

Castañer Newsletter

Bachman

BRUMBAUGH RECONSTRUCTION UNIT

BRETHREN SERVICE COMMITTEE

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Castaner, Puerto Rico

June 1, 1946

MAY DAY AT CASTANER

May 18th was a big day at Castaner. It was the climax of a May Queen contest that topped all records as a financial success. At noon that Saturday, booths were opened for the sale of gum, candy, cookies, cokes and pasteles. During the afternoon the Castaner baseball team played a double-header with the La Plata team. Enthusiasm and anxiety were stirred up to a peak in preparation for the big coronation and dance to take place that evening. The people came down early in the evening for the coronation, and the Centro Comunal was packed. Preceded by six maids of honor and their partners the queen and the king walked down to the throne where the queen was crowned. Speeches were given and small gifts were presented to each girl of the court by Bruce Reeves, director of the Comunal. These ceremonies were followed by the dance. The evening was over about 12:30.

BRUMBAUGH BOYS" CAMP, 1946

Plans have been made to hold the third annual Brumbaugh Boys' Camp in the beautiful hills of El Yunque Recreational Park during the second week in July. The YMCA camp facilities used in previous years are to be used again this year and are designed to afford the rural boys of our communities a wholesome environment for a full week of fun and character development. Daily chapel programs followed by discussions, work periods, handicrafts, swimming, rest, sports, fishing, hiking, and campfires with outside speakers featured fill each day with robust activities and moral development.

Boys selected from the Castaner, La Plata and Zalduondo Projects who have shown interest in club work and general character improvement will be given the opportunity to share the camp experiences. Boys of the ages from 12 to 16 will be taken, with the capacity of the camp limited to fifty. The camp fee is \$4.00 per boy; however, only a few boys will be able to pay the full price. We try to keep the camp self-subsistent and it is not included in the budgets of the projects. Therefore we do kindly and gratefully accept donations for camp scholarships due to the fact that we attempt to select campers on an interest basis rather than individual ability to pay the fee. The price, even though relatively low, is prohibitive to many deserving, yet very poor, boys.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE PROGRAM

During the past school year there have been some significant advances visible within the educational program as charted by the local committee. Namely, our own library has been catalogued and adequate shelving designed to improve the display of materials and protect the books has been added. Spanish classes for beginners and advanced students among unit members have been promoted and successfully completed. Future Spanish classes are to be offered as new unit members replace outgoing ones, and a Puerto Rico study group is in the development stage. Through voluntary contributions from unit members and some outside donations three local students have been aided to complete one year of study in near-by high schools. Testbooks and food and lodging had to be furnished. Recently a new radio-victrola combination has been added to the unit library and many unit members have furnished

classical music albums. Dr. Parker's piano was also purchased and added to the library-living room of the Casa Grande.

PERSONNEL NEWS:--The Drs. Francis and Sylvia Helfrick, and Lizabeth, age 5 months, arrived May 5th. Francis is in charge of pediatrics and several clinics, while Sylvia is supervising the lab. On the 14th Virgenmina Bobe of Cabo Rojo, on leave from Presbyterian Hospital in Santurce, arrived for nurse's training for the summer. Fernando Rodriguez, R.N., of Ponce began working in the out-patient department on June 20th. Luke and Martha Bachman arrived the 23rd; Luke is working in the operating room while Martha is in charge of the drug department and X-rays. Edna Eller arrived on the 31st to join our nursing staff. Victorina Riera of Ponce, another nurse, joined us on June 1st.

Bill Johnson received his discharge from CPS on the 20th. Maurice Click is now the secretary-treasurer, and Dorothy Webster is now heading the women's industry due to Rae Mason's impending departure.

NEWS OF EX-CASTANERITES (Gone, and going strong)

DR. & MRS. DARYL PARKER and the boys will fly direct to Pittsburgh, Pa. on June 6, and late in August expect to sail for China. Going to China with the Parkers will be GEORGE & RAE MASON who will leave Puerto Rico on June 7.

MARY BETH GOSNELL and CARMEN KINDY sailed for the States together on the George Washington on May 9. Mary Beth will either return to Bethany Hospital or go to St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland. Carmen is joining PAUL in North Manchester, where he is attending Manchester College.

HARLAND GIBSON sailed about May 20 for the States. After a trip on a cattle-boat and a brief vacation in the West, he will begin study toward an M.A. in hospital administration at the University of Chicago in September.

JOHN GROEL is teaching at the Instituto Americano in La Paz, Bolivia. DAVID and JANINE BLICKENSTAFF are still in Madrid. DANNY BOEHM is driving an ambulance in France for AFSC. HENRY DASENBROCK is now a member of the European Transport Unit of the AFSC, engaged in transporting construction materials as well as food and clothing to various areas of need in Europe. He will be in France a month, then expects to be in the village of Kosienice, Poland, about 100 km. south of Warsaw.

HERMAN and RITA WILL are in New York; Herman expecting a release from Big Flats any day now, and Rita studying at Columbia. The FOR has recently appointed them as traveling secretaries for Latin America beginning this fall.

JOHNNIE AND MARY KAY FRIESEN are in Canon City, Colorado. Johnnie is working for International Harvester, and Mary is working at the Colorado General Hospital.

EVERETT and ELSA GROFF are working at Bethany Hospital in Chicago, where EDUVINO GALARZA, former Puerto Rican orderly, recently joined them to work at Bethany and to study voice.

DWIGHT HANAWALT is to be director of athletics at La Verne College in September. JOHN JAHN expects to finish all his pre-med requirements in the University of Calif. (Berkeley) and has been accepted for the College of Physicians, Columbia University. ANA has done good work in her first year at nursing school in Hollywood. BILL COSTON is working with Mexican boys in an underprivileged area thru the Huntington Park YMCA. ROLAND HOLLINGER is working for a building contractor in Modesto, Calif. After July 1, RACHEL, WILBUR and CAROLYN HOLDERREAD will be in Emmett, Idaho where Wilbur will be teaching vocational agriculture.

ISAAC SCHMUCKER is planning to attend Beulah College. PAUL WEAVER is executive director of activities for the House of Neighborly Service in Greeley, Colorado. HOWARD SOLLENBERGER has been recently appointed director of the new 50-man tractor unit for China, according to a recent BCPS Bulletin.

FRED KIDDER is going to the States for a two month's vacation before returning to Colegio de Agricultura San Jose where he has been headmaster of this Episcopal boys' school near Ponce since leaving Castaner last December. He will continue to serve there until the first of the year. The Newsletter is indebted to Fred for this month's alumni news.

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