



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

JULY 1950. Every year we lose a few students during the first months of school. Some find that they do not care for this sort of education, others have to be dropped for disciplinary reasons. This year, at the end of two months, our losses are slight. One Colombian, one Panamanian, and one Costa Rican went home because they did not like it here. We suspect, in all three cases, they came at the instigation of their parents. It is not always possible to weed out such cases at the time we receive applications. The number of students now on the campus is 173.

Due to the heavy rains - 12 inches in June and 8 in July, - our vegetable garden has suffered severely: production is low and will remain so for another month. Our experimental plantings at 5900 feet on Uyuca are commencing to show some interesting results. The Youngberry, which refused to produce fruit at the altitude of the school (2500 feet) bore an excellent crop this spring on Uyuca. We now have a number of other berries growing there, including Cuthbert and Blackcap raspberries; Boysenberries; and Nessberries received from the Texas A&M College. We have also made a planting of a new Rubus which grows wild in the vicinity: this will shortly be described in print by Standley and Williams under the name Rubus Shankii, hence we propose to call it the Shankberry. It was discovered on Uyuca by our forester, Paul Shank. It is a blackberry, and one of the best native species we have seen in tropical America: fruits as large as those of good northern blackberries, but with few relatively large drupelets, good flavor, and small seeds not unduly hard.

Assistant Director Muller has made some interesting observations regarding the potatoes we are cultivating on Uyuca. While one of the local varieties has been wiped out by late blight (Phytophthora infestans) a small planting of the Harford variety shows none of this, and only a little early blight (Alternaria solani) and promises to produce a good crop. The Rosanel variety growing alongside Harford shows a general infestation of Alternaria, which may reduce production, but no Phytophthora. Both these varieties, received from the Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Sciences at Turrialba, Costa Rica, are now in bloom.

On the 2nd we entertained the District Convention of Lions Clubs, some 350 people from Central American countries and the Caribbean. We also had with us a group of distinguished Costa Ricans, including Ing. Alfredo Hernández, Ministro de Economía; Ing. Bernardo Yglesias of the Banco Nacional, and Don Arturo Quiros C., Ambassador of Costa Rica in Honduras. On the 7th and 8th Mr and Mrs H. T. Heyl visited the school: Mr Heyl, now retired, was for many years Manager of the United Fruit Company in Guatemala. Mrs. Samuel Zemurray, wife of the President of the United Fruit Company, brought Mrs Ethelyn S Dunbar of New Orleans and Mr George M Odum on the 12th for an overnight stay. Mr G. Edward Nicholson of Lima, Peru, came on the 15th, with a letter from Prof. Edgar Anderson of St. Louis, Missouri, with whom he has been studying plant genetics. On the 23rd our students entertained some 300 guests from Tegucigalpa at an all-day party ending with a dance in the afternoon. We also had with us this same day Mr. James M. Webb Jr., Attaché for Cultural Relations, Embassy of the United States of America in Tegucigalpa, accompanied by the teachers of the American School in that city and the British Minister and family. Dr. Thomas F. Carroll of Cornell University was here on the 25th.