Lastañer Mewsletter

BRUMBAUGH FECONSTRUCTION UNIT --- C.P.S. Unit No. 43 --- BRETHREN SERVICE COMMITTEE

Vol. IV, No. 2 (#44)

Castaner, Puerto Rico

October 1, 1945

Elmer Earl Hartzler Sept. 12, 1943

TN MEMORIAM

Isaac Harvey Horner Sept. 26. 1943 

### HAND TO THE PLOW

In the next few months the work of the Brumbaugh Reconstruction Unit at Castaner will pass through its most critical stage. Although the unit has been conscious of this unavoidable transition period for many months, the end of the war and the development of a demobilization plan for Civilian Public Service have served to place the matter directly before all of us.

In the course of the three years during which the medical-social program has been carried out, everyone connected with the work has agreed that the short-range plan does not lead to a long-term solution. It is very evident that a group must put forth its full constructive powers over a period of many years. In order to accomplish this, there are several conditions which must be fulfilled. On the basis of the experience of these years at Castaner, the members of the unit have devised several alternative plans for an effective long-term service program. In these plans the role of the Insular health program and the availability of Puerto Rican personnel have been considered. Now it is hoped that the Brethren Service Committee will feel the support of the home churches to such a degree that it will go ahead immediately to plan the continuance of the Castaner unit for many years in the future.

"It has been rumored" ------that 3500 of the 8500 C.P.S. men may be discharged by the first of the year. Based on this estimate, it is certain that at least a third of the 24 C.P.S. men at Castaner will be included in this group. A few of the men have stated their willingness and desire to stay on with the work here beyond their discharge. However, the majority is anxious to return to the States to go on with studies, or begin postponed work. Some hope to return to Puerto Rico after finishing some academic preparation. To state the matter more clearly, there remain but three months in ; which to decide upon the future status of Brethren Service work at Castaner. It is essential that no positions be left vacant during the course of this period. Only through a maintained interest on the part of everyone can this be realized.

The work of the Castaner unit has been gratifying to all that have had a part in it. Though the Government of Puerto Rico is as yet unable to go ahead with this sort of program, it sees in Castaner an example of what can and must be done in order to effectively reach the people in the interior of the island. By continuing the best elements of this service program it is hoped that the seed can be planted that will form in this community permanent roots that might nourish a lasting, positive spirit.

# FRANKLIN AND PEGGY CASSEL RETURN TO STATES

On Saturday evening, September 15, a farewell dinner in honor of Peggy and Franklin Cassel was served in the unit dining room to show in a small way our appreciation of their work with the unit.

The tables were decorated very cleverly by the Jim Martins emphasizing Dr. Cassel's speciality, obstetrics. Arranged in miniature as the center piece at the head. table was a typical "delivery room setup", patient draped on the table, doctor masked and gowned. On the other tables were portrayed in like manner, patients en route to the hospital, each patient in a hammock slung from a long bamboo pole and carried over the shoulders of two men. The figures were Puerto Rican sponge dolls.

Dinner music by records accompanied a most delicious meal. A short program followed: music by a trio, a sermon on the "ABC's" rendered by Dwight Hanawalt, farewell address by Herman Will, and George Furse presenting the unit's gift to the Cassels.

Dr. and Mrs. Cassel completed two and one-half years of service at Castaner. They flew from Puerto Rico on Sept. 22. With their leaving we are sorry to lose two good friends and conscientious workers from our group, and we wish them well in their new work. Their address: 40 S. Broad Street, Lititz, Pa.

#### HOLLYWOOD AT CASTANER

The arrival of a 16 mm. sound projector from the States this summer has greatly aided our program of recreational and educational movies. Movie night is the biggest event of the week in Castaner, and everyone from baby to grandpa finds his way down the hill trails by lantern or torch light to the community center.

The crowds became so large that they could not be adequately handled inside the Center, so we moved out to the basketball court. There in the "Castaner Theater" under the stars, we are able to carry on, using the bleachers for the older people and folding chairs on the court for the children. The problem of a portable outdoor screen was well solved by the product of Johnny Friesen and his trusty welding torch,

The movies are all free, furnished to us by the Department of Education and the Commission of Sports and Recreation. However, from time to time we pass the cup and collect enough each time to pay for incidental materials and postage that are involved.

The crowds vary from 350 to 500 persons, depending on weather conditions, and every kind of film from Western thrillers of 1930 vintage to 1945 editions of Malaria Control by Malt Disney are shown from week to week. . . So, if you're doing nothing next Saturday night, grab your umbrella to keep off the dangerous moonbeams, fill your bottle with kerosene for a torch, and join the crowds at Castaner Theater.

### TENNIS -- VOLIEYBALL -- BASKETBALL

The rains have come, but they have failed to dampen the tennis enthusiasm. A day seldom goes by but that several unit members are using the tennis court for some "Big muscle" activity. Recently a singles tournament in the form of a perpetual ladder was inaugurated, and more than 20 fellows have joined in the play.

A community volleyball tournament with four teams has been going during the month of September. Play has been carried on twice a week with two matches scheduled each evening. An out-of school team is tied with a continental team captained by Bill Johnson, and they will play off the championship next week.

Basketball has been neglected for some time around the project, but the big games of the year are coming up with Polytechnic Institute Oct. 5-6. It will be a home and home arrangement, with Castaner playing host Friday evening, and Poly on Saturday evening (at San Derman). Some of the Mennonite fellows from La Plata and Paul Weaver from Rio Piedras central office will be used to supplement the local team.

## PICNIC AT THE SALICETTI POOL

'Twas 4 p.m. August 23 and there was quite a commotion around the big red truck where everyone was trying to beat everyone else to the side rail. Yes, the day of the annual swimming party, at last. And what a success! Half of the water was out of the pool by 6:30 when the swimming allowed down for all that delicious food that we ha taken along. Plenty for all, and some to bring home, made the second hit.

That big friendly moon came up over yonder mount about 7 p.m. Made everyone think of home or other places of interest connected with the great yellow ball -- third hit of the party! Then entertainment by a professional magician (CPSman Bill Channel)! How did he do those card tricks, and what line of them he had?! Oh, yes, dancing to the tune of the turntable kept most everyone busy for a while before we started on that singing ride back under the full harvest moon! Parties at the Salicetti pool in Adjuntas are the high spots of the year.

## A TIP FOR SANTA CLAUS: "PUERTO RICO, UNSOLVED PROBLEM"

Two CPSmen, Earl S. Garver and Ernest B. Fincher, have written the best up-to date book on Puerto Rico in <u>Puerto Rico: Unsolved Problem</u>. Into 110 pages they have crowded an amazing amount of accurate material on nearly every aspect of island life.

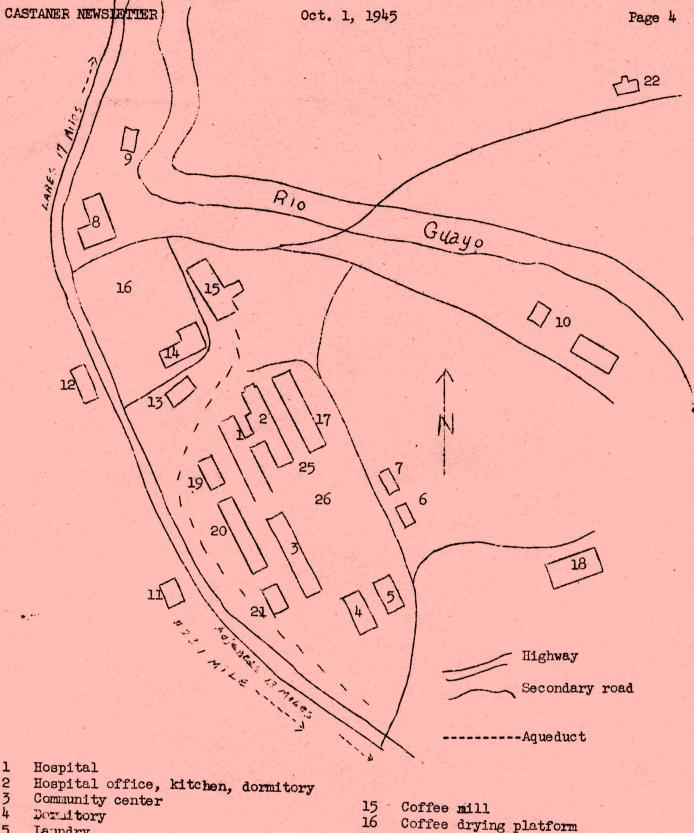
It is apparent that the authors, who have never visited Puerto Rico themselves, have studied a vast amount of material and have selected very carefully all that is contained in their book. Especially well done are the chapters on "The Islander at Home", "Economic Revolution", "Puerto Rico, U.S.A.". and "Quest for Knowledge".

In the section dealing with the history of the Nationalist Party and the political future of the island, the authors arrive at conclusions substantially in agreement with the judgment of virtually all of the CPS personnel in Puerto Rico, most of whom have spent from two to three years on the island. This is particularly interesting because sharp differences of opinion on the same questions exist among liberal groups in the States.

Copies of the book are available from the Brethren Service Committee, 22 South State Street, Elgin, Illinois, at \$1.00 per copy. We should like to suggest that it would constitute an excellent gift to friends who are interested in Puerto Rico and who wish to know more about the island and its problems.

#### CASTAMER VISITORS AND VACATIONS

Aug. 20: Doris Hanawalt, Dwight's sister, arrives at Castaner before enrolling at Polytechnic Institute. Bill Channel, St. Croix, vacations and entertains at swimming party Aug. 23. Aug. 25: Everett, Miriam and Ralph Myer, and Dwight and Imogene Hanawalt drive to Quinta Tranquila, joined by Jim and Mary Martin on the 27th. Aug. 26: Elizabeth Powell, PR Development Co. comes to model doll heads from typical children in the community. Aug. 27: Rev. William Hastings and son Chas. Wm. join the unit for 4 days of rest. Ike, Thelma and Jeanie Chatham leave for St. Just after 3 weeks sojourn at Castaner. Sept. 3: Henry Dasenborok, Harland Gibson and Marybeth Gosnell enplane for the Virgin Islands on a 2-week furlough. Sept. 9: Jean Harbison returns from the States after an absence of 5-1/2 months. Sept. 11: Maj. Callahan, Lt. Henriksen, USPHS nurses, and Miss McKinnin and Miss Pabon visit the project to inspect our clinic and public health work. Sept. 15: Mrs. Dorothy Merritt, Ia Verne College and Polytechnic Institute, spends her first week end at Castaner. Sept. 17: George Furse rushes to San Juan to assist Dr. Daryl Parker complete his papers for the American College of Surgeons.



Coffee drying platform 56 Laundry 17 PRRA marehouse and carpentry shop Storeroom Vanilla curing plant and drying 18 78 Shup platform Casa Grande PRRA dormitory 19 9 Doctor Meyer's residence 20 Church and grade school 10 Stables 21 Canning center 11 Medical center 22 House of the Masons and Friesens 12 Store Lilinas-home of Sobels and Martins 23 13 Garage 24 Flower garden Old sugar mill--unused

25

26

Baskethall court

Softball field