

April 1, 1947

The thirteen members of the choir make a fairly well-balanced group. In the future the Choir hopes to prepare some numbers from Bach and Palestrina, Negro spirituals, and some purely secular music.

BEHIND THE SCENES

In a Project such as ours, as in many walks of life, there is a great deal of important work done behind the scenes which makes possible the "headline" work of service to the community for which our Unit operates. The "headline" departments have recently been reviewed (the work of the Community Center Program was given in the August-September issue, and the work of the Medical Program in the February-March issue) and now we shall step behind the scenes to see how the Unit is co-ordinated, fed, clothed, housed and kept in good running order.

The Office--Claude Wolfe, formerly associated with "Club Brethren" in Quito, Ecuador (see page 1), arrived in March to replace Rufus B. King as director. His duties will include coordinating the different departments of work, acting as counselor for Unit members, making contacts with government agencies and supervising matters of employment, purchasing and budgeting. Maurice A. Click is treasurer-buyer and is in charge of the buying for the kitchen, hospital and does personal shopping for Unit members, and is responsible for keeping of CPS and financial records, and for business correspondence. Mrs. Martha Bachman is secretary, doing shorthand, typing and filing; and is also drug room clerk, dispensing drugs to the hospital, OPD and clinics, and turning drug orders in to the buyer.

In the Kitchen--During the past year the kitchen has had a complete turnover of continental personnel, and as the Unit itself has enlarged, so has this department, there now being a dietitian (part-time seamstress for the hospital as well), six cooks, one cook-dishwasher, and two dishwashers. About 200 meals are served daily to Unit members and employees and diets to hospital patients.

Some new equipment has been added to the kitchen during the past few months. This includes a large meat block to facilitate the bi-weekly butchering, a new boiler which provides both steam and hot water for both the kitchen and the hospital, as well as a deep-freeze unit which is expected to arrive very soon, and an electric beater, also on order in the States. The maintenance department will soon have new sinks and a new milk pasteurizer constructed and installed in the kitchen. Also from the States (although not equipment) we have received through Brethren Service channels two large shipments of canned goods, one each from New Windsor, Maryland and Wenatchee Washington. This has been a considerable economy.

The kitchen staff includes Betty Kimmel, dietitian-seamstress, and Howard Long, Robert Stanley, Howard Wright and Cecil Wickline, cooks; also Miguel Arroyo (cook) and Angel Velez (cook-dishwasher), these two having worked in the kitchen for the Unit since the beginning of the Project here. Others are Nemesio Quiles (cook) who came in July, 1945, and Miguel Colon (dishwasher) who began working in June 1946. Completing the kitchen staff is Marcial Medina who joined us in October 1946.

Down on the Farm--The Unit garden has been producing quite well. There has been a sufficient quantity of lettuce, spinach and other greens, carrots, cabbage, and cucumbers. During the past several months the garden has provided us with at least eighteen different vegetables. We feed and slaughter our own hogs, and buy calves from the people in the community for slaughtering. Every two weeks "butcher day" arrives. There are three Puerto Ricans working in this department. Bartolo Gonzalez works most of his time with the livestock while Angel and Francisco Perez cut the grass for the cattle and work the remainder of their time in the garden. Donald Sollenberger is in charge of all the farm operations.

The Laundry--When the Unit began here in Puerto Rico in August 1942 the laundry requirement was not very heavy and was taken care of by a Puerto Rican woman down at the river washing on the rocks and beating the dirt out of the clothes with a wooden paddle. As the hospital program started, the laundry requirements became greater, and realizing the need for a less drastic laundering process, a family-size washing machine was purchased, the work being done in the Casa Grande.

The laundry site was moved several times and the work continued to increase until the little family-size washer was running 18 hours a day to keep up. A used commercial washer and extractor were purchased here on the Island and set up in a separate building. An oil-burner boiler was installed for heating the water, and an additional room for tables and shelves was made available for sorting and folding clothes and ironing boards were installed for the ironing of the clothes of Unit members. A drying yard was established with grass underfoot of the 1000 feet of lines which are filled two or three times each day now. Last year 42 tons of clothes went through the laundry.

The personnel of the laundry has not changed much the last few years because the workers are competent and enjoy their work. Maria, about 42, has worked here for four years, is the beanpole type. She has a family of ten and earns the only income for the eight or ten people at home because her husband has been unable to work the past year. Monserrate is about 38, has worked here almost from the beginning of the Unit four and a half years ago. She is a widow with two children. Julia, about 35, has worked here for four years. She has two children, and her daughter works as a ward aid in the hospital. Manuel is 24 (he is the brother of Nemesio who is a cook), and has worked here for four years, and knows all about the laundry. He loves the holidays or fiestas which are many here in Puerto Rico. A ninth grade boy works a few hours each week as needed. Since Everett Groff, who established the present laundry, returned to the States a year ago Walter Haag has been in charge of the laundry.

At the Shop--Besides helping to build the three new houses for the doctors, the maintenance men are always busy keeping things together and in working order at Castaner. The sinks in the kitchen leak, so the shop men are building new ones of heavy sheet metal and are making a new milk sterilizer as well. The new autoclave (second-hand) recently purchased from Ryder Memorial Hospital in Humacao needed minor repairs and installing. The truck and ambulances need constant attention, both ordinary maintenance such as greasing and considerable repair work. Occasionally the wiring in the Casa Grande or the kitchen needs fixing, and there is often repair work on plumbing about the Project. In the past year the maintenance men have installed partitions in the girls' dorm, built a bedpan washer for the hospital, made a spotlight for the operating room, and a rolling ladder for the kitchen shelves. The truck has been painted--red. The department hopes that the ancient black ambulance will soon be replaced, which will cut the work down considerably. This winter the kitchen and hospital boiler burned out, and was dismantled and taken to Central Pellejas for repairs, but there it was pronounced beyond repair. It was returned and can be used only for scrap, and another boiler was found in Ponce, but it also was not usable, for it was too rusty. Fortunately there was a new one available at the Ponce iron works. This new boiler is larger than the old one and has necessitated a complete rebuilding of the brick firebox. This was done according to a different design on the advice of Mr. Canales of the Industries Freight Service in Ponce.

Our shop renders many little services to the community each day. Bikes, cars and trucks come for compressed air and minor repair jobs which are done in the free time available, for there is no repair garage nor filling station at Castaner as yet. Men come in to sharpen their machetes (long knives used for cutting cane) or to put handles on them. Boys come in for scraps of firewood. Many charcoal irons and other items are brought in for welding.

Since Walter Keiser left for the States Byron Shearer has been in charge of the house construction (see below). Paul Snavelly has been at work on both the housing and the maintenance, and Howard Wolf has been constantly at maintenance work. In keeping with the Unit policy of training Puerto Ricans for the various jobs of the Unit, the maintenance department is training Nicholas Martinez in the art of keeping things repaired at Castaner.

A day in the maintenance department is rarely dull or monotonous. One never knows in the morning exactly what he will be doing that day.

The New Houses--Since Walter Keiser's return to the States the finishing of the third house and the beginning of a two-car, two-story garage has been accomplished by the Unit fellows. The last house is now completed except for minor installations. This house differs from the other two in that it has three rather than two bedrooms, and has a different type of windows.

The garage is located between the first and second houses and to the rear. It is of poured concrete to the second floor or car floor, which is just above ground level. The remainder of the building is to be of concrete blocks as are the houses. With the help of two Puerto Ricans the structure should be finished in early May. Due to the size of the basement of the garage, extra windows have been installed so as to make it easily convertible to a dwelling.

LAND TENURE CONFERENCE

On February 13th the Castaner Project was visited by a group of ten Churchmen, who were touring the Island studying the Land Tenure Problems of Puerto Rico. In this group were: Dr. George Buckner, Editor of World Outlook, publication of the Disciples Church; Dr. Henry Sherfy Randolph, Secretary of Rural Life for the Presbyterian Home Mission Board; Dr. Mark Rich, Rural Life Secretary of the Baptist Church; and Dr. Mark A. Dawber, Executive Secretary of the Home Mission Council of North America. These men were participating in a five-day tour visiting agricultural projects and institutions on the Island. This tour had been arranged by Rufus B. King, Director of Castaner.

At the conclusion of the tour a two-day conference for Rural Protestant Pastors was held at the Disciples' McLean Conference Grounds. This conference was concluded with the Installation of Rev. Richard Johnson as Rural Life worker to aid the Protestant Churches of Puerto Rico in the cause of the Rural Life movement.

Following this a Land Tenure Conference of two days under the sponsorship of the Country Life Committee of the Federal Council of Churches was held at the same place with many leaders of Puerto Rico's civic, religious, and educational life participating. Several members of the Castaner Project attended this conference with Rufus King taking an active part in its planning and participation. The proceedings are to be published at a future date.

WE PAUSE TO HONOR

Josephine Anderson spent the month of February at her home in Nashville, Tennessee due to the illness and death of her father, William K. Anderson. Dr. Anderson was the Educational Director of the Commission on Ministerial Training of the Methodist Church, and had been active in inter-denominational work. He was an able and liberal church leader, a good friend to all, and a wonderful husband and father. His life was a challenge to all who knew him and his effectiveness reaches through all Christendom.

POST OFFICE ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

On the evening of March 1st Castaner Unit members and community guests enjoyed a banquet celebrating the following significant events: the second anniversary of the Castaner Post Office, the formal closing of the X-ray campaign, and the near-completion of our new housing project. A number of our Puerto Rican friends in the community were invited as dinner guests: Mrs. Jan Maldonado, postmistress and Mr. Maldonado; Mr. Ramon Moreno, supervisor of the central farm on the Castaner PRRA Project, and Mrs. Moreno; Mr. Ernesto Casta; and the Mayor of Adjuntas, Mr. Jose B. Barcelo and Mrs. Barcelo.

POST OFFICE ANNIVERSARY BANQUET (continued)

Bruce Reeves served as our capable toastmaster for the informal program of the evening. Mr. Barcelo and Mr. Moreno were called upon to give a play-by-play description of the baseball game they had recently witnessed in San Juan between Ponce and the New York Yankees. Barbershoppers Rufus King, Bruce Reeves, Howard Long and Paul Snively presented several vocal selections before the group recovered enough to clap them down. Maurice Click gave a report of the X-ray campaign, telling of its successful completion, over \$3000 being raised for the purchase of new X-ray equipment. A brief report was given by Mrs. Maldonado on the comparative amounts of business transacted by the Post Office during its first two years of service here. Some of the report is given here:

	<u>1st Year</u>	<u>2nd Year</u>
Stamps sold	\$1,402.29	\$1,715.15
No. of money orders	8.89	13.31
Value of " " over	\$16,000.00	\$20,191.02
Fees of " " .	\$98.15	\$140.00

Last, but by no means least, Rufus King told of the housing project and formally expressed sincere appreciation for the fine spirit of cooperation in the housing program shown by our Puerto Rican friends and the members of the Unit. These three houses are a valuable permanent asset to the community.

The banquet hall and tables were decorated in red, white and blue streamers, flowers of these colors, and cancelled airmail letters. Table center-pieces appropriately represented the three events. After the banquet we assembled on the "concha" (tennis court) for a movie which was open to everyone in the community.

"WE CAME, WE SAW, WE CONQUERED"

After many evenings of practice 'way into the dusk the local "Brumbaugh Bruisers" accepted the challenge of a touch football game with the Polytechnic Institute team at San German in the southwest corner of the island on March 15th. The Castaner team members and many persons from the Unit and the community made the journey to San German for the game.

The afternoon was hot, and the turf was rough. However by half-time the "Brumbaugh Bruisers" were leading, 13-0. When the final whistle blew the Castanerites had disorganized the Poly team. Final score, 27-0.

The "Bruisers" squad members were Howard Wolf, Bob Stanley, Andy Mathis, Maurice Click, Claude Wolfe, Bruce Reeves, Byron Shearer, Knight Webster, Cecil Wickline, Paul Snively, Howard Long, and Don Sollenberger. Luke Bachman was ex-temporaneous referee.

SOCIAL WORK CONVENTION

The 4th Annual Convention of Social Work, held March 21-23 at the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras, was attended by Bruce and Margie Reeves, Claude Wolfe, and Mrs. Howard Wolf as delegates from Castaner. The central theme of the Conference was "The Problem of Delinquency; its Causes and Possible Solutions".

Friday evening, March 21st, the opening dissertation was given on the general theme by an outstanding Puerto Rican lawyer. In addition to this, a greeting was given by Mrs. Dorothy Bourne, who had much to do with the originating of the Public welfare organization in Puerto Rico. Mrs. Bourne was invited to come from the United States as Honorary President of the Convention.

On March 22nd there were four different discussion sections held simultaneously on: 1) Public Welfare, 2) Social Action and Community Organization, 3) Social Case Work, 4) Social Group Work. All of these sections discussed the problem of juvenile delinquency as it is related to their particular work.

On Saturday evening an open meeting was held in the town plaza of Rio Piedras. After hearing the University Choir sing some beautiful selections, a straight-forward talk on delinquency was given by Lawyer Benjamin Ortiz, thus presenting the subject directly to the townspeople in the open square.

Sunday morning, March 23rd, reports, election returns, and resolutions were given as well as a closing talk by the President of the Social Workers College. The Resolutions of the Fourth Annual Convention of Social Work were as follows:

1. That the Convention take steps to amend the law creating the Parole Board, authorizing said Board to recommend the restoration of civil and political rights to worthy cases of delinquents who need these rights to facilitate their complete rehabilitation.

2. That the Convention detail a Commission to ask the Governor of Puerto Rico to call a meeting of all the leaders of government and of public opinion of the Island to discuss thoroughly and familiarize themselves with a revision of our scale of values so that the concept of human dignity gains its just perspective, and that they formulate and serve as initial instruments of a program of moral education for the individual.

3. That the authorities be asked to implement a program of economic and administrative reform.

4. That a request be made through the Procurator General of Puerto Rico for a Bureau of Social and Statistical Investigations.

5. That the Commission of Recreation and Sports be requested to name one or more recreational directors to direct a program for the Housing Projects.

The Social Work Convention, as is to be seen by noting that this is its fourth year, is a young, but growing, organization. The new president for next year is Dr. Angel M. Marchand.

TEATRO RODANTE

The Castaner community had the opportunity and pleasure of seeing a production by the University traveling theater on Saturday, March 22nd. This year for the first time the University has begun a roving theater equipped with two large trucks, one of which can be converted into a stage, and a large bus for the cast. There is a cast of fifteen students, and a staff of fifteen which includes a small band and its director, and the stage hands. The players this year presented two very entertaining comedies. They travel during week ends, appearing at three or four places each trip. The production was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by the community, and the theater will certainly receive a hearty welcome at future appearances. Next year the theater hopes to have three such groups on the road. We at Castaner welcome such a movement for it provides a very important cultural service that has been lacking in the lives of the isolated mountain people.