

SECOND CASTANER ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Vol. II, No. 1.  
June 20, 1949

Box 281,  
Warrenton, Oregon

Greetings: We begin our second year of SCAN.

JEAN ALEXANDER--"My job continues to be very interesting and gets me around the country. For three weeks in March and April I was on a long field trip to the west coast. I was in Portland, Oregon for 4 days and because my picture and an interview appeared in a local paper, Rae Mason (Castaner) got in touch with me and I spent an afternoon and evening with her in her parents' home. Gee, it was wonderful to see her and talk about old times and about the experiences she and George had been having in China. She and their little girl, Anne, had been sent back from China last winter, but George stayed to continue to work. They were hoping he would get home this summer. By now Rae probably has had her second child, and I do hope George has been able to return. I was in San Francisco and Los Angeles and Denver before my trip was over, and altho I learned to like California, I was still glad to be back in dirty old Chicago. I'm sure there are some of you that I should have looked up while I was out west, but I was very tied down to a heavy field schedule and so missed doing the things I wanted most to do. But at least I have seen California, and I'm almost convinced of all the wonderful things everyone from there always says about it.

The news from Guacio continues to be good. The community center building is finished, they have a new Puerto Rican volunteer, a second co-op has been started, the Sunday School is growing, and Ann Shaffer Young and Paul are very happily married."

JOPHY ANDERSON--"I've moved to one of two houses owned and operated by the Student Cooperative Association. There are 20 of us living here. Most residents are graduate students in various schools (the house is almost on the campuses of Western Reserve and Case Institute of Technology), but a few of us are working, and one is in under-grad school. The house is inter-racial and inter-faith, and we certainly are a diverse group. I'm rooming with a DP from Germany in practical nursing and a gal who is studying at the med school. There are two Case students from China, an Indian boy, two New Englanders (a nationality in itself!), and a guy from the Bronx. Seriously, though, it is proving to be a fine experience and I'm enjoying and profiting from it.

We are completely responsible for all the management (property, upkeep, purchase, etc.) of the house and the association. As yet I'm not acquainted with the members of the Advisory Board and, as far as I can tell, they don't have too much to do with the whole business. One member who has been in law school has handled much of the business of property ownership in relation to the ass'n, and I've been quite amazed at the ability of a guy in library school in the field of plumbing. And so it goes . . . this'll slay you--the poor social worker (me, that is) is now in charge of meal-planning and ordering! The poor kids.

My plans for fall are as definite as they will be till the time actually comes. As planned I'll enter Western Reserve in September for the final (it had better be) stage of my formal education. I hope to finish in June with a Master's degree in social work. Since I'll be on an agency scholarship I'll stay with the agency for another year--so any time any of you Castaner alums come thru Cleveland between now and June 1951, just let me know.

Did you know Margie and Bruce are expecting their second little one in June? They have moved to Seattle and Bruce is working for his Master's in education. In March I was in Chicago for a short visit and saw Wilma and Bill Ludlow and their adopted son, Marco. He's a charming kid--24 months, I think, and has a beautiful smile. Besides that he's quite alert and intelligent. It was fun to see them again. They're no different at all. Wim calmly goes about his business of working on his Ph. D. and teaching while Wilma madly keeps house and home



intact. They are lots of fun and I did enjoy visiting with them. Their address is Apt. 2-E, 5470 Woodlawn Ave., Chicago 15, Ill.

A few weeks ago I had a most pleasant visit with a young man who taught Public Administration at the U. of Puerto Rico for the past two years. His wife was there teaching Child Welfare in the School of Social Work, too. It was fun to compare and contrast our experiences. He knew the Greens and Chathams at Zalduondo, and Bob Boguo. The latter has returned to the States and he and his wife Lucile have adopted a child--a girl, I think. What was most interesting to me was the contrast in our experiences--he with the intellectuals, political circles, etc. and I with mostly illiterate people--and then to realize that we came away with the same basic observations and beliefs. To me it seems to indicate that the government and educational programs are actually (at least to a larger extent than here) 'of the people'. It made me long to get back there, in a way. He returned to the States in December so it was still so fresh with him. I wish I'd had a chance to talk with his wife and get her ideas on social work on the island. Well, as my room-mate says, "one person can't have all the luck".

Work here goes along and I'm still fascinated by it. I've learned so much this year and certainly am glad that I came. My brother Bill (ex-CPS) is being married in Nashville in June and I plan to take some vacation and go down. I finish my job on August 31st and have the first part of September for going to Massachusetts.

MARTHA and LUKE BACHMAN--"Remember the days in PR when the rains were heavy and the lights were out? Such was the condition here as we started this letter but now we have the lights again. We have nothing much new to report at the end of our first year back in the States, but we do seem to be in the same 'shoes' as a year ago--moving again. This time, tho, it will only be for two miles. Martha's folks are remodeling an old house (and we do mean old, for it was originally a log house and one date found on it was 1790) but just when it will be completed is still the big question.

Eric is doing very well--growing fast, too. He now weighs 18 lb. and getting more active by the day. Luke is still gaining. He has just about out-grown all his suits which have been enlarged as far as possible. In other words he is getting fat. We are planning to attend the Church of the Brethren Conference at Ocean Grove, N. J. in June so we may be seeing some of you folks at that time."

WANDA BROWN BECKNELL--"I was married on February 1st in Charleston, South Carolina at the Naval Base Chapel to Joseph Becknell from Indiana. We have known each other since we were mere children. Joe has been in the Navy for 5 years and is now in Charleston, S. C. Incidentally, he is now on a cruise to Puerto Rico. The Burkes are going to meet him and plan to take him to Castaner. I know he will love it all as much as I do. I love Charleston, too. It is a historic and interesting place. The people are all so grand. I guess that is all for now."

LOIS and MAURICE CLICK--"Nita' had her one candle on May 14th--she's a full-fledged bobby-soxer with bangs, and since learning to walk a month ago she does everything from getting into the garbage pail and coal bucket to pulling daddy's undies and sex out of the dresser drawer.

Lois continues dishing out three meals a day and hanging up two washes per week. She was introduced to the sights of Washington, D. C. over a recent weekend. Special guests for "asopado de pollo" one evening included Carlos and Cesar Claudio, Bill Johnson and the Kings. Lois is eagerly awaiting a visit from her family in the late summer.

Maurice is still busy and looking forward to a vacation from classes. The summer will be spent in full time work at the Treasurer's office. He is president of the newly-organized chapter of United World Federalists--also president of next year's FOR. He will complete requirements for a social science major with courses in Criminology, Labor Problems, and Government next year. His garden is paying big dividends".



ALYS and WALTER HAAG--"We are all healthy and happy. Walt is busy closing the first school year of the Brethron Academy and getting the farm and garden in condition. Our tentative departure date from Castaner is June 9th. We will go via New York to Pennsylvania. During later July and August we will be traveling west to California taking Alys' parents with us to visit Walt's family. By Sept. 9th we must be back to Winona Lake, Indiana to register Walt for studies in Grace Seminary. Sharon is toddling all over the place now, keeping us all busy and quite jolly."

(from a Feb. 25th letter, too late for last SCAN)--"The hospital building at Llinas lacks a month till completion, probably. The dwelling-house for married couples, to be constructed beyond the hospital is being begun. The garages and barn are still dreams.

Walt is still school principal, and it seems will be till the end of this school year. Several students dropped out at the semester change, leaving 17 students at present. As to the finca, it was necessary to butcher one of the original Brethron heifers. Anyone personally acquainted may mourn the passing of Picke Lassie One Spot, or better known as Number Six. The news in club work is the starting of a Sunday morning set-up for all the children. Some eight Unit members direct the activities of 50 or 60 boys and girls doing construction work, hearing Bible stories, singing, etc."

KATHRYN HERTZLER--"The trip to Bermuda was made in 3 hours. We had a tail wind.

But coming back the following Friday took nearly 5 hours as we had a head wind, and it was rough. There was a 45-mile an hour gale when we boarded the plane in Bermuda to come back. We saw everything that the folders advertised except the glass-bottom boats. It was too cool to go swimming. I would have tried it if I had been alone for some of the waitresses at the hotel went in one afternoon. To think I have been there twice without swimming at the beaches. The little girl was the only one who seemed to benefit from the trip. She was beginning to have some color in her cheeks. We discovered that she is allergic to dogs and animals of all sorts. The dogs have been away for several months now but they talk of bringing them back. We have planted some flowers, but I hate to think what they will look like when they have raced over them.

Two Sundays ago I went on a 10-mile hike with the Lancaster Hiking Club on the Appalachian Trail above Harrisburg as guests of the New York Hiking Club. This was the first hiking I had done since leaving Puerto Rico. Did not mind it too much except now I'm nursing a case of poison ivy. They are planning to go to Virginia over the Memorial Day weekend to Rug Mt. but I will not go.

I am going to our church conference at Ocean Grove, June 14-19 with 2 girl friends. May see some of you there. It will be my first conference in about 15 years. Can it be that long since they had conference at Hershey Park, Pa.?"

BETTY KIMMEL--"This past week was the close of the spring term at Manchester College where I have been taking several courses in order to meet the Indiana teacher's requirements. The first of April found Bill, my brother, and me moving to a different apartment, which has proved to be much more suitable, both in location and landlords. Even though the floor is slanting so we can hardly fill our water glasses over  $\frac{3}{4}$  full and the door frame makes an exaggerated 30° angle with the top of the door, we can hang a picture where we please, make built-in shelves, and the like without getting bawled out. Really, the apartment is quite nice, and all we lack is my piano which is in Kansas.

The day before Easter we crawled into Bill's little Cessna airplane at 3 a.m. and headed west. At 9 a.m. we circled Dad's farm and landed on his home-made airport. Travelling the same 600 miles by auto would take 14 hours of hard, steady driving. In our trip that weekend we passed through nearly every kind of weather. It was snowing in Indiana, sleeting and raining over Illinois and eastern Missouri and Kansas was as clear as could be.



The first weekend of May, Beth was here to visit for the May Day festivities. It was nice to have another chat with her after what has seemed a long time.

Often this Spring I have seen Gilberto Claudio and Pedro Seda. I witnessed Pedro receiving his diploma this past Friday. I wonder if he is the first of the Puerto Rican boys to receive a degree through our church colleges. Gilberto says that Carlos and Caesar both plan to be here at Manchester next year.

My plans for this summer are to make good use of my little sewing machine here in North Manchester. And beginning in September I will be called "school marm" again. I feel rather sure of getting a school about 14 miles from here, teaching home economics, art, and maybe a little English. I'll live here and drive daily.

Bill is going to teach me to fly, so if you look up and see a small plane lost in the blue, it may be mine sailing around."

BLANCA MARTINEZ--"I had forgotten how warm weather was until now. But I'm tired of it all ready, and it only started last week. I sure miss the nice beaches in Puerto Rico. I have changed my address again."

CARYL and ANDY MATHIS--"At this writing Andy is cramming for exams tomorrow, and Caryl is making out and fixing up yearly attendance charts. This end-of-school rush comes every year and still nobody seems to expect it or be ready for it. Guess we're a little ahead of our story. Caryl changed jobs three months ago and is now traveling with 20 third graders through the mysteries of subtraction and multiplication. She never realized before what terrific problems an eight-year old has, when he meets up with  $9 \times 2$  and with  $2 \times 9$  and comes out with the same answer. Everybody concerned must be happy. At least she has been asked to stay another year.

Andy still has two more weeks with the youngsters at the Polish settlement house. Then we are heading for Ocean Grove with Andy's folks. Hope we'll see some of you. The plans for the summer have finally materialized. Andy is going to take a training course at Elgin State Hospital under Dr. Boisen. Caryl will go visiting and end up at Manchester for the second summer term.

Andy got in on one of Thelma's rice and bean suppers last month. Believe it or not, we miss some of those PR dishes. We never pass up a chance to order anything that might taste, smell, or look like them. If anybody is traveling in the vicinities of North Manchester, Ind. or Elgin, Ill. look us up."

LILA and CHET PECKOVER--"On May 7th the Unit went to the Guanica Sugar Central. There were several new ones to see it as I suppose there is every year. We all enjoyed the trip and picnic, and of course, the rain.

May 14th the Myers, Haags, Roosches, Peckovers, Dean Rohrer and Caleb Frantz went to La Parguera on a deep sea fishing trip. We saw lots of fish and minnows but they were afraid of us. We only brought back 3 nice sized fish.

The clubs (Sunday school for children) that Alys Haag started some months ago have grown very fast. The average attendance is around 50 boys and girls. Last Sunday there were 94 children to witness the attendance awards. The church remains pretty much the same other than that."

VICKY RIERA--"I have been very busy this past month trying to collect all data required for college admission. I have decided to go to college. I had to take the Nurses Battery Test last Saturday. This test included almost everything a nurse should know in addition to a reading comprehension test and a psychological test. The first one started at 9 a.m. and I was finishing the last one at 5 p.m. I was able to get the license for New York State without taking the dreadful State Boards.

Regarding other activities I go to church as often as my work permits; that is, Friday nights when I work days, and Sunday mornings when I work nights. I can't be as active in the church as I used to be back home. I belong to the Epworth



League which is very active now, having an average of 50 members. We have quite a few activities during the year. The church has organized a choir which is very good. They are giving a concert on June 9.

I am having 3 weeks vacation in June and I am going to PR. I'll be home by June 1st, and will take time out to go to Castaner and visit the Project.

I have seen Miguel Colon a couple of times. He likes it here very much."

NORMA ROESCH--"I guess you know about Judy's arrival the 22nd of February. She now weighs 13½ pounds, smiling, trying to sit up and grab at things, but can't quite make it. She does quite a bit of talking if you call just making noises talking.

Dale has been busy setting up the new lab, X-ray and darkroom. The table is in the middle of the room, and has an acid-proof top, and a sink in the middle. The water distiller is in the lab now, and things are arranged differently, and being in a square room are a little more handy. The dark room is in the center of the lab, X-ray and drug room. Dale built a drying box and put in a large fan to keep the air fresh. The X-ray is arranged much the same only a dressing room for changing clothes is curtained off at one corner. John Kidwell is to take over the work when Dale leaves. He has been setting up the new drug room and driving the truck so just lately has begun working in the lab. Israel Zayas has been working part time, but will be going on full time now that school is out. He was one of our Academy students.

Since January 1st I've been out of the hospital, and before Judy's arrival did part time sewing for the hospital. I just finished a class of orderlies lasting 6 weeks (180 hours) and four boys will receive diplomas.

We are planning to leave for the States on June 19th, going to Bryan, Ohio. Dale will try to do graduate work until he is able to get into med school."

MARY KAYE and DEAN ROHRER--"Everything here is still going on as always; everyone manages to keep fairly busy most of the time.

School will be out June 3rd and that will end Dean's teaching career for this year. He is doing social work again, finally, and home visiting and counselling.

Mary Kaye is quite busy with the industry since it has enlarged to include maguery and baskets. The display for Annual Conference has finally been gotten off in the mail.

We will be leaving here around the first of August, visiting a month with friends and relatives, and then will settle down in Chicago where Dean will be going to Bothany, and Mary Kaye plans to finish her college."

BETH ROOP--"I expect to be home at Linwood, Maryland from now until May 23rd. After May 23rd I will be at the Middletown Hospital in Middletown, Ohio?"

MARIA RUIZ--"I read of the Unit's moving to the new hospital. I wish them good luck at the new residence, at Llinas. Como les gusta? Nice, eh. I am still at San Francisco. Every day I like California better and better. The other day I visited the University of California, at Berkoloy--one of the best and largest universities in California. The campus is like a big park with beautiful surroundings. To go there from here you have to cross the famous Bay bridge from where you can see the city of San Francisco and the beautiful bay. I also had the opportunity of visiting the San Jose State College, another educational institution in San Jose. I went with Asta Vera, from Adjuntas. She attended that institution and is planning to go to the University of Calif. Spring is very beautiful here. The parks are full of flowers and the beaches are full of people.

I like my work and make pretty good money. I make Levi's jeans, overalls. Perhaps some of you are wearing some of the ones I made. They wear long, don't they?

I correspond with Pedro Castillo. He lives in Berkeley right across the bay. Fred Kidder lives there, too. He goes to the University of California."



EDNA and PAUL SNAVELY--"From Texas and Waterloo we greet you. The Texas blue-bonnet is a very lovely flower which grows along the roadside and in some of the low spots in large patches. Texas has fish, too, but we didn't see or catch any like they talked about. However we did catch enough for a couple of meals. What were we doing in Texas? Just trying to get Paul in working condition again. One figures he cannot live in this USA without a little work now and then. February, March and April seems to be long enough to be a patient. Tonsillitis first, surgery second, and then sweat-sweat-sweat until the clothes begin to rot, so that one begins to believe a warm sunny climate might be good for whatever ails you. Now he is able to work again at welding.

We have a nice garden coming on, but it is a little late. We are sorry to part with one friend (a '30 Chev) but rust and squeaks have gotten between us so that we have made friends with a '46 Nash. Sometimes new friends are expensive, as we have already found out, but believe the change will be all for our good.

The first of May we saw Garyl and Andy, Carlos Claudio, and Ruth Idleman."

THELMA and DONALD SOLLENBERGER--"We waited to give you the latest dope before writing, and have been so busy since. The latest --Harold Lewis Sollenberger arrived at the Wabash County Hospital on Friday, May 27th at 10:18 p.m. He weighed 8 lbs. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Mother, Dad and boy are fine. (Dad is underlined because he is surviving his own cooking).

Things sound quiet here in Manchester this week as final exams were held Wed. and Thursday. Commencement was Friday forenoon. Summer school begins next week. Don expects to attend both summer terms. When summer school is over we hope to drive back to Pennsylvania and Maryland for a couple of weeks until the fall term begins. Don continues to work in the bakery besides farming a garden and the greater part of a double city lot. If some of the ex-Castanoritos come around, we hope to be able to foo you some vegetables if we don't have anything else. We have been attending the West End River Church. They have asked Don to do about everything but take up the offering--even wanted him to play the piano, but Thelma has played quite often."

DOROTHY and KNIGHT WEBSTER--"We have a new place to live--still on the lake about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the resort. It is a basement apartment with one side nearly all window facing the lake. We like it very much and can stay the year around. It is most beautiful here now with our garden just coming through, and the lake just warm enough to swim in, and fishing season just opened. We are having a 7 lb. northern pike for supper tonite.

Some of you folks will remember Pablo Vasquez from the Agricultural Experiment Station who was making a study at Castaner just about the time we left and who helped Knight with his survey. He spent his spring vacation with us here in Alexandria. He is completing his Doctor's degree in May at the Univ. of Wisconsin and will then go back to Puerto Rico.

Kenny is getting along fine now that he is over the chickenpox. He is about the size of a two-year old now, so you can see he takes after his Mom and Dad. He weighs almost 27 lbs. and he is only 9 months.

We have been busy lately. Co-ops keep you busy. It is interesting work and one doesn't mind working hard for something he believes. (Oh, don't worry, I won't work too hard now that fishing season is opened.) If any of you get around this country you are welcome to stay here for a few days or a week (if you don't all come at once). Well, if you did, I think we could manage.

I'm reading a book that I think you might be interested in. It is "Out of your Pockets --the Story of Cartels" by Garyl McConkey. It tells how our world economy is tied up by monopoly control. It is one of those books that leaves you depressed because of the picture it paints. It is published by Pamphlet Press for \$1. If any of you want one and can't find it, write me and I can secure copies. If any of you have good books that you think valuable why not write in SCAN about them?"



JO WOLF--"We got back May 1st from vacation (Jo saw Shearers, Blanca and Carmen She stayed all night with Carmen) in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. Since then I've been working with the Home Missions Council teaching migrant children (also mothers). Our supervisor knows no Spanish, so mine comes in handy. We also have a young Mexican man (college grad) who teaches and does home visitation. He is a very fine person. Next week I go to a training conference for the staff. This is my fifth week working part time. This area began early so I don't know if we work the rest of the summer or not. They will in other areas. Howard is fine and is working hard. We are also looking for a larger apartment as we have the "stacks" right now."

JUNE and CLAUDE WOLFE--"For the past six weeks we have been having adult literacy classes. The attendance ranges from one to four. The most faithful student is an Indian woman and that is most unusual. Most of the women around here don't even speak Spanish--they speak Quechua, the native Indian language in this territory.

Claude is having club work now on Saturdays for boys and men. Thus far 20 has been the most at one time to play volloyball, ping pong, work in the carpenter shop, etc. We are very happy that that many come because the local priest continues to warn the community against having anything to do with us.

Carl Patterson and wife were to have come to Ecuador in June as agronomist, but just a month ago she was told she has leakage of the heart and may not come to this altitude. So it looks like Claude and Bonton Rhoades will continue spending a good share of their time "farming" for a while. We have quite a farm here--at least as far as livestock goes--for instance, one dog, one puppy, one cat, one parrot, one old riding horse that was given to the mission a few weeks ago, two cows, one calf, five goats, three kids (twin Toggenburgs were born last week), three sheep, four pigs, a flock of chickens, twenty rabbits, and if there is anything more we can't think of it right now.

The children are well. Mikie still has only two teeth--he got those at 3½ months. Claudia is definitely an out-door girl. Claude hopes Mikie will turn out to be as much "help" to June as Claudia is to him!"

CECIL WICKLINE--"Not much news of myself except that I plan to go to a Methodist Youth Institute for a week the latter part of July as one of the "faculty"--and perhaps to one other institute later in the summer. Also I have discovered that the county library at Astoria has only one book on PR--"Dynamite on our doorstep", but I am to write out a list of good books on PR for the librarian. He seemed interested in such a list. They do have "Blood in the Streets" by Albert Hicks about Rafael Trujillo of Dominican Republic, though.

Recently the Oregon Conference of the Methodist Church decided on the following: it favors discontinuance of the manufacture of the atomic bomb, it favors international control of atomic energy, it opposes the Atlantic pact, and it asks for repeal of peacetime military conscription. The vote was 70-30. But, says the Oregonian (one of Portland's two newspapers), "This is the perfect and lamentable indication of why the churches have lost their influence. They try to prove their good will rather than their good sense, they endanger all that has been won during the Christian centuries, and then they depend upon the general body of the people to save them from the folly which they initial." Oh yes, somehow it also "endangers the whole concept of the importance of the human soul".

But then the papers and the western governors are also telling Washington and the people that the Northwest does not want a CVA (Columbia Valley Authority). Of course all the labor groups and farm groups have officially come out in favor of it. Naturally the power companies oppose it. There is also a species of bureaucrat which thinks three government agencies are better than one--right now the Columbia River region is fought over by the Army Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Fish and Wild Life Commission. And the power companies want to build dams which would ruin the salmon spawning grounds, whereas government



SCAN--page eight.  
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# Dale and Norma Roosch, 816 W. Bryan St., Bryan, Ohio  
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# Beth Reop, Nurses' Home, Middletown Hospital, Middletown, Ohio  
# Maria Ruiz, 1234 Shafter Ave., San Francisco, Calif.  
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Claude and June Wolfe, Casilla 455, Quito, Ecuador  
Howard and Charlotte Wright, Route 1, Box 65, Centerville, Ind.

# Change of Address. - Address same as last SCAN, no letter this time.

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dams are always triple purpose--water power, flood control, irrigation--with fish ladders and elevators to preserve the salmon industry.

Quite a few of you began taking Consumers Union Reports while in Puerto Rico, and if any of you would care to join in with me again at the club rate of \$3.50 I shall be sending in a group about July 20th. However, it would be much better if each of you could get 4 others and make new club groups. But if not you are welcome to join with me. I expect many of your subscriptions are expiring soon.

Since Knight mentioned reading material, perhaps I should mention that some may wish to keep more in touch with PR's affairs by reading the Bulletin of the Office of Puerto Rico, 1026- 17th St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C. which appears monthly and may be had for the asking. Just send them a card asking to be on their mailing list. The next SCAN will be October 1st, In fellowship,

*Cecil*