



CASTAÑER  
NEWSLETTER

Brethren Service Project  
Vol. 18 No. 1

September 1, 1963

Queridos Amigos,

Si estuviesen hoy en el hermoso valle de Castañer, estarían gozando o tal vez sufriendo de un día poco común en Puerto Rico, aunque propio de la época. ¿Qué época? Pues, la época de los huracanes. De no haber sido por las noticias estaríamos pensando que otro de esos crueles destructores se está acercando a nuestra isleta, aunque las informaciones indican que habrá inundaciones en algunas partes de la Isla. A nuestro alrededor podemos apreciar el verdor de las montañas trasformado en blancura, blancura que solo la lluvia puede brindar. El sol parece enojado y a los pajaritos no se les oye cantar, pero es que en un día tan lluvioso solo los chicos y los poetas son los que pueden cantar.

El administrador de la Cooperativa de Consumo no luce muy feliz. Sabe que debido al día no podrá vender mucho. Bajo su hábil administración esta cooperativa ha ido progresando cada año más y más, hasta colocarse en lo que podemos llamar la cumbre. Este año fue el año de mayores ventas en su historia, registrando la increíble cantidad de \$162,197.97. Ya hay planes para ampliar el edificio debido a que actualmente resulta pequeño. Este año la asamblea anual acordó repartir el patrocinio que no es otra cosa que las ganancias del socio acumuladas durante el año. Este año se repartirá el 50% de esas ganancias.

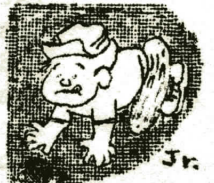
Otro hecho interesante en Castañer y que ha servido de estímulos para que otros sigan el ejemplo fué la graduación de adultos de sexto grado celebrada en mayo. Fue el orador principal, nuestro educador Julio Lebrón, quien pidió que esta graduación fuera dedicada a la que es hoy la primera abogada de esta Comunidad, la srta. Doris Maldonado y quien fuera una brillante estudiante en nuestra antigua Brethren Academy.

El señor Samuel Santiago, principal de la segunda unidad, nos informa que la escuela superior ha sido cambiada a La Segunda Unidad Gabriela Mistral. Para hacer este cambio fue necesario mover la escuela elemental al edificio de la escuela superior, o sea, el que está al lado del hospital. El señor Santiago cree que este cambio se justifica debido a que este edificio ofrece condiciones mejores para el estudiante de escuela superior.

Pronto sabrán más sobre Castañer.

Hasta luego amigos, hasta luego.....

-Wilfrido Velez,  
Hospital Cashier



In Memoriam

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Elmer Hartzler, Isaac Harvey Horner, Elzie Ray Holderread

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The Project Today...

When the Brethren Service Project (known originally as the Martin G. Brumbaugh Reconstruction Unit, as well as C.P.S. Camp #43) began in August 1942, the main service emphasis was in the field of health. The 'China' Unit, composed of two doctors and eleven C.P.S. men, was essentially a medical and public health team.

Over the years, as service workers came and went, and as health-related problems were identified as service opportunities, the Project bristled with numerous and varied minor thrusts which tended to support and enrich the main health services objective. You will recall the Community Center Program, the Academy (3 yr. H.S.), the Coffee Farm, the Dairy and other animal husbandry projects, the Needlework and Ceramics Industries; the beginnings of the Coops, the efforts to get a Post Office, chlorinated water, etc., and others. Since an overall objective of Brethren Service is to 'help people help themselves', it is natural that in time many of these lesser emphases were passed along to community agencies and individuals for leadership and support, or that some should have ceased after due evaluation showed them to have served their purpose.

Today, therefore, most supporting and enrichment thrusts are not in Project hands, and the total Project effort is aimed at a somewhat expanded and improved health services program. It serves an area of some 15-20,000 inhabitants in the several nearest barrios of Adjuntas, Lares, Maricao and Yauco.

Let us take a quick look at the people, program support, and growing edge of the institution known as Castañer Hospital. There are presently sixty people regularly employed on either a full or part-time basis. Of these, 46 are local residents, and 14 are service personnel from the States.

|                    | <u>Local</u> |            |             | <u>Stateside</u>   |   |           |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------------|---|-----------|
| R.N.s              | 4            | full time, | 1 part-time | Doctors            | 3 | full time |
| Hosp. Aides & P.N. | 11           | " "        | 3 " "       | R.N.s              | 4 | " "       |
| OPD Aides & P.N.   | 4            | " "        | 1 " "       | Secretary          | 1 | " "       |
| Food Service       | 4            | " "        | 2 " "       | Accts. Sec.        | 1 | " "       |
| Housekeeping       | 2            | " "        | 1 " "       | Treas.             | 1 | " "       |
| Laundry            | 1            | " "        | 3 " "       | Maintenance        | 2 | " "       |
| Maintenance        | 1            | " "        | " "         | Elementary teacher | 1 | " "       |
| Storeroom          |              |            | 1 " "       | Administrator      | 1 | " "       |
| Laboratory         | 2            | " "        |             |                    |   |           |
| Cashier            | 1            | " "        |             |                    |   |           |
| Medical Rec. Lib.  |              |            | 1 " "       |                    |   |           |
| Fondo del Seguro   | 1            | " "        |             |                    |   |           |
| Dentist            | 1            | " "        |             |                    |   |           |
| Dental Assist.     | 1            | " "        |             |                    |   |           |
| Social Worker      | 1            | " "        |             |                    |   |           |

We have also used the services of 14 visitor-workers during the past year. They are mentioned in more detail in another article.

The Castañer Hospital program centers around hospitalization and out-patient services. We give general medical, surgical, maternity, and pediatric care for

inpatients; out-patient services are centered around prevention, diagnosis and treatment, with regularly scheduled general, maternity, well-child, T.B., - diabetes, and family planning clinics. Also, preventive clinics are held monthly in each of four remote areas. The Dental department gives a specialized out-patient service in dental hygiene, restorations, denture and bridge-work, extractions and orthodontia.

Diagnostic work is carried on for both inpatients and out-patients by the Laboratory and X-Ray Department. We have a coordinated blood-bank service, using our own plan plus that of the American Red Cross.

Specialists come twice a month for the more involved surgeries, and a pediatrician once monthly comes for a special clinic. A full-time medical worker helps coordinate and harmonize the various services, provides special attention to individual needs related to medical practice and general health, and brings to bear the services of appropriate governmental agencies.

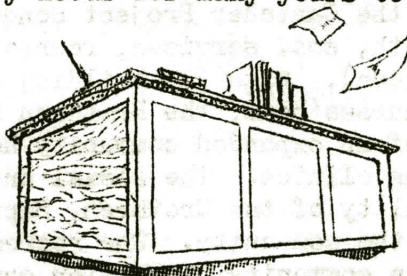
Emergency services are available at all hours.

Financial support for the program, with an operating budget of about \$160,000 this past year, came from the following sources: (approximations)

- 38% from patients for services rendered
- 25% Gov., for clinic services and indigent care
- 15% Brethren Service
- 14% Meals, Laundry, rent, etc.
- 5% Services to Fondo del Seguro patients
- 3% Donations

Direct income from patients for services has shown a slightly rising trend lately, after a year on a plateau. This is encouraging from the standpoint of our desire to eventually eliminate support from Stateside altogether. We have plans in mind for certain improvements to the physical plant as money becomes available. Word is getting around and people are gradually beginning to understand what a community hospital is and the part they must expect to play in operating and supporting it.

Is there a growing edge to the Project's work? Yes, if one thinks not in terms of the Brethren Service Project as a permanent institution here, but rather in terms of the health services program in Castañer as a permanent feature in community development. Castañer, itself, shows many signs of growth and improvement as a place to live. The health services program begun in Castañer twenty-one years ago will continue to fulfill one of the essential and vital community needs for many years to come.



-Caleb Frantz,  
Administrator

Time is:

Too slow for those who wait, Too swift for those who fear,  
 Too long for those who grieve; Too short for those who rejoice;  
 But for those who love, TIME IS ETERNITY.

Henry Van Dyke

## Development Plans for Old Hospital Property(Llinás)

But first, changes of the island.

Before leaving the States, one of our Puerto Rican friends said, "Americans stay home." It was not until we arrived on the Island in July, 1963--after having visited here eight years earlier-- that we began to understand what he meant. (However, this is not the feeling of the average Puerto Rican.) In these eight years, unbelievable changes have taken place on this beautiful little isle. No one can deny the economic improvements, yet one cannot help wondering whether all changes have been for the better, or whether too much of America has been imposed on our Puerto Rican neighbors in too short a time. Some of these changes have come so rapidly that much of the Puerto Rican culture may be threatened, perhaps to the detriment of both the Puerto Rican and the Continental.

When we were here in 1955, the Americanization of Puerto Rico had only begun, but now some areas are almost completely Americanized. In San Juan, freeways, supermarkets, shopping centers, & plush hotels are found in abundance. In 1955, only a few automobiles, other than the publicos or rural taxis, travelled the narrow, crooked scenic mountain roads; now, many private automobiles move about the countryside, making travel more hazardous. The horse and ox-freight systems have given way to the truck lines.

The city of San Juan has undergone the most fabulous change. Due to the increased industrial development and the fantastic American tourist trade, magnificent multi-story hotels and apartment houses are rising daily, making constant changes in the sky line. The new middle class has given rise to sprawling, new housing tracts and new suburbs in this northeastern seaport and air terminal metropolis.

In spite of the economic advance of San Juan, the beautiful, cool, green mountain communities have changed little in outward appearance. Except for the more frequent use of automobiles, the introduction of the rural-secondary schools, an occasional more colorful home of modern design, the brilliantly colored floral trees and shrubs, the tropical atmosphere of the giant bamboo and tall palms, the hillside banana, coffee and sugar cane farms-- the countless little houses nestled everywhere among the trees give the same charm and enchantment to the inland countryside. It is our hope that this charm will remain, but with continued improvement in the cultural, educational, and economic pattern. We believe that many tourists and island visitors fail to see, hear, and feel the enchantment and charm of the inland island scenery, climate and people.

Now, changes at the Project.

Not only have many changes been made in the island generally, but the character of the Brethren Service Project has been almost completely changed since our last visit. Then the Castañer Project conducted a wide variety of community services(pub. health, soc. services, recreation, education, agricultural and evangelistic outreach). With the building of the new church and the beautiful new hospital and nurses'home, the Brethren Service Program has limited its major activity to that of an expanded community health program in the hospital and in several outlying clinics. The social and religious emphasis has become the shared responsibility of the Brethren, Baptist, Episcopal, Catholic and Pentecostal churches in the community. The recreational and cultural program is now in the hands of a community recreation committee and government program of community education. The economic and agricultural improvement has been taken over by the local Coop and government Agricultural Experiment Station. The Secondary Education is now a part of the Rural Public Education Program.

There are many who feel that the Brethren Service Program, with its expanded service, did a remarkable job of encouraging and developing public consciousness in the Castañer Community. Yet, there is also a feeling that some areas of service should be continued until a more coordinated and effective community program can be developed with adequately trained local leadership.

With this need in mind, the Forrest and Everett Groff's are purchasing the old project and hospital property. Forrest (Brethren Church Designer and Builder) and Everett (one of the original C.P.S. men at the Project) are now building a new staff housing unit for the New Hospital. During the year, while construction is under way, they will study possible plans for developing the old project site. There are many possible directions the development might take. Since any sizeable development will require much study and the expenditure of considerable capital, it is imperative that much careful study and analysis precede any actual development of the property. This development will no longer be sponsored by the Brethren Service Commission, but will be a private enterprise. Therefore, it will need to be self-supporting, yet continue the high moral and ethical practices of the church. It must be set up in such a way so as not to drain the already limited community economy, and offer employ for capable and willing persons who now have only seasonal employment. It must offer certain service aspects of the Brethren Service program, being planned to provide for eventual participation and community leadership.

Because of its limited access to markets and because of the nature of the community, the possibilities are limited. On the other hand, the ideal climate, the natural scenic beauty, the available labor source, and the proximity to the new hospital and church, offers certain possibilities.

Possibilities now being studied are:

1. A mountain-vacation retreat or resort with the following facilities:
  - A. Attractive and comfortable housing facilities for those of modest means.
  - B. Social and recreational facilities for guests and community;  
Swimming, fishing, education hikes, golf, tennis.
  - C. Cultural facilities: Music, drama, movies.
  - D. Craft and hobby shops for training and souvenirs.
  - E. Food Service: coffee shop, fruit and vegetable market.
  - F. Travel Service: Ticket sales and schedule; car rental, tourist limousine and guide service.
  - G. Craft and souvenir sales.
2. Retirement Home for Puerto Rican's and Continental's (Ideal Climate: 60-80° the year round; breath-taking scenery.)
  - A. Comfortable housing in hotel or cottage.
  - B. Recreation and Craft Program for guests and community.
  - C. Health Service at our new hospital.
  - D. Island and community tours; transportation; guide service.
3. Industrial Development.
  - A. Ceramic industry: craft and ceramic tile.
  - B. Brick factory: clay available locally.
  - C. Local fruit packing: canning, preserving, juices.

Suggestions and ideas will be appreciated from friends of the project for this proposed development and use of the former Brethren Service Project Property.

-Forrest Groff

**Speaking Spiritually...**

While still considered a rural community, Castañer has an increasingly urban personality. We are seeing a continual process in which the church affects the community while changes in the community in turn have their effect on the church. Sometimes the changes bring gains but often they cause losses.

Different from the pattern of other years, there was no community-wide Vacation Church School this summer. Responsible for the change is the government's "pilot plan", a new arrangement for the academic year, initiated last fall in mountain areas throughout Puerto Rico. In order that rural children may help their parents during the months of heaviest coffee harvest, school vacation is now begun the latter part of October and continues through the first week of Jan. The church is now searching for new ways to provide growth experiences such as camp and vacation church school have been in the past.

Changes are also evident in extension work: Because of the lack of real interest in the Bartolo area, Sunday services in the chapel have been discontinued for the present. Occasional services of a more informal type are being held in various homes in the "barrio".

The family which has been the "spark plug" of the Yahuecas group has moved to Castañer. However, they are very dependable in sharing leadership responsibilities in the extension Sunday school and Tuesday evening home services in the area.

One of the bright lights in the Castañer fellowship is the Youth group. Despite almost constant comings and goings it still maintains its position as one of the most active groups in the church. The choir has suffered some setbacks by the exit of several youth.

Along with many churches, we are concerned about the many members who move to other places and neither maintain active contact with our fellowship nor establish new relationships with any church where they go. Few are the months that someone does not leave for Ponce, San Juan, New York, N.J., Chicago etc. There is a continual challenge to help these persons find "stability despite mobility". It is as urgent to help these maintain a solid Christian faith as it is to help others find such a faith.



The pastor and his family recently spent 2½ weeks visiting friends and relatives on the east coast. One week of this time was spent in Bridgewater, Va. where Don and Shirley(Fike) attended the Church and Group Life Laboratory held at the College.

**"Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort**  
of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh  
thoughts nor measure words, but pour them all right out,  
just as they are, chaff and grain together, knowing that a  
faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth  
keeping and then with the breath of kindness blow the rest  
away."

+ + + + +                      + + + + +

The important thing in life is to have a great aim, and to possess the aptitude and perserverance to attain it.-- Goethe.

..the TIME is NOW

"to heal the brokenness"



annual conference 1963

Visitors

The Castañer area enjoys a continuing flow of visitors from near and far. Some are specifically interested in the Brethren Service program, others in the Cooperatives of the Area, and still others in the coffee farms. Many also come to visit friends, either service workers or residents of the community. A few come on official or semi-official business, among whom, during the past year, have been Dr. W. Harold Row, Ex. Sec. of BSC and Rev. Ora Huston, Peace Counselor for BSC.

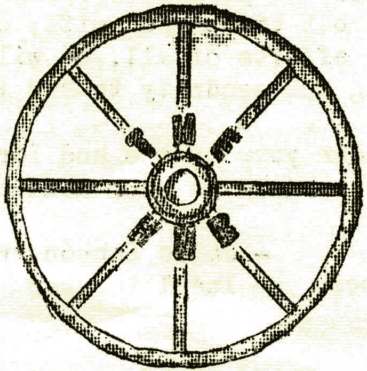
Several groups have come with education and study in mind. In January, a group of seventeen teachers and students from the Putney Graduate School of Teacher Education, under the direction of Dr. Morris R. Mitchell, President of the School, spent about two weeks in P.R., using Castañer as their base for part of the time. A group of senior high school students from the Congregational Churches of Connecticut, under the supervision of Rev. Dean Hodges, spent a week here during February. Another student group from Swarthmore, Penna. with Counselor Alex Cox in charge, spent a day and a night in Castañer near the end of March. On Aug. 16 and 17 we entertained a group of 28 adults from the Social Welfare Department, Cleveland Area Church Federation, under the tutelage of Rev. Daniel R. Rodriguez. Groups such as these, as well as many individuals who visit here, usually participate in a seminar on Castañer and its development.

During the past year, for periods varying from one night to two weeks or more, we have accomodated approximately two hundred guests in the old hospital facilities. Perhaps Castañer is ready for a small hotel or guest house!!

-C. Frantz

Christians of various denominations are like spokes in a wheel: the closer they get to the hub--Christ,-- the nearer they find they are to each other.

Never forget that He PRAYED that we all might be one!







## The Community Committee Reports

Approximately nine years ago a group of friends of the community met with the purpose of getting improvements for this area. A detailed study was made of the greatest needs and the conclusion was reached that they should struggle for the improvement of the factors of health, education, and the economic and social ones.

Once organized to carry on the battle for betterment, the Committee did not restrict itself in time or tasks, but launched out in search for the objectives decided upon.

As a consequence of that effort, we see today a modern hospital, as well as the new building of the Consumer's Cooperative, a high school functioning very well, a good aqueduct, many farms for small farmers, a Title V housing project; a Public Welfare office, very good service of Social Programs, Agricultural Extension, and the Experiment Station.

As a matter of fact, much progress has been obtained, but after 9 years it is necessary to study in detail the social and economic panorama to try to improve certain aspects of the community.

For example, it is necessary to plan for the repair of the length of road from the entrance of the old hospital to the beginning of the lake. There is so much traffic along this section that every day that passes brings more danger for our children. Likewise this part should have street lights. We have consulted the municipal governments of Lares and Adjuntas about it. It seems that Lares does not agree with our request, but nonetheless Adjuntas is showing interest. We are also working for the installation of private telephones and of a Public Welfare food distribution center.

Negotiations have been made for the purpose of securing an industry which would lessen unemployment in this area. This must have the highest priority, but we have faith that we can achieve it.

Recently we have been working with the Department of Education for the establishment of a Camp for unemployed youth. This has proceeded to a point where we believe our hopes will be realized.

The Castañer Community Committee would infinitely appreciate if you, friend reader, would send suggestions and ideas to help us see better what are the needs here. In the near future we will convoke a general meeting of the community to explain to you our achievements and expound before those present our concerns and submit to their consideration our immediate program for improvements. For this assembly not only should you attend, but bring your wife, children and friends. There is no doubt that with the efforts of all, we will be able to build a Castañer which provides well-being and security to our family.

The Community Committee functions under your orders and for that reason we always need your ideas and we call on you to give us your hand so that success will ever accompany us.

- Julio Lebrón, pres.  
local teacher

(This article was translated by John Forbes  
from the committee report.)

## Medically Speaking...

The past year has seen several advances in the standards and breadth of our medical program. Our surgery program has made full use of the very fine surgery suite and facilities here. For most of the year we've had 2-3 visiting surgeons a month for our major surgery (which has included such operations as total gastrectomy, nephrectomy, and suprapubic prostatectomy). During June and July, Bill Johnson (Castañer Project '43-46 and now M.D. practicing in Cincinnati) returned to give some volunteer time in the medical program and brought with him a friend, Dr. Al Pescovitz, a general surgeon who kept things hopping here with 4-5 days of surgery a week. We have also had donated to us a fine used cystoscope and are putting it to good use frequently.

We've acquired a blood bank refrigerator (donated by the School of Tropical Medicine of the U. of P. R. for our help in several of their research projects); Dr. Galen Wampler has revised our whole blood bank program and brought it up-to-date; and the community has had a drive for blood donations to the Red Cross which will give us unlimited use of the Red Cross Blood Bank Facilities. (at least as long as the community can reach its quota of donors each 6 months).

Definite steps have been taken toward the accreditation of our hospital by the American Joint Commission of Accreditation. (We've already received this year-- for the first time-- the full hospital operating licensure in Puerto Rico.) Some of the things which we have accomplished are:

1. The formation of a Medical Disaster Plan (to handle any possible influx of casualty cases resulting from any type of disaster).
2. The revision of parts of our patients records system and the addition of several new forms.
3. The addition to our laboratory of a number of new clinical analyses, and several new X-ray procedures.

And....

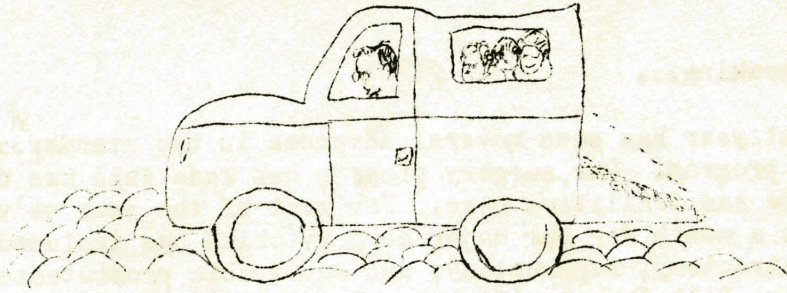
The organization of the Medical Staff with monthly meetings to discuss problems, review deaths and infections, go over surgical specimens not sent to the pathologist, etc.; and weekly meetings to make "rounds" together on problem cases (for purposes of consultation and interest), to view and discuss interesting X-rays, and to present articles of interest from any of 6 medical journals we receive.

One of the reasons we have been able to accomplish many of these things is because there are three doctors on the staff full-time. This has never been possible before, but is now considered a necessity to continue the program at its present level of activities and higher standards. The now foreseeable future of our hospital's medical program still depends on our ability to recruit dedicated doctors to spend several years of their life here. The goal of having private physicians in the community, or permanent Puerto Rican doctors employed by the hospital will most likely not be realized by the time the community is ready to assume responsibilities in control of the hospital program.

- Donald L. Parker, M.D.



"Away" Clinics



Ever since the beginning of the project, there has been some type of Away Clinic Program. Sometimes it has been very active. These Away Clinics are mainly concerned with preventive medicine, especially for well babies and pre-schoolers. In the past, we have given immunizations and parasite treatments.

During the past two years we have had four regular clinics a month, in four different areas-- Cerrote, Mirasol, Rio Prieto and Pezuela. We also hold school clinics in these areas.

In April and May of this year we cooperated with the Public Health Program of the Island in giving the Sabin oral vaccine against Polio to all children under six years of age. The first dose was given on Sat. & Sun. (Apr. 18, &19). A month later the second and last dose was given. During the initial program we vaccinated over 1200 children. Everything considered, the program was a success. In the Arecibo District over 95% of the available children were vaccinated. This was the highest on the island. As a result of the Sabin Vaccination Program, many parents became aware of our immunization program, so that attendance at away clinics has increased.

-Wilma(Stern)Forbes



You can  
preach a better sermon with your LIFE  
than with your LIPS.

Goldsmith



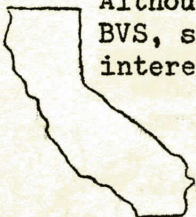
Personnel(new)

Since September 1962, there have been four BVS'ers added to the staff of Hospital Castañer. One of these is Barbara Custer, an addition to the nursing staff. The other three, Lynn Shively, Tess Daley, Raymond Lichty are replacements for BVS'ers whose terms were completed.

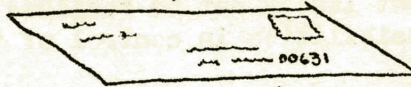
"That's a thought".....

Tess Daley arrived in Castañer on Dec. 29, 1962 and plans to serve for 2 years. Her home is in Porterville, California. She is a graduate of Porterville High School and LaVerne College, majoring at the latter in "Humanities". Although she is undecided as to what field she will enter upon completion of BVS, she now is serving as an Account Secretary in our hospital office. Her interests include music and drama; and she is a member of the Methodist Church.

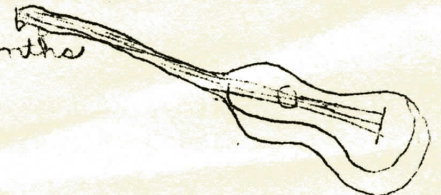
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*Jammy,  
Jammy*



*for months + months + months*



(cont'd--Personnel)

"Bye Bye".....(I know a boat you can . . .)

Also on Dec. 29, Raymond Lichty came from New Windsor. He is a 1-W, serving here as Maintenance Engineer(2 yrs.) His home is in Harrisburg, Pa. and is a member of the 1st Church of the Brethren there. After leaving Castañer he hopes to continue his education, which includes one year at Messiah College. His ambition is to become a mortician. Fishing, stamp collecting, and playing the guitar occupy some of his leisure time as does his



"once more--- with viga."

On June 6, 1963, we welcomed Barbara Custer. She is undecided as to the length of her term. Miss Custer is a native of Windber, Pennsylvania. Before coming here she served as a nurse in the surgery dept. of the Sherman Hospital at Elgin, Ill. for 9 months. Indeed, we welcomed her surgical ability!!!!!! She is a graduate of Windber School of Nursing and attended Philadelphia College of the Bible. Upon completion of service, she plans to return to school to earn her B.S.(now she's just a B.C.)in nursing. Her hobbies are swimming, cooking, reading, and tennis. She is a member of the Scalp Level Church of the Brethren.

"It was a WUNderful experience."

"Good hongk"

Arriving here on July 11, was Lynn Shively from Modesto, California. He is fulfilling his 1-W obligation by serving in the maintenance dept. For one year he attended Modesto Junior College. His vocational interest for the future is "Mechanics"; next to this are: basketball, volleyball, swimming and music. The Empire Church of the Brethren is his home church.



-Lynne Roudabush  
Teacher for Project School



Q. Why does the elephant wear green sneakers?

A. To hide in the tall green grass.

Q. Why does the elephant wear red sneakers?

A. Because his green ones are in the laundry.

+ + + +



Nurse for Castañer via Bethany's scholarship fund.

A new employee as of September 3 will be Miss Carmen Ann(Bruni)Mercado, who is a daughter of the Ramón Mercados of Cataño(Castañer), just across the river from the hospital. She is a recent graduate of the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing, Santurce, P.R. where she distinguished herself by attaining top scholastic honors in her class. In addition she was the recipient of several awards upon graduation.

Carmen's nursing education was fostered by the Scholarship and Loan Fund, administered for the Brotherhood through Bethany Brethren Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. Under terms of the scholarship agreement, Miss Mercado promises to work in a Brethren institution for a period of four years in lieu of repaying the loan.

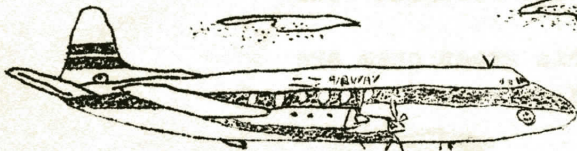
Another of our employess who received similar aid is Miss Dominisa(Candy) Pagán also a Presbyterian graduate and Castañer resident.

Over the years there have accumulated 24,500 cards in the Master Patient File. These are the key to the medical history of anyone who has had a record started in the Hospital Castañer or out-patient department. Each card contains complete name, address, birthdate and medical record number of the individual. Reference from this file to the individual's folder allows the doctor who sees the patient an opportunity to review his medical history before working on any new problem.

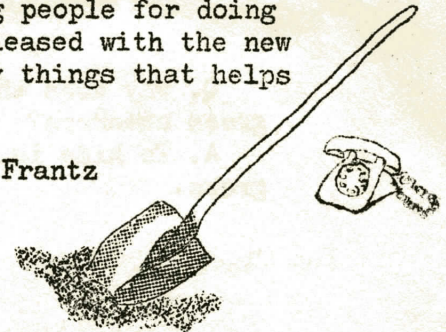
Soon after the move to the new hospital building was made(3 years ago), we recognized the necessity of improving and reorganizing this file. In the early years English speaking persons had begun alphabetizing by a system not in accord with the accepted method for Spanish names, and this error was carried on through the years. In addition, the home-made filing cabinet had begun to burst at the seams, and it was necessary to find an improved, space-conserving system that would serve present needs and provide for continuing expansion. This problem was rather easily solved by choosing pinned 3 x 5 cards in stackable drawered cabinets. A knottier problem was to find people with sufficient time and interest to retype and realphabetize the 24,500 cards. In making our plans, we determined that this job might best be done by visitor-workers.

Fortunately, during the past year a number of young people applied for summer work, and, while two or three turned this down(too monotonous a task, we suppose), we found some six or seven who were willing to take on the job. These individuals are mentioned in the article which follows. One of our BVS girls spent some time helping also. We figure they worked something like 620 man-hours at this specific task. This would make an average of about 40 cards typed per hour, with the alphabetizing thrown in for good measure.

The Administration is sincerely grateful to these young people for doing a thorough and accurate job, and the OPD staff are highly pleased with the new system they have to work with. This is just one of the many things that helps provide faster, improved service to the patient.



- C. Frantz



VISITOR WORKERS CONTRIBUTE

This year's visitor workers have been a great help in the hospital, clinic, office and maintenance departments. Yvonne M. Munden's main work was in the fields of pediatrics and Social Work during the month of January. She was from Argentina, having received her Master's Degree there and earning a scholarship to study in the field of Social Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico.

Our nursing program has been well-bolstered by visiting nurses. In January and February Miss Ruby Hoke and Miss Edna Lewis, retired R.N.'s from Orlando, Florida and Peabody College, respectively, worked as floor nurses and also did much paper work for Mrs. Groff. During July and August, two R.N.s from DePauw University School of Nursing in Indianapolis have been enjoying the customs of Puerto Rico as well as working as floor nurses. There were Cathren Boxell and Barbara Kemp who arrived shortly after the termination of their Indiana State Board Exams. Miss Mary Jane Tobias, a high school student from Nappanee, Indiana was a great help to Mrs. Groff in pediatrics. She was visiting the Everett Groff's.

(continued.....)

continuing-

This year our three doctors have been helped by two externs. During February and March Theodore Nagel, a Cornell Medical student was with us. Richard Havlik, a Northwestern student followed in July, thru September 10. Both made excellent contributions to the Hospital and Out-Patient Department programs through their interest in the people, medical knowledge, and ability to converse in Spanish.

We were able to find help in reorganizing the master patient card file. First to arrive was Margarita Mercado Quintana of Santurce, P.R. who is in her fourth year of pre-medical studies. Al Hobby of Michigan came soon after. He is presently studying Social Anthropology in Michigan. Sue Hogan, now beginning her last year of nurse's training at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, was here for a two and a half week's contribution to this project. Miss Lonna Pelton (also of Michigan) was here to complete this rather lengthy process of typing and re-alphabetizing 24,500 cards. We have found also that some visitors were eager to put their spare time to good use. Miss Wanda Miller, sister of Mrs. Carol Slaubaugh, from North Manchester, Indiana and Judy Markov of San Juan were hard at work helping type for a few days too.

Carlos Nieves Rivera of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, put in many hours of hard work digging a much needed drainage ditch and helping with maintenance tasks during his three months stay here, Feb. thru April.

All of these, and others I may have missed, have made a great contribution in both a business and social way. We hope that they have received as much from their stay here as the hospital program has from them.

- Tess Daley



It's what we learn after we think we know it all that counts.

Abe Martin

### Two Cincinnati Doctors Help



During June and July the hospital had the good fortune to have as volunteer staff members Drs. Bill Johnson and Harold Pescovitz of Cincinnati, Ohio. We enjoyed having their families here too, including the younger members who certainly livened up the atmosphere!!

Bill, having been here in the forties, found himself right at home with the people and the language, contributing to our general medicine program. At home he has been involved in general practice. Dr. Pescovitz, a general surgeon, gave our surgery program quite a boost during these months, besides pitching in and helping us in other areas.

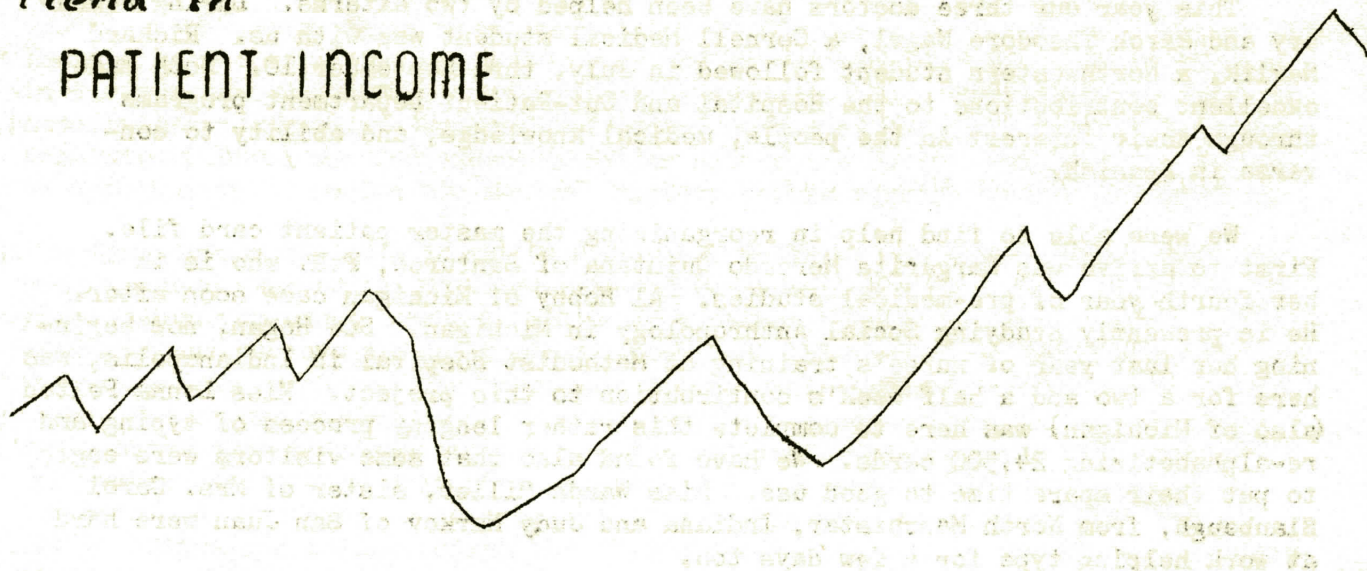
It would probably be an underestimation to say that the hospital and personnel benefited both in experience and in increased opportunities for service in having these two dedicated physicians with us. We hope they and their families will consider visiting us again sometime.



-Robert Parker, M.D.



# trend in PATIENT INCOME



1961

1963

## Treasurer Reporting:

We are approaching the end of our budget year for 1962-63, and can look on a very busy year in the business office. One of our major achievements during the year included the establishing of a new individual financial record card for each patient. These will become increasingly important as we stress the importance of paying something for the services received, by the local community.

Our current budget calls for about 1/3 of the expenses to be paid for by the patients. The economy of the area is improving slowly, but we still have about 75% of our patients paying only a very small amount of this hospitalization. Expenses for the 75% indigent patients is paid partly by the government of P.R. and in part by the General Brotherhood Board. As our running expenses mount and our continued striving toward American Hospital Association accreditation force us to increase expenditures, we rely on more local income to cover this additional cost since our outside income is more fixed.

After a slow financial start the first half of the year, we are very satisfied with the marked increase over last year, during the past 4 months. If this trend can be continued, we will not have many worries about our operating budget this coming year.

The dental department operation received a serious set-back when Dra. Sonia Findlay left unexpectedly early this year. We were then able to get Dr. Sam Wilson to come from Humacao 2 days a week, for about 4 months, until he left for the states and we were forced to completely close down this dept. We are, looking forward to a bright future this coming year with Dr. Llull from Adjuntas coming sometime during September to start a full time practice. He has just completed his schooling, and is as anxious to begin work here as we are to have him as an addition to our staff.

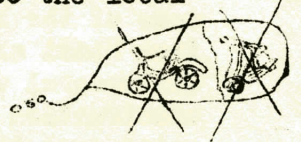
The loss of our dental dept. income for 6 months along with a substantial rise in wages paid caused us to have a slightly tighter year than was anticipated. We had hoped to be able to make much-needed repairs on the roof of the hospital building, as well as build an autopsy room to relieve the strain on our present facilities. These improvements are now very doubtful due to the present lack of funds....

...available for capital improvements.

Building a new housing unit during this coming year will be one of our major interests and expenses. The building fund has been accumulating for about three years, and while we believe we have a sufficient amount to complete the building, we are still looking for funds to be able to purchase some very much needed new furniture to replace that now being used at the old project.

All things considered, I am very pleased with the total financial outlook for the past year, and also for this coming year. Our hope is to take another step toward eliminating the support needed from Elgin, for our operating budget. This is very important in turning the operation of the hospital over to the local community as rapidly as seems possible.

-D. Ray Slaubaugh,  
Treasurer



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A friend is a present you give yourself.

Robert Louis Stevenson

+ +

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly;  
and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a  
brother.

Proverbs 18:24

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I am the Light of the World; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness,  
but shall have the Light of Life.

John 8:12

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### The "Fixit-Fellows"

The Maintenance Dept. consists of three men-- one in charge of the up-keep of the hospital grounds, mowing grass, trimming hedges, planting shrubs, etc. We are fortunate in having a Puerto Rican man with motivation, insight and experience to do this type of work.

The other two men are in charge of general maintenance, consisting of mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and some construction.

This department does have a file consisting of technical and repair manuals for most of the equipment in use. However, our frustrations are not by any means erased because of this file. Not being able to have "technical assistance", plus the fact of not finding "parts" to make needed repairs, is one of our biggest headaches.

Although this and many more problems face the department, we are finding our work worthwhile and full of rewarding experiences. We have found that: "If you (can) read instructions, 80% of the problem is solved."

Some future projects for us are the building of a new car rack; and getting our communication systems(phone & intercom) in working order.

- Ray Lichty  
Maintenance Engineer







### New Personnel Housing Under Way

For some of us life would be quite drab and dull without new experiences. When one deals with people, he must expect the unusual. As a builder of churches, I find myself saying on every new job, "This is a new experience for me," or "This never happened to me before." It seems that even in dealing with fellow churchmen in Continental America, one must be ready to meet and adjust to any kind of new situation. Even so, one is often thrown off balance by some unusual experience.

Following Annual Conference at Champaign, Illinois our family headed for Castañer, Puerto Rico, where we had contracted to build an apartment building for some of the staff of the new hospital. We shipped our pickup and tools by boat from Miami and arrived by plane in San Juan on July 11. As we were not expected for several days, we found our way by publico to Castañer. We had planned to begin construction immediately, so the building would be well under way by the time the rains were to start in August. Somehow the rainmaker lost track of its schedule and it rained almost every day during the rest of July. This didn't really make much difference as we found that there were many details to take care of before actually starting construction. It was about the first of August before we actually started digging the footings.

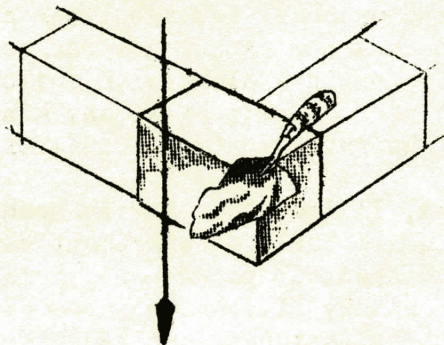
Perhaps it is too early to know how we are doing in regard to our schedule, but we have had many new experiences. For example, you don't just go to the phone and call up the supplier for materials and place the order. You wait (perhaps several days) until the phone is working, or you get in the pickup and drive to the town or city where your supplier is located, from fifteen to eighty miles distant. It can't be very far, but it can take several hours each way at about 20 m.p.h. You may even make a trip to order materials from one supplier and when the materials do not appear as promised, you finally get through by phone and re-order. The next day you get some materials from two different places, as the place you called was not the same place you had visited.

You may push the electrician to set up the electric temporary service pole so you can have power. Three weeks later you are still waiting for the power company to hook up the service. When you wish to pour a concrete slab, you set up for only what you can mix and pour from 6 a.m. until about 9:30 a.m. as you can expect rain by 1 or 2 p.m. and you must have time for the concrete to set before it rains. You travel all over the island to find that there are no blocks that meet your specifications. You decide on the best block available and find that it requires two to three weeks for delivery. Because material delivery is so slow, you cannot keep your men busy every day. So when you want them to work the next day, you drive up into the hills as far as there is a trail, then walk up to his house to find that he isn't home. Later you return to find that he is working for someone else.

Considering these new experiences, and more, the new building is progressing slowly. During the past three weeks we have dug and poured footings; installed rough-in plumbing for water and drainage; installed underground electric conduit; placed gravel fill under slab; laid one course of footing block around the building, and handmixed and poured over half of the first floor (about 300 sq. ft. per day.)

If new experiences continue at the same rate, during the rest of the job, I venture to say that all succeeding jobs will be dull as there will be no more new experiences. We will have had them all here. It is true that some of these are rather trying and for one who likes to see everything go according to schedule, it could become very frustrating. However, we had previously decided that when

we are in Puerto Rico, we will try to do as the Puerto Rican's do. Furthermore, one new experience follows the last one so closely that there isn't time to stew long over the last one. We are learning from the Puerto Ricans that "Mañana es otra dia." ("Tomorrow is another day.")



-Forrest Groff  
Architect and Builder

The pathway to success is in serving humanity. By no other means is it possible, and this truth is so plain and patent that even very simple folk recognize it.

Elbert Hubbard

#### Castañer Cooperatives

Of Castañer's three cooperatives, two have celebrated their annual meetings recently. On June 8th, the Credit Union's annual meeting took place. Rev. Francisca Ríos of the Pentecostal Church was elected to the Board of Directors, where he had been a very capable secretary in previous years. The Credit Union conceded 105 loans in 1962, for \$19,335.00. The income was \$2,437.00, expenses \$1,556.64, and net earnings \$881.24. There is still a problem with some loans that are not being paid off, but this should be resolved in the next few months.

The Consumer's Cooperative annual meeting took place on July 27th in a festive air, for the Co-op again smashed all records for sales and earnings. Total sales were \$162,197.97, and total earnings \$10,788.98. At the same time the service in the Coop has been constantly improving with special sales and so forth, and it has kept the prize for best appearance of a rural coop in Puerto Rico. All the officials of the Coop were changed as the terms of Clodomiro Crespo and John Forbes were up as president and treasurer, and Pedro Melendes the secretary, resigned to go to the States for more study. The new President is Pepe Alvarez, social worker in the Hospital Castañer; secretary is Rev. Ríos, and treasurer Antonia Rodriguez.

The Health Cooperative is finishing nine months of operations and is having a successful year financially, as well as providing improved health services for an increasing number of families. By July there were 336 subscribers.

- John Forbes  
Administrator, Cooperativa de Salud  
de Castañer