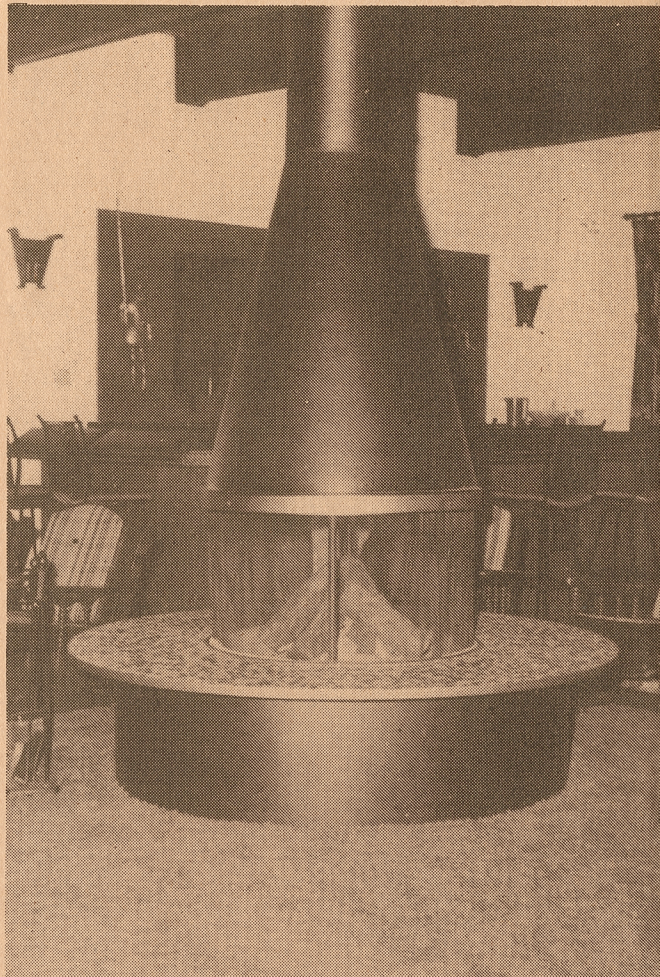




IN THE FOYER of the Spanish Lakes recreation building a carved conquistador looks over a tinkling fountain.



A SKI LODGE IN NORTHERN MAINE? No. It's the fireplace in the main lounge at Spanish Lakes.



STATELY TREES STAND GUARD at the Spanish Lakes shuffleboard courts, almost as if waiting for the intense action of a tournament to begin.

Spanish Lakes

Mobile Home Life



GURGLING WATER adds to the invitation to visit Spanish Lakes mobile home community at the main entrance to the 280-acre park just outside of Port St. Lucie. Photos by Richard L. Myers.

Companionship and 'Extras' Replace Old Ways of Trailer Vagabonds

By RICHARD L. MYERS

PORT ST. LUCIE — Mobile home living has come a long way from the old vagabond trailers that at one time dotted the nation's highways transporting itinerants. Today the mobile home has become just that — a home

which happens to have wheels on it, at least until it's transported to a permanent location.

Although many people insist on calling them "trailer parks," the fact is, mobile home centers are becoming more and more communities within communities.

For example, Spanish Lakes, nestled just outside the Port St. Lucie city limits, is a flourishing community housing some 1,387 mobile homes on approximately 280 acres of land.

Proof of the success of the experiment by Mobile Home Environmental Systems, Inc.,

a Miami-based development concern, is the fact that about 150 acres across U.S. 1, on the west side, now are being cleared to house approximately 650 more units.

The new section is scheduled to open in the spring of 1977, according to V. Behling, a representative of the firm.

An all-adult community, the heart of its activities is the recreation building, a sprawling complex housing a myriad of activities for residents.

Available, in addition to just plain relaxing in the center's spacious lounge, are arts and crafts rooms, a physical therapy room, photo lab, gardening room, a complete workshop and a huge auditorium.

A billiard room flanks the card-playing area and a pleasing Spanish motif meets the eye on every side.

Entering the palm-lined foyer, a visitor finds himself confronted with a tinkling fountain flanked by a figure that could well be Ponce de Leon in quest of eternal youth.

At the recreation desk, something like a quarterdeck bisecting the lounge and auditorium, close to a hundred different folders lie neatly along the ledge, advertising coming events with space provided for residents to sign up for anything from a trip to Honolulu or Spanish classes.

This area is the hub of activity where Louis "Doc" Vogt can be found each afternoon assisting residents or just available to chat.

Doc is the community's recreation director. A retired dentist, he has found a different way to bring happy smiles to people's faces by pointing them in the right direction according to their individual taste in relaxation and recreation.

Two swimming pools sparkle in the sunlight outside the recreation hall, one for residents only and one for residents and guests.

Looking over the guest pool one can watch the fury of tennis rivals on the center's courts or glance to the left to enjoy the more sedate, but just as intense competition on the shuffleboard courts.

Farther out, men and women top the gently sloping rises of the club's nine-hole golf course while picnickers flank the dredged-out lake area, well within the range of a duffer's "Fore!"

Anglers can drop their lines in the waters with visions of bass to be had, while casual strollers might try to spot a few alligators sunning themselves along the banks.

Tiring of walking about the outdoor recreation areas a

visitor may return to the billiard room where the clack of balls mingles with the hum of a group of afternoon bridge players.

All of which doesn't seem to ruffle the almost stoic silence of poker players secluded in the corner of the card playing area.

Back in the foyer, signs on tripods advertise upcoming

movies, lectures and club meetings while a few residents relax comfortably in the lounge watching television. On chilly days a round, centrally located fireplace crackles in syn-copated rhythm to the television audio while sub-

dued, piped in music creates an atmosphere of casual relaxation.

Separated from the main building is a smaller unit, reminiscent of an adobe hacienda, complete with iron railings leading to an atrium which divides the laundry from a smaller lounge area and sort of do-it-yourself beauty parlor.

A large bulletin board keeps the resident abreast of "what's happening" in the

orderly community.

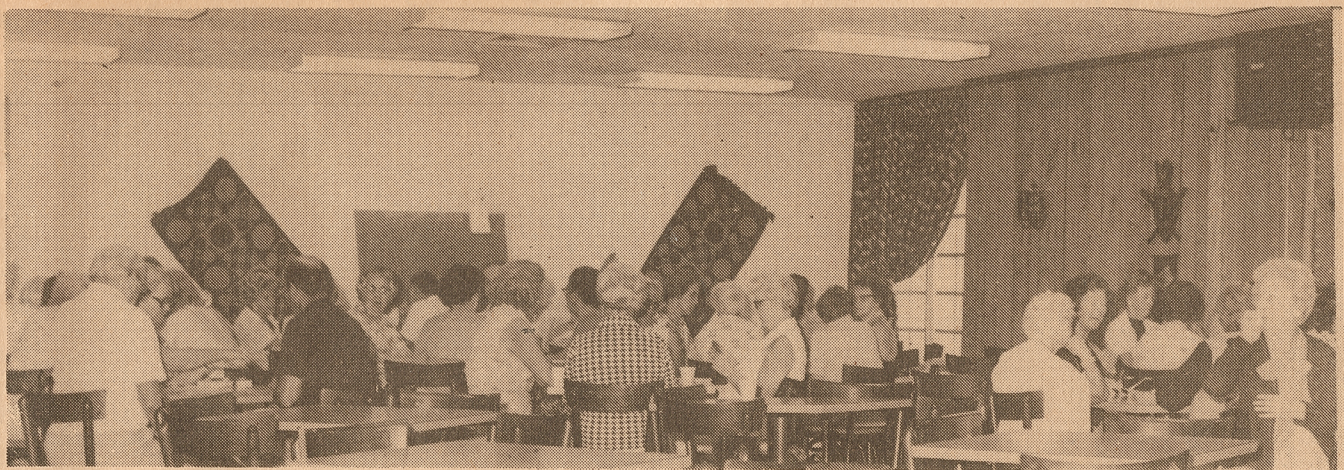
As one stands in the spacious parking lot preparing to leave, a glance toward the serenity of the abutting Savannas gives the visitor a feeling of well being, as if all is right with the world and this was the way man was meant to live — in harmony with nature and free to pursue the recreation and enjoyment of his choice.



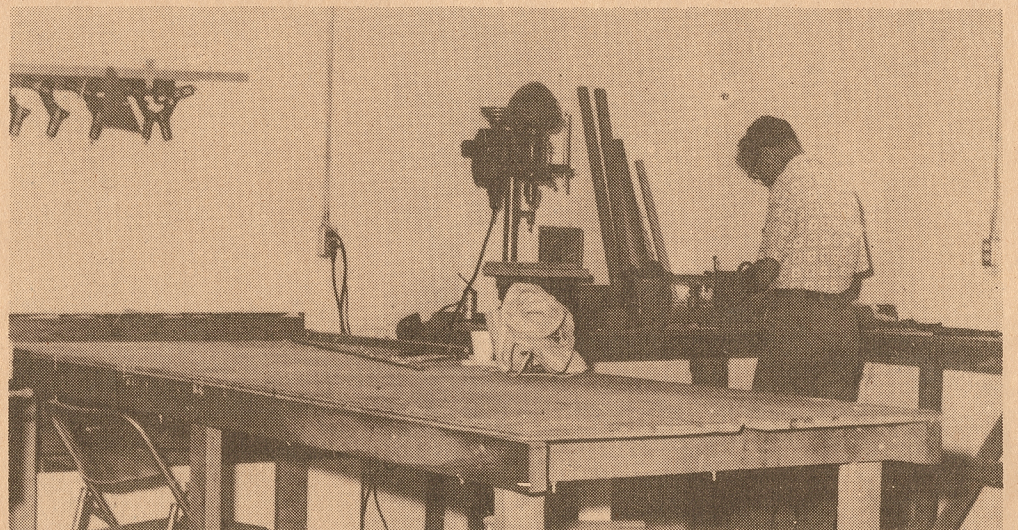
DENSE FOLIAGE with soft spotlights flanks the main entrance at the Spanish Lakes recreation complex.



A PORTION OF THE RECREATION COMPLEX at Spanish Lakes mobile home community can be seen overlooking the residents' swimming pool.



LAUGHTER AND good-natured conversation prevail as residents of Spanish Lakes enjoy an afternoon of bridge in the recreation center.



BUSY AT WORK in the community workshop is Eric Lamplough, a resident of Spanish Lakes for the past four years. "I love it here," he commented recently.



ALMOST POLYNESIAN IN APPEARANCE, this picnic area is located on the point of a peninsula formed by the lake at Spanish Lakes.