

Spindale House Plays Conspicuous Part in Welfare of People

Building is a Memorial to One of The Most Interesting and Unusual Men in History of Cotton Manufacturing in State

BY MAUD MINISH SUTTON

Organized community work in mill towns is no longer an experiment. It exists in some form or other in nearly all of the large textile centers. The origin of this movement is comparatively recent, and there are still conflicting opinions about its usefulness.

Spindale house, one of the most beautiful community houses in any textile town, is an unqualified success and its work surely justifies the existence of a community center with trained leaders in the little town in the foothills that calls itself, "The Home of Fine Textiles."

A LIVING MEMORIAL.

Spindale House is a living memorial to one of the most interesting and unusual men in the history of cotton manufacturing in North Carolina. There is a bronze marker in the long hall of the house that bears this inscription:

"Spindale House
For the recreation of the
people of Spindale.

Established in loving memory of
Simpson Bobo Tanner
Pioneer manufacturer of Rutherford
county

Dec. 8, 1854—July 3, 1924

And his wife,

Lola Spencer Tanner,

Dec. 30, 1865, Feb 22,

1920

and their son

Jesse Spencer Tanner

Aug. 31, 1902—Nov. 31, 1923."

The house, a long low picturesque building of red brick in colonial architecture stands in a grove of big oak trees across the street from the clustered group of big factories that have grown up from the first mill established by Mr. Tanner some forty years ago. It is truly a beautiful and fitting memorial to the life of a man who for seventy-eight years thought, dreamed and worked at Spindale.

Tourists on Highway 20 admire it and comment on its beauty and the groups of people always in the grounds. For Spindale House is used. It furnishes wholesome amusement, never obtrusively uplifting in nature. Athletics, a play ground, tennis court, a well equipped gym, with showers and lockers, a library, a games room, a community kitchen and dining room, an excellent auditorium and the beautiful grounds are the features of Spindale House.

ALL FEATURES USED

All of these features are used. The attendance at the house is remarkably large. The library shows a record of from 23 to 40 books loaned daily. It is one of the most interesting places at Spindale House. Its six big windows, framing lovely views of green lawns and big trees, give it beauty. It is a friendly room

with gracious proportions. Its furniture is simple and well arranged and the books in the long book cases carry out perfectly the elusive spirit that makes Spindale House unique.

They are books well chosen "for the recreation of the people of Spindale." They were evidently selected by some one with a Catholic taste, who reads widely, knows and loves books and is not burdened with a desire to make a lesson of every story read. Most of the well known modern authors, realists, romantics and "in betweens," are represented; and the books by Sinclair Lewis show as may traces of usage as do those by Zane Grey or Meredith Nicholson.

When I saw the library "The Romantic Comedians" and a number of good magazines lay on one of the reading tables and at another table two girls and a young man were working on an attractive poster that advertised a community activity. This work went on quietly while I talked to the director of the house about the library. None of the rules that are necessary in larger libraries govern the library at Spindale House. There are no fees except for overdue or injured books and the magazines and papers are read there during library hours.

ROOM FOR GAMES.

Across the wide hall from the library is the games room. It is exactly like the library and from its windows a beautiful view of the Blue Ridge can be seen. It is equipped with tables, chairs and many varieties of games. A checker tournament was a feature of the long winter evenings last year and prospective entries for another this year are being discussed.

The gymnasium at Spindale House is used continuously. The winter schedule, which opened November 5, offers classes for boys from 8 to 12, girls of the same age, girls 12 to 16 and boys 12 to 16, in the afternoons and there are three night classes that meet twice weekly. An athletic club that puts out one of the best basket ball teams in the state is one of the most popular and interesting uses to which the gymnasium is put.

The clean sportmanship and fine spirit of this basket ball team was praised last season by every team that played against them. This in itself is evidence that the spirit of Spindale House is a living, vital thing. When a man is a good sport he has fulfilled all of the law and most of the prophets and the quality of sportmanship shown by the Spindale team is one of the finest manifestations of the soul of the house that can be observed.

VOLLEY BALL CLUB.

The Men's Volley Ball Club is another interesting gymnasium class. It is a year round organization and meets twice weekly. There are from 10 to 18 older men who attend this class regularly. They are very much interested in playing volley ball and have a splendid team.

There are three good tennis courts at the rear of the house and a tournament with twenty-two entries has just closed. There are from 15 to 18 players every pleasant day, and the well equipped play ground that adjoins the tennis courts has a group of children on it all the time.

The kitchen and dining room of Spindale House are used by all the organizations of the town. The Parent Teacher Association, the various clubs and church groups meet and hold their public entertainments there. A lyceum course sponsored by the Spindale Textile Club gives four entertainments a season and the price for them is very low.

The Textile Club is an organization at Spindale that is as fine in its way as Spindale House. It is made up of the foremen of the various mills and sponsors many worth while enterprises.

Community Night at Spindale House is always interesting. The programs are unusually good. The Spindale Band, the Spindale Quartette, and any number of small groups and individual performers put on a "rousing good show" these nights. They are literally community nights, for everybody comes, and everybody is ready and willing to do his part toward making them a success. An old time fiddler may play "Git Along Home Cindy", and the town quartette may sing a modern popular song on the same program. The crack basket ball team will play an exhibition game, between the halves of which, the "fats" and "leans" play a game that makes

up in fun what it lacks in skill.

The whole souled, happy spirit of these evenings would in itself justify the existence of Spindale House. Modern Recreation too often resolves itself into a system of entertainer and entertained. Eighteen hired baseball players play a game which hundreds of spectators pay to see and three-fourths of these spectators would regard a stroll around the bases of the diamond as an over exertion. Two professional boxers fight before

a "million dollar audience," and most of that audience would not fight on any terms. Our thrills are too often vicarious. Community Night at Spindale House avoids this sort of thing. If any body has a talent he is urged to give his neighbors the benefit of it. The result of this is a fairly typical, unusually good "amateur night."

The finest thing about Spindale House and its activities is an intangible, elusive, quality that baffles description. There is none of the

domineering attitude of uplift that antagonizes about the place. Nobody is enticed in by a promise of a good time and forced to listen to a lot of platitudes. High standards of conduct are established and observed, but seldom obtrusively enforced. The director, a young man from Georgia, named J. E. Berry, is a well trained man, and works hard at his job. His chief pride, to judge from an hour's conversation with him, is the older men's volley ball club, and his greatest desire is to

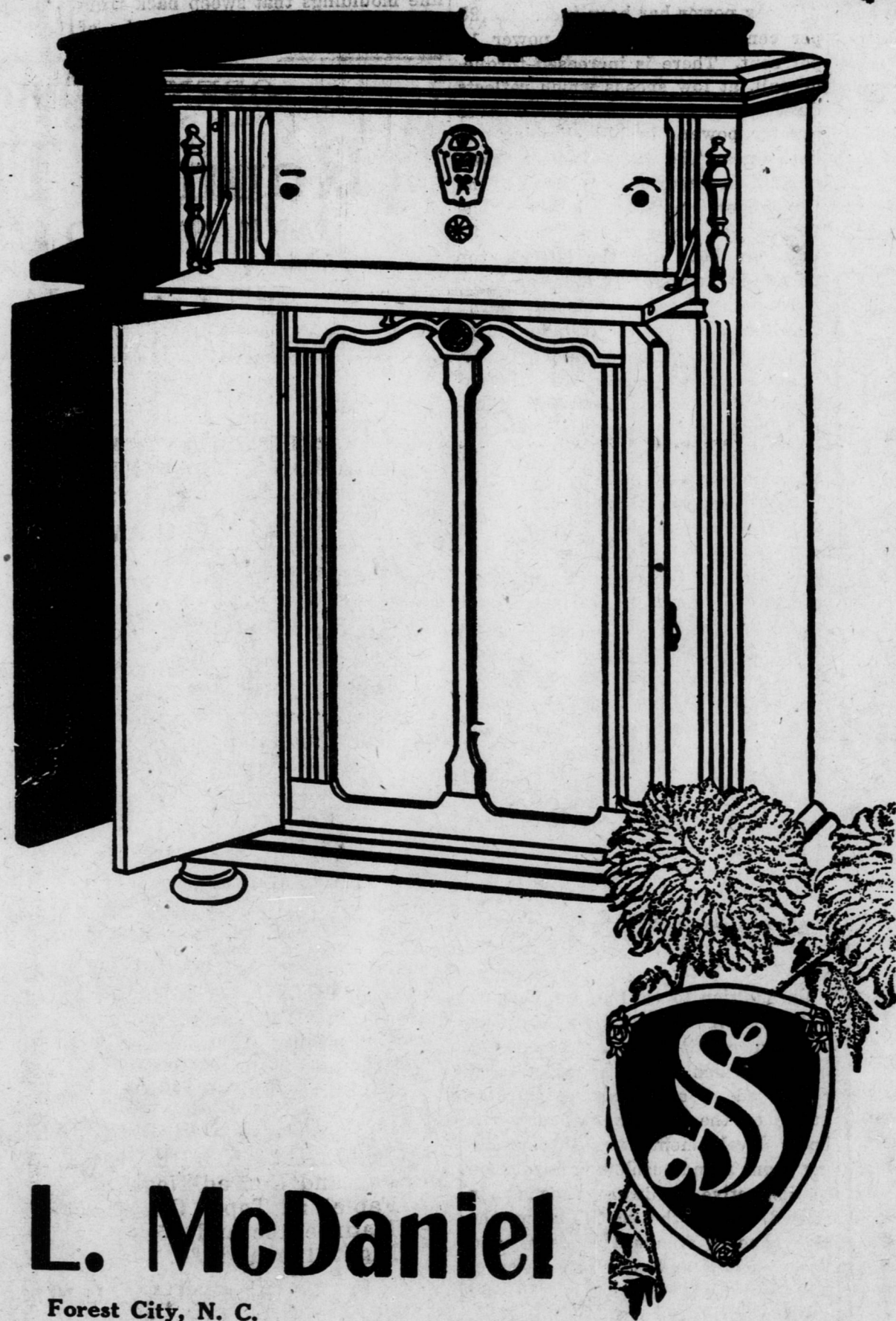
get all the boys and girls in the town into some kind of gymnasium club. He lives in the house and his acts as librarian and manages the girls' clubs.

Spindale House is an institution that is giving a great deal of happiness to an entire community. Its purpose, expressed simply was "the recreation of the people of Spindale", recognizes a fundamental need of humanity. It is impossible to imagine a more beautiful or fitting memorial.

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SORE

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Mrs. J. H. Nichols, who lives at 513 Elm Tree Lane, Lexington, Ky., says:

"Some few years ago, my health was bad. I had very severe pains in my sides. My nerves were in a terrible condition. I could not rest.

"The lower part of my body was very sore. I did not feel like eating, and did not sleep well at all at nights.

"A friend of mine recommended Cardui. I began taking it and saw quite an improvement in my condition. I kept it up until I felt strong and well."

About a year ago, Mrs. Nichols says, she found herself in a nervous, run-down condition. "I took Cardui again," she adds, "and it helped me wonderfully. It is a splendid tonic."

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