

CASTANER NEWSLETTER

BRETHREN SERVICE PROJECT

BRETHREN SERVICE COMMISSION

Castaner, Puerto Rico

Vol. VII No. 9 (#80)

April 1, 1949

GOLDEN JUBILEE

March 13, 1949 was the final day of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Protestantism in Puerto Rico. The week previous found the churches and missions in conferences; but the crowning event was a great joint celebration held on Sunday in the large ball park in down town San Juan. It was a great service lasting from 9:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. in which 65,000 people participated. A car load of unit members attended.

In an editorial in the PUERTO RICO EVANGELICO we read: "The people of God filled all the roads, and it was the city of St. John the Baptist of Puerto Rico, the Mecca toward which all these people of God were moving. Like this began that day. The day of commemoration of fifty years of Evangelical work in Puerto Rico. Like that began that day with a meeting of these men and women of a common faith, of an only Christ, of an only Gospel. So began that day, the last of the celebration."

An editorial in the DIARIO DE PUERTO RICO told of the profound solemnity of the occasion of 65,000 people meeting to celebrate fifty years of Protestant work in Puerto Rico. The wonderful choruses and the beautiful hymns that the crowds sang were very inspiring. "It was a celebration enobled by fifty years of good work without denominational distinction in the propagation of the ideals of Christianity. A celebration in support of that liberty of conscience which fortunately has always established itself permanently in the simple life of the Puerto Rican people, perhaps the greatest of human liberties."

Homer L. Burke, M.D.

GO-OP MEETINGS

On March 20 the Annual Vanilla Growers Cooperative meeting was held here at Castaner in the Vanilla Building. It was a find day and a large crowd was expected. The barbecued pigs with all the trimmings were prepared for a possible 125-150 members. But only a mere fifty people arrived. Consequently the hospital patients and the unit members enjoyed some of the left-overs.

Then in the evening of March 23 the Community Center was the scene of another Cooperative meeting. Sr. Luis Nagario of San Juan, inspector of all Cooperatives of Puerto Rico was present to give some help in the Cooperative Credit Union. He brought with him some movies to illustrate his talk, and they also made a record on Credit Unions that was broadcast over the radio two days later.

MOVED!!!!

On Saturday the 12th of March the O.P.D. (out patient department) was finally established in its new home - the first floor of the Llinas "Casa Grande".

The following Monday, during the day, the first patients were admitted to the new hospital. That evening after supper the eight patients remaining in the old hospital were transferred to the new building also. The utilities (kitchen, laundry, etc.) followed in the next few days.

Some of the staff have crowded into the top floor of the Llinas house, awaiting the completion of the apartment building. Others of the staff members are still housed in the P.R.R.A. "Casa Granda".

The 10,500 gallon cement water tank on the hill opposite the Llinas House was completed and will assure us of an adequate water supply at all times.

ACADEMY NEWS

On March 25th the Brethren Academy's tenth grade history students with their teachers went to San Juan on a visit to the old sites of the beginning of Puerto Rico. The first place that we saw was the foundation of Ponce de Leon's house. They have it covered over with tin so it won't break off. The second place that we went was the airport. There we saw both two and four motored planes. We saw a couple take off. It wasn't raining much that morning but enough to get wet. Next we went to see the bridges, San Antonio and Guillermo and after that the fort beside the bridge, called San Jeronimo. Then we saw the school of Tropical Medicine. Next we went to the Capitol Building. Our teacher had written and received permission to visit this. We heard the Senate discussing about sugar cane. From here we went to the Colon Plaza where his statue is located. After that we saw the House of Spain which is a very nice looking house. We also saw the old walls of San Juan that used to surround the old city. Some of it is still standing. We also saw the house where the present governor, Munos Marin lives and the old San Juan gate which is right beside the governor's house. Other places we visited were the docks, the old Fort San Christobal, which they began to build in 1631 and the monument of El Marro. The old fort itself was very interesting. We saw the old secret passages that were used in its day. The last place we visited was the University of Puerto Rico. It was 8:30 when we got home and we were all tired and glad to be home.

Lynn Burke

PERSONNEL

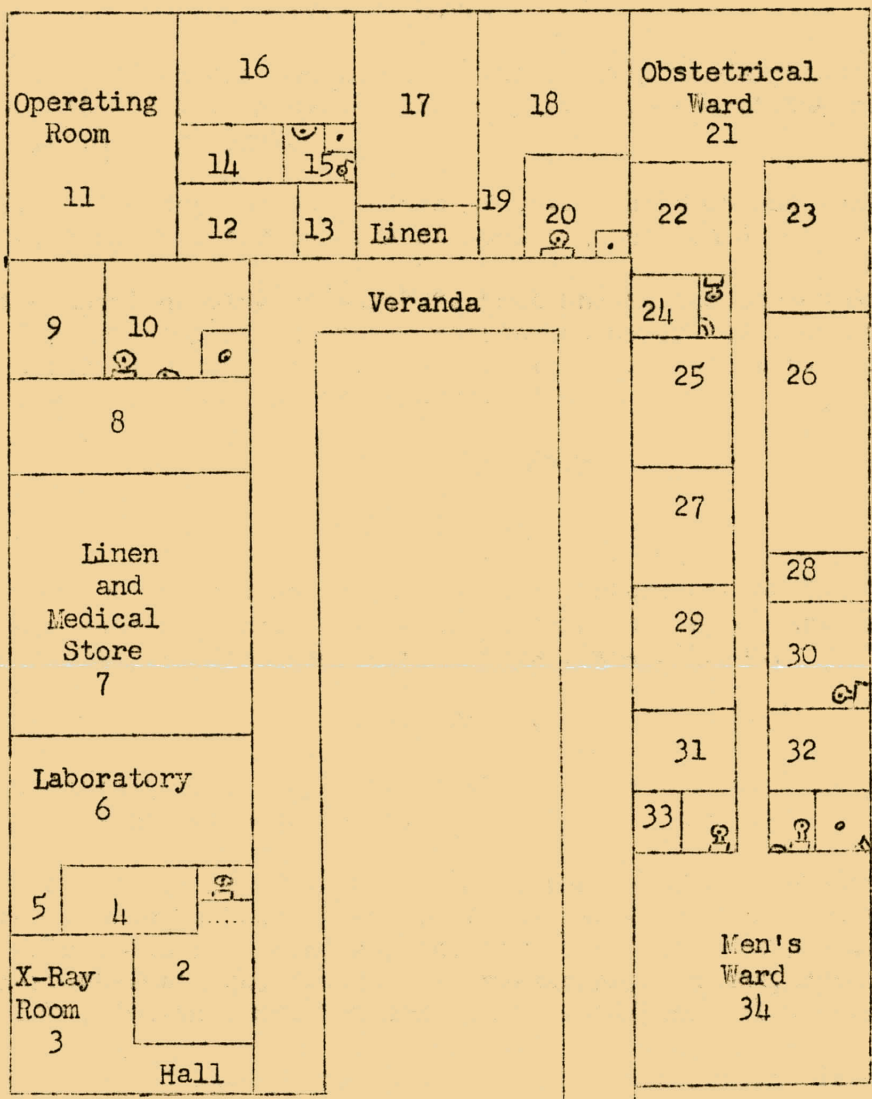
We are sorry to report the home going of several of our number. March 3, Lois Neiderheiser, R.N. left by plane for New York and Pennsylvania. March 31, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Buss, parents of Mrs. Walter Keiser of San German, Mrs. Lucy M. Burke, mother of Dr. Homer L. Burke and James Morgan left San Juan by plane for Miami and Indiana.

Mrs. Lorna Miller has had a severe attack of dengue fever but is recovering satisfactorily.

CASTANER GENERAL HOSPITAL



- 2. Pharmacy & Drug Room
- 4. Dark Room
- 5. Hall
- 8. Sewing Room
- Office
- Class Room
- 9. Nurse Aides
- Sleeping Room
- 10. Nurse Aides
- 12. Hall
- 13. Orderly Room
- 14. Dr. Room
- 16. Sterilizing Room
- 17. Delivery Room
- 18. Labor Room
- 19. Hall
- 20. Utility Room



- To Apartment House
- 22. Chart Room
- 23. Nursery
- 24. Kitchen
- 25. Women's Ward
- 26. Children's Ward
- 27. Women's Ward
- 28. Baby Isolation
- 29. Women's Ward
- 30. Utility Room
- 31. Isolation Room
- 32. Isolation Room
- 33. Linen

Steps down to
Laundry
Kitchen
Dining Room
Store Room

Scale:
1/16 in. = 1 ft.

To Llinas Casa Grande
Out Patient Department-1st Floor
Women's Dormitory-2nd Floor

— Virgean Birkin.

CHURCH NEWS

We are now holding Sunday morning services in the Brethren Academy Building. We are looking forward to the time when there is electricity in the school so that we can also hold evening services there.

Since we are holding the children's club (really Sunday School) on Sunday morning at 10:00 o'clock following our church service, some of the children come early enough to attend our service.

On March 27, the Sunday School class of unit children and their teacher, Mary Kaye Rohrer, conducted the opening of Sunday School in Spanish.

At our last council meeting on March 2, Paul Cheeks was chosen Sunday School Superintendent for the next six months. Martha Cocanower was elected assistant pianist and Lila Peckover assistant choister. The music committee has been authorized to purchase more Spanish hymn books.

Ruth Ebey

ONE GREAT HOUR

Some of the unit members listened to the radio broadcast of "One Great Hour". The reception was poor at first but later it came in very clear. The offering at church the next day, in response to the appeal, was \$116.30.

VISITORS

March 1, Sr. Garrastegui, Superintendent of Education for the Municipality of Lares, spent the night with the unit.

March 2. Miss Verr H. Zekiff, principle of the George Robinson Methodist School at Santruce, brought a car load of Methodist friends who were in Puerto Rico for the Golden Jubilee celebration, to visit our work here. They were: Miss Harriet Seibert-New York, Frances Sharp-Warsaw, Indiana, Mrs. J. N. Rodeheaver-Winnona Lake, Indiana, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Peel-Minneapolis, Minnesota.

March 5. Mrs. Harold Laskey from Santruce, with her parents from the States, and Harland Gibson from Bayamon visited the unit and spent the night.

March 7. Rev. Don Dod and Dr. James B. McCandless from the El Gwasio Presbyterian project called here on business.

March 7-9. Joe Becknell, navy radio man and husband of Wanda Brown who is a former unit member, spent his leave at Castaner visiting the unit and the Burkes, while his boat was in the harbor of San Juan.

March 9. Arlene Shoup, Vesta Yoder, Perry and Judy Miller, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Swartzendruber, Ruth Nusbaum and director Justice Molsinger from the La Plata, Mennonite unit visited our unit.

March 11-13. Harland Gibson spent the week-end here with the unit.

March 13. The Walter Keiser family and the Toths, all from Polytechnic, spent the day at the unit. Delbert and Mrs. Buss returned with them.