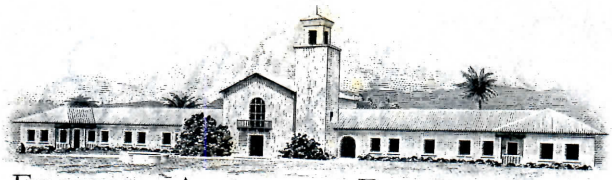

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA HONDURAS

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

AUGUST 1951. While limitations of personnel have never permitted the school to conduct many investigations which might properly be called research, we have done, and shall continue to do, much experimentation with new crops and new varieties of old crops. Recently we have been able to expand this sort of work very considerably, through the presence here of George F. Freytag, a post-graduate student working under the direction of Dr Edgar Anderson of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Mr Freytag reports:

"During the month of June 1951 approximately 40 selected lines of beans were planted at Escuela Agricola Panamericana, including material from Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. These lines included the 'frijol corriente' of most of these countries, for instance the black bean of Guatemala, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and the red bean of Honduras. Most were selected for uniformity, high production, or disease resistance.

"During the harvest it has been noted that most of these strains have seemed to grow and yield much better than the average bean cultivated locally. Some of the strains have shown remarkable resistance to the common diseases such as mosaic or bean yellows, rusting, and anthracnose, a disease which has in previous years killed more than 50% of the beans grown in this area. Some of the selections show remarkable uniformity as regards plant vigor, and size color and shape of seed. As yet no figures are available as to production of all the varieties though one Guatemalan strain of red bean has yielded more than 800 pounds of clean dry seed per acre, and offers possibilities for doubling that production through selection."

African oil palms having failed to produce even fair crops here during the past several years, we removed about three-fourths of our eight-year-old planting to make room for something more useful.

In our Animal Husbandry Department, one of our silos was filled with Guatemala grass (Tripsacum latifolium) and excavation was commenced on an additional silo.

On the first of the month, Elbert E. Reed of the Methodist agricultural school at Angol, Chile, came with his family for a stay of two days. On the 4th, Alford Archer of the U.S.Census Bureau and Lawrence E. Cron of the Office of Foreign Agrl. Relations, U.S.Dept. of Agriculture, came to discuss the possibility of getting some of our students to assist in taking the agricultural census of Honduras next spring. Mr Leonard E. Read and Dr. L.A.Harper of New York were here on the 6th. Dr Joosten, agricultural economist of the FAO, was here on the 7th. Mr Rey M. Hill of the Institute of Inter-American Affairs visited us on the 15th; this same day we also had the pleasure of receiving Mr. D. K. Shepard of the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, and Mr. Stephen Harris and family, from Miami, Florida. Ing. Luis Vera Pérez, commissioned by the Banco de Comercio of Mexico to study control of the Sigatoka disease of bananas, came on the 21st. Mr Jeff Flanagan, agricultural engineer of the Centro Nacional de Agronomia, El Salvador, came on the 22nd, accompanied by V. C. De Baca of the same institution; they took back with them budwood of citrus, mangos and avocados from our collection. Dr Robert P. Russell, associated with Nelson Rockefeller of New York, spent two days with us around the 24th. Father Cunningham of Notre Dame University, an outstanding figure in the field of education, spent three days with us at the end of the month; he made many helpful comments and suggestions.