



Shelburne Creamery

Shelburne Historical Society <shelburne1763@gmail.com>
To: Joe McGee & Mary Bridge <d7efsmith@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 8, 2020 at 3:14 PM

Hello Mr. McGee,

Thank you for sharing pictures of your model of the Shelburne Creamery. I have attached an old picture of the building. You might already have this picture, but just in case... I also attached a jpeg of a history of the Creamery that was published in 1975, called "Look Around St. George and Shelburne, Vermont" published by the Chittenden County Historical Society.

The following are sections from an oral history series done several years ago:

Barbara Kent:

Q: What do you remember of the Shelburne Cooperative Creamery?

A: Shelburne Cooperative Creamery in the 40s was a noisy and exciting place thru the mornings, as farmer after farmer pulled up to the door of the unloading dock and proceeded to send their cans of milk thru into the creamery building, later to be picked up by one of the larger milk companies, Hoods, perhaps. Also, there was a cottage cheese company upstairs. And a small company store, separate from the creamery building, which sold grain, tobacco, etc. ~

Ruth Irish Morrow:

Mr. Lyman? So I went in and he was in the living room and I sat on the piano stool very uncomfortable because I didn't have a shirt to put on or anything. He wanted to know if I had any idea about a job. I said no, I had just gotten out of the Service, and he said "We'd like to have you come and work at the Shelburne Creamery" He said, would you think it over or let me know now. I said well sure. So I went down there, Park Kent was the manager at the time, and I worked there.

DW: So this is '45.

RM: You know I didn't have to write a resume. So I stayed there for and then I got married August of '47. I worked that first winter and then I said I wanted to stop in May or June, I can't remember which month. So I stopped working for the Creamery.

DW: So you were there roughly three years. How did the Creamery operate?

RM: The bookkeeping was upstairs, a big office. You go up the stairs and at the head of the stairs turning left was a big conference room and you went down the hall and the office was facing Route 7. The store was active when they were bringing milk to the Creamery.

DW: So was the store that little building?

RM: The little building in front.

DW: So, the general public could go in and buy there?

RM: Yup. I remember one of the first charges that came through was for Bag Balm, and of course you had to say what it was for, and I didn't know if it was grain or what it was. So I buzzed Ralph Cox, who was in charge of the store, and I buzzed down and I said, "Ralph, what's bag balm?" He said, "I'll call you back later." I guess the store was full at the time and he wasn't about to explain what Bag Balm was.

DW: With people standing there!

RM: I laughed more when I found out what it was. I didn't know! . I think I took Kitty Noonan's place.

DW: So who ran the Creamery?

RM: Well, the directors.

DW: Were they local farmers?

RM: Yup, Fred Lyman from Hinesburg. Howard and Elmer Lawrence from Monkton, Lester Thompson from Shelburne and Walter Maeck from Shelburne.

DW: So those were the Directors.

RM: Yup, and Park Kent was manager at the time.

I hope this gives you some of the information you were looking for. The Chittenden County Historical Society had a talk about creameries in Chittenden County a few years ago. You might want to contact them also.

Good Luck,

Dorothea



