# rmers Have own Clubhouse

## by Jerle Davis

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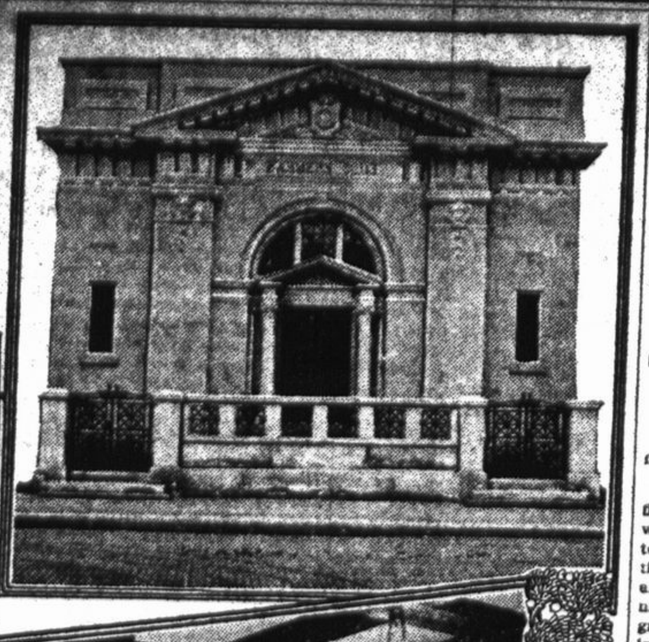
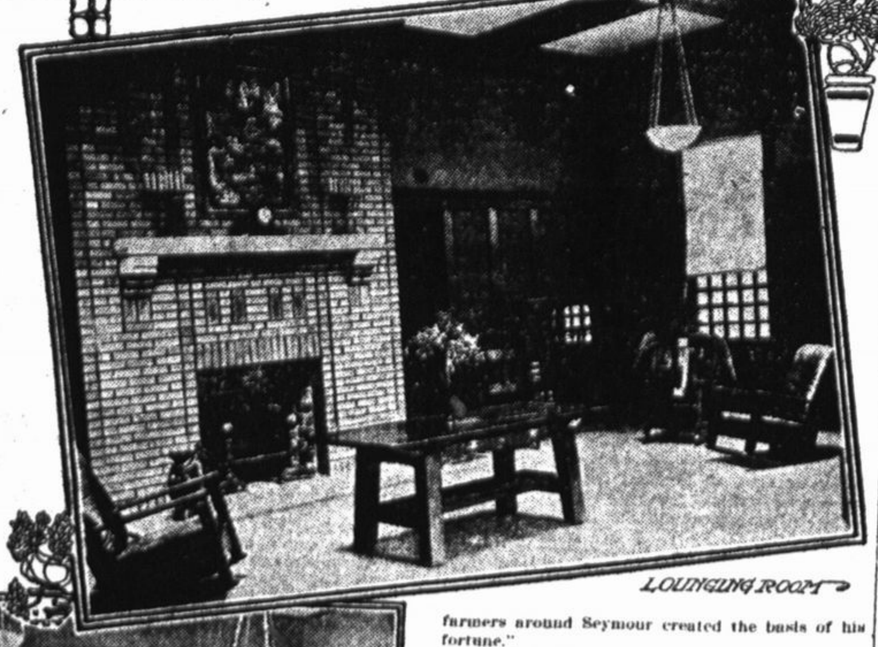
***It is a place of comfort and convenience for country people who do their trading at Seymour, Indiana : : Similar enterprise would benefit any community in the nation***





LOUNGING ROOM

LUNCH ROOM

NOW it's a city clubhouse for farmers! When they come to town to trade they may go to a well-appointed building to meet their friends, wash up, have lunch, write letters, enjoy telephone service and lounge around if they wish. And their wives may, besides having these privileges, leave the children in the care of a competent nurse while shopping or calling upon friends.

Quite a sensible, long-needed, modern convenience, don't you think?

Seymour, a southern Indiana city of about 7,000 population, has a farmers' club with a membership of more than 1,000. It has been in operation since October, 1914, and is a thorough success. During 1916 the average daily number of visitors to the club was about 150.

The existence of the club is due—the plain truth must be told—to the public spirit and generosity of two business men of Seymour, and not to any special enterprise on the part of either the farmers or the citizens of the town. The Blish brothers own a large flour mill and grain elevators. They are grandchildren of Capt. Meedy W. Shields, founder of Seymour, himself a farmer of energy and vision, whose fortune, it seems, was the nest-egg of the Blish estate. For many years the Blish interests have dealt constantly and profitably with the farmers of Jackson county. Why, reasoned the flour millers, wouldn't it be a fine thing to establish a club here in town for the farmers? They thought it would be—decidedly so—and out of their estate came funds which made the idea a fact in pleasing architecture and real convenience. Not only that; the maintenance of the club is assured by a paid-up income insurance policy. So the farmers should worry!

Much of Seymour's prosperity depends on the farmers living within a radius of 12 to 15 miles of the city, which is the center of a county that is one of the most fertile in southern Indiana. For nearly three-quarters of a century the "calling plowmen" and their wives have brought grain, fruit, vegetables, butter, eggs, and poultry to the town that Shields started, and have taken home the dollars in the aggregate, a mighty pile, during the threescore years. Such a mighty pile, you may say, that the legitimate profits on it helped to make a vigorous and pretty little city.

But until the time that Seymour's leading business men decided to recognize the value of farmer trade by putting up a clubhouse for the marketing country people certainly didn't enjoy the hospitality that good steady customers in most lines of commerce may expect nowadays. In fine weather they brought their lunch with them and ate it in their wagons parked in side streets, and in bad weather they bought crackers and cheese and bologna and munched it as they stood around the stoves or hot-air registers in the back of the stores where they sold butter and eggs. That was bad for the menfolks, but it was mighty hard for the farm women, especially if they had the children along to town, and they did so.

No wonder then that since the Farmers' club in Jackson County has been receiving guests from the merchants of surrounding towns within a radius of 12 and 15 miles in every direction are saying that Seymour is getting the best of the country trade? Especially since the most of the farmers, and therefore the most of the customers, own motorcars and can go greater distances over the well-piked roads? The farmers' club is good to look at. It is handsome in the face as the public library, the government building, and better than the city hall and the newest railway station in Seymour. You step into a paneled vestibule from the street when you enter the club. This gives into a large lounging room. Adjoining the lounging room are two nurseries, a lunchroom and kitchenette.

Any farmer who enjoys sliding down on the small of his back in a huge leather chair before a blazing fire before a great fireplace; who likes breathing space and dark oak paneling and stacks of magazines and books and some one else who thinks it makes life more worth while if he can meet people of his own kind now and then, you would ride to Seymour for half or three-quarters of an hour to loafing in that lounging room.

There are a farmer's wife who knows the joy of dragging small children around from store to store; who knows what it is to look for a place of decent privacy where babies can be cared for, weary backs an aching back relieved with a lounge; who appreciates a place to be written in quiet, where a fire burns, where a crib waits to welcome a nap; who longs for an opportunity to meet other country women, you may be sure to bear on the husband to trade at Seymour. For the nurseries for women—reclining chairs,

Meals are not served at the club. Guests are expected to bring their own food, which they undoubtedly prefer to do in most instances. But the pantry contains shelves where lunch packages may be checked. In the kitchenette is a multiple electric heater, where food and drink may be warmed, and hot and cold water faucets. In the lunchroom are dinner tables and chairs—with highchairs of course for the little ones. And the comfort-station facilities offered at the club? Well, surely nobody is in a position really to appreciate this convenience more than the farm people. There is a matron in constant attendance.

The club has been incorporated under the laws of the state and the organization is self-perpetuating. The trustees charged with the management of the club are the presidents of the three leading banks of Seymour. Whoever happens to be president of either of these banks becomes one of the trustees. The treasurer of the club is chosen from among the three cashiers of these same banks, preference being given to the cashier of the bank having the largest surplus fund and undivided profits at the last preceding report for the year.

There are no fees or costs attached to club membership. Any legal voter in the county who is engaged in farming or who derives his support wholly or partly from the farm is eligible to membership. Anyone thus qualified may apply for membership privileges at either of the trustee banks. All one need do is to take enough interest to ask for privileges; then he and his family may participate in the club.

Because it was an untried experiment—something that hadn't been done before, and all that—the business men of Seymour probably wouldn't have put up the money for establishing the club and maintaining it perpetually if the matter had been proposed to them. Now, if they were asked to reimburse the donors fully and make provisions for maintenance, they'd jointly jump at the proposition—simply as a piece of first-class civic investment; what you might call a trade magnet. They know that it is drawing new farmer trade steadily, and reaching out farther and farther toward rival markets as roads are improved and the price of those handy little buzz-wagons comes down.

The secretary of the Seymour Commercial club will tell you—for promoters have to put a squirt of the poetic and a liberal pinch of sentiment into business talk—that the Farmers' club is "strikingly progressive because it is a concrete expression of the ideal relationship which should exist between every town and the farming community adjacent."

And furthermore, he'll tell you "it was certainly a happy conception, a fitting recognition of the appreciation which the business men of Seymour have for their farmer friends, that led the Blish brothers to do this thing for the farmers of Jackson county and at that same time build a memorial in honor of the founder of the city, Captain Shields, who was a farmer and whose dealings with the farmers around Seymour created the basis of his fortune."

One of the Indiana colleges, which has an important agriculture department, has shown much interest in the Seymour enterprise. This school sends out special trains and agents and emissaries and whatnot all over Indiana in line with its policy of making Hoosierdom a paradise of scientific farming, and these agents don't often overlook the opportunity of telling about Seymour's Farmers' club and what it is doing to make the city and its rural customers real business associates.

The word is going farther, too, than the farthest reaches of Indiana. Grange organizations, commercial clubs and agricultural colleges here and there all over the country are making inquiries of Seymour about the club. So besides making it easy for the rural neighbor to enjoy himself while trading there, Seymour is gathering to itself a stack of advertising valuable beyond computation.

What has been done in Seymour can be done in any other agricultural community in the United States. It isn't necessary that the club should be a memorial to anybody; nor that it should be a monument to the generosity and public spirit of one or two men; nor that it should be housed in a specimen of classic architecture. Four or six rooms would serve the purpose nicely, if converted properly to club uses. These rooms might be found in a detached residence or on the second or third floor of a business block. The expenses might be prorated among the business men, and the farmers themselves might pay a modest initiation fee and nominal dues. Where there's a will there's a way—as the fellow said.

Anyhow, it sounds pretty peppy and up-to-date, doesn't it, to overhear one farmer say to his neighbor on a Saturday morning in town: "Well, Ed, let's run over to the club and have a talk."?

### REMARKABLE TREE SURGICAL OPERATION.

Edward Fontaine, a tree surgeon of Charlottesville, Va., has, according to Inland Farmer, completed the greatest tree surgical operation ever attempted anywhere, and this has been done for Mr. John Armstrong Chaloner of Merrie Mills. The tree is red oak and is possibly three hundred years old. It is 24 feet in circumference, two feet above the ground, with a diameter of eight feet, four inches in its widest part. The cement filling was carried up the tree 33 feet from the surface and a cement leg or root was imbedded five feet into the ground to support the tree in heavy winds. The material used was six wagonloads of sand, 12 loads of field stone, 28 bags of cement, 14 iron straps to re-enforce the concrete, 44 eyebolts and a roll of galvanized wire. So far the operation has been successful.

### NOT LIKELY TO BE POPULAR.

A citizen of Columbus, O., has appeared on the streets lately with an outfit for seeing the time without removing his watch from his pocket. Great surprise was at first created by what was considered extreme singularity of comfort, and it took a good deal of explaining on his part to restore to himself public confidence. It seems, however, that the device is perfectly practicable, as it has been accepted by the patent office. Notwithstanding, most people will cling to the idea that a man who is too lazy to take out his watch to see the time deserves on general principles to be shot and it is very unlikely that the new invention will worm its way into popular favor.—Exchange.

### SOLDIERS MAY TRIM HATS.

Hat trimming is not generally required of young soldiers who go to war, yet many wounded soldiers at the Canadian sports day held recently at Grassmead Meadow, near Orpington, Kent, proved themselves so talented in the handicraft that after the victory is won, instead of going back to the land, some of them may set up millinery establishments in Canadian towns, equal to any branch of the famous Maison Lewis of New York, London and Paris.—Toronto Globe.

### A LITTLE

Fire dooms 50 structures every hour; 720 structures every day.

The Chilean congress has under consideration a measure looking to the electrification of the railway connecting Valparaiso and Santiago.

Nitrate exports from Chile are rapidly increasing. Latest figures for 1916 show monthly exports about double those of same months, 1915.

The spout of a new container for a can of condensed milk punctures the can and allows the milk to be poured from it easily.

Private William O'Connor, on the border with the Washington (D. C.) militia, at mess ate 90 onions by actual count. He collected the ration allowance of the men who did not like onions.

In Scotland 23.8 per cent of illuminating gas is made in municipal works to 51.4 per cent in Ireland and 30.6 per cent in England.

One English invention for convalescents is a stout cane, from one end of which can be unfolded a projection to rest a user's foot.

St. Louis has one factory which will this year consume 100,000,000 feet of lumber.

The temperature of southern Australia varies not more than 20 degrees during the year.

A rough estimate of the power that can be developed from the rivers of Alabama places the total at 1,378,000 horse power.

Whistler's picture, "White Girl," described by himself as one of his most important works, brought $10,700 in London at auction.

# INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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## Lesson for January 21

### FIRST DISCIPLE OF THE LORD JESUS.

LESSON TEXT—John 1:35-49.

GOLDEN TEXT—Jesus saith unto him, follow me.—John 1:43.

The words "I see" or "behold" occur fifteen times in this first chapter. John was a witness to the Son of Man. This term, "Son of Man," occurs eighty times in the gospel. The words "Come and see," or their equivalents, occur nine times in this lesson. This is a great invitation lesson. It would be interesting if the scholars would tell what the voices are which say, "Come," and those which are urging them to "stay" away from God. Bethabara was probably two miles from the fords of the Jordan, where John baptized. Jesus was thirty years old, just entering upon his ministry. Tiberius Caesar was the emperor and Pontius Pilate the governor of Judea.

**I. The Son of Man Attracts Men,** (vv. 35-39) not by his ethical teachings nor alone by his works and his character, but what he was and inspired in others attracted men to Jesus (John 10: 41). Crowds still gathered around the baptizer who "changed the hearts of men as by a spell." John, the Baptizer, brought terror to men. He broke through the crust of self-righteousness and indifference, and compelled men to see their need of forgiveness and of a new life, but the time had come when John must step aside, and Jesus "to increase," to begin his ministry. Four successive days are noticed in this chapter. Andrew (v. 40), and Joubtless the apostle John, who wrote this account, were the two disciples (v. 35) to whom John, the Baptizer, speaks. It is interesting to note the different kinds of men who were attracted to Jesus; the aggressive Peter, the reflective Thomas, the practical Judas. He had what the souls of men needed, and they followed him. Aware of their questioning, Jesus turns to them with the question: "What think ye?" the first recorded words of his public ministry. This is a great testing question of every man's life. What is the aim and purpose of your life? Jesus, the kingdom of God, goodness, righteousness, usefulness or on the other hand selfishness, worldliness, success, ambition, money, pleasure? These disciples who had listened to this testimony of the baptizer, replied that they wanted to know where he dwelt, implying that they would like to talk with him and discuss the problems which were arising in their minds. Three steps of Christian experience are here suggested. These two disciples heard, they looked and they followed. Other steps must come shortly, but we must first look at Jesus as the Lamb, if we are to follow him as our example. We must believe what he has done (Rom. 4:25) before we can ask what would Jesus do or try to imitate him. It is by following that we demonstrate that we have really looked unto him and been saved. Teachers should pray for the same effective Holy Ghost witnessing as that given by John (John 4:39). The Son of Man uses men to be his tools; the Son of Man must and does use human agencies. Men are saved through saved men (II Cor. 5:18). This work is effective through those that follow (v. 37), and it is made permanent through those who abide (v. 29). The great principle of all missions, of all Christian activities is to work through the hearing ear, the believing heart, the confessing mouth. This work is made effective, through those who follow (see Rom. 10:14). The result of this interview appears to be that they were convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, and were filled with an impulse to spread the good news. This interview was not the end, for they remained with Jesus, and it was the beginning of a lifelong abiding in him which transformed their lives and hearts.

**II. The Son of Man Cares for His Own.** (vv. 39-42). The instruction which they received from abiding with him impelled them, as we have already indicated, to go out and spread the good news. The greatest act in the life of Andrew was the bringing of his brother Peter to Jesus. Jesus changed Peter's name, and gave him a prophecy of his future life and career. He saw the possibilities within him, though it took much instruction, bitter experiences, prayer and long abiding with Jesus before he attained to those possibilities. It is this passage which gave rise to the organization of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, which has adopted, first, the "Rule of Prayer," that of daily prayer for the spread of Christ's kingdom among young men; second, "The Rule of Service," to make an earnest effort each week to bring at least one young man within the hearing of the gospel of Jesus Christ. On the morrow Jesus would go forth to Galilee, that is to the East side, across the Jordan river, and on the way he found Philip. It was Philip who asked the question, "Show us the Father," and of whom the question was asked as to the resources sufficient to feed the hungering multitude (John 6:5). John, the Evangelist, alone tells us about Philip. Philip saw not only the resources of Jesus, but he saw a union of the law of the prophets (v. 45) in this Jesus, and therefore could and did invite his brother to Jesus.

Christianity would soon fill the earth if Christians would put forth the personal effort here suggested.

This was the plan of evangelizing the world which Jesus used with the first six of his disciples, and it has never yet been improved upon, but the witnesses must know and be able truthfully to say, "Come and see."


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|---|---|
| 8:35 a. m. | 9:07 a. m. |
| 8:49 a. m. | 9:55 a. m. |
| 11:40 a. m. | 1:34 p. m. |
| 12:28 p. m. | 2:00 p. m. |
| 5:00 p. m. | 5:33 p. m. |
| 5:10 p. m. | 5:47 p. m. |
| | 7:0 p. m. |
| **Arrive from West.** | **Depart for West.** |
| 6:02 a. m. | 8:[illegible] a. m. |
| 9:58 a. m. | 11:40 a. m. |
| 1:34 p. m. | 5:10 p. m. |
| 5:33 p. m. | |

Mail leaves post office 30 minutes before train time.

GROVE LODGE NO 824, A. F. & A. M.—Stated meetings, second and fourth Fridays at 8 o'clock p. m., at Masonic hall, Curtiss and Main streets. Fred Dowe, Secretary; H. E. Tank, Worshipful Master.

GROVE CHAPTER, No. 230, R. A. M.—Stated meeting first Thursday of each month in Masonic hall, at 8 o'clock p. m. Visiting companions always welcome. T. H. Blusser, E. H. P.; H. F. Legenhausen, Secretary.

VESTA CHAPTER, No 242, O. E. S.—Meeting second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Florence L. Uhlhorn, Worthy Matron; Wm. F. Heintz, Worthy Patron; Ona Lower, Secretary.

MAPLE GROVE LODGE No. 529, K. of P. Meets first and third Wednesday nights in Morris hall. L. L. Chevallier, Chancellor Commander; H. F. Legenhausen, Keeper of Records and Seal.

NAPER POST, No. 468, G. A. R.—Meets the second Saturday, 2:30 p. m., of each month in G. A. R. hall. Captain T. S. Rogers, Commander; F. A. Rogers, Senior Vice-Commander; Geo. T. Hughes, Junior Vice-Commander; E. W. Farrar, Officer of the Day; R. W. Bond, Adjutant; Geo. B. Heartt, Quartermaster.

DOWNERS GROVE HIVE, Ladies of the Maccabees. Meets in Morris hall every second and fourth Friday. Mrs. M. E. Collier, Commander; Mrs. Lavara Hannum, Record Keeper.

DOWNERS GROVE WOMAN'S CLUB.—Meets every alternate Wednesday, beginning second Wednesday in October and closing last Wednesday in April. Mrs H. P. Jones, President; Mrs. I. G. Heartt, Corresponding Secretary.

VICTORY COUNCIL, No. 110, Royal League.—Meets first and third Tuesdays in each month in Morris hall. Glen E. Chester, Archon; George Staiger, Scribe.

DOWNERS GROVE LODGE No. 759, I. O. O. F. Meets every Monday evening at 8 o'clock in Masonic hall, corner Main and Curtiss streets. Geo. Schindler, N. G.; E. M. Brunson, Secretary.

DOWNERS GROVE CHAPTER, Daughters of the American Revolution. Hold a monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of each month in the homes of the members. Officers of the chapter are: Regent, Verne Frankenfield; Mrs. Lavara Hannum, Secretary.

MAPLE CAMP NO. 892, M. W. A., meets the second Thursday of each month in Morris hall. A. H. Barnhart, V. C.; R. O. Miller, Clerk.

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