

## Peace Corps volunteer

# Bob Reid: a shaker and a mover

Several years ago, construction kipped at a new three-room schoolhouse in the small Dominican Republic town of Anamuyta. For three years, the school stood unfinished and the prospect of obtaining the necessary funds appeared bleak.

Then early in 1975, a Peace Corps volunteer involved in community development arrived at the scene. Robert Edison Reid, 24, of Southfield, discussed the situation with the town's building committee, and together they

decided that it was possible to get enough local funds to pay for labor costs. But they would have to seek money for construction materials elsewhere.

Reid applied for a special development activity grant of \$4,300 from the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). Within four months, Anamuyta had its money.

The following weeks saw a flourish of activity as Reid and the town's construction committee recruited volun-

teers to finish building the school. Construction took only seven weeks. By carefully purchasing materials, the committee saved about \$300 of the AID grant money. That was enough to buy desks for students and teachers, according to Reid.

"AFTER TALKING with the 'professors,' we decided it would be excellent on-the-job training for the students to paint the desks," Reid said. "They went to it full of spirit, happy with the opportunity to help with their new school."

During the next few weeks, the community also built a gravel sidewalk in front of the school and painted the teacher's house, kitchen and the bathroom next door.

The new cement school now sits under the coconut and mango trees and—with the exception of the church down the road—it is the only cement building in town.

"We noticed that although the students have been attending classes there ever since the old wooden school was torn down more than a month ago, there's still a certain aura that hangs around the building and af-

fects the teachers, students and local residents," Reid said.

Five similar buildings will soon be completed by Reid's community-development program.

"Educational advancements are not quite as visible as construction projects, but they are the real goals involved in any undertaking in which villagers learn to successfully cooperate with each other through such physical accomplishments," he said.

"Through these two integrated processes, countries are able to develop themselves."

REID LIVES IN a house built with palm wood and thatching. The house is on an acre of land which is thick with coconut palms, orange and other fruit trees.

When he moved into his house in the summer of 1974, he was greeted by several of his new neighbors who first chopped back some of the vegetation, grove, around the house and then strung up his hammock.

Reid's house is located between Highway and the village of Santana. The Dominican Republic is about the combined size of Vermont and New

Hampshire and occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola. Its neighbor on the island is Haiti.

Reid was born in Detroit and is the son of Clarence A. Reid Jr., a Southfield District Court judge. He graduated in 1974 from the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in the study of man.

Reid will complete his two years of Peace Corps service in August, 1976. He is one of about 65 Peace Corps volunteers serving in agriculture and rural development, business and public management, education and health projects in the Dominican Republic.

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## Optimists celebrate

The Optimist Club of Northwest Detroit which meets in Farmington each Monday evening celebrated its 30th birthday last month.

It was organized in January, 1946 with a charter membership of 70 men. Since that time the club has been involved in a variety of youth-oriented activities. Some of them are the sponsorship of a Boy Scout Troop, sponsorship of baseball teams and a boys' bowling league and afternoon entertainment for the children of the Evangelical Home.

An annual project which always attracts large numbers of teenagers is the National wide oratorical contest sponsored by the Optimist International. The winner receives a college scholarship.

The Northwest group meets each Mon-

## Counselors set monthly meeting

The Oakland Area Counselors Association will hold a meeting Wednesday, Feb. 11 at Oakland Intermediate Schools, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd. The meeting will focus on basic assertive training. Daniel Stone, Ph.D., senior clinical psychologist, Oakland University, will present a two-part program on assertive training. The first part will be a didactic presentation on assertive behavior and the second is an experimental phase in which members will participate in training activities.

day at 6 p.m. at the Blakeney Race House, 28333 Grand River. President David Beardsley invites anyone interested in youth activities to join the group.

Communities represented by the membership in addition to the Farmington area include Southfield, West Bloomfield, Livonia and Birmingham as well as Detroit.

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