

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE BULLETIN

FALL 1957



Times-Delta

"Shack" homes and muddy streets are typical of Teviston, a farm labor community in Tulare County, California. Residents expect a water system to be constructed soon, eliminating the necessity to haul water many miles in milk cans.

'SETTLED' MIGRANTS LEARN TO SHAPE OWN FUTURES

The setting is a little wooden church, nearly barren except for the uncomfortable benches and the battered piano. The people, weary from long hours in the fields, are seeking their rights as citizens and experiencing for the first time the privileges and duties of democracy.

They'd be known as migrants but for the fact that they have become too "settled" for that description. Their income is from the same source—agriculture—but their living pattern is different. The distance they travel to and from work is comparable to that of the average industrial worker or commuter.

The meeting opens with a song. A bell rings and the group stands for prayer, a folksy conversation with "our Father." The self-conscious chairman grapples with the business of the evening. "Somebody say something," the chairman pleads. Out of hesitant and inarticulate mouths

emerge clear aspirations. Finally the chairman sighs, "Well, I guess that's decided."

At crucial moments the voice of "the Quakers" helps. The man who speaks is Bard McAllister, appointed to Tulare County, California, by the AFSC as Agricultural Labor Secretary.

The chief concern of these disadvantaged people is water. Simple enough if it gushes freely at the twist of a faucet but extremely complex if it's two and one-half miles away. That concern, voiced by women of the community, reached Bard McAllister through the home agent after a sewing meeting. No wonder it was the topic of conversation.

Earlier the AFSC worker had set forth his own goals for the program, which naturally would include water and other concerns for the thousands of farm laborers in the country which is the nation's second richest in value of agricultural products. He said, "The function of this project is to help migrant settlements receive their full share of public services; to enrich their community life; to spark confidence and initiative in themselves and an understanding of their role as children of God."

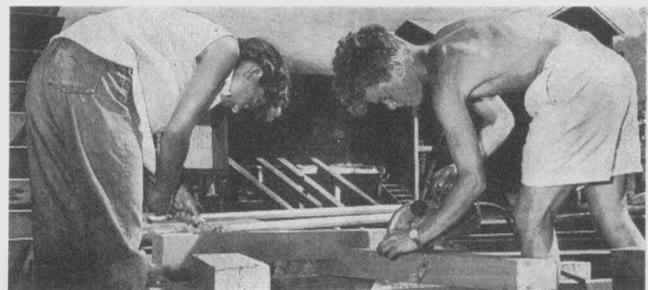
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SUMMER WORK AND STUDY PROJECTS INVOLVE 1,000

A pie-eating contest for juvenile offenders ordinarily has little in common with a ceremonial smokehouse for the Lummi Indians. But these and other AFSC projects "united" about 1,000 young people scattered last summer in many countries. All were trying to understand better the connecting link between service and growth, fellowship and freedom.

The pie-eating contest was part of a field day arranged by members of an Institutional Service Unit in Oregon, for 175 inmates in a correctional school. The day also included a swimming festival, obstacle games, a soft-ball game between the boys and the staff, and a talent show and movie

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Martin White

Volunteers in more than 50 AFSC youth projects worked with willing hands and open minds.

... goodwill and earnest seeking ...

Philadelphia, Pa.
September, 1957

Dear Friends:

Do you understand people better if you get to know them face-to-face? Not necessarily, of course. Sometimes an unfortunate experience can cause hostility and misunderstanding.

Still, the AFSC and other organizations have found that well-planned international contacts make for healthy, friendly attitudes across nationality lines. We see it as part of peace-making to encourage concerned persons of diverse backgrounds to get together.

We try to have young people of different nations in each of our summer projects. Especially in our international student seminars, we hope that members from many backgrounds will learn in a profound personal way the meaning of world community. In other AFSC undertakings the idea is applied, too. In conferences for diplomats, men whose assignment is dealing with "foreigners" may find a new dimension to their tasks as they try to view world problems through the eyes of counterpart representatives from other nations.

Occasionally the Committee undertakes a special mis-

sion to meet individuals and groups in places where normal social and cultural interchange doesn't exist or has broken down. Examples have been Quaker missions to Nazi Germany, Yugoslavia, Russia, and this summer, Poland. Recently, Douglas and Dorothy Steere began a journey of goodwill to South and Central Africa.

All these and other exchange activities of the AFSC are done in the conviction that the spark of good will in all breasts—often latent—can be fanned into flame by open-hearted goodwill and earnest seeking for common understanding. God, while providing rich varieties within mankind, must have endowed all of His children with the capacity to love others. We must seek to exemplify it in ourselves and remove barriers to its realization among others.

Sincerely your friend,

Lewis M. Hookins Executive Secretary

'SETTLED' MIGRANTS

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Of some 31,500 seasonal farm laborers in Tulare County, the AFSC works primarily with the "settled" migrants in the fringe areas.

The major problems of the settled migrants suggest the points of attack for the AFSC program. These marginal individuals have limited education, about eight months employment a year and an average income of \$1,500. They amass large installment debts and are ineligible for unemployment insurance. Their housing is grossly substandard.

They live close together, but they have not learned cooperation. Potential leadership is untrained and insecure. Rejection by townspeople breeds a sense of isolation and impotence.

Other problems grow out of the primitive stage of labor-management relations and an agricultural economy

dependent upon low wage patterns operating beside an industrial economy of high wages.

The first phase of the AFSC program has shown progress in encouraging community self-help and personal growth as a by-product of community organization. Teviston and Goshen are two of the shack towns where the AFSC approach has comprised friendly discussion with the inhabitants, assessment of felt needs, analysis of potential leadership and an effort to develop a sense of purpose and build individual strengths.

The long-awaited water supply for Teviston may be delayed months longer. Even so, some of the hurdles have been overcome. The community's 150 families now constitute the legal unit which is necessary to establish a water system. The financing is yet to be achieved, but patience is easier when success is nearer.

After some 18 months of assistance

from the AFSC, Teviston and Goshen citizens talk of credit unions, literacy classes and building codes which will prevent further "shack construction."

Teviston residents now have bookmobile services available, periodic visits from the mobile X-ray unit and are seeking agency help from Boy Scout leaders. Bard McAllister's help has included the construction of a practical house cooler that is cheap enough for any family to build.

Though water is still being hauled in milk cans to Teviston and much remains to be done, there are significant changes in the people. More than twice as many are now registered to vote. Leadership is developing and is supported by confidence and willingness to follow. Many of these citizens have waited 25 years for water and basic public services. Now self-help, with AFSC encouragement, is paring the waiting period to a tolerable minimum.

NEWS NOTES

U. S.—Japanese Relations Discussed

Several "friction points" characterize the relations between the United States and Japan, E. Raymond Wilson said after he returned from a year as Quaker International Affairs Representative for the AFSC in Japan.

Though the relations between the two nations are "fairly good" points of difference include bomb tests, military bases, Japanese rearmament, and trade policies with the United States and Communist China.

Other comments from Wilson reports:

"In the face of the disillusionment of the Japanese with war, and their reluctance to

rearm, there is pressure of the American military for further rearmament in Japan as the price of military withdrawal. . . . We cannot box people in by immigration laws and at the same time curtail the shipment of goods and markets. . . . Number One among the problems in the Far East is the need for peace between Formosa and the China Mainland, with trade and military problems also outstanding.

"Communist influence in Japan was severely cut by disillusionment over the Soviet use of military force in Hungary, and the fact that the Soviets were such hard bargainers over fisheries and territorial rights last year. . . . In Okinawa the seizure of the land occupied by approximately 50,000 farm families and the failure to date to work out a satisfactory settlement of the land problem is a very sore point.

"Tuberculosis is still a terrible scourge throughout the Far East. Adequate food, housing and sanitation are needed to achieve the results already realized in control of malaria and other health pests.

"The Christian churches should be doing more for peace. More peace literature is needed."

Recommendations made by Raymond Wilson for Friends' services in Japan included: (1) continuation and expansion of international student seminars and (2) assistance to Japanese Friends in building up peace services.

Raymond Wilson was accompanied on his Asian assignment by his wife, Miriam, and their son Lee. Other travel of the Wilsons included visits to Korea, Formosa, Okinawa, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

The appointment was undertaken during a

Government Officials Share Ideas in Quaker Seminar

The following report was written by a man on the staff of a governmental agency.
The AFSC invited him to set down his personal impressions as a participant.

The quiet discussion of international affairs in a book-lined second story drawing room of a half-century-old town house on a quiet northwest Washington street about once each month will not effect any immediate or radical change in the course of history.

It was never intended for that purpose.

Rather, these foreign policy discussions are intended to serve longer-range purpose. Among other things, they provide an opportunity for a small group of key, but usually subordinate, policy officers of various government agencies to get information, exchange ideas and talk out different problems. In the long run—or so it is hoped—the information, the concepts and the comprehension derived from this intercourse of ideas may jell into rational and effective policies at the top level of our government structure.

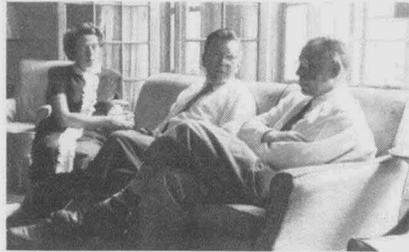
If they do, then the imaginative leaders of the American Friends Service Committee, which has sponsored these International Affairs Seminars for the past six years, will feel adequately compensated for the enterprise and hard work they have put into the project.

At a recent seminar, the group heard Paul G. Hoffman, former ECA director and now one of the U.S. delegates to the United Nations, and George C. Beebe, of the Carnegie Foundation, examine the problem of American public opinion as it relates to the United Nations.

Incidentally, for this particular meeting, wives were invited—a fact which swelled attendance to thirty-two and forced the seminar into larger quarters in a downtown office building. Yet, the intimate atmosphere

which encourages discussion was carefully preserved.

Under the astute direction of the Service Committee's Clarence Pickett, this seminar came to grips with the problem of U.S. attitudes toward the U.N. Mr. Beebe had just completed a two-year survey of these attitudes. He reported on his findings to the seminar, in advance of the publication of his report. Mr. Hoffman offered ideas for dealing with the problem. The participants, with questions and statements,



An intimate atmosphere encourages discussion

Basnight

examined these findings and these suggestions, learning a great deal in the process and contributing some ideas which may one day be reflected in the policies of this country.

A more typical seminar would have between 16 and 20 participants and would be held in the uptown drawing room. It would last exactly three and one-half hours. The participants would assemble for a tomato juice cocktail at 6:30 p.m. and the initial presentations of the speaker or speakers would be made in a half hour before dinner. During dinner—at two tables—seminar participants would debate the issues raised by the speakers.

Following dinner, the participants would return to the drawing room

and there, in complete informality, hear summaries of the dinner table conversations prior to launching a full scale, hour-long discussion.

The seminars are not publicly announced. They are not reported in the newspapers; they make no headlines. They are simply earnest discussions among informed people who are free to express themselves without inhibitions. The guest list is not made public.

A seminar may attract two or three congressmen, who hold important committee assignments dealing with foreign policy questions. The others may include a dozen key officials of the State Department, the International Cooperation Administration, the United States Information Agency, the Departments of Commerce, Labor or Agriculture and a few officers of some of the key non-governmental organizations which deal with international affairs.

Top policy makers seldom attend. Their busy schedules rarely permit them to give time for quiet discussion lasting three and a half hours. Moreover, they would probably be committed to positions on world affairs that would inhibit the kind of searching analysis foreign policy gets in these discussions.

But some of the people who do attend sit fairly high in the councils of state and may, one day, become top policy makers.

This is a project designed to inform those who have an impact on policy decisions and give them an opportunity to exchange ideas freely in discussions not intended for tomorrow's newspapers but for the future.

The consensus of opinion among those who have participated is that the project is eminently worthwhile.

year's sabbatical leave from Raymond Wilson's post as secretary of the Friends Committee on National Legislation.

Steeres Visit Africa, Europe

Under AFSC's Leadership Intervisitation Program, Douglas and Dorothy Steere are again traveling for several months in Africa and Europe. Douglas Steere is professor of philosophy at Haverford College, which has been releasing him since 1946 for one semester out of four so that he might make such trips for the Service Committee. This year's trip will be divided into two major portions: approximately four months in Africa and two in Germany. The Steeres will return to Philadelphia in February.

Douglas Steere's earlier trips under the pro-

gram emphasized contacts with educators in early post-war Europe, particularly Germany. On his recent trips, he has divided his time between Europe and Africa. In Africa, he is concerned with economic and political developments and racial conflict. While the Steeres will not concentrate on meeting with Friends and visiting Friends' activities, they will give special attention to conditions in the Central African Federation, where George and Eleanor Loft will take up a two-year residence under AFSC auspices, beginning this September.

The Lofts' assignment has come about as a result of opportunities for Quaker service that have become apparent following previous visits by the Steeres in Africa. The Lofts will locate in Salisbury, capitol of the Central African Federation; where they hope to find some way of sharing in the growth of a truly interracial society.

Labor Program Revived

The Labor-International Affairs Program has been reactivated with the appointment of Stewart Meacham as director. The office is now at 144 East 20th Street, New York City.

The program assists American labor unions to build stronger international affairs programs within their organizations and seeks to make AFSC experience useful to the labor movement. Labor publications will be furnished news releases on international relations. Meacham has had extensive experience with national leaders in American labor and with federal government officials. He has also served in India under the Methodist Board of Missions.

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SUMMER PROJECTS INVOLVE 1,000

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in the evening. This unit was one of nine similar projects from Maine to New Mexico which had a total of 75 volunteers.

The smokehouse, built by work campers in Washington State, was needed on an Indian reservation of about 200 families located at the mouth of the Nooksack River. Throughout the project AFSC workers were welcomed by the community in social events such as a dinner, a birthday party and a fishing trip. Other work campers in the United States or overseas taught basic English to Spanish-speaking children in Texas, continued improvements on the "children's village" in Vercheny, France,

or constructed a roadbed along a river in Italy. Projects of this type provided an avenue of service for 187 young people who had a concern for the peace and brotherhood of the world.

Other AFSC summer projects provided other avenues. The International Seminar Program, now in its eleventh year, saw increased emphasis on East-West relations as 130 participants studied international relations in such vantage points as Poland, Austria, Yugoslavia, and France. Seminars in the United States were held in Arizona and Ohio.

Several hundred high school and college students took part in institutes and regional conferences concerned with peace education and international affairs.

To combine these two approaches with even more emphasis than in previous years, an experimental working-

seminar was held in Louisville, Kentucky. Internes translated their on-the-job observations into programmed discussions on change and tension in this border city.

When the summer had ended, Internes-in-Industry in Denver had learned something of migrant-workers' conditions as they took jobs picking beans and peas for twenty-five cents an hour after industrial employment could not be found. Those in Lynn, Massachusetts felt the hardship of an involuntary week off without pay over the 4th of July holiday. Still other units in the summer projects program laid cement basketball courts, repaired canals, aided in vaccination programs in Mexico or El Salvador.

In more than 50 youth projects volunteers with willing hands and open minds reached out to build and to learn.

NEWS NOTES [continued]

U.N. Program Plans

The regular U.N. Program staff in New York is to be supplemented by the addition of three or four Friends from other countries during the General Assembly, which begins in mid-September. Seminars at the U.N. for high school, college and adult groups will be held at the rate of approximately one a week during the fall and winter.

It is also hoped that funds can be found to continue the seminars for U.N. delegates and Secretariat members. The first of these seminars will probably deal with the hazards of nuclear radiation. Recent seminars for U.N. delegates have discussed the race situations in the American South and in South Africa, the best methods for the U.N. to use in dealing with international conflicts, Western and Asian patterns of industrialization, and the U.N. emergency force.

School Affiliations Grow

This year 131 schools in six foreign countries will exchange written material, teachers and students with 119 schools in the United States through the AFSC School Affiliation Service program. Six year-long teacher exchanges and 50 student exchanges between England,

France, Germany and the United States have been planned for the 1957-58 school year.

At the teacher level, about 75 teachers and resource persons, representing eight countries, attended the annual SAS International Conference for Teachers near Kassel, Germany last summer. The theme for the conference was "International Understanding Through the Schools, Why and How?"

Recent new developments in the school program include the first Belgian-U.S. school affiliation and the first U.S. teachers' college affiliation with a French partner. A contribution has made it possible for SAS to have a year round part-time staff member in Japan.

Recent AFSC Publications

FRIENDLY FACES AROUND THE WORLD—Folder describing the people who are helped by, work with and contribute to the Service Committee. For use especially with next two folders.

WORKING WITH THE AFSC—Folder outlining qualifications for those interested in becoming staff members.

NEEDED: YOUTH PROJECTS LEADERS—Folder for use in recruitment of summer and year-round leaders, dietitians and others.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION—Illustrated folder giving picture of domestic and foreign programs for 1957-58.

QUAKER UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM—Introductory folder describing the program with the U.N. in New York.

HOW CAN WE PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS—32-page booklet designed primarily for teen-age students; a compilation of significant ideas from three High School Civil Liberties Conferences held at Asilomar, California and Green Lake, Wisconsin. Illustrated.

QUAKER SERVICE OVERSEAS—1958—Folder, with pictures and sketches, describing current Foreign Service programs.

DAYS OF DISCOVERY—The first two packets in this new series can be ordered from Educational Materials for Children. Packet I and Packet II (25 cents each) are for use in the fall and winter months and are related in content to the Feast of Booths, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year. The materials focus on the holidays and birthdays of a few heroes of peace and service. Each packet contains directions for handiwork and gift-making, as well as stories, dramatizations, games, music and worship resources.

American Friends Service Committee

Southwest Regional Office

407 West 27th St., Austin 5, Texas

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.

☎ 3547 Requested