



JUNE • 1953

BULLETIN



AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE



Tom Mechan

Work campers, whether in the United States, Mexico, El Salvador, the Caribbean, the Middle East, or the Far East, pour their energy into project work. These two are building shelters for American Indian children to stand in on cold winter mornings while waiting for the school bus.

"... full of enthusiasm, full of idealism, full of energy . . . It is from youth that the country has received much of its moral power. . . . Youth has made each generation indulge in self examination. . . . Its criticisms have been searching and productive. . . ."

Associate Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas was defining the traditional role of youth in the words above. He followed those words with serious questions as to whether youth was today as free as formerly to play their role of challenge: "The pattern of orthodoxy that is shaping our thinking has dangerous implications. . . . The problems of today require the pooling of many ideas, the exposure to different points of view. . . ."

This summer American Friends Service Committee projects will offer just short of a thousand young people of many races, religions, nations, and backgrounds, a focus for their enthusiasm, idealism, and energy.

The specific purposes of the projects vary. Work camps, community service units, interne programs, units in mental and correctional institutions, seminars, and institutes will have their special fields, as always.

It may well be, however, in a time when society's patterns are becoming hardened into an unquestioning orthodoxy, that one of their vital contributions to this day will be to bring the strength and ideals of youth into contact with some of the tension spots in our national social and economic life and in the international scene.



Campbell Hays

COVER PICTURE:

David Myers

Cooperating with public health campaigns in Mexican villages has always been a part of the program in Mexico. Here an Italian and an American camper inoculate a village boy.



Campbell Hays

Discussions, a basic part of any project, pit visiting resource people against the inquiring minds of participants. In seminars and institutes such discussions play a major role. In other projects, such as this Interne in Industry group, they help round out the work experience.

Fitting ideals and hard realities together is an exercise shared by many project participants. These members of an Institutional Service Unit are hunting for workable answers to the relation between the ideal of the worth of each human personality and the reality of institutional life.

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"An Unlimited Field..."

In responding to the overwhelming physical hardship of the Koreans and their need for friendship and understanding, the Committee has undertaken a combination of medical aid and some relief and welfare work. According to present plans, this will be in the area of Kunsan.

This work is considered a token of the desire of Friends and other Americans for peace and reconciliation in that harried land. Friends in America, Canada, England and elsewhere are cooperating in the work. The Committee already has shipped more than 1,000,000 pounds of clothing and other supplies to Korea.

The Committee has appointed a general administrator, a doctor, a hospital administrator and a welfare worker, who are expected to be in Korea early in July. Others are to follow. Details of the program will be worked out on the ground and in consultation with the United Nations Korean Relief Administration and the Republic of Korea government.

A team of Quaker workers, one British and one American, who made a preliminary survey in Korea at the end of last year, pointed up the need for medical help and welfare services among the refugees and the settled population. Quaker experience in medical work in the Far East and in community services in Europe and the United States indicate that the Committee's best response is in these fields.

Training courses are planned for Korean medical technicians and hospital workers to help meet the drastic shortages. There are only about 2,700 Korean civilian doctors and some 1,300 nurses, of all qualifications and competence, for the 21,000,000 people now in South Korea. Although exact statistics are not obtainable it appears that at least 2,700,000 of these are refugees.

The civilian hospital at Kunsan, one of the 64 left in the country, was "of a lower standard than any we saw" the Quaker observers (one of them a doctor) reported. "On the Sunday of our visit no nurse was on duty and the con-



Unations

"There are no enemies among children" yet.....

An unknown number of Korean children are wanderers or "beggar boys."

In a hospital Quaker workers saw "some so weak and shrunken they could not sit up."

dition of some of the tiny or more helpless patients was deplorable." Tuberculosis cases were in the same room with everything else. The hospital was indescribably dirty and understaffed.

In Kunsan refugees are huddled in abandoned buildings, one large family to about eight square feet of space, staked out by their meager belongings. Quaker workers found no welfare work, no organized feeding for sick children, no means of transfer to hospitals in any refugee camp they visited.

About 33,000 children, orphaned or separated from their families, are housed in 300 institutions. An unknown number of children are wandering and living as best they can. Those close to this problem believe 40 per cent of the children with one parent living could be reunited with their families if a scheme were worked out.

"There is an undoubted need for . . . feeding programs for undernourished children. . . . Supplies of whole milk have not been available for some months," the Quaker workers reported. "The field for help to children in Korea is almost unlimited. . . ."



Unations



Past grandeur of the self help project neighborhood is typified by this fine door and gate. The fundamental sturdiness of the buildings was a necessary foundation for a project in rehabilitation.

Hazel Kingsbury

• philadelphia housing story

The Cooperators Write Their Chapter

The difficult early chapters of the Philadelphia self help housing story have been reported in this BULLETIN. These chapters were "written" by members of the staff and committees of the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Neighborhood Guild, along with many agencies with which they worked.

In the latest chapter, more than many others, the authors are the "cooperators"—the pioneer-minded families who are—after the lawyers, architects, contractors, social workers, and civil servants finish their tasks—going to account for the success or failure of this story.

In the early chapters it was sometimes hard to see the people who were really the big part of the story, because the mathematics of loans and payments, and the intricacies of contracts hid them a little.

The early chapters were headed:

- Self help technique where labor replaces down payment to be applied to rehabilitation of blighted urban area.
- Planning Commission OKs area for Friends' project in blocks just one mile north of City Hall.
- Architect engaged to design rehabilitation of old civil war era brick homes.
- Redevelopment Authority and Friends Service Inc., sign contract for purchase of area for project.

—City Council approves Friends contract with Authority.

These chapters cover the time from June 1947 until January 1950, at which point the chapter headed "project manager appointed" comes in. Eight months of frustrating work follow before the November 1950 chapter can call attention to the appointment of a contractor to do the union labor required on some parts of the rehabilitation job. A month later the first cooperators submit their applications.

A year and a half of faithful waiting took place before the story came about the Federal Housing Administration being willing to guarantee the mortgage on the project. That's an interesting, and long, chapter which ends with some 28 lawyers and technicians signing papers for five hours.

Somewhere along here two large Philadelphia financial institutions take an interest in the project which could have such meaning for the city, and by June 1952 a chapter tells of their making substantial loans to the project—one a short term loan for construction costs, the other the long term loan which the cooperators will pay back over 40 years.

June, July, August, September, October, November—the stories of these months are of hard work—pulling off old plaster, scraping paint, sanding floors, painting, making cabinets and windowsills.

The next exciting chapter begins on December 20, 1952

when the first cooperators move into their apartments at 709 North Eighth Street. By now the "cooperators" in the story stand out clearly.

When the 50 some people who comprise the first part of the project signed up, they put down their reasons for wanting to be a member of the Eighth and Brown Mutual Housing Corporation—as the project is called. They explained their eagerness to take on the job of being among the authors of this story in many ways.

Why Be a Cooperator?

One said: "a sound investment, combined with a nice environment." Another said: "want cooperative and interracial living . . . want to get away from the atmosphere of prejudice." A member of a family which has lived in the project neighborhood for generations and who knew it in its former days of self respect, wrote: "I want to share in the revival of the neighborhood. I want to help it regain the respect of the city."

Another wrote: "It will be a good environment for bringing up our children." . . . "I want to be free of landlords," was another comment by one who was particularly happy to become a shareholding member of the mutual housing corporation.

Who has moved in since that great day just before Christmas? A carpenter, his wife, and two little girls, were one of the first families. The carpenter has been a particularly valuable cooperator, for he taught others to build good cabinets for their kitchens and actually put in a large share of his own hours—his self help down payment—making the cabinets for many of the first 50 apartments.

A mover by trade moved in the same day as the carpenter. His father was one of the original members of the Joint Planning Committee which, back in 1949, when this story was pretty much an outline, had the imagination to struggle on, chapter by chapter.

A young couple, married a year or so, live in "709" too. The husband is a clerk in a jewelry store. He came to Philadelphia from Tennessee. His wife is active in the Baptist church.

Teacher and Technician

Other cooperators include a high school teacher, a lab technician, and a retired gentleman in his late 60's, who operated a candy and cigar concession in the lobby of a large Philadelphia office building. He's an usher in an Episcopal church to which he travels some distance each Sunday. He'll add interest to the neighborhood when his mail arrives containing the latest problem from his correspondence chess club.

Among his neighbors is another school teacher, a Friend, who is anxious, as is the other teacher in the group, to prove the workability of an interracial cooperative project in rehabilitation.

The last two apartments occupied at the time this story is written house a secretary and a young couple from New York with three children—the ones whose parents are anxious for them to have "a good environment to grow up in."

Doctor and Mechanic

The young doctor and his wife, who will arrange their apartment so that it can include his office; the secretary, whose present job is secretary to the project manager and bookkeeper for the project; the mechanic; the district manager of a motorcycle firm—these people and the others are all still working full speed on their chapters of the story. Summer evenings and each weekend see them at work.

No one wants to predict the date of the final chapter to Volume I (Volume I because the other half of the block is to follow) of this story. All have learned as they've gone along that a story as complex as this one takes a little re-writing from time to time. And anyway, the living of each chapter is time and energy consuming. Suffice to say that the professional contractors know they'll have their work done before the fall of 1953. Then the rest of the job is up to the cooperators, who have good incentive to finish up the job they've so bravely begun.



Jules Schick

Five days before Christmas the first two families moved into their apartments in the Eighth and Brown Mutual Housing Corporation. A carpenter and daughter, Bonnie, and the owner of a moving concern get the keys to their apartments from the project manager. In addition to the Christmas wreath on the door, Christmas trees were in each apartment.

"The capital of a nation, though it may lie, as ours does, at the level of the sea, must be in a very true sense, a city that is set on a hill and which cannot be hid. In the nature of things, it draws to itself the eyes not only of its own people, but, if it be the capital of a great nation, as ours is, the eyes of the whole world."

Mr. Justice Wendell Phillips Stafford
Supreme Court of the District of Columbia
February 27, 1913

● A City Set on a Hill

The American Friends Service Committee, along with many like-minded people, views segregation in the nation's capital in terms of morality and brotherhood. By no standard can one find justification for the segregation and discrimination with which American citizens, who by God's design are Negro, are faced. That non-Americans of color are faced with similar hardships is no more just.

For 18 months the Committee has worked along with other people of good will to find ways of correcting some of the inequalities of the capital. One part of this work deals with the problems of segregated public recreation facilities. Another, begun more recently, works toward an end of the exclusion of non-whites from public accommodations. A third part works toward the integration of the separate and extremely unequal public school system.

A recent series of three seminars for Washington public school teachers brings a concrete example of the approach of the latter project and of its effect.

The scene in which work on the school system must operate in this: Washington public schools traditionally have been as thoroughly segregated as a school system can be. Separate schools for Negro and white children are maintained from kindergarten through teachers colleges. The staffs of teachers, supervisors, and administrators are likewise separated. The last few years have seen some limited opportunities for teachers to work "bi-racially" on committees, but the ordinary classroom teachers have had no opportunity for sharing professional experience on an interracial basis.

The last two years have seen some progress in developing commitment to the objectives of intergroup education. Stimulation from citizen groups has played a role in this development.

Into this changing scene came the agreement of the Supreme Court to hear the case of *Bolling vs. Sharpe*, which challenges the constitutionality of District school segregation. In the months after the arguing of the case and while

the decision was pending, as it is now, school officials and the Board of Education began to make plans for transition to an integrated system, should the court so order.

All of these factors have made for a scene of some confusion, some feelings of threatened security, and for a profound realization of the almost total lack of experience in making an integrated system work.

The contribution of the American Friends Service Committee to this challenge was explored with superintendents, Board of Education members, school principals, teachers, and citizen groups. The advice and guidance of an active Washington Community Relations Program Committee was sought.

Obviously the greatest need in the situation was training for functioning in an integrated school system. Taking into account the years of experience of the Committee in the educational approach of small seminars and institutes, it seemed that the wisest thing the Committee could do would be to conduct a seminar in which teachers could actually share the experience of working together interracially while they approached their common problem of learning how to teach in an integrated system.

Seminars on Integrated Schools

This past spring has seen three seminars, each two days long, held in Washington. Within a matter of a few days after announcements of the originally planned seminar had been sent to school principals, the number of applications returned made it evident that there were more teachers interested than the one seminar could accommodate.

In addition to routine replies, many teachers wrote letters or telephoned with strong pleas that they be admitted. Comments with replies indicated that many had a strong sense of their responsibility to learn all they could to make an integrated system work.

It seemed important to have able leadership for these

Quakers at United Nations

The office for the Committee's work at the United Nations moved in May to a new building erected by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace at 46th Street and United Nations Plaza. The mail address is 345 East 46th Street, New York 17, New York.

The Carnegie Endowment Building, facing the United Nations headquarters area, will house a number of organizations having a special interest in the UN's work. Among these are the American Association for the United Nations, the Child Welfare League of America, the Foreign Policy Association, the International Labor Organization and the Jane Addams Peace Association.

The AFSC work in connection with the United Nations will again have during May and June the full-time attention of two Quaker workers—William Fraser and Elmore Jackson. A more favorable turn in India-Pakistan relations has enabled Elmore Jackson to return to AFSC work for those months. He has been serving as personal assistant and political advisor to Dr. Frank P. Graham, United Nations Mediator in the Kashmir dispute.

"A Time For Greatness" Revised

The AFSC film, "A Time for Greatness," which gives a Quaker view of United States foreign policy and suggests some alternatives to the present policy, has been widely used and commented upon since it first appeared in June of 1952. The film has now been revised to bring it up to date and to meet some of the valid criticism of it by Friends and others. It is being distributed by the AFSC

Regional Offices and by Association Films, Inc., Broad at Elm, Ridgefield, New Jersey.

School Affiliation Conference and Exchange Students

In July teachers from affiliated schools in Germany, France, Holland, Italy, and the United States will meet for a week's conference with educational leaders at the Quaker School, Eerde Holland.

Thirteen foreign students will spend the 1953-54 school term as guests in the American partner of their European schools. These pupils come from Germany, France, and Holland. Four American students next year will attend the German schools affiliated with their American institution.

By special request a one-day conference for teachers from elementary affiliated schools was held in May at Pendle Hill, a Quaker graduate school at Wallingford, Pa.

This spring 65 students and teachers from schools participating in the Committee's School Affiliation Service, held a week-end conference in New England.

Quaker Books

Persons interested in Quaker work will find the following books helpful:

"Friends for Three Hundred Years," by Howard Brinton (Harpers), a history of Quakerism from 1652 to 1952.

"Builders of the Quaker Road," by Caroline Jacob (Henry Regnery), a series of brief biographies of Quaker leaders during the three hundred years.

"The Quaker Approach to Contemporary Problems," a symposium (G. P. Putnam's), shows how Friends' principles are applicable to contemporary human affairs.

"For More than Bread," by Clarence E. Pickett (Little, Brown & Company, June 29), an autobiographical account of twenty-two years as Executive Secretary of the AFSC.

All of these books may be ordered through the AFSC or local bookstores.

C.O. Services

The AFSC continues to counsel men in CO classifications, deferments, and appeals, and to assist COs in prison or in the armed forces. However, major efforts currently are involved with the CO civilian work draft: compiling data on available jobs, helping individual COs to arrange for creative work, and interceding with draft officials and employers on problems which arise.

Since the AFSC is unwilling to accept Selective Service controls over its program and personnel, its name does not appear on the official list of "approved" employers. Nonetheless, several COs have been able to arrange directly with their local boards to receive draft credit for their work in AFSC projects.

CO Services has available reports on CO work program procedures, approved jobs, student deferments, COs in the armed forces, and related subjects. Interested individuals are encouraged to write for these and for further information on any phase of the CO draft.

NOTE: Due to illness in the staff, the Spring issue of the Bulletin was omitted. The next issue will appear in October, 1953.

CONTINUED FROM PRECEDING PAGE

meetings from people thoroughly experienced with problems of school integration. The leader of the first seminar was from the Institute of Human Relations at New York University; the second was the Director of Education of the Anti-Defamation League; the third was the field coordinator of the Southern Area of New York University.

Additional consultants included teachers from integrated school systems, members of education departments in colleges and universities, a representative of the National Education Association, and of the U.S. Office of Education.

Once gathered, each group agreed, quite independently, that their work together should have concrete results. They wanted to arrive at a summary of their findings and send these to the Superintendent and to the Board of Education.

Together teachers, principals, and directors of the two divisions, white and Negro, talked about implementing democratic principles in modern public schools, special problems that occur as schools change from a segregated to

integrated basis, involving the community in planning and carrying out the school's program, and the necessity for sound arrangements in shifting pupil and teacher assignments.

A number of teachers indicated that this was their first really interracial experience. One teacher wrote, "The thinking done on integration was only a part of the experience for me." One white principal added to this thought: "I don't know what happened, but just being there together and eating together really did something to me."

Perhaps, in addition to the value of the summaries sent to superintendents and members of the Board of Education, and in addition to the value of the information shared, the greatest significance of the seminars is summed up in the following statement: "This is a historic occasion. We have talked about these things in our own schools and among our own friends, but this was the first time we have ever sat down to discuss them together."

The AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, representing the religious Society of Friends, attempts to relieve human suffering wherever it is found and to ease tensions between individuals, groups or nations. We believe that God lives in every person, and that love in action can overcome hatred, prejudice, and fear.

The Committee works in Europe, Asia, Mexico, and the United States. Our undertakings include relief and rehabilitation, education in community relations, work and study projects for young people, self-help housing projects, and seminars and institutes on international relations.

All parts of the work are open to anyone regardless of race, religion or nationality. We are dependent upon your contributions. Checks may be sent to the American Friends Service Committee at any of its offices.

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A "FANTASTIC IDEA"

The first international voluntary work camp in Israel was held at Kfar Vitkin, site of a youth hostel and children's holiday camp between Tel Aviv and Haifa. There were 16 women and 29 men campers.

They were Swiss, Greek, British, Belgian, American and Israeli. Of the 34 Israeli, 11 were Arabs. Of the Jewish Israeli, 12 were born in Israel, 5 in Germany, 2 in Czechoslovakia and one each in Egypt, Romania, Great Britain

and Austria. Campers were Catholic, Orthodox Jew, Quaker, Moslem, Protestant and Greek Orthodox.

They were farmer, student, journalist, carpenter, teacher, mechanic, minister, nurse, social worker, musician, government worker, artist and physiotherapist.

Campers leveled ground, planted a thousand trees, helped build a three-room storehouse.

Among these outward facts lies the most important fact of all—that these young people carried out what skeptics called the fantastic idea of Israeli of both Jewish and Arab background working together. All during the camp public officials and professional workers visited this "curiosity."

More important than this demonstration was the effect of the work experience on campers themselves. Arabs spoke of learning of the friendliness of the Jews; Jews expressed understanding of the peculiar difficulties of Arab Israeli. Each camper grappled with achieving amicable day-to-day working relationships with "foreigners."

Three campers were elected a committee to plan the next work camp, willing this time to receive young campers even from Germany—another "fantastic idea."



Aliza Pinnelli