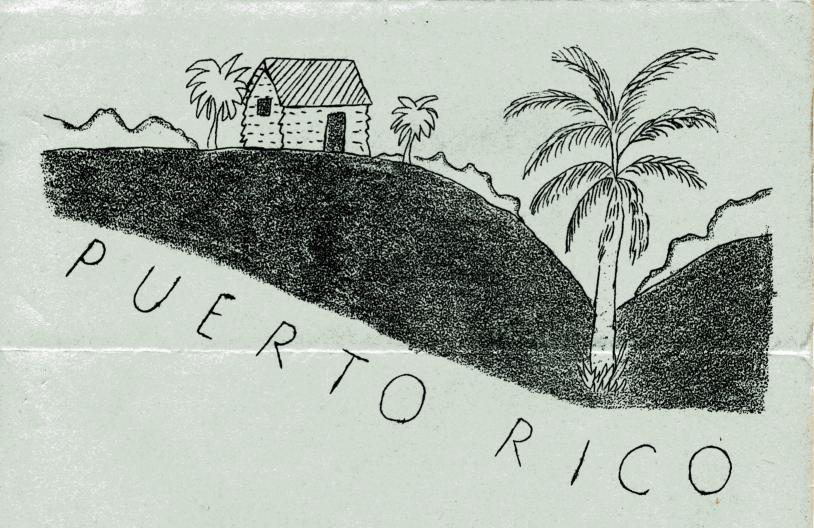
Castañer Newsletter

BRETHREN SERVICE PROJECT Vol. 16 No. 1

BRETHREN SERVICE COMMISSION Castañer, Puerto Rico January 26, 1959



MEET THE PROJECT WORKERS

Hello, we're so glad you've come to visit our project. First let's go into the office and meet Ralph Townsend, the director of the project, and then we'll go on a tour of the rest of the project. Ralph's jobs are many. He is the administrator, advisor to the personnel, co-ordinator of all the areas of the project, and a father of four youngsters who you will meet later out in the Unit School. Along with his many other duties as director of the project, Ralph has been extremely busy in the last few months working with the architects and contractor on the plans and preparations that go with the building of the New Castañer General Hospital.

Also here in Ralph's office we'd like for you to meet his secretary, Sharon Neher. She does the typing and also keeps the records of the hospital campaign.

In the office just next door we find Esther Petersime, the bookkeeper for the project. Esther is a popular girl and especially on pay days and around noon each day as she also has the job of distributing mail to the people on the project.

While we are here on the first floor of "Casa Grande" let's go on in to the O.P.D. (out-patient department). This is where the doctors spend a great deal of time during each day and often part of the night, treating patients with a variety of complaints and illnesses. The doctors are very busy with patients right now, so let's not interrupt their work to introduce them, but in the office to the left we find Dr. Tom Hall, the acting medical director and in the other office is his wife, Dr. Francoise Hall. Not only does she work treating patients during the day, but they have a family of two small children; Eric, age 2, and Lita, age 1 1/2 months, at home to care for. Several Puerto Rican aides help keep the O.P.D. running smoothly.

As we step outside the door of O.P.D. and look down over the fence, we can see Dave Bollinger working on one of the project vehicles. Dave is the mechanic and is called on to fix many things.

There is Gene Hartman coming in with the eggs. Gene works in maintenance and also is taking care of all the chickens on the project. Gene is the popular ice cream maker too.

We can see Doyle Neher down at the barn just finishing up chores. He milks and takes care of the dairy cows and other animals on the farm. He also has planted a project garden which he cares for.

Let's visit the hospital now and find out who works there. In the Laboratory and Pharmacy we find all Puerto Rican workers. Around the corner in the office is Elsa Groff. She is an R.N. and head nurse in the hospital. Elsa works the day shift at the hospital plus taking care of her family of four children. Elsa's husband, Everett, is the English teacher in the Puerto Rican school.

We won't see Bernice Stoner, R.N., right now as she is still sleeping after a busy night shift at the hospital. Ofelia Rodriquez, a Puerto Rican R.N. is now back at work after a several months leave of absence. The duties of the nurses are many and varied, from sewing up wounds to delivering babies. The R.N.'s have much good help for the Puerto Rican aides who are always on duty.

Let's go on down the steps to the kitchen below the hospital. Here, besides the several Puerto Rican cooks, we will probably find Mildred Townsend, wife of the

director, planning menus and serving as dietitian for the hospital. Mildred also is an R.N. and works as scrub nurse for surgery on Thursdays. Sometimes she also works as nurse in the hospital if help is needed.

We won't try to have you meet all of the Puerto Rican workers as there are 45 of them working in various jobs around the project.

Now let's go out and take a look into the Social Worker's office which is now humming again after several months of idleness. This is Nathan Leopold and John Forbes, who are just starting work in this field and hope to have it going well in a short time. John is the father of the newest member of the project. His wife, Willie, also an R.N., is spending her time at home caring for little Gandhi.

We'll make our last stop at the little one-room school located behind the social work office. Here we find Arlene Coy as the teacher for all of the continental children on the project. In the morning Arlene teaches grades 5 through 8, including Rodney Townsend, Karen Townsend, Janice Groff, Carmen Groff, and Philip Townsend. In the afternoon she has grades 1 through 4 with Ricky Groff, Melvin Townsend, and Joyce Groff as her students. All of these students attend the local Spanish School for one-half day and the Unit School the other half day. As you can see, Arlene has plenty of work teaching all of the usual classes to eight different grades.

Down at the site of the new hospital we will find Walter Keiser working as the inspecting engineer for the new hospital. Walter, his wife Agnes, and their two daughters, Norma and Elaine, arrived recently from the states when Walter started this job.

We wish you could also have met our summer workers and the people who have recently finished their terms of work with the project. The summer visitor-workers were Dr. and Mrs. Lee Smith and family, Dr. and Mrs. Howard Bosler and Cynthia, Lois Green, Bette Jo Row, David Bagwell, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul DeBruine and Kim.

contos, i y with Those who were here for terms of service which have been recently completed are Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Church and family, Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Snell and family, LaVerne Burger, Louise Spall, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Dolby, Suzanne and Miriam. Dr. John Hamer was here for a short term this winter.

You have now met or heard about all of the continental workers on the project. We hope you have enjoyed your little tour and please do come back when you can stay longer and can really see the many things that are done here. world of sail file back ew great .

---0--or, regulinat for the star guestat on a father of the starte

ANNOUNCING

The "Hall of Fame" is now Lita Francoise Hall who arrived November 24, 1958. Lita is the daughter of Doctors Tom and Francoise Hall.

andard restrict the Best

--0--0---

aj skraj je n. c. – nak sodin izave e josemne dul konist di inda asakog i skrajede ko k**ero-co-**sels kom die Paemis Gloža Lidos kon en Horgon The newest member of the Cooperatives of Castañer is little Gandhi Edwin Forbes, who arrived to join the home of Willie and John Forbes on December 30, 1958.

---0---

a server read the fifth wide last fill of siles ratio one a server

It's 7 A.M. of a typical week day morning. Elsa Groff has just arrived at the hospital to begin her day along with five "ayudantes". As she is parceling out the work among the aides, Drs. Tom and Francoise Hall are eating breakfast as their lively son Eric clamors for some and baby Lita sleeps in her crib. By 7:30 Tom is on his way to Spanish class and at 8 the baby sitter has arrived for the morning and Francoise is on her way to begin rounds in the hospital. She's eager to know how her new meningitis case is getting along. Tom arrives at 8:30 to check his patients. The big concern of the day is how Carmen is getting along. Several weeks ago here in the hospital she had twins, a boy and a girl. Now she is back in the hospital with a very severe pneumonia. She is so upset at having to stay in the hospital while her twins and two other youngsters stay at home. She needs lots of assurance that the babies are doing well on their new formula and that she will be better, but ever so slowly. What with one twin or the other awake all night after she took them home, it's no wonder she's so run down. She just hasn't had enough rest.

Then it's off to clinic for the doctors. There with the help of Tefel and Lita (aides), they will try to see about 20 to 30 patients in the general clinic. After lunch, if necessary, they finish general clinic and begin pediatric and pre-natal clinics. It's January and many of the youngsters have colds. We've survived the measles, mumps, and whooping cough epidemics for the time being. There's one case to refer to the social workers. The program of social work has been reactivated as of this month and it is hoped that the study of problems in individual cases will help lead to a better understanding of community problems as a whole. Ten cases have been undertaken as of this writing, and are a considerable challenge for the new social workers. The emphasis is on positive constructive solutions to problems instead of simple charity handouts. One example is urging families to grow gardens or keep cows where they have land available.

After Eric wakes from his nap, Francoise goes home to care for the youngsters and prepare supper. Tom is delayed by a big machete cut that requires sutures.

By this time Elsa has gone home and Ofelia Rodriguez, who returned to work 3 P.M. to 11 P.M. just this month, has the hospital well in hand. It's a busy evening, what with four "emergencias" in O.P.D. Ofie checks them and decides which must see the doctor. Then of course there is the ever busy maternity department. At 9:06 P.M. a brand new baby boy checked into the world weighing 6 lb. 2 oz.

By 10 P.M. Dr. Tom has made it to his home after reading x-rays, writing orders on the new admission and putting on a cast.

At 11 P.M. Ofie gives the report to two reliable aides and Bernie goes on call. It was her day off so that's why you haven't seen much of her. All seems quiet and sleeping till ? A.M. when a lady comes in with a dislocated jaw. She's very upset and it takes some time to get her quieted. And wouldn't you know, that intercom that connects us with the doctor's house isn't working tonight. Bernie must run over to "Casa Larga". There's nothing that seems funnier or more exasperating than trying to wake the doctor from outside his house when three other families are trying to sleep in the same building.---Finally the lady's jaw gets replaced and all is quiet until 4 A.M. when a two-year old comes in with very severe fatiga' (somewhat resembling

From we seld to relead altowiking adt

asthma). Bernie's got to call the doctor again. It looks like an admission. So it's back to shouting outside Casa Larga again. That intercom must be repaired tomorrow.

By 5 A.M. all is quiet but who can sleep? There's sure to be an OB (maternity case) yet tonight. One never knows what will be next, and by the way, it's already another day!

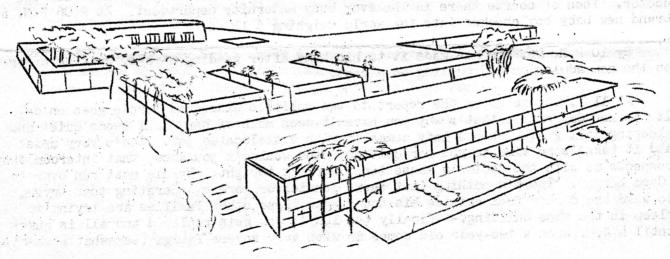
COME SEE THE NEW CASTANER HOSPITAL!

January 17, 1959 - As this is written, foundation footings are being poured for the new Castafier General Hospital. Some of the walls are poured for the personnel housing building. The general contract was signed December 10, 1958, with Miguel A. Sastre Frau of Ponce, and he began work immediately on the site, which is the old vanilla plant grounds, using the vanilla plant for the dining hall, kitchen, storeroom, laboratory, and x-ray room of the new hospital.

Plans are being made now for a cornerstone laying ceremony in the early part of February. Definite plans are awaiting word as to when Governor and Mrs. Muñoz Marin can be present.

The intensive work of conducting a fund raising campaign and drawing up plans and equipment specifications began almost a year ago after much preliminary work previous to that. By June, Bob Pope and Toro and Ferrer, architects working with our local committee, had plans complete enough for approval of the Health Department for 2/3 of the funds from the Federal Government. The campaign for our 1/3 of the total cost, now set at \$540,000, has had enthusiastic support of local and island leaders as well as from many people in the states.

We have \$60,000 yet to raise of our part and with construction moving along we will soon need these funds. With the cornerstone laying, we want to renew the campaign for funds.



The architect's drawing of the new hospital.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Community education is showing some progress. Four well-attended programs of orientation about cooperatives were presented in November and December by representatives of the Cooperative Development Administration and the Consumers' Cooperative and Credit Union of Castañer. As a result of these meetings, it is hoped that there may be new development of the existing cooperatives and organization of others. The Consumers' Cooperative, for instance, is about ready to begin construction of a new small supermarket with self service. A Castañer Community Committee has been working with community problems and helping in the campaign for the new hospital.

CHURCH NEWS

Next month marks the 11th anniversary of the local Church of the Brethren. Among the accomplishments during that time has been the recent completion of the Sunday School wing of the church. This new wing will be dedicated next month.

VISITORS TO THE PROJECT

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Blickenstaff, California Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Cohen, Washington, D.C. Don Erickson, Robinson School, Santurce, Puerto Rico Ray Thornberry, Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico Wilma Mosholder, San German, Puerto Rico Mr. Elmer Gertz, Chicago, Illinois Mrs. June Matheson, Chicago, Illinois Mr. and Mrs. John Trostle, Richard, Jimmy, and Bobby, New York Dr. and Mrs. Leland Brubaker, Elgin, Illinois Mr. and Mrs. E.M. Hersch, Elgin, Illinois Mr. and Mrs. Everett Coy, Dayton, Ohio Nancy Groff, Cleveland, Ohio Ann Hummer, Manheim, Pennsylvania Mr. and Mrs. Paul Puvrez, Montreal, Canada Ilo Stewart, Robinson School, Santurce, Puerto Rico Graduate Class in Community Organization from University of Puerto Rico Mrs. Jeanne Hall, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

000000			
00000	-000	000	-000

NOTICE

If you wish to have your name continued on our mailing list, please clip out the following coupon, fill in the blanks, and return it to us. If your card is not returned, your name will automatically be dropped from our mailing list.

regenerations of the second control of the s

Please continue of the Brethren Puerto Rico.	my name Service	on the mailing lie Project, Castaner	st ,
Name			
Correct Address			_
_	والمعرار		-
			*