

## U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer Helps in Building School Project in Sipocot

Sipocot, Cam. Sur - The first school to school PTA Aid project which was a joint project of the United States of America school to school PTA aid project and the Sipocot South Central School PTA, was recently inaugurated and dedicated at the Sipocot South Central School grounds with provincial, municipal, school officials, prominent citizens and the people of Sipocot attending.

The impressive and durable school building which has three classrooms was started through a substantial donation of all pupils of the St. Giles Grammar School at 1033 N. Columbian Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois, 60302, USA, a sister school of the Oak Park International Organization. The President of the Oak Park International Organization is Mrs. Earl Jacobson while Sis. James Mary, O.P., is the Principal of St. Giles Grammar School.

The project was initiated and realized largely through the efforts of Mr. Marty Salmon, Peace Corps Volunteer, who was once assigned in the Sipocot District, and the PTA of Sipocot South

Central School under the indefatigable efforts and leadership of Mr. Bernabe Avengoza, President, and Dr. Carlomagno Manuel, Business Manager.

During the program, the dedication of the building was made by Mr. Marty Salmon in behalf of the Peace Corps Volunteer National Director, and the acceptance was made by Sipocot District Supervisor Fernando Alsisto. After these, Board Member Hilario Abonal and Provincial Board Secretary Silverio Veluz delivered addresses as guest speakers. Mrs. Myrna R. Alanis, Principal of the Sipocot South Central School, gave a word of thanks and the closing remarks.

The others who were present during the affair were Academic Supervisor Jose Realubit, Principal Feimion Regalado, Mrs. Remedios Alsisto, ex-Mayor Pablo Salazar, Councilors Rosita Sancho, Maria Lasat, Alfredo Lim, Valerio Peña and Silvestre Rances, Mr. Leopoldo Jarne, Rev. Father Aquilino Ochoa, Mrs. Rosita Manuel, Dr. Felix Macalino, Jr., and Attys. Quirino Biasco and Severo Dacanay, Jr. - sdjr.

## Abaca World Market . . . (Continued from page 1)

much as the natural fibers, our abaca can still compete with synthetics. If we fail to lower production cost and increase our percentage of recovery, it is very probable that in the very near future synthetics may totally replace abaca in the manufacture of cordage considering that millions of dollars are being spent annually on research to lower the cost of the man made fibers.

3. Release of the American abaca stockpile would not as much affect the world market price of abaca as it would the price in continental America. This is so because while five million pounds released in previous years may not adversely affect the status of the industry in the American market, fourteen million pounds which was released last year at a price even lower than current prices depressed the American market and reduced the needs for fresh abaca purchase from our country.

The salvation of the abaca industry is in total industrialization, particularly the manufacture of paper where synthetics has no place at all. The best paper in the world is made of abaca pulp and more and more uses of abaca pulp are being discovered. America alone is consuming forty to sixty per cent of her import for the manufacture of paper from abaca pulp. Japan and the other countries are in the same trend, Madrid added.

Allaying fears expressed by some sectors of the total replacement of abaca cordage by synthetics, Madrid said that Maritime conferences would withstand such a move because besides the inherent properties of abaca cor-

dage for maritime uses the freight charges of our average annual abaca export of 700,000 bales give than no less than 37 million annually.

To solve the present problems of the abaca industry and in pursuance of the great interest of President Marcos to help abaca producing people, Madrid enumerated the steps taken by the ABACORP, thus:

1. Well financed trading operations for domestic price stabilization;
2. Organization of a well guided abaca farmers and producers federated association in order to regulate the volume of national production and quality control;
3. Extension of small commodity and facility loans to members of federations payable upon delivery of fibers to liberate farmers from the clutches of unscrupulous middlemen;
4. Intensive industrialization with priority to abaca pulp, sacks and cottage industries using abaca to reduce the dependence of abaca fibers to foreign consumers with adequate financial backing by government and other financial institutions;
5. Lower the cost of production by increasing yield per hectare through scientific agricultural methods, farm management and extensive mechanization to improve quality and greater percentage of fiber extraction; and
6. Establishment of an abaca research center to discover additional uses for abaca fibers and its by-products.

## RHF Appropriates . . . (Continued from page 1)

The above-mentioned towns urgently need an emergency hospital each on coconut of the lack of transportation facilities. They are the Phil. National Railways for transportation. When the railway line is disrupted by rains, landslides, floods or mechanical breakdowns, inhabitants of these towns are unable to transport their sick and wounded to Naga City or to Lopez, Quezon for treatment and hospitalization.

Congressman Felipe has also included in said Public Works Act of 1963 an appropriation of P100,000 for the construction of a Veterans' Annex Building to the Camarines Sur Provincial Hospital, for the exclusive use of sick war veterans and their families. Another sum of P100,000 is appropriated in the same Act for the expansion of the Camarines Sur Provincial Hospital, which at present can hardly cope with the many patients being brought in from all over the province.

## Schistosomiasis . . . (Continued from page 1)

the *oncomelania quadrasi* snail while in the Americas it is the *Austroorbis glabratus* and in Egypt, the carriers are two varieties of snails, *Bulinus truncatus* and *Planorbis boissyi*.

Sorsogon is one of the sixteen provinces in the country where snail fever is endemic. The late Dr. Trinidad Pesigan estimated that no less than 500,000 people in the whole country are victims of this tropical malady.

The first case of schistosomiasis in this province was discovered by Dr. Pesigan who conducted a survey of Irosin in 1947. He found 22 indigenous cases related to some snail foci in the municipality.

In 1950, a field unit headed by Dr. Edivo G. Garcia discovered the prevalence of the waterborne disease in Juban. The team found 16 of the 294 persons examined in that municipality to be positive for snail fever.

At that time, only Juban and Irosin were declared to be endemic areas. In 1962, another team was sent here in connection with the national program to integrate the control of schistosomiasis with the activities of rural health units.

Snail surveys showed the presence of infected snail hosts in barrio Mabini in Casiguran and barrio Dancalan in Bulusan, bringing of four the endemic municipalities in the province.

According to the regional schistosomiasis advisory team (RSAT) assigned in Irosin, the finding in Bulusan was considered significant "in view of the fact that it is totally removed from the Irosin-Juban valley, being separated from it by at least 16 kilometers of rough terrain including the Bulusan volcano which rises up to 5,000 feet."

The finding also discounted the previous belief that the disease is confined within the interior valley of Irosin and Juban.

A World Health Organization schistosomiasis advisory team led by Dr. Louise J. Oliver visited the snail fever control project here in 1962. The other members of the team were Dr. Nickler Pinto of Brazil and Zihni J. Buzo of Australia.

Schistosomiasis, according to Dr. Oliver, has been characterized as a deceitful disease, bringing decay and debilitation, instead of attacking openly like plague or cholera.

Medical authorities are of the belief that extent of the disease



## Miss Medrano Wins Honor for Naga College

Miss Cora Medrano of Naga City who is the top singer of the Bicol Dramatic Circle whose director is Juaning Rosales Nicolas has won honor for Naga College of this city by winning first place in vocal solo during the Literary-Musical Contest in the Provincial PRISAA Meet last February 1-3. The literary-musical contest was held at the UNC Sports Palace, here. The other winners are Miss Delia Brinas of Mabini Memorial Colleges, 2nd; and Jose Silerio of UNC, 3rd place.



Miss Medrano

In guitar solo: Romy Sy, 1st; Naga College; Avelino Sabularse, 2nd, MMC and Romulo Prado, 3rd, V. A.

In vocal duet: Delia

Ibarreta & Ricardo Surtida, 1st, MMC; Teresita Julia & Raymund Valenzuela, 2nd, UNC; Trinidad Talagtag & Romandita Osea, 3rd, H.T.A.

## Women of Bo. San Agustin form "Operation Sisterhood"

Fifteen active ladies of barrio San Agustin, Camarines Sur, has organized the SAN AGUSTIN OPERATION SISTERHOOD (S.O.S.) composed mostly of Public School Teachers and active residents of the barrio.

In their second organizational meeting last Sunday, March 3, 1968, the following have been elected officers:

President, Mrs. Virginia Bañas; vice-president,

could be reduced at least by one half through the improvement of the physical environment in which man lives. Clearing of the irrigation ditches where the snail population thrives was found effective at the pilot project in Palo, Leyte. Construction of sanitary privies is another method found effective in reducing infection rate.

Control of this disease could up agricultural productivity as it would open lands heretofore considered unproductive due to the prevalence of schistosomiasis. Afflicted persons if treated early would also mean additional manpower necessary in increasing food production.

Such methods were implemented in Japan and according to WHO, the control program in that country seems to have advanced to a stage where the disease is no longer regarded as a significant public health problem.

Mrs. Benedicta R. Rudica, secretary; Mrs. Nieves I. Guliman; treasurer, Mrs. Ester N. Dunca; press relations officer, Mrs. Azucena C. Mampo; business managers, Mrs. Rosario Sto. Tomas and Mrs. Elisa Clasio; auditor, Mrs. Francisca B. Cabral; sergeant - at - arms, Mrs. Natalia Romano and Mrs. Mina Oroflo.

The other ladies present and who actively took part in all deliberations were: Mrs. Concepcion R. Irigo, Mrs. Amparo G. Abesina, Mrs. Rosalina Sibucano, Mrs. Oliva E. Manuel and Mrs. Natividad Oroflo.

At present the organization is campaigning for the removal or transfer from San Agustin, the En Cielo Night Club which they consider nuisance to the residents specially at night as the said night club operates until the early hours of the following morning.

The S.O.S. is also working for the installation of the Nawasa Faucet so that the barrio residents can avail of clean drinking water. The cementing of the barrio road leading to the interior is also being looked into by this organization. — acmampo