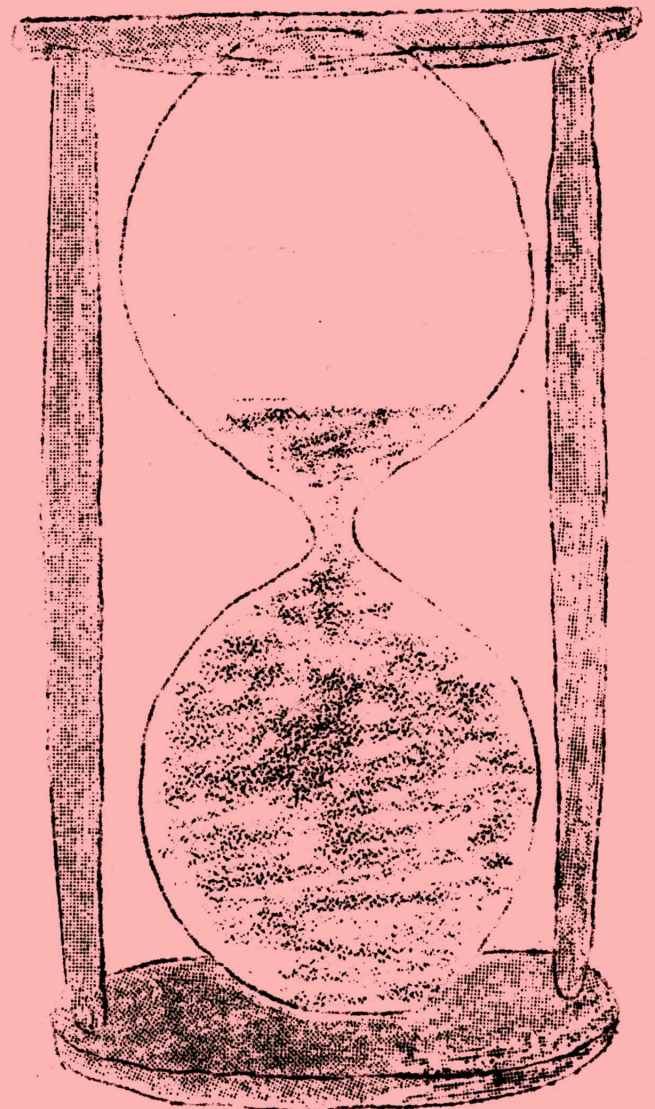


20 YEARS



CASTAÑER NEWSLETTER TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

BRETHREN SERVICE PROJECT CASTAÑER, PUERTO RICO

AUGUST 31, 1962

VOL. 17 NO. 1

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

HIGHLIGHTS AND MILESTONES

MARTIN G. BRUMBAUGH RECONSTRUCTION UNIT, P.R. & V.I.

AND

BRETHREN SERVICE PROJECT, CASTAÑER, P.R.

- 1942 April Dr. Andrew W. Cordier investigates possibilities for establishing C.P.S. camps in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
- June 16 David and Janine Blickenstaff arrive to develop organizational aspects of setting up the Martin G. Brumbaugh Reconstruction Unit with governmental agency officials.
- August 2 Dr. Daryl Parker arrives with Elmer E. Hartzler, Paul M. Weaver, Frederick E. Kidder and Lawrence Moore.
- August 9 Dr. Carl Coffman arrives with George E. Mason, Daniel Boehm, Alden C. Douglass, Howard E. Sollenberger, Dwight L. Hanawalt, William P. Coston, and George E. Furse.
- October 2 Mrs. Daryl Parker arrives with Donald and Robert.
- 1943 March 5 Dr. Franklin Cassel and Peggy arrive, beginning the second (and continuing, through the years) influx of Stateside personnel.
- May William Coston goes to La Plata to begin recreational and Community Center work.
- July 19 La Plata Project opens - Mennonite Central Committee
Zaldondo Project opens - American Friends Service Committee
- | | | |
|----------|----------------------|-------------|
| Sept. 12 | Elmer Hartzler | |
| Sept. 26 | Isaac Harvey Horner | In Memoriam |
| Nov. 26 | Elzie Ray Holderread | |
- 1944 January Brethren open project on St. Thomas --- Social, Psychiatric and Community Center Work.
- May Friends open project on St. Croix --- Recreation, Social and Public Health Work.
- 1945 Castañer Consumers Cooperative organized.
- March 1 Castañer Post Office opens, Julia M. de Maldonado, Postmaster.
First shipment of Heifer Project cattle arrive. Project opens program aimed at improving local dairy cows, teaching better methods of animal husbandry, and furnishing milk for Project use.
- 1946 Dr. Homer Burke negotiates buying of land for the construction of three permanent residences--- Walter Keiser in charge
- 1947 Land acquired from PRRA at Llinás for purpose of rebuilding and expanding the hospital facility there.
- 1948 February Local congregation of the Church of the Brethren organized as a result of interest on part of several employees and other local people.
- August 23 Brethren Academy opens---opening high school classes to graduates of local ninth grade.
- November Dr. Everett B. Myer begins tour of duty serving at new Adjuntas Health Center.

- 1949 March 3 Project move from Rábanos to Llinás consummated.
 March 13 Fiftieth Anniversary of Protestantism in Puerto Rico, celebrated in Ball Park, San Juan.
 October 2 First Brethren baptism in Puerto Rico -- Rio Guayo -- five converts.
 November Vanilla Coop. closes---forced out by low prices on World Market.
- 1950 March New Project organization (by departments) and policy adapted.
- 1951 June First class graduated from 12th grade, Brethren Academy.
- 1952 March Poor coffee crops have increased demand for Material Aid--- handled through the local Church.
 August Dr. Burke takes stock after Ten Years; makes a formal report in Spanish to the Evangelical Council (in November). Also, a summary in February 1953 Brethren Service News.
- 1953 June 26 Cerrote Work Camp---Construction of Clinic and School buildings.
 August School opens at Cerrote
- 1954 January Cerrote Clinic opens
 June Second Cerrote Work Camp---Road improvement to Cerrote and building improvement.
- 1956 Ceramics Industry started---Thomas Dolby, prime mover.
 Dental Services offered --- Dr. Carl Friesen
 August P.R. Dept. of Public Instruction opens Castañer High School (in Academy buildings)
 September 4 Castañer Credit Cooperative chartered.
- 1957 March Community Recreation Council chartered.
 August Castañer High School opens in new building near Community Center.
 August 18 Fifteenth Anniversary of Brethren Service Project, with Gov. Muñoz Marín and other dignitaries.
- 1958 Plans crystallize for New Hospital Construction.
 December 15 Construction begins on New Hospital at site of the former Vanilla Plant.
- 1959 February Sanctuary of the Castañer Church of the Brethren dedicated
 March 8 Cornerstone of New Hospital laid---W. Harold Row, Doña Inez de Muñoz Marín, Rep. Luis Capistany, etal.
- 1960 New Baptist Church Building completed.
 May 22 'Hospital Castañer' dedicated---Gov. Muñoz, W. Harold Row, and others.
 July 29 Health Services activities transferred from Llinás location to New Hospital.
 August 12 Castañer Health Cooperative signs Articles of Incorporation.
 November Castañer Consumers Cooperative moves into its new self-service supermarket building.
 December Brethren Service Project dairy liquidated.

- 1961 July Local offices of Agricultural Extension Agent and Home Economist open.
- July 16 First '2nd generation' doctor begins service in Castañer Hospital Dr. Donald Parker.
- 1962 August 10 ---TWENTY YEARS later. Dr. Parker's second son, Robert, arrives for term of service on medical staff.
- Sept. 4 First time Castañer Hospital has had a 'three-doctor full time' staff, with the arrival of Dr. Galen Wampler.
- Sept. Castañer Health Cooperative expects to begin offering services to premium-paying members.

Complied by Caleb Frantz

NOTE TO WRITERS AND HISTORIANS

It is not too soon to think about writing a 'history of Brethren Service operations in Castañer, P.R.', possibly aiming at the 25th Anniversary (1967) as publication time, and perhaps coinciding with a hoped-for turning-over of the Hospital to the community as a final step in indigenous operation and control. Numerous documentary materials exist at Castañer and in Elgin. Anyone needing to do a dissertation in the social sciences? Contact Caleb Frantz, Director

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MEMORIES

By Robert Parker

Last week we went for a walk down ground the original site of the Castañer Project. It was fun to show Carolyn, my wife, the places and buildings that I remembered and to talk about the time I spent here as a boy.

There was the Casa Grande---memories came back of living on the second floor and waking up with our rooms full of charcoal smoke drifting down the hall from the kitchen. Out in front was the cement coffee drying area where my brother, Don, and I learned to skate. Nearby, the coffee mill and old sugar mill are still standing, but not in use. The smell of the 'lechón asado' that used to be roasted out in the open between the two buildings is still vivid.

At the site of the original hospital all that remains of many of the buildings are the cement pillars they once stood on---pillars that were poured by the fellows who came down here in that first unit. A lot of work was put into those first buildings to make a hospital. There are still chickens running around the pillars, laying eggs in any sheltered place---many were the times we found them then, and would "sell" them to the kitchen like the Puerto Rican boys did. The Community Center, the lab building, the school, and what used to be the cannery are still here. But the bunk house is gone, along with its infamous fire extinguishers---ones that would give the owner the upper hand in most water fights! Old syringes were handy water guns also, and George Mason's head through an open lab window was a tempting target until he up-ended us in a barrel of water!

Down the road is the house we lived in after moving out of the Casa Grande. It doesn't look too different, but nearby is Castañer's first filling station. The brand new pumps and fluttering flages bring us back to the present with a jolt.

Things have changed in Castañer Valley. There are many new buildings and new faces. Of all these changes, the brand new hospital stands out the most. Here is where I've come to serve, twenty years after my first encounter with Castañer. It's great to be back.

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20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

By Elsa Groff

On the afternoon of August 16, we all met in the Hospital dining room to celebrate and commemorate the twenty years our hospital has been functioning. The room had been decorated with native flowers and fruits beautifully arranged by Mrs. Burke. Dr. Burke was the Master of Ceremonies. Sr. Ernesto Casta, a community resident since the early days of the project, was our main speaker giving us a brief historical remembrance of Project events since 1942. That year the first Continentals arrived in Castañer full of enthusiasm and love for their neighbors and wanting to help mankind.

Guests of honor were chosen from our personnel that have given ten to twenty years of service to the hospital. Ofelia Rodriguez greeted the honored employees by pinning a corsage on each of them. Caleb Frantz had the honor of addressing and giving recognition to them. The following persons were given 10, 15, or 20 year awards:

Monserrate Lamboy	20-year award in laundry	Idaly Cordero	10-year award in hosp.
Maria Martinez	20-year award in laundry	Victor Fernandini	10-year award in Fondo
Dionisio Torres	20-year award in farm	Carmen Gonzalez	10-year award in hosp.
Ernesto Diaz	15-year award in hospital	Ofelia Rodriguez	10-year award as nurse
Wilma Forbes	15-year award in nursing	Manuel Vales	10-year award in kitchen
Monserrate Torres	15-year award in hospital	Tefel Vera	10-year award in hosp.
Gladys Camuy	10-year award in hospital		

Wilma Forbes and Dr. Burke added spice to the program by reminiscing on some of the humorous experiences of many who were present. Some guests and old friends of the Project added some stores, too, bringing laughter from all gathered there.

Refreshments were served giving us an opportunity to gather informally and continue with our reminiscing of the past and to talk of the future.

Let us look forward now to twenty years more of work, cooperation and accomplishments in our new comfortable and modern hospital, with both Puerto Ricans and Continentals serving hand in hand in this laborious and challenging task of healing the sick.

PERSONNEL CHANGES

By Joyce Parker

Now let's catch you up on our "project family" briefly! We learn, share, work, play, and worship together---in day by day living, but different than most families we switch members frequently as you can see by the following count down.

Last winter the Butlers (who were in charge of the farm) left to farm in Kansas with their adopted Linda. Deanna Denton, a BVS nurse, was married in the U.S. in June to a volunteer that she met from another project on the island. This summer the Smiths returned to the States for a year leave of absence. The Kurtzs went back to teaching at Defiance College in Ohio and Winnie (Joseph) and David Toledo are going to McPherson for his college studies. The Millers returned to Ohio to set up his new dental practice.

Now for the introductions. Meet the Toms, Ann and Phil who are working (respectively) as Medical Records Secretary and Maintenance Man. They are from Northern Indiana where he went to Manchester and she became a beautician. Come December there will be three Toms!

(Con't.)

Personnel Con't.

Clara Rae Walters is a BVS nurse. From Nappanee, Ind., she went to Goshen College School of Nursing and after a summer at camp went into BVS. She is temporarily taking charge of the Pharmacy.

Mr. and Mrs. O. Glen Kindy from Middlebury, Indiana, are here as visitor-workers to serve for one year. They have retired and he is now in charge of maintenance and she in charge of guest housing both at the old project site.

To carry the dental program for a year is Doctor Sonia Findlay. She has worked in a research program on orthodontia in England and has traveled widely in the world, coming most recently from Texas.

Ray (an Elgin original) and Carol (a Nappanee original) Slaubaugh have come from Toledo, Ohio. They both attended Manchester where Ray graduated in Business. Ray is Treasurer and Carol is Accounting Secretary and in charge of Personnel Housing.

This summer Annabelle Metzler returned to Castañer to work as a nurse. She is a volunteer from Elkhart, Indiana.

A new set of Parkers has joined the Medical Staff---Bob, Carolyn, and Lynette. Bob interned in Dallas this past year after finishing Medical School at Northwestern. Both graduated from Manchester. A new little Parker will soon arrive!

Galen Wampler, a physician, came with his family the last of August. Galen, Shirley and their two children, Gayle and Christopher are from Virginia. He has been working in Montana in a U.S. Public Health Hospital. Shirley plans to work part-time in the Hospital as a nurse.

Rebecca Grossnickle is a BVSer from Myersville, Penn. She took her nursing education at the Washington Co. Hospital in Hagerstown, Md., and is a newcomer to our nursing staff.

To teach in the school for project children, Lynne Roudabush (BVSer) has come from Bel Air, Md., where she taught the second grade last year. Her home is in Johnstown, Pa., and she graduated from Elizabethtown College.

Howard (Skip) Geller from Philadelphia has taught elementary education for two years and has come to help in our Social Work program. He is a graduate of Temple University where he also took post-graduate work.

During this year we've had 2 medical students as visitor-workers---Jay Shere from Northwestern University and John Taylor from the University of Toronto. We also had three summer work-campers from the Presbyterian and Methodist work camps stay here for three weeks to help out in various departments. They are Dawn Masunaga, Phoenix, Arizona; Carol Nezzo, South Williamsport, Penn.; and Evelyn D. Rogers, Sophia, West Vir.

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IN MEMORIAM

Lita Francoise Hall, Feb. 17, 1959
Charles Russell Forbes, Sept. 1, 1960
Mark Edward Butler, July 19, 1961

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

By Ray & Carol Slaubaugh

'Twas several nights before full moon on June 14, 1962, that Ray and I arrived in Castañer Valley, and was that moon beautiful!! You should be around when the fellows try to photograph it. Weather was one of our first impressions of Puerto Rico. Days are rather warm, but the nights are always cool. Also it rarely rains in the morning; when it does it usually rains for most of the day. Night-time always brings the sound of nature's symphony: The coquí, dogs barking, etc. Morning dawns with roosters crowing loudly, birds singing and probably someone else's alarm clock ringing. That is because there are no windows, just screens and metal jalousies. Sound really gets around, hence we have few secrets.

Many canned foods are imported from the States, but those with Spanish instructions on them remind us clearly that we have to learn to read it. Meeting people always makes one wish one had been raised learning Spanish.

We appreciate the coolness of the mountains compared to the heat on the beaches. Yes, like most everybody, Ray got sunburned on the first beach trip. But it was only the top of his feet and he couldn't wear shoes for five days.

This whole area is so beautiful and green the year around. Different fruits are getting ripe almost perpetually. Of course several of these were new to us, as well as other Spanish foods---you just can't miss that rice and beans. (ha)

We were both impressed at the modern hospital we were to work in. They got us "in the groove" pretty quickly too. We don't have to look very far for work, therefore time goes quickly.

Ray has a grand time fishing---his newly acquired sport after a month and a half; and photography runs a close second. I keep occupied accompanying the youth choir at church, sewing and keeping house.

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A VISITOR-WORKER'S COMMENT

By John R. Taylor
Aurora, Ont, Canada

During the early spring of this year, I held high hopes of being in Africa during the summer months of 1962;;but little did I know that my will was not quite in accord with what was in store for me.

As a medical student completing my penultimate year at college, I wished to do some work within the medical field, partially in an attempt to justify my years spent thus far in preparation, and partially to gain some new experiences within the context of a new culture. Now, as my final summer vacation from the University draws swiftly to a close, I find that these aspirations, and many more that I failed to realize, have more than been fulfilled---not in Africa---but in Castañer, Puerto Rico.

My only regret is the brevity of my stay here. Three and a half months is too short a time to adjust adequately to a new climate, a new culture, and a completely new way of living; much too short a time to adapt an inept English mind to the Spanish tongue, and the Spanish way of thinking; and a ridiculously brief period in which to feel that I have given much of myself to the purpose of this project. But, on the otherhand, I leave for home grossly infected by all of these facets, to the extent that I am certain that part of my life must be spent back here or in an environment similar. Contrary to most infections, I hope that mine is

(con't)

Comment Con't.

contagious enough to interest some of my peers to invest one of their summers in similar work.

After an investment of such a brief time, I feel that I have reaped gains one hundred-fold and more in friendships, experience, inspiration and education, and my only dread is that the BSC may someday charge me for this. I know I would never be able to foot the bill, for my profits from this summer in Castañer I count as invaluable.

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DENTAL DEPARTMENT PROGRAM

By Sonia Findlay

Truth grows out of errors, not out of confusion. This expression can find an echo in all institutional health programs. We often busy ourselves perfecting means to realize a confusion of goals. The goals in a dental clinic service can be most frustrating.

We are very fortunate to have formulated a very simple dental health program in the dental clinic service of this hospital. We have compressed the dental program into two facets of oral health, for the adults and the children of this community:

1. The immediate dental care.
2. The educational. Oral hygiene talks in the schools and clinic.
3. The dental field-clinics.

This is an extensive project for a dental clinic comprising of one dentist and an assistant who doubles as receptionist and record keeper. This is a three-chair, well equipped dental clinic. The average clinic attendance is about 18 patients per day.

We hope to train an Oral Hygienist to carry out a program of oral health education in the schools around the hospital, chair side treatments, preliminary examinations, and X-ray work. This will enable the dentist and dentists (we hope to increase this personnel) to perform mouth rehabilitation programs for the young adults. This is an important age group who will enter the wage earning world or go on to vocational training, higher learning.

Fortunately there is a small percentage of mal-occlusion. There is, however, a large percentage of cleft cases.

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FINAL FIGURES ON HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION

By Caleb Frantz

The cost of building and equipping the new Castañer Hospital was \$558,817.02. Of this the Federal share (Hill-Burton Act funds) was \$352,618.84 or 63.1% and the owner's share was \$206,198.18 or 36.9%. A special fund campaign provided the money for the owner's share. Contributions came mostly from individuals and corporations in Puerto Rico, but a sizable amount was given by Stateside friends, including a \$25,000 grant from the Brethren Service Commission.

A three-unit housing facility is to be constructed near the Hospital beginning in the summer of 1963. These residences are for professional personnel, replacing space still used at the old hospital site, which will be sold. Funds for this construction will come from the sale of the old hospital, academy properties and from other local sources.

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MEDICAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

By Donald Parker

The medical program in 1962, while in many ways quite different from the original program of 1942, has the same purpose and primary goal that led that first group of medical workers to found the Castañer General Hospital: The tending of the ill and injured of this area with no discrimination as to ability to pay; the improvement of health and sanitation standards; the training of hospital workers of good quality; and the eventual turning over of the medical program to the Puerto Ricans themselves---all these carried on by personnel with a Christ-like desire to serve their fellowmen.

The main differences, of course, hinge on the vast expansion of medical knowledge in the past 20 years---the developing of antibiotics, polio vaccine, steroids and other drugs---as well as our fully equipped, modern new hospital. In the coming year our program should continue to expand with a medical staff consisting of three full-time M.D.s. Our surgical program which was greatly reduced this summer after Dr. Smith left, will be given a big boost by the services of two experienced surgeons on the island who have volunteered to do surgery here once or twice a month. Our services will be extended to even more people with the advent of the Medical Health Cooperative Insurance Plan.

In addition to carrying on and improving our general medical program, we on the staff have the privilege and stimulation of participating on some frontiers of medical research. Dr. Adaline Pendleton has been carrying on part of her program of testing a new intra-uterine birth control device in our hospital and has greatly reduced the number of sterilization operations we've had to do. The device is so simple and effective that it may well prove to be one of the most important solutions to the "population explosion." Last fall Nathan Leopold got the University of Puerto Rico's Medical Zoology Department interested in using our hospital for the clinical trial of new drugs against human parasites. Since then we have helped them by collecting specimens of hookworm that they use in their studies; we have tested a new and potent drug against ameba (which causes dysentery and can spread to the liver and other parts of the body), and have just started the testing of a new drug which effectively rids the body of several types of worms quite common to this area (one of which previously has only responded to other very potent, but dangerous drugs.)

We also have had a number of medical students participating in our program from two to three months at a time. Besides helping in the program, they have proved stimulating to our need for keeping up-to-date---and we feel we may have contributed something to their education and increased their appreciation of the need for dedicated, service-minded physicians.

Within the next twenty years we hope to see more and more of the program in the hands of our Puerto Rican colleagues and anticipate the day when the hospital becomes autonomous as a true community hospital.

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"The Holy Supper is kept, indeed,
In whatso we share with another's need;
Not what we give, but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare;
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three,
Himself, his hungry neighbor, and me."

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN NEWS

By Donald Fike

The normal stream of daily events continues its constant pace....More easily remembered are those activities which have possessed that something extra which makes them stand out from the usual. These we remember:

The Heraldos Melódicos again delighted the community with an open-air program of music during the 1961 Christmas season. The seven-man interdenominational musical group from Bayamon showed up Christmas eve with sore throats and apologies to the community.----The disappointment of those who ventured out that first night was neatly erased when the Heraldos returned in top shape and style on All Kings Day (night!), January 6, giving a lively and enjoyable touch to the "last day of Christmas."

1962 Holy Week: Community-wide services Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were highlighted by the inspiring presentations of Rev. Samuel J. Velez, then Protestant chaplain at the University of P.R. in Rio Piedras. His life-oriented experiences added point and practicality to his thoughts. Communion in each local church on Thursday was followed by a union Good Friday service led by Bartolomé Cotto-Reyes of Ponce. Each group was back in its own "home" for Easter Sunday services.

Like the two foregoing events, our cooperative Vacation Bible School was sponsored by the local Ministerial Association. A total of 122 children participated during the two-week period. Several felt that the unfortunate, but necessary change in dates this year (later than last) caused this drop in attendance compared with previous years. Perhaps the most marked improvement over last year was the increased participation in leadership responsibility by all sponsoring groups: Baptist, Episcopalian, Pentecostal and Brethren.

Some of the most encouraging and significant developments in our specific church "family" recently have involved the youth on both personal and group levels. José (Joe) Francisco flew to Miami and traveled by bus with Florida district youth to National Youth Conference in Estes Park. A notable burst of enthusiasm accompanied his return. Among reported sources of inspiration: Top-notch conference sessions, renewed and strengthened friendships from Alternative Service days; and newly formed acquaintances among district youth and youth leaders. (A few unreported details may also figure in!)

Several young people from our group have recently demonstrated increased initiative and maturity by enrolling in various insular universities. Two are studying in Catholic University in Ponce, one in InterAmerican in San German and another is headed with determination for entrance at InterAmerican in January.

A new sense of group unity is developing simultaneously with the growth of the youth choir. The group has found its own experience enriched as it contributes to the total worship experience of the congregation on Sunday mornings. At present there is lively interest in preparing for a "paseo" to the southern coast, including a beach trip and the presentation of a musical program in a neighbor-church in Ponce.

And there, with a hop, skip, and jump, you have the high points for this time.

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"Would any man be strong, let him work; or wise, let him observe and think; or happy, let him help; or influential, let him sacrifice and serve."

"The true values of life are not those that can be measured in dollars."

CASTAÑER HEALTH COOPERATIVA

By John Forbes

The Castañer Health Cooperative is a pre-paid health plan that is being formed with the Castañer Hospital as a nucleus of medical services. It is an independent community organization, with no ties with the hospital except those of working for the same ends and contracting with it for services. It is hoped that the co-op may be able in the future to provide a sound financial base for the hospital so that it may not only maintain its present services, even with reductions in funds from the Brethren Service Commission and possibly the island government, but also improve them and add to them.

The idea of a Health Cooperative has been considered ever since there has been a Castañer Hospital, but it was only in 1959 that a law was passed that defined the conditions for existence of such an organization. After some consultation with the government's Cooperative Development Administration and people in the community, the Articles of Incorporation were signed on September 1, 1960, and approved by the Insurance Commissioner on September 26. The share campaign, required by law to reach a total of \$10,000, began on February 1, 1961, and reached its goal on April 10, 1962. On February 16, the author began working full time for the cooperative as Administrator, and on February 25 the organizing meeting was held, electing the permanent Board of Directors and approving the By-laws and Articles of Incorporation.

The campaign to get the minimum number of paid-up subscribers, 200, began on April 7 and was completed on May 18. The cooperative then requested the inspection necessary for authorization to operate. The inspection has been completed, but the report is yet to be written and submitted to the Insurance Commissioner for final approval. When this process is completed, the cooperative will be ready to give services.

The cooperative will provide for subscribing families, couples and individuals services of clinic, hospitalization and surgery for a monthly payment of \$5.00 per family, \$4.00 per couple and \$2.50 per individual. Maternity can be included for \$.60 additional monthly. It is hoped that these low rates will attract many to the concept of health insurance who would otherwise not be able to consider it. To date, the cooperative has had a good reception, and but for the delays in becoming a reality and giving service, would have ideal public relations.

The present time in the field of health insurance is a troubled one, with repeated crises among health plans, and one may well say that the co-op is a small craft being launched on stormy seas. But with a high ideal of service to the community and a realization among community members, doctors and others of the great benefits in health services that have come and can come from Castañer, and of their responsibilities, the Castañer Health Cooperative may well play a leading role in determining the direction of health plans in Puerto Rico in the future.

SEMINAR-WORKSHOP ON LATIN AMERICA

By James Bingham

The fourth work camp in Castañer sponsored by the Church of the Brethren took place this summer July 12 to August 9. However, this year the work was all but eliminated and the emphasis was put on study---not much of a change for most of the nine participants who had just left school in June. Study in this Seminar, though, took on a variety of forms.

Our purpose was to survey as many facets of Latin America as possible in a month, to provide through a variety of experiences an introduction, specifically, to "Problems in Helpfulness Programs," which was the subject of our study outline. All of this was to take place in an atmosphere of group living and sharing.

(cont)

Seminar Con't.

Classes---about four a week---were led by such island leaders as Miguel Morales and Fred Kidder (IAU), Tom Matthews (UPR), including also ex-Project members such as Nathan Leopold and Dr. Tom Hall. Other leaders from the hospital, church, and the community at large were also called upon to share their views with us, both in formal classes and informally.

Several minor jobs were tackled, among them the cutting of weeds and small trees from the 'cancha' area, and the removing of old tin cans and garbage. For the seven girls in the group, a short task of typing book cards for the church library was much more pleasant than the hot, machete work. All pitched in and made good progress, despite a conspicuous lack of interest in helping on the part of the community people.

A number of educational and pleasure trips were made away from our home base at Llinas (the old project). These usually proved to be most interesting, and included among others such places as Cerrote, Don José's farm (and hill for a camp-out and sunrise), Marina Neighborhood House, Mayagüez, and the southwest coast, Ponce, San Juan, Yuquiyú and Luquillo, various churches and homes in Castañer, an Episcopal fiesta at Indiera Alta, and the Peace Corps Camp at Rio Abajo. In return, our own quarters were frequently visited, especially by children and young fellows who came with a variety of interests, as well as curiosity.

I think, in general, that the goals of the Seminar were realized, and I am sure that nine people went home with an enlightened and deepened appreciation of Latin America and its myriad, complex problems. It was certainly a profitable month for the director.

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CASTAÑER CREDIT UNION

By Homer L. Burke

It was in 1954 that representatives of the men's groups of several of the local churches organized the Credit Union. The original group was quite ~~small~~, but it followed the procedures as laid down by the cooperative movement and gradually the savings amounted to enough that it could called "capital" and the union was in business. Frequent educational meetings were called and visiting cooperative specialists came and counseled with the group and other persons interested.

After a few months there were enough savings that we could make our first loan. When the people saw the advantages possible of both saving and then also making loans for worthy purposes, interest increased. The Union was finally able to obtain a charter from the government on September 4, 1956, thus making the Union a legal cooperative which would be supervised and directed in the same way as any financial institution. As the savings increased it was possible to make more and more loans to the members. Many that had never had the chance of making a small loan anywhere found out what it was possible to do in order to make improvements in their homes, buy furniture and many other useful things. A few years ago the Board of Directors decided to take out life insurance on the savings and also loan insurance. Thus if a member passes away his heirs will receive twice the amount that he had in shares and any pending loans are paid up by the insurance company.

When it was estimated in the beginning that there was a possibility of 200 members, considerable doubt was expressed. However now for two years the membership has hovered a few over 200. Total assets are about \$30,000. The profits that are made after deducting expenses are credited to each member in proportion to the amount that he has in shares.

For communities economically weak there is no better way for people to learn to save money and help each other financially than through a well organized, well administered Credit Union.

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RELATIONS WITH THE MEDICAL SCHOOL

By Nathan Leopold

For several years it has seemed important to various members of the Project, and particularly to Dr. Lee Smith, that we maintain close relations with the Medical School of the University of Puerto Rico. The two institutions are in a position to be of mutual benefit, and if we are ever to hope for accreditation as a teaching hospital and for the assignment of interns, it is to the Medical School that we must look.

The first gesture made in this direction took place in July 1958, when Dr. José Maldonado of the Department of Medical Zoology requested permission to bring a group of inter-American fellows in parasitology to visit the Project and to be shown the conditions under which our neighbors live. This visit was highly successful. We were able to show the visitors parasites in our laboratory which they had rarely or never had the opportunity to see before, and we took the group to visit a number of the poorer families in Mirasol, to show them at first hand the conditions under which intestinal parasitosis flourishes.

This initial visit has led to repeat performances nearly every year. The visitors are always interested and at Castañer and the outlying barrios they have an opportunity to see the living conditions of typical jíbaro families.

The Hospital, during the years, has felt free to send to the School of Medicine specimens for analysis and diagnosis. Blood smears have been studied and reported on, as have tissue sections and other specimens which our own laboratory is not equipped to handle.

In October 1961, the Department of Parasitology was badly in need of adult hookworms and of other parasites for teaching purposes, and the head of the department, Dr. José Oliver González, requested Nathan Leopold to spend two months at Castañer finding patients with infections and collecting specimens for the department. During the two months, Leopold trained our Lab Technician, William Díaz, to carry on this work. In February 1962, the program was extended to the testing of various new drugs in the cure of infections with *entameba histolytica* and a program of casefinding, drug therapy and evaluation of results is still going forward.

During July 1962, a group of five inter-American fellows spent three days at the Project, studying the parasites found, and seeing the living conditions in the area.

The Medical School has come to regard Castañer Hospital as its rural hospital to which students are sent for demonstrations. On the other hand, the School has been helpful in providing the Hospital with sera and other injectibles, which are sometimes difficult to locate speedily in other places. The School has also furnished some equipment for use in our laboratory.

It is to be hoped that the relationship between the School of Medicine and the Project will continue and will become deeper and closer. There is every reason to believe that this will be the case.

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CASTAÑER POST OFFICE

By Julia M. Maldonado, Postmaster

About 17 years ago, the Castañer Post Office opened its doors to the public for the first time. This new Post Office was started as a fourth class one, though at the beginning, postal business was not too high. Although it was started as a small office, it was important, because it was needed to meet the demands of a population of about 3,000 people living far away from the nearer cities.

(cont)

Post Office Con't.

I as Postmaster, and the Community in general, have to be very grateful to Mr. Herman Will, who was the Director of the Brethren Service Project at that time. He worked very hard with the postal authorities, until this office could be established.

After March 1, 1945; when this office was inaugurated, it has been increasing all kind of services and business has been growing every year. After one and a half year the office was promoted to a third class one, assigning a Postal Clerk and extending services such as Postal Savings and Savings Stamp Accounts. In 1956 this office was moved to a new building of our own property, close to the "antigua Casa Grande", where it was first established.

I am very pleased to offer my services to the whole community of Castañer. I want especially to be grateful to the Brethren Service Project which through the years has been cooperating so that our Post Office could improve.

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TODA UNA VIDA

By Sr. Ernesto Casta

Hoy celebramos en la Comunidad de Castañer el Vigésimo Aniversario del Proyecto de Servicio de los Hermanos. Se dieron cita los Hermanos comenzando sus labores allá para el mes de agosto de 1942. Fecha ésta que no olvidaremos, principalmente los que aquí hemos convivido en las dos ultimas decadas.

Establecidos los Hermanos con propositos y fines altruistas al servicio de la humanidad; con atención directa al funcionamiento del Hospital General de Castañer y fomentando a la vez la educación y desarrollo económico en la comunidad.

!Cuán grandioso notar como el núcleo ha respondido y ver la realización del plan trazado con miras de servir al desarrollo creador y evolutivo de una sociedad; precisamente tomando en consideración muchos factores tales como localización, vias de comunicación, transportación, condiciones de vida, higiene, salud, viviendas, agua, luz, escuelas y vida en comunión!

Y al paso a pesar de tantos sacrificios, la realidad es qué el progreso llegó a esta comunidad y es motivo de orgullo y satisfacción mencionar logros obtenidos: El Hospital General de Castañer se fundó en los pavellones del campamento para ciudadanos, luego cambió el servicio a Finca Llinás con mas comodidades y mas tarde a este gran edificio levantado en esta pintoresca planicie al servicio del pueblo. Ya establecidas las escuelas primarias y secundarias fué necesario proveer al estudiantado una educación mas avanzada y para este propósito funcionó la Academia de los Hermanos, ofreciendo grados de escuela superior acreditado por el Departamento de Instrucción existiendo en la actualidad un edificio con este propósito. Siempre con miras de prosperidad, la Hermandad junto al Comite de la comunidad han contribuido grandemente al desenvolvimiento económico en sus gestiones de oportunidades de trabajo, con mejor renumeración, segregación de grandes fincas en parcelas a usufructuarios, viviendas a bajo costo y en cooperación mutua, fomentando las siembras de frutos menores y hortalizas, la crianza de cerdos, el negocio avicola, una pequeña industria, cooperativas, oficinas de gobierno y muchas obras más que he de relatar adelante.

Hoy en este gran día, toda una vida de servicio la comunidad cuenta con un grande y moderno hospital, dotado de un cuerpo medico, un grupo de enfermeras, tecnicos de laboratorio y rayos-X, Comite Central de los Hermanos, Comite de la Comunidad, Centro Recreativo, Asociación Atlética, cancha, campo atletico, escuelas, oficina de correo, teléfono, dependencias gubernamentales, Cooperativas de Crédito y Consumo, Sub-Estación Experimental, Bienestar Publico, Servicio Policiaco, estación de gasolina, servicio de agua y luz, tierra distribuida, pequeña industria, iglesias, caminos, carreteras comercio variado, lineas de vehículos publicos. He aquí los logros. Esta es nuestra comunidad al progreso y servicio de todos; asi Dios nos ayude.

FROM SOME WHO HAVE SERVED:

In 1946 I accepted a challenge to build several houses in Castañer, Puerto Rico. This was to be a sort of Alternative Service that I wanted to do in lieu of not being called by the draft. On that August day I entered one of the most beautiful and also one of the most needy valleys of Puerto Rico.

In Castañer today we find a high standard of living for rural Puerto Rico: economic progress, Churches to serve the community, a high school; credit, consumers and health cooperatives and a beautiful modern hospital, a dream of every project worker and visitor, to adequately care for the health of the people. I am very happy that I had the opportunity to help in this work.

This past year we⁺ finished a 20-bed Health Center for Peñuelas and now we are in the finishing stages of a 42-bed Health Center for San Sebastian. Many communities are building Hospitals and Health Centers.

Our son, Ronald, is stationed in Nappanee, Indiana, where he is doing his 1-W Service. Norma, Efrain and their two children, Rodney and Christine live in San Sebastian where he is helping with the hospital construction. Elaine is in her second year at Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Santurce. Agnes and I have plenty to do and we enjoy it very much.

Ed. Note:

Walter Keiser

+Walter works for Miguel A. Sastre Frau, Construction contractor from Ponce.

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This year we celebrate the twentieth anniversary of our activities here in Castañer. Looking through the years we can see great accomplishments and yet many more to come. We can look back on our first hospital, a long barrack building, with improvised equipment where many of the boys used their ingenuity and their creative abilities. Today we have a very modern hospital of which all the valley people are very proud, for they helped too with their contributions. We are also looking forward for the youth that are preparing themselves for a profession to help staff our hospital. And talking about the valley, the beauty of Castañer still is bewitching and breathtaking.

But the beauty alone cannot solve one of our greatest problems. This is the migration of the most intelligent and ambitious youth to the cities. There jobs await them in their chosen profession and industry, where they can use their talents and earn better wages than in coffee picking and farm work.

We had high hopes back through the years that we could raise a group of young people who could take over and direct affairs in a progressing community. However, we find that we educate and work with them until they are college age at which time we loose those with talent to continue studies in higher education. A few have found their way back to Castañer as teachers and nurses, but the largest percentage are lost to the work here.

We realize that training youth for any place they might wish to go is a good work, but our problem is still with us in Castañer. There are yet many challenges which we must meet and accept, before we can call our work finished here in Castañer.

Elsa & Everett Groff

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"He who serves his brother best, gets nearer God than all the rest."

I do want to take this opportunity to congratulate you sincerely on the occasion of your twentieth anniversary. We Mennonites are indebted to the vision and dedication of the Brethren Service Committee for pioneering in the field of Christian Social Service. Twenty years of "service in the name of Christ" is no mean accomplishment. I want to bear testimony to the enduring value of this witness of Christian life and deeds. In our ministry of evangelism and church extension we are building upon the foundations which humble Christian service has laid. Time and again we find sympathetic hearers who have appreciated our service of love.

May those who have served in Christian love throughout these years be assured that their labor has not been in vain. It is my conviction that in the world in which we live this witness of life and of word is the only one which will be granted a hearing, and that because it has earned the right to be heard.

John Driver, Wellman, Iowa

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Greetings from the Baptist Church in Castañer, where we still are doing our part to make the community a better place to live and serve for all who love these mountains and stay, and for those who call Castañer "home", hoping some day to return. For those who have long been gone from Puerto Rico there are many surprises in store; not a few in Castañer. We, whose roots are growing deeper, welcome the commodities of progress, but also the vision it gives those who have not had the opportunity to look beyond the local horizon. We are glad to see returning some whose vision took them away, but also brought them back to help others; happy to live and serve where they grew up.

However, much as Castañer has grown and progressed, there are still few opportunities for the working middle class to make a good living. Also, it has not kept up with the needs of Puerto Rican professionals who have either come in from other places or returned after higher education to work here. Too many drift elsewhere because of poor housing.

The spiritual growth of the community can be seen in the cooperation and better understanding in general. More people come seeking the peace and love that the Lord has to offer. A very good reason, as we see it, to put our roots even deeper, and look forward faithfully to the future---in Castañer.

Rev. & Mrs. Clodomoro Crespo

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"If you can't be a pine on the top of a hill,
Be a scrub in the Valley,
But be the best little scrub by the side of the rill.
Be a bush if you can't be a tree,
If you can't be a bush, be a bit of the grass,
And some highway happier make.
If you can't be a muskie, then just be a bass,
But the liveliest bass in the lake.
We can't all be captains, some have to be crew,
There's something for all of us here.
There's work to be done, and we've all got to do
Our part in a way that's sincere.
If you can't be a highway, then just be a trail,
If you can't be a sun, be a star.
It isn't by size that we win or we lose,
Be the best of whatever you are."