

15th AN BRETH CAS SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1957
THE RATION
OJECT
RICO

9:30 - 11:00

attend the church of

BRETHREN SERVICE

Noon

Softball Game - Castañer vs. Adj...

12:30

Luncheon for honored guests at Community

PROJECT

2:00

Invocation

PRESENTS ITS

Progress and Future of Castañer -
Rev. Glodomiro Crespo,

15th ANNIVERSARY

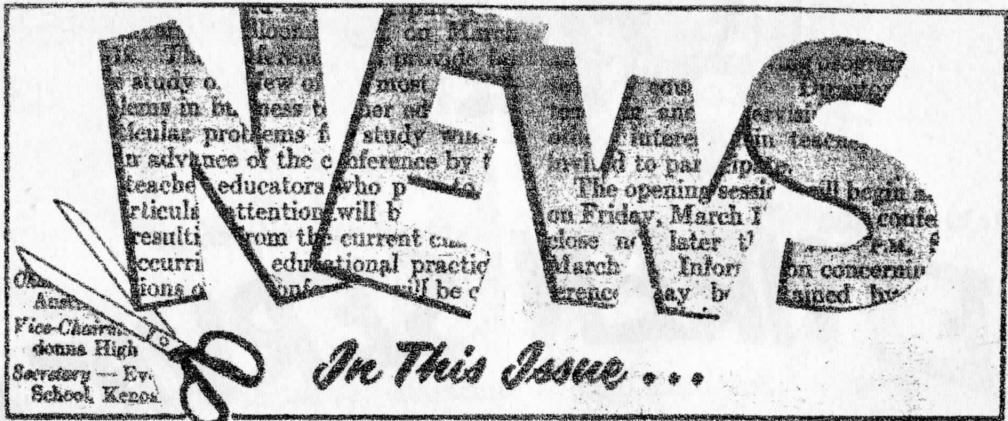
Address by the Governor

Benediction - Rev. Francisco Rios

CELEBRATION

Small Industries Center
Community Center

Movies of early years of Brethren Service
Project at Community Center.



THE HOWS, WHYS AND WHEREFORES OF OUR 15th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION . . . 1

GOV. LUIS MUÑOZ MARIN SPOKE: 5

DR. EARL S. GARVER SAID: 6

DR. DARYL M. PARKER GREETED: 7

REV. CLODOMIRO CRESPO STATED: 8

TELEVISION BROADCASTED: 11

"EL MUNDO" ADVERTISED: 14

EARL PARKER HANSON WROTE: 16

LOUISE SPALL CATCHES US UP ON HAPPENINGS 18

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE 21

Published quarterly by the Brethren Service Project, Castañer, Puerto Rico.
 LaVerne Burger, Editor

THIS IS THE 15th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ISSUE.

The Hows, Whys and Wherefores of our 15th Anniversary Celebration

By Dr. Gerald E. Church

On August 2, 1942, Dr. Daryl Parker and the first group of Civilian Public Service men arrived in Castañer to establish a hospital and other community programs in this remote, underdeveloped valley in the mountains of western Puerto Rico. As well as the community developments in Community Education and Small Industries, the Brethren Service Project here in Castañer has continued to carry on a broad medical program. The hospital, in spite of their inadequacies and vulnerability to fire and hurricanes, has continued to function in the same wooden barrack-type buildings.

To commemorate the Fifteenth Anniversary of the project's program in Castañer, a one-day celebration was held on Sunday, August 4th. The celebration afforded excellent publicity for the coming island-wide fund-raising campaign for a modern fire-proof and hurricane-proof hospital.

Sometime in May, an interview with Luis Muñoz Marín, Governor of Puerto Rico, was obtained by Rev. Eugene G. Carper, former Administrative Director, and Dr. Marvin

Snell, Medical Director, in which an invitation was made to the Governor to attend our Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration and he accepted. He was undoubtedly the greatest single publicity-drawing attraction at the celebration.

PREPARATIONS

The Brethren Service Commission at the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren appointed Dr. Earl S. Garver, Dean of Manchester College and member of the Brethren Service Commission, as official representative to the Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration. Dr. Daryl Parker, first physician and Administrative Director at Castañer, was also contacted by mail from Castañer and, though it appeared at first that he would be unable to come, he finally was able to do so. Dr. W. Harold Row was unable to attend because of previous commitments in Europe. Official greetings from the Brethren Service Commission were received in writing from Dr. Row. The program was then tentatively established. Mr. José Barceló, Mayor of Adjuntas, was particularly helpful to us concerning publicity

for the Anniversary Celebration. Probably little would have been accomplished in this line without his help. He was instrumental in obtaining an interview with a member of the staff of "El Mundo", the largest daily newspaper on the island, with Mr. Barceló and Dr. Marvin Snell present. It was a result of this interview that a very extensive and favorable feature was obtained in the Saturday Supplement on August 3. This included a full front page photograph of Carolyn Resler, one of our nurses, holding a newborn baby, in addition to two full pages of pictures and a feature article about the hospital. Mr. Barceló did most of the contacting of "Imparcial", the other large daily newspaper, as well as several television programs; he was responsible for obtaining the marching uniformed Municipal Band of Ponce for the day; he arranged for the presence of the Ponce Fire Department, which was cancelled at the last minute; and he made a number of other gifts to the project for the celebration. In addition, he made numerous trips and calls to Castañer to personally look in on preparations.

The Publicity Committee carried out a program of invitations and notices in conjunction with the Decoration Committee. In the community of Castañer, two large banners announcing the program were stretched above the road and at the hospital. A mailing list was made up for invitations which included people both in Puerto Rico and in the United States. Three to four

hundred people were included in this list, over two hundred of them from Puerto Rico. Many high officials in the government of Puerto Rico, as well as friends throughout the island, were invited. In the week preceding the celebration, the program had its final additions and was mimeographed in Spanish and distributed throughout this area and passed out again on the day of the celebration to all of those who attended.

Various subcommittees had been established here on the project for the carrying out of the various aspects of the celebration. These included Program, Publicity, Food, Decorating, Guided Tours, Physical Arrangements and Clean-Up. In addition to members of the project taking part in this preparation, there were many people in the community who contributed a great deal of time and effort to the success of the program. In the Food Committee, there were many members of the community involved, both in the preparation of the food and the serving of it. One of the store owners, Pancho Felix, took charge of the preparation of the roast pigs and did an excellent job in this. We were also very fortunate in having the superintendent of schools in Lares offer us the use of the Second Unit School for serving the dinner, which was much larger and much superior than the Community Center would have been. Not only did he offer the use of the school, but he offered us free the help of the school lunch personnel, as well as the buildings

and grounds personnel of the public schools here in Castañer. This proved invaluable in completing preparations for the dinner.

The parade was one of the big events of the day and this was organized by Jerry Davis and Julio Lebrón. Several organizations in the community entered a float and many other organizations had groups marching in the parade. A total of some twenty different groups were thus represented. The parade was organized here at the hospital, beginning here and continuing to the Community Center.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the help of Mr. Barceló and the help of many other members in this community was invaluable and the program would never have been achieved as it was without this assistance.

CELEBRATION

The public was invited to attend the church of their choice in the morning. At 11:30, the parade was to begin from the hospital. Organization of the parade was slightly behind schedule and, just as it was finally ready to descend the narrow road from the hospital, the way was blocked by the arrival of the Governor's car and those of other top government officials who arrived some twenty minutes before they had been expected. There was a general confusion at this point, particularly in the minds of those who were responsible for carrying out the day's program. However,

the Governor was then ushered to the balcony of the Casa Grande adjacent to the hospital, from which he reviewed the parade as it finally moved down the hill after the government cars were cleared from the road. By this time, a large crowd of people had gathered, both to see the parade begin and because the Governor was in this area. Then a number of project members, the Governor, Mr. Barceló and a large crowd of people joined the parade walking. Approximately half way to the Community Center, it was decided that the Governor had walked far enough, so he and the other accompanying members of the project stepped to the side of the road and permitted the rest of the parade to pass and then managed to locate a car to return to the hospital where a tour had been arranged. The Governor, accompanied by Dr. Snell, Dr. Church and Tom Dolby, then made a tour through all departments of the hospital and he seemed quite interested in the various aspects of the medical work. In the hospital, the press took a number of pictures of the Governor talking with patients.

The members of the Castañer Community Committee had been assembled in the class room of the hospital for an interview with the Governor to discuss various community problems. This was an excellent discussion with some vital problems of the community presented to him directly and toward which he seemed to be quite favorably disposed. The press and several mayors were also present at this

meeting. The problem of the water supply in this area was particularly discussed and it was fortunate that the head of the water authority in Puerto Rico was present and, with the Governor questioning him on the point, he gave a definite commitment for the new water system to be installed in this area in eight months. Following this discussion with the Community Committee, which lasted approximately thirty minutes, the Governor then met with Dr. Earl Garver and other members of the project in the hospital court yard. Following this, a special dinner for invited guests was held at the public school. Several hundred people attended this cafeteria style dinner. The other event being carried out all during this time was the softball game between Adjuntas and Castañer, which eventually ended in a tie.

Following the dinner, the Governor then proceeded to the Community Center, stopping enroute for a tour of the new Small Industries Center, where the ceramics project here in Castañer was featured. The Governor, being an amateur ceramist himself, seemed especially interested in this aspect of the work. He then proceeded to the Community Center area where a platform had been built alongside the basketball court. Here the program ceremony was carried out as outlined below. Although a little late in starting

the program proceeded in a very fine manner. Jerry Davis was excellent as Master of Ceremonies and each of the speakers did an excellent job. José Barceló presented three separate gifts to Dr. Parker in the name of the people of this area and the city of Adjuntas. A rare white orchid was given to Mrs. Garver and the Governor was presented with two gifts from the Small Industries work, one of them being several ceramic figurines made by Ivan Mendes.

Following the program, which ended at approximately 3:30, the various institutions of the community held open house. A number of guided tours were led by project personnel. We were exceedingly fortunate in that it did not rain until the last minute or two of the formal ceremony in the afternoon. It had threatened rain from 2:00 o'clock on, but miraculously held off until the ceremony was completed.

The cooperation of all project personnel and friends in the community and others in Puerto Rico was excellent and the celebration proceeded well in almost every detail and should be considered a very definite success. It is hoped that this will be of tremendous value to the project in carrying out the proposed program for the years ahead.

+ + + +

+ + + +

Doctor and Nurse, we need you here in Castañer. Contact Elgin now.



GOV. LUIS MUÑOZ MARÍN

spoke:

I want to take this opportunity to tell that, in all democratic government based on service to the public, my government has always made an effort to do what is expected of it in the Puerto Rican struggle to solve the big problems we still have.

The true struggle in Puerto Rico is not that one political party is against the other; those are natural incidents of the democratic process. It is rather the struggle of men to annihilate the problems that affect them.

The struggle has to be one of economic association; one in which the productive capacity of each man will be changed more efficiently every day so that there will be greater abundance.

People are com-
passionate. Cas-

taffer is a place where you find affection, where work is based on a great moral ideal and this has been an influence so that the community of Castañer can be an example for the people of Puerto Rico.

Magnificent work has been done here because of the spirit with which the project was begun. This

is the way that great and good things are done. Service that is done for the good bears a religious spirit. Each leader of the community who feels he works with his whole heart to better the conditions of his fellow countrymen has a religious motivation.

I give thanks to the project in the name of all Puerto Rico for this seed of light and spirit which you have brought to the island.

(Above are excerpts of Muñoz's speech.)





DR. EARL S. GARVER

(Below are excerpts of the speech given by Dr. Garver.)

said:

As members of the Christian fellowship increase their understanding of the meaning and implications of Christian love, and as they develop such a love for their fellowmen in their own minds and hearts, they are motivated by an inner compulsion to help those who are less fortunate than themselves. As expressed in Chapter 25 of Matthew, they serve their Lord through their ministry to the hungry, the sick and the naked.

The Brethren Service Commission is the institutional creation of a specific church, the Church of the Brethren, to provide a tangible outlet for the members of this group, and any others who may wish to cooperate, to give expression to their love and concern for all of mankind. Theologically speaking, I believe the Christian is impelled to render Christian Service not as a means of achieving grace, but as a manifestation and proof of his receipt of the gift of grace.

The most easily understood, and sometimes the most easily achieved part of the Brethren Service program consists of activities directed toward the relief of human need, whether the need for relief

be caused by war, natural disaster, poverty, sickness, or social, political or economic injustice.

However, the Brethren Service Commission is also interested in the removal of the causes which give rise to a need for human relief and in the rehabilitation of individuals and society. These efforts involve a number of other program emphases.

The Brethren Service philosophy might be briefly described as a philosophy of being "my brother's keeper and my brother's brother". The concept of being my brother's keeper involves a situation of one who is more fortunate and one who is less fortunate. The more fortunate shares with or through another manifestation of Christian love, and aids his less fortunate brother. Unfortunately, it sometimes happens that the one who is more fortunate likes to remain in the superior position and to have his brother permanently dependent upon him; he likes to be the dispenser of alms, and to have his brother in a position of continually owing him thanks and gratitude for the charity which is being dispensed. A perpetual existence of such a state of affairs

can hardly be good for either the giver or receiver of aid.

The concept of being my brother's brother involves the necessity that I work myself out of the "keeper" position through the rehabilitation of my brother. Brotherhood attains its optimum possibilities only when all are in a position to participate as equals in the family fellowship. This concept thus requires (1) that the more fortunate person be willing to help the less fortunate brother achieve a position of equality in the fellowship, but also (2) that the less fortunate be willing to accept the responsibility for his own sufficiency in the fellowship of equal participation. It usually takes less effort to continue as a receiver of alms than to master one's environment and overcome one's misfortunes. The achievement of the ideal fellowship of brothers would, therefore, seem to require heroic efforts on the part of both the more fortunate and the

less fortunate.

Although it would be too much to hope that the members of the staff in the Castañer Brethren Service Project or the people of the Castañer community have always achieved, or will achieve, a perfect demonstration of the philosophy herein set forth, it is my sincere belief that they are deserving of highest commendation for the way they have worked cooperatively in the service project here. The people of Castañer are deserving of our highest praise for the way they have moved forward in assuming an increasingly-responsible share in the planning, development and execution of the community health and development project. It is our hope and prayer that the excellent work started and developed here during the past fifteen years will continue and expand, and that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the project will find a completely indigenous control and, too, total support of the program.



DR. DARYL M. PARKER greeted:

Honorable Governor, visitors, and friends:

Fifteen years ago, I came to Castañer with the members of the first Brethren Service Project unit and now I would like to bring their greetings. I am glad to be again with many friends who used

to work with us and helped us to establish a hospital and a community center here in Castañer.

We want to congratulate you for the progress of the community and we wish you to have success in the future. Thank you.

++++



REV. CLODOMIRO CRESPO

stated:

If we close our eyes for a moment and try to think of the tasks and constant fatigue of those years before FIRA was established here, we will see days of extreme necessity, of pain and anguish, of sorrow and misery; living in poorly-constructed and uncomfortable houses that could not protect us from rain and cold, where the cracks on the floor were covered not only by the feet of the inhabitants, but also with their heads when, at night, after twelve long hours of exhaustible work, they reclined to sleep. Houses blackened with firewood and the ever-present kitten warming himself on the ashes of the hearth.

In the year 1936, the Puerto Rican Reconstruction Administration began the construction of this village. The big farm of Los Rábancos was passing away. Through a good agricultural plan, this community was changed into one of the best agricultural zones. The anguished countrymen were awaking from the nightmare of the chains to enter into the dream of justice and liberty.

On Monday, very early in the morning, September 1, 1939, came to us the news that German troops

were marching against the French lands, as if they wanted to conquer something they had lost, while here, we were making ourselves ready for the conquest of something we had not had.

Three years later in 1942, each one of our countrymen had a comfortable house with a few acres of land. When they were sick or indisposed, they stayed at home with their wives and children. The old days were passed when they had to pick the harvests of the rich people under torrential rains, whether they were sick or not, because they were under the yoke of the wealthy people who did not permit them even to look at the hours of the day.

In that same year, 1942, one of the many evangelical churches of the United States, the Church of the Brethren, based on the philosophy of the words of Jesus...If your friend is hungry, feed him; love your enemies, pray for those who persecute and offend you; return good for evil...organized pacifist groups that refused to take arms to kill. It was a separate group ready to go where it was necessary, but with the noble purpose of construction and never

with the unfortunate mission of destruction.

Their arrival here was a blessing. They found that our countrymen were living in the greatest spiritual ignorance; that images and superstition were their religion. There were still many sick people as a consequence of the past years and, because this group of objectors was made up of doctors and missionaries, the combination was very favorable. The community had made some progress, but the medicine for the body and Christ's evangelism for the soul were still missing. Observing the countrymen's hard way of life, descending hills and climbing mountains, carrying their sick in hammocks, passing through dark woods to carry their sick before "medicasters", the objectors undertook the task of going house to house in order to fight against sickness. Sometimes they rode a horse; other times they went by foot.

The first hospital was established under the wise guidance of Dr. Daryl M. Parker. Also, during this time, the Community Center program was begun.

When the war was over in 1945, many of the objectors returned to their homes, but the Brethren Service Commission continued the same program with new plans. It was in 1947 that Dr. Homer L. Burke became the Medical Director of the Brethren Service Project and later was asked to be the Administrative Director of the project. During this time, land was purchased for the construction of a hospital and

for an agricultural experimental farm, the Brethren Academy and also a Church of the Brethren were established.

On September 6, 1954, Rev. Eugene Carper came to Castañer as Administrative Director of the project. Dr. Harold Leppink was Director of the medical program at this time. Due to the work of these two men, the Castañer Community Committee was organized in a general assembly. From then, we received the advice and cooperation required to begin a new chapter in the history of Castañer. With this organization, we have been able to obtain the greatest solidarity in all of our existence.

We worked united in order to accelerate the plans for the construction of a public high school, which we now have. The Aqueduct Authority has started the work required to supply the community with drinkable water. We have two public telephones. A small industry has been established, which means another economic source for many families. We also have labored unitedly to acquire the land with the vanilla plant for the construction of a new hospital, an idea that is sparkling in our minds.

The Brethren Service Project has been the heart of the community of Castañer, and we keep it deep in our hearts. This project has employed a great number of Puerto Ricans, supplying thus the necessities of many families; thousands of lives have been saved with medicines and surgery. This makes clear the necessity of good rela-

tions and a connected action with the Department of Health because we believe that a real solidarity between this government organization and the Brethren Service Project will solve many health problems in Castañer community.

The distinction of this institution is noticed also in the constant striving to conserve a program of recreation, organizing recently, among the members of the community, the Castañer Recreation Council, which has in function a new activity program under the direction of a competent athletic instructor. With earnestness, the personnel of the Brethren Service Project contributes also with new ideas and advice to the improvement of the Credit and Consumer's Cooperatives.

There are still other reasons that show the necessity of keeping the members of the project with us and wish them all kinds of blessings for doing among us what other people have not been able to do.

Today, the Brethren Service Project celebrates its Fifteenth Anniversary -- fifteen long years of Christian work.

It has been possible for all of us working together to obtain these things so valuable for our community, thanks to the efforts and the excellent administration of our government, in its ardent desire of improving our countrymen. Also, with the constant efficient and impartial help of the mayor of Ad-

juntas, Honorable José Barceló, whom we thank heartily and wish God's assistance in his hard work of finding the well-being for everyone. We also wish to thank Honorable Luis Santaliz Capestani who has helped.

A long time ago, we learned that united, we can work better.

You should notice that the population increase has been considerable. This displays the necessity for progress. A significant improvement of this community demands better medical assistance, which we do not have because of the lack of facilities for such a requirement. There is missing a building for this purpose that is fire-proof and hurricane-proof and big enough for a larger number of beds.

The Castañer Committee Committee labors with enthusiasm to make real the construction of this hospital and also requests from the government better ways of living to avoid the exodus of our people to larger cities.

Opposite of my desire, I have to finish by pointing out that this was a lean year for this community. I am very sure that, this year, many students abandoned school due to the lack of clothes and shoes, water and food. It was the year in which more wives and children were left alone because it was necessary for the father to

(Continued on Page 20)



TELEVISION

broadcasted:

Given by Enrique A. Laguerre.

As soon as I received the invitation for attending the Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration of Castañer, Adjuntas, I didn't hesitate in accepting. I had been there on three occasions, one of them with twenty Latinamericans of a dozen diverse nationalities. They saw in the project a very excellent field of experimentation in the fundamental education.

It has surprised me that there are people in Puerto Rico that do not know of the work that a group of workers of the Church of the Brethren is doing. It is a social mission with an absolute humanitarian spirit. Originally, fifteen years ago, it was established there by the first conscientious objectors that were in the field of Castañer to better the social, economic situations of the inhabitants using an old building of the Puerto Rican Reconstruction Association as residence and center of location.

From the beginning, these people were interested in the breeding of domestic animals, in the sewing of minor fruits and also vegetables were planted. Nevertheless, they put more emphasis on the

hospital services. As the mayor of Adjuntas, Mr. Barceló declares, there was a time, before Adjuntas had hospital services, that Castañer Hospital gave services to the sick and needy people of the whole municipality.

Then, Castañer had a very poor hospital with patched utilities, but with a very great spirit of service. The first time I went there, I remember that the doctor was working almost for nothing and he attended hundreds of patients a month.

Other concerns of the project were to promote the workmen, especially ceramics, with typical designs of Puerto Rico. Besides, they had a great interest since the beginning in education and they were the first to impulse a secondary education project.

When I was there four or five years ago, with the group of Latin-american students, they gave us lodging with breakfast, dinner and beds only for \$1.50 per person, and with what pleasure! At night, we joined in the old "glacis" and in the moonlight, we sang songs of all countries that were represented

there...Puerto Rico, Chile, Uruguay, Panama, Haiti, El Salvador, Peru, Ecuador and others. Now, coming again to Castañer this time for the celebration of their Fifteenth Anniversary, I was going to see how the original project had progressed. One of the speakers said that last year was a year of poverty in Castañer, which brings about situations that force people to go to the States for employment. We all know how the hurricane, Santa Clara, has damaged the island, following a drought that lasted for more than six months. Only those who live in the country or the rural zones notice the effects of those happenings, because the people in the cities only complain that nobody works and that the products of the island are too high.

Castañer, as other rural communities, was lashed with a whip by Santa Clara and by the drought. Nevertheless, how they have progressed! The secondary school was given over to the Department of Education with all equipment. It has more than 130 students and, last year, twelve students were graduated from high school.

I talked with the principal, Aurelio Pagan, and he praised the school and so did Mr. Tirado, Superintendent of Schools. I noticed a serene satisfaction in the directors of Castañer every time they referred to the last year's graduates.

The workers in ceramics were an agreeable surprise. The Social

Programs Administration's Small Industries Division of the Department of Agriculture has taken the industrial work center of Castañer originally founded by the Brethren in charge. With this, there are four community small industries established under the Department of Agriculture in different parts of the island. The purpose is to promote, establish and develop small industries in different parts of the island where the working man only has opportunity for work during some seasons with limited incomes. Another purpose is to give the working man opportunities to better his economic and social situations and to utilize many resources of the island which has not been explored. After being organized, each center can give employment to 200 persons with the following education: Industrial orientation, education for the working man, distribution of material, loaning equipment, work for home, etc. In the center of Castañer, ceramics has its importance and the first laborers are learning under the specialist, Ivan Arnold Mendes. There was a lovely exposition of the ceramics produced at Castañer. Almost all human figurines have been asked for by commercial establishments at San Juan. There was an exhibition of the artists at work, which was a pleasant sight to see.

Needless to say, Puerto Rico will be much benefited by the establishments of the ceramic buildings. We are a country without skilled workers, while in other eras, there was an influential nu-


cleus in our society. Furthermore, it is surprising to see how the ceramics stimuli, the creative power and inventions are not noticeable in our country because of lack of training and a market. There is imagination; training and stimulus are needed. These small industries centers have been established to carry on this purpose.

In regard to the other great purpose of the Castañer Project -- hospitalization -- the idea of a big hospital that will serve the whole community of Adjuntas. Meanwhile, they continue to serve in the old barracks of the Puerto Rican Reconstruction Administration with the same enthusiasm as ever. I remember that, on our last trip to Castañer some years ago with the students of Point IV, there

was a doctor with us from Salvador who was very surprised that they were able to do so much with such a little. From the point of view of fundamental education, this is not important, because they give good services with precarious means.

The Governor emphasized the necessity to work for the spirit. All effort in the benefit of all more material comfort will be made for the encouragement of spiritual consequences. For this reason, to secure a good economy will be a good means for spiritual stability so the material effort and progress is not the end to the means, but we need the physical instruments to get this spiritual stability. The work of the men of Castañer is a very good example.

++++



Castañer General Hospital is in great and immediate need of both DOCTORS and NURSES. If you are a doctor or a nurse, please consider this call to do challenging work and help us to meet the need that exists here in Castañer in the medical field. Thanks.

Write to Elgin!!



"EL MUNDO" advertised:

By Rurico E. Rivera

August 1957 marks fifteen years of hard Christian, social and humanitarian work of the Brethren Service Project in benefit of health and general welfare to the residents of Castañer practically in the heart of our island.

It was in August of 1942 when the first representative group of the Brethren Service Project, an affiliated organization in the Church of the Brethren, with headquarters in Elgin, Illinois, took charge of the remains of a PRRA project whose objective was to develop the reconstruction in this remote area of rural Puerto Rico.

The social work done by the Brethren Service Project, with the help of the statal government and the active participation of the community of Castañer, has produced a notable change in the living conditions of the residents of this section in the last fifteen years. Extensive pages could be written about this extraordinary work done through the Brethren Service Project which includes not only work of social orientation, but also the aspect of physical health by the operation of a hospital and clinics, schools, Com-

munity Center and recently the development of the Small Industries.

On this occasion, however, we have a different objective. Our purpose is to state to our readers the plans which this organization has in respect to the enlargement of hospital facilities and medical treatment in order to meet the needs of the approximately 20,000 people who live in Castañer Valley.

When the governor and the government officials of Puerto Rico visit Castañer tomorrow, during the activities of the celebration of the Fifteenth Anniversary for the work of the Brethren Service Project in this community, they will realize that one of the principle reasons for the construction of a hospital is that the medical care of the actual Castañer Hospital is difficult and uncomfortable.

This problem, in addition to other important ones, has forced the promoters of this magnificent work to secure a new place for the new hospital that will be constructed in Castañer.

Dr. Marvin Snell, the Medical Director of the Castañer General

Hospital, explained to El Mundo the plan for the facilities of the new hospital.

The new structure that will be reinforced concrete, will have a maximum capacity of 35 beds. Its location will be in the central area of the community. This area was selected by the Castañer Community Committee, an organization formed by local citizens which have been cooperating very much in the projects of social rehabilitation done by the Brethren Service Project.

Dr. Snell mentioned that it was through the Castañer Community Committee that the project bought an area of ten acres where the new hospital, schools, Community Center and houses for doctors, nurses and school teachers will be constructed. In order to start the new hospital building, the Brethren Service Commission is going to start a public campaign. The purpose of this campaign is to get 1/3 of the total cost of the hospital, as 2/3 will come from federal funds by virtue of the Hill-Burton law. The cost will be \$450,000. The plans are being prepared by Architect Bob Pope. The actual structures of the Castañer General Hospital are the barrack-type buildings, which are very inconvenient for the services rendered there and give very little protection in case of hurricanes. When Santa Clara hit the island last year, it was necessary to move all the patients to a safe place.

The medical service given in

this institution covers practically all that general medicine provides. Some of these services are represented in an operating room, maternity room, nursery, an emergency room, an X-ray room, fluoroscope, a pharmacy, dispensary, a dental office and orientation in Public Health. There are thousands of patients that have received care in one way or the other by the medical personnel of this institution. Many times, patients are brought to the hospital in hammocks.

The Castañer General Hospital has two doctors, Dr. Marvin Snell and Dr. Gerald Church; four registered nurses, Ofelia Rodriguez de Velez, who is supervisor, Carolyn Ressler, Louise Spall and Wilma Forbes, Public Health Nurse; a laboratory technician, John Forbes; a pharmacist, Felix Lizasuain; Out-Patient Department supervisor, Ernesto Diaz; Fondo Insurance, Victor Fernandini and a group of fifteen Puerto Rican aides and orderlies.

We have emphasized here the medical service aspects that the Brethren Service Project offers in Castañer, omitting the other social services that this project is rendering. We believe that the Puerto Rican community, and especially Castañer, should continue its effort and contribution for the better health of our citizens. It is our hope that soon the structure for the new hospital will become a reality.

++++



EARL PARKER HANSON

wrote:

Twenty-two years ago, as a federal official, I played a small part in the establishment of the Castañer and La Plata rural resettlement projects, which the federal government could not manage effectively because of cumbersome government regulations, and which are now managed by the Brethren Service Commission and the Mennonites respectively. Recently I was privileged to attend celebrations of the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Brethren advent at Castañer. It was an inspiring occasion, which proved, on the one hand, the Brethren's dedication to the ideal of Service, and on the other, the need for close cooperation between such bodies and the equally dedicated Commonwealth government.

Castañer is located in the western coffee-mountains, and by any standard, that region is still Puerto Rico's most "stricken". Employment, such as it is, is seasonal. San Juan's efforts to benefit coffee as a crop help the landowners more than their workers. Industrialization, as conceived by Fomento and confined to Fomento's rules of procedure effective as it has been elsewhere, is hamstrung by transportation difficulties and

lack of the right kind of manpower. Vacation time, when the school lunches stop, has been described to me as the time of starvation for many children. In many ways, governmental efforts, understandably and even necessarily circumscribed by island regulations and inter-departmental rivalries, are less effective in that region than anywhere else in Puerto Rico. Clearly, this is a land that calls for new approach that Muñoz mentioned in his last message to the legislature, for the establishment of a regional unified, coordinated governmental program.

In that situation, the Brethren, hampered by lack of money but not by a plethora of bureaucratic regulations, are playing an outstanding role. Their work in the Castañer Hospital has long attracted professional admiration and profound local gratitude. I write here about their present imaginative efforts towards economic improvement.

An Indian agronomist at the nearby agricultural experiment station introduced a raspberry from India that is said to be superior to any known in the States.

Nobody paid much attention to it until the Brethren said that you can't use it until you grow it, and planted hundreds of the shrubs on the nearby unused hillsides. Now, and especially because the time for picking raspberries follows that for picking coffee, they dream, talk, and experiment around the idea of selling the berries fresh in a fruit-hungry market, as well as canning and exporting them.

The region, endowed with magnificent scenery and climate, well-suited for the recreational programs that Fomento is discussing, is also one of fine fruit. But no established canner will open a plant there under present conditions of agriculture, transportation, and manpower. The pioneering must be done by a small, determined group like the Brethren who, with some, but little, help from the government, are now actively experimenting with turning mangoes, ginger, cintron and almonds into West Indian Chutney, oranges into

West Indian mountain marmalade, other things into other things. They have many problems ahead, of quality control, lack of capital, packaging, and adequate marketing, but they are working on them step by step, as they go, and they will not lose their jobs, or be exposed to derision if their efforts fail in the end through circumstances beyond their control.

All of us know about the shortcomings of government procedure. All of us can point to projects and areas in which the Commonwealth Government, despite its notable overall success, has failed dismally. The pioneering being done by the Castañer Brethren speaks eloquently for the need of ever-closer cooperation between various government agencies and such groups of dedicated workers who are motivated by dreams of service rather than of government kudos or individual wealth.

From ISLAND TIMES, August 16, 1957

++++

The ceramic program in Castañer was begun with government help a few months ago. It was under government operation for a short time, but is now privately operated by Mr. Thomas Dolby and Mr. Ivan Mendes of the project.

The picture was taken the day of the celebration. The demonstrations given by the workers were of interest to everyone.





LOUISE SPALL

catches us up on happenings:

Hi, Neighbor:

I guess it's been a real busy spring and summer for all of us. Seems like all we have done since our last visit is tell people good-by. The only nice thing that I can see about saying good-by is the tremendous get-togethers and meals that we have before someone leaves. This June, when so many left at one time, we went all out and had barbequed chicken with all the trimmings, which was really a delicious treat. Everyone took part in a program and it was one of the most enjoyable evenings we have had for some time.

The first carload to leave, this June weekend, was Dan and Becky Clayton and tiny four-week old Rindy. After two years of service, they returned to their home in Virginia. We have heard from them and everything seems to be going well with them. We miss Dan with his keen knowledge of fixing any and everything and the school house seems kind of empty without Becky.

The second carload to leave was Ernest and Iva Snell, better known as Grandpa and Grandma Snell

to everyone around these parts. They returned to their home in LaVerne, California and, from all reports, are very busy. We certainly miss Grandpa in the maintenance department and Grandma with her quick helping hand to those in need before she was ever asked.

The third carload to go was our administrator and family, Rev. and Mrs. Eugene G. Carper and their three daughters, Donna, Dena and Dana. After a brief visit with relatives in Pennsylvania, Rev. Carper planned to further his education at Boston University School of Theology. We wish them the very best in their new endeavors and, most certainly, they are being missed, since our new administrator, Mr. Ralph Townsend, and his family won't arrive until sometime in October.

We thought a great deal about these folks as we planned and prepared for our 15th Anniversary Celebration, for many of the dreams worked on so hard by some of them seemed to suddenly open up and begin to become realities about this time.

The last carload to the pro-

ject brought a visitor-worker, Dorothy Spitzer from Dayton, Virginia, who was a great deal of help to us in more than one way. We all became attached to Dot and hated to see her leave. She will be teaching this winter at Falls Church, Virginia.

In July, another visitor-worker arrived whom we all enjoyed -- especially the little folks. Miss Theresa Clingenpeel arrived by publico, after a number of experiences, to teach the unit member's pre-school age children. We were all amazed to see the progress of these children and were delighted by a presentation of "Billy Goat Gruff" by these children. This was given at a farewell party for Rev. and Mrs. Ignacio Rivera and their family, who moved to Ensenada, Puerto Rico. Rev. Rivera is the former pastor of the Church of the Brethren in Castafier.

By the way, Neighbor, have you had a chance to visit our ceramic shop? I guess maybe you haven't for I know you have been every bit as busy as we have, but one of the greatest things that has happened for this project is that, at long last in July, Ivan Mendes, with his artistic mind, heart and hands, from Antigua, British West Indies, arrived at the project to work in our ceramics program. It is a real thrill to look over his work, for each figurine he makes has its own story to tell. We enjoy Ivan, not only for his artistic ability, but for all of the good humor he shares with us.

Golly, Neighbor, it's been a long time since we visited. Let's go inside where it's warm and draw up a chair and a bowl of pop corn while I bring you up to date on things through August, September, October and November.

Early one morning at 4:00 AM in August, we all got up for coffee with the Jerry Davises and waved a sad good-by to an unusual young couple who spent five years here in the community and left much evidence of their work of love for other people here. Some of their hopes and dreams were materialized while they were still here, but we who remain see things blossoming out yet from the seeds of their efforts.

September was vacation time for Jim Tomlinson, who went back home, in Goshen, Indiana, for a short visit and evaluation with his BVS group at Camp Mack. I also was home for a few days and spent some time trying to recruit nurses for our hospital. I saw a few of you and enjoyed our visits very much.

October - at long last, our new director and family stepped off the plane in San Juan and headed for Castafier where we all awaited them with welcome arms. Ralph and Mildred's family has grown considerably from four to thirty! As their welcome party, we all loaded in the truck and off we went to Cat Island for the day. We had a real chance to get acquainted. We have all had a chance to taste some of Mildred's baked goods and,

to us, the only real good word to describe them is YUM.

Oh, yes, we got all dressed up for the Hallowe'en Party and had a real good time. Our pumpkin pies were calabass and our cider was limeade -- the limes were picked fresh off the trees.

That brings us up to November. We just finished saying good-bye to a young nurse who was a real spark plug not only to the medical department, but to the project as well. Given any job Carolyn "Sussie" Resaler would put all she had into it. She will be missed not only by us, but by the Puerto Rican people as well, for her cheerfulness was contagious. Since she left, our medical department has been hitting on two cylinders as far as nurses are concerned - so if you know of anyone who has a desire to serve, drop us a line.

The day before "Sussie" left, our project was glad for the arrival of Arlene Coy from Dayton, Ohio and Esther Petersime from Gettysburg, Ohio. Arlene is our new unit school teacher who will teach Rod, Karen, Phillip and Melvin Townsend and Ivy Church. We know they are thrilled to have a teacher to keep them up with their friends in the States. Esther will become treasurer after the departure of Janet Royer at the close of her term of service. We are very glad to have these girls with us.

Geo, Neighbor, look what time it is. If we don't break up this gab session pretty soon, it will be Christmas and besides, the popcorn is all gone. Be looking forward to seeing you in the spring. Just wish I could send you some of these beautify poinsettias.

Adios, amigos.

+ + + +

(Continued from Page 10)

go to Chicago or New York in search of a job. You are the best eye-witnesses of what I have just said.

Nevertheless, we are what we are by profound convictions, and we will maintain ourselves firm

and united before the shrine of our ideals. Our supreme ideal is liberty and we have possessed it for a long time. What we need now are better ways of living to make Castafia a model community and to enjoy that liberty that made us free.

+ + + +

+ + + +

COME TO PUERTO RICO AS A VISITOR-WORKER. If you wish to have information, please write to the Brethren Service Commission, Elgin, Illinois.

NOTICE

OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

The Brethren Service Project is in IMMEDIATE NEED of
some NURSES & DOCTORS

We have openings for THREE nurses IMMEDIATELY and, in May, our two doctors' terms end. We have no definite leads on this much needed personnel. NOW is the opportunity for you to give two, three, or more years of your life in service. If you are a doctor or a nurse, or if you know a doctor or nurse who may have the slightest interest, please notify the Brethren Service Commission at: 22 South State Street, Elgin, Illinois.
DO IT NOW!!!

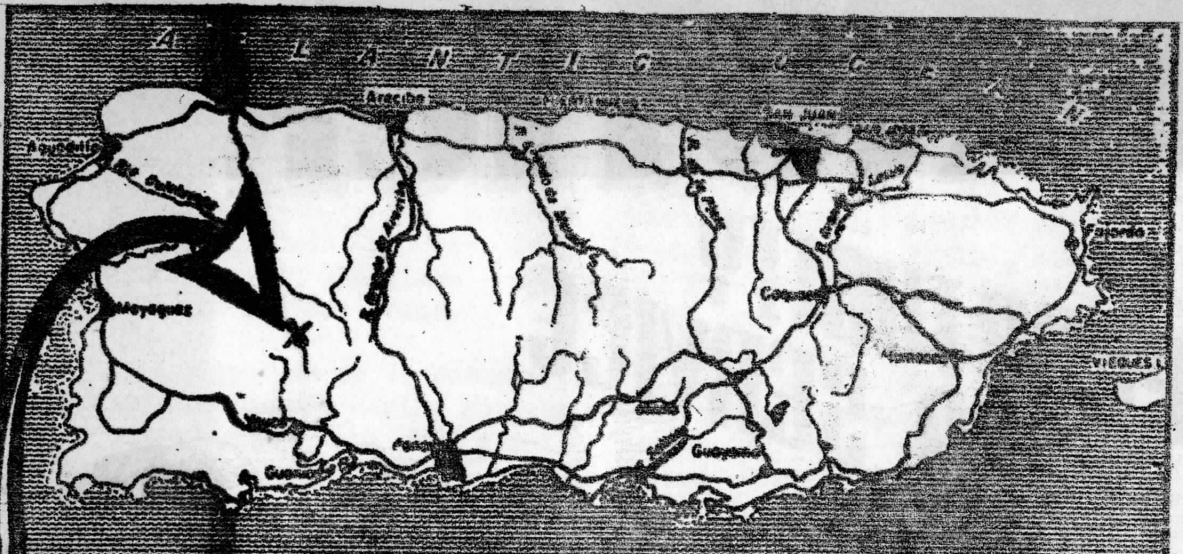
PASTORS, notify your laymen and laywomen and make them aware of this need.

LAYMEN and LAYWOMEN, notify your friends.

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE IMMEDIATELY!



**A CHALLENGE
MIGHTY IMPORTANT!!**




SKETCH MAP
of
PUERTO RICO
 SHOWING
 PRINCIPAL ROADS, CITIES AND RIVERS
 PREPARED FOR THE CARIBBEAN COMMISSION - TRUSTEES, N.Y.C.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

To:



Sachman, Mr. and Mrs. Luke H.
 Route #5
 Lebanon, Pennsylvania

from

BROTHERS
SERVICE PROJECT
PUERTO RICO