



Bradford, Vt. — October 18, 1957

New Community Center



Seen in the top picture is the new Community club house at West Fairlee Center and below, Gaye and Cleo Pape hold floor plans of the original school and the present club house. The models on the table show the club house as it was when it was a school 40 years ago and as it appears now. The little buildings are made of cake, card board and frosting and were made by Mrs. Eugene Smith as a club exhibit to be shown at the recent county meeting in West Topsham.

West Fairlee Ctr. Club House Center of Community Life

The Community club of West Fairlee Center means a lot to the community.

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the Club, which was founded in 1917 as a Mothers' club by Mrs. Sargent, wife of the minister of the West Fairlee Center Congregational Church. The first meeting of this Club was held at the present Jareckie home, on Middle Brook, and thereafter meetings were held at homes of members. In the course of time the Mothers' club became the West Fairlee Center Community club and in the spring of 1927 it acquired the former red brick school house to use as a community house. The deed included the stipulation that the club would keep the building in repair and pay the insurance.

In April 1927 the club initiated an extensive job of renovation. As time went on and the clubhouse was used more for card parties, amateur plays, supper, dinners, and other gatherings besides club meetings, the Club members raised money for an addition and later for a kitchen, all equipped with modern conveniences. Several times also the club-house was redecorated.

In 1955 and 1956 came the realization that much needed to be done in the way of major repairs. Bricks needed pointing, foundations had to be strengthened, the old chimney which had outlived its usefulness had to be torn down, some sills and windowframes and part of the porch had to be replaced. The old wood stove was not adequate to heat the building for club meetings and Bible

The Work Begins

classes held during the winter.

In the summer of 1956 a highly successful rummage sale was held, a strawberry festival and a food sale brought in more money. The total amount of money raised from these events, from donations, and from the bi-weekly card parties amounted to more than \$500. and the renovation began.

This summer club members have raised, by putting on a card party every other Friday evening, by a one-day event featuring a rummage sale, sale of plants raised by members, and snack bar run by the husbands of club members, plus a few donations, about \$400.

Everyone has helped in one way or another, either in raising money or in painting, papering, repairing windows, repainting the sign which had been all but ob-

literated by the weather. Loyalty, enthusiasm, hard work and lots of fun have characterized this whole effort, and by now the little clubhouse is quite transformed.

Club members, all of whom, helped in one way or another, include: Mrs. Bertram M. Ball, Mrs. Gemont Barker, Mrs. John Barrrell, Mrs. Fred Cook, Mrs. Carl Cook, Mrs. Gordon Blake, Mrs. John Eastman, Mrs. Maurice Eaton, Mrs. Dwight Beebe, Mrs. Henry Graves, Mrs. Eugene Jareckie, Mrs. Vincent Jeroma, Mrs. Earle Pape, Mrs. Harry James, Mrs. Frank Schauer, Mrs. Ralph Badger, Mrs. Eugene Smith. Friends and husbands also contributed much interest and effort. These included Mrs. Roger Southworth, Eugene Jareckie, Edward Penniman, Henry P. Graves, Stephen Jareckie, Mrs. Richard Honig, Miss Lorraine Jeroma, Miss Joan Barker, John Eastman, Fred Cook, Mrs. Leon Hutchins, Miss Gertrude Pritchard, Miss Jessie Baldwin and last but not by any means least, Rollin Hatch, a former resident of West Fairlee Center.

The club house in West Fairlee Center has always been and will continue to be a true community gathering place. Its walls resound with hilarity at regular whist parties through the spring, summer and fall. It serves as a meeting place for the 4-H club, for Bible classes throughout the winter, for club members each month. Harvest suppers, church gatherings, showing of educational films, all these are held at the club house. Among those often seen there are former pupils at the little school: Messrs. Frank, Rollin, Truman, Alvah, and Martin Hatch, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cook, Mrs. Earle Pape, Mrs. Clifton Miskelly, Mrs. Maurice Eaton, Eugene Smith, J. Waldo Munn, and Mrs. Rosaline Ordway, a former teacher at the school.

The Club receives guidance from the Extension Service of the University of Vermont, whose agent provides interesting programs for the education of club members, and it also assists with community projects such as providing dental care, eye examinations, and music lessons for the local school children.

Anyone wishing to see the club house's "new look" could do just that at the next card party planned for Oct. 25.