

## Annual Report of the Recreation Council

① The purpose of the Recreation Council is to "provide a fuller and more rounded social life for every member of the community". There are 12 members, each representing the house from which she is elected. It is divided into three committees called the Entertainment, Dance and Athletic committees.

The preceding Council was kind, and brought us into office with a cash bonus of \$9.90 and a budget surplus of nearly \$30. We, in turn, are leaving a similar nest-egg of \$            and \$            to the next Council. Because of our happy financial state in March, 1940, we have not charged admission to any events except a concert, the formal dances, and two college parties at which we served refreshments.

The report of the Entertainment Committee is as follows :

The spring season opened with a night of Amateur Dramatics, followed by a beer party a few weeks later. This party, which was really a house-warming for the newly opened Carriage Barn, was preceded by a tea given by the new Branch Store in the Carriage Barn. Transportation was provided by the Council to and from the party and a profit of one dollar was made --- The idea of having Sunday supper in the houses was continued with three houses participating a week --- Music was broadcast from the balcony of the Commons every day the weather permitted; it was so popular that we had broadcasts after dinner also.

The opening week-end of college in September, a supper party was given for the freshmen at the Carriage Barn. This event followed the last freshmen meeting. Later, in the fall, the Council sponsored a viola recital given by William Primrose --- The Entertainment Committee arranged a Spelling Bee in which one student from each house, and one faculty member from each division,

participated --- The Entertainment Committee also arranged two large community parties during the fall. The first one was an Election Night Party which started with a bonfire behind the stone wall and proceeded to the Carriage Barn with the aid of college musicians where election returns were announced by Mr. Leigh. Refreshments were served; square dancing and a jam session took place --- The fall term ended with a Christmas Party at which several houses gave skits and Christmas carols were sung --- Mr. McBride and Mr. Kowenhoven gave two recorded music evenings, one in the spring and one in the fall --- Several movies were also sponsored by this committee during the year --- In collaboration with the Health Committee, the Entertainment Committee gave Red Cross knitting teas several Saturday afternoons.

The Entertainment Committee has two suggestions for next year, (1) a series of Sunday evening music programs provided by various members of the music faculty, and (2) a scavenger hunt. (We hope they will not be held simultaneously).

The report of the Dance Committee is as follows :

During the past year the Dance Committee organized 6 dances, 2 formals, 1 informal and 3 informal informals. Both formal dances were successful, financially and otherwise. The informal informals were an innovation this year, and take the place of the informal of previous years. Their purpose is to provide free entertainment for girls who have guests on Saturday evenings. It is hoped that it will not be necessary to organize these gatherings much longer, but that people will make use of the dancing facilities in the Carriage Barn without being prodded by the Council. It is recommended, however, that the Council sponsor at least one more dance of this sort. It is also recommended that we have a square dance this spring.

Next, I would like to give the report of the Athletic Committee :

Last winter the college bus took people to skiing areas where the best

conditions prevailed. Several races were organized there, and it is hoped that they will be attended in the future --- Tennis lessons were given by Mr. Harding and were extremely popular. Before our courts were ready, the North Bennington High School gym was rented for lessons at a dollar per person. This plan was unsuccessful for several reasons and it is suggested that it not be tried again --- Early in May, Mr. Whyte began his one-half hour golf lessons, and in the fall he returned to teach for 2 weeks in October --- Unorganized baseball was played on the Green in the spring. It drew a large numbers of spectators as well as participants --- Miss Sue Cross was appointed hockey coach this year, which proved very popular choice. We played 4 games against outside institutions; 2 against North Bennington High School, 1 against Putney and 1 against Skidmore. The Bennington team won all except the Skidmore game. Teas were served in Bingham House after all the games. As the number of days in the fall term diminish, so does the number of people who come out to play hockey. A plan is under consideration to improve this situation. In the meantime it is suggested that more games be played with outside schools --- Mr. Durkee's stables at Overlea burned down last spring, but he has re-established himself (including stables) at Percy's Corner. He offers facilities for hayrides, picnics, over night rides, etc., which affords an opportunity for the organization of paper chases in the spring --- Fencing started after Winter Period 3 afternoons a week in the Carriage Barn.

One of the most important jobs the Recreation Council has had this year was introducing the community to the new Carriage Barn. We tried to plan all possible events over there, and gradually people became aware of its possibilities. The furniture was very late in arriving last spring, so that the building has not had a normal life until this fall. The building provides minor athletic activities for all seasons of the year, and is an excellent place to give dances, and entertain guests who are not entirely supine.

This has been a successful year mainly because of the excellent jobs done by the heads of the sub-committees, and because of the cooperation we have received from the community at large.

Respectfully submitted

Indy Sheeler  
Chairman