



Playing Pool at the Crusader Club, 1971

When I was young, we'd go to the Crusader Club just about every night. It was a big building down on Church Street. It had a basketball court and shuffleboard. There were all kinds of games for the kids to play, like Monopoly and cards. It was really nice. Older kids had to stay downstairs, and then at a certain hour, the little kids would come downstairs and the big kids had to go upstairs. They were open every night, and somebody was always there to watch the children. It was someplace for kids of every age to go and have fun. There was even a kitchen, and there were snacks that the kids could buy, like potato chips and soda. There were always about 40-50 kids there every night. It was a big place!

Because of the Crusader Club, there were never any problems with the kids loitering or getting into trouble. They always had something to do. Every night was great. All the kids were there. You never saw any kids on the street. Kids want to be with other kids.

I remember best when I was about 12 or 13. I'd go with a group of girls, and after the basketball games at the Crusader Club, we would go next door to the restaurant and have something to eat and talk. They had a jukebox there. Palen's on Main Street also had pinball machines for kids to play. And there was a movie theater in Philmont, too. In the summer, the reservoir was open and there was a concession there, and a lifeguard to watch the swimmers.

By Lorraine "Skippy" Jones



Lorraine "Skippy" Jones at Richardson Hall