

THE MASCOT OF THE HOSTEL

Carlos Joaquin Bonilla (see article on "Eleanor" on page 3 of the September issue) first saw light in Cayey at the home of Clotilda's parents on September 26th. CARLOS was a big boy weighing 8 pounds and 3 ounces.

Clotilda and Carlos are expected to return to "Eleanor" soon to take up their positions of Hostess and mascot of the hostel. Meanwhile Leopoldo (Papa) Bonilla makes bi-weekly trips to Cayey and at the same time is trying to keep up his studies at the University of Puerto Rico as well as his part-time job with the National Cash Register Company.

ROAST PIG IN SATIN STITCH

Have you even seen a woman washing her clothes in a near-by creek? Have you noticed a man driving or pulling a pig to market, or watched a whole pig being roasted over an open fire? If you haven't, and if you don't plan to come to Puerto Rico soon to see these daily occurrences, why not do the next best thing? Why not order some of the embroidered articles made by the women of the Castaner community which so aptly depict these familiar scenes?

There is what is called a "Women's Industry" here at the Unit. Any woman living in the community who likes to embroider or who wants to learn has the opportunity of becoming an active part of this industry.

The women do beautiful hemstitching, fringing, and flat hem work, and there is an assortment of over twenty designs that are now being embroidered. All of the designs are done in satin stitch. Both Indianhead material and linens are used in making guest towels, fingertip towels, luncheon sets with four napkins, dresser scarfs, place mat sets for any number of persons, tea napkins and handkerchiefs. There are ten colors being used in Indianhead, but as yet only white is being used in linen. However, colored linens for guest towels and luncheon sets are available, if you order them. Another lovely item is the 54-inch by 72-inch tablecloth with six or eight napkins that is made in white Indianhead.

This "Women's Industry" was started and developed solely for the purpose of supplementing the meagre family incomes of the people of the Castaner community. The standards of the work have been raised considerably, and for those who have bought articles previously--you will be glad for the opportunity of seeing what is now being offered for sale. Along with the raising of the standards, all of the patterns have undergone some rejuvenation and reshaping recently which adds much to the quality and beauty of the work. One person remarked, "The mule looks real enough to bray", which indicates the quality of the work which is now being done in this satin stitch.

The women have work only when friends of the Unit furnish a market for the things made. For you who have been here and worked among these people, it should be a privilege for you to buy articles personally or develop markets for the industry. And for you who have become friends of the Unit through some contact other than having been here, this Christmas season is the opportune time to become acquainted with this unusual work. Orders can be filled within three weeks and will be sent to you by regular mail. Money need not be sent for the articles until you receive them. Send for a price list that gives you details of the cost, colors and articles. Send all letters pertaining to the industry work to Mrs. Claude Wolfe, Castaner, Puerto Rico. The industry needs friends to help boost sales.

VISIT TO VIEQUES

On a recent overnight trip late in September three Project workers visited Rev. and Mrs. J. Kenneth Vincent, a young missionary couple, at their Methodist mission on the island of Vieques. The three visitors were Howard and Josephine Wolf of our Project, and Roy Walsdorf of El Guacío Project.

The Island of Vieques is located about twelve miles off the southeast coast of Puerto Rico, and is about twenty miles long and three miles wide. At the present time the U.S. Navy occupies 2/3 of the Island and is considering taking over the entire island. There are now 12,000 people on the island in addition to the naval station. Vieques is a part of the territory of Puerto Rico.

The people are very poor, having problems of isolation from the larger island of Puerto Rico, unemployment, and dry climate. The people live in semi-rural slums, and drink contaminated water carrying dysentery and other illnesses. During one year and four months Rev. Vincent has increased his congregation from 30 to 200, and has also increased their Christian activity giving them social responsibility. A barter store has been started. A men's co-op study group is developing toward a cooperative store, and a women's embroidery industry has been started.

FOR THE BOOK SHELF

Puerto Rico: CARIBBEAN CROSSROADS, produced under the sponsorship of the Board of Publications of the University of Puerto Rico, with photography by Charles E. Rotkin and text by Lewis C. Richardson, and published by U.S. Camera Publishing Company, New York (copyright 1947), price--\$3.50.

This distinguished addition to the literature about Puerto Rico is a factual, non-tourist book which presents our Island neither as a tropical paradise nor a scene of suffering and social injustice, but in its entirety--"life as it is lived in Puerto Rico, with its beauty and its ugliness". The book contains 157 excellent photographs and some 25,000 words of text. Mr. Rotkin, a well-trained documentary photographer, took these pictures during his stay of over two years in Puerto Rico as an aerial photographer with the Army, being much more impressed by Puerto Rico and the Puerto Ricans at ground level than he was from the air. The University of Puerto Rico became interested in sponsoring this book because of the vast amount of misinformation that had recently been finding its way to the States, and because it would mean that now the Island would be pictured from a fresh and unbiased point of view. United States-born Professor Lewis C. Richardson, head of the English Institute and a resident of Puerto Rico for the past 23 years, was chosen to write the story of Puerto Rico for his fellow Continental Americans. Jose M. Toro-Nazario, twice winner of Insular awards for outstanding journalism, was the advisor on facts and implications that formed the background of the text.

This book made publishing history by going on sale the same day in New York and San Juan, setting a new precedent. We have nothing but praise for this book, not only for its fairness of presentation, but also for its "we" attitude which appropriately links together both Continental and Insular American citizens and our lives and problems. This is a refreshing, welcome and long-awaited contrast to the usual pictorial books on Puerto Rico edited solely from the tourist standpoint, and which have caused many Puerto Ricans to feel that such compilers and editors have brazenly taken advantage of the beauty and poverty of the Puerto Rican scene for the purely selfish purpose of personal monetary gain.

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IN MEMORIAM: Elmer Hartzler, Elzie Holderreed, Harvey Horner.

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SEPTEMBER PERSONNEL NEWS:--On September 16th, Dale and Norma Roesch arrived. They are recent graduates of Ashland College in Ashland, Ohio. Dale is now our laboratory technician; and Norma, a registered nurse, is a welcome addition to the nursing staff. Dr. and Mrs. Everett Myer returned to Puerto Rico on the 23rd. for their second two-year term of service (see page 1.).

On September 4th, John Jahn left the Project to resume his studies at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University in New York City where he is now beginning his second year of the medical course. John, an old-timer at Castaner, spent three months with us this summer in valuable work with the medical-social worker and pinch-hitting in the lab. His knowledge of Spanish and his acquaintance with so many of the people were greatly appreciated by the Unit and especially by the community.

Iris Rodriguez of Ponce, who has been the nurse of Fondo del Seguro in our OPD left the Unit on September 16th to go to the Medical School at Northwestern University in Chicago to study under a scholarship from the Fondo del Seguro. Her position as Fondo Nurse has been filled by Elizabeth Rivera of Adjuntas (R. N., Asilo de Damas, in Ponce.)

Betty Kimmel, our dietician and seamstress, left Puerto Rico on September 22nd on the advice of her physician that she might return to her home in McLouth, Kansas to receive special medical care.