

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE BULLETIN

FALL 1959

French Teacher Joins AFSC School Exchange

✦ The School Affiliation Service recently contributed to the mutual enrichment of American and Gallic culture by bringing to the United States a charming French exchange teacher, Mademoiselle Giselle Villaudi. A native of Paris, Mlle. Villaudi spent the past school year bending an expert ear to "les accents français" of pupils in eight U.S. grammar and high schools. During the summer she visited AFSC regional offices wherever an SAS program was active, offering advice and learning more about the program.

This fall Mlle. Villaudi takes up new duties in the Paris office of SAS. She will work with affiliated French schools and help arrange personal exchanges of students and teachers between the U.S. and France.

A visitor to Haverford Friends School last spring might have found Mlle. Villaudi and a group of attentive fifth-graders in the midst of a joint attack on French prepositions. "Yes, I understand what you mean," she would say to an earnest beginner, "but I'm afraid it really isn't French. Now—écoutez! Le pupitre est devant le tableau-noir!" She calls her teaching style a "direct method"—no translation, quantities of conversation.

Mlle. Villaudi took her M.A. in English at the Sorbonne and shortly thereafter moved across the Channel to teach in a girls' grammar school



—photo by Matt Herron

Mlle. Villaudi draws earnest French from pupils at Haverford Friends School.

in Surrey, England. In 1953 she returned to France and began teaching English in a lycée for children of NATO officials.

"American students are quite mature in many ways," she commented. "When I arrived at my first school, I
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SEWER PROJECT AND FARM CO-OP HELP INDIANS

✦ A Quaker field worker, a group of college students, and the generosity of a rancher are bringing changes to the Pala Indian Reservation in Southern California.

The field worker of the Pacific Southwest Regional Office made his first visit to the Pala Indians about two years ago. The college students participated in work camps which helped extend sewer lines to reservation homes. The rancher's gift of heavy farm machinery helped launch a farm cooperative.

The Pala Reservation of 11,000 acres has about 100 Indian residents. It is one of 33 reservations in the area where the

field worker has been trying to help Indians solve some of their problems. So far he has been able to work extensively with six reservations.

To determine how the AFSC could be most useful, a committee of six Indians and a like number from the AFSC regional college program sat down together to select a project. The committee process with a chance to share in decisions was a new and welcome experience for the Pala residents.

A crying need was for water in the homes. A sewer line, formerly used by Indian Bureau buildings on the reservation, was available for connections to

run to individual homes. In a matter of weeks, the first week-end work camp was held and others followed. Indian people who in the beginning stood by and watched, gradually overcame their shyness or suspicions and started to join the college students, digging trenches and laying pipe. The series of camps laid over 1500 feet of clay pipe. Women on the reservation increasingly assumed responsibility for evening meals and other hospitality.

Early contacts made by the staff worker revealed the need for leadership training on the reservation. The Pala

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... the challenge of World Refugee Year ...

Philadelphia, Pa.
August, 1959

Dear Friends,

SUPPOSE YOU HAD JUST ONE HOUR in which to finish one life and become a refugee—"They" were advancing on your town, and you felt you could not stay. What would you do? You'd probably go home, gather the family together, get out the "rucksacks" ("There has been no gasoline in town for a week"), and decide hurriedly what you can take with you from the old life into the new. Not much time or space for choice ("Can little Bobby really carry all that?") and when all is ready you stand quietly in the middle of the living room in which, at this moment, your way of life is dying. There are shouts of "Hurry!" from the street. At the front door you take out your key, pause, and then throw it into the arbor vitae bush ("Shaping well after years of care") and move to the gate. Which way? The family is looking up at you, waiting for your decision. "Shall we turn left, and try to make Mexico? Too far—little Bobby . . . Then right it is, for Canada, though we'll be walking into the cold." Goodbye, old life. No, don't look back at "home." You are a refugee.

Contemplating the world of today, we are all inclined to say to ourselves, "What a strange and perverse animal man is!" Almost always we mean other men, and almost always we ought to include ourselves in this description. For example, the symbol above, adopted for World Refugee Year, suggests our international involvement in the welfare of the refugee.

During World Refugee Year, which began July 1, many nations are joining in a noble effort to redress the results of man's inhumanity to man. But for the grace of God, the accident of birth, the trick of geography, there go we as refugees. We are involved in the evil which created the war refugee and in the good which seeks to eliminate that evil.

The AFSC is trying to meet the challenge of the World Refugee Year in a number of ways. We have been involved for some time with work for refugees in Austria, Germany, and France. The AFSC has sent small relief supplies to Tibetan refugees and is about to undertake larger operations among two of the most needy groups of the world's dispossessed—the Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco, and the Chinese refugees in Hong Kong.

Here is elemental human need and it is in the AFSC

tradition to respond to it. We must always remember a regrettable fact about relief and rehabilitation of war sufferers. It represents a healing of wounds which should never had been inflicted. Behind the refugee lies a breakdown of society, and the AFSC is challenged to deal with causes as well as results.

That is why this BULLETIN contains reports of AFSC projects which might be described as "preventive medicine" against the ills of society. Here at one point is the slow, patient attempt to redress the injustice of history on an Indian reservation in California so that the original Americans may take their proper place in their own land. In Israel the AFSC is playing a reconciling role between two peoples both of whom claim the same land as their own. Israeli and Arab social workers, visiting Greek and Italian community developments under AFSC auspices, have grown together in much more than professional competence. High-ranking diplomats gathered recently at a lake resort in New York State and faced honestly the deep divisions between them—divisions which may bear the seeds of war. The University of Oklahoma has published the statement of an AFSC working party on *Race and Conscience in America* in a booklet which calls for courageous solutions to tension in our midst.

These actions—the preventive and the healing—are the warp and the woof of AFSC witness. The healing efforts are right of themselves, but a durable peace can come only if they are interwoven with patient and often unspectacular attempts to deal with injustice and misunderstanding before they erupt in violence.

Perhaps the AFSC can help in some measure to clothe the world in peace—to make the word "refugee" archaic—if with God's help we can find the right pattern in our endeavors.

Yours sincerely,

Executive Secretary

New Publications

RACE AND CONSCIENCE IN AMERICA is a review of race relations in America with some suggestions as to what must be done to complete our "unfinished business." The review was prepared by an interracial "working party" assembled by the AFSC. It is a 64-page booklet and was published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Single copy 50 cents. Order from any AFSC office.

QUAKER SERVICE OVERSEAS (8-page folder). A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE AFSC (12-page booklet).

PEACE WON'T COME BY DREAMING—program

suggestions for peace education through the churches.

COMMUNITY SERVICE—description of opportunities in some summer and year-round projects open to young people (a flyer).

Children Can Help Algerians

The AFSC Children's Program (formerly Educational Materials for Children) has two new projects planned to help refugee needs in North Africa. Christmas Caps is a project to send material that can be used to knit a child's cap. Children in this country may

send, through the AFSC, wool yarn and knitting needles as a gift.

The Children's Program will also receive cash contributions to be used in the Committee's Algerian relief work. An attractive coin card may be used. Contributors are reminded that five cents will provide a large mug of milk for an Algerian refugee child.

Other autumn service projects for children include songs, stories, games, handwork, recipes, ceremonials, and dramatizations. These and other projects are included in two packets, "Days of Discovery," and "Friendly Things to Do."

ITALY TRIP INSPIRES ISRAELI SOCIAL WORKERS

GRACE PERKINSON, AFSC foreign service writer, recently observed projects in the Middle East and Europe.

Arab and Jewish social workers from Israel told me how much they welcomed an opportunity arranged by the AFSC to go on a study tour of community development in Italy. Seven employees of the Israeli Ministry of Social Welfare spent a week visiting villages in Southern Italy where they saw the work of UNLA (Union for the Struggle Against Illiteracy).

The study tour idea is a new development in the AFSC program in the Middle East. AFSC staff members from both Israel and Italy accompanied the social workers who visited five UNLA centers and participated in a one-day discussion of community development methods. UNLA, an independent Italian organization, is aided financially by the AFSC.

After the visit in Italy the group saw similar village work sponsored by another voluntary agency in Greece.

One Arab social worker, discussing the experience as we bounced our way in a jeep to a small village near Nazareth, said this: "I have been thinking much of our study tour and realizing that I can apply my learning to my work in Israel. Already three meetings have been held in one of my villages with the result that 30 girls are now registered for reading and 20 for handwork courses."

Under the Israeli Ministry of Social Welfare, village social workers have been increasing their emphasis on group work in rural Arab communities. There are about 200,000 Arabs living within the Jewish state. Most of these people stayed in their villages during the 1948 fighting and continue to work the land. The AFSC supports

the Ministry's efforts to provide services to these Arabs wherever marginal opportunities present themselves. At present such opportunities are largely among Moslem women whose tradition sets them apart from an increasingly "Westernized" and progressive society.

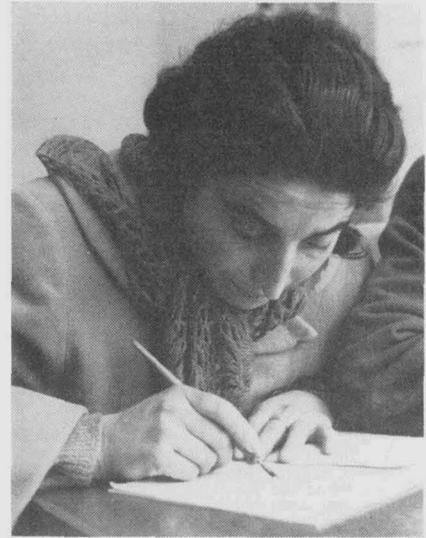
Villagers Take Initiative

Another worker explained how she has come to understand the importance of letting the villagers take the initiative with new ideas. "I do not go to the village women and say with enthusiasm, 'Wouldn't you like to read and write!?' But, they do not always know clearly what they want when no suggestion of choices is presented. On one visit, I remember, I spent a short time reading to the women from the local newspaper. They enjoyed this and soon were expressing regret that they could not read. Thus I was able to introduce the idea of literacy courses from their own suggestion." AFSC staff are now attempting to provide some literacy materials to help with this aspect of the village work in Israel.

Besides literacy courses, the social workers are developing classes in sewing and embroidering for young Arab girls. The Service Committee has been able to help in this project by supplying used sewing machines contributed through the Philadelphia warehouse. Four more treadle machines are soon to arrive for use in village centers in the Galilee area.

New Ideas Introduced

Without understanding the Arab culture it would be difficult to imagine the slow development needed to introduce new ideas among the women. In one village it was necessary to work



—photo by Robert and Edith Worth

Literacy classes in Italy are opening new worlds for women as well as men.

for weeks to find a suitable room for the center. Each possible location had a stumbling block. One was rejected because the girls would have to walk past the village coffee house on their way. Another would have set them down in a crowded area where a multitude of neighbors could look out of windows and laugh at the young women who still want to go to "school."

The social workers also have the opportunity of visiting the community center which the AFSC has developed in the Old City of Acre. When the Committee opened this project in 1950, Acre was an all-Arab city. About half of the growing population is now Jewish. Here programs and services are offered to meet the interests of all members of the family and are open to all religious groups within the town. A small library, for example, lends books to adults and to children on two afternoons a week. Over 500 books are available in Arabic and many in English. A new drive for books in Hebrew has brought in over 100 contributed volumes. Fees are nominal but provide a means for community participation in the program. Children under 12 pay the equivalent of 30 cents a year for library privileges.

These are some ways in which AFSC social and technical assistance is being offered in Israel. It is hoped that the "study tour" project may be repeated next year. The Committee also has programs in Lebanon and Jordan.

AFSC SCHOOL EXCHANGE

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was presented in assembly by a girl of 11 years. She introduced me with perfect ease! A French girl could never do that."

Mlle. Villaudi's schedule last spring would have flattened any teacher with less inner strength. In each of her eight schools she had a scant five weeks to become acquainted with her students and improve their appreciation of French. With every change of schools she had to adjust to living with a different family.

"At one school the principal said to me, 'We have a special treat for you. We're going to arrange for you to live with a different family each week!' He must have understood the look on my face, because in the end he sent me to stay with only three families."

She decided what she needed during spring vacation was complete solitude. Fortunately, one of her families was going on vacation and offered her their empty house. "For a whole week I lived all by myself—with only two companions . . ." (momentarily Mlle. Villaudi looked very French) "—a turtle and a black mouse!"

FARM CO-OP AND SEWER PROJECT HELP INDIANS

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Indians wanted to take more responsibility in handling their affairs. They asked for help in learning how to conduct business meetings. They wanted to speak clearly and effectively in public and be more effective participants in community affairs.

A series of training classes held by the staff worker and a volunteer assistant helped them learn organizational skills through demonstration and role playing.

Arizona Success Studied

Out of its years of experience on reservations in the Pacific Southwest, AFSC staff workers can apply knowledge gained on one reservation in that region to the problems of another. One of the most fruitful results of Quaker work on the Maricopa Reservation in Arizona was the organization of a farm cooperative.

As interest in a similar organization gained momentum at Pala, the president of the Maricopa Cooperative was invited to attend a meeting and describe how their program worked. It sounded good and the Pala folk decided they'd like to see it for themselves.

As a result, two carloads of people traveled 1000 miles to the Maricopa Reservation near Phoenix. Enthusiasm ran high as the Pala people saw how land had been reclaimed. Acres of high-grade cotton were bringing cash income to co-op members. The Pala visitors concluded that the same potential existed on their reservation.

Back home again, they stepped up their plans and last spring the Pala Co-operative Association became fact. Several pieces of heavy farm equip-



—photo by Dick Thomas

College students participate in work camps to lay sewer lines on the reservation.

ment arrived just at the right time, including a two-ton truck and a tractor from one nearby rancher.

The equipment was quickly put to work. The co-op manager, a man who had been active from the early stages of the project, started preparing 15 acres of land for planting.

Outsiders Show Interest

The farm machinery is one evidence of outside help but there are others. A corps of business and professional men with specialized skills volunteer their services and are available for consultation either on or off the reservation. Two of them, for instance, did the surveying and set the stakes for the sewer lines at Pala.

On the reservation, new interests and optimism are evident. A Brownie troop has been formed with Indian mothers as leaders. A Catholic priest built a wall around the village park with the cooperation of Indians and work campers. Reservation leaders have accepted invitations to speak to non-Indian groups.

Although the Pala Co-op has come a long way in the one year of its existence, it is still faced with many difficult human and technical problems. The Pala people are learning that they grow in capacity to solve problems as they learn to face them.

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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.