



Sun Staff photo by Mike Pigeon

They remember

Plans for observing the Tadmuck Club's 75th anniversary are being formulated by its president, Mrs. Austin D. Fletcher with assistance from her husband, both shown standing in front of the club's head-

quarters, a 106-year old building once the Westford Center grammar school. As Eleanor Colburn, she attended the school, as did her husband, prior to its closing in 1908.

Tadmuck Club to celebrate its 75th birthday in style

By GORDON B. SEAVEY

WESTFORD — The Tadmuck Club is planning a special exhibition to commemorate the 75th year of its founding. It will be held in November at the J. V. Fletcher Library, and will feature a display of antiques, pictures of old classes and groups, and other memorabilia.

The Tadmuck Club, the town's oldest women's group, took its name from early days when the center of Westford was first settled. "Tadmuck" is an Indian word, the meaning of which has been lost, but it has been attached to Westford since its founding.

Sarah Loker was the club's first president. Mrs. Austin D. Fletcher, who heads the arrangements for the celebration, is the current presiding officer. The club has been meeting regularly since 1932 at the original Center elementary school on Boston Road, formerly known as School Street. In appearance, inside and out, the sturdy 106-year-old structure has changed very little. It served grade school children for 34 years until the four-room William E. Frost School at Main and Depot Streets

was opened in 1908.

SEVERAL MEMBERS of the club remember attending the school in those former days, as well as other townspeople. Among the teachers were Fannie Prescott Spalding, A. Mabel Drew and Elizabeth Cushing Taylor.

Prior to the purchase of the building for its clubhouse, an area military unit, Troop F, First Squadron Cavalry, Massachusetts had bought the building and its one-quarter-acre lot for \$750. Fifty years ago, the militia, its ranks thinned by age, offered the building to Westford Post, American Legion, but these veterans preferred to retain quarters in the town hall.

This was when the local ladies took over. Where desks and seats were fastened to the floor, there are card tables for some of the social events. A kitchenette has been added to replace the clock-room.

The white clapboard square-framed building with its graceful mansard roof is one of the town's old treasures, well-preserved.