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It's a Long Way from Honduras to Duke

Kelsey Has A Lot To Remember

The past three weeks have been bewildering for Kelsey Ambrosio.

Up until then, he had never been more than 100 miles away from his native village of Cauquiri on the Honduran coast. He had not slept in a bed, and he was not acquainted with such things as dining utensils and indoor toilets.

But the past three weeks have filled his life with some experiences he'll never forget.

It all started three years ago when Kelsey, a Misquito Indian boy who was then about 14, fell from a breadfruit tree in the Honduran forest and damaged his facial bones. Since then the condition had worsened, his jaws had become almost clenched shut and he could take no nourishment but liquids. He faced the possibility of starvation.

After examining Kelsey several weeks ago, Dr. Samuel Marx, a Moravian Church missionary doctor at Ahuas Clinic in Honduras, got in contact with Dr. Nicholas Georgiade at Duke by way of a ham radio telephone "patch" arranged by amateur radio operator Felix Whitaker of Durham.

Dr. Georgiade, professor of plastic and maxillofacial surgery, told Dr. Marx that he had worked out a surgical procedure for this type facial deformity that he had been performing successfully for about 18 years, and that he would donate his professional services at no charge if arrangements could be made to get the boy to Duke.

Working through the American Embassy in Honduras, Dr. Marx made the arrangements. Eastern Airlines and a South American airline, TAN, volunteered round-trip transportation for Kelsey and a nurse, and the Moravian Church agreed to cover hospitalization expenses.



OFF COMES THE DRESSING—Dr. Nicholas Georgiade snips the dressing on Kelsey Ambrosio's final day in the hospital. With them is Miss Helen Hodgson, a nurse who accompanied the Honduran boy to Duke from the Ahuas Clinic in Honduras. (photo by Thad Sparks)

Kelsey and Miss Helen Hodgson, an English-speaking nurse from Dr. Marx' clinic who also speaks Kelsey's dialect, arrived in Durham three weeks ago and the surgery was performed the following week.

Now discharged from the hospital and able to smile again, Kelsey will be back home within the next few days.

Since Kelsey's release from Nott Ward last week, he and Miss Hodgson have been staying with Dr. and Mrs. McMurray S. Richey. Dr. Richey is a professor in the Duke Divinity School, and Mrs. Richey is a sister of Dr. Marx in Honduras.

For a time while Kelsey was in the hospital the Richeys were out of town. During that time, Miss Hodgson stayed with Miss Gloria Stevens, head nurse on Howland Ward, who is no stranger to

Kelsey's part of the world herself.

Miss Stevens has spent time in Nicaragua and worked with a Duke-sponsored program establishing a clinic at Pearl Lagoon.

SOMETHING NEW

In this issue of Intercom, we introduce a new feature, "Cornered by the Camera."

From time-to-time, our cameras will snap you at candid moments during your workday, and the picture may end up on the pages of Intercom.

It's not our intention to picture anyone in an awkward or embarrassing situation, and we'll not do that.

We'd just like for everyone at Duke to know everyone else, and we're working at it—a picture at a time.