

## Children's Crusade Seeks to SUNDAY NEWS

Foreign News  
Farm Page

AY, NOVEMBER 20, 1949

11

## 'Bring Back' Newmarket



THIS IS THE IMPRESSION MOTORISTS driving from Durham into Newmarket have of the town. In the foreground is debris from a textile mill which was closed down 20 years ago, and further on is a burned building which is another eyesore in town.



THE TOWN OF NEWMARKET has a pretty poor showing when it comes to furnishing the youngsters with recreational opportunities. Above, students play on the high school's outdoor basketball court. The youngsters like to play basketball but due to lack of facilities they must play most of their games away from home.

# Clergy Joins Movement For Town Improvement

By CHESTER DAVIS

NEWMARKET, Nov. 19—Spurred into action by a "children's crusade" started by its own youngsters, this town is driving to eradicate malignant growths that began to afflict Newmarket when its "one big textile mill" closed down 20 years ago.

A dry rot of public apathy and lack of civic pride is under attack by a group which includes the local Catholic and Protestant clergy, closely united for a common goal.

The immediate purpose of this group is to build a community center for the town so children won't have to play in the alleys, and loiter on street corners at night. The center would be open to all groups in the town, youths and adults.

The main street of the town, on the Exeter-Durham highway, gives every outward appearance of being an adjunct to a slum town. But it isn't. There are some well to do people here. Most folks have a job, many out of town however.

But while most New Hampshire towns are enjoying real prosperity the town of Newmarket never did recover very well from the depression days.

When improvements in facilities for the children were mentioned at town meeting two years ago the voters were almost unanimous in saying they could not afford the improvement. The town's taxable assets (about \$2,250,00) are so small that every \$5,000 appropriation adds \$4 to the tax rate. However, real estate assessments are fairly low.

The group, which calls itself the "Newmarket Recreation and Planning Council" is dedicating itself not only to promoting the community center. They talk of stimulating civic pride to the point where the town dump will be moved away from the center of town and improving the unsightly north approach to the village.

The dump has been declared a health menace, and smoke from burning rubbish often blankets the town until it is hard to see from one block to the next.

On the north approach to the district the debris from old "No. 6 mill" litters the side of the highway. Ruins of a three-story brick structure stick out like a sore thumb, marking the start of the business area.

Civic leaders look with concern at the environment Main Street offers after sundown. The street, mostly of wooden buildings, is sprinkled with beer shops where many mothers and fathers sit sipping the amber brew while they leave their small fry to take care of themselves. Men and women stagger from some places when the barroom curfew blows. Chief of Police John A. Gordon says complaints have been made to the State Liquor Commission about some of the places but "nothing is ever done about it." There is a plethora of license clubs in the town. The chief says he knows

some men who spend a big portion of their salary "in beer points," something like a community center.

The move for town improvement was started by the children themselves.

Some of the adults in town had long recognized a need for recreational facilities here, but apparently they lacked the leadership to go after it. The youngsters did not wait for leadership. They chose the subject, "Recreational Needs of Newmarket," for a public forum discussion when they observed National Education Week recently.

The students did not pull any punches. They told the audience just what they thought about the recreational facilities of the town—and it was not anything about which a Chamber of Commerce would be proud.

When parents, teachers, and the clergy heard the youngsters complain they thought it was high time something should be done. The high school has an outdoor gravel basketball court, but no showers. The rickety town hall is the closest approach to a gymnasium. But the 100-year-old building is so dirty and dusty players feel as if they are in a coal mine. The balcony is so low players are in danger of bumping their heads. The town's baseball diamond and football field resembles "something between a cow pasture and a gravel pit."

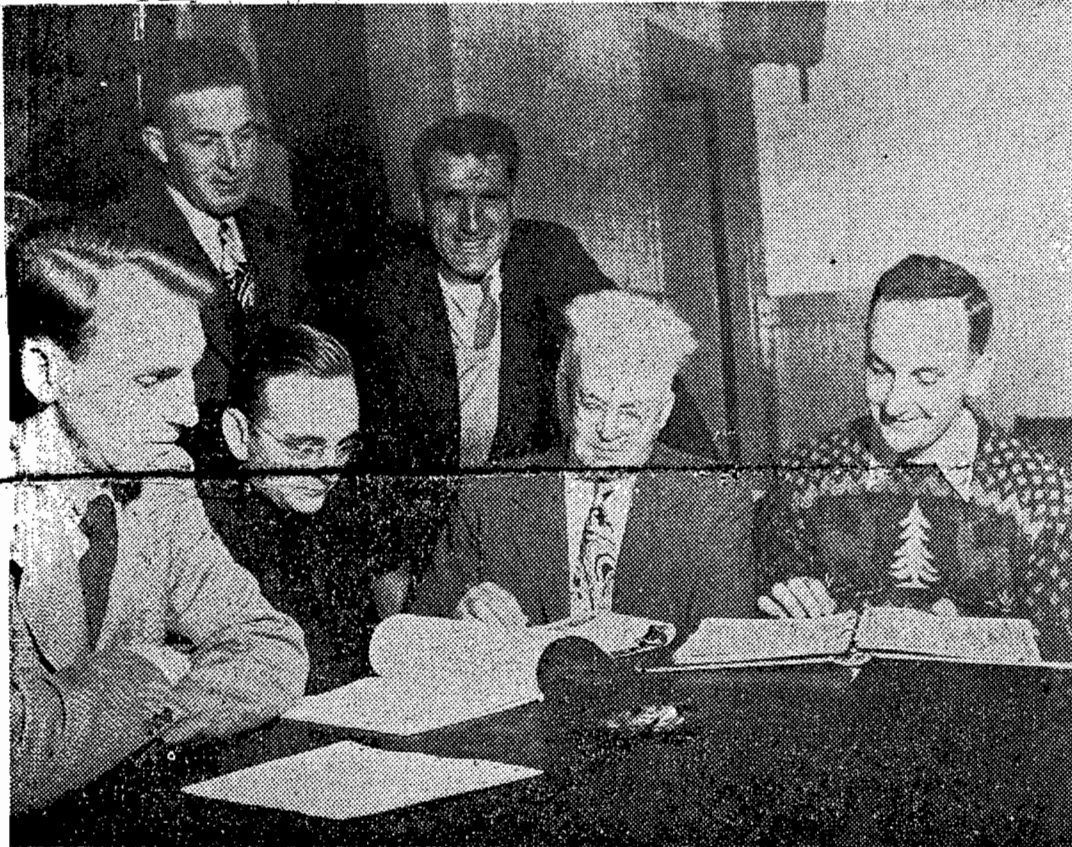
A crowd of teen-agers gather at the local pool room when co-manager, John Bonenfant of Epping, opens up in the evening. This is a large room up one flight of wooden stairs, on the main street. There are two bowling alleys and several pool tables.

"I come down here most every evening," one high school student said. "What else is there to do? You either hang around here or on the street corner."

The proprietor, Bonenfant, is civic minded. He is aware teen-agers had little to do. "I think they are a lot better off up here than they would be down on the street getting in trouble," he said. "They certainly need some sort of a recreation center. But are they going to get it?"

Bonenfant does not permit youngsters under 16 years of age to play pool, and he bars out any who he knows have been told by their parents not to go into the pool room. "But if they don't come here there isn't much else for them to do," he comments.

The chairman of the student-sponsored forum, Alfred Joblonski, noted, "If anything has been done in the last five years to better this community it certainly is not noticeable. People may spend money on gambling and liquor but they just don't seem to make a donation for something which will benefit the kids."



HEADING THE NEWLY FORMED NEWMARKET RECREATIONAL and Planning Council is this group of citizens, including the Catholic curate and the Protestant preacher. They are, left to right, seated, Director and Chairman Forrest C. Miner, Rev. Gerald Joyal, local curate, a director, Rev. Ernest A. McKenzie, pastor, chairman of the ways and means committee, and John S. Pohopek, treasurer; and, rear, Director John A. Stevens and Publicity Chairman John Dow.



A MOVE TO IMPROVE NEWMARKET'S RECREATIONAL facilities originated with this high school group when they held a public forum on the recreational needs of their town. They are, left to right, Lillian Barker, Dorothy Shiner, Robert Critchett, and Louise Mungeon. Later the adult group which formed the Newmarket Recreational and Planning Council honored Miss Mungeon by naming her their secretary. (Staff Photos—Davis)





A CANDID STUDY OF POVERTY, above, shows a Newmarket woman in the midst of piles of rubbish she has combed from the adjacent town dump. Her real name is Eleahora Puhtojisk and she is 77 years old. She sells some of the salvaged junk and some, she says, she swaps with farmers now and then for a dozen of eggs. Taxes bother her, too. Her total bill will be about \$23 this year.

Rev. Ernest McKenzie, pastor of the Community church, who is taking an active interest in this new project, asked, "You mentioned that it was time for action and not mere words. What are you going to do?"

"We youngsters have got the ball rolling," Joblonski said. "I think it is up to you adults to keep it going."

The next step toward making some improvements came on Thursday evening when about 30 citizens, many of them delegates from local organizations, met in the Polish-American Club hall. The group named three directors, a secretary and treasurer, and committees to map out a program of strategy to bring a community center to the town.

The three directors are Rev. Gerald Joyal, curate at St. Mary's church, Forrest C. Miner, High school teacher, and John A. Stevens. The treasurer is John S. Pohopek and the secretary is student Louise Mungeon, one of the group who stimulated the move. Chairman of the ways and means committee is Rev. McKenzie and John Dow is chairman of the publicity committee.

It is one of the first times leaders in the local Catholic and Protestant churches united their efforts to a common goal, according to natives. Mrs. Catheryn Rodrigues, a member of the local school board, was among those who commented. She said, "I think we are going to have some success this time. This is the first time I can remember of the leaders in both churches getting together like this."

Members of this newly-formed recreation and planning council decided to meet twice a month until Town Meeting time. During this time they hoped to have specific recommendations for a type of building needed for a center. The members will also stimulate public opinion in favor of such a center.

When a proposal for a school gymnasium and hall was made two years ago it was turned down. Only a handful people spoke for the project, but organized opposition to the spending brought quick defeat to the proposal.

Judge James B. Griffin of the local court, who operates a hardware business in town, said he sees a definite need for recreation facilities for youngsters but the town



can not afford it. He pointed out that the town's valuation was low and every \$4,000 to \$5,000 annual appropriation would raise the tax rate \$1.

It is very important that industry be considered, Griffin said, because it would be easy "to scare business out of town." He said in his own cases, taxes were high and if taxes went much higher it would not be profitable for him to stay in business.

He said he had been working with a committee to bring new industry into Newmarket, but with little success. The big liability is that the town has no railroad siding suitable for a manufacturer.

A subject of much discussion is the location of the town dump. Parents complain about it because their youngsters have to walk right past it on the way to school. Neighbors are bothered with smoke the year round and it is particularly objectionable at this time of year because dump rats are migrating into homes.

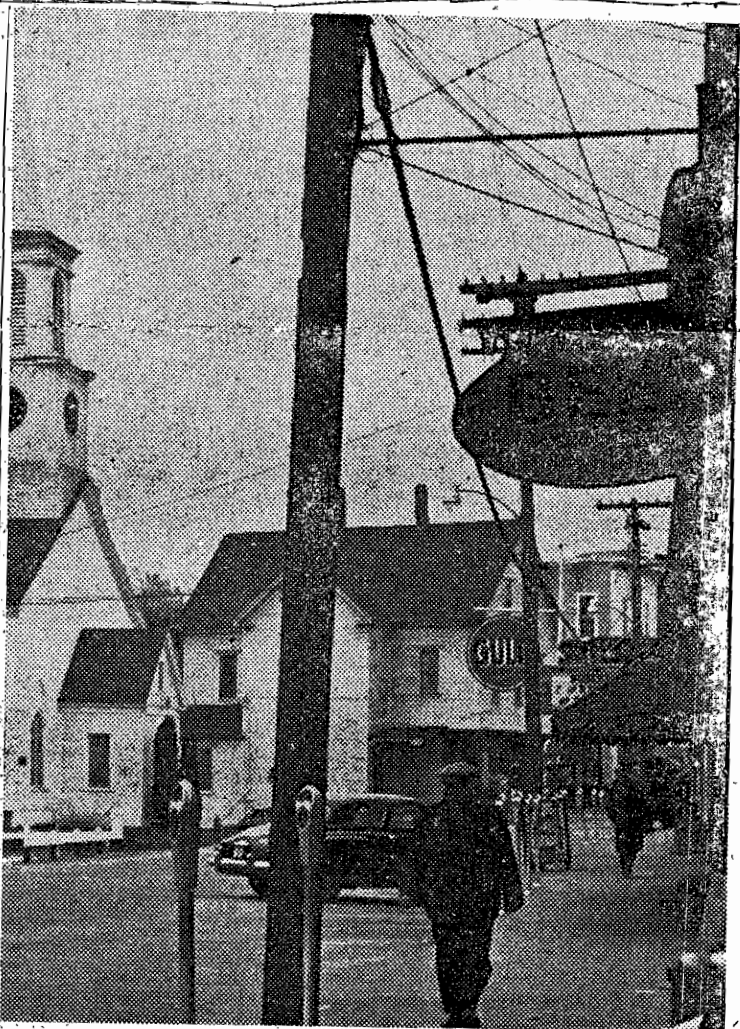
Health Officer John Vallier said the State Board of Health condemned the dump location a year ago, but selectmen claim they have not found a new location.

Apparently only one person in town is not concerned about the town dump and she lives next door to it. She is Eleanor Puhtojisk, 77, who combs the dump from day to day and ekes out a living selling what she can salvage.

"I was sick when I was in Boston," she said. "The doctor's told me I needed a lot of fresh air. That's why I moved out here."

Today a lot of the folks in town blame the leadership they had when the 1929 strike took place. They remember that the Newmarket Manufacturing Company, a textile industry established there more than 100 years before, was tied up in a strike. Most everyone in town had taken sides. A minority group sided with the company. It is conceded now that the company made reasonable effort to arbitrate the differences and continue business in town. Finally, the company said settle the strike, or they would leave town.

Nobody believed the com- had reason to feel sorry for them-



THIS IS A VIEW ALONG MAIN STREET in Newmarket. None of the adults in town have any trouble finding a place to buy their beer, but youngsters have a hard time to find the recreation they want. The century-old Town Hall (left) a poor substitute for an indoor basketball court. The steeple of the Community Church can be seen in the background.

pany would leave town. It had been there as long as they could remember and as long as their grandfathers could remember. But no suitable agreement being reached, the company left town and moved to Lowell.

This last year the local people had reason to feel sorry for them-

selves. The company has expanded so much that it opened a new plant in Machias, Me. It even opened a small production plant back here in Newmarket. But local employment opportunities have never equalled those of the days before the company vacated town.

The Civic Department of the Woman's club sponsors a play ground during the summer months, which is supervised by two paid instructors.

These activities are apart from the Clubs, dances, and parties which are on the School Calendar.

I ask you, is Newmarket neglect its youth as far as entertainment is concerned?

I would also like to ask you, shouldn't the parents and homes of these teenagers enter into this picture somewhere? Is it the responsibility of organizations and town officials to take care of these youths from the time they leave the dinner table until they retire?

In regard to the beer selling establishments in Newmarket. Are they so different from any other town? They are licensed

and run under the laws of the State of New Hampshire. What can be done about that?

It is very unfortunate that these establishments are mostly located on the Main Street of Newmarket. Some communities are more fortunate to have them located on side streets, out of the eyes of the general public; but it is my belief that the same general conditions of "staggering" (as Mr. Davis puts it) exists. It is the law of the State, so don't blame Newmarket.

The picture of the Town Dump as your Mr. Davis saw it is not a pretty one; but then, I have yet to see a beautiful town dump. I have every reason to believe that the officials of the town will remedy this situation. I have never seen smoke from this dump blanket the town; and as far as children having to pass by it, that is not necessary. By walking a longer distance they can take streets to avoid it if their parents object.

Reference was made in Mr. Davis' article to the "dirty," "dusty," "rickety" Town Hall. Did Mr. Davis ask the students he was interviewing how the Town Hall got in this condition? Perhaps that would have been a good question for them to have answered for him.

Students of Newmarket High School has played many games of basketball in the Town Hall, and to my knowledge no one has ever received skull injuries from bumping his head on the balcony. As for the Hall being dirty and dusty, that is a situation that the student does not have to tolerate. If any student is ashamed of the dust and dirt in his Town Hall that is a challenge to him. I feel positive that through public subscription enough money could be raised to purchase sand paper, soap and paint; and I know the Town would furnish the water to clean the Town Hall.

These students who are complaining of nothing to do could spend many hours working to improve their Town Hall instead of being obliged to patronize the Pool Rooms. This piece of work when completed would not only be a credit to these students, but would be a small way of saying "thank you" to the only organizations which are working so hard for their interest.

EDWINA BENNETT,  
(Mrs. Robert Bennett)  
Newmarket, N. H.

## As Our Readers See It

NEW HAMPSHIRE SUNDAY-NEWS, NOVEMBER 27, 1949

### NEWMARKET

I feel that the "publicity page" given to the Town of Newmarket in your paper of November 20 has done a great injustice to the town of Newmarket.

I came to live in Newmarket in 1929. It was during the mill strike and the year the Newmarket Manufacturing Company moved its mill to Lowell.

Many mistakes were made in Town management at that time, granted; but show me a town where mistakes are never made in management. The tax payer of Newmarket is still paying for those mistakes. This is not a condition in Newmarket alone, but exists in every community

that has lost a five million dollar industry.

I do not feel that Newmarket is as black as your writer, Chester Davis, has painted it. It is no worse than any other community of its size and financial standing in the State. My only regret is that Chester Davis did not contact those people who could tell him some of the good points of the Town.

First, I would like to tell you what the community of Newmarket does offer for the teenagers of the town:

Each Sunday evening the Community Church is open for its Youth Fellowship group.

The Catholic Church sponsors its C. Y. O.

On Monday evening the Veterans of Foreign Wars have their teen age dances and chaperoned parties.

The American Legion sponsors their "Young American Dances" in their hall on Wednesday evenings. They also have reorganized a Boy Scout troop.

The town affords three 4-H Clubs.

The Grange invites membership at 14 years. Entertainment, dances and parties are a part of their meetings.

The Red Men on Halloween sponsored a free movie at the Town Hall.

The Eagles' Christmas party each year is open to the Youth of the town.

# Newmarket News

Newmarket

N. H., Thursday, December 8, 1949

Price 10c

## VIEWS OF PEOPLE IN REGARD TO A RECREATION CENTER

Following are the views of some of the people of this town concerning a recreation center:

Mrs. Frederick LaFramboise would like such a place, but don't see where the money is coming from.

Mrs. Raymond Geoffrion of Packers Falls road would like to see the young people have one but is afraid if we had one the children would want to be there every night and she thinks young people should have enough to do at home. Her daughter Ann Rae takes music lessons and with her studies that is enough to keep her busy. Ann is encouraged to bring her friends home, and if it is Saturday they may stay all night.

Mrs. Herbert Philbrick is in favor of the recreation center if it didn't bring the taxes up too high. She thinks there should be two large rooms in the building, one for basketball and another for the community, where there could be plays held, dances and where the different organizations could meet.

Mrs. C. K. Shelton, of North Main street is very much in favor of the center. She says she would be willing to go without some things for the sake of having one.

One of the business men said that if we could raise some of the money by giving plays and having other things perhaps we could get the rest from the government.

One mother remarked: "Why don't the kids stay at home once in a while?" Another said "What some of the pupils need is more brains and less brawn."

One parent remarked that not only would our taxes go higher but our children would be paying for the building for the next 25 years.

The general opinion is that our friends would like a recreation center but it is not advisable as the taxes are so high.

## NEWMARKET CITIZENS HOLD MEETING TO CONSIDER IMPROV.

An interesting and lively meeting of the Newmarket Recreation and Planning Council was held at Polish Hall last Thursday evening. There was something doing every minute, especially when our selectman Arthur Beauchesne and Rev. Joyal got started. Father Joyal complained of rats in the parsonage, which came from the town dump, and how the town dump ought to be moved. A lady wanted to know what the dump had to do with recreation, and the answer was it had everything.

"Well," said this lady, "Are you building the recreation center on the dump?" Mr. Beauchesne complained that he had written

an article and submitted it with some pictures to the Sunday News and that they had not printed half he sent, and only part of the good pictures.

Judge J. Bartlett Griffin told how when he was a boy the children used to be satisfied, with going into the woods and studying the birds and flowers.

Mrs. Selma Shaw suggested we improve the facilities we have, and it was decided we could have some showers in the town hall, so the children after playing basketball could use them, and a committee, consisting of Forrest Miner, local high school teacher and director of the council. Commander John Carmichael of the local

Legion post and selectman Arthur Beauchesne was chosen to investigate the possibilities of installing and financing showers in the town hall and they will report their findings at town meeting in March and then we came back to the dump. I understand there are two locations which have been offered but neither one is suitable as there are too many trees around, but just as soon as a proper place can be found that blessed (?) dump will be moved.

Mr. Miner said he hoped to have a speaker for the next meeting.

I would like to ask why the letter a certain lady sent in stating her reasons for not attending the council was not read?

## Newmarket

A handful of ordinary citizens, led by a courageous and civic-minded young priest, Father Gerald F. Joyal, have achieved brilliant results at Newmarket in awakening the town to deficiencies which have made it an eyesore among New Hampshire communities.

Naturally, those responsible for the long and inexcusable neglect of the town's shortcomings are up in arms. They fall back on the weak allegation that the town is being injured by adverse publicity. This is nonsense. Newmarket's unsightliness, and lack of progressiveness, have for years been obvious to every motorist who had occasion to drive through the town. Conditions of this kind cannot be corrected by trying to keep them under a blanket.

Father Joyal and his supporters—who now include the rank and file of Newmarket's citizenry—have done the community an immeasurable service by making it clear to the whole state that at last Newmarket is awake, and bent on self-improvement. Let the townsfolk continue to support the non-political civic leaders of the Joyal group. A movement of this kind has never yet known failure.



This housing was NOT built years ago by Mfg. Co. -  
caption is in error

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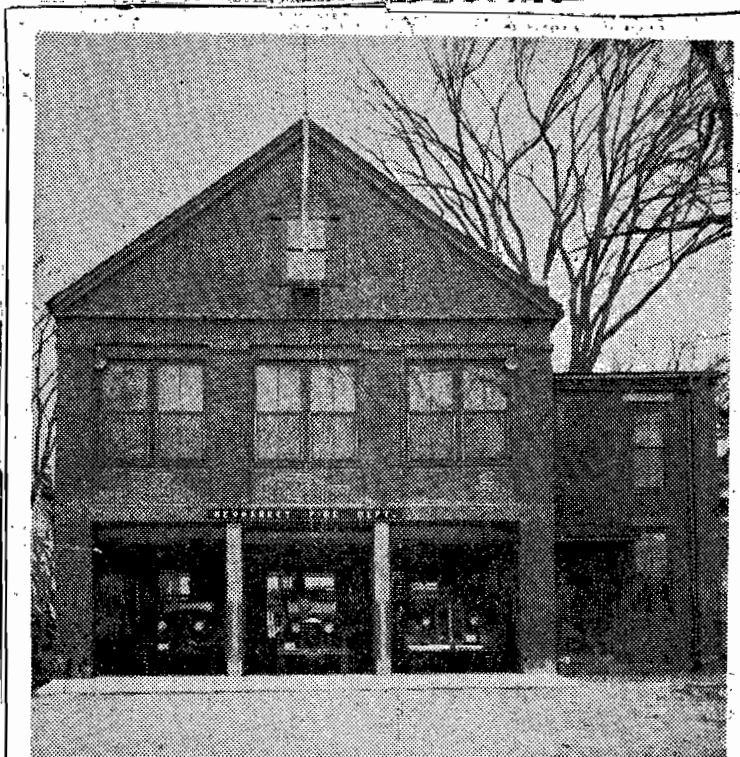
NEW HAMPSHIRE SUNDAY NEWS, NOVEMBER 27, 1949

# Newmarket Citizens Shaken By Revelations of Community Shortcomings



THESE ATTRACTIVE small houses are found in Newmarket's finest residential section. Still in fine condition, the homes were built years ago by the Newmarket Manufacturing company. They offer a pleasant contrast with many other sections.

ERROR →



NEWMARKET'S VOLUNTEER fire department occupies these excellent quarters in a remodeled schoolhouse. Repairs and alterations on the building cost the town about \$25,000.

## Davis Article Is Basis For Praise, Criticism

NEWMARKET, Nov. 26—Some elements of this town's political and civic leadership reacted sharply to last Sunday's exposition of community sore spots by a New Hampshire Sunday News writer whom one local editorialist assailed as the "heavy fisted" Chester Davis.

Criticism appeared to be loudest in quarters upon which the rank and file of the citizenry pinned the blame for some of the conditions described and pictured in Mr. Davis' illustrated article.

No one could be found, however, who questioned any of Davis' facts. The burden of the protesting chorus was that the article overlooked Newmarket's advantages.

Selectman Walter Gillis, in a front page article in the Newmarket News, emphasized this theme: "Every city and town has its sore spots—but why single out a few and hold up our town to ridicule?"

From the clerk of the Board of Selectmen, Arthur E. Beauchesne, came a drastic suggestion for dealing with the problem of keeping Newmarket's youngsters off the streets at night.

"I know that what I'm going to say will not please the fellows and girls," he said by way of preface, "but if their criticism is constructive, so is mine: 'Teachers ought to see to it that more homework is meted out.'"

A member of the newly organized Newmarket Recreational and Planning Council, Rev. Ernest A. McKenzie, resigned from the council.

He said he did so in protest against the manner in which the council gave publicity to the needs of the town. However, Rev. Mr. McKenzie said he thought the aim of the council to create better recreational facilities for the young people was a valid one, and that he would continue to work independently toward the same goal.

Most of the members of the council stood steadfastly by their criticisms of the town and their condemnation of its shortcomings, as reported in The Sunday News.

Said Director John A. Stevens:

"The Sunday News told the truth about Newmarket. As usual, the truth hurts. But it always wins in the end. We will go forward with our plans."

Another director, Rev. Gerald Joyal, curate of St. Mary Catholic church, agreed with Mr. Stevens.

"The Sunday News story was accurate in every respect," said Father Joyal. "I don't agree with the criticism that emphasis should have been placed on Newmarket's advantages. What we are trying to do is to clean up the bad spots. Before you can correct bad conditions, you must first recognize them, and admit that they exist. Of course there are good things about Newmarket, and the majority of its people are fine citizens. We all appreciate that. But there are evils which must be corrected, and they won't be if we spend all our time congratulating ourselves."

The third director of the Planning Council, and its chairman, also stood by the Sunday News story. He is Forrest C. Miner, high school teacher and athletic coach.

The council announced it will hold a public meeting Thursday night, to which all the townspeople are invited, and at which all viewpoints may be expressed.

The council was formed after a group of teen-agers and high school students banded together to try to influence adults of the town to establish a year-round recreation center which would provide young people with a place to spend their evenings, instead of "hanging around the streets."



NEWMARKET HIGH SCHOOL, a modern brick structure, well lighted and of attractive design, is cited by some community leaders to show that town does well by its youth. However, school has no gym, and little in the way of recreational facilities. Pupils are shown playing basketball with a rudimentary outdoor setup.

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Selectman Beauchesne, in a type-written statement, included the following as points in Newmarket's favor which tended to offset the conditions reported by Journalist Davis:

1. Town-supported band concerts were a popular feature during the summer.
2. The town and the Newmarket Women's club put up funds for a summertime "playground for little tots."
3. The VFW last year provided a weekly "teen age dance."
4. The Eagle's fraternity hold an annual children's Christmas party.
5. The Red Men of Newmarket showed free movies on Halloween.
6. Firemen burned over a swamp

and built a dam to flood land for a skating rink.

7. The town this year appropriated \$2,000 for new sidewalks, and has put considerable effort into improving streets and country roads.

Mr. Beauchesne said that the building of a recreation center has been considered by the town, but was deferred because present tax rates are as high as Newmarket can stand.

"Newmarket is progressive," he said. "We will have a new combination community center and town building. If present conditions improve, we will buy the lot next door to our present Town Hall for this building at our next annual meeting."

"I hope the Recreation and Planning Council will continue its efforts to improve Newmarket. We need its help. However, we must use discretion in attaining our goal. Above all, the integrity of the town as a whole must be maintained."

From other sources it was learned that the town fathers, though bitterly critical of the Davis article, are already preparing to take action on some of the "sore spots" unearthed by the reporter and his camera.

Plans are afoot, it was learned, to move the unsightly town dump farther away from the center of the community, and to try and persuade owners of certain industrial properties to clean up rubble and debris which for years has littered the sidewalks along some of the main streets.



# NEW PUBLIC SPIRIT PAYS

## SUNDAY NEWS

Farm Page  
Foreign News

JANUARY 27, 1952

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# OFF IN NEWMARKET

## Blast in Sunday News Started Ball Rolling

### Voters Back Officials in Program To Boost Town

By CHESTER DAVIS

NEWMARKET, Jan. 26 — The town of Newmarket is getting a new face and a new spirit — and all for the good.

For many years this town was unfortunately noted for its lack of progress. Today, it can be reported Newmarket is making progress both industrially and in the public spirit displayed by its citizens.

Newmarket has become a town which promises to command the respect and admiration of all the people of New Hampshire.

The good publicity has already started to spread as a result of just one project: The installing of showers in the Town Hall for high school basketball players. Visiting teams formerly complained that the town lacked facilities. Now the junior citizens go back to their home towns to broadcast that Newmarket has new and better facilities, better than the ones in their own hometown.

#### STARTED BALL ROLLING

"What's the matter with your newspaper?" a Newmarket citizen admonished a New Hampshire Sunday News reporter this week. "Why don't you tell the good side of Newmarket. You gave us some bad publicity two years ago. That started the ball rolling. It irritated the folks to a point they went out to do something about their civic problems. We have some major improvements down here, and promise of more to come."



THIS PLEASANT MEADOW, immediately adjacent to the village of Newmarket, was for several years the town dump. It was a health menace and nuisance. Removing the dump was part of the cleanup in Newmarket. School children (foreground) walking home are Richard Crooker, Richard Proulx and Betty Mitchell.



cise their best basketball skills. And they had no showers or dressing rooms.

The selectmen went to work on the remodelled interior of the town hall. They painted it, and tore down an overhanging balcony. This made the hall brighter and bigger.

Then the newly-formed service club, through a special project committee headed by local school principal Rexford Avery, cleaned out the basement of the hall and installed dressing rooms and showers. Scores of men, including professional plumbers and carpenters, donated their time in the first community project of its kind.

There are many other improvements, also. There have been changes in the School Board and the Board of Selectmen. Young, progressive Fred LaFramboise, an executive at the Diamond Match company in Dover, was elected to the Board of Selectmen and is now the chairman. Another young man, John Pohapek, 36, was elected to the School Board.

The newspaper story of two years ago simply brought into focus the ills and ailments of the town. The voters became in-

dignant, first, at the newspaper, and, next, at the conditions which existed. Newspapers in the area harangued the Sunday News for an unjust attack on the town. Proof of the effectiveness of the publicity, one citizen said, can be found, however, in the end results.

"You did a good job," Selectman LaFramboise told this reporter.

LaFramboise and his fellow selectmen have done an equally good job in the past two years. With a public support new to Newmarket, the selectmen have made some sweeping improvements and have more in store.

Voters gave the selectmen \$500 to tear down the old balcony. Then, without cost to the taxpayers, town officials decided to build themselves a new town office. Said one, "The old one was a pig pen."

The new office is 24 by 14 feet, and is a place officials are proud to show visitors. The volunteer work on the project was furnished by Selectmen LaFramboise, Arthur Beauchesne, and Nick Zuk, Town Clerk Robert Rousseau, Highway Agent Adam Malek, Town Treasurer Robert LaBranche and Police Officer Chesley Ralph.

The newspaper story two years ago prominently displayed a picture of an "eyesore" on the north end of Main street. It was a building partly burned down.

"We have tried to get the place torn down," LaFramboise said. "But the county solicitor has not backed us up in our demands. However, we keep after the owner and he has torn some of it down. We have increased the tax assessment on the structure, and we are told the Tax Commission will back us in this action until we either own the building or until it is torn down."

The owner has torn the bricks down to the second floor level and already this approach to the town has improved 100 per cent.

Some unequal assessments were reported two years ago. The selectmen made some reassessments and then made readjustments in the budget so that taxes went down from \$55.80 to \$45 in 1950. Then the selectmen started improvements, including new sewers and water mains, increased pay to teachers, highway workers and policemen, and the tax rate jumped to \$53.80. There were few complaints about this, however, because the taxpayers saw some real improvements taking place.

Officials predict taxes will remain about the same this year.

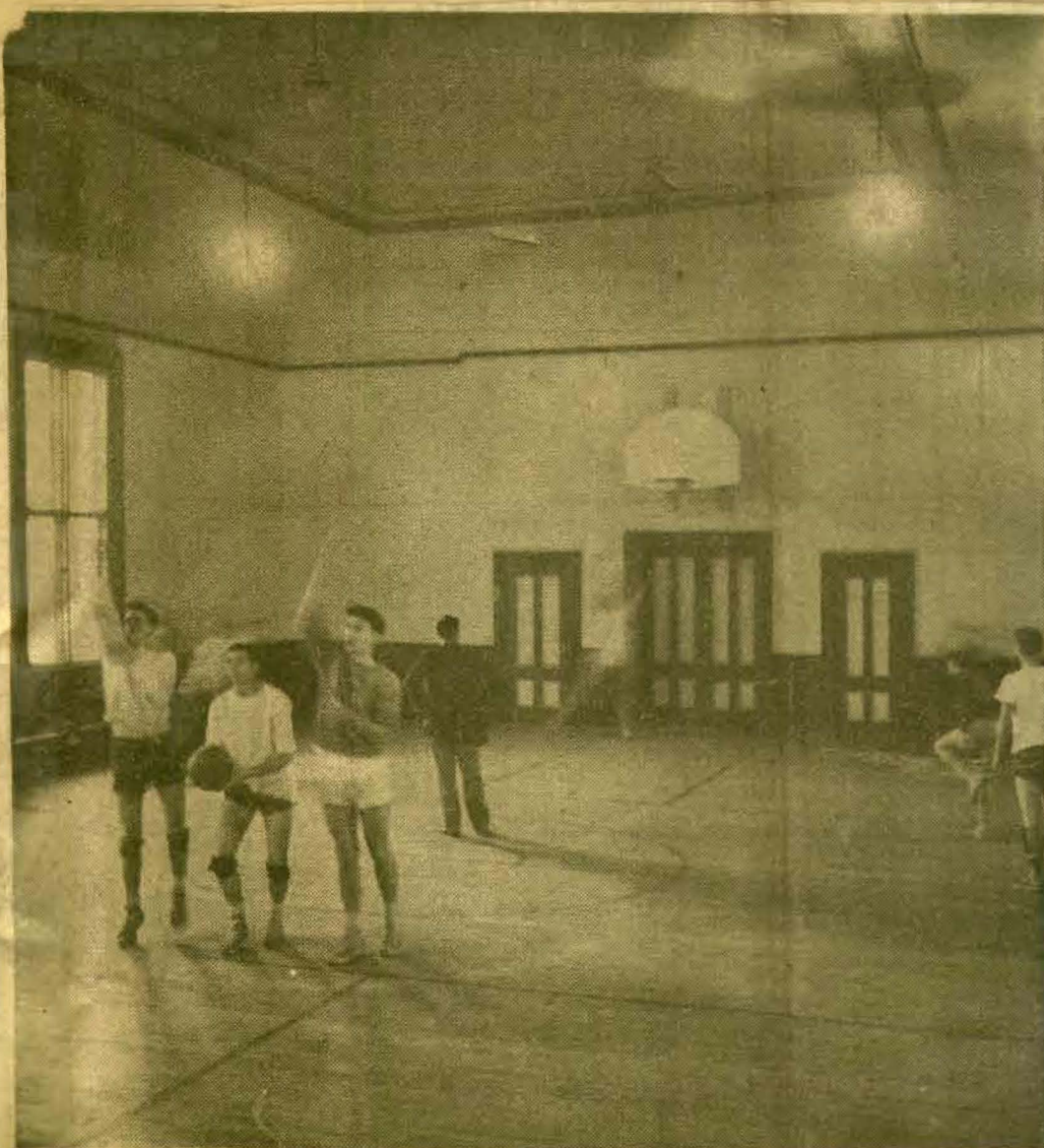
#### DUMP REMOVED

One of the biggest improvements over two years ago is the removal of the town dump from the outskirts of the village. Adelaire Beaulieu of 11 Elm street says "New Village" was overrun with rats, in constant danger of fire, and was a smelly place to live. He recalls seeing rats running along the streets, and they were continuously a household pest. Now the rats, the smell, and blowing debris have disappeared.

Town officials acquired 100 acres of land five miles out of the village for their new town dump. The town expanded its rubbish collections, and next year plans even bigger collection routes.

An old police cruiser which had little chance of catching any speeder was replaced by a new police automobile, and the three full-time officers who drive the cruiser were given a \$5-a-week increase.

School officials were allotted \$23,000 over their old budget so they could improve the teaching staff, and add a much-needed shop program for the boys. This



THE OLD TOWN HALL now serves a dual purpose: A public meeting place and recreation hall for youngsters. Previously the hall was dingy, and fell short on recreational purposes. This improvement reflects a new public spirit in this Rockingham county town.



program includes woodwork, and will eventually include machine work.

This year selectmen will ask the townspeople to buy a snow loader for the Highway Department.

#### VOTING SYSTEM

Another stride forward was a change in the municipal voting system. Previously the voting (as exposed in an exclusive Sunday News picture) was held in such a fashion that people were restricted in their voting and politicians could tell just how each person was voting. This coming March, for the first time in the town's history, the voters will employ the Australian ballot system in the election of their town officers.

A Dover businessman, D. W. Hoyt, displayed his faith in the future of town when he started the Maple Crest housing project which will add about 50 new homes to the town.

In previous years problems existed year after year before there was action, if any. That has all apparently changed. When a child was killed as he ran between parked cars on a hill at the north end of town the selectmen acted immediately. They prohibited parking on the hill, and then rented a vacant lot as a municipal parking place.

A second municipal parking place has been rented next to the high school. In both cases the rent of the parking lot simply equals the town tax on that particular piece of land.

#### NEW INDUSTRY

Already the townspeople have seen how their new public spirit pays off. The United Distillery, a big taxpayer, moved out of town. But it was quickly replaced by the Macallen company, which processes mica, and which hires between 400 and 500 employees. Eventually, it is reported, its payroll may go as high as \$1,000,000. Town officials said one of the considerations in locating in the town was the civic atti-

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ONE OF THE NEW STORE FRONTS which give Newmarket's downtown a new look. The store owner, Phil LaBranche, and his son, Robert, talk over improvements in the town.

## Newmarket

(Continued from Page 11)

tude of the people and the town's municipal improvement program.

In past years motorists have been known to drive through the town and remark, "What a dump." That sort of insult is heard no longer.

The shopping center is taking on a new shine. New store fronts have gone up, the New Hampshire Electric company office and front was remodelled, and the lobby of the local bank was modernized.

The Newmarket Service club has plans for advertising the town on the north and south approaches so every motorist will know something about the place. Club President James S. Manuel says the members are discussing the erection of billboards which will list the manufacturers, who include Kingston Manufacturing company (die works), Sam Smith Shoe company, Rockingham Shoe company, Royce Shoe company, Pioneer Manufacturing company (rayon processors), and Macallen company.

The complaint here now is that there is a scarcity of manufacturing space. Some citizens bemoan that if town leaders of two decades ago had the same spirit as now, the old mills might have been spared from the building wreckers.

But all that is over the dam. Businessmen and workingmen of the town are united in the common cause: Make Newmarket a better town in which to live, work and play.



MANCHESTER, N. H., SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1950

## Battle Looms at Newmarket Town Meeting On Proposed \$100,000 Community Center

### Substantial Taxpayers Reported Backing Plan

By CHESTER DAVIS

NEWMARKET, Feb. 25.—The big guns of town politics will be leveled at the crusade for recreational facilities in this community when town meeting rolls around next month.

While perennial debating on taxes, spending and assessments will be heard, the main oratory will concern the new-born Newmarket Recreational and Planning Council suggestion that a \$100,000 community center be constructed under a "reassessment program" of all taxable property.

A vocal portion of the voters will be opposed to the move. That is a foregone conclusion on the basis of statements issued to date.

However, a substantial segment of those casting ballots, including the town's largest taxpayer, will back the proposal at town meeting.

When the Recreational and Planning Council was formed in mid-November the more conservative elements of the town inclined to believe their publicity and ambition was just a "flash in the pan." Other similar organizations, like the Merrimack Citizens Committee, fizzled and passed into oblivion when their new move-

ments were stifled by public apathy.

But there has been no stifling of the Newmarket organization which has been activated and sparked by such active men as Rev. Gerald Joyal, curate of St. Mary's Catholic church, School Headmaster Forrest C. Miner and their friends.

Credit for start of the movement, however, is directly due the school children in the town. The publicity spotlight was turned on the town when a group of students held a frank discussion of what Newmarket lacked in the way of recreational facilities. Their leader, Alfred Joblonski, said there was nothing done in the town for five years.

When the new council formed, Joblonski said, "We youngsters got the ball rolling. Now I think it is up to you adults to keep it going."

A survey by this newspaper on November 18 drew the conclusion that there existed in

Newmarket a "dry rot of public apathy and lack of civic pride." That, along with some pictures of the town's sore spots, brought loud shouts of indignation. But it was all shouting, and no action. The town dump is still an eyesore and near the center of town; this being contrary to the orders of the State Board of Health. There has been no visible effort to clean up the debris on the north approach to the downtown shopping district. The debris from old No. 8 mill is still a mute reminder of what happened in the town during the depression.

The No. 1 item which the council can be praised is public apathy no longer exists in the town. It is the apathy of the voters which permits a handful of community leaders to rule the town with a few well-phrased but innocuous and non-committal speeches on town meeting day.

That won't be so here this year. Through action of this council the people are taking sides on the issues.

It was disclosed tonight another accomplishment by the council has been executed. The council leaders wrote four articles for the town warrant and, armed with 10 signatures for each item, the articles were presented to the selectmen and will appear in the warrant.

These articles are:

1—To see what action the voters will take in authorizing the construction of a new community center for the town.

2—To see if the town will raise and appropriate \$75,000 to \$100,000 for the construction of this much-needed center.



A. J. TURCOTTE, owner of the above hardware store and moving picture theater, says he feels he is fully taxed at \$10,000 valuation despite some feeling in the town the assessment is low. He says higher assessments might drive businessmen out of business.



3—To see if the town will authorize a reassessment of real estate valuations by an "impartial" board of experts (similar to the reassessments in Dover).

4—To see if the town will raise and appropriate money to pay for this reassessment.

All four of these articles are aiming at one thing, mainly the new community center which will provide children of the town a place for their recreation. It will fill a much-needed place for other community activities. A previous try at bringing a center in town failed because it was to be adjacent to the school building, and thus controlled by the School Board.

There being no other objections now, the advocates of town thrift started shouting about increasing the taxes.

"With the present system of assessing," Father Joyal explained, "such an appropriation might work an undue hardship on some. But if we can reassess our taxable property I believe that the majority of people will have to pay no more taxes than they do now, and perhaps at the most 10 cents on every thousand dollars."

"It is no secret here in town that some of the people are favored with low assessments, especially when compared with other property in the town. This reassessment would mean these

people would lose that advantage, while it would save money for others. At the same time we are making tax assessments fair and just for the town, it will be possible to build the community center without hurting many of the taxpayers."

When the Dover tax reassessments were completed the general valuation of the city was increased, and the tax rate went down.

An examination of the tax books this week showed some valuations which are "favorable" to the owners, while other valuations list less valuable property as high as the bigger and better homes of the town.

In one instance, a century-old modest home, owned by Bernard O'Neil family, is valued at \$3,750 while on the same street a luxurious home which cost the owner \$15,000 to build is assessed for \$3,500.

However, another hardware merchant, A. J. Turcotte, who has an assessment of \$10,000 on his hardware store and his moving picture emporium, expressed the feeling of some merchants

"We are already taxed too much," Turcotte said. "If we businessmen have to pay much more in taxes, it will drive us right out of business."

Referring to the recreation

council leaders, Turcotte said, "The trouble is these young fellows don't know what they are doing. They don't pay any real estate taxes, so it is easy for them to say spend more money."

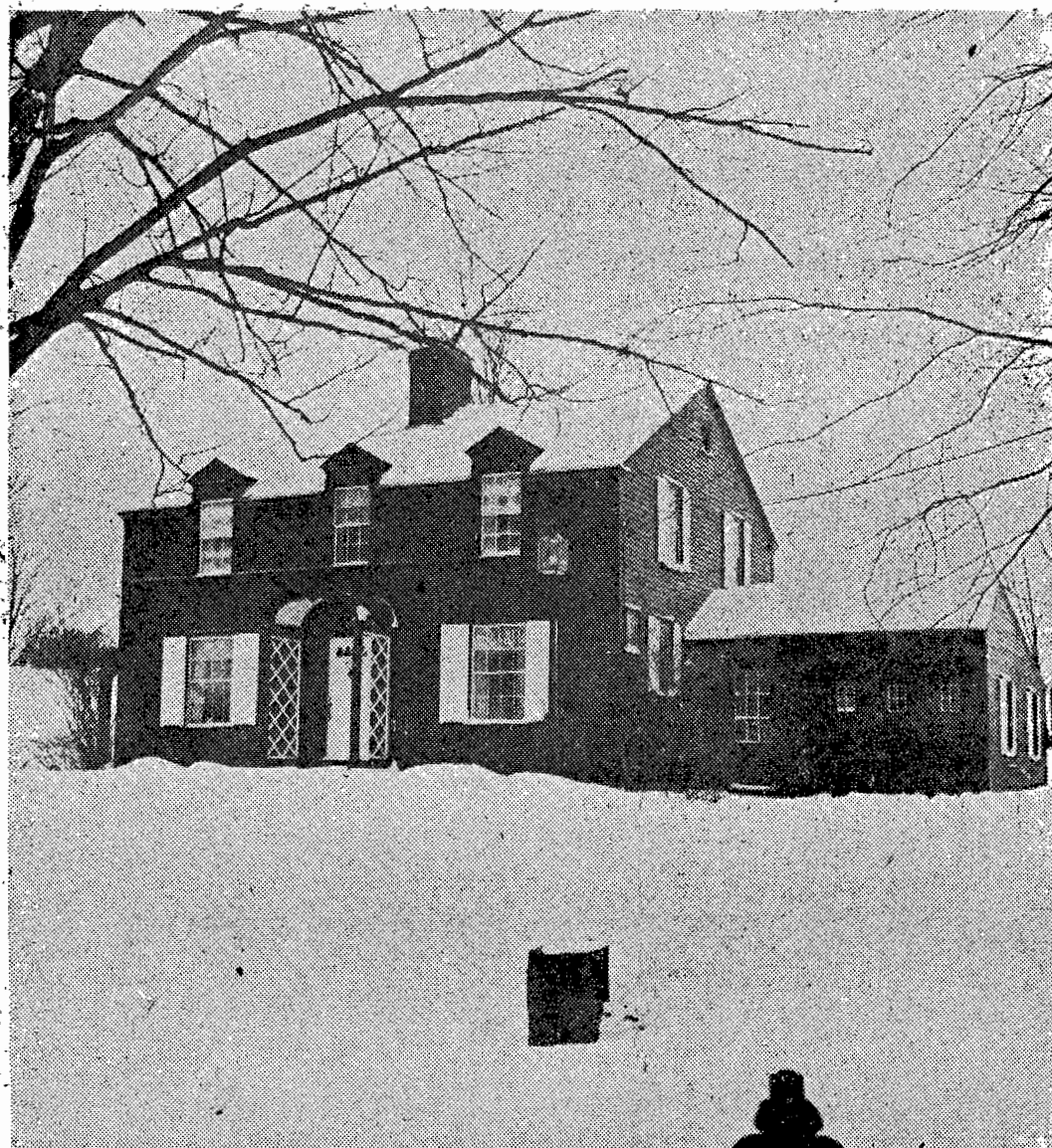
"Sure, we need a new community center. Most everybody knows that, but we cannot go into bankruptcy to build one. The only sensible thing is to wait until times are better."

"Anyway, I am sure when the town meeting comes around you will find that most people do not want it at this time."

"They can revalue the property here in town, but I can warn you that taxes will go up for most everybody."

Turcotte himself may not be able to attend the meeting because he is taking off for a vacation in California.

While the fight goes on, a town youth expressed her opinion about the proposed community center, "It's just what we need. But I'll believe it, when I see it."



PROPOSENTS OF REASSESSMENT of Newmarket real estate argue some owners of homes, like the one above, are favored with low taxes while a much older house and with far less sales value pays more taxes.