

The East Hampton Visiting Nurse Association

THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

TO: BOARD MEMBERS
SUBJECT: PROGRESS REPORT

DATE: NOV. 10, 1971

Our summer was a full and busy one with the East Hampton Boys Club using the complete premises and Miss Genter, Columbia dance instructor using the gym on all available mornings. Along with this our chairs were in and out all summer and into the fall.

During the time that the Boys Club used the nursery school room, two of our table tops were damaged and have since been recovered. This was paid for by Mr. Kiernan, director of the Boys Club. The remaining table was covered with a piece left over from the upstairs bathroom floor covering, which was done at the same time. Needless to say the vinyl floor covering is a great improvement over the old wooden floor as it was.

Three attic vents have been added along with a small window in the attic area adjoining the bathroom. This did make a tremendous improvement in the living conditions upstairs through the summer. It was possible to see into the space above the complete ceiling area at which time it could be concluded that the trap door into the area from the rooms below would not be necessary. The men doing this work reported the area empty and the wires in seemingly fine condition. Thus the cost of the trap door could be eliminated. A small window has been added to the small attic area adjoining the bathroom giving air and ventilation where there was none.

Our upstairs storm windows have had fixtures added to them in order that they be able to put up more easily, and also to enable my husband to attach fixtures to them in order that they may be opened during the winter when needed or in the early spring.

Our last year's children met for the first time this fall at a Hollowe'en party on Friday afternoon, October 29th between three and five. Mothers brought cupcakes and icecream with them and a party-like visit was enjoyed by all.

We had forty-seven children registered this fall, forty-two of whom are still in attendance. As you know, Miss Fran Mansir will be leaving us shortly after the first of the year. Mrs. Kathy Stucklen has been working with us for the past two weeks, and Mrs. Trisha Ezzard has worked on occasional mornings.

The two large sets of blocks which were purchased over a year ago are most helpful, especially with the boys. Along with this we now have forty-two wooden puzzles which we use constantly.

Major repairs were necessary on our playground equipment. The pipes of one of our best pieces of equipment holding four swings completely broke off just a little above the cement casing. This happened on a Sunday afternoon when two of our service club grandchildren were on the swing. Though the smallest child was hurt, but not seriously, it could have been very serious as this swing is a very heavy piece of equipment. New piping has been welded on successfully to the upper portions as needed and the swing has been reset into new cement. One missing pipe on our larger swing has been reset into new cement also. Due to the uneven strain on the five pipes as they were, I felt it best to add the missing sixth while repairs were being made to the other swing.

Two coatings of paint were needed for the porches and a stoop going out to the playground from the gym, along with the tops to the cellar doors. This painting would have been done in the past spring, but was held over until the fall in order that a more lasting benefit would be derived from the painting. While the men were here they painted the small upper hall ceiling area over the stairs in our living area. The storm windows were badly in need of painting and were painted before they were installed for the winter.

Unexpectedly, the cesspools for both house and cottage exhausted their abilities and it became necessary to have two new ones installed. According to Mr. DiSuno, who did the work, we should have no more need to think of the cesspools in the future beyond the yearly cleaning. I had been given two names to contact, but was successful in reaching only Mr. DiSuno. Since we were in a state of emergency and he had been highly recommended, I asked if he would fit this work in as soon as he possibly could. This he did even though he had other commitments prior to this. We had to call for repeated cleanings until he could come, since both cesspools were overflowing as soon as they became full. I thanked Mr. DiSuno and commended him on my observance of the efficiency of work well done, and for his consideration in giving us priority at a time when the cost could have mounted up to a much greater one by continued needed cleaning.

A good deal of work has been done to the grounds, but I feel that it does not show to its full extent as yet. My husband has just planted two trees in the protected corner area of the property, one of them a Blue*Gusta and the other a Norway Spruce. These were given by Mr. James Lynch, to whom my husband had expressed the fact that I had wished we had a Christmas tree on the grounds. Along with this we have added five large forsythia, five large hedge bushes, a dogwood tree, topsoil, geraniums and petunias for the window boxes along with other plants, and fence posts where needed. Some of this was donated in the same manner as the two trees, but most of it was paid for by my husband. Since I have not had help on the inside of the house for the weekly cleaning or with the gym as in the first two years we were here, I have asked for a bit of extra help on the grounds when needed in order to further the results for the future.

Our Service Club Ladies have a very busy calendar at this time, and have voted to wait until sometime after the first of the year for our rummage sale.

Mrs. Stucklen has spoken to me about the heater and the cleaning of it, believing that it would give more heat when cleaned. I spoke with Mr. Hamilton and it is in his opinion questionable that this heater can provide adequately through the winter. He says it is full of holes and even questions its safety. He does not wish to predict the results should he be asked to clean it. He says that this was his opinion some time ago, and that it was alright to use the heater for damp days in the early spring or the like, but that it is neither safe nor satisfactory for winter use. The estimated cost of a new replacement would be \$650.00 including installation. This would be an 80,000 B T U Gun-type oil-fired floor heater. Mrs. Stucklen spoke to me this afternoon and said that they could vacate the house as in the past and move back into it in the spring if it is too much to tackle at this time.

Our mothers and I intend to have some kind of a farewell supper or party for Fran probably right after the first of the year. I would like to ask at this time if perhaps there could be a little gift which could come from Neighborhood House for her in appreciation of the generosity of expressed in her work far beyond the responsibilities required of her as our nursery school assistant.

I would like at this time to express my gratitude to all of you for the strength I have gained in my work here these past three years. So many have contributed and I wish there could be a way to thank all of the many whom I do not even know.

Alice E. Tumber
Resident Director
Neighborhood House

AET/s

cc/ Mrs. Avis Usher