

CASTANER

NEWSLETTER

BRETHREN SERVICE PROJECT

BRETHREN SERVICE COMMISSION

CASTANER, PUERTO RICO

VOL. VIII No. I (#85)

September 1, 1949

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IN MEMORIAM

BIRTHDAY - BUT NO PARTY

The Unit had its seventh birthday and the Brethren academy its second during the past month but there were no parties, no cakes and no candles. However, we do have plans for a celebration on October 12 when we hope to have more of the work on the buildings and grounds completed. There will be a dedication of the school and a rededication of the hospital. We extend a hearty invitation to all who can join us on this happy occasion.

BRETHREN ACADEMY

The Brethren academy opened on August 8, with thirty-four students. After a short worship service, introduction of the faculty and some announcements, classes started. Since then more pupils have enrolled and we now have fourteen in the eleventh grade and twenty-three in the tenth grade. The eleventh grade is taking geometry, English, Bible, Spanish and biology. The tenth grade takes English, algebra, Bible, United States history and Spanish. Martha Cocanower teaches the mathematics; John Kidwell, biology; Robert Ebey, Bible and I teach English and history. We have arranged for two well-trained Puerto Rican teachers to teach our Spanish classes.

Classes begin at 1:00 P.M. and run until 5:10 for the tenth grade and until 6:00 P.M. for the eleventh grade. This leaves the mornings free for the students to work. Over half the students need to work to help pay school expenses. We are able to provide work scholarships of \$5 to \$6 per month for some of them, but this is limited by our lack of scholarship funds.

We are gradually getting the academy equipped. The unit maintenance men built laboratory tables for the biology and chemistry laboratory. We have been able to make our own blackboards and some of the other equipment we have been

able to make or improvise. But there are many things we cannot get unless they are donated or we buy them. We badly need carefully selected books in Spanish for our library. More Spanish-English dictionaries, such as Appletons Spanish Dictionary, are almost a necessity, especially for the tenth grade. Some of the lab equipment can't be made. And we do need scholarship funds.

The quality of education we can give these students depends on two things. One is our faculty and the other our equipment and ability to give scholarships. We need more equipment for this year and more equipment and faculty for the next year.

If you know of any high school teacher who would like to teach here for a year, have him or her contact me. Teachers who are accepted will receive food, lodging and the opportunity for this additional experience and travel. Spanish will not be necessary, although it is of course very helpful.

If you know of anyone including yourself, who would like to contribute a scholarship or books or anything else that we need, have him (or her) write me. I can give specific details then.

The Brethren academy is partly your school, and its success or failure depends partly upon you. We hope that you will do all you can to help it be a success.

John Metzler, Jr.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Upon the recommendation of the Educational Committee it was decided at Unit meeting that the scholarship fund and all matters pertaining to the Brethren academy be handled by the principal and faculty of the academy.

With the return of Caleb Frantz language classes have been resumed. The beginners class meets from 4:20 to 5:20 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The advanced class meets from 4:20 to 5:20 on Wednesday and on Saturday mornings from 7:30 to 9:30.

Since the new personnel arrived in July Puerto Rican study has been resumed.

Ruth Ebey

CAMERA CLUB TRIP

On Saturday morning, August 20, the Camera Club journeyed to the Aguadilla Beach for a picnic dinner and a pleasant day of swimming and looking for sea shells. As usual, a lot of "shooting" was done with our trusty cameras.

Misses Eva Hunter of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Dorothy Ebey of Chicago, Illinois was with the group.

A pleasant day was enjoyed by all in spite of the "redskins" which returned with us.

Robert Ebey

EL CENTRO DE COMUNAL

The Community Center is running on full schedule again. For the past year there has been no full-time supervision and no one to lead organized sports. We are glad that we have the opportunity to help strengthen this department of the project and shall try to receive and keep going the enthusiasm not yet lost. We see so many possibilities to reach the people of the community through recreation where it could be done in no other way. We have set up a tentative weekly schedule and know and hope that changes will take place as time progresses.

The center is open every afternoon of the week with individual and group games available! There are also the newspaper and a few magazines available. The boys can be seen practicing basket ball on Monday night out on the court. There usually are enough to make up two teams and the people of the community like to observe from the cement bleachers.

Two evenings a week we are restrained from organized activities because of Pentecostal meetings in the building next to the center. These evenings fall on Tuesday and Friday. Consequently many play checkers, dominoes, ping pong, etc. inside while a few practice basket ball on the court of "concha" as it is called in Spanish.

Wednesday evening the center is not open because of prayer meeting and Thursday is volley ball practice. There is much enthusiasm of this game and always enough players for a good game or two.

Saturday night is set aside for folk games. As yet there are not many who are interested enough to play but the bleachers are always full of observers. With the help of some Americans there are usually enough players to make two sets. On Sunday the center is open from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

We are working on a program for girls and it is a little more difficult since they usually do not come to the center at night. Consequently, we need to run a pretty full schedule on Saturday.

"Cuando Hay mas peliculas" is a favorite question of the younger children. The adults also are anxious for moving pictures to be shown and very often prompt the children in asking this question of when are we going to show the pictures. Whenever a trip is made to San Juan pictures are procured from the Dept. of Agriculture, the Dept. of Health or the Dept. of Recreation. Therefore, we show pictures about every other week and sometimes twice in one week. We somehow manage to put in a comedy of some kind which pleases everyone very much.

Typing classes for adults and older young people are getting under way, three evenings a week, for one hour each evening. If the demand increases as it seems to be doing already, we will have two classes each of the three evenings. We find ourselves limited as there are only five typewriters available. These have recently been repaired and are all in fairly good condition.

A few women have been making use of the available sewing machines in the center. Later on classes in sewing may be undertaken.

Each morning Monday through Friday physical education is taught in the second Unit school. We have only two classes, the sixth and eighth grades. The

school schedule does not allow time for physical education for any of the other grades. Possibly later more can be worked in.

We find ourselves quite busy but nevertheless are enjoying ourselves and our new-found friends very much. This truly is an experience we shall always be thankful for.

Elsie and Vernon Hoffman

PERSONNEL

August 3rd Dean and Mary Kaye Rhorer left for the States after giving two years of volunteer service with the Unit.

Caleb Frantz, former Unit member and teacher for four years in the Rabanos Second Unit school, returned from his vacation in the States and is living with the Unit. He is teaching at the Rabanos School again and also has daily Spanish classes for the Unit members six days a week.

Ermalinda Selva, R.N., who had formerly lived with the Unit while in charge of the Bartolo Clinic, has returned after a year of graduate study in San Juan. She has charge of the clinic but does not live with the Unit.

Senor Clodomire Pioli, P.R.R.A. farm foreman and community leader and well known to all Unit members, died on the morning of August 23 at his home after several months illness.

VISITORS

We have had fewer visitors this past month than usual but some have been here several times, and others have stayed several days at a time. They are: The Dr. Myers family from Adjuntas; Mrs. McCandles, mother of Dr. Bert McCandles from El Guacio; Miss Martha Bunton, a Brethren teacher of English in the Adjuntas school; Miss Illo Steward, teacher at the George Robinson School in Santruce; Rev. Dod and family from El Guacio, Mayor Jose and Mrs. Barsol6 of Adjuntas and the El Guacio work campers; Anne A. Leonard, Exeter, N.H.; Virginia Penny, Buffalo, N. Y.; Warren Day, Carbondale, Ill.; Oscar Rodriguez, Mayaiguez, Puerto Rico.

ROSTER OF THE CASTANER PROJECT

PERMANENT STAFF

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>	<u>HOME ADDRESS</u>	<u>ARRIVAL DATE</u>
1. Dr. Homer L. Burke	Brethren	Bremen, Indiana	July 25, 1946
2. Marguerite Burke	Brethren	Bremen, Indiana	July 25, 1946
3. Rev. Robert Ebey	Brethren	Woodland, Michigan	Aug. 6, 1948
4. Ruth Ebey	Brethren	Woodland, Michigan	Aug. 6, 1948
5. Martha Rupel	Brethren	Pasadena, California	Oct. 1948
6. Martha Cocanower	Brethren	Pioneer, Ohio	Dec. 16, 1948
7. John Metzler, Jr.	Brethren	Elgin, Illinois	July 18, 1949

TWO YEAR TERM WORKERS

8. Chester Peckover	Brethren	Topeka, Kansas	Nov. 21, 1947
9. Lila Peckover	Brethren	Marian Center, Pa.	Nov. 21, 1947
10. Violet Harris, R.N.	Brethren	Minot, North Dakota	Aug. 6, 1948
11. John Kidwell	Brethren	McPherson, Kansas	Aug. 6, 1948
12. Wilma Stern, R.N.	Brethren	Midland, Michigan	Sept. 3, 1948
13. John Miller	Brethren	Plain City, Ohio	Jan. 13, 1949
14. Lorna Mae Miller	Brethren	Bourbon, Indiana	Jan. 13, 1949
15. Barbara Hershberger	Brethren	Woodland, Michigan	May 9, 1949
16. Vernon Hoffman	Brethren	Muscatine, Iowa	July 8, 1949
17. Elsie Hoffman	Brethren	Oak Park, Illinois	July 8, 1949

BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE WORKERS

18. Paul Checks	Brethren	Union Bridge, Maryland	Dec. 5, 1948
19. Virgean Birkin	Brethren	Haxtun, Colorado	Dec. 5, 1948
20. Charles Messmer	Brethren	Minburn, Iowa	Dec. 5, 1948
21. Harold Mason	Brethren	Dawn, Missouri	Dec. 5, 1948

There are four children on the project at present. They are Lynn Burke, age 15; Jeneba Burke, age 6; Mary Ebey, age 6; and Alice Ebey, age 4. Caleb Frantz is living with the Unit at the present time.

Marguerite Burke