

In the absence of Mrs. Johnson I had called and invited Mrs. Fish. Unexpectedly, Mrs. Fish had to call later to say that she was sorry that she could not be here as she had planned. We missed her - but understood.

Through the winter various groups have continued to use the gym. Namely, a young men's basket ball group on Monday nights, a high school boy's group on Tuesday night, and two groups from the Catholic Church on Wednesdays.

Service Club suppers continue once a month as in the past along with their weekly meetings. St. Matthew's Guild meets every first and third Tuesday. Along with other activities, both Guild and Service Club have been busy making rag rugs.

The rummage sale which our Service Club recently held brought in \$175.00. The Ladies are to be commended for their persistent efforts in this work.

My husband has helped me in countless ways in the great responsibilities here. Much effort and time is needed with the rummage which comes in steadily and needs time for sorting and arranging, - much more time and effort than can perhaps be realized. During the winter along with this and other tasks my husband has worked on the small attic off of the upstairs bathroom, and on the entrance hall walls and staircase leading to our living area. Although not completed it is a long way towards this, and is a greatly needed improvement for the house. With all of this he has taken complete care of the gym since I have not been able to obtain a helper for this, along with the general care of the house.

I have had three helpers in the nursery school since Frances Mansir left, but none has proved able to continue. Fortunately I am able to rely on Mrs. Stafford Ezzard for at least two days each week, and on other days when she is able. She is of great value to the work which we do.

My time is full completely and allows for little other than Neighborhood House activities. I feel, however, that the goals are worthy of the effort and the work and the time spent - are **rewarding**.

I would like to thank all of you again at this time for your continued support.

Alice E. Tumber  
Resident Director  
Neighborhoods House

cc/Mrs. Avis Usher  
AET/s

We are weighing the possibilities of this group of children meeting here for a Christmas gathering also.

During the winter and after the holidays we hope to have a pot-luck supper for the older children, who behaved so like little men and little women at the Hollowe'en gathering for their younger brothers and sisters.

Through our children contact with their mothers is kept up-to-date. We expect to have a Neighborhood House Mother's meeting during the month of February when all have more time and less pressure.

Meanwhile each day moves forward in our renewed efforts to help another group of children prepare for their coming school years.

We have a group of men using our gymnasium on Monday evenings. The Boy Scouts are back again on Tuesday evenings after having met over the police station for the past two years. They seem to be a far better troupe than they were when they left. Wednesday evenings we have held open for the high school boys, and of course Thursday evenings are taken up by our Ladies' Service Club. The Maidstone Gun Club continues to meet on the 2nd Wednesday evening of each month.

This fall we will not have the expense of removing the leaves and the necessary grounds clean-up. My husband has been able to fit in the time and donate it to this affect.

We would like to prepare the land area in the space left by the moving of the cottage, and would like permission in order that we may proceed with it as we are enabled to.

At this time I wish to thank all of you for the improvements we have thus far gained upstairs here at the house. My physical responsibilities here are unquestionably enormous, and the more easily I can arrive at work to be accomplished the more time and energy I can put to forwarding future gains. I am more grateful than I have words for - for the electric range which Mrs. Broaddus Johnson has told me was donated for our use by her friend, Mrs. O.R. Jones. It is truly a very unexpected blessing and one which is a great help.

I sincerely thank all of you for your continued support, and hope that your Christmas and Holiday Season will be a full and joyous one.

Alice E. Tumber  
Resident Director  
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Recd - 1/29/73