

The Sagada Postboy

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Word has been received of the engagement of Josephine Norton and Jere Berger. Josie graduated from the University of Vermont on June 15th and the next day began work with the Ethan Allen Players at Brandon, Vermont. She plans to teach at the Lenox, Massachusetts Country Day School in September after the Summer Theater Season is over. Jere Berger graduated this year from Oberlin University. This is his second summer with the Ethan Allen Players. He will enter the Episcopal Theological Seminary, Cambridge Massachusetts this autumn. The wedding will probably be in September 1954. During the week ending July 11th, the two had the romantic leads in the play "The Happiest Days of your Life"

Mr. And Mrs Robert Fields, who wished to teach at St. Mary's School and whose appointment has been approved by Bishop Binsted, will not come to Sagada. All missionaries are given a medical examination. Bishop Bentley of the Overseas Department at 281 has reported to Bishop Binsted: "that the Medical Office, after very careful consideration has been unable to approve Mr. Fields for overseas appointment.

This is a tremendous disappointment to the Fields, as well as to us, but there seemed no alternative. We are keeping the need of Sagada uppermost in our thinking."

Fr. Rulite writes from the Church of the Resurrection: "Everytime the Postboy arrives, I post it on the Bulletin Board for the members to read. The children enjoy it as they always flock to read it. It has been very helpful to me and to others for we read a lot of what is going on in your area. I wish the Postboy luck, and success to continue to give information to all of us." The Postboy thanks Fr. Rulite for his interest. We would be very glad to have news items from the Church of the Resurrection.

Mr. Ibasco, the telegraph operator explains that the telegraph office would be closed. The government office plans to put a telephone line from Bontoc to Sagada, so that telegrams can be sent to the operator in Bontoc.

The St. Matthew's School in Bangaan reports that the total enrollment for this school year from kindergarten to fifth grade is 92. Mrs. Sagalla takes charge of 3 grades – the kindergarten and the first and second grades. Mr. Jose Capegsan takes charge of the third grade while Miss Solimen, the fifth grade. The faculty is expecting another teacher to join them very soon. A little library is maintained by the school with Miss Solimen as the Librarian. Most of the books were supplied by Mr. Norton to whom the school is very much obliged.

Questionable Character: Youth problems poses as one of the greatest headaches among mothers. Very often we hear mothers heave a sigh of heartache, “Oh, I just don’t know what to do with my son. He is the most contumacious boy. I sent him to school with confidence that he is doing his level best, but I only realized that he had been enjoying himself in the bowling alleys. Eventually, a judicious mother of Baguio solved her problem once and for all (she hopes) by sending her son to St. Mary’s School, which she high esteems as a disciplinary Catholic school – a school that might held her boy keep his nose to the grindstone. But before the first week of school ended, he was desperate. He cried his eyes out whenever he had the chance of being in a corner by himself. He was so homesick that he made up his mind and boarded the bus to Baguio. The mother, very much engaged at his appearance exclaimed: “My dear, why are you here?” The son answered: “I find Sagada a very lonesome place, no movies and you can’t even see the sun at times.” The mother, who is a good teacher herself quickly concluded that this was a sheer hyperbole and said: “Tomorrow you must take the bus to Sagada and you must not come home till vacation.” The boy, already in low spirit asked: “Tomorrow is too soon, may I go the day after tomorrow?” The boy, now back at St. Mary’s wrote the mother: “By the help of our Heavenly Father, we passed the Halsema Mountain Road safely. Please buy me a sweater.” To encourage him to stick to his studies, she bought a super-duper sweater for him. Now he is all pepped up and happy as a lark in the Boys’ Dormitory. With diligence, he participates in the Church services. He is not quite familiar with the signing of the Gospel Cross yet, so that when he is making it, he looks about first to see if he is doing it properly. When we stand for the Gospel, he always gives a pat to his knees. “Oh, how they hurt!” With avidness he side glances at his seat and wishes that he could sit down. One thing that amused him was when looking from the corner of his eyes across the Sisters’ choir one morning, he noticed a Sister with closed eyes. He could not contain his discovery long enough, so that he asked a school mate: “Why was that Sister sleeping in the church during the mass, being the first hours in the morning?” He has still many more shadow pictures of new experiences awaiting him. Finally, let us commit our own and all others under the loving care of our Beloved Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mother, that she may help, guide and direct them, she fully understands and knows the joys and sorrows of mothers. “Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for them”