

G. A. Schultze, whose family had attended the church in its earliest days, had presented a collapsible mahogany pulpit and altar. These he had salvaged from a dismantled wartime submarine. Together with a matching lectern they were placed on a raised platform at the end of the "sanctuary" and backgrounded by a green curtain made by the church ladies. Above the altar was placed an oil reproduction of Hoffman's famous "Christ in Gethsemane." The painting was framed in mahogany from the Philippine Islands. The artist was Mr. Walter F. Mohr, a Roman Catholic, whose religion ran too deep to allow him to be narrowly sectarian. A retired employee of the Commissary Division of the Panama Railroad, Mr. Mohr died a week before the picture was dedicated. With most of the labor donated by willing members of the congregation this splendid aid to worship was realized at a cost of slightly more than \$200.

The Rev. Alexander H. Shaw

So splendid has been the growth of this the youngest member of the Union Church household that the services of a full-time pastor are warranted. As a result of a search made by the



Photographia Charles
The Rev. Alexander H. Shaw

ever alert mentor of the Union Church movement, Dr. J. Quinter Miller, the Rev. Alexander Shaw was found and his interest enlisted. The installation service, on August 24, 1950, was participated in by Mr. August R. Campbell, Chairman of the General Council; Mr. Gordon Henderson, Chairman of the Cocoli Council; the Rev. Henry Bell; the Rev. Norman L. Davidson; the Rev. J. Wm. L. Graham and Dr. Robert H. Rolofson. This installation service automatically relieved the Rev. Raymond Gray of his Cocoli duties, freeing him to give all his time to the Gamboa field. This was in

accord with previous arrangements agreed to by everyone concerned, including official action of the General Council.

Cocoli's pastor was born in Paterson, New Jersey and lived there until his entrance in Colgate University, Hamilton, New York. Upon being graduated there in 1932 he began his theological training in Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York. Three years later he emerged from that school with a Bachelor of Divinity degree and began seven years of service in the East Marion Baptist Church, East Marion, Long Island. An eight year pastorate in the First Baptist Church of Highland Park, New Jersey was terminated to accept the Cocoli post. During this last stateside pastorate Mr. Shaw served also as Executive Secretary of the New Brunswick Council of Churches.

Prior to her marriage Mrs. Shaw was Muriel E. Vail whose father was a prominent official in the East Marion Baptist Church during Mr. Shaw's pastorate there. Upon completing her studies in the New York State Normal School at New Paltz, Mrs. Shaw served for several years as a teacher in the New York Public Schools, prior to her marriage. The Shaw children, Joyce 11 and Bruce 3, are becoming enthusiastic Zonians—particularly with reference to the "flat tops" and other unique ships that transit the nearby canal.

III. THE MARGARITA UNION CHURCH

Among the new townsites, Margarita is one of the most promising in the matter of growth and probable permanency. It bids fair to become the major population center for Zonians on the Atlantic end of the Canal. The housing is all of recent construction.

The name of this thriving community was probably appropriated from the Margarita Florist Gardens, whose ancient building still stands near the Town's present entrance, at the forks of the old road leading to Gatun. During the years that this area appeared on official maps as a part of Mount Hope, and long before the town was dreamed of, Mrs. Benjamin O. Hodges cultivated and sold flowers there. The name of her



The Primary Department

First Row: Bobbie Rankin, Jackie Taber, Worden French, Harry Hale, Becky McLeod, Sue Saurman, Sharon Cooper.
 Second Row: Leonard Wertz, Thomas Wilson, Frank McLeod, Joyce Saurman, Jean Crawford, Barbara Erikson.
 Third Row: Frances Schluter, Marian Delaney, Stephanie Dreyer, Emily Hearne, Marian Leach, Walter Peterson, Jr.
 Fourth Row: Earl Sanders, Ralph Perkins, Raymond Stressman, George Smith, Jack Sanders, Max Sanders.
 Fifth Row: Douglas Phillips, Fred Robinson, Bill Hayes, George Waldron, Celia Thompson, Alice Taber, Elizabeth Halloran.
 Teachers: Mrs. Albert Cooper, Mrs. Harry Musgrave.

floral establishment came from the adjacent "Margarita Crossing" that bridges the old Diversion Canal.

As one sees the shining new Clubhouse, Post Office, Commissary, swimming pool, residential sections, and even the Margarita Hospital, it is not easy to believe that only a few short years ago the area was a prosaic hog farm, operated by the U. S. Government. In the entire Canal Zone area there is no community that offers so fine an opportunity for immediate and permanent growth in church life. Indeed, the Margarita Union Church in this growing town of 1108 North Americans with negligible Protestant competition, has an opportunity not easily surpassed.



The Junior High Department

First Row: Louise Edmonson, Mildred Marquard, Karen Stroop.
 Second Row: Bruce Newhard, Henry Hartz, Richard MacSparan.
 Third Row: William Walker, John Hayes, Bruce Sanders.
 Fourth Row: Jimmy Wilson, Robert Roe.
 Fifth Row: Louis Voelcker, Teacher; Rev. Henry L. Bell, Pastor; Mrs. Harold I. Tinnin, Church School Secretary; Mrs. Worden E. French; Mrs. Lorne B. Hale, Church School Superintendent.

The Church School

Few are the Protestant churches whose beginnings did not involve a Church School. That pattern was employed in Margarita. The Rt. Rev. Harry Beal, for many years Bishop of the Episcopal Missionary District of the Panama Canal Zone, sensed the imperative need for religious cooperation in this "Little America of the Tropics," where population is inherently limited. As we have seen, he sought to establish such co-operativeness in Cocoli. Similarly, under his authorization the earliest beginnings of the Margarita Church School were sponsored by the Rev. R. W. Jackson and the Rev. Raymond Ferris.



The Beginners Department

First Row: Michael Johns, Jimmy Hoverson, Judy Stepp, David Walker, Carol Thompson, Gordon Sanders, Patsy Munden, Diane Sparks.
 Second Row: Billy Smith, Judy Driskell, Jimmy Williford, Vandie Robinson, Marie Wertz, Phillip Sanders, Ricky Peterson, Billy Huff, Judy McCullum.
 Third Row: Sharon Musgrave, Phillips Cooper, Charles McCullough, Dorothy Knox, Bobby Knox, Kenneth Cooper, Kenneth Sanders, Annie Saurman.
 Teachers: Mrs. Lee Sparks, Mrs. Fay Brown, Mrs. V. Dean Cockrell.



The Nursery Department

Front Row: Donald McCullough, Jean Rose, Janet Hoverson, Robert Sanders, Janet Rose, Keith McLeod, Ann Gilley.
 Second Row: Donald Hartz, Corida Ann Herrman, Richard Perkins, Barbara O'Neil, Mary Jane Cairns, Beverley Dreyer, Richard Rankin.
 Back Row: Mrs. W. B. Huff holding Leonard, Mrs. Waldo Gilley, Mrs. George Halloran, Mrs. Charles McCullum holding Emily.



The Junior Department

First Row: Kathy Stressman, Waldo Gilley, Carolyn Sanders, Terry Williford, Bonnie Rankin, Tommy McCullough, Judy McCullough.

Second Row: Betsy Allen, Sandra Hughes, Carol Flenniken, Sandra Jones, Gay Walker, Colleen Salter.

Third Row: Linda Erikson, Roy Hearn, Marilyn Hartz, Carl Newhard, Diane Delaney.
Fourth Row: Fernando Guiot, Diane Peterson, Patricia Leach, Bobby Williford, Charlene Turner.

Fifth Row: Sam Newhard, Roy Perkins, Bruce Hale, Lewis Taber, Kenneth Wheeler.
Teachers: Mr. William T. Hearne, Mrs. Bruce G. Sanders, Jr.

At the first meeting held in the Margarita Clubhouse, early in 1942, Mr. T. D. Ladd was elected Superintendent and Mrs. Lucile Flenniken, Secretary. The name first chosen was "The Community Sunday School." This was subsequently changed to "The Margarita Union Sunday School."

The growing pains, and other problems, that every new religious venture experiences, challenged the best in the dauntless leaders of this vigorous enterprise. Starting "at scratch" in 1942, it had 150 members six years later—even without a pastor.

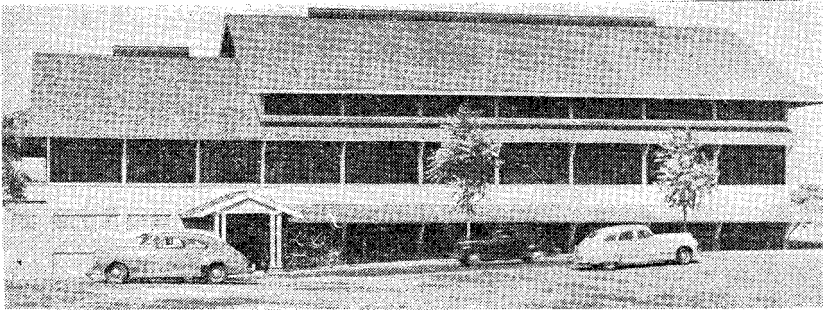
The Woman's Auxiliary

Twin to the Church School in the founding of America's churches, has been the woman's work. In this case it was first

known as "The Margarita Circle of the Cristobal Union Church." The first meeting was held in the local Clubhouse on March 5, 1942. The speaker was Mrs. Lonnie Iglesias, of the San Blas Islands. The Charter members were: Mesdames James Beeson, T. J. Bryson, John A. Dovel, Clifford Hauberg, K. F. Masterman, C. Masters, G. J. Roos, O. W. Ryan and B. J. St. Germaine. The first officers elected were: Mrs. Hauberg, Chairman; Vice Chairman, Mrs. Beeson; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Ryan and Program Chairman, Mrs. Bryson. In June, 1944, it was decided that the Margarita Circle could best serve by working toward the establishment of a church in Margarita. Hence, it was agreed that the Circle members belonging to the Cristobal Union Church should form a separate Circle. On October 6, 1947, the Circle, as such, was dissolved and the Woman's Auxiliary of the Margarita Church was officially formed. Following is a list of its Charter Members:

Mrs. Harold F. Bevington	Mrs. Frederick Kirk
Mrs. L. L. Barfield	Mrs. John Montgomery
Mrs. James Christian	Mrs. Carl R. Newhard
Mrs. Paul Coles	Mrs. Leon G. Parsons
Mrs. Ernest C. Cotton	Mrs. C. L. Pinsen
Mrs. Marvin Dettner	Mrs. Bruce G. Sanders, Jr.
Mrs. John A. Dovel	Mrs. Eric Sanders
Mrs. William C. Dunn	Mrs. Lloyd N. Seaman
Mrs. Leon Edwards	Mrs. Arthur W. Smith
Mrs. Anthony Fernandez	Mrs. Maxwell T. Smith
Mrs. Worden E. French	Mrs. H. S. Smithies
Mrs. F. C. Frey	Mrs. Elmer Stern
Mrs. R. M. Frye	Mrs. H. I. Tinnin
Mrs. G. A. Halloran	Mrs. T. H. Vail
Mrs. William W. Johns	Mrs. F. E. Williams

To enumerate the accomplishments of these women on behalf of the church would be to list the familiar. With increasing anticipation they envisioned a church building. Toward its realization they raised a substantial sum; \$150 was designated to install an appropriate memorial to Mrs. Ethel Troup. This faithful and beloved member of the group, after a lingering illness, joined the Church Invisible on Christmas day, 1945. The work among the San Blas Indians had also benefited in gifts of money and the making of articles of wearing apparel.

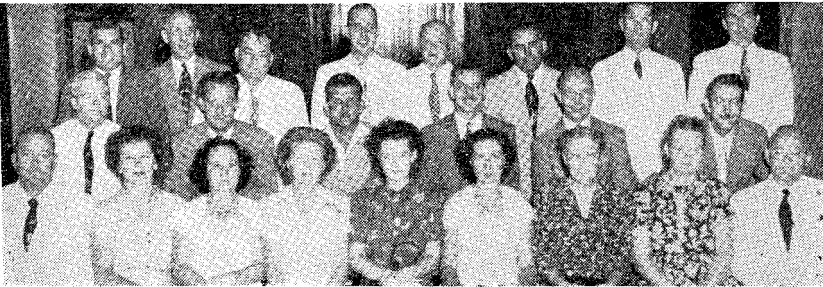


The Public School Gymnasium

First home of the Margarita Union Church and Church School.

The Sixth Union Church Unit Is Born

No one in Margarita doubted that some day this splendid community would be graced by a Christian church. But what kind of a church? The answer to that question was reached



The Local Council, Margarita, 1950

Front Row, Left to Right: Bruce G. Sanders, Jr., President; Mrs. John M. Brown, Choir Director; Mrs. Samuel B. Elliot, Mrs. Worden E. French, Mrs. Wilson H. Waldron, Mrs. George A. Halloran, President Ladies' Auxiliary; Mrs. John A. Dovel, Mrs. Lorne B. Hale, Supt. S. S.; Rev. Henry L. Bell, Pastor.
 Second Row: Ernest C. Cotton, Chmn. Building Comm.; Jack C. Randall, Chmn. Bd. Trustees; Arthur V. Nygard, Chmn. Ed. Elders; Arthur W. Smith, Charles F. Delancy, Church Treas.; Maxwell T. Smith.
 Third Row: V. Dean Cockrell, Harold P. Bevington, Sgt. Lorne B. Hale, John M. Purvis, Jr., George C. Horine, Waldo B. Gilley, Chmn. Parsonage Furnishing Comm.; Frank J. Mcleod, Wm. T. Hearne.

with caution and the wisest of management. Advances made by denominational proponents were received by individuals with varying degrees of approval, or disapproval. Every serious suggestion, however, was given appropriate hearing. This was in keeping with a determination on the part of the leaders honestly to find and execute the wish of the majority. This policy finally led to the inauguration of a community survey.

It amounted to a vote concerning the desirability of having a *Union*, rather than a denominational Church. The survey was conducted during February of 1948. The results were conclusive; one hundred sixty-five families agreed to support a Union Church, if, and when, established. Meanwhile delegations had been sent to meetings of the General Council of the Union Church of the Canal Zone. There had been conferences with Dr. J. Quinter Miller of the Federal Council, and determining discussions had been held with the Zone Union Church officials.

It thus came about on March 16, 1948, that some fifty-eight persons met in the Margarita Clubhouse officially to create the Margarita Union Church and to elect officers to its Local Council. The presiding officer was Mr. Russell L. Klotz, President of the General Council. He was assisted by the Vice President, Mr. August R. Campbell. These gentlemen report a "let's go" enthusiasm that was prophetic of great spiritual accomplishments.

The following letter was mailed to every family that had signed the petition:

Margarita, Canal Zone.
April 12, 1948.

Dear Friend:

"Sunday, April 18th is to be our Charter Membership Day at the Margarita Union Church. At this time the Rev. Merle Bergeson, of the Gatun Union Church, will act as our Minister, accepting into the church all those who desire membership as Charter members; christening any babies whose parents wish to have them on our Charter Christening list, and installing our newly elected Council.

"Communion will be served at the end of the services, to be held at 10:45 at the Margarita Gymnasium.

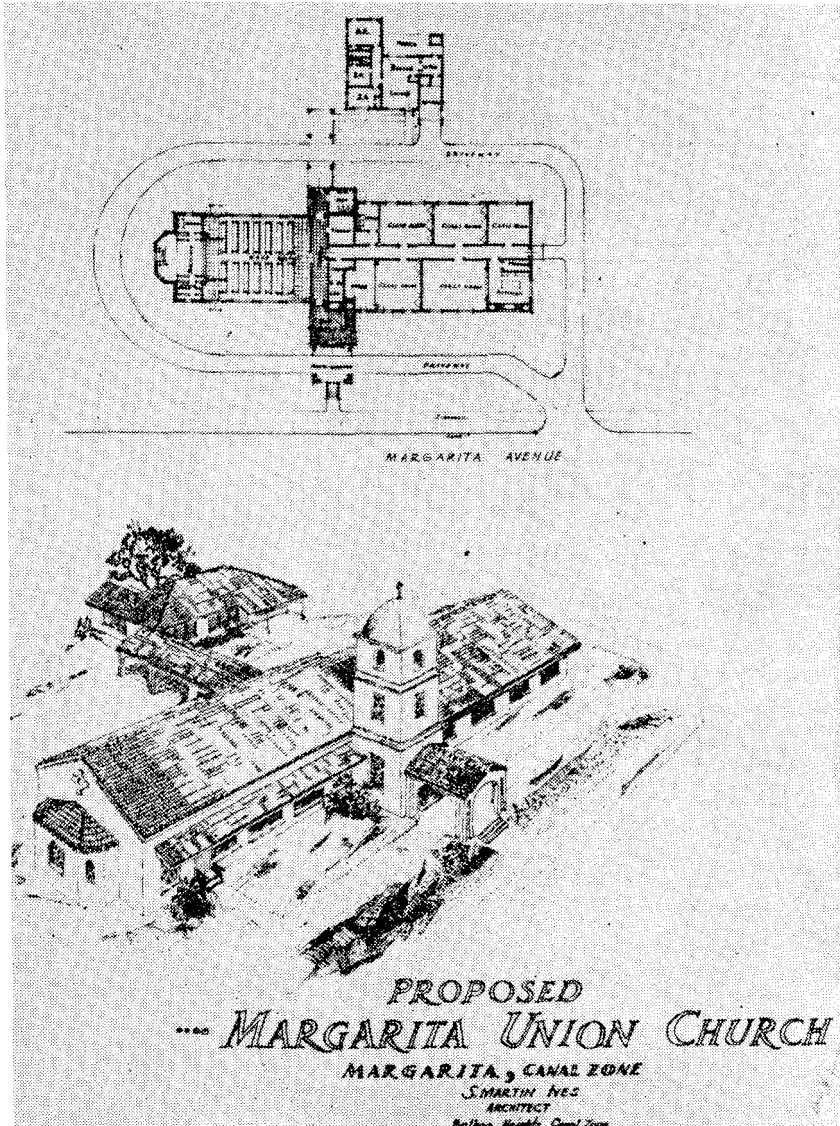
"If you desire membership, but have not already signed a card, or wish a baby christened, will you call Mrs. Carl R. Newhard (3-2345) or Mrs. Harold I. Tinnin (3-1701). If you find it impossible to do this, please come, or bring your child to the Margarita Gymnasium on April 18th at 10:30 A. M.

Sincerely,

Margarita Union Church Council."

The eighty-eight members received on Charter Membership Day, April 18, are listed in Book IV of this volume. The Rev. Merle Bergeson, of the Gatun Union Church, presided in receiving these members, installing the officers of the Local Council who had been elected a few weeks earlier, and in administering

the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. In the latter service he was assisted by Elders Ray W. Clarke, Balboa; Robert R. Arnold, Cristobal; Howard Harris, Gatun and John C. Yarborough, Pedro Miguel. Soloist for the service was Mrs. Spencer Lincoln who was accompanied by Mrs. Leonard McFord. Fol-

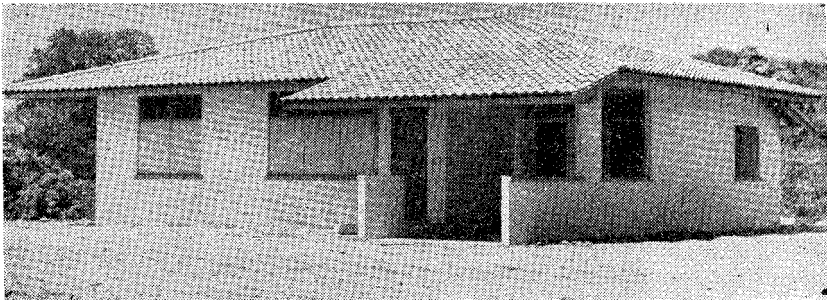


lowing is a list of the Local Council officers installed on this historic occasion:

Chairman, Mr. Harold I. Tinnin; Vice Chairman, Mr. Ira Saurman; Treasurer, Mr. Hobert Mills; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Leon Edwards; Secretary, Mrs. Wilson Allen; Chmn. Religious Education, Mrs. Carl Newhard; Chmn. Stewardship and Missions, Mrs. Harold I. Tinnin; Chmn. Youth Activities, Mrs. William L. Brooks; Chmn. Finance, Mr. Charles F. Delaney; The Elders, Mr. Leon G. Parsons, Chairman; Mr. E. S. MacSparran and Mr. Maxwell T. Smith; Geo. A. Halloran and Mrs. George Halloran; The Deacons, Mr. Lloyd Seaman, Mr. Carl R. Newhard and Mr. Ernest C. Cotton; The Deaconesses, Mrs. W. C. Dunn, Mrs. Frederick Kirk and Mrs. Anthony Fernandez; The President of the Woman's Auxiliary, Mrs. John A. Dovel.

The By-Laws and Constitution of the new church were framed by a committee composed of Mr. Maxwell T. Smith, Chairman, and Messrs. Ernest C. Cotton and Leon G. Parsons.

On Sunday, August 26, those present at a Congregational Meeting unanimously voted to call the Rev. Henry L. Bell as



The Parsonage, Margarita, 1950

first pastor. From the time that worship services were first initiated until the arrival of the new pastor, on October 4, 1948, the pulpit was generously supplied by various clergymen, including Mr. F. A. De La Shaw; U.S.N. Chaplain, C. S. Pigott; the Rev. Victor C. Mornan and Major Herbert F. Tucker of the Salvation Army.

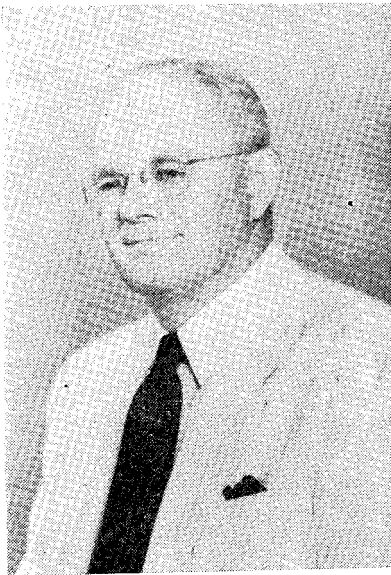
Mr. Bell's academic training was taken at Colby College, Waterville, Maine, and at Andover-Newton Theological School, Newton Center, Massachusetts, with special courses at Auburn Theological Seminary, Auburn, New York. He is a Kiwanian and Mason. For fifteen years he was pastor of the First Park

Baptist Church, Plainfield, New Jersey, one of the state's largest and finest. Subsequently he was the West Virginia director for the Northern Baptist Convention's World Mission Crusade, whose total budget for Relief, Reconstruction and Missionary advance was \$14,000,000. Of this Mr. Bell was scheduled to raise \$800,000 in West Virginia. He came to the Zone from an Associate Pastorate in the Brookline Baptist Church, Brookline, Massachusetts. In addition to Mrs. Bell, there is, in the household, the youthful Judith Ann.

Mr. Bell was installed on Sunday, October 17, 1948. Mr. Russell L. Klotz presided. The Rev. Cecil E. Morgan was the installing officer, aided by Margarita's Council Chairman, Mr. Harold I. Tinnin, who presented the By-Laws and the Holy Bible. Since the arrival of a shepherd, the excellent leadership in the Margarita church has moved from one merited success to another. Well over two hundred have been added to the church roll. An Adult Choir has been organized and is performing splendidly under the able leadership of Mrs. John M. Brown.

There is a thriving men's fellowship and an enthusiastic youth fellowship. Meanwhile, all previously established phases of the church's program are expanding.

Starting with a field well ready for harvest, a very few dollars and much determination, together with Mr. Bell's enthusiastic leadership, this rapidly maturing "infant" congregation has constructed and paid for a parsonage and, with the aid of the Federal Council of Churches, has virtually all the funds necessary for the Church School section of a beautiful new plant. The beginning of the construction of this much needed unit is anticipated immediately.



The Rev. Henry L. Bell

The following persons comprise the Building Committee; Mr. Harold P. Bevington, Mrs. William L. Brooks, Mr. Ernest C. Cotton, Mr. Charles F. Delaney, Mr. Stephen A. Dreyer, Mrs. Worden E. French, Mr. Waldo B. Gilley, Mr. George A. Halloran, Mr. John W. Muller, Mrs. Carl R. Newhard, Mr. Bruce G. Sanders, Jr., Mr. Ira C. Saurman and Mrs. Harold I. Tinnin.

So—once more Christian cooperation is demonstrating its ability to win.

IV. THE CRISTOBAL UNION CHURCH

Columbus Arrives

The names of the Atlantic terminal cities long will help perpetuate the memory of Christopher Columbus—and properly so. On his fourth voyage, while searching Carribean shores for a strait leading to the Indies, the explorer cast anchor at the mouth of the Chagres, in the very shadow of the giant



Cut used by courtesy, Star and Herald, Panama

The First House on Manzanillo Island, erected on the present site of the city of Colon. Prior to the building of such shanties it was necessary for those constructing the Panama Railroad to live in ships off shore.

cliff that upshoulders the romantic ruins of Fort San Lorenzo. That was on Christmas Day, 1502. The strait he sought did not exist; yet his four small, wormeaten, tattered ships lay, prophetically, at the mouth of the river whose waters, only four swift centuries later, were to form the crossroads of the world's marine traffic, and through the constructive genius of a vast nation whose birth none had even envisioned.

On the same voyage he passed Manzanillo Island. The entrancing bay in which it stood, now known as Limon Bay, was first charted as the Bay of Naos, and later was called Navy Bay. On its shores are modern Cristobal, in the Canal Zone, and Colon, in the Republic of Panama. At first this community bore the name Aspinwall, after William Aspinwall, leader of the American Company that constructed the Panama Railroad. This name lingered so stubbornly in popular usage that finally Colombia, of which Panama was then a Province, refused to deliver mail addressed to Aspinwall, on the grounds that officially there was no such place. The French Canal Company



The Nursery Department—1949

Bottom Row: Miss Helene DeBoyrie, Sheila Laporta, Ralph DeBoyrie, Terry Conley, Janie Holgerson, Paul Evancoe, Sandra Withers, Peggy Cassibry.
 Back Row: Mrs. E. W. Treadwell holding her daughter, Judy Palumbo, Jan Jorstad, Susan Mathieson, Janet Clute, Mary Jane Utterback, William Acheson, Linda Mullins, Miss Yolanda Van der Dys (standing), Absent, Mrs. D. D. Humphrey, Supt.

had a sizable construction town on the present site of Old Cristobal which they called Cristopho Colombo, the Spanish version of which is Cristobal Colon. That spelling of the famous explorer's name represented his preference. The baptismal spelling, however, was Cristoforo Colombo. For mysterious reasons historians have chosen to use the name by which he is universally known.

One Hundred Years Ago

Porto Bello (Beautiful port) so named by Columbus, had, since his day, been Panama's chief Atlantic port. The plan to make it the Atlantic terminus of the Panama Railroad was thwarted by New York profiteers, who purchased strategic lots and placed unreasonable prices on them. So it came to pass that in 1850 Manzanillo Island was selected as both the construction center and the Atlantic extremity of this unique railroad which is so deeply rooted both in the history and the current fortunes of Colon and Cristobal. For almost a century the freight and passenger trains of this railroad have shrieked from one ocean to another in some eighty-five minutes. Prior to that transportation era the fastest and most popular trans-



The Beginners Department—1949

Bottom Row: Betty Payne, Felicia Ladd, Linda Shumate, Pauline Arnold, Sarah Jane Carter, Jean Grime, Not known, Christy Wirtz, Lenore Smith, Sharon Hoham.
 Middle Row: Donna Dieth, Edward North, Charles McClelland, Jay Lusky, Larry Treadwell, Margaret Stevens, Richard Maedi, Kenneth Smith, Charles Hughes.
 Top Row: Mrs. R. W. Griffith, Miss Nancy Kaufer, Miss Leneve Dough, Miss Joan Reilly, Miss Shirley Van der Dys, Mrs. E. F. McClelland.

Isthmian travel method was by river boat from the mouth of the Chagres to Cruces where the mule trains started along wild jungle trails for Panama City. It was in 1835 that Henry Clay publicly urged the construction of an ocean to ocean railroad in Panama. Something of its need, not to mention the need for a Canal, is indicated by the fact that in 1843 some 32 ships operated between Panama City and the Pacific coast, with half that number on the shorter run from Colon to certain North American Atlantic ports. With R. R. tickets selling at 50c per mile and freight tariffs at similar altitudes, the \$7,000,000 invested was recovered with amazing rapidity, and soon the dividends grew fat. Yet the traveler did not complain—when



At Mr. Havener's Installation, Cristobal, Dr. Rolofson installing officer.

questing gold, men minimize costs. Moreover the voyage to California, via Cape Horn, was over 7,000 miles farther, extremely hazardous and expensive.

One indication of the lure of California's glittering gold was the plan of Rufus Porter to construct a steam-driven aircraft capable of carrying 100 passengers from New York to California in three days at \$200 each—including board! The engine and passenger compartments were to be supported by a cigar-shaped gas balloon. Even though the project never got further than the drafting board Mr. Porter actually received over 200 bonafide bookings. April first, 1849 was the sailing date named. Engineers, scientists and the general public were universally cynical concerning the affair. The enthusiasm of those wanting California's gold continued—even after the project had collapsed.

When in 1904 the Isthmian Canal Commission's regime began, Colon, despite its halo of romance, was in fact, a small disease-ridden swamp-surrounded port. Speedily the Commission drained the entire area, and, by means of huge fills, lifted the town above the marshes. Indeed, filling the vast mangrove swamp, near modern Mount Hope converted the island of Manzanillo into a peninsula. But the Commission faced problems more stubborn than sanitation. Colon was both an international port and the center of five extensive, cruel, desperate years of railroad construction; years that measured out death to hundreds of trained engineers and to literally thousands of common laborers, brought from many parts of the world. Always when human life becomes cheap, moral standards drop, hence Colon's reputation as the most ill-famed town of all the Americas.

A Century-old Letter

The middle of the 19th century saw hundreds of adventurous North Americans, headed for California gold fields, preferring the route through Panama to that of the long, expensive and danger-filled overland journey by stage coach, or ox caravan. One of these men, Mr. Charles C. Clement, author of the following letter, was the great-grandfather of two current Union Church members: Mr. Caleb Clement, Gatun and Virginia Clement, now Mrs. Wesley Townsend, of Balboa. The latter procured this letter for us from her aunt, Mrs. Percy Dawe (Ruth Clement).

Barque Susan at Sea, May 12, 1850.

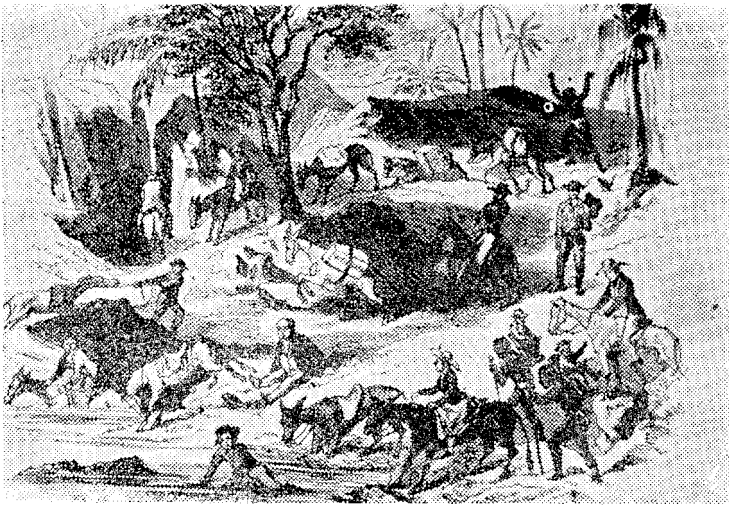
"Dear Mother:—

"You will no doubt think it strange to receive another letter from me in Panama . . . strange indeed are the circumstances which cause it.

"After leaving Chagres we proceeded up the river in the boat I told you of, about thirty-five miles, and a more beautiful scenery I never beheld in my life; trees covered with blossoms, high mountains completely covered with huge trees, and then again there would be a gentle sloping bank covered with grass and a native hut or two where the traveller can stop for a cup of coffee and a bite to eat, for which he pays two dimes or more, according to his appetite. Many of the large trees were covered with a vine resembling in the distance the swan plant. So com-

pletely were they covered that I could not see a line of the tree, not even a twig. . . .

"March 29 we arrived at Gorgona about nine in the morning, another native settlement about half way to Panama. Here I expected to find a number of our boat companions who started about four miles below here to walk. They did not arrive until two o'clock, having been lost in the woods all that time. We staid over night and started early the next morning for Panama; walked through in one day, a distance of from 25 to 30 miles, over the roughest road I ever saw. Ever and anon there is a carcass of a dead mule whose cruel master had loaded until he could



Cut used by courtesy, Star and Herald, Panama

Mud Hole, one of hundreds on the Cruces Trail, by an unknown artist

not stand under it. I should think that more than 50 were lying along on either side of the path, for it is nothing more than a mule path worn down in some places the depth of from six to eight feet. . . .

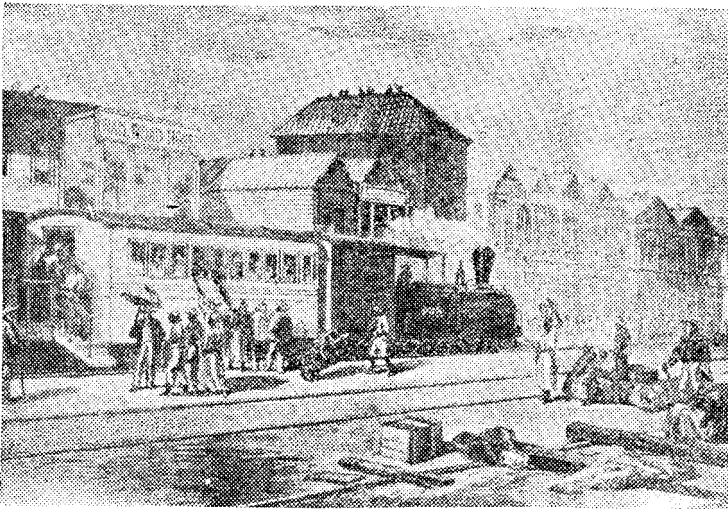
"We arrived at Panama City in the evening pretty well tired out, as you may well suppose, took lodgings at the Western Hotel (kept by the same man who used to keep the Pawtucket Gardens in Dracut, afterwards kept a liquor store under the Museum. I can't remember his name now). Slept soundly all night, was awake early on Sunday morn by the clanging of the bells; and such a noise as those cracked bells made I never heard.

"You wished me to write you particularly about Panama; I will try. First of all it is the Devil's own place, half of the

city now in complete ruins, the other half but partially repaired by a few Yankees who have settled here to pick the pockets of the travellers who pass this way. But as a business place; if you will bring a lot of liquors, and laces, sugars and provisions, and a conscience as elastic as a woman's garter, you may do well. But to do an honest and honorable business is out of the question. Suffice it to say their churches, their faith and their city are alike fast falling into disrepute and ruin. . . . Their faith is the least regarded of any Catholic country I ever heard of, and well it may be, when Priests will go to a Cock Fight of a Sunday afternoon and bet their money, lose it, and then bet their very shoe buckles, ornaments and clothing. Deliver me from such a Sodom.

"On arriving here I found that the Columbus would not arrive short of six or eight weeks, and, as the bonus on an early steamer ticket to California was from a hundred to a hundred and fifty dollars, I found it necessary to stay, or go as a sailor. It being rather sticky I concluded that the latter would be the better course. Accordingly I went on board the Barque Susan on April 6. Then commenced my disasters."

The letter gave in some detail the fortunes of the ocean voyage. On the 15th day out the Captain rationed a maximum of three pints of water daily to each sailor, due to an alleged



Cut used by courtesy, Star and Herald, Panama

A Trans-Isthmian train, Panama Railroad, 1856; a short six years after the R. R. builders began. Note the permanent buildings already constructed on world-famous Front Street, Colon.

shortage. Three days later he reversed the course of the ship, heading it for a South American port, due, he said, to a lack of food. Before arriving anywhere, however, the Captain again changed his mind and set the ship's course towards Mexico, and finally started back to Panama.

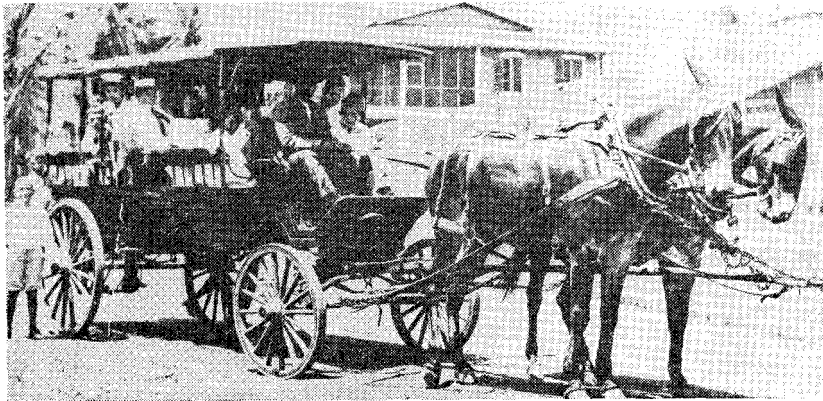
"May 6 was a disastrous day. The sun beat down hot and the air was still and sultry. Not a breath of motion was perceptible. The sails flapped about lazily at the rock of the vessel, and huge whales rolled themselves half out of the water and spouted as if to raise some motion, the porpoises rolled, the dolphins bared their backs of gold. There seemed to be a feeling of languor and depression on all sides, and thus the day passed. I had just laid down to sleep on deck as the cry passed around—'Man overboard'! All rushed to the stern where he was, and, as I laid nearby, I was the first there. Ropes, boxes, buckets and oars were thrown to him, but in spite of every effort to save him he sank to rise no more. Not seeing the Captain on deck, the Mate sent to the cabin for him; but judge the astonishment to find it swimming in blood and no captain. He had cut his throat with a razor lying nearby, and then crept through the window into the water. This explained all his previous conduct. He was evidently crazy, and from hints thrown out at various times there is no doubt he did the best possible thing for his passengers. He intended running us into port somewhere and leave us to make our way as best we could. He even hinted once at running the ship aground, or sinking her."

The letter continued with matters of family interest and finally offered this admonition:

"If any of your acquaintances are starting for California tell them . . . they had better join a company in crossing the Isthmus as there are many murders there now!"

The Zone's First Union Church

As has been noted, Cristobal is a much older community than any of her Canal Zone sisters. Even as a center of Canal operations and a residence for Zonians, she was fairly mature when most of the others began. A number of the Canal's services, now centered on the Pacific side, were started in Cristobal. This situation helps the Cristobal Union Church to substantiate its claim to having been a Union Church before the historic meeting in Corozal, January 25, 1914, when the Union Church of the Canal Zone was officially created. The



Mule-drawn "Brake," predecessor of the Chiva. The children were enroute to the Cristobal Union Church School, Easter, 1913.

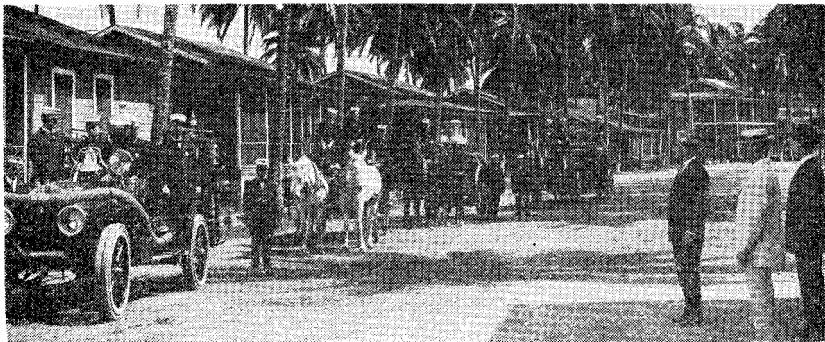
oldest document in the Cristobal files is a letter dated July, 1907. It is addressed to a Mr. Stickel, Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. Clubhouse, and concerned a request for names of those interested in forming a Union Church in the community. It was signed by the ever helpful and spiritually energetic Dr. C. A. Hearn. Two months later, September 3, at a meeting presided over by the Rev. William Pearn, two committees were appointed; an Executive Committee, consisting of Messrs. Stickel and Kinney, and a nominating committee. The latter requested time for the selection of nominees.

At the meeting on September 5th, just two days later, the Cristobal Union Church was organized, with an election of permanent officers. The membership pledge, which was slightly amended later, was as follows: "We the undersigned, desiring to promote religious work in Cristobal, do hereby affiliate ourselves with the Cristobal Union Church."

The officers of this first Union Church on the Canal Zone were as follows: President, Max Dyer; Vice President, Mrs. M. C. Rerdell; Secretary, Dr. C. A. Hearne; Treasurer, N. T. Kinney; Chairman of Music Committee, W. P. Christian; Pastor, Rev. William Pearn. Members of the General Executive Committee included W. G. Tubby, Mrs. Rerdell, Judge Thomas E. Brown, W. A. Graham, Miss Bade, Mr. and Mrs. Hageman, Mrs. W. G. Bierd, H. T. Kinney, P. S. McCormick, P. G. Baker,

W. F. Christian, Mr. and Mrs. Max Dyer, N. J. Stickel, Mrs. Herman, H. E. Wassell, Dr. C. A. Hearne and Rev. William Pearn. Mr. N. J. Stickel was Superintendent of the Sunday School.

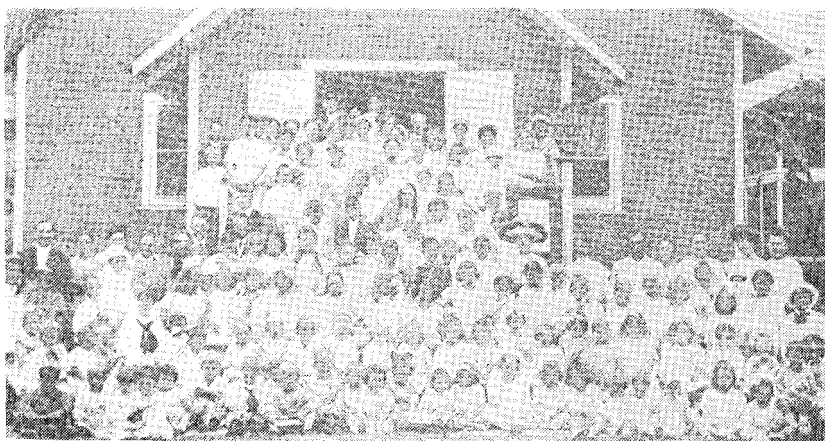
Two years later, January 31, 1909, the following were elected members of the Executive Council: Pres., Judge T. E.



Fire Fighters. Cristobal, 1912

Brown, Jr.; Vice Pres., H. L. Stuntz; Secretary-Treas., O. B. Riddle; Members at Large, J. A. Smith, C. Nixon, H. P. Warren, Arthur Shrimpton and Dr. Elliott Ex-officio. Mr. M. J. Stickel was still Superintendent of the Church School.

At this meeting a constitution was adopted. It was agreed



Cristobal Union Church School, 1912

that all who signed that document, by the first of March following, were to be considered Charter Members—there were 126 of them.

It is entirely probable that this Constitution was used, at least as a starting point, by those who framed the Constitution of the Union Church of the Canal Zone. At any rate, the 1914 document has striking similarities to the following:

“Article I. In order that the cause of Christ may be strengthened; for mutual helpfulness in Christian living, and for propagation of the Gospel of our Lord, this church is established.

“Article II. The name of this Church shall be the “UNION CHURCH OF CRISTOBAL.”

“Article III. The activities of the Church shall be non-denominational, its teaching evangelical.

“Article IV. 1. Any person who is in sympathy with the purposes expressed in Article 1 of this Constitution, and who promises to cooperate in carrying them out is eligible for membership.

2. Membership in this Church shall not be construed as severing membership in any church elsewhere. . . .

“Article V. The final authority for the government of the Church shall reside in the members, but the ordinary conduct of its affairs shall be delegated to and vested in an Executive Council.”

The following correspondence indicates something of the aggressive leadership given the infant Union Church movement by Cristobal pioneers:

Colon, Aug. 31st, 1908.

“Col. Geo. W. Goethals,
Chairman Isthmian Canal Commission,
Culebra, C. Z.

“Sir:

“The Union Church Organization of Cristobal is without a chaplain, and the religious activities of the organization are therefore at a low ebb. As one of the interested members I have been requested to ask you for a little information.

“It had been intimated to us that the Commission might appoint a chaplain at \$100.00 a month, and station him at Cristobal. In this connection we would be glad to know:

First: If there is such a possibility.

Second, What voice, if any, can the Union Organization have in the selection of such a man?

Third: Believing that a salary of \$100 a month is not sufficient to support the kind of a man, with a family, that the people would very much desire, we would like to know if the organization would be permitted to provide additional support. We believe that \$150 a month would be sufficient and that the Organization could find \$50 a month if permitted to do so.

"Thanking you in behalf of the Organization for any information that you may be able to give us on the subject, I am

Respectfully,

H. L. Stuntz."

Isthmian Canal Commission
Culebra, Canal Zone

September 5, 1908.

"Mr. H. L. Stuntz,
Colon, Republic of Panama.

Sirs:

Referring to your letter of August 31st, requesting certain advice relative to the appointment of a chaplain at Cristobal.

"There is a vacancy in the position of chaplain at Cristobal since Mr. Pearn resigned. These vacancies are filled by the Chief Sanitary Officer, with whom you should take up the matter of recommending the selection of any men you have in mind. There will be no objection to your organization giving the chaplain such additional financial aid as may be desired.

Respectfully,

Geo. W. Goethals

Chairman and Chief Engineer."

Copy to Colonel Gorgas.

In consequence of this, and subsequent correspondence, the Canal sent Mr. Stuntz stateside to secure another Chaplain. The choice was the Rev. Carl H. Elliott who, as we have previously observed, had sufficient foresight to refuse a position on the Zone as a denominational representative. During his period of service, from 1909 to 1913, Dr. Elliott, as Cristobal's second pastor, gave an untiring and sustained ministry to his own group, and the surrounding construction camps as well.

One of the many plus services he rendered was the publishing of a four-page weekly entitled, *Union Church Work*, financed by advertisements. Over 900 complimentary copies were distributed in the Canal's quarters in Colon and Cristobal, while half that many, slightly revised, went to Las Cascadas and