

CASTANER

NEWSLETTER

BRETHREN SERVICE PROJECT

BRETHREN SERVICE COMMISSION

Castaner, Puerto Rico

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EASTER DAY WITH THE UNIT

Easter morning found most unit members, with blankets, starting for a hike up to Vesper Hill for a real sunrise service. We reached the hilltop as light was beginning to dawn.

After the sunrise service we had just enough time to eat breakfast and get ready for going to our 8:00 o'clock Sunday School. In the principle's office at the Brethren Academy you would find Jeneba Burke and Mary and Alice Ebey being taught by Mary Kaye Rhorer. Stepping inside the main room of the school you would find two adult classes in English. First you would find the class following the International Sunday School lesson taught by Martha Cocanower. At the farther end of the building is the class studying "The Life of Christ" from Wieand's "Harmony of the Gospels" taught by Alys Haag. In a small building outside, Dr. Burke is teaching a Sunday School lesson in Spanish.

Before we realize it our Sunday School hour is over. We quickly arrange the chairs for our morning church service. This morning it is Dr. Burke's turn to preach in Spanish. Since a number of club children come early enough for the church service, Dr. Burke has asked Carmen Troche to tell the children a story.

Ten o'clock finds the Academy building a scene of still greater activity. In fact, we often wish we had our second school building now (which we hope to have in the future for the Academy and Sunday clubs) to make adequate space for all the children who flock to our Sunday clubs. It is indeed an opportunity which we must meet. On this sunny Easter Day sixty-seven boys and girls are meeting in four clubs. On the steps leading to the Academy building one finds Dean Rhorer and Robert Ebey with a group of older boys. They are busy with a story and handwork. Inside the building one first finds Walter Haag and Dale Roesch with a group of active younger boys. Next we find Norma Roesch, Ruth Ebey and Martha Cocanower with a group of older girls. They are making a picture of the Easter story--- the three women at the empty tomb on that first Easter morning. In the farthest corner one finds Mary Kaye Rhorer and Martha Rupel with the younger girls. They have a story and then make baskets of construction paper. If you drop in on another Sunday you will find other unit members assisting with the girls classes---Wilma Stern with the older girls and Violet Harris and Lorna Miller with the younger girls.

Now it is 10:40. The tables are being moved back and the chairs put in place for our closing. Lila Peckover leads us in a group of choruses which

of course, were in Spanish. The children respond well and most of them enjoy motioning out some of the choruses. Alys Haag followed with the Easter story in flannel-graph. As we follow her story (glad that we can now understand enough Spanish to follow the story) it is a challenge to us to study the language still harder. We have great opportunities before us and with changes in personnel one sees still more places which must be filled. How unprepared one often feels!

It is almost noon when we reach home from club. Now we are free until 6 P.M. We are having our church service and hour early tonight so that all unit members may attend the wedding of Felix and Isabelita at Bartolo in Father Bauza's Episcopal Church. After the wedding we attended the reception. It is about 10:00 P.M. and time to retire. This has been a busy and happy Easter Day.

Ruth Ebey

WEDDING BELLS ON EASTER EVENING

Promptly at 7:00 P.M., April 17 in the little new Episcopal Chapel at Bartolo the preliminaries of a simple wedding ceremony started. The chapel was nearly full of people including most of the unit members. The bride and groom were both Puerto Rican members of the unit (orderly and nurse aide). Felix Lizusuain, the groom, was in a dark blue suit and Isabelita Soto, the bride, was very pretty in her white crepe floor length gown and veil. She carried a large bouquet of white Margaritas and Asparagus fern tied with white ribbon. Following, all were invited to the reception held in the brides home, which happened to be on a mountain top near by. Since it was a dark night there was more than one tumble taken enroute. After a two weeks vacation both will be continuing their work at the hospital.

Marguerite Burke

CHURCH NEWS

Easter morning was clear and lovely and about 25 of us climbed to the top of a hill where we had a wonderful view of the valley and mountains. It was our Easter sunrise service and we watched as the sun rose and brought brightness to the world, even as we worshipped the Christ who rose and brought brightness to mankind. We listened to Easter messages and to music recordings which made our service one of reverence and inspiration.

Martha Cocanower

PUERTO RICAN STUDY GROUP

The Puerto Rican study group meets the second and fourth Friday in the month. Topics discussed have been: History of the Unit by Norma Roesch, Customs and Holidays by Violet Harris, Agriculture by Walter Haag, and People by Wilma Stern. A number of subjects, yet to be presented, include such topics as Education, Industries, Social Work and Public Health, Geology, Geography, History of Puerto Rico, P.A.R.R.A. and others.

Ruth Ebey

THE BRETHERN ACADEMY

We were pleased to receive the information from the Puerto Rican Department of Education stating that our Brethren Academy is accredited for this year.

Although we started with 33 students we now have 17 enrolled. Ten of those plan to continue in the eleventh grade next year.

Walter Haag, the principle, has visited schools in our surrounding area to see how many ninth grade students they think will be interested in attending the tenth grade in our Academy next year. A goodly number of students have expressed interest in the tenth grade of the Academy for the next year.

A number of students have been helped during this past year with work scholarships. Since we have tried to help a number of our students it hasn't taken long to deplete a healthy scholarship fund.

Ruth Ebey

CALDERON CAMERA CLUB

One of the main events of the unit is the "Calderon Camera Club" which has an active meeting twice a month. A contest was finished some time ago for colored pictures and black and white on various subjects. Ribbons were given to each winner.

At the present we are just showing colored pictures and since everyone is shutter-happy, we have plenty of pictures at each meeting.

Recently the club sponsored a trip to Guanica Bay where everyone spent an enjoyable afternoon and evening. They were taken on a boat to a near-by island for their supper. Some went swimming, some coral-hunting, and others shot pictures.

We now have a new screen, thanks to Chester Peckover. Our former screen, made of celotex, is now discarded and replaced by a classy, up-to-date screen made from an old window blind. It even rolls up!

We are happy to say three or four new 35 m.m. cameras have joined our club to show we are making progrogress.

Virginia Birkin

VISITORS

April 12. A car load of Seventh Day Adventist Missionaries from Mayaguez visited the project. They were primarily interested in the Medical program and hospital since both of the men were doctors. They were John W. Taylor, M. D. and family, and Donald J. Sargiant, M. D. and family.

The Mayor of Adjuntas, Jose Barcelo and the Auditor, Sr. Mendez also paid us a visit on that same afternoon.

From the other end of the Island also visiting the project that day were two navy officers and their wives, Officer and Mrs. Ostrowski and Officer and Mrs. Manolo Arang.

April 12. Rev. Don Dod of the El Guacio Presbyterian Project brought several guests to visit the project, including Miss Katherine E. Gladfelter, member of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions in New York, James B. McCandless, M. D. and Nestor A. del Valle.

April 13. Misses Frances Walker and Emilene Harsany, both teachers in the George Robinson School in Santruce, and Miss Sara Traver, their dietitian, spent the night here.

April 14 - 17. Prof. and Mrs. Paul W. Wagner of the College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts of Mayaguez, spent a short vacation visiting the project.

April 15 - 17. Harland Gibson brought two guests from the States to spend time visiting the work here. They were Lilly D. Horkstra who is hospital administrator and Virginia Gates, office manager--both of St. Louis, Mo.

April 16. A group of Puerto Rican friends visited the project. They were lawyer Oscar Castro of Mayaguez, Miss Victoria Lacoze, Aguadilla, Sr. and Sra. Oliver K. Bayouth, Eno Martinez, Mayaguez and Sr. and Sra. Raymond Uszczak also of Mayaguez.

April 22. Mr. Edgar Grater of Norristown, Pennsylvania arrived in Puerto Rico and came out to spend his vacation of several weeks with us.

April 28. The Dr. Myer family spent the afternoon at the unit.

April 30. Rev. Dod and three other friends visited the unit on business. Rev. Dod was especially interested in arrangements for a joint Boys Camp this summer. Ray Waldorf was interested in building and maintenance problems and Senoritas Elba Inex Anas, and Emilia Aceveda in the Social, Industrial and Cooperative part of the project.

Marguerite Burke