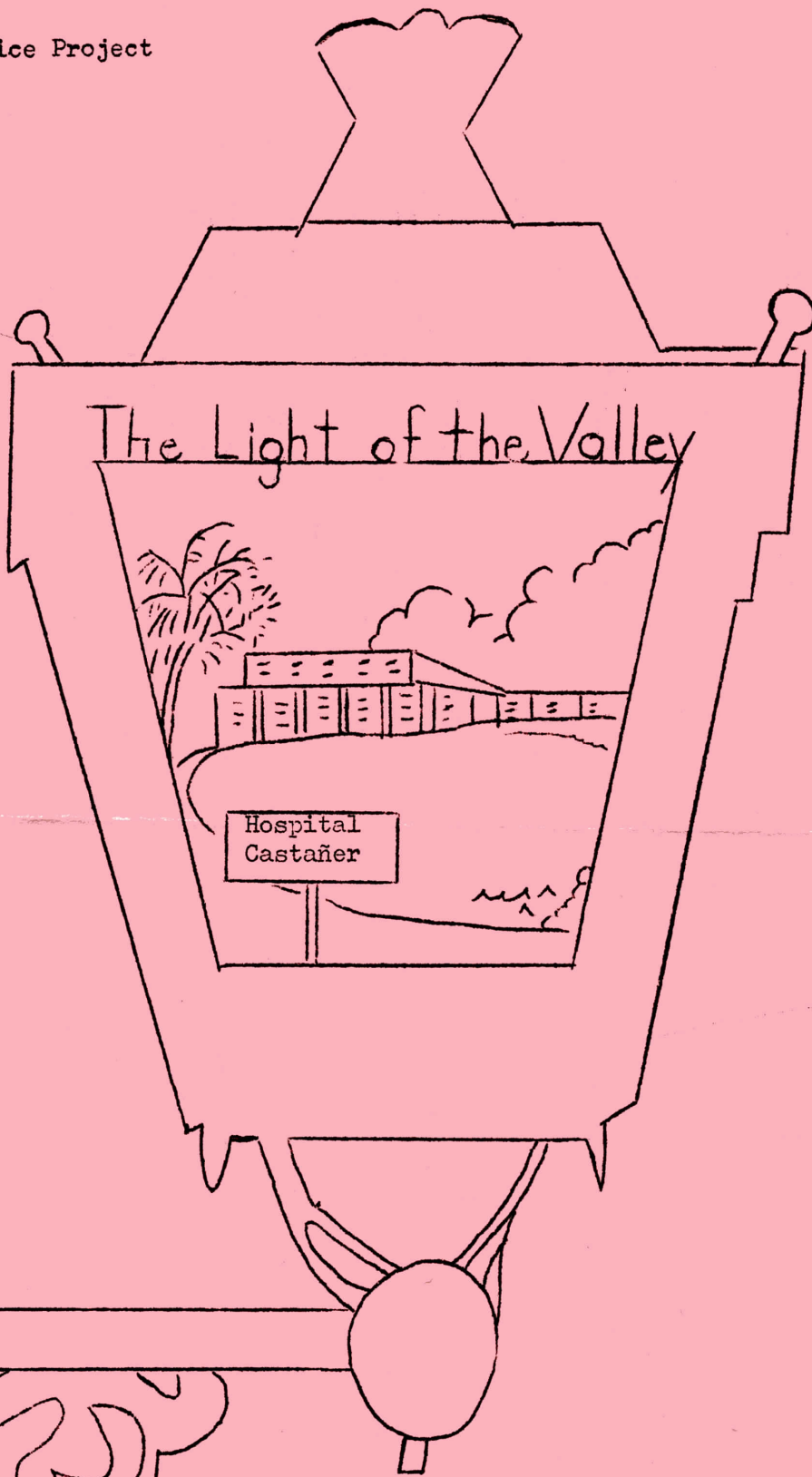


Volume 19

Fall, 1964

Brethren Service Project



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NEWS LETTER



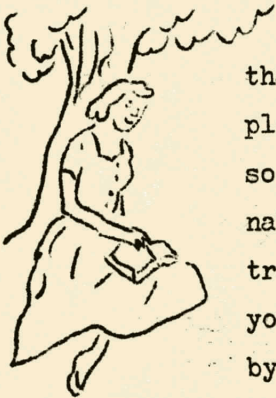
Did you give him a lift? He's a brother of man  
And bearing about all of the burden he can.  
Did you give him a word? He was down cast and  
blue  
And the right kind of word might have helped  
him get through.  
Did you stretch out your hand and pass him a  
smile?  
It might have meant victory that last weary  
mile.  
Did you do the right thing and point out the  
road,  
Or did you just let him go by with his load?

His jaw was set hard, his fists were clenched tight,  
His smile was a bluff, he was losing the fight.  
You knew it, you sensed it. You'd been there yourself  
In this mad, bitter battle for place and for self.  
But he'd counted on you through thick and through thin,  
Said you'd be his friend though the earth might cave in.  
And when old Fate threw him he said you'd be there.  
Did you act on the level? Say, were you on the square?

For you know it is the part of the brother of man  
To find what the hurt is and help when you can,  
To lift up a fellow who is down and all in,  
To forget his mistakes and forgive every sin.  
Now, I know what you meant, what you say may be true;  
But the test of your brotherhood is what did you do.  
Did you get in behind him when he made a fresh start?  
Or did he battle alone with his bruised, broken heart?

## VIEWS OF CASTAÑER

### Looking Back



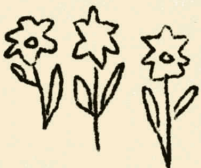
Castañer, now you are a memory. In my memory there is that of simple living, yet life with you had its own little complexities. Your life was a wonderful life out-of-doors, yet not so idealized and sought after; living with nature was a more natural part of life. Your rural setting and increasingly suburban traits made an interesting and sometimes trying situation. Castañer, you are part of the busy world, yet still apart from it. Protected by the mountains, your life seemed freer from pressures and busyness. Nevertheless, it was not free from the problems and challenges of human communities everywhere. Temptations of the materialistically oriented culture came less often and it was easier to do without the things we didn't need anyway. You are a full and happy memory, yet more.

You are a part of my life. I reflect upon the way it was with you and sometimes make you a mode. What I learned in your community has opened my eyes to things I may not have been able to see otherwise. Experience was a good teacher. In that opportunity, I met a new language and a new culture and saw myself in relationship, and sometimes in contrast, to it. Understanding and appreciation have a new dimension.

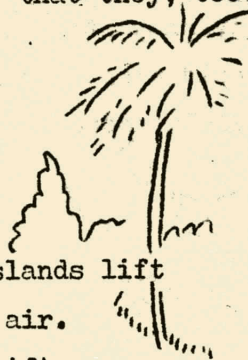
Your opportunity for service led us to you and we have naturally been made happier since we could be useful to your people.

I have said little or nothing of the many and lasting friendships that are so much a part of us, the struggles with language which frustrated us, the perfect climate which pleased us, and the blue sky and the surrounding mountains that charmed us, but you know, Castañer, that they, too, are a part of the life we shared.

Muchas gracias,  
Joyce Parker and family



I know not where his islands lift  
Their froned palms in air.  
I only know I cannot drift  
Beyond His love and care.



-Quaker poet-

LOS SENTIDOS DE LA NOCHE OR THE NIGHT SENSES

The senses tingle as dusk's mantle is so softly, quickly cast upon this verdant valley.

And then the night descends upon Los Rabanos.

Castañer night - filled with noises that delight,

As nature's chorus sets in tune her instruments that function best when sun has set.

The grunt and garbled sound of Rana species abounds as background

To reflect the insect chirp,

Or the shrill-pitched call of cricket's vibratory limbs.

And then Cicada sends his sound to stimulate the senses.

And what was that? A mimic to the infant's cry! The call of pavo real, distant peacock, haughty-proud - hidden from the sense of sight but not from otic perception.

The howl of hungry hound baying at - who knows what? Perhaps he's found a morsel for his scrawny frame and would call his mates to share. Somehow I doubt that this is so!

Pay heed to the cock who crows at least five hours prior to his time appointed as though he strives to be the master of all nocturnal decibels.

Point and counterpoint - the nighttime melody is played o'er once more.

Hushed only by the threat of one of mother nature's tantrums of temper, or by the early streak of morn.

Air so crisp and clean and cool, to stir the tactile sense - but just enough to let you know it's there.

An atmosphere so clear one needs only to extend a hand to fondle Mars, or touch his choice of stars that fill the black pitch canopy hung o'er head.

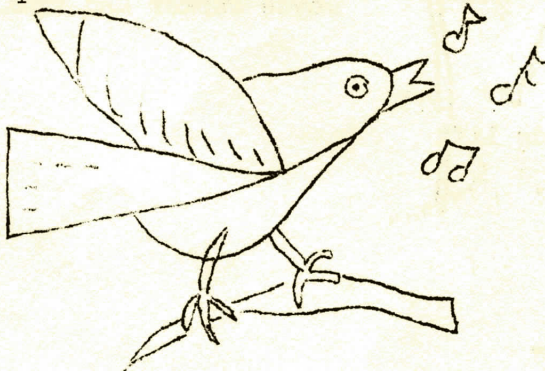
You see that royal palm so stark in silhouette against the face of earth's moon (so full and bright that one can scarcely believe that it is night) when at its best it hangs suspended in the sky.

And do you catch the acrid scent of citrus - or wisps of pungent carbon on the evening air? It's there - enough to satiate olfactory desires of all, and more.

Sights and sounds and scents enough to overpower - and yet how casually we pass a perfumed flower, and barely know it's there.

If a picture of this valley you should wish to carry off

Be sure to capture "Los sentidos del la noche", they're enough.

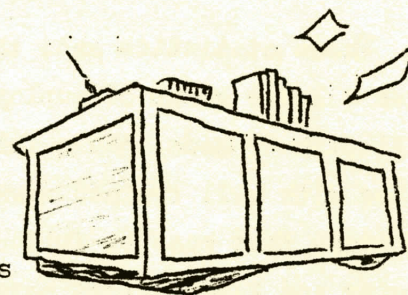


-Dr. John Taylor-  
M.D.- Castañer Hospital



BEHIND OFFICE DOORS

What does the Administrator say .....



The nature and purpose of this annual newsletter from Castañer Hospital is to inform Stateside and Insular friends of the work of the Hospital. However, it gives one a rather incomplete picture of the work that is being done. For a fair and complete coverage one would have to receive the opinions and contributions of the many patients who have come here for care. One would need to hear the views of our Puerto Rican co-workers. It must be realized that the majority of our Hospital workers are local community people who have worked here many years and could give you a much broader view of the work of the Hospital. Therefore, one should accept this as a very incomplete picture of the work, as seen by the Brethren Service Workers who have come here to serve. Perhaps we can and should attempt a more comprehensive report in the future with contributions from co-worker and patient. For now this brief coverage will suffice to keep you some-what better informed of what is happening at Hospital Castañer.

This year saw the approval of a list of local men and women, by the Castañer Community Committee and the Brethren Service Commission, to serve as members on a Castañer Hospital Advisory Board. These local leaders are now being contacted and it is hoped that an organizational meeting can soon be held. This Board will meet regularly with the Hospital Administrator to advise him and the Brethren Service Commission on matters of policy and operation of the Hospital. This is a new and important experience for us all which will help to determine how soon this might, in fact, become a Community Hospital.

A comparison of some of the figures from our annual statistical reports for the last three years gives an idea of the growing volume of work in the Hospital program:

	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
Admitted to Hospital . . . . .	1,000	961	1,025
Inpatient Days . . . . .	6,983	6,649	8,146
Deliveries . . . . .	367	337	223
Minor Surgery . . . . .	437	679	538
Major Surgery . . . . .	120	123	49
Lab-Total Procedures . . . . .	15,503	11,116	16,089
X-Ray Total Procedures. . . . .	1,922	1,848	1,299
Out Patient Visits . . . . .	26,177	23,105	22,066
Dental Department . . . . .	649	1,662	4,066
Social Work Interviews . . . . .	2,764	1,309	380
Total Meals Served . . . . .	36,036	30,700	33,177
Pounds Laundry . . . . .	78,750	79,465	46,143

These statistics show that a growing number of people are being served. It takes a large group of employees to staff a Hospital; and Castañer Hospital, though small with 33 beds, has a full time staff of 60 employees. Most vacancies can be filled with well trained workers from the local community. However, there are still positions that must be filled with Brethren Service Workers from Stateside. Medical, Nursing and Para-Medical personnel must be brought from the States because of a scarcity of these personnel on the island. At present the Hospital is in urgent need of Registered Nurses and would appreciate knowing of any girl who might wish to serve at Castañer. Our well equipped Dental Suite has been closed for months for lack of a dentist. There is a great need for a regular dental care and hygiene program. Our X-Ray Department lacks a technician. We could use a Pharmacist. A great need exists for qualified personnel now. Won't you help us to fill this need.

Through a continuous evaluation of the program and organization we are ever attempting to improve the quality of patient care. Some of the changes made in the past year are reviewed in the Medical Staff report. Other important changes are:

- A Hospital Disaster Plan was completed and a practice drill held.
- A nursing manual completed, consolidating under one cover the many Hospital policies and procedures the nurse must be acquainted with.
- Began preparation of a similar policy manual covering every department of the Hospital.

This report could have been more appropriately written by Caleb Frantz, Administrator of the Hospital from 1960-64. It was through the dedicated efforts of Caleb and his staff, that the Hospital attained minimum standards in 1963 to be fully licensed by the Puerto Rican Health Department.

Caleb and family and many other Brethren Service workers returned to the States this year and we wish them well in their new ventures. A large group of new Brethren Service employees has arrived this year to join the continuing work to serve the Health needs of the people of Castañer. The need continues and the work goes on.

-Gene Yeazell,  
Administrator

Write it on your heart  
that everyday is the  
best day of the year.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson-

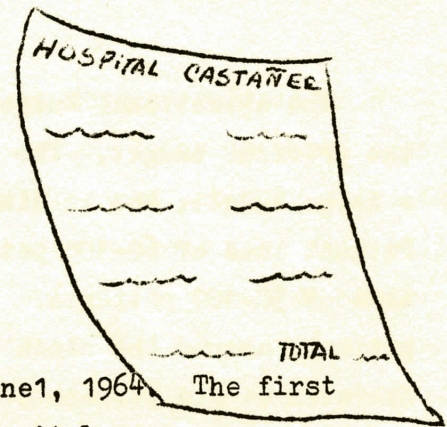
Every day  
is a fresh beginning.  
Every morn  
is the world made new.

-Susan Coolidge-

What does the Comptroller say.....

BILLS...BILLS...BILLS.....

The fiscal year 1963-1964 has brought many changes to Castañer. The changes in personnel were many. There were other changes also especially in the physical plant. The old project was sold to the Forrest Groff's and a new apartment building was completed. Possession was given June 1, 1964. The first week of June was the time for moving all workers to the hospital area.



The new apartment building is located just north of the Parsonage and extending to the east. It contains three, three bedroom apartments. This building was well planned. It has some flexibility on the second floor. It is possible to have one four bedroom apartment which reduces the other apartment to two bedrooms. This makes it possible to house a worker with a large family. The building is well constructed to with-stand hurricanes and is termite proof.

An addition has been made to the hospital consisting of a morgue which is complete except for the installation of an air conditioner required by Health Regulations. The morgue has facilities for autopsy work which has relieved the strain on other Hospital facilities.

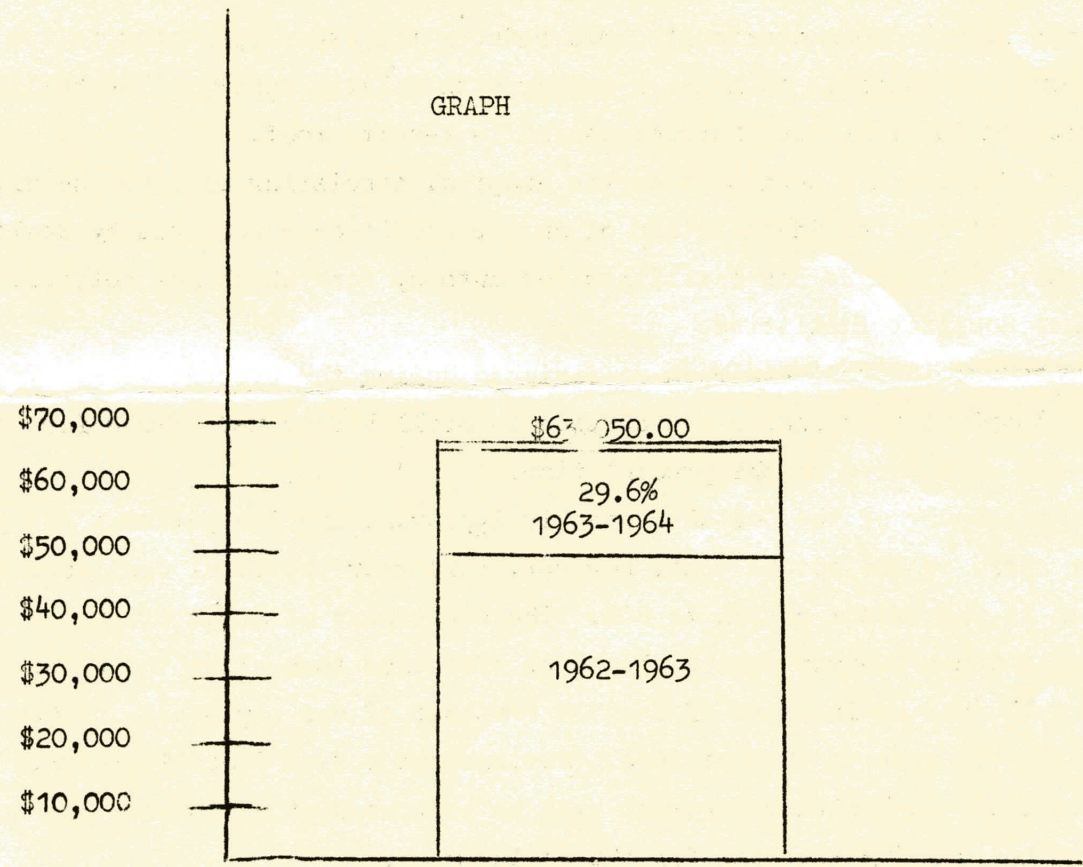
The Hospital roof has been re-finished during the present year. The painting of the Hospital both inside and outside is still before us. Plans for this work are being considered at the present time.

The economy of the Castañer area is improving and the patients are paying a larger share of the actual cost, however, this year the total cost must be under-written to the extent of 57% to 60%. The Department of Labor of Puerto Rico is preparing a new minimum wage scale to be effective soon after the First of the year. This could mean an increase of 8 - 12% for most of our employees. However, there is a brighter side to this picture. Administrator Gene Yeazell, reports that the support from the Health Department will be increased about 16% and one municipality has indicated a 50% increase for the coming year.

The Administrator is attempting to secure increased financial support from the areas bordering Castañer. There are four towns adjacent to Castañer that have benefited from the Service of the Hospital. The Civic organization of each town should be informed concerning the total program and given the opportunity to support it financially. This may take several years to accomplish but it is essential for making the transition to a community Hospital.

The operational Budget for the Hospital year 1964-65 has increased 7% over the previous budget. The overall figure now being \$214,900.00. This sounds like a large budget, but it diminishes rapidly, as plans are made to handle an Out-Patient load of 60-100 patients daily except Sunday. Also one away Clinic each week of 30-100 patients. The Hospital is always ready to serve up to thirty-three patients around the clock for those needing hospitalization. This program is operated with a personnel of 53 full time and 15 part time workers. Of this number 13 are B.V.S. ers.

-Galen B. Sargent-  
Comptroller



Comparison of Income From patients for the 1962-63 year and 1963-64 year.

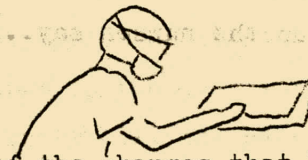
Where the many work together,  
 They with God Himself abide,  
 But the lonely worker also  
 Finds Him ever at his side,  
 Lo, the prince of common welfare  
 Dwells within the market strife;  
 Lo, the bread of Heaven is broken  
 In the sacrament of life.

-Enlarged Songs of  
Praise-



## BEHIND HOSPITAL DOORS

What do the doctors say.....



The past year again has provided a good example of the changes that have gradually been moving our hospital from a medical outpost in a barracks building towards a highly organized institution in modern surroundings. Medical practice at Castañer has always been of the highest caliber consistent with the facilities and time available. However, in the past year the medical staff under-took to organize in such a manner as to try to insure consistent high standards of practice for the years to come. By laws, rules and regulations were formulated following an outline recommended by the American Hospital Association. Important aspects of these bylaws, to mention just a few, include qualifications and conduct of staff members, provisions for a monthly medical records audit and a tissue committee to review surgical specimens. It is hoped that the putting into practice of this new staff organization will go a long way towards the continued improvement in medical standards and patient care.

Other changes and programs of interest during the last year include:

- The closing of two "away-clinics", Mirasol and Pezuela; and the opening of two other clinics to take their place, K-30 (Indiera Alta) and K-22 (Indiera Baja).
- The continuing of our major surgery program, with visiting surgeons performing major surgery at least once a month.
- The start of regular (approximately bi-monthly) visits by a pediatrician for consultation on problem cases.
- The refinement and further organization of our blood bank and related blood handling techniques.
- The construction and near completion of a morgue including an autopsy table and equipment and place for storage of pathology specimens.

Change seems to be the nature of this project, and this does not exclude the personnel as well. Those leaving our medical staff this year included Dr. Donald Parker, who left in May and has started an internal medicine residency at Akron, Ohio; and Dr. Galen Wampler who left in August and will soon be starting general practice in Rocky Ford, Colorado. To take the places, Dr. John Taylor from Toronto, Ontario arrived in July and Dr. Lee Smith who returned in September for his third term at Castañer. To fill in during the goings and comings and vacation times this summer we were very fortunate to have the help of Dr. Merritt Canfield of San Diego, California.

-Dr. Robert Parker-

What do the nurses say.....



Time: 7:00am, day: Wednesday, place: Nurses' Station, job: Registered Nurse. Every eight hours a new shift begins. Let's start now and go on through the day to see what the nurses are doing. For many of you this day will bring back memories. Nurses names used are of those that are here now, but you may substitute those you remember from your days at Hospital Castañer.

Mary Ann Packer, night nurse, having just completed a delivery arrives at the nurses station at the same time Ofe Rodriquez arrives for the day report. By 8:00 am the day nurse has the report, after numerous interruptions and the doctors are already there asking questions. The director of nurses, Elsa Groff, comes to the desk after visiting each patient on the way in, and is given a short report of patient's conditions. Before 8:30 Bruni Mercado starts rounding up the doctor and personnel for the away clinic. Soon they are off to Km 30 (Yauco) where they will see 100-125 patients. A new clinic site seems to increase the patient load. Extra work is added also because school has just begun and physicals and immunizations have to be given to the school children.

Back in the hospital, Ofe is busy checking orders, labor patients, etc. Assignments have been made and the work is being done. By 10:00 am patients are being sent from the clinic for admission for surgery tomorrow. Dr. Nelson, visiting surgeon from Mayaguez, will come Thursday and there are many admissions, arrangements for blood donors, laboratory work to be done and patients to be prepared physically and spiritually for the surgery day to come.

As the morning work is being finished, the afternoon quickly arrives. By 2 pm the discharged patients are clamoring to go, the newly admitted are still getting adjusted to their surroundings and the visitors have begun to invade each room. Trying to keep one visitor visiting one friend remains a problem--everyone knows everyone or one of their relatives, at least. The last hour flies and with some luck, Shirley Fike, evening nurse, receives report by 4pm and organizes the work for the remainder of the day.

Often the work goes smoothly--patients are checked, temperatures taken, supper served -- until 6 pm or so. By then, all the OPD personnel have gone--and 80 to 90 patients have seen the doctor and received medicine from Clara Rae Walters, nurse in the pharmacy. Have they paid their bills?

As often happens "emergencies" arrive and the RN with the help of Titi .

Gonzalez explains the cases to the doctor. As orders are given or written they are taken care of, medicines and bills given. Thanks to the good work of this practical nurse the RN is nearly free of evening OPD responsibilities except on Sundays.

Usually there is a delivery or emergency that needs the RN's attention, so by 11 pm she is just finishing the work and greets the night nurse as she arrives. Everyone knows that 11-7 holds the record for deliveries and admission of labor patients. As the night goes by, the paper work is done in co-ordinated jerks, between patient's needs and care of emergencies.

The hospital starts waking up at 6 am as the patients are given their first surgery sedation and Barb Custer, OR nurse, walks in to ready the OR for the first case of the day to be done at 7 am.

As we finish the last hour of this one 24 hour day we find all the doctors and the surgeon making short rounds, talking with patients and getting ready to spend a 12 hour day in surgery. Even though the day begins quietly everyone is aware that by afternoon, the strain of newly operated patients, plus all the other cares, will take its toll and each worker will feel relief as the evening shift arrives.

As usual, there are just enough RN's to cover each shift if no one is sick or on vacation. Because of this there are problems on surgery days or any time there is a critical patient. Wouldn't you like to come back, nurse? Do you know of anyone who would?

-Clara Rae Walters-



DISTRESS: DO YOU KNOW ANY NURSE WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE HERE AT THE CASTNER HOSPITAL?

After December, there will be only TWO Full-time patient care nurses and ONE Part-time patient care nurse.

WE NEED YOU.....

Try these: a kind thought,  
a kind word, a kind deed.

-Elbert Hubbard-

I will study and prepare myself, and then, some day, my chance will come.

-Abraham Lincoln-

## Visitors to Castañer - 1964



As in every year visitors came from near and far this past year. Some only passed through and received a quick view of the Hospital, others came to study or rest. Some came on business, others worked with us.

Some of the visitors this last year, a far from complete list were: W. Harold Row, Executive Secretary of Brethren Service Commission on an administrative visit; Helen Smith, from Elgin General Brotherhood Board offices to audit our books; Lem and Rebecca Hostetler, Bird-in-the-Hand, Pa.; The Reverend and Mrs. Raymond Peters, Dayton, Ohio; Students and Staff from the Putney School, Putney, Vermont; Mr and Mrs. John Barwick; Mr. Jim Bingham; Young people from Conn. Conference of Congregational Churches; Students and Adult leaders from the Park School of Buffalo, Snyder, New York; Students from Swarthmore High School, Swarthmore, Pa.; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weaver; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wolf; Mr. Robert Eshelman; Mr. Samuel Buzzard; and The Reverend and Mrs. Charles Zunkel, Port Republic, Va.

The Peace Corps is now sending regular groups of trainees to Castañer for field training experience. Trainees spending two week periods with us were Diana Decker, Des Moines, Iowa; Sabina Dunton, Goleta, California; Kay Kraus, Wellsley, Mass. who spent an additional period of time with us helping in the Hospital; Anthony and Pat Gutierrez, Stockton, California; Frances Lewandowski, New Jersey; and Joanne Smith, Cincinnati, Ohio.

We look forward to continued good relations with the Peace Corps.

## A Note From the Consumers Coop. of Castañer

Agustine Lebron, Administrator of the Castañer Consumers Coop. reports that there are many former project workers who left their shares in the coop. These shares are earning dividends for no one and he feels they could be put to good use if transferred to Castañer Hospital. In this way purchases made by Project members could be credited to the Hospital shares and a dividend earned by the Hospital.

Anyone who has moved away and is interested in transferring their Coop. shares to the Hospital should write a letter to the Board of Directors of the Coop. and instruct them to make such a transfer.

Have a purpose in life, and having it,  
throw into your work such strength of  
mind and muscle as God has given you.

-Thomas Carlyle-

## CHANGING SCENES BEHIND CHURCH DOORS

What does the pastor say .....

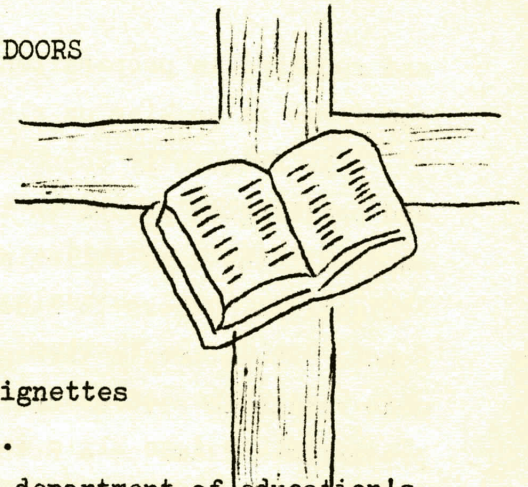
For those of you who are interested in the Castañer of today because you shared for a time in the Castañer of yesterday,- and whose time and circumstances allow you to return only mentally and occasionally to visit us, here are some brief vignettes to keep you informed on events related to the church.

A year ago we reported the establishment of the department of education's pilot plan by which rural school vacations were shifted to coincide with coffee harvest. That plan robbed us of the normal summer activities of vacation church school and camp. A modified pilot plan this summer made it possible to re-establish both of these activities for children up to the sixth grade. The entire experiment will be discarded next summer and the normal schedule resumed, much to the satisfaction of most students, teachers, parents, and pastors.

The age limit imposed by the pilot plan naturally lowered the number of campers. However, one new development was introduced in our camping program this year. For the first time in our experience here the camp was carried out on a co-educational basis. It proved to be quite a successful experiment. The camp was again held in Monte del Estado, Maricao. Serving as director was Jose Olmo, director of (Presbyterian) Marina Neighborhood House in Mayaguez. There were campers only from Castañer and Mayaguez this year, since El Guacio was involved in a change of directors and lacked the necessary organization usually provided by the Dodds.

With community and project persons constantly coming and going, we have registered a slight decrease in attendance this year and an increase in number of non-resident members. There has also been a gradual increase in the number of non-resident members. There has also been a gradual increase in the number of Puerto Rican members in the congregation. Greater effort and attention is being given to maintain a correspondence ministry to non-resident members. We are beginning to see some of the positive results of this ministry.

Most of the churches in the community have made improvements on their physical properties during the year. The Baptist church and parsonage have recently been painted. The Pentecostals are building a multi-level sanctuary and parsonage in the new housing section behind the post office. The Episcopalians have constructed a new parish house beside their chapel. In our church the roof has been cleaned



and repaired in preparation for the possible installation of a ceiling. A committee is working on plans for other physical improvements in the future.

The frequently changing youth group remains one of the most interesting and challenging groups in the church. Again this year a large number made their exodus in the days following graduation, some to work, some to fulfill service obligations, others to study in the States and one to begin nurses' training in Poncé. At intervals throughout the regular schedule of weekly gatherings, they made visits to several churches in our area. Shortly after New Years the group presented a drama at a Methodist church in Poncé. They attended and sang at the anniversary celebration of the Lares Presbyterian church. During Holy Week the choir sang at a special anniversary service in the Methodist church in Utuado in which the speaker was Dr. Carlos Juan Lastra, Secretary of Commerce of Puerto Rico and an active Baptist layman. On another occasion, a musical program was presented for the Guacio community, sponsored by the youth of El Guacio. Other exchange visits have been made with the youth of the Methodist church in Poncé and the Baptist church in Adjuntas.

We join efforts with all who feel the urgency and need to be part of the healing in the brokenness in which we live . . . . in our own congregation . . . in our communities . . . . and in the world.

-Don Fike-  
Pastor, Castañer  
Church of the  
Brethren

#### Modern Man



He lived in a big city.  
He knew the "right" people.  
He learned to say, no to prestige.  
He followed but never led.  
  
He gave up nothing and lost everything.  
He believed in conquest by force.  
He sold a man he called friend.  
He looked at God and saw darkness.  
  
He walked beside Christ, yet heard no voice.  
He believed yet had not faith beyond the tangible.  
He found truth, too late, in the pain of experience.  
  
He ran from God  
Until he lost himself  
And was found by God.

-Author unknown-

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law."

Galatians 5: 22-23

PROGRESS .. PROGRESS ....



"Not another one of those dreamers," we often hear ourselves saying. What is wrong with a dreamer, many times it turns into reality. Progress is what we all want. Great things come of dreams. For example, there was a man who stood on the shores of his island home of Genoa four centuries ago and dreamed that if a ship would sail on westward over the rim of the horizon a short route to the gold of India might be found. His contemporaries scoffed his silly idea. They told him the world was flat and to sail westward would mean to drop off the rim of the sea into the abyss of space. But he held to his dream. He begged through the streets of the imperial cities of Europe for money to finance a fleet of boats in which he might follow the lure of his dream. And finally a queenly woman of vision provided the boats, and Columbus sailed westward, through storm and scurvy, mutiny and hunger, on and ever on toward the sunset. There came a glad day when the lookout on the flagship shouted, "land ahead!" And on October 12, 1492, the dreamer discovered America.

Here at Castañer we need people who can see hopes and dreams for our little valley, people who see possibilities and put them to work and help them grow. We need these kind of people and we have some.

+++++

Castañer is humming with activity: the concern for doing away with poverty has already had some effect here and will have much more. Farmers are studying how to improve their farms, and getting paid for it. A vocational school is about to start here on a small scale, again young men ( and maybe women) will get paid for learning. The emphasis is on education, improvement and better use of resources. This will undoubtedly continue and expand when the war on poverty program reaches us here. A sub-committee on agriculture linked to the Castañer Community Committee and the Rural Areas Development program has been formed, composed of this correspondent, three agronomists and five local farmers. Plans and expectations are high for dealing with critical local problems such as marketing and processing of agriculture products and supply of implements, fertilizer, insecticide, etc. Another committee is working on getting an industry for Castañer.

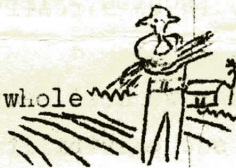
Among definite progress in the community is the addition of street lights, the paving of two side roads (now in progress) a funeral home run by Ray Lichty and Lynn Shively of the project, a beauty parlor, and four new classrooms for the schools. We soon may start on the plans for a new center, park and recreation area.

The consumer's co-op set new records again this year with sales at \$183,000 and earnings of over \$13,000 (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ %). It plans to expand and add new equipment soon. The credit union is dealing forcefully with the problem of recalcitrant loans and should solve it within the year. An educational program is needed for members of both co-ops and many soon come about, along with revival of the twice-defunct Castañer bulletin. The health co-op is struggling along, providing health services and education to 500 subscriber's in this area, and requiring, but not always getting, the full attention of this correspondent. The amount of monthly premiums collected has passed \$2,500.

With all this news it would seem incredible that any other item could push the others into the background, but for this correspondent, his new marriage on September 3rd to Marcelina Quiles had that effect.

-John Forbes-  
Cooperativa de  
Salud.

An acre of performance is worth the whole  
world of promise. -James Howell-



#### FURTHER PROGRESS WITH "FUNERARIA CASTAÑER"



"Funeraria Castañer?" "What, a funeral home in Castañer?" "Yes."  
"But, when did this come into operation?" "Well, it's really a long story. I suppose it actually began several years ago when a Harrisburg High school youth, Raymond Lichty, began working with a mortician in his free time. He became interested in the work and began to seriously consider becoming a mortician himself. Or maybe it was just one teenager's many ideas.

After a year of college, came B.V.S. The job the project selected for him was that of maintenance engineer for the hospital. Incidentally, he speaks fluent Spanish. During the course of time, his interest in this peculiar profession was not lost; but rather, it began to take on new possibilities. Nurses on duty began calling on him to dress those patients who died in the hospital. He made attractive boxes for the burial of babies when grief stricken parents were without one and found it difficult to obtain one. Always this was free of charge.



As time went on , he had a chance to observe the burial customs of Puerto Rico and also the work and policies of the nearest funeral home. He noticed that their prices were extremely high. The family of the deceased was expected to pay funeral expenses upon the call of service without regard for the family income. It took between six to eight hours to arrange many funerals, because of poor transportation. Perhaps more than anything, he noticed that the services were not being rendered with a personal relationship between mortician and family. Helping the family seemed secondary to just 'getting the job done'. Here he saw a real need.

Believing that families and friends remember their loved ones as they last see them at the viewing, he began to take action by doing more of the detailed work that is involved in preparing the deceased. Pleased families and hospital personnel, who liked his work, soon spread the word as to who had done the work. As a result, he was soon asked to prepare not only those who had passed away in the hospital, but also those who died at their homes. Then, it happened. Puerto Rican people asked him to set up a funeral home in Castañer community. Ray liked the idea; but for financial reasons, realized it was just a dream.

However, he didn't give up there. He tried to think of every possible way that this seed of hope could be a reality. He discussed it with the hospital administrative committee, Harold Row, community friends and co-workers. Eventually special permission was granted him to end his service at the hospital two months earlier, on the grounds that he could be of more service to the community in that way than by continuing his work at the hospital, where someone else could carry on his work.

The planted seed of hope had germinated and punctured the soil. To Ray these were signs to go ahead and that he did. First, he rented a building in the community and with the 'gratis' willing help of Tony Rivera and Lynn Shivley, who work with him in maintainence, the necessary changes were made. The inside was decorated. There was painting to do as well as other work. Then there was the purchase of a hearse.

So, on May 20th, the funeral home began with blossoming possibilities. There were just ten caskets for sale, one house set, financial aid, and above all the willingness to work. As of August 28th, there have been ten services rendered. The goal is 21 services for the first year.

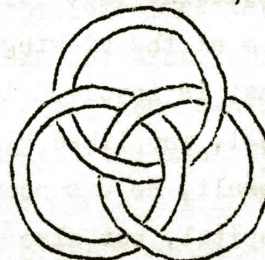
Thus far it seems that all the credit for this establishment has been given to Ray; but no one knows better than he how much help he has received from others. There were Tony and Lynn as already mentioned. Other B.V.S.ers, Tess Daley and

Nancy Donaldson also willingly gave their free time by acting as secretaries. Mary Ebey spent many willing, conscientious hours, by helping organize the records. Words cannot express the thanks she deserves. Then there were those who helped by giving helpful suggestions, advice, and the words of encouragement. It almost seemed as though the entire project was a part of the undertaking.

Yes, only a short time ago, it was a dream, a mere seed. The seed was planted and apparently nourished. Now, in operation, there are blossoms of possibilities, useful and real. What will tomorrow bring?

-Rebecca Grossnickle-  
Past B.V.S., R.N.

And only the Master shall praise us  
And only the Master shall blame,  
And no man will work for money,  
And no man will work for fame,  
But each for the joy of working  
And each 'neath his separate star  
Shall draw the thing as he sees it  
For the God of things as they are.



-Author Unknown-



#### THE COMINGS AND GOINGS OF CASTAÑER

How about getting acquainted and reacquainted with the people who are here at Castañer project? Since the last newsletter there has been a large turnover of personnel.

#### NEW PERSONNEL

We started out the new year right by greeting Gene and Carol Yeazell along with their three year old son, David. Gene is the new administrator of the hospital. Carol helped in the office for a short time and now spends most of her time in their apartment with David or else in the hospital kitchen, teaching the cooks different and new dishes. The Yeazells plan to make Puerto Rico their home, since they are here for an indefinite period of time.

Following the Yeazells, John Studebaker, of Dayton, Ohio, joined the hospital staff. John is in charge of the laboratory where he puts in many long hard hours. He can be found lots of nights late back in the lab crossmatching blood for a patient that might need it. John was in January JS Unit and will be still found here as late as March, 1966.

Next, Galen and Sarah Sargent, of South Bend, Indiana, came to Castañer. For a while they were joined by their son Eugene, who was on vacation. Mr. Sargent, who is almost better known as "Sarge", is working in the business office as

Comptroller. His wife, Sarah, is in charge of housing for all project personnel. The Sargents plan to be here until May of 1966.

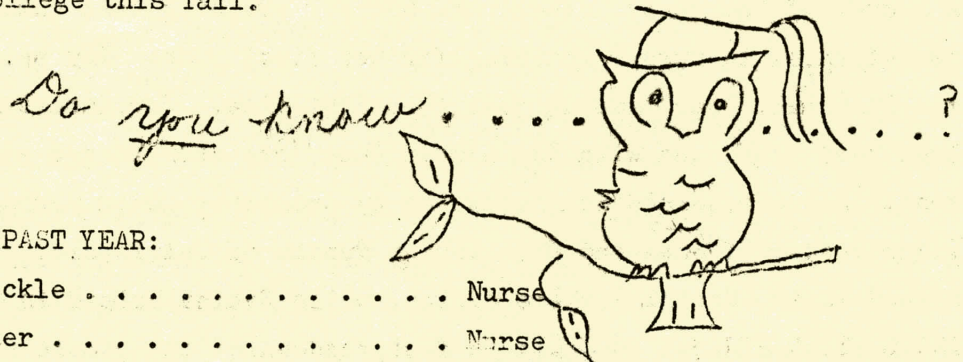
Also in May, the office staff was increased by another, Nancy Donaldson. Her job is that of general secretary. She, also like John, was in the January B.V.S. Unit. Nancy expects to stay in Castañer until May, 1966.

On July first, we were joined by John and Joan Taylor of Toronto, Canada. John is an MD and Joan an RN. However, Joan puts her training to work at home taking care of John Matthew Stanley, who was born here in Castañer on August 21. John, Joan, and Baby John will not return to Canada until 1966.

In the latter part of the summer more help was needed in the office, so Duane and Jeannine Steiner of Wooster, Ohio were asked to come and help us out. Duane is working as bookkeeper-accountant, while his wife, Jeannine, holds down a general secretary's job. Jeannine is also kept busy teaching five lively young people in a kindergarten class.

Norene Keenen, of New Carlisle, Ohio, has, so far, been spending most of her time in the school room. She is the new project school teacher. Norene joined us in August this year. She was in the July BVS Unit.

On September first our second new doctor joined the staff. Dr. Lee Smith, his wife, Glea, and their four children, Amy, David, Janice, and Carol are all now very well settled in their new apartment. An older son, Byron, is a freshman at Manchester College this fall.



WHO LEFT DURING THE PAST YEAR:

- Miss Rebecca Grossnickle . . . . . Nurse
- Miss Annabelle Metzler . . . . . Nurse
- Miss Lynne Roudabush . . . . . School Teacher
- Dr. and Mrs. Don (Joyce) Parker . . . . . Doctor and Housewife
- Dr. and Mrs. Galen (Shirley) Wampler . . . . . Doctor, Nurse and House wife
- Mr. and Mrs. Ray (Carol) Slaubaugh . . . . . Treasurer and secretary
- Mr. and Mrs. Caleb (Reta) Frantz . . . . . Administrator and Housewife
- Mr. Raymond Lichty . . . . . Maintenance Engineer

My heart is warm with the friends I make. -Edna St. V. Millay-

A friend is someone who knows all about you and loves you just the same. -Elbert Hubbard-

FIVE SHORT TERM WORKERS: These workers were here for three months or less.

Mrs. Helen Baker worked for the hospital for some time as a laboratory technician. She, her husband Paul, and daughter Susan, live at Añasco, Puerto Rico.

Also, here about the same time as Mrs. Baker, were Dr. and Mrs. Gary Meling. Dr. Meling worked in the dentist office, while his wife, Joyce, kept the home fires burning. After the Melings left Castañer they made their way to Germany where Dr. Meling is now Captain Meling in the United States Army.

Dr. and Mrs. Merritt Canfield of San Diego, California were here to help us during the turn over of doctors. They were here for a period of three months. Mrs. Canfield's job was just that of a housewife, but it soon developed that she was doing a much greater job. She was, along with her husband, becoming a fast friend of all the young people on project. Incidentally, the Canfields were retired, but this did not stop them one bit. In thoughts and deeds they were as young as anyone could be.

Also, this summer, we had in the office, Miss Mary Ebey of Huntington, Indiana. Mary has since returned to Manchester College where she is a senior this fall. Mary worked in the Comptroller's office as a bookkeeper. She also put many hours in the lab recording tests for John.

Our fifth worker was Miss Kay Kraus of Wellesley, Massachusetts. Kay is a member of the Peace Corps. She had her training this summer and then this fall is returning to nurses training for her final year. Kay spent four weeks here at the hospital. She came at just the right time. Our nurses had been working long hard hours and with Kay's help they were able to get a short, but appreciated rest. Kay was joined for two weeks by two other Peace Corps Volunteers, Miss Diana Decker of Iowa and Miss Sabina Dunton of California. Diana observed and helped in the Social Workers office, while Sabina helped in O.P.D.

THOSE STILL HERE AT PROJECT: A fast rundown of the people still on project who were here last year and their jobs, is contained in the newsletter this year just to refresh you memory.

- Dr. and Mrs. Robert (Carolyn) Parker. . . . . Doctor and housewife. On Sept. 22, 1964, the Parkers became the proud parents of their third daughter, Kimberly Joann.
- Mr. Lynn Shively . . . . . Maintenance
- Miss Carolyn (Tess) Daley . . . . . Accounts Receivable Secretary
- Mr. and Mrs. Everett (Elsa) Groff . . . . . Maintenance and Nursing Supervisor
- Miss Mary Ann Packer. . . . . Nurse

Miss Barbara Custer . . . . . Nurse  
 Miss Clara Walters . . . . . Nurse  
 Rev. and Mrs. Don (Shirley) Fike. . . . . Pastor and Nurse  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edgar (Helen) Kiracoffe . . . . . Managers of the old project  
 -Nancy Donaldson-

???????????????? A VERY SPECIAL GUEST ??????????????????

It started out to be quite a normal Saturday. The sun was shining and everyone was pretty much in his normal place. As usual both Dr. John Taylor and Dr. Bob Parker were running back and forth between the Hospital and OPD attempting to keep pace with the clinic and the pressures for a doctor in the hospital.

Joan Taylor, John's wife was in the hospital thrilled over the birth of their son the day before. Carolyn Parker, Bob's better half, was at home with their girls, Lynette and Beth.

Who would have thought that anything out-of-the ordinary might happen?

Duane and Jeannine Steiner, new arrivals to our project, were busy getting settled and becoming acquainted with the grounds. They were becoming oriented to the new work that soon would begin.

If you had looked in the lab about 9:30, you would have seen John Studebaker scratching his head and asking, "Where ... where can I get water to use so I can finish my sugar tests? Why didn't they tell me they were going to turn off the water? What shall I do? I only need two pans full." That was finally solved easily enough - simple - a visit to Central Supply and raiding the distilled water supply.

The day continued to progress rather slowly - well you know how it is when it is Saturday and you only work a half day then get a day and a half to enjoy something else.

Our administrator, Gene Yeazell, was in his office when word came that a special visitor was to come. She was on her way and was to arrive sometime that night.

You understand how it is don't you? When a visitor is coming, especially a special one, you want to have everything fixed just right. Well, that is the way we wanted things.

Since we still did not have water, we visited the old project where Mr. and Mrs. Everett Groff live. Since they were not home (they were in the States visiting their daughter Joyce, and getting Janice started at McPherson College), their children Ricky and Carmen, who were there, found themselves bombarded with

all kinds of containers of all sizes and shapes for water. OH, how good it looked.

Since Mrs. Groff, director of nurses, was gone, Mary Ann Packer had to take charge as acting director. Preparations must be made so our visitor would feel welcomed, when she arrived.

Carol Yeazell and her son David often help in the kitchen. They are doing well in improving our diet. Water had to be carried for the kitchen crew to continue their operations of cooking and dishwashing. Lynn Shively who worked in the maintenance department had to take charge of this and of other preparations. Ray Lichty, head of the maintenance department, was in San Juan getting some repairs done on the Ford.

Things in the office had to continue. Mr. Sargent, comptroller, was busy tossing numbers around in his mind and trying to make ends meet on a show string. His wife, Sarah, tries to keep up with preparations for newcomers. She is also our linen checker and tries to see that not too many linens come up missing. If they should be missing, she can tell us where they are.

As the afternoon came and was leaving us, we heard people all around us peck pecking, pecking with their hammers. The happy carefree people we know no longer seemed so gay and carefree. There was a certain sense of -of -of stillness. Was it fear? What was there to fear? Did they fear that our guest in the night might not pay a friendly visit?

As evening approached, Don and Shirley Fike and their children, Doug and Wanda, returned from the beach to find no water. They made a visit, as many others had done, to the old project, where Clara Rae Walters was issuing rations of water.

At this same time, we found Barb Custer, the scrub nurse, heading up packaging and sterilizing of gauze, etc. Nancy Donaldson, secretary, was even pitching in and looked quite professional in her cap and long white gown.

Night came on, the rain came. At first it just sprinkled, then it rained harder -no not really hard, but a good steady drip, drip, drop. On, on it rained on into the night. When morning came, our visitor had not yet come. It continued to rain all day. Still no running water, except outside. How was one to keep things looking clean and nice with it raining 16-18 hours straight and no running water for 48 hours? What caused the pressure that had broken our water pipe?

There was a sense of stillness, was it thankfulness, disappointment, or relief that the hurricane Cleopatra did not pay a visit to our friendly warm hearted valley?

-Mary Ebey-