

MEMORIAL HALL NEARS COMPLETION

*Major task done by
small community.*

On Sunday week efforts begun by residents of the Mangorei Road district in 1945 will culminate in the opening of what is believed to be the first concrete memorial hall completed in Taranaki. It is expected to cost about £8000, of which the 70 members of the small community who form the Mangorei Combined Districts Memorial Hall Society have raised no less than £3800.

Standing at the corner of Kent and Junction Roads and directly opposite Lake Mangamahoe, the hall will commemorate men of the district who served in two world wars and will provide a community centre that has been lacking in the past. It is built entirely of concrete, with a cream finish and green facings and with the name of the hall in brick colour.

Granite Tablet

At the entrance there is a granite tablet engraved in silver with the 10 names of men who fell in the First World War and the eight names of the fallen of the Second World War. Inside the hall a roll of honour of polished wood bears 60 names of men who served in the last war.

The building measures, over all, 100 feet by 40 feet. It contains, besides a large hall that will be used for meetings, dances and activities of women's and young people's organisations, a well-equipped kitchen, two dressing rooms and conveniences.

"It is a wonderful example of community effort, said the chairman of the society, Mr. N. M. Ross, yesterday. As an example of the enthusiastic work of residents he told of the building of the supper room that is being added to the building.

When the hall was first planned, he said, it was decided to dispense with a supper room because it was thought that, even with the assistance of the £1 for £1 subsidy that has been granted, the estimated total cost of £10,000 would be far too much to raise.

Resident's Gift

A fortnight ago, however, a resident gave £120 worth of concrete blocks for the foundations of a supper room. In those two weeks the room has been more than half built entirely by voluntary labour under the guidance of a professional builder, and it is hoped to complete it in time for the inaugural ball shortly after the official opening.

On Sunday week the hall will be declared open by the Minister of Lands and Maori Affairs, Mr. E. B. Corbett, and the memorial tablet will be unveiled by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. W. A. Bodkin. Canon W. E. W. Hurst will dedicate the memorial, and he will be assisted by the Revs. E. T. Olds and A. Ashwin.

The guests are expected to include the member of Parliament for New Plymouth, Mr. E. P. Aderman, the mayor, Mr. E. R. C. Gilmour, and the acting chairman of the Taranaki County Council, Mr. A. Hall, who is also deputy chairman of the memorial hall society.

"Stretch Of Imagination"