

CASTANER NEWSLETTER

BRETHREN SERVICE PROJECT

BRETHREN SERVICE COMMISSION

Castaner, Puerto Rico

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STILL MOVING

This past month saw the first apartment for couples completed and on July 7 Chester and Lila Peckover moved up to Llinas where they could be closer to their work.

Also the second building of the Academy is now being painted and put in shape for the opening of the school year, August 8. This building has three rooms, a laboratory, library, and one class room.

PERSONNEL

On July 8 Vernon and Elsie Hoffman joined our staff as Community Center workers.

The same day Dr. Burke returned from his month in the States where he attended Conference, and attended to other matters of business.

July 17 Fern Kring Troche R.N. completed her two years of volunteer service with the unit.

July 18 John Metzler Jr. arrived to be the Principal of the Brethren Academy.

MEET THE NEW WORKERS

Elsie and Vernon Hoffman

Vernon, youngest of four children of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hoffman was born July 6, 1922 in Muscatine, Iowa where he lived until he had completed one and one half years of college, when the draft caught him. He then began his three and one half years of C. P. S. work, moving eight times in all. Following he entered Manchester College and later Earlham, receiving his A. B. degree in June of 1949 from the latter.

While at Manchester he met Elsie Moyer who became his wife on November 15, 1947.

Elsie, third of four children of Elgin and Lela Moyer was born August 20, 1927 in Chicago. She took most of her school work in Oak Park where her family moved early in her life. When she was ready for college she entered No. Manchester, spending two years in study before her marriage to Vernon Hoffman.

They arrived in Castaner on July 8 and together they are working in and directing the Community Center Activities.

John Metzler, Jr.

John, eldest son of John and Margaret Metzler was born on March 15, 1923 in Payette, Idaho. When he was about two years old his parents moved to No. Indiana where his father was pastor-school teacher.

John graduated from High School in Bourbon, and from Manchester Colloge in the spring of 1946. While at Manchester he met Anita Flowers and this friendship "flowered" into a wedding in 1944. About two years ago Margaret Ann came to live with them.

John has been employed in the B.S.C. offices at Elgin so is not a stranger to most of us or to the program of the church in general and B.S.C. in particular.

He arrived on July 18 to join the permanent staff here, in the position of Educational Director and Principal of the Academy. Anita and family will join him here in a few months.

We are very happy and thankful for each of these new workers.

VETERANS SUMMER SCHOOL

Again this year our Rabanos Second Unit School conducted a summer school for Veterans. There were both tenth and eleventh grade pupils. Several of our unit members helped in the teaching; some for longer and others shorter periods.

Each of the tenth and eleventh grade English classes were entertained at a supper one night in the unit dining room.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES - UNIT PARTY

The joy of seeing new persons arrive to join in our work is always offset by the leaving of others whose term of service has expired.

On July 19 we combined our voices and spirits and bid a welcome to Vern and Elsie Hoffman and John Metzler, Jr. and a good-bye to Dean and Mary Kaye Rohrer. The Rohrers received more bids of adieu before they took the plane home on August 3.

The living room of the Llinas Casa Grande was a scene of hilarity and skill when we participated in active games and finished the evening working six jigsaw puzzles progressively, finishing only one in the allotted time.

Violet Harris

HOUSE-WARMING

On 7-1-49 the Llinas bachelors gave the unit workers a party celebrating the completion of their bunk houses. It was called a "house warming" although the boys did the entertaining. The bunk house is very nicely decorated but the most unique (and crazy) thing about it is the way they have their beds hanging from the ceiling. It practically takes a professional acrobat to climb in and out of them, I would think, but they are young and agile which helps.

The very delicious refreshments (made by the boys themselves), games, jokes and story telling were enjoyed by one and all.

Barbara Hershberger

VISITORS

July 1 - Harland Gibson, former unit member, now an executive of Bayamon District Hospital, brought a D. P. Friend, Walter Joelson, who is an Economist employed here in the Insular Government, and together they spent the weekend with us to our mutual enjoyment.

July 2 - Walter Keiser, former unit member, and now Director of Maintenance at Polytechnic came to spend the weekend and join his family who had spent the previous week here. With him came Mrs. Mildred Mihills Owens of Houston, Texas, who also spent two days with us.

July 7 - Four of our Mennonite friends, Marjorie Shants, Pearl Kauffman, and Linda Reimer all of La Plata and Lois Gunden, teacher of Spanish at Goshen College who is giving her summer vacation helping in their unit and enjoying Puerto Rico, spent the night here on a weekend visit of the Island.

July 16 - Dr. and Mrs. McCandles of El Gvacio were here on business and a short visit.

July 18 - Dr. and Mrs. G. D. Troyer and son Weldon of the Mennonite Mission near Aibonita spent the night with us.

The Myers family from Adjuntas were here also for a short visit.

Miss Dorothy Ebey, a first grade school teacher from Chicago and sister to Pastor Ebey, arrived with her friend, Miss Eva Hunter, a teacher of violin from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to spend the remainder of their summer vacation visiting with friends and enjoying Puerto Rico. Miss Hunter has her violin with her and Dorothy sings, so the unit are enjoying their stay immensely.

July 20 was a big day for guests. Rev. Aaron Webber head of the Baptist work on the Island, brought sixteen work campers and leaders to spend the night and learn of our work first hand in their tour of the Island. They were:

Beatrice Skufakiss of Hammond, Indiana
Eugene "Jeep" Wolfe of Yale Divinity School, Conn.
Charles Osborn of Niagara Falls, New York
Armando Villa Falu of Rio Peidros, P. R.

John Blythe of Atchison, Kansas
Dora Noemi Davilo, Caguas, P.R.
Carmen Roman Luz, Truyillo Alto, P.R.
Benjamin Quinones, Caguas, P.R.
Sally Lewis of Terre Haute, Indiana
Carlos Miranda of Barranquitas, P.R.
Lewis Hartman of Dayton, Virginia
Ruth Muldenado of Ponce, P.R.
Betty Mae Watts, Shelbyville, Indiana
Joyce Morong of Hightstown, New Jersey
Esther Neufeld, Barranquitas and Chicago
Mary Alice Marlett of No. Vernon, Indiana

July 22 - Harland Gibson came to enjoy Castaner climate and friends for the weekend. This time he had with him Miss Lilly D. Hockstra, who is the General Administrator of Insular Hospitals.

July 31 - The Dr. Myers family from Adjuntas spent a short time with Castaner friends.

Marguerite Burke