



'68

CASTAÑER
NEWSLETTER



It's that time again--Annual Newsletter time!
In it we've tried to give you news of the workers
and their work. We have attempted to give a
general report of the "state of the project".

At this time of year we are thinking of Christmas
and all that Christ's coming has meant to all men.

Greetings from all of us in the name of Him who
came to bring goodwill and peace to the world.

We have appreciated the visitors who have come
during the year. Many relatives of the staff came
for shorter or longer periods. Included in these
are: Mr. and Mrs. Horace Ark, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth
Bowman, Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Brubaker, Mr. and Mrs.
George Conklin and Janet, Diane Coy, Ilene Dalgleish,
Claire Driscoll, Mr. and Mrs. James Fike, Lila
Hallenbeck, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Heffron, Dr. and
Mrs. Jacob Huffman, Mr. and Mrs. M.L. Olson, Sylva Shenk,
Mrs. Tom den Doel, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wine, Joyce
and Otis Winters.

Among the old friends and new were: Ernesto and
Yiyi Arroya, Rev. and Mrs. Robert Blair, Claude
and Ruth (Bucher) Camuy, Rev. and Mrs. Eugene Carper,
Mr. and Mrs. Gilberto Claudio, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd
Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Crouse, Mr. and Mrs.
John Eichelberger, Miss Edith Estey (Keuka College).
Lt. Comm. and Mrs. Ray Gearing (L.A.O.S.), Orion
Hargett, Dr. and Mrs. Paul S. Hersch, Roland
Hollinger, Jim and Sheila Jackson, Mr. and Mrs.
Ervin Martin, Marc Maitre, Brian Moore, Mar-
garet Moran, Robert B. Myers, Rev. and Mrs.
Leland Nelson, Karla Nielsen, Marjorie Nish,
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Noffsinger, Helen Pino, Rose-
lin and Susan (Young) Pabon, Alipio Rodriguez,
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Royer, Ferdinand Santiago, Mr.
and Mrs. William Sayers, John Studebaker, David
and Winnie (Joseph) Toledo, Ralph, Mildred and
Rodney Townsend, and Dr. and Mrs. Jesse Ziegler.
During the Christmas Holidays last year the Exec-
utive Committee of the Puerto Rican Medical Association
paid a visit to Castañer, and in February a group
of fourteen United Church youth from Conn. visited
and worked in the Hospital and Community.

CURRENT HOSPITAL STAFF

MEDICAL STAFF

Joseph L. Weddle, M.D.
Chief of Staff
James E. Hollinger, M.D.
Harold E. Huffman, M.D.
Dohn Kruschwitz, M.D.
Larry J. Miller, M.D.
Jon P. Wigert, M.D.

OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT

Brenda Brandt de Soto
Elsa Enid Diaz Torres
Victor Fernandini
Luz Esthere Alicea
Alejandrina Lamboy
Margarita Martinez de Justiniano
Monserrate Torres de Diaz

HOSPITAL NURSING STAFF

Elsa Zapata de Groff, R.N.
Director of Nursing Services
Elena Breban Feliciaiano, R.N.
Gloria Camuy de Ramirez
Idali Cordero
Carmen Delores Cortes Ruiz, R.N.
Raquel Fernandini
Alberto Gonzalez
Carmen Gonzalez
Carmen Groff
Virginia Harris, R.N.
Judy Hollinger, R.N.
Gloria Maldonado
Margarita Martinez de Ayala
Maria Mercado Cordero
Patricia Moyer, R.N.
Maria Magdalena Pagan Perez
Emma Ponce de Ramat
Luis Quintana Lopez
Doris Rivera Matias, R.N.
Gudelia Rivera
Teresa Rivera
Isabelita Soto
Ana Torres Crespo

SURGERY

Shirley Fike
Amalia Torres Crespo
Luz Esther Perez Pagan
Mildred Rivera
Carmen Tollinchi de Ramos

PUBLIC HEALTH

Edith Marin
Ofelia Rodriguez

DENTAL DEPARTMENT

Jerry McKimmy, D.D.S.
Maria Esther Torres de Ramos

PHARMACY

Isabel Borrero
Violet Harris de Crespo, R.N.

MEDICAL RECORDS

Noelia Torres de Ramos

SOCIAL WORK

Jose Alvarez Acosta

LABORATORY AND X-RAY

Graciela Echevarria
Maybelle Groff
Paul Henry
Lowell Moyer

DIETARY DEPARTMENT

Catalina Camuy Mendez
Gladys Camuy de Cruz
Ana Rosa Echevarria Martinez
Providencia Lamboy de Medina
Maria Luisa Mercado
Isabel Miranda
Abel Pagan Quintana
Maria Rivera
Luz Maria Virola de Velez
Judith Wolf

MAINTENANCE

Jay Coy
Juan Antonio Rivera Pagan
Antonio Rivera Torres

LAUNDRY

Antonio Justiniano
Monserrate Lamboy
Cristina Martinez
Maria Martinez

HOUSEKEEPING

Emiliano Gonzalez
Juan Hilario Perez
Laura Torres Rodriguez
Rosa Vales

BUSINESS OFFICE

Myriam Ruiz de Porrás
Treasurer
Myrna Frau de Casta
Raquel Lopez Rodriguez
Dolores Serrano Caraballo
Maximina Torres de Rivera
Gaberto Velez Virola

PURCHASING

Pedro Bengochea
Everett Groff

OTHER SERVICES

Marie H. Brubaker
Nathan Leopold
Burt Wolf

Juan now, there are several stop-over places for us mountain people.

Felix Spector is now Chief (there are no Incians) on the Island of Anguilla, Two hundred miles east of San Juan. As an O.D. he could not get a license here in P.R. so he took this opportunity when it appeared. The people (several thousands of them) are happy to have a doctor on the island and he seems to be enjoying his work. He has left a standing invitation to visit and explore the miles of uncombed beaches. Several of hope to take him up on this.

SOME MAY COME AND SOME MAY GO BUT WE GO ON FOREVER! We being:

The Groffs Everett is still purchasing agent for the hospital and Elsa director of nurses. They have also both been active as deacons in the church, and serving on the Community Recreation Committee. Their biggest contribution to the community lately is their eldest daughter. Janice is doing a bang up job of teaching English in the local high school. She's only banged up a few, but the rest have caught on that she means business. Fortunately she has a new principal with whom to work, who is interested in having school for real. Ricky, tall dark and handsome, is a senior this year and one of Janice's students. Can you imagine? Carmen is home this year and one of the hospital's employees--ward clerk. We're never sure if the guitar strains that float over the acerola hedge are from hers or Rick's guitar. Twelve year old Daniel, an orphan boy, is a part of the family since May.

The Other Groffs Everett's Brother Forest was here a few years ago and now his brother, Wayne, has settled in our community. Well not really settled down, but as active as ever. He drives a cat for the government on the western part of the island, plus becoming May Conklin's husband and undernourished Little Reinoldo's father. May found him in the pedi ward. She takes him home (home being Homer Burke's house) each day after her work in the lab, and parks him in the hospital or with friends during her working day.

The Forbes John and Chela and two year old Mel live in San Juan during the week--John is studying this year at the U. of P.R.--in the field of public health and social service. Lena and Gandhi are still here in Castañer where Gandhi is a fourth grader. John gets out many week ends, for instance for the laying of the cornerstone of the Coop Supermarket.

The Shenks Learning the Italian language must have stood Ellis in good stead, judging from the rapidity with which he has learned Spanish. He even looks a bit Latin so fits in well as administrator. Carolyn is an old timer from way back. Their four beautiful blonde children dont look Latin but they sound like it already. Suzanne and Todd are in school and Krystal stays home and helps chase fearless little Jolynn. For Those to whom it isn't obvious, Carolyn is kept busy with her family plus all the little extra things that come up. Oh, Oh! Word has leaked out that she decorates cakes beautifully and where are more cakes required than at Castañer.

The Fikes Don continues in this and that and the other thing and I double here and there as usual. Seems to me he serves as mayor of Castañer without either the prestige or the salary, neither of which is important of course, as all good humble, hardworking, aren't really but appear to be, self-sacrificing Brethren know! Wanda and Doug are full time students and Wendy is a full time two year old. Wanda graduated sixth grade magna cum laude. You who have been here remember the great fuss over graduations here. There'll be no yap left by the time she graduates from college.

GONE

- Bonnie Cervone Our Bonnie's in Europe a working
Our Bonnie went over the sea,
The song that drifts off from the office
Is "Bring Back my Bonnie to Me".
In BVS another year,
To serve the human race;
Her desk continues vacant still,
For who could ever take her place.
- Miriam Oliver Readin' and writin' and 'rithmetic
But not taught to the tune of a hickory stick.
But rather, encouraging, urging and leading
To teach them spelling and math and reading.
To an Iowan school did she then depart
To use her fine mind and her tender heart.
From our lives we cannot expect to erase her;
Why! It took two teachers to try to replace her.
- Ed Myer I think that I shall never see
An orderly as good as he!
We're poorer here since he has gone
To study medicine in San Juan.
The surgery suite is not the same
The men in five still call his name.
The kids in diapers still lament
In spite of every pin he bent.
- Roberta Albin Some folks stay is simply short
But hers was short and sweet.
She's the kind that anyone
Would be pleased to meet.
The teaching staff in Wichita
Attempted to induct her
Instead of a nurse she soon will be
A clinical instructor

Warren and Rosalett Heffron are among the missing. Can you imagine a Chief of Staff going into a residency? Is there something to learn after two years in Castañer? Albuquerque got them. Have you read the book Where is Rosalie? I think of that title every time there is a job to be done. The offspring of their Siamese cats are still seen about the community. Kimberly adopted five year old Wanda for her sister. Wanda is a little blind girl who made great strides with the Heffrons, along with Miriam's help. Then Kara Lynn was born, an exact duplicate of Kimberly.

Ray and Carol Slaubaugh? They with Kim and Ryan are getting involved in administration at Garfield Park Hospital in Chicago. It will be something like Castañer, with the Burkes and Clara Walters nearby in a Public Health unit. Ray helped to iron out enough problems here that he should be well fitted for the job ahead. Garfield ran out of money--that's happened often enough here so he should know just how to proceed! Carol, since you aren't here to play the organ for the Episcopal Church, they are loaning it to our high school glee club.

Phil and Sandra Ark are in San Juan where Phil is taking a residency in oral surgery and Sandra is working as an anesthetist at Doctor's Hospital. That leaves us with one less trumpet and one less organist. It's not so bad, though when people move only three hours away. With the Arks, Smiths, and Lichty in San

The Moyers Lowell is in the lab and Pat is in the hospital as in the last Newsletter. Now their rather large family, previously cats and dogs, includes little two month old Matthew. They adopted him when he was just a week old. So far he hasn't seemed to slow them down much--they are great beachers. They also sing in the Community Chorus (whatever part we are weak on). They live in what used to be Casa Larga at the old hospital site.

GOING BUT NOT YET GONE

The Millers Larry's belief that there is no minor surgery, just minor surgeons, has developed him into our major surgeon. (The scrub nurse should know) They have had a trip to S. America and one to Mexico, plus many short ones as they live forty minutes away from the hospital in the Dick Lewis house. Sharon is the nurse at the clinic there. It appears they'll need to look for a substitute in December when the baby arrives. Knowing Sharon, she probably won't need much time off, but they usually keep them at least two days in the hospital. Maybe she'll manage it over a week end.

The Weddles Joe, who became our very excellent anesthesiologist, has been demoted to Chief of Staff. We try not to hold it against him--he still has friends in the O.R. who collect empty I.V. bottles for his root beer still (he says its root). Glenna has been kept busy packing and unpacking during their three moves. Cute little Mary, unwanted by her parents but wanted by Weddles, is two. Susan is an eager first grader. Little Philip, about a month old, has been taken into the family and all rejoice with the son.

The Huffmans Harold's interest in obstetrics has been quite productive. He delivered a cute little fellow one week and took him home the nest. So dark Doug became Donna's little brother just like that. Flexible Barbara adjusted well to the short notice. Barbara is in charge of the church music and for a while helped in the project housing. We're hoping the Huffmans will extend their stay as the Millers and Weddles did.

The Sotos Brendt married Lindolfo Soto and lives here in the community. They are building a house on his father's farm. Grandma Soto keeps their baby girl during Brenda's working hours. She has recently taken over O.P.D. where her organizational ability should stand her in good stead. They just returned from a trip to the states.

The Coys So far that is just Jay. I left him until last because he is least--but only in number. He's the busy behind-the-scenes man whose job of keeping things running smoothly is a thankless one, not terribly exciting but awfully important. Just having someone in maintenance as capable as he, ought to be enough, but we get a bonus, he's also a great guy.

VISITOR WORKERS

Glenna Weddle

Visiting us last December was Dr. D.L. Abbott, a general practitioner from Kern City, Cal. He spent the week here working in the hospital. A visit that was short but sweet.

Also here at the same time was Dr. A. Watson Miller, a general surgeon from Herrin, Ill. Dr. Miller's month here was considered all too short by most of us. He was a fine surgeon and also had many other interests. It was not uncommon to see him surrounded by others, taking part in discussions on almost any subject. Most of came away from him with some new insights and a great many Millerisms.

This year we have had four medical students working in preceptorships. From April to June we had A. James Bennett from the Univ. of Missouri. Jim was here by himself for a few weeks and was then joined by his wife, Theodora, 'Teddy', and his four old son, Jay. Everyone was appreciative of the volumes of typing done by Mrs. Bennett.

From the school of Osteopathy and Surgery at Kirksville, Missouri, came Russ Gamber. Russ was our traveler. He has been spending short periods of time in projects and work camps from the Virgin Islands, through Hawaii, Hongkong, to Africa. We all had a good time with him and enjoyed hearing of his experiences. We hope Castañer was one of his good ones.

Robert Schiffner from the Univ of S. Cal. Medical school in Los Angeles spent most of the summer here. Bob could usually be found in the lab looking at various types of parasites, etc. It seems he had a special interest for these microscopic little creatures. It wasn't uncommon to see Bob jogging off on some jaunt. The culmination of his stay was a 'Come as You Are' party. Caught in a rather precarious state of attire was our Chief of Staff, our Director of Nurses, and the wife of our administrator. Bob was given a good send-off, culminating in his being escorted to the river for a brief wet farewell.

John Scoltock, a junior from the Univ. of Iowa Medical school, and his wife, Lori, a librarian, came just this month. He has a great interest in all aspects of the work here. His enthusiasm and willingness to work has impressed us all. February will come all too soon.

Dr. Jane Skillen was with us for one week in early April. Dr. Skillen consulted with the medical staff. Her vast knowledge concerning tb was very helpful. We hope to see her soon again.

Dr. Delbert D. Blickenstaff worked as a general practitioner for a month this summer. With him were his wife and two of his teen age children. Also with the family was their exchange student from Sweden. Gunar was a real hit with the project, as was the entire family. While Dr. Blickenstaff assumed his medical duties, his family assisted in reorganizing our Medical Record Dept. One of the things we'll always remember was Del's birthday party. We hope to hear again of this wonderful family.

Jenny Baughman, after spending one summer working at El Guacio, came to Castañer this summer. Jenny was a real help in our laboratory. She was one of us for her stay. We were all quite envious when she took a Windjammer trip through the Caribbean. It was a sad parting when Jenny finally left in September to resume her college work.

Ruth Slaubaugh spent most of the summer visiting with her brother, Ray and his family. Ruth was a great help with all of the time she put in at the office. It was refreshing to hear some new ideas and opinions in politics which Ruth shared with us. No dull moments with Ruth around!

Bruny Mercado spent a month on the nursing staff while visiting her family. The 'Old-timers' were glad to see her back again. We all share the sentiment that one month isn't long enough for her visit. Good wishes to her as she continues her studies in Goshen, Ind.

Karen Townsend was back after an absence of several years. Many were glad to hear news of her family. Her father was administrator of the project for several years. She filled a much needed spot as translator for some of the newly arrived doctors.

Dr. Jon Wigert of Illinois arrived in Castañer last January for his two years of alternative service. Jon graduated from the Univ. of Miss. Medical school in 1964. Being our only 'bachelor doctor', Jon comes in for a lot of good-natured kidding, which he takes very kindly. Being a conscientious worker, Jon can usually be found in or near the hospital most any time--morning, noon, or night.

Virginia Harris is our addition to the nursing staff this year. She is an R.N. from Springfield, Missouri. We wouldn't know what to do without Virginia to watch our kids, keep the president of the Camera Club on schedule, to lend a vital spark to our project activities, and always be willing to leave any meeting or her bed to answer the call for a nurse.

We were certainly glad to welcome Burton and Judy Wolf this past August. Burt splits his time teaching the older project children and working with the Youth Recreation Program of the Castañer Community Center. Judy, a graduate dietician is a welcome addition to our hospital staff. Everyone has been extremely pleased at the progress she has made in the menus and kitchen efficiency.

Dr. and Mrs. James Hollinger (Judy) and children Craig and Caryn joined the staff this past July. In addition to Jim's various duties at the hospital, he will also be in charge of the Pharmacy. Judy, an R.N., is helping out by taking surgery calls and typing medical records. We also understand that Jim has a bit of builder or carpenter in him. It seems he is making, with the help of a chisel, hammer etc., a rather large hole in the wall of his house. It's not so bad really, just another door.

Marie Brubaker from La Verne, Cal. is our 'jack of all trades'. She teaches the younger project children at the English school, teaches English to some of the Puerto Rican nurses, has charge of the housekeeping department, and is the chairman of the editorial committee for this Newsletter. Consciously or unconsciously, I believe Marie fulfills the 'Mother 'mage' for so many of us who are away from our own homes and families. We are glad to say La Verne's loss is our gain.

Dr. and Mrs. Dohn Kruschwitz (Clarice) and son Kyle, are new arrivals since July. Dohn and Clarice are both graduates of McPherson College. Dohn had just completed a year of internship and a year of residency in Iowa before coming here. With other duties, Dohn is also serving as Chief of Anesthesiology. Clarice contributes her time and energies in playing the organ for church. She also makes an excellent Retreat chairman.

Dr. and Mrs. Jerry McKimmy (Anne), our new dentist and his wife are here from Michigan. Anne had previously been a high school German teacher, but now spends most of her time with their new son, Christopher. Jerry seems fully adapted to the Dental Office and has a full schedule every day. On Wednesdays he packs up his equipment and goes to the away clinics with the medical team. We are thankful to have him.

Paul Henry from Chicago, our most recently arrived volunteer, began his work here with the maintenance staff in October and did well. But when Neftali Valentin, our x-ray man, decided to go back to school to finish his training, Paul was called to this department to help. He responded eagerly.

Those who have come and those who have gone deserve our thanks for the valuable contributions they have made to Hospital Castañer.

The nursing department includes many distinct areas, such as,-- the in-patient area, surgery, clinics and out-patient area to mention a few. One of the most interesting areas, and one that poses a big challenge to a conscientious nurse, is the Out-Patient Department, commonly called OPD. Here the patient receives treatment for injuries or illnesses that do not require hospitalization, or in our unique situation, when all the beds are in use! There are special days of the week for persons who are receiving treatment for tuberculosis and diabetes, for prenatal and post-partum care, well-baby clinic and family planning clinic.

A typical day in OPD may begin something like this. Patients are prepared to see the doctor and their vital signs and complaints charted in the OPD records. They await their turns to be seen by the doctor, and then they return to the nurse in charge for treatment.

" Brenda, will you soak this girl's hand while I check this man's stitches?" comes the call of the first doctor to enter the clinic.

A few minutes later, "Well, you may take these stitches out and then in fifteen minutes dress that girl's cut".

There are orders for several people to have blood drawn and urine specimens sent to the lab and to return to the doctor for final diagnosis and treatment. While I'm giving several injections and applying TB screening tests, the clinic door will open and a nurse's aide calls, "Hurry, bring the litter. There's a woman in labor at the emergency entrance".

So we drop everything and run to assist the woman into the clinic. She's a gravida eight, having very strong pains, so the doctor checks her immediately and says, "She's fully dilated, but the baby's lying sideways. Hurry, take her to x-ray for a final check, notify the floor of an admission, notify surgery of an immediate Ceasarean section, and bring the spinal anesthesia tray to x-ray for me".

So off to the race. However, no sooner had we gotten her to x-ray and I was on my way to notify the surgery department, than a volunteer worker in the lab comes running out calling, "Where's the emergency OB pack? We just had a baby on the x-ray table!"

Well soon things calm down and we go with our usual treatments, instruction, and citas,--all in a day(s work for the nurse in OPD.

MEET OUR NURSING STAFF

Ofelia Rodrigues, R.N. , has been with us seventeen years. She is a Public health nurse now.

Shirly Fike, R.N. has been working part time for four years as supervisor of the operating room.

Pat Moyer, R.N. has been working with us for three years.

Brend Soto, R.N. came as a BVSer and liked it so well that she stayed. She's been with us two years and is now in charge of OPD.

Carmen Delores Cortes, R.N. has been with us for over a year. She was granted a Bethany scholarship and is a member of the local Brethren Church.

Doris Rivera, R.N. has been with us for over a year. She is from Yahuecas.

Virginia Harris, R.N. is a BV Ser and has been with us for a year.

Elena Brebon, R.N. 1968 graduate of Ponce District joined our staff last month. She is from Limoni.

We are also very proud of the folks who have worked with us in the past. Titi Gonzales received her diploma from graduate nursing this year. Hilda Quintana in in her second year degree program of nursing at the Catholic University. Bruni Mercado is working on her B.S. in nursing at Goshen.

SEVEN LITTLE.....SIXLITTLE..FIVE LITTLE...SIX LITTLE VOLUNTEERS Virginia Harris

This past year has brought quite a change in the number of volunteers. When I arrived the first part of last December, the total number was seven. In just a few months we started losing some and in six months the number was two, but not for long. By the middle of September our number was back up to five and the arrival of Paul Henry makes us six.

Even though we have various types of work we get together for play. On occasional weekends we have gone to one of the many beaches here in Puerto Rico. Or we shop in San Juan or climb one of the many near-by mountains. We've also gone swimming in the cool refreshing mountain pools. Sometimes we've even gone to one of the near-by towns to see a movie for fifty cents.

It hasn't been hard for most of us to adjust to such a nice place with many more comforts of home than we had expected. Puerto Rico is fast getting many of the conveniences of the states. We still need good telephone service. The climate is ideal in this valley--never too hot or too cold. Most days are like a beautiful breezy summer day in Indiana. The only thing that might interfere with outdoor plans is the rain which you can count on just about every afternoon, lasting only a few hours.

Our biggest problem in adjusting has been the language barrier. Most of us came down here not knowing any Spanish, so the first thing we did was to make a bee-line to Spanish classes. With the help of textbooks and the helpful Puerto Ricans who get a kick out of encouraging, and correcting our errors, we've very slowly learned the essentials of the language. This is needed to do our work and helps us know our fellow workers better. The Soken Language isn't our only way of learning to know the Puerto Ricans better. We play and worship with them. Even though you may not understand the language spoken, you know that you are all worshipping the one true God and are all His sons through Jesus Christ.

If there are any of you, young or old, who would like to give some of your time and talent in service, and gain more than you give, Puerto Rico's the place. Just contact the Elgin office and watch the numbers change to seven....eight... and who knows how many little volunteers!



No, we're not remodeling the facilities--just repairing and rearranging the old. The onset of problems, according to the maintenance department, began upon the arrival of our new dietician, Judy Wolf. She recently completed her dietetic internship at the Univ. of Mich. Medical Center after graduating from Manchester College. She is here with her husband, Burt, for two years of service.

In the two months since their arrival, the kitchen has changed considerably. During serving time, you'll find an 'up-to-date' assembly line at work. With the aid of the newly repaired steam table, the food is now arriving at the patient's bedside at the proper temperature. New dishes are also appearing in the way of unusual desserts, such as cherry cobbler, ice cream and pudding. In some of these we used up some of the long standing supplies in the storeroom. The first evidences of a more elaborate diet therapy program are beginning to show in the form of a kitchen patient cardex, similar to the one used by nursing, and the presence of the dietician on grand rounds. These may appear to be minor advances but more coming.

A new employee has also appeared who was given the title of head butcher. Yes, Burt Wolf was drafted for the weekly job because of his skill and experience in the field.

Overall, the women in the kitchen have been very kind and cooperative toward this young intruder in their kitchen, and personal relations are developing to such an extent that future plans for patient and comedor meal improvement look very hopeful.

Dental Department News

Jerry McKimmy

"Tiene dolor? Que es la problema?" are the questions posed to fifteen to twenty patients a day by Dr. Jerry McKimmy.

He began a two year term of service early in July. He is a graduate of the Univ. of Mich. School of Dentistry.

The dental clinic is open Saturday morning and eight hours on weekdays except Wednesdays. On that day the doctor totes a portable army surplus dental chair to the various away clinics for a day of open-air dentistry. A variety of dental work is done here, including much oral surgery, dentures, cleaning teeth, fillings, etc. There is as well some opportunity for crown and bridge, orthodontic and root canal work. Maria Ester Torres is developing into an able assistant. Mrs. Jacob Christ recently donated money in honor of her husband, for dental equipment. An autoclave, x-ray illuminator, operator's stool, model trimmer and dental cabinets were purchased. There is still need for gold foil and endodontic instruments.



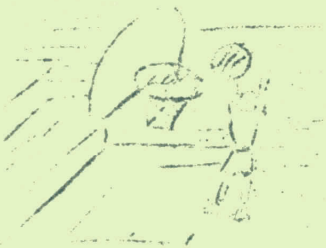
In the community development aspect of the Castañer project a new volunteer has been working for past few months. His name is Burt Wolf and he is here for a two year stint with his wife, Judy.

While the job description is somewhat nebulous, the general limits of the recreation center are ones that seem to definitely need some work and attention. In this respect, a local sponsoring committee has not met for some time, and upon his arrival no one was even as much as turning on the lights for recreation at the concha. Weeds had pretty well conquered most of the ground around the long, yellow barracklike structure that serves as the center. The same was true of the ball park. Activity was non-existent.

Since then progress has been slow but there are definitely some signs of movement in a forward direction. By simply getting some of the fellows of the community to make phone calls to Ponce, we have gotten the Department de Parques y Recreos of Puerto Rico to cut some of the weeds (some are too tall to cut) and to replace some of the large bulbs in the stadium lights.

As a part of this program of regrowth and development, we have had one ball game with another city. We have also seen that there is some kind of activity at the center almost every night such as volleyball, four square, soccer, softball, etc. In addition to this there has been some interest shown by a few of the fellows in learning to wrestle and a few of the girls in having a Saturday afternoon recreation day for 'girls only'.

We are hoping that in the very near future we can get an adult sponsoring group to begin meeting again and to provide funds necessary for equipment and activities in the center. Ideas for the future include tournaments, movies, frequent outings with the boys and workdays designed to clean up and fix up the center. Actually the new volunteer doesn't really have many new ideas. He is interested in reviving the old ones. It's fun. It's depressing, it's rewarding and it's frustrating, but it's promising.



The (organized) Church has received its share of unkind remarks lately. However, many of the remarks are only half-truths which closer scrutiny reveals to be less dangerous than they first appeared.

It is possible that you have recently heard a remark being circulated about the Castañer Church. Yes, it's true! The local church is 'plastered'. But it's all by the decision of the local congregation and the concerted effort and initiative of a few local men. The result is a new 'face' for the entire church building, inside and out--classrooms, sanctuary, office kitchen and parsonage. The enthusiasm generated by this project may even overflow into a painting campaign.

Another new face of the church (people) is less obvious than the above and not to be seen by simply driving into the community. It is evident in the increased number of local members accepting positions of responsibility in the congregation. The participation of several young adults who have returned with professional preparation as teachers, nurses, etc., has added some new dimensions to our corporate life. The surge of the new initiative, new ideas and carry-through infused into their participation as members of the official board, church school officers and teachers gives a new quality and meaning to our worship and a sense of urgency to the utilization of our Christian resources for growth.

Some of this new verve was manifest in the planning and executing of a surprise welcome-home for the pastor's family on their return from vacation in the States. Drama, music, recitations and spontaneous informal speeches added spice to the event.

Earlier in the summer the congregation had gathered for a similar occasion--an evening of recalling old times as Homer and Marguerite Burke were given a warm welcome back to the community and congregation. After 'retiring' here several years ago, Dr. and Mrs. Burke returned to Nigeria to develop and direct a public health program. Only a few short weeks after their welcome back to Puerto Rico, this continued interest in public health took them away again--this time to serve in a new clinic fostered by Bethany Hospital in Chicago' near west side. Renewed fellowship with them was an enjoyable but brief experience.

An exciting first this summer was a children's camp at a Roman Catholic retreat center near Arecibo. It really was an experiment in ecumenicity--the site is normally used for Roman Catholic lay-training courses. Castañer's Episcopal priest established the contact, obtained permission for our use of the facility and later helped us with transportation of the children. Some of the helpers were also from other churches in our community. It was an unusual opportunity! Another of the new faces of the Church.



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