



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

APRIL 1954. At the end of the month about 50 students were on the campus and another 15 will come during May. We have tried hard this year to pick out good candidates. Rodolfo Zamora, a member of our staff, worked over the applicants in Costa Rica; Julio Pineda selected new students in Nicaragua, while the Director, Amado Pelón and Paul Standley went to El Salvador and with the help of friends in that country, tried to handle the difficult job of selecting ten students from a group of more than 300 applicants.

The most useful factor in connection with the selection of new students is the "Exámen de Capacidad" which was developed here several years ago by Dr. Herbert Pope-noe. We shall revise this before we select new candidates in 1955, because we are getting the impression that some of our students who have taken it are indoctrinating their friends. We do not claim that an examination of this type is infallible; but when all is said and done, what is infallible? It helps greatly. Here is an example: In San Salvador, we gave the examination to a youth who had been through high school. He gave 34 correct answers to our 75 questions. The same morning we gave the examination to another youth who had only primary school education. He answered correctly 66 of our 75 questions. It may be of interest to note that the problems which give most trouble are those of simple mathematics. For example, we ask "You go to the market with a dollar. You buy oranges. They are three for ten cents. You buy a dozen and a half. How much money have you left?" One boy answered, "I do not have anything left." Probably right. He spent the rest on Coca Cola and candy.

We like to get letters from our graduates, or about our graduates. We have just received one from a distinguished friend of the school, who writes about a second-year student who went home on vacation. He says: "It is indeed too bad that you could not be witness to the joy that the Garcia boy meant to his family and friends. When he first went to the school he was somewhat of a problem child, trying and failing at many jobs. Now he is a healthy, husky, confident young man." A boy who was here two years and failed to make good enough grades to finish his training writes: "It is some time since I left school but this does not mean that I have forgotten; I remember the two years I spent there as the best of my life; what a pity that I failed to graduate (errors of youth!) but thanks to the school, I learned to work, and am earning a good living." And a graduate who is now at the College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts in Oklahoma writes: "I want to tell you that most of the things I am studying here I learned at Zamorano, and if it were not for my difficulty with the language, I would be one of the best students in my class. I well remember that I thought some of the things I was studying at Escuela Agrícola Panamericana would never be of any use to me; I now realize how wrong I was."

There have been many interesting visitors during the month. Dr. Gabriel Montenegro, from El Salvador, spent several days here, taking notes on our program to be used in connection with the development of a vocational school which is being built by the government of the neighboring republic of El Salvador. Dr. Brigham Arnold came from the University of California to study geographical features of Honduras. Dr. R. Lindsay Robb came from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. And so it goes.