

community as a whole a "problem area". Some people regard it as a nuisance whose dimensions are growing annually; others see it as an area for action, either social or personal.

2. Fringeville as Seen by the Sociologist

(a) Social Characteristics of the residents

66. The majority of people in Fringeville were born either in Fringeville or its immediate vicinity. In the central part of Fringeville congregate the economically and socially unsuccessful. These include the physically disabled, the mentally handicapped, the illiterate and unskilled, a few aged persons, and several alcoholics. The study discusses, in addition to general social characteristics of Fringeville residents, patterns of social intersection, mutual assistance, and leisure-time activity.
67. Most of the homes are not "broken", and only two of the 27 couples live common law; these facts are in contrast to the impression held by residents of the town proper. The number of children is above average; a family of four or five children is the common pattern.
68. With respect to patterns of social interaction, most of the residents are affiliated in one way or another with a church. Church attendance is very low, and most of the residents attend only for christenings, weddings, and funerals. This is due partly to the fact that there is social discrimination against the residents of Fringeville; at least, the residents feel that there is social discrimination. The principal social activity is visiting friends and relatives. There is much mutual assistance, including the lending of food and clothing and the providing of one another