sault Ste. Marie is projected to take place, according to several studies of urban development. There are about 300 acres of relatively unspoiled terrain containing flat lands for schools and playing fields, and a series of undulating hills pro-

viding rare opportunities for biological study, artistic contemplation, and outdoor recreation. These aspects, seldom found within the limits of a modern city, have been exploited to the fullest by Plaza planning committees. According to the long range master plan, the Plaza will become a cultural, educational and recreational enrichment center for the entire community.



Supplementary Services Center



It is recommended that a Supplementary Services Center be built on the Plaza to house all those facilities which do not naturally assume their place within the schools. As envisioned in the long range plan, this center would hinge around a general entry and service core containing a professional library, a community room, a conference room, a director's office and a reception lounge. Wings projecting from the service core would house offices for social services, health services, and miscellaneous agencies, as well as skills laboratories for fine arts and vocational and adult education. The Supplementary Services Center is so planned that construction would be possible in stages as funding becomes available, and each separate area could be expanded if the need arose. The plan assures individual privacy, yet allows for the fullest cooperation between agencies and projects located within the Center.

Supplementary

Services Center

Health Services

Miscellaneous
Agencies

Adult and
Vocational
Education

Social Services

Service Core

Library

Coffee Lounge

Community Room

Conference Room

Director
Reception

Arts and Crafts

Fine Arts

... a philosophy ...



We believe that the people of Sault Ste. Marie must have the opportunity to develop their creative talents. They need experiences to make them aware of and sensitive to the beauty around them, and they need skills to express these feelings.

We believe that the children need creative expression in the Arts to supplement and enrich their school experience and to further prepare them for worthwhile use of leisure time.

And in addition the members of the Fine Arts Committee have established this purpose:

"The Arts are an essential part of man's inner strength. They open a whole new world of living in which he can experience beauty, freedom, and love in their highest forms. They provide greater means for creative activity and a medium for new ideas and attitudes. Therefore, we the members of the Fine Arts Committee, will strive toward the development of a stronger fine arts program in Sault Ste. Marie through the Educational Plaza concept.

The philosophy of the Fine Arts committee is carried out in recommendations which call for outdoor areas devoted to the appreciation of natural beauty and the performing arts, and for a wing in the Supplementary Services Center for the development of creative talents. In all these facilities, for use by the schools and the community, the aim is to promote man's sensitivity to the arts. Included in the Service Center would be a Crafts Room for working in such media as clay, wood, metal and ceramics; an Art Gallery for exhibits and a permanent collection of art; a Painting Room for students, hobbyists and serious painters; a Music Room for rehearsals of choral music, drama and dance; and an instructional Weaving Room. In developing the site for satis-

Fine Arts



tic purposes the committee recommends the use of a natural ravine as an amphitheater to give an outdoor setting for the performing arts and to serve as a classroom. Another recommendation calls for a Sculpture Garden, conceived as a place of beauty for the entire community, where persons may display sketch and study art in a natural setting

Biology... A Philosophy...

In contemporary society there is little danger that we will cease to appreciate the achievements attendant upon atom smashing, the miracles of mechanization and mass production, the superiority of synthetics. Someone must be concerned lest our people, especially our young people lose the flower power of holding eternity in the palm of a hand.

This concern is the province of the Biology Committee.





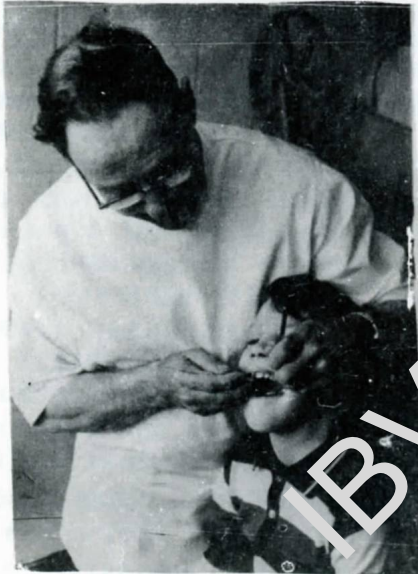
Biology presents

The plaza site presented planners with a rare opportunity to design programs showing the unique relationship of man to nature through educational and recreational means. In meeting the challenge, the Biology committee sought to preserve a set-

ting for aesthetic experience, physical exercise and educational research which could be used by all age groups. Significant is the recommendation for 'on the spot' biological study in outdoor classrooms, aimed to allow the student to visualize and actually work with realities that previously have been only textbooks concepts. That man can use nature, yet conserve it, is adduced in proposals for site improvement and landscaping of the Sault High School, and in the design for a biology preserve which would include a nature trail and center, greenhouse, artificial pond, wildlife habitation, and forestry demonstration area. Other recommendations establish in the Plaza campsites with outdoor cooking facilities, an outdoor classroom, and a student orientated weather station. Plans also include a Nature Interpretation Center to stimulate curiosity, interpret phenomena, and reveal meanings and relationships of features within the Plaza.

Health and Social Services

... a philosophy ...



The primary objective of this committee is to propose planning that will provide maximum health and social services to the community. We are convinced that close coordination of Health, Social Services and Education are necessary to achieve this objective. We are becoming increasingly aware that education never stops, and that it becomes more effective as it carries over into the community and is complemented by its service agencies.

It is recommended that a Health and Social Services center be located within the Educational Plaza as the necessary vehicle to provide better coordination and more effective service to all age groups in the community. Detailed specifications call for office space for the Department of Social Services, the Department of Public Health, the Social Security Commission, Camp Fire Girls, Michigan Childrens Aid and Family Services, the American Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Legion Service Center, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Soldiers and Sailors Relief, Michigan Crippled Childrens Commission, and Veterans Trust Fund. Other major recommendations are for initiation of an Area Counseling Team composed of school, health, and social service personnel whose weekly meetings on individual cases would provide the best thinking of several specialists to problems of children and their families; a foster family treatment home where children with emotional and behavioral problems could be effectively

Health and Social Services



evaluated and treated through work, play, and group therapy; and a sheltered workshop with a 'busy hands' program to teach crafts and minor skills to the physically handicapped, mentally retarded and children with behavioral problems.

Recreation... a philosophy ...



The ultimate in recreation is the promotion of play and sport as a therapeutic outlet for attaining the finest aspects of living.

Physical growth and well being must not be neglected if man is to meet the challenge of our modern age. Thus, recreation and physical education have become a way of life today in which community efforts policies, finances, and facilities are coordinated to assist the individual to maintain optimum physical, mental, social and emotional well being.

Opportunities for recreation on the Plaza site are unlimited, and recommendations by the committee could open a new era in physical education and leisure time activity for everyone in the community. Facilities ranging from football fields to shuffleboard courts are keyed to appeal to all age groups. Of special interest to adults and senior citizens is a playground located at the top of the hill, where horseshoes, lawn bowling, hand tennis and badminton could be enjoyed in an area isolated from youth activities. A majority of proposals are for playing fields to be placed near the two high schools, insuring maximum shared use. These include football, basketball, tennis, soccer, badminton, and volleyball. Added facilities with an appeal to youth and adults alike are outdoor and indoor rifle and pistol ranges, a snowmobile course, bicycle trails and a par-three golf course. By coupling

Recreation Unlimited



these sports with skiing, ski jump, luge and ice skating which already exist at the Plaza site, the committee envisions a complete recreation area for year round use.

Vocational and Adult Education ...

... a philosophy ...

The way in which a person achieves his potential bears a strong correlation to his innate sense of success and happiness.

Those involved in developing an adult and vocational program for the Plaza are concerned with the improvement of people as individuals and as members of the community.

It is the firm belief of the committee that an enriched and more varied program in these areas would not only benefit the individual, but by making him more employable, enhance the entire community.

