

Competitive spirit runs high among members of the Community House Senior Men's Club as indicated by this discussion of shuffleboard scoring during one of the group's two-weekly meetings.

Senior Men's Club Makes for Busy Life

A lonely, elderly man used to sit in a drugstore most of the day just watching people come and go. Another used to ride buses back and forth downtown so he'd have somebody to talk to. Others roamed the streets of Birmingham looking for old friends after they had gotten underfoot at home.

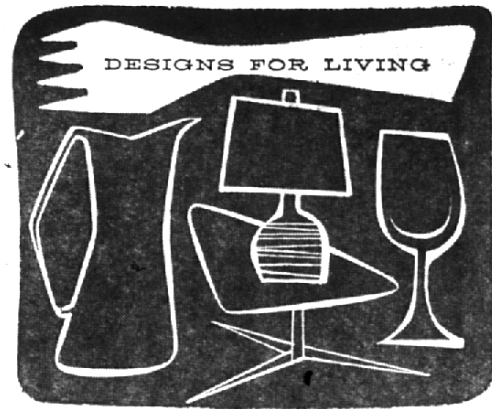
They don't anymore. Twice a week they gather for meetings of the Senior Men's Club at the Community House and enjoy the comradeship of other men over 65 who have retired. The Senior Men's Club provides them with many new activities and opportunities to be of service to the community which have replaced their previous occupation: people watching.

THERE ARE former automotive executives, advertising men, merchants, salesmen, professional men, engineers, a policeman, even a judge among the 120 members. And they all find something in common whether it is talking, playing cards, shuffleboard or buying and delivering gifts at Christmas time to the Oakland County Children's Home. Charles Staples, 1366 Yosemite, president of the organization, explains that membership is open to any man who is retired. Meetings are held every Tuesday and Friday at the Community House where luncheon is served for 60 cents. Tuesdays are generally spent playing shuffleboard, bridge, cribbage and canasta. Business meetings are held on Friday, when there

is usually a speaker or film and a panel discussion of a subject selected the previous week.

THERE ARE also plans made for special parties and projects such as providing advisory services to high school students. Among the members and their friends are experienced men from all walks of life who are delighted to help young people choose careers. The Senior Men's Club, now in its fifth year, was the men's answer to the Senior Women's Club established by the Community House Board of Directors in 1951. Mrs. Effie Schaffer, executive director of the Community House, considers them both among the most important activities of the organization. "The 'golden years' we all look forward to enjoying can be a curse or a blessing," she said. "We are doing our best to help our members make it a happy and fulfilling time of life," she explains.

The two largest Community House users have more than 400 members each. They are the 475-member American Association of University Women and the Newcomers Club with 460 members.

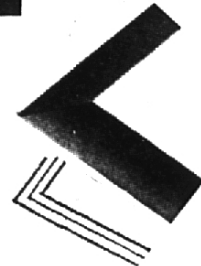


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