

SEP 14 1956

American Friends Service Committee

BULLETIN

September • October, 1956



Daily meditation in youth service projects encourages individual and group evaluation. See page 3.

Campbell Hays

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... a growing fellowship ...

Philadelphia, Pa.
September, 1956

Dear Friends:

The red-and-black star pin marks a special fraternity. The pin is simple enamel—no gold or diamonds. But it is worn on many a blouse and lapel with particular pride.

The pin is both democratic and exclusive. Anyone who has worked closely with the American Friends Service Committee is eligible to wear it. This includes staff members, project volunteers and those faithful guides—the members of our committees.

As you probably know, the AFSC works more in the present than in the past. We have not built up an alumni association to reminisce. Yet we do remember those who have been the AFSC in past years. They have helped shape what it is today. They are welcomed to help form its tomorrow. And we have counted on each experience of personal service to prepare men and women for further dedication, wherever they may be.

I was looking at the list of the young men who were in France in 1917, the first AFSC overseas workers. Many are to be found today on AFSC lists—staff, regional committees, local projects. Others of that early period have found other auspices for a life of usefulness.

This issue of the Bulletin goes with a special letter to many alumni. We have unfortunately lost touch with many

others we'd like to reach. If you know any former workers who are not now on our mailing list, we'd appreciate knowing about them.

Then, I'd like to get your response to a proposal for a rare reunion. Next year will be the AFSC's fortieth birthday. A national meeting of Friends is planned for June 25-July 3 in Wilmington, Ohio. Many former AFSC workers will likely be there. Would fellow wearers of the red-and-black star pin, whether attending the Friends conference or not, like to meet at Wilmington for a day or so before or after that? I'd hope that especially those from the first few years would come—partly for rekindling the bright spirit of the founding period, partly to help apply that spirit to today's situation. Their participation would also mean much to more recent members of the AFSC, who I hope would be there also.

The pin we wear is a reminder of shared motives, shared experience and shared hope. Though we are aware that our resources do not let us answer all the calls to broader service, our fellowship is growing steadily.

Sincerely your friend,

Lewis M. Hoskins *Executive Secretary*

P.S.—Alumni will find attached to their copy of this Bulletin a reply card to give us current information about themselves. I hope you will return it soon.

Christmas Suggestion

Again this year the Service Committee's Christmas Gift Plan will be available to contributors.

Instead of personal gifts to friends or associates, contributions in their name can be made to the AFSC. An attractive Christmas card will be sent by the Service Committee to each honoree.

Here's what your dollars can do: send a German child to a summer camp, keep a physician or nurse in Korea one day, ship a ton of government surplus milk abroad, or deliver warm clothing to 60 refugees.

Gifts like these at Christmas, going beyond the regular AFSC contributions, are an extra channel to share the spirit of the season.

The AFSC also receives gifts in honor of births, anniversaries, weddings and other events and notes of acknowledgement are sent, if requested. A printed card is available to acknowledge memorial gifts.

AFSC Suspends Jordan Work

Keys to the restored project buildings in Jordan were given that government last summer as the AFSC laid down its work which had been interrupted in January.

The buildings were the headquarters of the AFSC village development project in five villages north of Amman. When the program was launched it was agreed that the buildings would eventually become the property of the Jordan government.

The AFSC contributed funds to help provide skilled labor and some materials for the rebuilding project handled by the villagers.

The Committee hopes to undertake further work in Jordan and is studying that possibility.

Program Notes . . .

The *job opportunities project* conducted in Dallas, Texas, for five years by the AFSC is now financed and directed by local citizens.

A program on *school integration* got under-

way recently in the Southeastern Regional Office. Initial approaches to the problem will be made in North Carolina.

The AFSC gets invitations from time to time to testify before *Congressional Committees*. Winslow Osborne, an attorney and member of the New England Regional Committee of AFSC, spoke to the question of impounding mail. Sam Marble, president of Wilmington College and on a six-months leave to work with the Quaker program at the U.N., testified on disarmament last summer.

Friends Write In . . .

From South Dakota—

"I want to express my appreciation of your stand and interest in the problems of the Negro, Indian, your work abroad (work camps, etc.) and your opposition to certain infringements upon rights of conscience.

As one Catholic, let me voice the hope that Catholics and Quakers may increasingly work shoulder to shoulder in making our communities places where it is easier for people to do good."

From Djakarta, Indonesia—

" . . . We have just finished reading the Bulletin and it made us so happy, that we wish to thank you for writing and sending it to us . . . in this far-away country . . . We cannot spend all our time in international understanding but we can try to soften an opinion here and fight prejudice there . . . sometimes we find an opportunity to apply a word or idea caught in the good old Quaker Center of the Hague of the unforgettable Vienna Seminar back in 1949."

AFSC Prepares Radio Program

"This is a Friendly World," a series of 39 15-minute radio programs, is available from the AFSC for use on educational stations with the cooperation of school officials in Atlanta and St. Louis.

New Films Ready

"Quaker Village Work" is a 12-minute color film on AFSC village development work in Barpali, India. Film was edited from movies made by Ralph Victor, a doctor on the project, and taped commentary is by Eleanor Eaton who was director.

A color movie, tentatively titled, "Halloween Party," shows how "Friendly Beggars" have fun by gathering treats to share with overseas friends through AFSC. The 13-minute movie was prepared by Friends in Kalamazoo, Michigan, cooperating with a local film club.

Latest Publications

MEETING THE RUSSIANS, a 96-page report by the six Quakers who visited the Soviet Union in the summer of 1956. 35¢.

THE SPIRIT THEY LIVE IN, a 20-page pamphlet reviewing America's policy and treatment of Indian citizens.

MERIT EMPLOYMENT: WHY AND HOW, 16-page guide for employers starting to integrate their work force.

"UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST," a brief description of current AFSC activities.

INTERNES IN INDUSTRY, four-page folder.

QUAKER SERVICE OVERSEAS, folder on AFSC program abroad.

CLOTHING BULLETIN (spring issue).

SERVE AND LEARN WITH PEOPLE, a folder about the Institutional Service Units for young people.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS, a folder on summer opportunities for young people who may seek new approaches to world problems.

INTERNES IN COMMUNITY SERVICE, describing a program for young people who want to work at problems of urban blight.

Project Member Reports

SHE FOUND MEANING IN MEANINGLESS WORK

Joanne Raiford, sophomore at Bennett College, Greensboro, N. C., was in one of four AFSC interne-in-industry projects last summer. Other internes (see photo) worked in a knitting mill with her. She describes her experience in a letter to a friend.



Margery Lewis

Dear Andy,

I know you've been wondering for the past few weeks whether I'm dead or alive, but the truth is I've been too busy to write anyone except Mom since I've been here in Philadelphia. I don't think I told you that I was going to work with the internes-in-industry project sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee.

In case you're wondering, my main reason for coming was to learn more about problems of industrialization. To do this, we visited personnel and employment offices of factories until we found jobs, mostly of the assembly-line type.

"We" are 18 college and graduate students from many parts of the

United States, plus one each from Nigeria and England. As in all AFSC projects, the group is interracial. Our educational backgrounds and interests range from economics to Hindu philosophy. A married couple directs the project. We have a dietitian, although the members take turns cooking.

The first week we learned the major industrial areas of the city and began making the rounds of factories. I had expected that scores of factories were simply begging for people to do general unskilled work for the summer. What I didn't know was that most of them were interested in experienced help only; many were going through a slow season and were laying off workers. By the end of a day of pave-

ment-pounding, almost all of us had, as one girl put it, "sore feet and no job."

After three days I found a job in a knitting mill, though I wish I had a nickel for each factory where I was interviewed or filled out an application form. By the end of the week, however, all of us had found jobs except one girl who found one the next week. But through this experience, I began to realize that our being out of work was insignificant when compared to the worker with a family to support.

Several of us work in knitting mills; others work in a bindery, a lace factory, an umbrella factory, a printing shop and other places. Some were laid off only a week or so after being hired. The insecurity of this type of work is very real to us.

Most of us find the work monotonous and meaningless. For example, my job consists of stacking sweater parts into piles of six. Can you imagine doing that for eight hours a day, five days a week? It's pretty hard to keep my mind on my work, and soon I find myself making piles of seven, eight and nine without realizing it. All production workers are under tremendous

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Campbell Hays

About 1000 young people, eager to get a firmer grasp of the threads of order and disorder in the lives of individuals and institutions, were part of the summer projects of the AFSC.

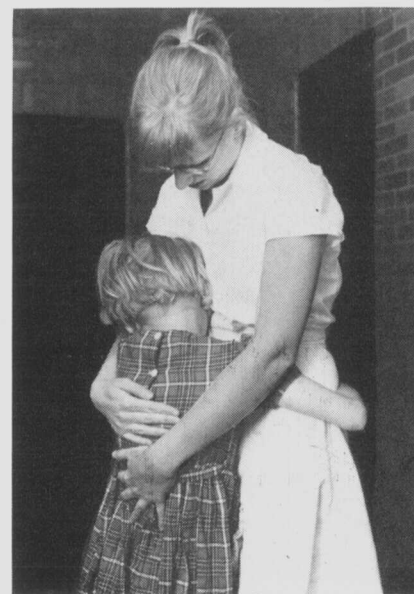
For many it meant by-passing more glamorous or more lucrative experiences to do what some of them felt was really more dramatic in its deeper meaning.

Ninety-eight college students worked with the mentally ill, the delinquent or the retarded, while 68 others became temporary cogs in the nation's industrial machine. "Interne" service in community agencies appealed to 36 others.

Work camps in this country as well as Europe, the Middle East and Asia used the skills of over 170 college and high school students on a variety of service projects.

Another 118 young people worked in villages of Mexico and El Salvador. Ten students, in two teams, toured cities in Pennsylvania and New York as "peace caravans," sharing their thoughts on international relations and peace. Thirty-two others gathered in the nation's capital for an institute on "Changing Race Patterns." Still others took part in regional conferences.

International seminars here and overseas had 310 students of many nationalities sharing their concern about "International Tensions and Peaceful Change."



Internes in institutions are friends to handicapped children.

WHO IS THE AFSC?

Many Persons, Many Backgrounds Aid Work

Promptly at 9 o'clock each Monday morning silence falls on a Friends meeting house in central Philadelphia. Some 200 persons sit for a few minutes in Quaker quietness which seems to push back the sounds of a busy city. They are assembled in the historic, modest structure behind the high brick walls and iron fence for their weekly staff meeting.

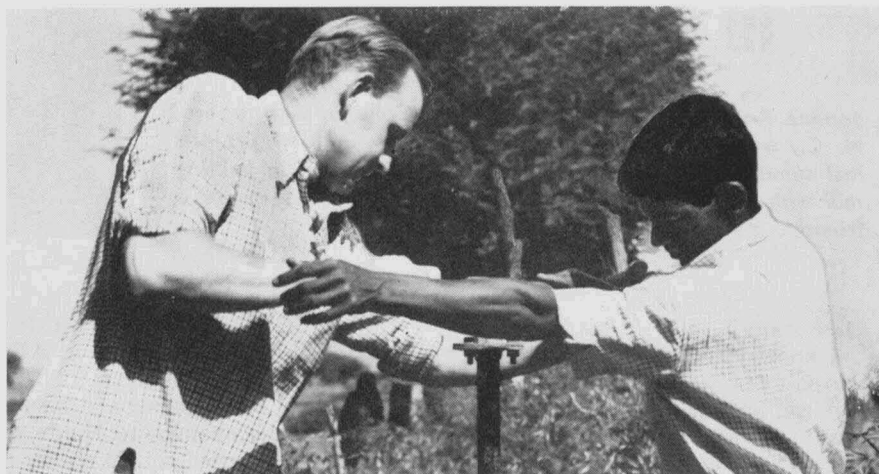
Many Nations, Faiths Share

Can the casual passerby, seeing them emerge an hour later, conclude that they are the AFSC? The answer is both yes and no.

Surely these 200 persons represent a broad cross section of the personalities which give life to the Quaker ideals of the American Friends Service Committee.

While the national office staff shares the opening minutes of silent worship in the manner of Friends, less than 30% are members of the Religious Society of Friends.

Not only in religion but also in cultural background the Philadelphia staff runs the gamut. There are those who identify themselves as white, Negro, Korean, Chinese, Japanese-American. Birthplaces suggest immense variety: Germany, England, Sweden, Egypt, Turkey, Czechoslo-



Prem Prakesh

American conscientious objector, doing his draft service in India, drills a well with a trainee for AFSC village work.

vakia, China, Latvia, the Ukraine, Japan and Bermuda.

But the total AFSC staff numbers more than twice those in the national office. Twelve regional offices have 166 staff members, while a field staff of 42 works under national program direction in the United States, Mexico and El Salvador.

On assignment in foreign countries are about 65 staff members, but their work is only part of that being done for the Committee abroad. Wherever

the Service Committee works, additional staff is drawn from the permanent residents of the community. In Korea, for example, the AFSC and the Friends Service Council have twelve Westerners, including Norwegian, Irish, South African, American and British, and perhaps four times as many Koreans engaged in the hospital and welfare work conducted by the project.

The AFSC is also more than the full-time staff members. It is volunteer leaders and participants in summer and year-round projects, board members and countless others who serve on committees wherever the AFSC has a program.

Last summer about 1000 young people and adult project leaders were engaged in volunteer service with the AFSC in this country and abroad.

The list must include also many concerned individuals who are a part of the AFSC in informal but significant ways.

Volunteers Do Large Part

A community program in peace or race relations is more than the work of a staff person. It depends in large measure upon the dedicated committee members who function in policy-making and program activity.

Entire student bodies and faculties often share in the on-going program

High school seminar members and AFSC staff member discuss embassy visit. They meet at Davis House, Washington international center.



Campbell Hays

PORTRAIT IN SERVICE

Sumner A. Mills

Sumner A. Mills' record of AFSC service tempts one to consider him a "typical" volunteer, staff member, board member and contributor.

When he left the active management of his Indiana farming and milk products business a few years ago, it was done with great anticipation for many years of future usefulness to Quakerism—merely more of what he had been doing all his life.

Sumner A. Mills was in the original group of Friends who rejected military service during World War I and instead offered themselves to their nation through service with the new Quaker-inspired American Friends Service Committee, created to give him and others of like mind an alternative.

His active interest and support of the AFSC has continued, in direct service as a member of its staff, and at other times, as at present, on its board of directors and always as its effective interpreter among Friends' organizations. He has always had the support of his wife, Lela. She has often shared his work or engaged in parallel service.

He brought his Quaker convictions to the Committee again during World War II when he directed a Civilian Public Service Camp for one year. Then for a year he held the German desk in the AFSC foreign service section and moved from that assignment to one as a fund raiser.

Later he returned to the staff for two more years as associate secretary for regional office correlation.

Sumner Mills, on and off the staff, has applied his modest manner and reticence in policy-making with extreme discipline. When he expresses himself, it is at the right moment and with precise and soft-spoken judgment. His keen sense of humor may show itself in an apt and tension-relieving story.

A deep spiritual motivation pervades his unselfish sacrifice and dedication to the work of the AFSC and other Quaker concerns. Sometimes his contribution is testimony in Washington for the Friends Committee on National Legislation. It may also be a warm word of praise to a staff or committee member.

He grew up in a programmed Quaker Meeting in Indiana but is equally at home among the "quiet" worshippers of the Society. He now serves as Presiding Clerk of the Five Years Meeting, the largest grouping of American Quakers.

Sumner and Lela Mills have been asked to join Clarence and Lilly Pickett this winter in a special travel mission, visiting AFSC work and other Quaker interests in Asia. The Millses will go also to Kenya, and the Picketts to England.

Of such talents and concerns are the people who corporately are the American Friends Service Committee.

of the School Affiliation Service, which conducts an exchange of persons and materials between schools of different nations.

The clothing program can claim more AFSC workers of a wider age-span than any other single activity. Children trim Christmas trees with mittens. Women in their eighties and nineties make quilts. Dozens of mending groups have met regularly for years. Faithful volunteers help with sorting and baling at the three warehouses. Manufacturers, hotel men and other businessmen provide other ma-

terial aids—textiles, soap, drugs and the like.

Essential in the AFSC family are the financial contributors. AFSC programs depend upon voluntary gifts from individuals, businesses, foundations, schools, colleges, churches, Friends meetings and at times money paid by governments under contract with the AFSC.

The ultimate and legal existence of the AFSC rests with the 200 Friends, most of them nominated by Yearly Meetings of Friends, who are appointed as members of the corpora-

tion. The corporation approves a 39-member board of directors, which meets regularly as the policy-making group. A number of committees carry on specialized tasks and report to the board.

The wide range of skills AFSC staff members bring to their work are resources for their assignments, foreign and domestic.

Varied Skills Brought to Job

In the national office one-third of the administrative staff were previously in the field of education, which included all levels of teaching. Others came to the Committee from business, secretarial work, social work, editing and publishing, radio, art work, ministry, law, labor, library science and household management.

The more limited number of foreign service appointees need special skills depending upon the nature of the program undertaken. AFSC has agricultural specialists in India, doctors in Korea and others with professional and technical training and experience. Because of the emphasis on short-term periods of service, candidates for program administrative assignments need to be vocationally established.

All Can Unite in Service

Only a few young people can be used in the foreign service of the AFSC, but youth of school and college age are encouraged to participate in AFSC summer and year-round volunteer projects. There is also constant demand for secretarial-clerical staff. About one-fourth of the national office administrative staff started with the Committee at that level.

Who is the AFSC? It can be you in any of many varied staff roles—at a community center in Israel, directing a work camp on an Indian reservation in New Mexico, working on school desegregation in North Carolina or operating a typewriter in one of the many places where the basic paperwork must be done.

Or it can be you on a planning committee for a community peace conference, packing clothing or writing a check.

The AFSC is all of us who try together to express its purposes—relieving human suffering and solving problems of human relations without violence.



Hunt

ANCIENT CITY FACES CHANGE

**Walls no longer protect Israeli town.
AFSC center in Acre, shown at left,
helps it adjust to mixture of cultures.**

The Old City of Acre sat behind its walls—almost unchanged from the days of the Crusades. It resisted outside influence though it is directly across the Bay of Acre from Haifa, a chief port and industrial center.

Then came the "troubles"—the outbreak of Arab-Jewish fighting. Soon the Old City, as it is called, had a great turnover in population with an influx of Arab refugees. This meant problems of overcrowded living and a mixture of cultures and religions—with few community services to deal with them.

Refugee Aid Came First

AFSC workers in the area were concerned to do something about these needs in the midst of animosity and bitterness left by the war. The AFSC had been one of three agencies asked by the United Nations to administer relief to Arab refugees in the Middle East in 1949-50. Their experience led AFSC representatives to conclude that

With 75 children in the nursery school, space is crowded.



Schlesinger

a community center might make a constructive contribution in Acre.

By May, 1950, a United Nations agency was ready to take over the refugee relief job. A few months later the AFSC, with the permission of the government of Israel, started its center program. It is open to all elements in the community and tries to meet a variety of human needs. It works closely with a local advisory committee to encourage citizens to take greater responsibility for the solution of their own problems.

A recent American visitor to the project was surprised to hear exchanges in staff meetings similar to those in an American center. There was talk of membership fees and ways to have the boys' club pay for lost ping-pong balls or broken equipment.

"Somehow, I had expected more world-shaking topics for discussion in the state of Israel. But as we all know, wrapped up in those apparently simple questions are important concepts and ideals—shared responsibility, democratic processes—which take a lot of doing to translate into everyday lives."

Another American visitor wrote, "My first and lasting impression was of the breadth and intensity of the use of the center's facilities, in the morning a full house with mother and babies and the nursery school; in the afternoon a steady succession of ages and interest groups, with a good crowd several evenings each week."

Health Work is Preventive

The center's health program is primarily a service to infants in a well-baby clinic and home visits. One month's clinic report showed 607 cases with services including weighing, dressings, eye-treatment, referrals to doc-

tors, and inoculations against diphtheria and small-pox.

Seventy-five children attended the nursery school, organized in three age groups. A large center hall has slides, swings, see-saws and other play equipment. Outdoor play space is a problem, but frequent walks by the Mediterranean Sea help break the routine of close and crowded quarters.

Only Arabic Library in Area

School-age children participate in clubs which include groups for play, sports, dramatics, crafts, sewing, wood-working and storytelling.

The center library is the only source in Northern Israel from which Arabic language books may be borrowed. It also serves nearby villagers.

Older youth have special interest clubs. One group with Jewish, Moslem and Christian members enjoys volleyball and folk dances of various countries. A group of Jewish and Arab

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Girls of three faiths enjoy common interests at the center.



Schlesinger



PIONEER FOR PEACE TRAVELS BY TRAILER TO REACH MANY CHURCHES

He explores with religious leaders ways to act at local level on "The Christian's Responsibility for World Order."

Four years ago the AFSC launched a new segment of its peace education program which has all of the mobility associated with the modern automobile age to which it is linked. The program travels and lives in a trailer which is pulled across the nation by an automobile.

New Community Each Week

Burt Bouwman, director of the program, refers to his trailer as a "modern prairie schooner." It has taken him and his wife into a different community almost every week despite a few disrupting mishaps like blowouts, skidding off the highway and slippery hills.

He started this life on wheels four years ago when he retired as executive secretary of the Michigan Council of Churches. That background fits well into his current approach.

"Peace Education and Action Through the Churches"—the program title—has a do-it-yourself flavor. Burt Bouwman's work is directed toward mobilizing the church people on a local level to take responsibility for peace education and action. The plan assumes that there are many concerned individuals in all churches already committed to peace. What they need is a workable pattern in their hands.

In the initial contact, known as an exploratory conference, the director talks with 15 to 20 local ministers and laymen. The interdenominational group is usually called together by one of the ministers who was suggested for the responsibility by the state council of churches.

Out of these first approaches may develop three types of conferences: local church, community or Congress-

sional district. Following the exploratory conference local leaders get into the driver's seat. AFSC interest and assistance continues through regional offices. Meanwhile Burt Bouwman rolls on to another community where, hopefully, he will get another conference arranged.

About 200 exploratory conferences have been held in cities and towns in 35 states. Partial reports show more than 35 community conferences, 15 Congressional district conferences and 8 local church conferences. In addition, there have been 10 workshops at the state level; one was for leaders from 4 states.

Congressional district conferences get their name from the areas they embrace and the fact that the Congressman comes as a participant. Senator Alexander Wiley attended the Congressional district conference in Milwaukee this year, and at the previous year's conference two members of Congress attended.

Church Delegates Attend

Community conferences bring together from 50 to 250 persons who come as delegated representatives of their churches. A typical one sponsored by the Salem, Oregon, council of churches packed its afternoon and night program with a rich assortment of peace material.

Following a brief worship period there was first an analysis of the international scene and then a talk on the kind of foreign policy that a church could endorse.

Discussion groups, each with a chairman and resource leader, then examined topics such as the peace-

making functions of the United Nations, mutual assistance, developing a climate for negotiation, universal disarmament, foreign trade and human rights.

The next session offered a choice between a preview of films and literature and a discussion group on conferences for local churches. After dinner church delegations met to decide on local church follow-up. At a plenary session reports were made from each discussion group. Then there was more discussion and resolutions. Finally a committee reported its suggestions for continuing peace work in the local churches.

Study Course for Leaders

The latest resource offered by this program to local churches is study course material for Sunday school teachers, church leaders and parents titled "The Christian's Responsibilities for World Order."

Following a community conference in Redlands, California, last spring a leader wrote: "The Methodist women of the area had a similar day's program growing out of it; our Presbyterian women gave over their next regular program to review of it and the United Church Women are setting up a study class meeting for six weeks in the fall leading up to World Community Day . . . It was the consensus of the group that such conferences should be an annual or biennial thing in Redlands."

A church council official who admitted original pessimism wrote, "I must confess that your determination while in our midst sparked off this light that has started to burn."



MEANING FOUND IN WORK

Continued from Page 3

pressure to work more rapidly or be laid off. I've found it far from easy to work rapidly under the deadening repetition of a job which requires no mental energy. But despite fatigue, heat, and the hot air which constantly blows in from the laundry next door, everyone is expected to fill his quota.

This is definitely a striking method of learning about some of the problems of the people who spend most of their lives doing this type of work.

Group Life Adds to Project

The project would not be nearly as effective if it were not for the atmosphere of sharing through group life. We take turns doing dishes, cleaning the project house and cooking the meals. Occasionally a rather peculiar dish turns up on the supper table! Another important aspect of group living is the sharing of ideas, because of our different work situations and different backgrounds.

Educational programs help us to interpret what we find in our work. Representatives of both labor and management are invited in to speak and lead discussions. The group's education committee plans these and other kinds of meetings.

The project house is in an area which is undergoing redevelopment. It does us good to get away from the bleak scenery on Franklin Street and enjoy trips to the country on weekends. Philadelphia also provides cultural activities like museums and open air concerts.

Much of our recreational program is shared with the community. There's a courtyard near us which is part of a housing development; it is perfect for square dancing with our neighbors, and we have volleyball and other sports.

A committee plans regular periods of worship and meditation. A different church is visited each Sunday. So far we've visited a Friends meeting, a Ukrainian Orthodox church and the world's oldest Methodist church in continuous service.

This gives you an idea of the interness-in-industry program. I think you might be interested in the project yourself for next summer. I hope so.

Sincerely,

Joanne

ANCIENT CITY CHANGES

Continued from Page 6

girls learning embroidery works with a staff member fluent in both Hebrew and Arabic.

Varied activities attract large numbers of adults to the center. Young mothers of different faiths find common ground for better understanding through a joint club activity which includes folk and social dancing. Children who are brought along and tended by a staff member have been dubbed the "Crying Babies Club."

Adults Plan Own Activities

Wednesday night programs for young people and adults are planned by a committee which has one staff member. The program one month included a movie, a book review and lectures on the American Indian and vocational training.

Mozart Gets Amazing Response

A lecture with recorded music marking Mozart's birth was a surprising success to the sponsors. About 20 people had been expected but 65 came, many for the first time. Several members of the Acre Rotary Club and their wives were present. The lecture was delivered in Hebrew and translated into Arabic by a music teacher from Nazareth.

Care is taken to recognize the diversity among those who use the center. Special programs are arranged at the center to observe major Moslem, Christian and Jewish holidays.

American Friends Service Committee

20 S. 12th St., Philadelphia 7, Pa.

THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, a Quaker organization, attempts to relieve human suffering and to ease tensions between individuals, groups or nations. We believe there is that of God in every man, and that love in action can overcome hatred, prejudice and fear.

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